

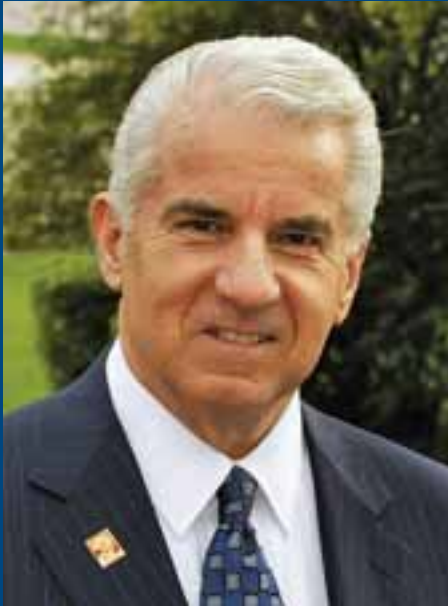
# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Maintaining a Campus of Natural  
and Architectural Beauty

**FALL  
2007**

From the desk of Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr.,  
president of California University of Pennsylvania

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**W**hen I first visited California University of Pennsylvania 15 years ago as a candidate for the position I now hold, the streets through campus, which were owned by the borough, had not been paved in 30 years. Instead there was cold patch on top of cold patch—a series of temporary fixes that were in desperate need of a permanent solution.

Following my appointment as president in 1992, we negotiated the purchase of the streets from the borough and the first of numerous campus renovation and construction projects was under way.

California's facilities were always well-maintained, and the University did make great progress in those early years, though there was no major infusion of money.

Since that time, our dedication to constantly updating and renewing the appearance of this colorful campus has blossomed into an ongoing effort to provide our campus community with the most up-to-date and aesthetically attractive facilities possible. During the past 13 years, the University has spent \$210 million on nearly 100 construction and renovation projects.

This semester, more doors of opportunity and change opened when students entered Carter Hall, our sixth new residence hall. At that time, California University became known nationwide as the only institution of higher education to completely replace all of its on-campus housing—student housing that is second to none in architecture and amenities.

Last February, a newly constructed, state-of-the-art Duda Hall with 10 SMART classrooms, three lecture halls and seven general-purpose classrooms, opened its doors to welcome the College of Liberal Arts. The \$9.8 million in renovations to Steele Hall are also complete. Expansion of the facility by more than 50 percent will ensure that our theater students will thrive in their new environment. Spectators will easily be impressed with this magnificent performance space. We were delighted to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated facility on Oct. 18 with a concert by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Other campus facelifts throughout the year included major renovations to Noss and Vulcan halls, as well as the razing of two residence halls and the old Duda Hall, allowing an expansion of Old Main Park. Construction of the magnificent new

Emeriti Fountain is complete, and students will soon enjoy the new tennis and basketball courts next to Hamer Hall.

Our commitment to continuous improvement does not stop with construction. Recognized by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher

Education (PASSHE) as an exemplary energy management program in its 2006-2007 Green Report, California University enjoys energy consumption rates that are 57 percent lower than the average rates of the 14-university PASSHE system.

Incorporating green technologies into our residence halls and

utilizing an energy management system have helped our campus cultivate the best Energy Utilization Index of BTUs per square foot in PASSHE for the past 13 years.

Since 1992, the University has saved more than \$6 million in energy costs due to our conservation efforts. Those efforts have enabled us to accomplish three very worthy goals—reducing our energy consumption, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and redirecting the funds saved into continuously improving our academic programs.

At California University our commitment to excellence in academics is flourishing as we continue to constantly improve our programs and update our facilities. Our future has never been brighter and our campus has never been more pleasing to the eye.

We invite you to come visit us and see the changes.



Angelo Armenti, Jr.

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”

B u i l d i n g   C h a r a c t e r .

