



Spring 2011 Edition

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# Honors Update

## Interim Director Bids Honors Program Farewell

By Dr. Andre Marak

It is with a mixed sense of sorrow and anticipation that I bid adieu to the University Honors Program and California University of Pennsylvania. I have agreed to become the Division Head of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus, just south of Indianapolis.

I have enjoyed my last three years of service to the UHP and my last seven years of teaching (and learning) at Cal U. I would like to use my column to take a brief look back at all that we have accomplished in the honors program and a quick look forward to what is still on the horizon.

First, we have rewritten the honors curriculum. The new curriculum is more global, providing undergraduate students the opportunity to take what are, in essence, global studies courses taught by some of the best faculty at Cal U. The new curriculum is also more interdisciplinary than in the past. Now, students can be assured that they will be offered a topics research course in their field at least once in their time at Cal U. We have not changed some things. The curriculum maintains its old focus on student research, the bedrock of our program.

For example, this semester, Dr. Swarn Gill, a meteorologist, is teaching a course on changing conceptions and understandings of time. He and three of his students, Valerie Herrero, Rachel Riddell, and Autumn Siska have had their class project accepted at the 2011 National Collegiate Hon-



Interim Director Marak, left, and Interim Assistant Director Aune, right.

ors Council meeting in Phoenix. Next fall Dr. Paul Hettler, an economist, will teach a course on the global history of economics as theory and as practice, and Professor Laura DeFazio will also offer our first Fine Arts research course.

This provides a good segue to our continued focus on student research. We have continued the tradition of co-hosting the Intersections Undergraduate Research Conference with the honors program at Robert Morris University. This year, the conference was at Cal U. The conference provided a venue for 23 Cal U student participants, not to mention a slew of additional students who helped us set up and run the conference.

In addition, Rachael Merlo, Sean Carnathan, Paul Jackson, and Desiree Helterbran presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, New York while an additional eight students attended as a means of acclimating them to undergraduate research conferences.

I want to thank all of the students who have represented

Cal U on these trips. I respect your professionalism, hard work, and intellectual curiosity. It is for you that these programs exist, and I am happy to say that I am always pleasantly reminded of just how good our students are on these trips. The future looks bright as three have had their research proposals accepted for the 2011 NCHC in Phoenix.

We have also continued our practice of expanding the number of Honors excursions for our students. This past semester we did three excursions. In conjunction with our Honors course on Poverty, which focused on the comparative deindustrialization of Pittsburgh and Detroit, Dr. Ayanna Lyles and I took students on a day long field trip to Donora, where we spent our day with four volunteer public historians in charge of the Donora Smog Museum, and entrusted with keeping the memory of Donora alive for the public. Dr. Lyles and Dr. Kurt Kearcher took 17 students to Detroit where they visited the Charles H. Wright

See Marak, Page 2



## Mr. Aune Notes Achievements

### By Mr. Aune

After three semesters as interim assistant director, I have enjoyed my work immensely and have been continually impressed at the level of scholarship and service undertaken by the students.

The level of conference participation, for example, has increased every semester.

Campus leadership by honors students, whether it be the Forensics Union, the Fencing Club, or various athletic teams, far exceeds that of the student body as a whole.

Evidence of this can be found in the overflowing bulletin board in the honors offices which records student achievements throughout the year.

Perhaps most exciting is the engagement of the Student Honors Advisory Board this year.

Their sponsorship of Honors activities, input on decisions and policy, and commitment to the quality of Honors education at Cal makes me especially optimistic about the future. The honors program belongs to the students and the greater the student involvement in the program, the better it will be.

## Marak: Exiting Interim Director on Program's Future

*Continued from Page 1*

Museum of African American History, the Heidelberg Project, and the Motown Museum. Finally, Dr. M.G. Aune took 25 students to see a Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, which they later presented on at Intersections and Academic Excellence Days.

