



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



Fall is here! Classes are underway, faculty and students are settling into the routines of teaching and learning, and soon we will be treated to the splendor of the autumn landscape.

Much has occurred since our last newsletter, and I would like to comment on a couple of those happenings.

First, on July 9, the Board of Governors approved California University's first-ever doctoral degree. Beginning in January 2016, we will offer the Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) in Health Science and Exercise Leadership. I would like to congratulate every-

one who contributed to this project, but particular recognition must go to Dr. Marc Federico, director of the program; Dr. Jeff Hutton, chairperson of Exercise Science and Sport Studies; and Dr. Stanley Komacek, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Second, as you are likely aware, Academic Affairs submitted its five-year Periodic Review Report (PRR) to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education on June 1, 2015.

I am happy to report that the University received an excellent response from Middle States. The response contains a few recommendations and suggestions, but the Cliff's Notes version is that we need to continue and document our good work in shared governance, assessment of programs (particularly General Education), institutional effectiveness, completion of the strategic plan, and

enrollment management. A PDF of the report is available at www.calu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/accreditation/.

I want to again thank the many faculty, staff and students who contributed to the Periodic Review Report, but particular thanks go to Dr. Holiday Adair, faculty co-chair of the PRR committee; Dr. Caryl Sheffield, former Associate Provost and co-chair of the PRR committee; and Professor Margo Wilson, our editor. Margo performed yeoman work in taking many disparate reports and bringing them together into a coherent document that speaks with one voice.

I would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy, and professionally enriching fall semester.

Bruce D. Barnhart



Dr. Karen Amrhein (First Year Experiences and Mentoring) was selected as the Executive Director's choice for Advisor of the Year for the freshmen honor society Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) at their council meeting in Birmingham, AL, June 24-26, 2015. Since serving as advisor, Dr. Amrhein has led Cal U's chapter to be selected as one of the top chapters in the country for the past five consecutive years. During these five years, Cal U members have also received \$20,000 in scholarships from the national society.

This year, Sydney Marks (student, Mathematics) received a \$3,000 Trow scholarship from ALD. Sydney competed with 80 students from across the country.

Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that nine Cal U faculty and staff received notification of new grant awards totaling \$1,570,535 during this quarter.

Dr. David Argent was awarded \$235,950 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection for the grant *Pike Run Stream Mitigation*.

Dr. Michael Brna (Library of Congress) was awarded \$180,812 from the Library of Congress for the grant *Teaching with Primary Sources 2015-2016*.

Mr. Robert Mehalik (Student Affairs) was awarded \$40,000 from the PA Liquor Control Board for the grant *Strengthening the Cal Community Collaboration Initiative 2015-2017*.

Dr. Robert Whyte (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$687,500 from the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection for the grant *State Gameland 302 Wetland Mitigation Project*.

Ms. Deborah Wojcik (GACO) was awarded \$212,215 from the Defense Logistics Agency for the grant *Procurement Technical Assistance (GACO) 2015-2016*.

Faculty & Staff Presentations

Dr. Aref Al-Khattar (Criminal Justice) presented "Counter Violent Extremism: The Case of Jordan" at a symposium organized by the U.S. National Defense University and King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center, Amman, Jordan, June 10, 2015.

Greg Davis (Music) presented summer music workshops "ProTools 101" and "ProTools 110" at Cal U, June 15-26, 2015. ProTools is the industry standard for recording, editing and producing music. Cal U provided a complete recording station with hardware and software for each student's use during the workshop.

Dr. Raymond Hsieh (Criminal Justice) presented "From Big Data and I-Tech to Administrating the Sensible Policy in Accordance

with Public Opinion" at the *2015 International Conference for Innovation* in Taiwan, August 2015.

Dr. John Massella (Counseling Center) presented "The Addicted Health Professional" at the *University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Freshman Orientation* in Pittsburgh, PA, August 12, 2015.

Dr. Nancy Shaffer (Philosophy) gave an invited presentation "Transcendence and Immanence: The Paradoxical Wisdom of Nicholas of Cusa" to the theological faculty of the University of Tuebingen in Tuebingen, Germany, June 4, 2015. The invitation was in response to her recent book *Becoming God: The Doctrine of Theosis in Nicholas of Cusa*.



Dr. Michelle Early Torregano (Childhood Education) presented "Recruiting African Americans to Teacher Education" at the *Eastern/Mid-Atlantic PDS Regional Conference*, July 8, 2015.

Dr. Pamela Twiss (Social Work) presented "Hotels, Motels, and Trailers, Oh My!: Housing a Transitional Workforce" at the *National Institute for Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas* at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, July 15, 2015.

Faculty & Staff Publications

Dr. Melanie Blumberg (History and Political Science) reviewed Boatright, Robert G., *Congressional Primary Elections*, in *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, New York: Routledge, July 2015.

