



June 2011

Academic Affairs News

California University of Pennsylvania

MEIBL: Mobile-Enhanced Inquiry-Based Learning

Louise Nicholson (Biological & Environmental Sciences) received a \$50,473 grant from Abilene Christian University as part of a partnership that received a Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant for *MEIBL: Using Mobility to Enable Inquiry-based Learning in STEM Programs*. Next Generation Learning Challenges is a \$20 million grant program largely sustained by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and administered by Educause. ACU, Cal U, and Del Mar College are participants in the grant. MEIBL is a blended learning strategy that creates active and engaging learning environments, producing increased student engagement, independence, and persistence to course completion. MEIBL targets the barriers to inquiry-based learning by allowing for differentiated instruction and the fundamental



guidance necessary for scientific inquiry. Nicholson will produce and use video podcasts of her laboratory lectures and demonstrations and test MEIBL's impact on student learning, student-faculty interaction, learning time on-task, and other variables. In addition to the grant funding, a team of Cal U faculty and staff members will attend a one-week hands-on MEIBL workshop with Nicholson at Abilene Christian Univer-

sity this summer. Participants include **Mohamed Benbourenane** (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems), **Keith Hepner** (Secondary Education), **Laura Hummell** (Technology Education), **Mario Majcen** (Earth Sciences), **Becky Nichols** (Utech), **Joe Schickel** (Graphics & Multimedia), **Caryl Sheffield** (Early, Middle, & Special Education), **Ryan Sittler** (Library Services), and **Steve Whitehead** (Applied Engineering & Technology). The research and faculty professional development in this grant contribute to Cal U Fusion.



Best Buddies at Cal U

Jim Burton (Early, Middle, & Special Education) supervised Cal U students as they organized *Best Buddies*; a student organization that partners Cal U students with individuals with disabilities who live in group homes. In addition to spending time doing "buddy" activities (shopping, watching movies, going to games, talking on the phone), the students organize a number of social events

during the year. The event culminated in a formal Black & White affair on April 27 at the Natali Performance Center that featured awards and presentations. Students **Molley Brown** and **Moira Blados** organized the event. **Carey Brown** is the Chapter President, **Shakeria Love** is the Activities Coordinator, **Nicole Chiado** is the Membership Coordinator, and **Jessica Habich** is the Chapter Treasurer.



Daniel Juarin received the *Best Buddies Service Award* and **Valerie Phipps** received the *Best Buddies Leadership Award*. The *Best Buddies* effort was sponsored by **Kevin Koury**; Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, community members, students and their parents.

BA in Arabic Online

John Cencich, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies & Research, announced that on April 7, the PASSHE Board of Governors approved Cal U to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in *Arabic Language and Culture* as a Global Online program starting in the Fall of 2011. The program will provide students with skills and experiences needed in the job market by emphasizing reading, writing, and speaking the Arabic language. Through collaboration among all PASSHE schools, Cal U will provide all of the major offerings for the degree. Cal U students will take their general education and elective requirements at Cal U, while students at other PASSHE schools will take their general education and electives at their respective institutions.

Grant Awards

David Argent (Biological & Environmental Sciences), \$20,000, Heinz Endowments through Carnegie Mellon University for the *Mon River Basin Project*, to provide a data baseline for the Mon River and selected tributaries on fish community composition

Paula Caffrey (Biological & Environmental Sciences), \$5,618, PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Committee for *Creating a Model of Chemotherapy Resistance in Small Cell Lung Cancer*

John Cencich (Graduate Studies & Research), \$3,000, PASSHE for *Meeting Workforce Demand in High-Technology Sectors: PASSHE's Professional Science Master's Initiative* for curriculum development and implementation

Shelly DiCesaro (Health Science), \$950, Pennsylvania Faculty Health and Welfare Fund for *Experiences in Stress Relief Techniques* to allow participants to try healthy stress relieving techniques and find one that best suits their needs

Sarah Downey (English), \$7,700, PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Committee for *DNA of the Written Word: Using Computer Analysis to Identify Borrowed and Interpolated Material in Medieval History Texts*

Kyle Fredrick (Earth Sciences) is Co-PI on *Coordinated County-Wide Plan of Water Quality Monitoring, Washington County, PA*. The Marcellus Environmental Fund grant from the Colcom Foundation to the Washington County Watershed Alliance provides \$43,590 to collect regional stream water quality data.