International travel also continues to be one of our mainstays. Dr. Lyles and Dr. Mohamed Yamba will be taking six Honors students to Paris this summer for the World Bank's Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE). While they are there, they will also visit and report on a range of cultural institutions, including: Notre Dame, the Louvre, and Versailles.

In addition, two of our students, Miriah O'Connor and Kathryn McAndrew, will be doing the PASSHE Honors trip to Bermuda this summer; they will be learning Atlantic history as well as engaging in some hands on archaeology.

Looking to the future, Cal U's proposal to host the 2012 PASSHE Honors trip has been approved.

Dr. Aune, Dr. Sarah Downey, Dr. Rick Cummings, and Dr. Paul Crawford will be leading the trip to Oxford, which will focus on English cul-

ture of the late Middle Ages, and forms of royal propaganda.

Finally, the Student Honors Advisory Board (SHAB) continues to function. They have hosted a series of social events, as well as playing a central role in running the Intersections conference. It is my hope that the SHAB will have increased participation and input into Honors Advisory Board functions, student social events, conference planning, and program visibility.

As I promised when I agreed to step into the role of Interim Director, I made every effort to be a good steward of the program and to serve each and every member of the Honors community in the best manner possible. I want to underline here that this has been a team effort and no two people deserve more accolades for their continued advice, support, and collaboration than Dr. Aune and Kim Orslene.

In addition, the Honors Advisory Board and the SHAB and their members have also been instrumental to the program's successes. If you have any questions or concerns prior to my moving to Indiana, please do not hesitate to contact me at [honors@calu.edu](mailto:honors@calu.edu) or 724-938-4535. Until then, *Appetamus communitur ad futurum* (Let us strive for the future together).

## University President Addresses Honors Program Students

### By Dr. Angelo Armenti Jr.

I congratulate the students and faculty of the University Honors Program on another successful academic year.

The purpose of the Honors Program is to provide a rich, enhanced educational experience by encouraging students to explore scholarly, professional and artistic pursuits and to engage in community service.

Our Honors students certainly have taken this mission seriously. Your combined efforts to pursue intellectual opportunities, seek knowledge and fresh ideas, and strive for personal growth have strengthened the Honors Program. In

addition to enriching your own educational experience, your scholarly work ultimately benefits all Cal U students.

I thank Dr. Andrae Marak for his leadership as interim director of the Honors Program over the past several months. He is a faculty member of great intelligence, commitment and drive, and he has done much to keep the program functioning smoothly while nurturing its growth. I extend to Dr. Marak my personal thanks for all his contributions — and there are many — on behalf of the Honors students and the University Honors Program.

I also appreciate the work of interim assistant director Dr.

Mark Aune and all the faculty members who serve the Honors Program by serving on the Honors Advisory Board or by providing our students with engaging and challenging coursework.

This edition of the UHP Update points out the many significant accomplishments of our Honors Program students, faculty and staff. As the academic year draws to a close, I thank you all for your hard work and your never-ending quest for knowledge.

Best wishes for an enjoyable, relaxing summer.

Angelo Armenti, Jr.  
University President



## Honors Program Says Farewell to Graduating Seniors

### From Fall 2010

**Jeanne M. DiNovis**

Honors Thesis: *A Bilingual America: Reshaping the Future of Education*

**Danielle A. Garrett**

Honors Thesis: *Deaf Speech and Stuttering: Do Disorders Influence Societal Perceptions?*

**Kellianne Irwin**

Honors Thesis: *Cinco de Mayo: A Holiday of Tradition or Commercialization?*

**Caitlin M. Morgan**

Honors Thesis: *Eyes of the Learner: A New Look to Math Education*

### From Spring 2011

**Jessica L. Bettilyon**

Honors Thesis: *Facilitating the Development of Middle School Transitional Components for Urban School Districts*

**Sean P. Carnathan**

Honors Thesis: *The First Crusade and Just War Theory: An Evaluation of the Justification of the First Crusade*

**Emily Davis**

Honors Thesis: *The Art of Fencing*

**Jacqueline A. Davis**

Honors Thesis: *The Role of Service Learning in Urban Education: Helping Students to Help Themselves*

