



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. Bruce Barnhart

Greetings from Academic Affairs! We hope this finds everyone well as we look forward to the warmer months.

We are happy to report that the new 100% online Doctor of Health Science degree got off to a successful start in January. The program met its enrollment goals for both number of applications and enrolled students. There are two additional doctoral degrees under consideration at this time; these will be in the fields of criminology and education administration.

The recently concluded winter session was another success for Cal U. Totals for both undergraduate and graduate enrollment were up 9.4% in headcount and 10.9% in credits earned. These encouraging numbers

demonstrate that our students see the advantages of completing a course or two over winter break, which include reducing their time until graduation, improving their quality point average, or being able to dedicate their effort to that one difficult course. Plans are already underway for the 2016 winter session.

Academic Affairs recently received the results of the State System's Performance Indicators. California University improved upon last year's results and scored a full point more than last year, tallying 8.25 out of a possible 10 points and earning nearly \$3 million in performance funding. The University met or exceeded its goals in 16 out of 19 sub-measures. Successful goals included number of STEM degrees awarded, faculty

diversity, private support and employee productivity.

Spring enrollment figures (headcount) as of the census date show that graduate enrollment continues to increase with the number of graduate students up by 156 or 7.97%.

Conversely, undergraduate enrollment fell by 335 students, a decline of 6%. Overall, the University experienced an enrollment decline of 179 students, down 2.37% compared to the previous spring semester.

Wishing everyone a successful spring semester, and congratulations to our upcoming graduates!

Bruce D. Barnhart

International Relations



Elizabeth “Bessy” Bessellick (International Programming) was interviewed by *Future Magazine*, a Chinese magazine with a circulation of 20,000, primarily targeting Chinese families who are interested in studying abroad.

The article, titled “Suggestions from admission officer in Cal U: Things you need to know about choosing to study in the U.S.A., Special feature interview of Ms. Elizabeth Bessellick, Director of International Programming at California University of Pennsylvania,” was published in the February 2016 issue.

Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that five Cal U faculty and staff members received notification of new grant awards totaling \$76,349 during the last quarter:

Dr. Carol Biddington (Exercise Science and Sport Studies) was awarded \$1,500 from the PA Faculty Health and Welfare Fund for the grant *Cal U Fitness Memberships*.

Mr. C.J. DeJuliis (Teaching and Learning Center) was awarded \$900 from EDUCAUSE for the grant *Jane N. Ryland Fellowship*.

Dr. Lisa Kovalchick (Mathematics, Computer Science, and Information Systems) was awarded \$2,000 from the National Science Foundation through the National Girls Collaborative for the grant *National Girls Collaborative 2016*.

Drs. Theresa Pham, Sheri Boyle, and Rosalie Smiley (Social Work) were awarded \$10,000 from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation through NORC at the University of Chicago for the grant *Integrating SBIRT with Adolescents in Rural Social Work*.

Dr. Susan Ryan (Earth Sciences) was awarded \$49,049 from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania for the grant *Wildlife Tourism in Pennsylvania’s Public Land*.

Faculty & Staff Presentations

Dr. Chad M. Kauffman (Earth Sciences) presented “Touching the human relationship of our changing climate with AMS resources” at the *American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting*, in New Orleans, LA, January 12, 2016.

Dr. John D. Massella (Counseling Center) presented four three-hour staff training sessions titled “Addiction: What we know, what we think we know” at the Pittsburgh Care Partnership Community in February 2016.

Dr. Katherine Mitchem (Special Education) was a presenter for two sessions, “Can technologies make a difference for hospitalized children: What does the

research say?” and “Developing mobile apps to support students with disabilities: Filemaker Pro as one user-friendly option” at the *14th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education*, in Honolulu, HI, January 3-6, 2016.

Dr. Michele Pagen (Theatre and Dance) presented a workshop at Ford City (PA) Junior–Senior High School, January 6, 2016.

Drs. Dana Schneider and Angela Bloomquist (Psychology), along with Morgan Lauff and Kelly Rogers (School Psychology ‘15), presented a poster, “The equivalence of traditional and digital assessments” at the *National Association of School*

Psychologists Annual Convention, in New Orleans, LA, February 11, 2016.

Dr. Michael D. Slaven (History and Political Science) presented “Twenty-two vision: Public service, Watergate babies, and GOP revolutionaries” at the *2016 Meeting of the Southern Political Association*, in San Juan, PR, January 7-9, 2016.

Dr. Craig Smith (History and Political Science) presented “The legacy of Charles E. Whittaker” to the Missouri Western District Federal Courts Historical Society in Kansas City, MO, December 4, 2015.

Faculty & Staff Publications

Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson (Biological and Environmental Sciences), along with Danielle Minkus (Biology '15), published "Sex-specific height use patterns and implications for predator avoidance in the Milne-Edwards' Sifaka (*Propithecus edwardsi*) in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar" in *Lemur News: Newsletter of the Madagascar Section of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group*, Vol. 19, 2015.