Chris Harman (Health Sciences), \$1,000, Pennsylvania Faculty Health and Welfare Fund for *Cal U Boot Camp – Healthy Lifestyle Initiative* to provide instructional fitness routines for participants which align to their fitness level (with **Mr. Brian Oddi**, Athletics)

Keith Hepner (Secondary Education), \$1,117, PASSHE for work in support of *Gates Literacy Grant: Introducing Common Core Standards through Formative Assessment*

Yasmin Kausar (Chemistry & Physics), \$11,320, PASSHE's Faculty Professional Development Committee's Professional Development in Support of Collaborative Academic Grants for *Professional Development for Development and Implementation of Distance Learning Upper-Division Laser Optics Course*

Min Li (Chemistry and Physics), \$2,790, PASSHE's Faculty Professional Development Committee for *What Are You Breathing: Characterization of Indoor Toxic Air Pollutants*

Sarah Meiss (Biological & Environmental Sciences), \$7,976, PASSHE's Faculty Professional Development Committee for *Examining the Microbial Ecology of Agricultural Soil*

Thomas Mueller (Earth Sciences), \$1,500, Federal Emergency Management Agency for *GIS in Emergency Management 2011* to conduct a workshop and conference breakout session

Cindy Persinger (Art & Design), \$7,158, PASSHE's Faculty Professional Development Committee for *The Role of Racism and Nationalism in Meyer Schapiro's Art Historical Methodology*

Susan Ryan (Earth Sciences), \$8,456, Gettysburg Travel Council for *Gettysburg Visitor Study* for data collection for a visitor intercept survey and the Adams County visitor self-complete survey

Gary Seelye and Laura Giachetti (Academic Development Services), \$19,300, US Department of Agriculture through the PA Department of Education for *Summer Food 2011* for meals for Upward Bound participants

Faculty Publications

Silvia Braidic and Kevin Lordon (Educational Administration & Leadership) published "Effective Supervision in the Online Setting" in *The Pennsylvania Administrator*. Also, Braidic published "Web 2.0: Collaborating to Create Dynamic Learning Experiences for New Teachers" in *Pennsylvania Educational Leadership* (Spring 2011) with Dr. Greg Taranto from the Canon McMillan School District.

Clarissa Confer (History & Political Science) published *Daily Life in the Indian Wars*, ABC-CLIO

Paul Crawford (History & Political Science) published "Four Myths about the Crusades," in *Intercollegiate Review* and completed an encyclopedia article on "Malicide not Homicide: The Military Religious Orders" and sidebar on Bernard of Clairvaux's *In Praise of the New Knighthood for the World History Encyclopedia* in the medieval volume, ed. Alfred Andrea, ABC-CLIO.

William Denny (Library Services) served as Guest Editor for a special topic issue on trends in online instruction for the *Journal of Library & Information Services in Distance Learning*.

Mariana Pensa (Modern Languages & Cultures) published "Reinaldo Arenas: entre el placer y el infierno" (book review) in: *Critica Hispanica*.

Emily Sweitzer (Justice, Law, & Society) published "Pre- and post-secondary career selection: A process for mentorship and identity development" in Elison, G. & Patrick, J. (Eds.), *Career Development in the Schools 2*, Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing, and "Bye, bye Mommy, bye, bye Daddy; I'll be ok and so will you!" in *The Early Head Start Rattler*, 6, (12), 1-2.

Faculty Presentations

Mohamed Benbourenane (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems) presented “How to Develop a Successful ABET Assessment Process” at the *ABET Symposium* in Indianapolis and “Making Statistics Come Alive in a Web-Based Course” at the *RECAP Conference* at West Chester University.

Melanie Blumberg (History & Political Science) presented “One Year, Two Elections: Critz v. Burns,” with Charles B. Holman and B. Kirk Holman at the *2011 Meeting of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association*, at the Pennsylvania State Capitol, Harrisburg, PA.

Silvia Braidic and **Kevin Lordon** (Educational Administration & Leadership) presented “The Supervision of Online Teachers” at the *Emerging Technologies: Making it Work Conference*.