**Ashley M. Fennell**

Honors Thesis: *The Invisible Ties of Plakastil on contemporary Advertising*

**Julie E. Fischer**

Honors Thesis: *Can Your Baby Really Read?: An Investigation of Emerging Literacy*

**Harrison W. Foster**

Honors Thesis: *Punishment vs. Rehabilitation: A Comparative Analysis Using Theories of Criminology*

**Laurie M. Hall**

Honors Thesis: *The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: An Exploration of the FLDS as a Religious Cult*

**Desiree C. Helterbran**

Honors Thesis: *An Online Forum for Secondary Educators: A Case Study*

**Paul A. Jackson**

Honors Thesis: *Synthesis and characterization of  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin derivatives*

**Berajah T. Jayne**

Honors Thesis: *Between the Lines*

**Michael C. Kochasic**

Honors Thesis: *An Analysis of Weather Conditions during Thunderstorms in Determining Flight Rules in Aviation for the Pittsburgh County Warning Area*

**Alix C. Kunkle**

Honors Thesis: *The Importance of a Student Newspaper: A Week in the Process of Making the Cal Times and How it Helps a Student in Life, Both in and After College*

**Sarah C. Legerski**

Honors Thesis: *Psychology & Music: When Two Worlds Nicely Collide*

**Stacy R. McGivern**

Honors Thesis: *Raising the Standards of Science Education in Urban Schools*

**Joshua P. Meyer**

Honors Thesis: *Paradise Restaurant: Summary Business Plan*

**Laura Mowery**

Honors Thesis: *To Tweet or Not to Tweet*

**Mary Beth Novobilsky**

Honors Thesis: *Nanoparticle Encoded Polymers*

**Justin K. Presley**

Honors Thesis: *Evaluation of Multiple Secondary Sexual Characteristics as Indication of True Features Affecting Dominance in Inca Ferns (*Larcssternaihca*)*

**Bethany R. Stone**

Honors Thesis: *Assessment of Aquatic Macro invertebrates and Water Quality in Washington County Streams*

**Ashley P. Thurby**

Honors Thesis: *Examining a Mathematical Internship in the Automotive Industry*

**Matthew R. Warren**

Honors Thesis: *Poetry, Prose, Plays, and Other "P"-Words: Representing Fiction Ideas in Various Forms of Creative Writing*

**Joshua A. Wright**

Honors Thesis: *Behavioral Analysis: The Birth of a Criminal*

## A Word from the SHAB

By Rachael Merlo

I am very proud of the SHAB and what we have accomplished this year. We have set the foundation for a program that I really think will be able to plan and provide fun, exciting, and informative events for Honors Program students. I am excited to see what the SHAB will be able to accomplish in the future!



## Donora: The City That Once Was

By Bridget Rogan

Donora, Pennsylvania was, at one time, a thriving city, but this has changed with the end of the steel industry in the area. Without the strong businesses, few have stayed in the area. Despite this, one man in particular has never left his home in Donora.

Mr. Charles Stacey has lived in Donora for 79 years and has experienced many of the big historical events in recent Donora history. When Stacey was 16, the smog set over Donora.

"We would walk to school many mornings and couldn't see anything," he said.

A good number of people died because of the smog, and Stacey believes that the count of 20 people is not enough. According to him, a more accurate number would be 28.

Today, the city is far from thriving. Simply driving down the street, one can experience the minimal activity happening every day in the city.

"Many of the folks living here have physical and mental disabilities because there are homes [here] for them," Stacey explained. "Many are afraid to go into town because of those [handicapped people]."

