



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

The fall semester is here.

For me, fall is here when I get a whiff of that cut-grass smell that takes me back to those fall seasons when I played football or covered football as an athletic trainer. Nowadays, the surest sign of fall is the return of our students to campus and the start of another academic term.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our faculty and staff members in Academic Affairs. I hope your summer was restorative and invigorating, and that all of us are ready to do what we do best here at Cal U, which is providing a high-quality educational experience at a reasonable cost to our students.

The summer session was an unqualified success. Under the capable leadership of

Mrs. Kathy Gavazzi, Director of Summer School, the University saw overall enrollment in both headcount and credits registered increase by more than 3% over last summer. Interestingly, growth of summer college was greatest at the undergraduate level. I would also like to offer my gratitude to all of our faculty who took part in our successful summer session.

Planning for Winter College is now underway, with Mrs. Gavazzi coordinating these efforts.

In terms of strategic enrollment planning (SEP), it has been a very busy summer. Faculty members Rich LaRosa, Holiday Adair, and Barry McGlumphy, along with Dean Kevin Koury and Associate Vice President Tim Susick, each chaired

an SEP committee, developing and delivering key reports that will serve the University well in developing a strategic enrollment plan. The efforts of the strategic enrollment team, led by Stan Komacek, Stephanie Franks-Helwich, Dan Engstrom and Tracey Sheets, along with our consultants from Ruffalo Noel Levitz, are already beginning to pay dividends. The headcount of the incoming fall class (freshmen and transfers) was higher than last fall, and I believe this is an indicator of future improvements in overall enrollment.

In closing, I want to say that I am looking forward to a great fall 2016 semester and an outstanding 2016-2017 academic year. I hope to see you around campus this fall!



Bruce D. Barnhart

Alumni Success Story

Larry Smith (Earth Science-Meteorology '04) was awarded a bronze medal from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for developing and implementing a new Beach Hazards Statement to communicate the risks from marine and ecological hazards on coastal communities during his time as a weather forecaster in the Monterrey, CA, National Weather Service (NWS) office. Larry received his award in a ceremony in Washington, DC, from Laura K. Furgione, the NOAA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Weather Services and Deputy Director of the NWS. Larry was also promoted to lead forecaster and will be moving to the NWS office in Grand Junction, CO.



Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that eight Cal U faculty and staff members received notification of new grant awards totaling \$707,873 during the last quarter. Some highlights are:

Dr. David Argent (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$264,836 from the PA Department of

Transportation for a stream mitigation project located on Ralston Run, Donegal Township, Washington County.

Dr. Daniel Harris (Earth Sciences) was awarded a MOVE software grant renewal of 20 licenses, valued at \$135,000, from Midland Valley Exploration, Ltd., a world leader in structural geology based in Glasgow, U.K.

This software enables geological structural modeling and analysis to be used in research projects and classroom demonstrations.

Ms. Deborah Wojcik (Government Agency Coordination Office) was awarded \$220,290 from the Defense Logistics Agency for the 2016-2017 *Procurement Technical Assistance Program*.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Professor Jim Bové spent two weeks in July in Cerdeira Village in Lousã, Portugal, where he created new art work, presented his current work, and demonstrated jewelry and metal techniques to Summer Art Festival visitors. Cerdeira Village is an artist colony and travel destination dedicated to arts and crafts. The Village invites artists and craftspeople to teach workshops, serve as resident artists, and/or get inspired by their beautiful landscape in the traditional community setting.

Professor Bové was the first American guest artist to be invited in ten years of the festival.

Ms. Diane Buffington (Music and Theatre) was contacted in July by the

charitable organization Autism Speaks and asked to write an article on her inspiration for the Cal U Dance Ensemble's performance of "Life through the Spectrum" which she choreographed for the *Spring Dance Concert*. Autism Speaks plans to publish the article and post a video of the performance on their national website.



Dr. Libby Larsen (History, Politics and Society) and Dr. Kim Woznack (Chemistry and Physics) were nominated to attend the State System Women's Consortium Leadership Institute for Faculty

Women in State College, PA, August 7-11, 2016.

Dr. Thomas Mueller (Earth Sciences) has been officially named as part of the United Nations Volunteer Program QGIS Educational Classes. He will assist the director with teaching QGIS to UN volunteers.

Dr. Thomas West (Athletic Training) was inducted into the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society Hall of Fame during the annual State Symposium in Hershey, PA, June 3, 2016. This award is the highest honor an athletic trainer can receive in the Commonwealth of PA. Dr. West was recognized for his clinical athletic training experience as well as his contribution to athletic training education.

Faculty & Staff Presentations

Dr. Daniel Engstrom, Dr. Karen Amrhein, Ms. Julie Osekowski and Ms. Dori Eichelberger (Academic Success) presented "Rethinking Generation iY: Creating Programs to Best Serve this New Generation of Students" at the *Student Success Institute Conference* at Penn State Fayette, Lemont Furnace, PA, June 3, 2016.

Dr. Michele Pagen and Mr. Brian Eisiminger (Music

and Theatre) presented the curriculum of Cal U's new Musical Theatre concentration at the *North American Estill Summit* in Chicago, IL, July 11, 2016. It is the only curriculum at an affiliate institution that includes the name "Estill" in course titles.

