Brandi Kennedy and Gerald Morris will be our Harrisburg Interns for the Fall and Spring Semesters. The Department wishes them luck, and is confident that they will make us proud.

The Department, most notably Dr. Kelton Edmonds and Professor Tim Konhaus, were a major part of the Convocation on Civility that took place in response to some anti-racial activity that took place on campus. The convocation had a panel and allowed open discussion of the issues of inequality and prejudice.

State Rep. Peter J. Daley awarded emeriti Frank Edwards with a commendation for his brave actions during WWII.

Emeriti John K. Folmar recently released a book, Gleanings from Pittsburgh and Western PA, which uses newspaper articles to detail life in the region from 1786 to 1886.

Dr. Paul Crawford, at the request of his students, has begun a bi-monthly group called The Seneca Society. They gather every other Thursday during common hour to discuss interesting texts.
Professor Tim Konhaus has been an adjunct for the department for the past three years, and has been a visible and outspoken member of the community.

He attended Slippery Rock University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in geography and a Master's degree in History. Professor Konhaus is currently a doctoral student at West Virginia University, where he is working on his dissertation entitled: "Freedom Road: Black Refugees in Rural Northwestern Pennsylvania, 1820-1870."

In 2004, Professor Konhaus heard about a job opening for an African-American History teacher at Cal U from another doctoral student at WVU. He contacted the department, and joined the History department as an adjunct professor in the fall of 2004. Since his arrival at Cal, he has been avidly working to promote Black History Month. After the arrival of Dr. Edmonds, the two professors began planning events such as the Soul Food Dinner and the Hip Hop Roundtable. These events were so well received that they have now become annual events.

Currently, Professor Konhaus is teaching History 112: Major World Civilizations in Transition. His favorite class to teach is African-American History, as that is his major field. He said that it always interested him as both an undergraduate student and a graduate student. For his degree in geography he had to study a specific region and since he liked the professor who was a specialist on Africa, Professor Konhaus took all of his classes. Professor Konhaus likes to incorporate a lot of physical activity into his classes. His philosophy is "If the students are up and moving, they're not falling asleep.” When he is lecturing on the Middle Passage, he has all of his students stand up and move to the corner of the room and stand very close together. Professor Konhaus then turns off the lights and lectures for five to ten minutes. The objective of these types of activities is to get the students to relate to what they are learning. He is known to say, "If the students can't conceptualize it, it means nothing to them."

**Black History Month A Success**

Originally commemorated as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Black History Month has since evolved into a month long celebration of African American culture, heritage, and history that is observed every February. In order to ensure that there was a variety of activities offered to honor this month at California University of Pennsylvania, a programming committee comprised of faculty and students was established. Committee members included: History Professor and programming committee chair, Dr. Kelton Edmonds; Visiting Frederick Douglass Institute Scholar and History Professor, Derrick Mc Kisick; History Professor, Tim Konhaus; Upward Bound Counselors, Jennifer Ramsey and Eletta Cameron; Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dr. Ronald Wagner; Chair of Elem./ Early Childhood Education, Dr. Caryl Sheffield; Counselor Education Professor Dr. Taunya Tinsley; Social Work Professor, Gwen Perry-Burney; Health Science and Sport Studies Professor, Ayanna Lyles; and BSU officers Shanita Carmichael and Jeanene Eggleston. The Frederick Douglass Institute, Lenora Angelone and Justin Nwokeji from the Office of Social Equity, and individuals from the Student Activity Board, the History Department, and the Art Department also provided invaluable assistance to the committee.

Throughout the month, there was a range of activities offered to celebrate African American heritage, which were open to both the university and local community.

“Black History Month at CUP was overwhelmingly successful, directly reflecting the tireless dedication and unselfishness of everyone involved.”

Continued on page 4
Prior to her arrival at Cal U, she taught Native American and nineteenth-century U.S. history at the University of Florida.

Dr. Confer’s focus is on the five southeastern nations, their self-identity, and their interaction with Anglo-Europeans. Dr. Confer’s book, *The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War* was released this April. She briefly describes it as “a social history of the Cherokees.” During the time of the Civil War, the Cherokees, who had just been removed to Indian territory, had to decide which side to fight with. Rather than joining together and fighting with one side in the U.S. Civil War, they split amongst themselves, thus creating a civil war within the Civil War which ultimately hurt their nation.

In addition to her research, Dr. Confer is busy presenting at various conferences. This March, she presented a work entitled, “The Meaning of Women’s Work: Mainstream versus Minority Perceptions,” at the Second Annual Audrey Beth Fitch Women’s Studies Conference at Cal, where she discussed Native Women and the loss of European gender roles. This July, Dr. Confer will be presenting on Cherokee Women, at the 9th Conference on Women and the Civil War, held by the SWCW in Philadelphia, where she will explore ways that Cherokee women experienced the war, focusing on individuals who left records of their experiences.

Dr. Confer will tell you that she has always liked history and learning about people. She likes to engage her students and incorporates pictures into her lectures to promote critical thinking. Her favorite courses to teach are on Native American History, because it is about a diverse group of people, and The Civil War, because “It was an important time that shaped the nation. A lot of countries don’t recover from them but it made ours stronger.”

The second annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Conference on Women’s Studies entitled “Women and Work: Changing Economic Influences on Families” was held on Thursday, March 22nd 2007. It brought together numerous scholars and specialists, and each scholar explored women of past, present, and future, looking at the trials they faced in the workplace and how these roles affect familial relations.