Even though the city is not doing well, there are positive things about the area. The Donora Historical Museum has a large collection of newspaper articles, sports memorabilia, photographs and other local artifacts. See *Donora* Page 5

## Pastimes of the Past: One Week of Middle Ages Adventures

By Berajah Jayne

Nestled in the folds of a million other meaningless yet strangely uplifting phrases lies the hope of all students seriously academic- the wondrous line which speaks to the soul of every bedraggled buggler weighed down by the weight of an all-nighter thesis project. The honors program, it is said, will take you places. This has proven true, something seen in the haggard faces of students sleeping off their stress on a bus ride bound for hotels and museums. We hear tales of honors students, now successfully employed and happily engaged, flaunting their genius for the world to see.

Last summer, the honors program tuned its taste to tales of a different sort.

After a series of proposals, the honors program funded a journey organized by the fencing club and history department to corners of the earth unexplored by casual folk.

Building off student interest in stories of the past and the techniques that make them come alive, a troop of brave individuals dedicated a week of their summer to the exploration of alien customs that are hundreds of years removed from modern society. There would be kissing of rings, bowing to strangers, and yielding for... dragons.

It all stemmed from the metaphorical cracked and mossy sidewalk of the fresh-built city that is our current era. The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) works towards recreation of the past through replication of its customs and techniques. The society holds many events where members display anachronistic crafts for critique by other members, engage in period-like battles using weapons from the past, and hold a formal court, headed by the current king and

queen of the realm.

The capstone of their efforts is a two-week long summer camping event that simulates society of the past. This, the big cheese of all things SCA related, became the event at which a select group of Cal students decided to test their capacity for medieval toleration.

Pennsic 39 was to be a small year with just a little over 10,000 folks in attendance. Located at the scenic Cooper's Lake Campground, the site included a variety of terrain, ranging from a desert-like dried soup of disturbed ground to a swampy mix of mud and trees; there was a lake, a creek, a fort, and more fields than you could shake a walking stick at.

Buses, or in the SCA world, large dragons, shuttled people around the grounds, but, in keeping with the theme, attendees would typically enjoy several miles worth of walking daily.

SCA rule dictates that clothing should resemble that of times long past, but it covers those times the world over, so it was common to see Viking warriors hand in hand with renaissance duchesses. On an average day, while traipsing through the market district, one would see pirates, nobles, gypsies, beggars, scholars, knights, and, for lack of a more accurate description, potential courtesans in various phases of archaic recreation. It was into this frothing pit of mix-and-match history that we, threw ourselves, and, oh, did we learn.

There were classes on everything from the exciting subject of 14th century bookbinding to the equally exciting subject of applied Kama-sutra.

There were people who could recite the history of English monarchs and people who could replicate Gregorian chants; some

folks peddled spices, and others sold clothing.

There were wars, in which many of us took part, and royal gatherings were there were lessons in dancing and crash courses on the art of subtly disappearing. Days were for glory and nights were for revelry; chivalry lived and the concept of life as we know it died.

Each day, we rose with the sun, partially because, let's face it, the inside of a tent doesn't look that great when it's eighty degrees and fluorescently illuminated, dressed for war, and went to meet the new martial challenges that the day would bring.

After a sweaty test of endurance and a brief break for a medieval meal, it was off to explore the culture of the area. We visited the market district, gabbed with stall owners about different sorts of fabrics and the benefits of particular sorts of bongos, and stopped in at other camps for a sampling of their take on life.

By the time the sun started to set, it was hard to understand how most of the rugged adventurers of the Pennsic field were still up and about, because it was, all told, an exhausting experience.

Being completely immersed in a truly different culture for even a week was invigorating. It seemed all the more amazing when we considered that this wasn't across an ocean; this societal shocker existed inside small-time Pennsylvania and was a merger of cultures from all over the world. Not only were there people masquerading as Spanish guardsmen, but there were people who actually came from Spain in order to attend the festivities.

We left with heavy hearts and open minds, each of us vowing to return for the next year's gathering.



## Honors Program's New Professor Takes Travelling Reins

By Caroline Kibbe

Ayanna Lyles began her teaching career as an undergraduate at the University of Connecticut, where she received her bachelor's degree for athletic training and sports science.