Andrea Cencich (Modern Languages & Cultures) and two Spanish majors presented “Survival Spanish for Nursing” to UPMC, VA Pittsburgh Health Care System, VAMC, and Cal U attendees.

Weifeng Chen (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems) presented “Using technologies to facilitate online teaching” at the *International Conference of the Chinese American Research and Development Association*, in New Orleans, LA.

Joan Clites (Nursing) presented “BSN/MSN Education for the Registered Nurse: Truth or Dare?” at the *Area Health Education Center* meeting of the North Carolina RN-BSN programs in Greensboro, NC.

Ismail Cole (Business & Economics) presented “Can Labor Productivity and Inflation Forecast Wages? Evidence from U.S. Manufacturing Industries, 1958-2005,” during a *National Association of Forensic Economics* session at the *Conference of the Eastern Economic Association* in New York City.

Clarissa Confer (History & Political Science) supported the *Civil War Roundtable* with her talk “Abraham Lincoln: A Man for the Ages.”

William Denny (Library Services) presented “The Need for Embedded Librarians in Online classes” at the *Reflective Practice Meeting on Information Literacy: A Critical Skills for Success Conference* at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Craig Fox (Philosophy) presented “Reflections on Wittgenstein and Film” at the *Eastern Division Meeting of the American Society of Aesthetics* in Philadelphia and “Why Wittgenstein and Film?” at the *Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association* in Minneapolis, MN.

Rebecca Hess (Health Sciences) presented “Oceans of Opportunity” at the Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance’s 126th *National Convention & EXPO* in partnership with the Northwest & Southwest District AAHPERDs in San Diego, CA.

John Kallis (Applied Engineering & Technology) presented “TeleRobotics: The Internet a Physical Sensor” at the

International Technology and Engineering Educators Conference in Minneapolis, MN. Also, Kallis and **Mike Amrhein** (NCRETE) presented “Introduction to Mechatronics” at the *Employment, Training & Education Conference* in Hershey and “Careers in Applied Engineering and Technology” during the *BotsIQ of Southwestern PA Competition* at Westmoreland County Community College.

Jason Kight (Early, Middle, & Special Education) presented “Direct and Explicit Approach for Teaching Social Skills to Students with Asperger’s Syndrome” at the *Autism Awareness Conference* at Slippery Rock University.

Elizabeth Larsen (Justice, Law, & Society) presented “Fast Horses and Strong Women: Revisioning the Sport-Business of Harness Horse Racing” at the *6th Audrey-Beth Fitch Conference*.

Min Li (Chemistry & Physics) presented “Properties of Carbonaceous Fine Particles from the New York Megacity Area 2002-07: Elemental carbon, organic carbon, acidic and neutral components” at the *American Chemical Society 241st Conference & Exposition* in Anaheim, CA.

Continued on page 4

Kevin Lordon (Educational Administration & Leadership, photo, center) traveled to China to present a “School Leadership and Effective Teaching”

lecture series at the invitation of the *Chinese Education Association for International Exchange*. Kevin lectured in Anshan, Louyang, Hefei, and Beijing.



Faculty Presentations

Continued from page 3

Andrae Marak (History & Political Science) presented “Baseball, Masculinity, Cultural Imperialism, and the Carranza Propaganda Machine” at the *Audrey-Beth Fitch Conference* and “U.S. Assimilation or Mexican Indigenismo?: The Seri and Their Anglo Benefactors” at the *Mid-Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies* in Pittsburgh, PA.

Tom Mueller (Earth Sciences) presented “GIS in the Woods?: An Examination of Park’s Spatial Data and Projects in Pennsylvania” and was on a “GIS in Higher Education” panel at the *TUGIS Conference* in Towson, MD.

Linda Pina (Nursing) presented “Community Assessment: Classroom Strategies for Building Relationships” at the *National Association for Multicultural Education* meeting.

Loring Prest (Library Services) presented “LibGuides Reflection: A Best Practices Discussion” at the *SSHELCO Annual Meeting* in Harrisburg, PA.

Margarita Ribar (Modern Languages & Cultures) presented “Techniques Used and Historical Setting: Andrew Lloyd Webbers’s Evita” at the *Cal Film Festival*.