Prof. Kevin Govern (Professional Studies) published, as co-editor and introduction co-author, *Cyber War: Law and Ethics for Virtual Conflicts*, edited by Jens Ohlin, Kevin Govern and

Claire Finkelstein, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Dr. Chad Kauffman (Earth Science) published his second textbook, *Living With Our Changing Climate*, American Meteorological Society, 2015.

Dr. Joel Press (Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies) published "Biological Explanations as Cursory Covering Law Explanations," an invit-

ed chapter in the book *Explanation in Biology: An Enquiry into the Diversity of Explanatory Patterns in the Life Sciences*, Pierre-Allain Braillard and Christophe Malaterre (Eds.), Netherlands: Springer, 2015.

Dr. Pamela Twiss (Social Work) was guest editor for the special issue *Promoting Environmental Justice in Rural Communities* of the journal *Contemporary Rural Social Work*, Vol. 7 No. 1, 2015.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Diane Buffington (Theatre and Dance) was hired to judge the National "Wild About Dance" competition and instruct a master class at the Nationals in Atlantic City, NJ, July 9-12, 2015.

Ralph Guzzi's (Music) arrangements are featured in recording sessions for Pittsburgh classical singer Jackie Evancho's upcoming CD.

Dr. Joseph Heim (History and Political Science) was filmed and interviewed by Marwan Zatar, host of the TV show *Islamic Culture Now*, where he spoke on his research relating to Islamic culture and political royalism in Safavid Persia and Mamluk Egypt, with special notes made of their miniature paintings and glass-work.

Dr. Yugo Ikach (Music) conducted two performances of the Washington Symphony Orchestra: on July 9, 2015, at the opening of the *Whiskey Rebellion Festival*, and on August 2, 2015, at the *Wine, Jazz and Pops Festival*, both in Washington, PA.

Dr. Jeffrey Magers (Professional Studies) led the Mid-Year Conference of the Police Administration Committee (International Association of Chiefs of Police) in New Castle, DE, June 10-12, 2015. (photo)



Dr. Libby Larsen (Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies) provided consultation to Rowman & Littlefield, furnishing academic peer review on a book-length manuscript entitled *Unleashing Manhood in the Cage: Masculinity, Fighting and Mixed Martial Art*, by Christian A. Vaccaro and Melissa L. Swauger, in June 2015.

Accreditation

The Graphics & Multimedia Technology program has received a four-year reaccreditation from the Accrediting Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications, Inc. Special thanks to GCM faculty Susan Urbine, Joseph Schickel, Aleksandra Prokic and Dr. Mark Bronakowski for their excellent work in meeting the academic and industry standards.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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Dr. Stephen H. Whitehead
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Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Several Political Science graduates are enjoying new adventures:

Breanna Blose '14 is working at the American Political Science Assn.

Courtney Cochran '13 is a regional coordinator for the Civic Election Engagement Project.

Shane Donovan '15 is working at the Federal Reserve Bank.

Mackenzie Gregor '15 is working for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Andrew McLynch '15 will start at the University of Virginia School of Law this fall.

Kembia Munsanje '15 is working at Goldman-Sachs, Salt Lake City.

Three Earth Science-Meteorology students had successful internships:

Kellee Judee, under the advisement of Dr. Swarn-deep Gill, completed her internship with the North Dakota Cloud Modification Project (NDCMP) in Bismarck, ND. She was assigned to the Atmospheric Resource Board office and briefed pilots and radar meteorologists with daily forecasts for cloud seeding operations, and even had the chance to fly in their Cessna 340 hybrid seeder aircraft.

Damon Matson, under the advisement of Dr. Chad Kauffman, completed his NOAA-Hollings Scholar Internship at the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast

Office in New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA. He participated in numerous public outreach events and conducted research in a nationwide NWS pilot program to promote better communications, partnerships, and decision support between the NWS and its partners.

John Troutman, under the advisement of Dr. Chad Kauffman, completed his NOAA-Hollings Scholar Internship at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. He was assigned to the Storm Surge Unit and utilized GIS to identify historical differences in storm surge probability exceedances, which helps for future advisory guidance.

Department & Program Accomplishments

The Center for Innovation at Southpointe sponsored a Future Pilots League competition in which five area high schools and five middle schools participated. Working in teams, the students used flight-simulation technology on loan from Cal U to master the challenges of air travel logistics and piloting an aircraft. Each team was tested on a multi-part mission

designed to build interpersonal, spatial, logical, verbal and kinesthetic skills. The winning teams, from Peters Township High School and Pleasant Hills Middle School, were rewarded with rides in a Cirrus SR20 four-seater propeller plane owned by State Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-Monongahela).

Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies—The promising new Global

Online Master's Degree program in Social Science: Conflict Resolution launched in the Summer 2015 semester, with Dr. Libby Larsen as graduate coordinator.

Theatre and Dance—The Department hosted the *Sixth Annual Estill Voice Intensive*, June 25-29-2015. Voice enthusiasts and professionals from around the world were on campus to study the voice.