Upon graduating in 2000, she worked as an athletic trainer for West Hills High School in Stamford, Conn. While teaching health classes there, she realized that she loved teaching.

Inspired, she left her job after 2 years to earn her master's at California University of Pennsylvania for athletic training in 2003, and then her Ph. D. in Health Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 2008.

After completing her master's, Lyles took a position at Cal as an assistant professor in the Department of Health and Science in 2006, teaching classes ranging from general education requirements in health and wellness to pedagogy classes for graduate students.

Lyles initially chose Cal for its reputation as a teaching institution, as well as for the opportunities it provides to its teachers. She also liked the smaller class sizes, the support the faculty receives in their efforts in education, and the opportunity to be involved in the campus community.

This year, Lyles joined the Honors Program at Cal by teaching the course Topics in Culture and Society: Poverty, in addition to her usual courses. The connecting thread in all of her classes is that she ensures her students are engaged in the lesson by employing problem-based learning, which involves asking a question and requiring research and



Dr. Lyles (right) and Dr. Marak pause for a picture in Donora, PA.

group activities to find an answer.

Lyles became further involved with the Honors program by participating in two excursions this semester: one to Donora, Pa. and one to Detroit.

The longer Detroit trip

focused on the deindustrialization of the city and its impact on the people. Her group visited the Henry Ford Museum, the Charles Wright Museum, Motown, Greek Town, and the Joe Louis Arena, home of the Detroit Red Wings, where she and the students attended a game.

This summer, Lyles will participate in the Paris excursion, attending an international conference on global finance and the World Bank. Those on the trip will also get to experience the sights and culture of Paris for one week.

Lyles is no stranger to travel, having visited South Africa, Brazil, Spain, the Dominican Republic, and Hawaii before, but she still looks forward to the upcoming trip to France.

## Donora: Museum Holds Memories

*Continued from Page 4*

Stacey said that his favorite part of the museum is the sports collection.

"It was the recreation we had at the time" Stacey said.

It was also a way for boys to get scholarships for higher education so many of the boys from Donora worked very hard so they could do well in the future.

The Donora Historical Museum is a hub of local history, thanks to its immense collection. Many students come to the museum to work on school projects, as well as for field trips. Students and community members are able to experience these great historical events thanks to the museum.



California University of PA Pennsic Group.

## Pennsic Photos

Photos by Laura Mowery



Berajah Jayne



Jayne (white armor) and others in battle.



## NSE takes Cal Student to Baton Rouge

By Gary Kowalewski

Have you ever wanted to try your luck in a different part of the world? It may be a gamble but if traveling is your cup of tea, then let me be the first to tell you that the pot has been brewed and the kettle is whistling your name.

With all of the excitement in California, Pennsylvania it's only natural that we miss some of the once in a lifetime opportunities offered by the university. One of these programs that is much too often overlooked is the National Student Exchange, a program that enables students to study at out of state schools while paying the in state residential fees.

I stumbled upon the program around this time last year and a few hours later, I was looking at a map deciding where I felt like spending a year. After gazing wide-eyed in wonder at a map of America for a good while, I realized that I had no clue what part of the country I wanted to see first. I knew that I had to start somewhere so I began just scratching out states that I had no interest in. I don't know if you've ever scratched out Texas on a map, but it feels pretty good.

My final four candidates were CSU in Los Angeles, BSU in Boise, Queens College in New York City, and LSU in Baton Rouge.

See *LSU*, Page 8

## A Return to Honors Teaching: Dr. Natali, Composition Professor

By Emily Martik

James Alan Natali started college at California University of Pennsylvania in 1970, and he never left.

This was not the plan, though, Natali explained, who said he had expected to become either a professional football player, like his father and fellow Cal alumni Elmo Natali, or a member of the 27 club (a group of rock stars who died at the age of 27).

Instead, Natali, 58, works as an assistant professor in the English department at Cal, where he received his B.S. in English Education and his M.A. in English as a student.