Joe Schickel (Applied Engineering & Technology) presented a “Screen Printing Workshop” at the *Applied Engineering & Technology’s Spring Conference* with the Screen Printing Student Association.

Melissa Sovak (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems) presented a poster on “The Effects of Student-Driven Projects on the Development of Statistical Reasoning” in at the *United States Conference on Teaching Statistics* Raleigh, NC.

Jeff Sumey and **John Kallis** (Applied Engineering & Technology) presented “Robotics Engineering Tech” at A. W. Beattie Career Center, Allison Park, PA. Also, Sumey presented “Inexpensive Tethered Aerial Data Gathering Platform” with student Nathan Wright during *Cal U Academic Excellence Days*.

Emily Sweitzer (Justice, Law, & Society) presented “10 Projects Service Learning” at the *Cal U Academic Excellence Days* and “Threat Assessment” during the spring semester *Cal U Student Teachers Conference*.

Stephen Whitehead (Applied Engineering & Technology) presented “Technology Education and Mathematics Collaboration Using Robotics” at the *International Technology and Engineering Educators Association Conference* in Minneapolis, MN.

Faculty & Staff Achievements

Aref Al-Khattar (Justice, Law, & Society) was added to the *Fulbright Specialist Program Roster* for the next five years.

David Argent (Biological & Environmental Sciences) received the *FPDC Robert Vargo Award*.



Maggy Aston’s (Art & Design) work was in *Art on Paper*, a national juried exhibition at the Maryland Federation of Art in Annapolis, MD. Her *Natural Science Drawing* course was accepted by the Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island, and she conducted a collaborative drawing event at the *Cal U Hip-Hop Conference* with 40 of her students.

Jane Bonari, Patricia Bellora, and Janet Mellinger (Early, Middle, & Spe-

cial Education) collaborated on a pen pal project between Cal U students and fourth graders from the Canon-McMillan and Madonna Schools.

Carol Bocetti (Biological & Environmental Sciences) received the *FPDC Merit Award for Teaching*.

Silvia Braidic (Educational Administration & Leadership) earned a Sloan-C Certificate and serves as a mentor for the *Sloan-C Online Teaching Certificate* Program. Also, Sylvia was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Editorial Review Board for the *International Journal of Communications and Information Technology Education*.

John Confer (Earth Sciences) received the *FPDC Merit Award for Research*.

William Denny (Library Services) was appointed to the Washington County

Library System Board by the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

William Dieterle (Chemistry & Physics) was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the *Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers*. The position is the first in a series of increasing levels of responsibility including two years as Secretary-Treasurer followed by two years as Vice-Chair, and culminating with two years as Chair.

Craig Fox (Philosophy) supervised Cal U Philosophy students who participated in the *Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association* in Minneapolis, MN.

Cheryl Hettman (Nursing) received the *FPDC Merit Award for Service and Service-Learning* and was selected by *Cambridge Who’s Who* as a “VIP of the Year.”

Continued on page 5

Faculty & Staff Achievements

Todd Pinkham (Art & Design) had three paintings in the “If You See Kay Show” at *Art Forms and Tattoo* in Lower Burrell; a two-sided wall mural for the *Hip-Hop Conference* at Jozarts, in California; a painting in *Art All Night*, in Pittsburgh three paintings in the “Through the Looking Glass Project” (right) at *Art Forms and Tattoo* in Lower Burrell, PA; and two paintings in the “Old Exit 10 and Exhibition” at the *Philip Dressler Center for the Arts* in Somerset, PA.



Continued from page 4

Cheryl Hettman and **Suzanne Palko** (Nursing) are Co-Chairing the “Birthing Kits Project” of the *Zonta Club of Washington County*. The project is providing pregnant women in developing countries with clean, healthy means for giving birth. The “Brother’s Brother” organization of Pittsburgh will help to distribute the birthing kits in Africa.

Glenn Hider (Applied Engineering & Technology) is coordinating a team of curriculum developers who are creating the *Lincoln Interactive Engineering Curriculum* for web delivery to high school students by the National Network of Digital Schools. The program delivers 21st century skills using content provided by leading STEM institutions, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Lisa Kovalchick (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems) was elected President of the *Pennsylvania Association of Computer and Information Science Educators*.

