MOU with UAE’s University of Sharjah

The School of Graduate Studies and Research has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Under the MOU, Cal U and the University of Sharjah will collaborate on student exchanges, faculty exchanges, and joint graduate programs.

This summer, a delegation of graduate students and administrators from the University of Sharjah visited Cal U. During this first visit related to the MOU, University of Sharjah graduate students completed criminology and forensic sciences training offered by Cal U professors. The training is being used as part of a three-credit hours unit from their home institution to be counted toward their Master of Arts degree in Applied Criminology (more details on the training are available in the story below).

In the photo, Cal U’s President Angelo Armenti, Jr.; Dean John Cencich; and Justice, Law & Society Chair Aref Al-Khattar are shown with the visitors from the University of Sharjah, including Ahmed Falah Alomosh (Advisor & Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences), Ali Nasir Salim Musfar Alkarbi (Administrative Officer for the Sharjah Delegation), and graduate students Ayat Ali Fouad Mirza, Huda Mohammed Abdullah Atif, Noura Nasir Salim Musfar Alkarbi, Rashid Obaid Salim Rashid Alzaabi, and Talal Hassan Hudaib Hassan Humoudi.

Dean Cencich signed the MOU in May at the University of Sharjah. The graduate school looks forward to further collaboration with this new international partner.

Institute Trains International Groups & Secures Body Farm

Cal U’s Institute of Criminological and Forensic Sciences trained two international groups and secured a body farm.

Training
The Institute trained students from the University of Sharjah (story above, coordinator: Aref Al-Khattar; Justice, Law & Society) and officers of the Taiwanese Police (photo right, coordinator: Raymond Hsieh; Justice, Law & Society). The training focused on American criminal justice, human trafficking, social work, criminal profiling, community policing, and computer forensics. The international trainees visited courts, prisons, and agencies, including the FBI and the Pittsburgh Police. Training was provided by Justice, Law, & Society faculty Al-Khattar, Hsieh, Emily Sweitzer, & Barry Noel, and Social Work’s Norma Thomas & Sheri Boyle. In the photo, from left to right: Raymond Hsieh; Second Lieutenant Tsai, Min-Chun; Sergeant Huang, Kuan-Hao; President Angelo Armenti, Jr.; Lieutenant Colonel Sung, Chung Ju; and Dean John Cencich.

Body Farm
Through an agreement with the Grace Lair Farm (Dawson, PA) the Institute will use land and facilities for a “body farm.” A body farm is used for scientific research and study relative to the decomposition of human remains. The Institute will conduct research and assist law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and coroners in criminal investigations relative to the manner and cause of death. Cal U’s body farm will be only the fifth in the country and the first in Pennsylvania.
Faculty & Staff Achievements

Bruce Barnhart (Academic Affairs); Brian Oddi (Athletics); Edwin Zuchelkowski (Biology & Environmental Sciences); Marc Federico, Linda Meyer, Laura Miller, & Ellen West (Exercise Science & Sports Studies); and Shelly DiCesaro, Jodi Dusi, Robert Kane, Michael Meyer, & Thomas West (Health Science) presented with graduate Athletic Training students at the National Athletic Trainers' Association Meeting and Clinical Symposia in June.

Ralph Belsterling (Communication Disorders) was elected President Elect of the PA Speech & Hearing Association.

Barbara Bonfanti & Denise Joseph (Communication Disorders) presented Covey 7 Habits Preschool Plans at the International Educational Summit in August.

Sheri Boyle (Social Work) co-presented a poster session on Domestic Violence at the PAUSWE Conference.

Margaret Christopher authored How to Change Negative Emotions into Positive Action in the July/August edition of Coping Magazine.

Shelly DiCesaro (Health Sciences) was reappointed Ethics Committee Chair in the PA Athletic Trainers' Society.


Glenn Hider (Applied Engineering & Technology) presented at the Virginia Technology Education Association Conference in Roanoke, VA in August.

Laura Hummell (Applied Engineering & Technology) directed Cal U’s TECH Awareness Camp in June.

Ayanna Lyles (Health Sciences) presented Common Injuries in the Collegiate Volleyball Athlete for the Japanese Sports Medicine Exchange Program at Cal U.

Peg Marcinek (Health Sciences) participated in the Oxford Round Table on Women in the University: Problems and Prospects at Oxford University, England.

Beverly Melenyzer (Elementary/Early Childhood Education) led a Cal U of PA Network for Accomplished Teaching workshop for National Board candidates.

Linda Platt Meyer (Exercise Science & Sport Studies) received the PA Athletic Trainers’ Society Service Award.

Michael Meyer (Health Sciences) was named to the Technology Committee of the PA Athletic Trainers’ Society.

Charles Nemeth (Legal Studies) published three books: Aquinas and King (Carolina Academic Press); Law and Evidence (Jones and Bartlett Publishers); and Private Security and the Investigative Process (Routledge).

Mary Popovich (Health Sciences) presented Nutrition & Exercise to children in the Philadelphia Experience in June.

Karen Posa (Student Mentoring) presented Peer Mentoring: Helping Students Transition to College at the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators Conference and was elected President-Elect of the Board of Directors of the International Mentoring Association.


Susan Ryan (Earth Science) was re-appointed to the Board of Directors of the PA Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

Norma Thomas (Social Work) presented Hoarding Behavior and the Elderly at the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living in Pittsburgh on June 25.

Taunya Tinsley (Counselor Education) was elected to the Board of Directors of Three Rivers Youth in June.

Jacquelyn Walsh (Counselor Education) published Biofeedback: A Useful Tool for Professional Counselors in the American Counseling Association’s VISTAS 2010.