Before becoming a full-time faculty member at the university, he worked a number of odd jobs, such as bartending in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., public school teaching at California Area High School, his alma mater, and completing graduate assistant work at Carnegie Mellon University, where he worked on his dissertation in creative writing. This trial and error period eventually lead him to his true passion in life.

"I had to write; that's what I *had* to do," said Natali, who built a successful career as a writer both before and after his employment with Cal.

Among his writing achievements are two books, "Woody's Boys: 20 Famous Buckeyes Talk Amongst Themselves" and "Brown's Town: 20 Famous Browns Talk Amongst Themselves," and articles and essays in such publications as *Pittsburgh* magazine, *Pennsylvania Illustrated*, *Ohio* magazine, and *Passages*.

Natali also undertook, in the capacity of a writing contributor for Cal, various projects that spanned his time between graduate school and full employment.

"I loved that work: tinkering with words and changing those sentences around, going through all those drafts; I loved it," Natali said.

Going hand-in-hand with his love of writing is his devotion to his job as a teacher; both contribute heavily to Natali's personal identity.

"Nothing means more to me than teaching...

except my wife, and maybe my doggie," he said, part jokingly. "It's the most important job you could possibly have."

Natali's approach to teaching involves asking many questions and lecturing very little for a stronger emphasis on critical thinking. According to him, the students' opinions are more important than the teacher's.

This past year, in addition to his regular classes, Natali was invited to teach courses for the Honors program at Cal. He was one of the first people to work in the program many, many years ago, he said, teaching a course that he developed to study the impact of the world view on literature and the visual arts. This time around, he found that the most enjoyable experience he had in working for the Honors program was having the chance to work with its students.

"The thing I like best about them- and I liked a lot of things about them- was they had no sense of entitlement," said Natali. "They're very grateful, rather than being resentful, and I think they enjoy it, which has been very rewarding."

As important as his career has been to him, though, Natali is now looking forward to retirement, which he hints is not many years away. The extra time will allow him to enjoy more time with his family, to pursue his interest in carpentry, and to finally read all the books he doesn't have time for now, he said.

"I still love this job, and I still love this place, and I still love these kids, but I want to read," he confessed.

For 41 years, Natali has been connected to Cal in some way- as a student, as a writing contributor, and, for the last 26 years and counting, as a faculty member. When he eventually does retire, he isn't worried about the post-retirement restlessness or boredom that affects some people.

"As long as dogs keep having puppies and publishers keep publishing books, I'll never be bored a day in my life," Natali said.



## African Adventure Gives Student Unique Outlook on Life

By Rebecca Serafini

Molweni (meaning hello in Xhosa) from South Africa! I am currently studying abroad in Port Elizabeth at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University located on a nature reserve right next to the Indian Ocean coastline.

I decided to study abroad because I wanted to gain independence and I believe education is best received with a hands-on experience and exploring new environments, cultures, and ideas.

I went through a program called CEA, Cultural Experiences Abroad, and decided on South Africa for its nature, more recent political change (apartheid ending in the 1990s and Nelson Mandela being elected president in 1994), and status as

a developing country.

The journey has been fantastic thus far! I have experienced things that have propelled me out of my comfort zone, like bungee jumping off the world's highest commercial jump, petting a cheetah, and going on a safari.



Serafini and her new "pet."

Adjusting to differences can be a bit difficult, one in particular being the crime rate. In South Africa, it is unsafe to be outside after dark and every house or housing complex is surrounded by a wall with an electric fence.

Of course, there are positive adjustments as well; the weather is ideal and allows trips to the beach on most days. Classes are interesting simply because I love hearing different perspectives on issues and the way belief systems and cultural differences can alter these views.

America is very much integrated into the curriculum, and is used as a constant reference and comparison with the majority of my classes using text books from the States.

Since I am on the southern hemisphere, we are working our way towards winter as you move forward to summer, but do not worry the winter here is very mild.

I recommend studying abroad because it has allowed for my own great personal growth in multiple aspects, global awareness, and the opportunity to make friends from around the world!



Family of elephants walking on the road.

