



Academic Affairs Mission

Under the direction of the provost, the Office of Academic Affairs at Cal U comprises three undergraduate colleges and the School of Graduate Studies and Research. The Office of Academic Affairs supports the mission of building the character and careers of individuals by ensuring quality academic programs, classroom technology, student enrichment activities, and world-class instruction. California University of PA provides students with the tools they need to have a lifetime of success, both educationally and professionally.

Academic Affairs Newsletter

From the Desk of Acting Provost Dr. Barnhart

Greetings!

The spring 2016 semester is now over, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone in Academic Affairs (associate provosts, deans, staff, department chairs, and faculty) for seeing us through a successful 2015-2016 academic year.

There were many highlights this past year, including the implementation of The Finish Line, the initiation of the University's first doctoral program, increases in Global Online and Graduate enrollments,

hiring and promotion of faculty, our first 100-plus graduates of the 4-Year Graduation Plan, successful winter and summer sessions, wonderful commencement exercises, and finally, the naming of the University's seventh president, Geraldine M. Jones. I am looking forward to President Jones's continued leadership as we navigate what promises to be very challenging times for all of higher education.

As Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, I have been blessed these past four years with

an outstanding staff—not only the deans and associate provosts, but also those working directly in the Office of Academic Affairs. I want to specifically thank Daphne Livingstone (Executive Assistant to the Provost), Denise King (Executive Assistant for Marketing), Pamela Murphy (Director of Regulatory Compliance) and Jodie Rooney (Academic Events Coordinator) for all they do every day to ensure everything operates smoothly.

I would like to wish everyone a safe, relaxing summer, and look forward to welcoming each of you back this fall.

Until then...

Bruce D. Barnhart



Travels Abroad

Several Cal U students and faculty members enjoyed Spring Break trips:

Led by Dr. Sean Madden (History, Politics and Society), six students and five faculty members went on a nine-day tour of Cuba, including Havana, Mayabeque, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Santa Clara, and Remedios. The students engaged with Cuban educators and community leaders in exploring Cuban culture, the possibilities entailed in changing relations with the United States, and challenges faced by the Cuban community.

Led by Dr. Beverly Ross (Psychology) and Ms. Elizabeth (Bessy) Bennellick (International Programming), a group of 30 students, faculty, and alumni visited Ireland. Highlights of the trip included Dublin, Glendalough, Kilkenny Castle, the Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle, Blarney Woollen Mills, the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, and Athlone Castle.

Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that eight Cal U faculty and staff received notification of new grant awards totaling \$365,010.

Dr. David Argent (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$284,836 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the PA Dept. of Environmental

Protection through the PA Dept. of Transportation for a stream mitigation project.

Dr. Robert Whyte (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$60,138 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection through the PA Dept. of Transportation for a stream mitigation project.

Dr. Sheri Boyle (Social Work) was awarded \$6,000 from Connect, Inc., to perform statistical analysis.

Dr. Susan Ryan (Earth Sciences) was awarded \$5,824 from the 2016 Three Rivers Regatta, to be used to create and disburse a survey instrument and analyze data from surveys given to visitors during the Regatta.

Faculty & Staff Presentations

Dr. M.G. Aune (Honors/English) presented "Characterizing Ophelia: The Use of Female Space in Olivier's *Hamlet*" at the *Shakespeare Association of America* Conference in New Orleans, LA, April 2016.

Dr. Paula Caffrey (Biological and Environmental Science) presented "The Rapid Development of Cisplatin Resistance in A2780 Human Ovarian Tumor Cells Can be Prevented by the Folate Enzyme Inhibitor, Berberine" at the international conference *Cancer 2016*, in Baltimore, MD, April 4, 2016.

Dr. John D. Massella (Student Services) presented "Problem Gambling Part II: Gambling and the Workplace" at the Employee Assistance

Program Association Meeting, in Cranberry, PA, April 19, 2016.

Dr. Susan Morris-Rutledge (Secondary Education) presented "Words Without Borders: Broadening Our Vision of Academic Language" at the *2016 TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo*, in Baltimore, MD, April 8, 2016.

Professor John Paul (JP) Staszal (Music and Theatre) presented "Play to Engage the Class Room: Theatrical Activities and Exercises as Cohesion, Energy and Relationship Building Techniques" at the *STEAM Conference*, at Cal U, March 18, 2016.

Dr. Emily Sweitzer (History, Politics and Society) presented "Attendance and

Marketing for Social Deviance" at *Armed Forces Day—Operation Appreciation*, in Carlsbad, CA, May 20-22, 2016.

Dr. Pamela Twiss (Social Work) presented "Seeking Rural Environmental Justice: Why You, Why Now" at the *2016 Spring Continuing Education Conference for Social Workers*, in Charleston, WV, April 27-29, 2016.