# University Arboretum Grows With Each Season

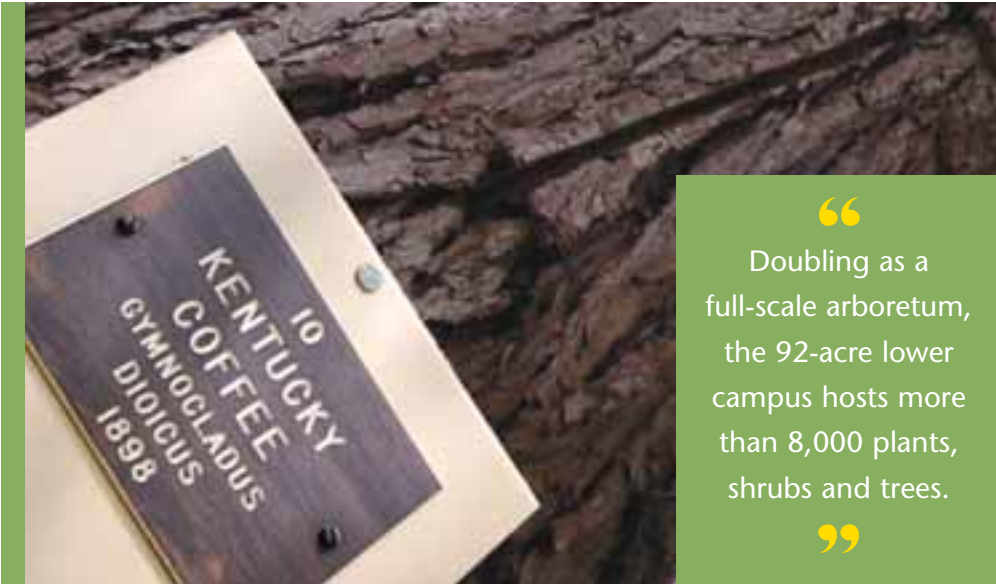
“Our University mission statement promises that we will ‘maintain a campus of natural and architectural beauty featuring state-of-the-art facilities and equipment.’ Indeed, California University does boast state-of-the-art facilities amid magnificent architecture and spectacular natural beauty.”

– ANGELO ARMENTI, JR.



Like clockwork, the flowering dogwood in Old Main Park reminds the campus that spring has arrived with its vibrant pink buds.

## Building Careers.



“  
Doubling as a  
full-scale arboretum,  
the 92-acre lower  
campus hosts more  
than 8,000 plants,  
shrubs and trees.  
”

The trees in Cal U's arboretum contain nameplates with common and scientific names for easy identification.

A summertime stroll through the restored quad enables one to enjoy the sunlight streaming through the foliage of the pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) that towers over the foot path near the newly renovated Noss Hall.

Doubling as a full-scale arboretum, the 92-acre lower campus hosts more than 8,000 plants, shrubs and trees. Upon completion of the University's landscaping master plan, the arboretum will feature 120 different trees indigenous to Pennsylvania, as well as numerous trees from other regions of the country. To date, nearly 70 percent of the native trees are in place throughout the 34-building campus.

The arboretum is not only pleasing to the eyes, it provides a learning tool for experiencing species that were once bountiful and now grow only in a few areas. Because some specimens are rare to Pennsylvania, the University has purchased plant life from as far away as Michigan and Maine.

Cal U's foliage is impressive in size, as well as beauty. The American sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*), which grows near Herron Café, is immense around its trunk, and towers toward the sky. Though its size is massive, even more impressive is

the tree's estimated age of 175 years! Several other trees throughout the arboretum have life spans that date back to the 19th century.

A 20th century scholar and alumnus, Professor Mitch Bailey '53, printed a guide known as the "Center Campus Arboretum." Since that time, faculty in the biology department produce and maintain an updated, interactive map

of the arboretum. This resource, available on the University's Web site, helps to inform the campus community and its visitors.

Additionally, the University arboretum offers the campus community an

opportunity to honor or remember a loved one. The flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) that colors Old Main Park each spring with its vibrant pink buds forever memorializes Elsbeth E. Santee. And the sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) near Herron Café stands in memory of Dr. Gaston Lebois. In immeasurable ways, the University's arboretum serves our community today and will continue to do so for future generations. Visitors are always welcome, but until then, please enjoy a walk through the pages of this publication!

B u i l d i n g   C h a r a c t e r .

# Multi-year Project will Develop an Integrated Robotics Curriculum



The field of robotics and intelligent systems makes up a \$500 billion-a-year-emerging industry in which Pennsylvania is playing a leading role. Keeping pace with this ever-growing discipline, California University of Pennsylvania recently teamed with Carnegie Mellon University on a multi-year project to develop an integrated robotics curriculum.