Elizabeth Larsen (Justice, Law, & Society) and **Karen McCullough** (English), Co-Chairs, FPDC Subcommittee on Service and Service Learning, co-hosted the *2011 Summer Course Development Institute* of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Network for the Growth of Service-Learning at Cal U.

Julia McGinnis (Library Services) chaired the *SSHELCO Annual Planning Committee* which planned and hosted “What’s Happening: Planning for SSHELCO’s Future” at PASSHE’s Dixon University Center in Harrisburg.

Janet Mellinger and **Patricia Bellora** (Early, Middle, & Special Education) supervised 70 teacher education candidates in a Mathematics World Fair at Bethlehem Center Elementary School. The Cal U students facilitated stations aligned to various countries, including Australia, Italy, Egypt, Madagascar, Mexico, China, and Canada. In each country, the Beth Center elementary students performed and practiced related math functions. For example, when in Egypt, the students worked with pyramids and circles.

Richard Miecznikowski (Art & Design) is leading a tour of three of Italy’s greatest cities this summer; Venice, Florence & Rome, to study Italian history, art, culture, and traditions.

Tom Mueller (Earth Sciences) was named 2011 Co-Chair Education Committee for the national GIS organization; *Geographic Information and Technology Association*. Also, he was selected to the *National GIS Competency Model Education Team*, which will examine educational and testing issues in GIS. Tom beta-tested Community Analyst software for the GIS Company, ESRI.

Tom Mueller and **Kyle Fredrick** (Earth Sciences) participated in a “Designing GIS and Remote Sensing Courses, Modules, and Activities for Teaching Geoscience Students” workshop in preparation for work they will do in summer 2011 and for the annual meeting of the *Geological Society of America*.

Margarita Ribar (Modern Languages & Cultures) organized a month-long celebration of *50 Years of Languages at California University of PA*. Also, she instituted a *Salsa Night Workshop* at Cal U.

Joe Schickel (Applied Engineering & Technology) conducted a graphics workshop for Madonna Regional Catholic School students for a program coordinated by **Jane Bonari** (Early, Middle, and Special Education), with Graphics and Multimedia students Ryan Weaver, Mark Bingaman and Chris Allen. Also, Joe conducted Graphics & Digital Communications sessions for Boy Scouts during the *2011 Camporee at Cal U*.

Joann Schmitt (Early, Middle, & Special Education) coordinated 80 teacher candidates in a Parent/Student Workshops to PTA parents and their children at the Gastonville Elementary Center in the Ringgold School District.

Gary Seelye (Upward Bound) received the *2011 Pennsylvania Outstanding Service Award* from the Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel at the MEAEOPP Annual Conference in Morgantown, WV.

Madeline Smith (English) was invited to contribute a chapter to Steve Bloom’s *Critical Insights* volume on playwright Eugene O’Neill. Also, she will travel to Chauvianic (France) to the ancestral home of the Marquis de Lafayette to study archives on the Moffat family.

Continued on page 6

Faculty Achievements

Continued from page 5



Jeff Sumey (Applied Engineering & Technology) was recognized as a *Research Faculty member* of PASSHE's Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island. Sumey, who is researching *Inexpensive Tethered Aerial Data Gathering Platform* with a NASA scientist, was added to the MSC web site (<http://msconsortium.org>).

Emily Sweitzer (Justice, Law, & Society) received the *2011 Pavlak/Shutsy Special Service Award* from the Cal U Alumni Association. Also, she named a master trainer for *One on One, Connecting Cops & Kids*, a national program run by the Fred Rodgers Company through a Department of Justice grant.

Margo Wilson (English) received the *FPDC Merit Award for Technology*.

Department & Program Achievements

The **American Democracy Project** (**Melanie Blumberg**, Director) hosted an environmental issues symposium with speakers Dr. Terrence Collins, Teresa Heinz Professor of Green Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University; Brandi Kennedy, Research Associate, Democratic Policy & Legislative Research Office, Harrisburg; and Donna Brazile, commentator and political strategist.

Applied Engineering & Technology held its Annual Spring Technology Conference in April with nearly 320 teachers and high school students in attendance.