Dr. Kimberly Woznack (Chemistry and Physics) presented "Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Efforts to Support Chemists in the Workforce" at the *251st National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS)*, in San Diego, CA, March 14, 2016.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Razak Abedalla (Art and Languages) worked with Defense Language Institute (DLI), Articulation and Transfer, and Global Online to create an articulation agreement between DLI and Cal U for the B.A. in Arabic.

Dr. Joseph Heim (History, Politics and Society) was elected into membership of the Oxford Byzantine Society, April 2016, in the

area of Byzantine-Persian Relations. He is also a candidate for membership as an Associated Scholar/Professor of the Oxford Center for Byzantine Research.

Dr. Lisa Kovalchick (Math, Computer Science and Information Systems) was elected to serve as President of the PA Association of Computer and Information Science Educators.

Dr. Cassandra Kuba (History, Politics and Society) was interviewed for *The Verve* online news magazine for her ideas regarding the knife that turned up from O.J. Simpson's old house and what kind of evidence might have survived since the time of its original discovery to its ultimately being turned over to police years later.

Department & Program Accomplishments

The University Honors Program had 28 students complete its requirements and graduate in 2015-16—the largest number of graduates in ten years.

Dr. Michele Pagen (Music and Theatre) has become a Certified Master Teacher of Estill Voice Training. Because both she and Mr. Brian Eisiminger are now Estill CMTs, the Cal U Theatre program is now an Estill Affiliate, joining only two other universities in the United States.

Drs. Kate Mitchem and Kalie Kossar (Special Education) were invited by the U.S. Department of Education to attend the *National Summit on Teacher Diversity* with the new Secretary of Education, John King, in Washington,

DC, May 6, 2016.

The Math, Computer Science and Information Systems Department has added a new scholarship, the Blank-Novak Math and

Computer Studies Intern Award, to be presented at the end of each semester to the student intern with the highest GPA and successful internship.



Theatre student Trevon Kiser performs in *The Color of Emotion* at Jozart Center for the Arts, California, March 31-April 1, 2016. The show was directed by Mr. Brian Eisiminger, who also performed.

College Debate 2016

Ellen "Mari" Boyle (student, Political Science) was recruited to serve as a delegate representing Cal U and Pennsylvania in *College Debate 2016* at Dominican University of California. Delegates will travel to California in June to learn how to organize issue-focused events at their schools. Over the summer, they will facilitate discussions with fellow students on campus and through social media to encourage students to share their perspectives on important issues. In September, they will return to Dominican University to attend the 2016 College Convention, which will provide a forum for focused discussion on national youth issues, culminating in a Town Hall Meeting which will be streamed live to delegates' home campuses across the country. The final product will be a memo to the moderators of the Presidential Debates that will outline the key issues the College Delegates want the candidates to address.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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Jodie Rooney
Academic Events & Act 48
Coordinator

Dr. Stephen H. Whitehead
Associate Provost of
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Heidi Williams
Registrar



Dr. Michele Pagen directed the student-written musical *Yet Another Funeral* at Steele Hall April 7-9, 2016. Pictured are student actors (kneeling L-R) Sidney Popielarcheck, Kitty Offman, Mark Barrett; (standing L-R) Amelia Wisinski, Kate Sickles, Erin Stump, Jeshua Myers, Ryan Johnson, Zach Oney, Saleem Carpenter, and Josh Delonge.

Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Rhonda Alford (student, Social Work) was selected as Traditional Student Woman of the Year by the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Earth Sciences students Adam Andresen, Rachael Hough, Caitlin Kelley, Chelsea Kirmeyer, and Arienne Valerio, under the advisement of Dr. Thomas Mueller, completed a mapping project for iStand Parent Network, Inc., which advocates for parents of children who are internationally abducted. Ms. Kelley

and Ms. Valerio presented the project at a Congressional briefing in Washington, DC, April 20, 2016.

Emily Dickey (student, Communication Disorders) was awarded the Alpha Lambda Delta Graduate Fellowship Award in the amount of \$3,000, March 23, 2016.

Lauren Griffith and Stetson Provance (both Journalism '15) took First Place for In-Depth Reporting for their series of stories exploring racial issues at the University titled "Does Cal U Discriminate?" at the *Society of Professional Journalists Region 4*

Conference in Cincinnati, OH, April 2, 2016.

Elena McDermott (student, Athletic Training) has been selected to attend the Rural Healthcare, General and Sports Medicine course in Nicaragua this summer through Ohio University.

Ressa Throckmorton (student, History, Politics and Society) received the first-place student award at the annual meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archeology. She presented her research on skeletal material from the site of Deidrich Farm.