Dr. Ryan L. Sittler (Library Services) presented "How Music Affects Learning in a 3D Gaming Environment:

An Experiment" at the *12th Annual Games + Learning + Society Conference* at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 18, 2016.

Dr. Kim Vanderlaan (English) presented "The Fictional Women of Wharton and Cather: Unwitting or Unwilling (?) Cultural Feminists" at the *2016 Wharton in Washington Conference* in Washington, DC, June 1-4, 2016.

Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Betty Goodman-Klein (student, MSN) was selected from among several applicants for the MSN Administration Internship Opportunity, a 240-hour paid internship offered by the Veterans Administration. The internship will be completed over the 2016-2017 academic year under faculty mentor Dr. Mary O'Connor (Nursing) and the associate chief nurse at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, H.J. Heinz Campus as preceptor.

Dillon Gorby (student, Athletic Training) led the District 2 Quiz Bowl team at the *National Athletic Trainers Association National Quiz Bowl* in Baltimore, MD, June 24, 2016. Dillon was selected to represent his district nationally after

winning the regional quiz bowl in Boston. The District 2 team placed second, narrowly missing first place. The team members received a monetary award for their respective student athletic training clubs in addition to their trophies.

Adisa Hargett-Robinson (Political Science '16) just started graduate school at American University and landed an internship with CNN's *Inside Politics*.

Kirra Lent (student, Secondary Education) interned with FOX News at the *Democratic National Convention* in Philadelphia, PA, July 25-28, 2016.

Emily Lorence (Theatre, '15) is director of the Children's Theatre and

programs at South Park Theatre. This summer, she directed four shows, including a new play, *The White Cat*.

Alex Peterson (Student, Technology Education; local TEAC President; and national TEECA President) was appointed as a TSA CRC Competitive Events Coordinator at the TSA National Conference in Nashville, TN, June 28-July 2, 2016. Alex is one of the youngest people to ever hold this position.

Brian Van Wormer (Political Science '16) works in the Government Securities sector at Bank New York (BNY) Mellon. He researches municipal bond projects and the value of government bonds.

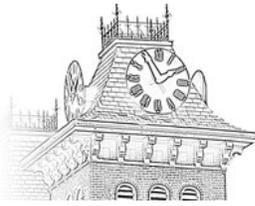
Summer Experience



James and the Giant Peach, Jr.: Ladybug (Lauren Lindoerfer) comforts James (Edward Stephenson) as Grasshopper (Quinn Whitehead) sings a lullaby and Spider (Emily Bittner) looks on.

Theatre faculty held *Summer Experience*, a two-week musical theatre intensive program, July 18-30, 2016. This year's program included its first class of technicians. Students took classes in acting, voice, and dance, or scenic design and painting, costuming, lighting, and properties design and construction.

The program culminated on July 30 with the performance of *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.* to record-setting audience numbers in Steele Hall. The technicians saw their hard work on display in the rhinoceros puppet and peach tree, which they designed, constructed, and painted.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Dr. Bruce D. Barnhart
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Daniel E. Engstrom
Associate Provost for Student Success

Kathy Gavazzi
Director of Summer College & Associate Registrar

Denise King
Staff Assistant

Dr. Stanley A. Komacek
Associate Provost

Daphne Livingstone
Executive Staff Assistant to the Provost

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

Cal U is one of 27 universities in 11 countries that have joined the Youth Mappers network founded by Texas Tech University. In just seven months, more than a million changes have been made to the world's free, editable public map, Open Street Map (OSM) by students. These edits contributed to improving food security in Bangladesh, disease prevention in Mozambique, and disaster preparation in Ecuador, as well as many other humanitarian causes. The program is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through a grant from the



U.S. Global Development Lab's GeoCenter.

The Student Study Team of Cal U's Tourism Research Center collected data at the *EQT Flashes of Freedom* and the *EQT Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta* as part of a research contract directed by Dr. Susan Ryan (Earth Sciences) and funded by the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta, Inc. Pictured are Jessica Jacobs, Hayley Walters, Anisa Miller, and Katelyn Klenk.

Drs. Cassandra Kuba and John Nass (History, Politics and Society) led anthropology students and alumni on a two-day exploratory archeological excavation June 16 and 16, looking for the 18th Century Wolff's Fort in Washington, PA. Preliminary analysis indicates a mid-19th Century structure, not the fort. Excavations will continue to determine the nature of the structure that was found.

The Finish Line

Cal U launched the *Finish Line* degree completion initiative in support of the nationwide demand to help those with some credits but no degree to acquire their degree through the most time- and cost-efficient pathways. *Finish Line* is the branded name and campaign utilized to facilitate the readmission of stop-outs to complete their degrees at both the

undergraduate and graduate levels. Phase I was rolled out to a Cal U pool of over 20,000 students in November 2015. To date, the campaign has produced over 1,250 respondents, more than 375 enrollments, and more than 3,350 credits registered (approximately 237 FTE). Students registering under the initiative are averaging nine credits per semester. Two students successfully

completed their degrees during the winter term 2015. Phase II was initiated with local community colleges to engage them in the *Preferred Pathways Partnership Program*, and Phase III is in progress to approach the State System regarding a partnership for a state-wide approach to degree completion. Cal U has been recognized in 24 news publications for the *Finish Line* initiative.