Robert Meyers and **Spencer Norman** (Art & Design) ran a *Photography Workshop* for Graphic Design students with Pittsburgh photographer Mike Haritan.

Kelton Edmonds (History & Political Science) and the planning committee conducted nearly two dozen events, including the popular Soul food dinner, for **Black History Month** at Cal U.

The **Institute of Criminological and Forensic Sciences** trained 15 FBI Special Agents, State Police, and local officers in Spanish for law enforcement.

Five graduate students participated in PASSHE's *Graduate Research Symposium* in Harrisburg, PA. **Beverly Melenyzer**, **Christine Peterson**, and **Jane Bonari** (Early, Middle, and Special Education, photo below) advised the students.



Five graduate students in the **Master of Social Work** program made poster presentations as part of their Advanced Practice Research during the Cal U *Academic Excellence Day*. These five students were part of the Hartford Partnership Program in Aging Education project.

The **Department of Math, Computer Science & Information Systems** hosted the *PASSHE Mathematics Association Spring Conference* in April at the Cal U Southpointe Center.

Continued on page 7

Origami Workshop for *Tsunami Relief for Japanese Children*

Jim Bové led a group of art students in creating a box of Origami cranes (top photo) for the *Tsunami Relief for Japanese Children* program of OshKosh B'gosh, the children's clothing company. The Origami will be sent to OshKosh stores in Japan to show Japanese children they have the support and care of their friends in the United States. The Origami crane is a symbol of health and well-wishes in Japan. For every crane given, the company will donate an article of clothing to the children of Japan. Nationally recognized visiting artist Yoko Sekino-Bové (bottom photo) taught the students the traditional Japanese Origami techniques. Born in Japan, Sekino-Bové learned the art form as a



child. She explained that paper folding techniques have been used by NASA to design satellites and solar arrays for space, and that car airbags are folded using Origami principles. Many students created more than one crane during the workshop and continued to make more in the next few days. One student commented that "it makes us feel good to be able to use our art skills to help children in distress. This will make a difference." A few art education majors who participated in the workshop said they plan to introduce this art form to their classes during student teaching. The Cal U students created over 200 cranes, which means 200 articles of clothing will be donated to Japanese children in need.

Department & Program Achievements

Continued from page 6

The Department of Nursing held its annual *Outcomes Assessment Day* in April with nearly 90 senior undergraduate RN-BSN students, the faculty, and staff in attendance. Also, representatives from the Air Force attended, including Captain Steven Shea, who spoke to the senior class about his experiences as a flight nurse and flight nursing instructor. Sergeant Michael Burchfield presented the Air Force's *Leadership Award* to Aleysha Williams. **Linda Pina** pre-

sented **Laura Fry** with the *Outstanding BSN Graduate Award*, and **Cheryl Hettman** presented **Tanisha Cheatham** with the *Chairperson's Recognition of Achievement*.



Joe Schickel (Applied Engineering and Technology) hosted a *Career Exploration Day* focused on Graphics and Multimedia technologies for students from Mrs.

Gartley's Advanced Art class at Uniontown High School. Graphics and Multimedia Graduate Assistant **Chris Allen** facilitated a session entitled "Discovery of Art" during the day that illustrated for the students how the Apple iPad and online art software applications can be used for design and graphics. Also providing assistance and instruction to the high schoolers throughout the day were undergraduate Graphics and Multimedia students, **Ellie Imhof**, **Jillian Anderson**, **Kristen Joseph** and **Paul Burkhart**, and Art Education student **Katie Resch**.

Student & Alumni Achievements

Samuel Ambrose '11, **Rachel Frohman '11**, and **Chantelle Parrish '11** are completing a University at Buffalo Geological Field Camp this summer. The capstone camp has competitive admissions criteria and is a pre-requisite for graduate programs in Geology. The students will be mapping various terrains at field sites in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

The **Student Printing Club House** (Applied Engineering & Technology) presented *Benjamin Saves the Books* at Rostraver Elementary School. Graduate Assistant, **Chris Allen**, dressed as Benjamin Franklin (photo) for the presentation and students **Mark Bingaman**, **Ellie Imhof** and **Jill Anderson** contributed.



