



Academic Affairs Staff

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Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Melanie Blumberg (History and Political Science) completed two pre-publication reviews, one for *Winning Elections in the Twenty-first Century* by Dick Simpson and Betty O'Shaughnessy, to be published by Westview Press and *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics 10e*, by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, and Caroline J. Tolbert.

Dr. Mark Bronakowski (Applied Engineering and Technology) attended the two week training by Siemens Corporation and completed the Level I Mechatronics Certification, June, 2013

Dr. John Cencich (Justice, Law & Society) provided nine graduate students from the first cohort of the MA in Applied Criminology with their academic capstone experience through a special undertaking with Scotland Yard.

Dr. Shelly DiCesaro (Health Science) was appointed to the National Athletic Trainers Association District 2 Ethics Committee.

Dr. Grafton Eliason (Counselor Education) was trained at the National Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to work with Red Cross Reconnections, volunteering as a mental health specialist with veterans and their fami-

lies upon return from military deployment.

Dr. Gregg Gould (Chemistry and Physics) was appointed chairman of the Housing and Transportation Committee for Pittcon 2014. Preparations officially commenced recently with a Kick-Off meeting August 1 – 4 at Nemaquin Woodlands. Pittcon 2014 will take place March 2 – 6 in Chicago.

Dr. Kalie Kossar (Early, Middle and Special Education) has completed all requirements including passing the national licensing exam and is now a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral Level.

Dr. Lisa Kovalchick (Math and Computer Science) travelled throughout Pennsylvania in May and June presenting Role Model training as part of her role as the Lead Contact for the PA STEM Girls Collaborative.

Dr. Casey Kuba (Justice, Law, & Society) coordinated efforts with Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian, to arrange a prestigious internship for Anthropology Major Casey Bricker.

Dr. Beverly Ross (Justice, Law, & Society) was awarded her Ph.D. in Chicago on July 26, 2013, through The Chicago School of Professional Psychology her degree is in International Psychology with

a focus on Organizations and Systems.

Dr. Nancy Shaffer (Philosophy) completed research in France in July for her chapter on Joan of Arc in her new book on martyrs, "Dying for God". The book will eventually include figures like Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, contemporary Muslim extremists, and others who sacrificed themselves for a higher cause and left a record of their thoughts

Dr. Mark Tebbitt (Biology) received the "Rudolf Zieshenne Award for Excellence in Editorial Leadership" from The American Begonia Society.

Dr. Taunya Tinsley, (Counselor Education) sat down with Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley to discuss how sports counseling can help athletes. The video can be viewed on the Graduate Certificate in Sports Counseling website.

August
2013

Academic Affairs Newsletter



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 provides students with the tools they need to have a lifetime of success, both educationally and professionally.

From the Desk of Acting Provost Dr. Barnhart

As the University welcomes the students return to campus we also welcome 15 new tenure-track professors. These new hires are highly qualified, and each has a passion not only for his or her academic area, but also for teaching and mentoring students.

These new hires add five faculty members to the College of Education and Human Services, six to the College of Liberal Arts, and four to the Eberly College of Science and Technology.

In addition, two new Frederick Douglass Scholars will be with us on campus this semester. Dr. Sasha Cervantes will be teaching in the Psychology Department, and Dr. Alphonso Vergeray will teach in the Department of History and Political Science. They join Dr. Randy Tillmuth, a Frederick Douglass Scholar who has been sharing his talents with the Music Department.

In addition, Ms. Elizabeth "Bessy" Bennelick has arrived at Cal U to serve as director of International Programming. And Dr. John Burnett joins us as the new director of Social Equity.

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that 12 Cal U faculty and staff members received notification of grant awards this quarter totaling nearly \$1.4 million.

Three major grants from the U.S. Department of Education support work in the Department of Academic Services. A total of \$615,500 continues support for the Upward Bound

program in Greene and Fayette counties and nearly \$270,000 will bolster our Student Support Services.

The Teaching with Primary Sources program was awarded \$180,000 in continuing support from the Library of Congress, and the Cal U Mining Map Project received nearly \$86,000 from the state Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Mining Programs.

Additional grants will allow Cal U biologists to study the potential for seed dispersal by Canada geese, and let the University continue its participation in the Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium and the annual PASSHE Business Plan Competition.

Wishing you the best this academic year.