## Cal U Paper Presentations in Ithaca, NY



Rachael Merlo



Desiree Helterbran



Sean Carnathan

For More Pictures from the NCUR Conference in Ithaca, please see *Ithaca*, Page 8.

## Intersections Conference with Robert Morris University





## LSU: Only 90 Minutes to the 'Big Easy' and Mardi Gras

*Continued from Page 6*

Studying at any of these schools was going to be an amazing experience, but of course I had to choose one so the elimination process began.

First, I realized that this was my perfect opportunity to finally escape from the cold, so I docked some points from Queens and BSU.

I grew up in the city and I wasn't eager to go back, so once again this seemed like an ample opportunity to break out of that comfort zone. I proceeded to eliminate CSULA and Queens, leaving me with my final two: BSU and LSU. Both had a pretty extravagant football scene and promising teams for the upcoming year, so it was a close call.

I thought about what Idaho had to offer then considered what Louisiana had to offer. Then it dawned on me - Mardi Gras. It was the deal breaker. When else would I get a chance to be in New Orleans for one of the biggest

parties on earth? Next thing I knew, I was on a flight to Baton Rouge, a part of the world I never imagined visiting in my life. I write this today from my dorm at LSU, just weeks away from the big event.

The moral of the story is that if you have even the slightest desire to see the world from a different part of the country, I would strongly encourage any student to take part in the National Student Exchange program. I came to Louisiana simply to get a change of scenery and a healthy dosage of Cajun culture, all the while I've been able to continue pursuing my degree, see quality SEC football in person, and meet an entirely different type of people while paying the exact same amount I would to have spent another year at Cal U.

It has been an incredibly rewarding experience thus far and I stand by my statement that if you want to live at any different place in the country, it truly is this easy.

## Honors Student Athletes Have Excellent Seasons

**By Staff Writer**

The Honors Program at California University of Pennsylvania recognizes and encourages more than just academic achievement in its students.

Currently, 22 honor students dedicate their time and effort to sports as well as study in nine of Cal's Intercollegiate sports programs.

These students, and their teams, strive to reach goals; their determination is reflected in the successes of their sports teams this year.

Both the men and women's cross country teams improved their finishes from years past at the conference and regional meets, and the Vulcan football team progressed to the first round of the National Division II playoffs.

Women golfers continue to play this spring, following a few strong wins in the fall, while women's soccer advanced to the third round of the NCAA regional tournament.

The softball team has earned an impressive overall record of 28-12 in the conference, and is likely to receive an invitation to the NCAA Division II tournament this season.

The swim team finished tremendously as

14<sup>th</sup> in the nation at the Division II Championship, and the track team showcased a strong season for both men and women, with a record number of athletes from Cal qualifying to run at the conference championship.

These accomplishments demonstrate not only the successful teamwork exhibited by the Cal athletic programs, but also the characters of their athletes.

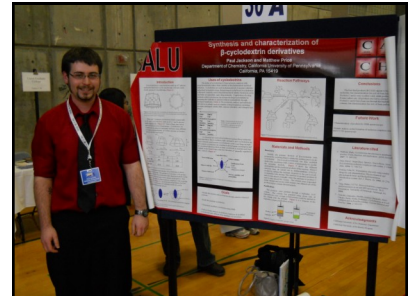
Athletes may not recall in perfect detail the record of wins, losses, and ties their teams held for each season, but they undoubtedly retain the traits cultivated by their devotion to sports.

Those honors students who double as athletes learn that they can achieve the difficult and redefine the impossible.

Successes and setbacks fill athletes with determination and equip them with perseverance. Learning to focus and work hard in athletics translates well into the academic community.

Through their respective seasons, these students have developed qualities and gained experiences that will reflect positively on their lives for many years to come.

## More Photos from NCUR in Ithaca, NY



Paul Jackson presented a poster.



Ithaca overlooks Cayuga Lake.



Plenty of shops in Downtown Ithaca.



Waiting on Shuttles was difficult.