Joe Zisk (Secondary Education) presented at the International Society for Technology in Education Conference and the 26th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning.

Accreditation
The Council on Social Work Education reaffirm the accreditation of the Bachelor in Social Work program for a full eight years in June.

Career Services
The Cal U Career Network on LinkedIn launched this summer and had more than 135 members in early August. The network connects job-seeking students and alumni to employed alumni. Faculty and staff are invited to join the network at www.linkedin.com. Search for “Cal U Career Network”.

Student-Alumni Networking Mixer
The Southpointe Center hosted a networking mixer. Panels of alumni in Pittsburgh industries that are hiring shared information and suggestions with students and job-seeking alumni. Some of the companies represented included Bayer, Consol Energy, McKesson Automation, PNC, and UPMC.
Grant Awards

Biomonitoring and Assessment of Streambank Fencing ($45,750), CONSOL Energy, Dave Argent, (Biological & Environmental Sciences), to monitor and assess the recovery and/or improvement of streamside water quality, macroinvertebrates, fish and plant communities.

Pathways Out of Poverty-Scholarships ($24,000), US Department of Labor & Private Industry Council, Barbara Crofcheck (Pre-College Honors Portal), for scholarships for Fayette County students pursuing green/energy fields at Cal U.

Walk for Wellness ($988), PA Faculty Health & Welfare Fund, Shelly DiCecco (Health Sciences), for wellness instruction and walking experiences.

PNC Grow Up Great ($189,599), PNC Foundation, Bill Hug, to continue a partnership of training teachers and engaging learners in science and nature.

BSW Experiential Learning ($4,000), Council on Social Work Education Gero-Ed Center, Bernadette Jeffrey (Social Work) to design gero experiential learning activities for Cal U courses.

Robotics Technology Workforce ($80,000), PA Department of Community & Economic Development, Stan Komacek (Academic Affairs), to continue an education-career program in robotics.

Charting the Course of Women’s Studies ($2,000), PA Department of Education, Marta Mc Clintock (Women’s Studies), to research issues in creating a mission statement and strategic plan for Women’s Studies at Cal U.

Highly Qualified Teachers in Exceptional Education, Math and Science 2010-11, ($99,959), US Department of Education, Kate Mitchem and Kalie Kossar (Special Education), to prepare K-12 special education licensed teachers with skills in standards, evidence-based interventions, and math and science content.

Pathways Out of Poverty-Internships ($63,360), US Dept. of Labor & Private Industry Council, Karen Primm (Internship Center), for paid internships in green/energy industries for Fayette County students at Cal U.


Upward Bound–Fayette ($368,540) and Upward Bound-Greene ($250,000), US Department of Education, Gary Seelye (Academic Development), to provide disadvantaged students in Fayette and Greene counties with academic skills and motivation necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

PA STEM Girls Collaborative ($8,000), National Science Foundation, Katherine Weber (Secondary Education) and Lisa Kovalchick (Chemistry & Physics), for a PA effort to increase female, minority and underrepresented student engagement in STEM.

Fluorescence Spectroscopy ($5,992), Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, Kim Woznack, (Chemistry & Physics), for equipment in Cal U chemistry courses.

Geology Student Research

Geology students Rachel Frohman and Chantelle Parrish completed unique research projects this summer. Rachel won a competitive internship and fellowship through the Department of Energy and worked on geophysical research and exploration initiatives in Wyoming and Pennsylvania. Chantelle worked in Mexico with Dr. Shannon Kobs, post-doc researcher at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, on mapping and collecting rock and tephra samples from St. Martin Tuxtla volcano in eastern Mexico.

Internship News

This summer, with the Washington, DC Center for Internships, 13 Cal U students interned in Washington, DC; London, England; and Sydney, Australia in a variety of organizations. Five of the interns (below, top to bottom) were Mariana Oliveria (Computer Engineering Technology, intern at Cardinal Technologies), Eleanor Imhof (Communications, intern at Accorda Global Health Foundation), Jeff Ward (Political Science, intern at Offender Aid & Restoration), and Jaimie Mercer (left, Business Administration, intern at Hostelling International), and Elizabeth Evans (right, Business Administration, intern at TechAmerica Foundation).
Gwen Perry-Burney (Social Work) directed the R. Benjamin Wiley Partnership Program this summer at Cal U. BWPP is a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) multi-year college prep initiative that allows urban high school students to live on campus and take classes in math, composition, history and others fields. In collaboration with PA’s 2+2+2 Workforce Leadership Grant (WLG), the BWPP students took a robotics class; directed by John Kallis (Applied Engineering & Technology) and led by Mike Valoski (National Center for Robotics Engineering Technology Education). The students built and operated robots while learning about careers in robotics.

The class was visited by PASSHE’s Luis Garcia (BWPP) and Carol Adukaitis (WLG). Above, BWPP robotics students pose with Adukaitis, Perry-Burney, Garcia, Kallis, and Valoski.

Two Bellmar Middle School students participated in the National History Day competition offered by Cal U’s Teaching with Primary Sources program and advanced to the state competition where they took first place! At right, Mike Brna (Teaching with Primary Sources) poses with state champs Meghan Planey (center) and Jenna Christner. They are the first students to win a state-level academic championship in the history of the Belle Vernon Area School District.

The Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute’s High School Leadership Camp engaged 27 students from 14 high schools this summer. The students completed the rigorous five-day Leadership Challenge, which includes class work, film reviews and discussions, practical applications, and a confidence leadership course at the Outdoor Odyssey in Boswell, PA. Below, campers celebrate their achievement with the Serenes (center). Dr. Harry Serene is President of the Cal U Alumni Association Board of Directors and Linda Serene is President of the Foundation for California University Board of Directors.

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