Graphic Design students attended *AIGA Pittsburgh's Portfolio Review Day* to secure feedback on their portfolios from Pittsburgh's top design, marketing, and art pros. **Spencer Norman**, **Robert Myers**, and **Greg Harrison** (Art & Design) supervised the students and contributed professional services to the Review Day.

Vulcan Student Art Gallery hosted two shows with support from the **Associated Artist of Cal U**. The first show held works from 30 students of intaglio and relief. The second exhibited work from 16 advanced art students and **Jim Bové's** jewelry classes in casting and fabrication.

The **GIS Club** became an official student chapter of the Geographic Information and Technology Association.

Chemistry students **Bethany Godra**, **Anna Murphy**, **Mary Beth Novobilsky**, and **Joelle Parise**, accompanied by **Gregg Gould** (Chemistry & Physics), served as Students Aides to the *Pittcon 2011 Conference* in Atlanta, GA.

Three **Geology** students presented research at the Northeastern/North Central joint section meeting of the Geological Society of America, in Pittsburgh, PA: **Matthew Motter** (*Sediment and*

Water Analysis of a Vegetation Pond in a Passive Wetland AMD Treatment System), **Matthew Baird** (*Using Chemical Parameters to Locate AMD Discharge Points in a Passive Wetland Treatment System*) and **Rachel Frohman** (*Evaluation of Ground Conductivity of Subsurface Irrigation Site Using GEM-2 Electromagnetic Surveys, Powder River Basin, Wyoming*). Presentations were co-authored by **Kyle Fredrick** and **Lisa Lohr** (Earth Sciences).

Athletic Training students **Emily Obenauf**, **Katie Ramsdell**, **Sean Rentler**, and **Meredith Decker** published research articles in the *Undergraduate Research Journal for the Human Sciences*. **Rebecca Hess** (Health Sciences) wrote a brief introduction to the papers. This is the second consecutive year that students have been featured in this peer review research publication.

Michael J. Pappas '99, a Technology Education teacher at Belle Vernon High School, earned *National Board Certified Teacher* certification. He is one of six Belle Vernon Area teachers with National Board Certification and one of 25 in his content area in Pennsylvania.

Emily Trifaro, a School Counseling graduate student, won the *Pennsylvania School Counselor Association Graduate Student Scholarship Award*.

Expressive Arts & Teaching of Art

Students in **Sue Mohney's** (Art & Design) graduate *Expressive Arts* class developed learning centers that focused on a work of art or children's literature, which was both written and illustrated by the same person. Each learning center had several art-related activities to help assess student learning. In addition to creating a thematic art unit for grades K-6, students in *Teaching of Art* designed an art room that would be the perfect environment for teaching the theme.



Cal U Hosts CPUB (University Biologists)

The Department of **Biological & Environmental Sciences** hosted the annual meeting of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists (CPUB) in April. CPUB emphasizes undergraduate student research and provides funding through competitive grants. The meeting included 150 regis-



trants, 15 student oral presentations, and 45 student poster presentations. Cal U faculty offered workshops on ethnobotany (**Mark Tebbitt** and **Sarah Meiss**) and Bioinformatics (**Louise Nicholson**). Cal U CPUB director **Brian**

Paulson organized the statewide meeting.

Cal U Hosts Philosophy & Religious Studies

The Department of **Philosophy** hosted the *Interdisciplinary Association for Philosophy and Religious Studies* conference in April. The organization, founded over twenty years ago, supports and encourages the study of philosophy and religion among students and faculty of the PASSHE universities. The conference was organized by **Joel Press**, who also serves as president of the association.

Papers were presented by faculty and students from across Pennsylvania, including Cal U's **Jessika Boyle '11** who presented "Mr. Wittgenstein, There is No Such Thing as Nonsense." The keynote speaker, Dr. Nichole Hassoun (Carnegie Mellon University) spoke on the ethical, economic and legal hurdles facing the distribution of medicine to the poor of the world.

Art & Design Students Visit Washington, D.C.

Students in the Department of **Art & Design** traveled to Washington, D.C. to explore museums along the National Mall. Stops included the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the National Gallery of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler and Freer Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. The students



completed projects related to their classes. Faculty leading the group were **Jim Bové** and **Cindy Persinger**.

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