Students Belinda King, Valerie McCullough, Charles Jamerson, and Whitney Robinson began the day’s events with a panel moderated by Dr. Mohammed Yamba.

The panel Managing Leadership: Challenges in the Workplace consisted of Janis Karpinski, former U.S. Army Brigadier General, and Dr. Glenna Miller, a former Army Major. Dr. Michael Hummel of the Justice, Law & Society Department, served as their discussant.

The panel on New Directions in African and Native American Women’s History featured Dr. Kelton Edmonds and Dr. Clarissa Confer, Bashawn Harris and Sharita Jacobs, both Ph.D. candidates at Howard University and was moderated by Professor Derrick McKisick, the Fredrick Douglass Scholar.

The Evolution of Work: Family Policies in the United States panel featured Dr. Andrae Marak, Dr. Laura Tuennerman-Kaplan, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, of Justice, Law and Society; Assistant Editor of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers project Christie Regenhardt, Ruth Fairbanks, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Elizabeth Larsen from Justice, Law & Society was the moderator.

The last panel, Women in Politics, consisted of Judge Theresa Dellick, Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas-Juvenile Division; Judge Cheryl Waite from Ohio Seventh District Court of Appeals; Dr. Allyson Lowe, the director of the Center for Women, Politics, and Policy at Chatham College; and Heather Arnet, the Executive Director of Women and Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Dr. Melanie Blumberg, History and Political Science Department, was the moderator.

The art exhibition, “Choices: Love, Money, and Power in 2007,” directed by Dr. Laura DeFazio, concluded the day’s conference at Jozart Studio. Congratulations to Newton Berdine, the first prize winner for his work.

The keynote speaker, Janis Karpinski, is the co-author of One Woman’s Army: The Commanding General of Abu Ghraib Tells Her Story. She discussed the impact of military life on women who serve, their families, and Abu Ghraib.

The conference was a success that presented engaging panels and questions. Special thanks go to those of you who attended, helped out, and most importantly, shared with us your experiences and thoughts of women and work and the challenges women have faced.
On January 30th, the month kicked off with the panel discussion *The 2nd Reconstruction: The Culmination of the Black Freedom Movement in the 1960*, featuring several accomplished scholars. There were only 11 empty seats in LRC auditorium for this event. The kick-off concluded that evening with the immensely popular Soul Food Dinner, attended by more than 240 people. Events sponsored by the Black Student Union included Slam Poetry Night, a trip to the Black Wax Museum in Baltimore, the East Coast Jump-Off, a snow tubing trip to SnoZone, an African Drumming and Dance Ensemble, and the annual Formal at the Willow Room. In addition, BSU sponsored the successful speaking event *The Role of Religious Institutions in the Black Community* and the Health and Wellness Workshop *I Am Not My Hair*.

There were also a number of successful intellectual panels, critiques, and speakers throughout the month. Professor Konhaus served as a liaison for the presentation, *African American Art and Identity* by Professor Sharif Bey from Winston-Salem State University. Tim Wise, one of the most prominent anti-racist writers and activists in the United States, presented on *African Americans Before and After Katrina*. Dr. Robert Ruck from the University of Pittsburgh also presented a lecture on the Negro Baseball League. Additionally, Professor Derrick McKisick facilitated the weekly film critiques of Madea’s Family Reunion, Cleopatra Jones, and She’s Gotta Have It, to audiences of about 35 attendees. The film critiques examined concepts of race, gender, sexuality, identity, and power. Various committee members enlightened audiences every week with the Brown Bag Lunch Series. Topics included *Health Disparities, Lynching in West Virginia*, and *The Saints’ Return to the New Orleans Superdome*. There was also a Black History Appreciation Night open to all faculty and staff members.

The ever-popular 2nd annual Hip-hop Conference concluded a successful month of programming. The first event featured renowned author and Hip-hop authority, Bakari Kitwana. The final event was the Hip-hop panel, which featured journalist Kevin Powell along with three other scholars on culture and consumerism. With an audience of well over 150 attendees, the accomplished panelists addressed the evening’s theme, *What Will Be the Legacy of the Hip-hop Generation?*

Overall, Black History Month at CUP was overwhelmingly successful, directly reflecting the tireless dedication and unselfishness of everyone involved.

**Alumni News**

**Ryan Kennedy**, ’04, is a Career Advisor at the Art Institute in Atlanta, and will soon begin a Masters in Information Systems Management.

**Paul Vezzetti**, ’06, has been offered a new position in the public relations department of the Republican Caucus in the House of Representatives. He is still pursuing his Masters while working full time.

**Paul Scott**, ’03, was hired in the Bipartisan Office in Harrisburg, PA. He and his wife **Lee Anne**, ’04, live there with their two children.

**Glenn Stolburg**, ’05, just graduated with his Masters in Applied Politics from the University of Akron in December.

**Richard Charnovich**, ’02, will be the keynote speaker at the Honors Dinner this April. He is currently the City Manager for Robinson Township.

**Michael Colosimo**, ’03, has been working on several projects, such as PBS’s *The War That Made America*, the VisitPA website and some projects for the History Channel.

**Armand Minghi**, ’05, is the drummer for the band Chastity. Check them out at chastityrocks.com.

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The Department of History and Political Science’s newsletter is published twice a year. It is intended to highlight happenings in the department and in the lives of our Emeriti and Alumni. Any content for future editions may be submitted to speer@cup.edu. You can also use that email if you want to be removed from the list, or know someone who would like to be added. For the latest information, remember to keep an eye on HTTP://WWW.CUP.EDU/LIBERALARTS/HISTORY/index.jsp.

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