Dr. Melanie Blumberg (History and Political Science), reviewed Laurel Harbridge's 2015 book, *Is Bipartisanship Dead? Policy Agreement and Agenda-setting in the House of Representatives*, New York: Cambridge University Press, in *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, January 2016.

Dr. Derek Gray (Biological and Environmental Sciences), with Catherine

O'Reilly, Sapna Sharma, Stephanie Hampton, et al., published "Rapid and highly variable warming of lake surface waters around the globe" in *Geophysical Research Letters*, December 2015.

Dr. Craig Smith (History and Political Science) published "Opinion days: A broader historical perspective" in the *Supreme Court Historical Society Quarterly* 37, No. 3 (2015).

AET Partnership

Dr. Jennifer Wilburn (Applied Engineering and Technology) has been working with ANSYS toward finalizing a partnership between the company and Cal U which will include 50 concurrent licenses that will allow the use of all ANSYS products for academic and research purposes. ANSYS, based in Canonsburg, PA, is a global leader in engineering simulation software.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Professor Greg Davis (Music) has completed all engineering and editing for the full-length album by Pittsburgh-based alternative rock band, The Tilt Room. All recording was done in Cal U's Gallagher Studio. The band's drummer is Dr. Justin Hackett (Psychology).

Drs. Daniel Harris and Kyle Fredrick (Earth Sciences) were invited to instruct Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) exam review courses for the PA Council of Professional Geologists in Cranberry Township, PA, February 4-5, 2016.

Dr. Chad M. Kauffman (Earth Sciences) ran a session at the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) annual Climate

Diversity Education workshop during the AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, January 10, 2016.

Dr. Libby Larsen (History and Political Science), in her role as Cal U's APSCUF Grievance Chair, participated and collaborated in the Statewide Grievance Chairs Meeting in Harrisburg, PA, January 29-30, 2016. She has designed several fact sheets in the *What to Expect* series on topics such as filing a grievance, the step-three meeting, and arbitration.

Pamela Murphy (Academic Affairs) was recruited to assist WICHE Cooperative for Educational

Technologies (WCET), Boulder, CO, in preparing their Statement of Work-Year 6 for the State Authorization Network (SAN), December 16, 2015. Ms. Murphy is one of two SAN coordinators for State System universities.

Deborra Bergmark Peelor (Theatre and Dance) was a guest lighting designer for the University of Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble's spring concert, "Rhythm of the Heart," at the Stephen Foster Memorial Charity Randall Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA, February 12-13, 2016.

Dr. Dana Schneider (Psychology) was selected as one of the recipients of the 2016 Junior Faculty



Dr. Dana Schneider

Scholarship by the Trainers of School Psychologists, February 10, 2016.

Dr. Emily M. Sweitzer (History and Political Science) consulted with researchers from the TV show *Blacklist* regarding the etiology and profiles of gambling behaviors for a future episode, January 11-12, 2016.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Dr. Bruce D. Barnhart
Acting Provost

Dr. Daniel E. Engstrom
Associate Provost
for Student Success

Kathy Gavazzi
Director of Summer College
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Pamela Murphy
Director of Regulatory
Compliance

Jodie Rooney
Academic Events & Act 48
Coordinator

Dr. Stephen H. Whitehead
Associate Provost of
Innovation

Heidi Williams
Registrar

Department & Program Accomplishments

Applied Engineering and Technology—The *PA Technology Student Association Regional Conference* for Regions 1 and 6 was held at Cal U January 28-29, 2016. Dr. Laura Hummell coordinated the conference.

Earth Sciences—The Parks and Recreation Management Program hosted the Ohio-based Wilderness Education Association’s *2016 International Conference on Outdoor Leadership* at

the River’s Bend Conference Center at Cal U, February 25-27, 2016. Dr. John Confer served on the conference committee.

Earth Sciences—the department organized and participated in its eighth annual StormFest event at the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA, February 5-6, 2016. The event focused on STEM activities and demonstrations scattered throughout the Science Center and presented by students and faculty from

Meteorology, Geology, and Geography. Weather Channel on-air meteorologist Nick Walker was a special guest of the event.

Theatre and Dance—Dr. Michele Pagen traveled with 19 students to the annual *Ohio Theatre Alliance Conference* at Muskingham University, New Concord, OH, January 15-16, 2016.

Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Elizabeth Andrews (student, Theatre/Electrical Engineering) has been offered summer employment as a stage technician for the concert stages at Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH.

Adisa Hargett-Robinson (student, Political Science) has her “dream” assignment this spring: She is interning in PA First Lady Frances Wolf’s office. (Adisa is in the red jacket below).

Climate scientist Dr. Patrick C. Taylor (Meteorology ‘04) of NASA-Langley co-presented “What happens in the Arctic doesn’t stay in the Arctic” at the *COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference* in Paris, France, December 7-8, 2015.