Sincerely,

Acting Provost



Office of Web-Based Programs New Director

Stephanie Franks has recently joined California University of Pennsylvania as the Executive Director – Office of Web-Based Programs. Stephanie has spent the last 14 years serving in various leadership positions in higher education and has assisted traditional and nontraditional organizations with initiatives to increase enrollments, maintain student retention, and improve the overall bottom line. She recently obtained both her Associate's Degree in Letters, Arts, & Sciences as well as her Bachelor's Degree in the Administration of Justice from Pennsylvania State University. Additionally, she obtained her Master of Arts Degree in Social Sciences from California University of Pennsylvania and her Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Management from the Keller Graduate School of Management of DeVry University.



Office of Sponsored Programs & Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs & Research reports that 12 Cal U faculty and staff received notification of grant awards in the amount of \$1,385,630 during this quarter:

Mr. John Kula and **Ms. Laura Giachetti** (Academic Development Services) were awarded \$248,771 for the grant Upward Bound – Greene County 2013-2014 and \$366,729 for the grant Upward Bound – Fayette County 2013-2014 from the U.S. Department of Education.

Ms. Deborah Wojcik (GACO) was awarded \$193,500 from the Defense Logistics Agency for the grant, "Procurement Technical Assistance (GACO) 2013-2014".

Drs. Thomas Mueller and **Mario Majcen** (Earth Sciences) were awarded \$5,750 from NASA through The Pennsylvania State University

for the grant, "PA Space Grant Consortium 2014".

Drs. Thomas Mueller and **Kyle Fredrick** (Earth Sciences) were awarded \$85,934 from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Mining Programs for Cal U's Mining Map Project.

Dr. Michael Brna (Teaching with Primary Sources) was awarded \$180,000 from the Library of Congress for the grant, "Teaching with Primary Sources 2013-2014".

Ms. Kelly Hunt (Entrepreneurial Leadership Center & Student Incubator) was awarded \$8,300 from PASSHE through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the grant Discovered and Developed in PA: The PASSHE Entrepreneurial Leadership Centers.

Dr. David Argent and **Professor Kelley Flaherty** (Biological and Environmental Sciences) were awarded \$1,560 from the Regional Science Consortium at Presque Isle for the grant project, "Potential for Seed Dispersal by Resident and Migratory Canada Geese Populations".

Mr. John Kula (Academic Development Services) was awarded \$25,225 from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the grant project, "Summer Food 2013".

Ms. Christine Crawford (Academic Development Services) was awarded \$269,861 from the U.S. Department of Education for the grant project, "Student Support Services 2013-2014".



Faculty and Staff Publications

Dr. Mark Aune (English) published a review, "2012 Season at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada," in Shakespeare, 9.3 (September 2013), 1-8, and published in June 2013.

Dr. John Cencich (Justice, Law & Society) published: The Devil's Garden: A War Crimes Investigator's Story. Washington, DC: Potomac Books. The inaugural book signing took place in July at the Barnes & Noble at South Hills Village mall and was well attended by students, faculty, staff, and administrators from Cal U.

Dr. Grafton Eliason (accepted 2013). Ethics in Pastoral Care and Counseling: A Contemporary Review of Updated Standards in the Field, Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling with Holmes, D., & Lepore,

Dr. Maggie Habeeb (Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Systems) published "A Public Key Exchange Using the Semi Direct Product of (semi) Groups" in ACNS 2013, Applied Cryptography and Network Security, Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science, 7954, 475-486 with C. Koupparis, D. Kahrobaei, and V. Shpilrain (June 2013).

Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux (Justice, Law, & Society) published: "Motherhood" in the Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World. (2nd ed., Vols. 1-4). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux (Justice, Law, & Society) published: "Ideal Worker" in Sociology of Work Encyclopedia. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux (Justice, Law, & Society) published: "Infant Formula" in the Encyclopedia of White Collar and Corporate Crime (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Dr. Craig Smith (Department of History and Political Science) The Journal of Supreme Court History published his article, "Tom Clark under Fire: the Consequences of Congressional Investigations of Supreme Court Justices," in their summer 2013 issue.

Professor and Chair Margo Wilson (English) published her novel, The Main Ingredient. Homewood, Ill.: Ramsfield Press, August 2013, www.ramsfieldpress.com.

Meet the New Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Cal U

On April 1, Dr. Wei Zhou started his position as Director of Institutional Research and Planning at CALU. Before joining CALU, Dr. Zhou worked as Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Central Michigan University from 2007 to 2013, and served as Research Director for the Missouri State Department of Higher Education between 1998 and 2007. Dr. Zhou holds a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Michigan State University.