Through monies secured by U.S. Congressman John P. Murtha, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, the Robotics Curriculum Project (RCP) is primarily funded through a federal contract from the Office of Naval Research, under the Manufacturing Technology Program. The Pennsylvania State University's Electro-Optics Center facilitates the contract management. Additional funding is provided by the National Science Foundation, along with a consortium of industry, government, foundation and education partners, all committed to advancing robotics and advanced manufacturing industries within southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond.

(Photo above) Bryan Murray installs components to his radio-remote controlled robot during his Energy and System Control class. California University of Pennsylvania teamed with Carnegie Mellon University on a multi-year project to develop an integrated robotics curriculum.

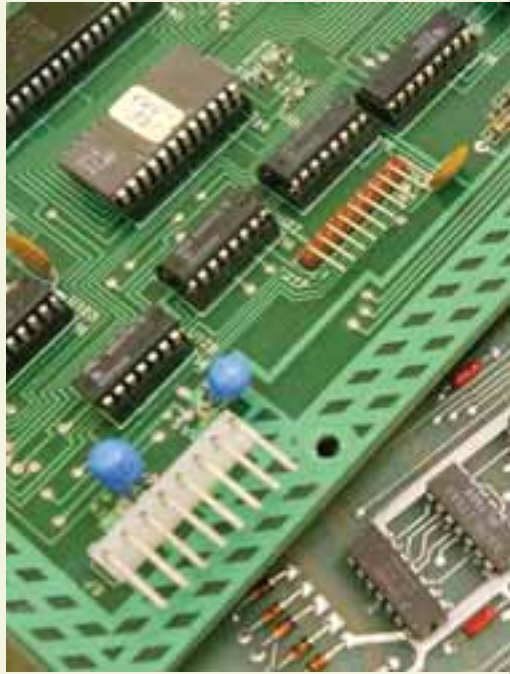
## B u i l d i n g   C a r e e r s .

Robotics courses will be integrated into the Cal U Technology Education teacher training program and will also eventually help to form the core curriculum for a new Robotics Engineering Technology program that will be linked directly to high school-level robotics programs. An agile robotics certificate program is also expected to be developed for high school teachers and University students. This certificate program will make use of a world-class agile robotics training facility (also developed from these funds) at Cal U to prepare current and future educators to teach robotics. The program will stimulate the development of future generations of robotics technicians, technologists and engineers.

The project, under the leadership of Dr. Michael Donohoe '85 '97, RCP program director, has several key components. RCP funding will allow teams from California and Carnegie Mellon Universities, Westmoreland, Butler, Beaver and Fayette County community colleges, as well as the Regional Career Technical Centers, to develop a Robotics Engineering Technology curriculum. Once developed, the curriculum will be disseminated within the region and across the state.

To launch its proposed programs in robotics engineering technology, Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Academy will assist Cal U in the development of a core set of two to four courses in the basic underlying fundamentals and principles of agile robotics. These core courses, together with Cal U's existing courses in industrial technology, engineering technology and computer science will support the associate degree and continuing education certificate programs.

There will be two online courses to shadow the four robotics courses, which



will be supported by a robotics learning center, as well as an agile robotics laboratory outfitted with world-class technology. The RCP will support the

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 Technology curriculum.**  
 ”

2+2+2 Robotics Program Articulation Agreements between California and Carnegie Mellon Universities, the Technology Collaborative, the A.W. Beattie Career Center and the McKeesport Area Technology Center.

Additional plans for the project call for development of a career ladder technician program that will link graduates of high school robotics certification programs to the associate degree level Robotics Engineering Technology degree program. Those involved will have flexible options for continuing their education in a number of baccalaureate level degree programs such as mechanical, electrical or computer engineering technology, industrial technology, or computer science.

B u i l d i n g   C h a r a c t e r .

# Temporary Inconvenience Yields Long-Term Improvements

By enduring a temporary inconvenience for long-term improvements California University moves into the 2007-2008 academic year with many new or renovated state-of-the-art facilities.



Noss Hall (above), the focal point for academic assistance with a goal of helping students to achieve their academic potential, received updates to both its interior and exterior last year.

Duda Hall (right), which opened its doors to students in February, houses the College of Liberal Arts office, 10 SMART classrooms, three lecture halls and seven general-purpose classrooms.



## B u i l d i n g   C a r e e r s .

**S**teele Hall was the latest of many campus jewels to open this fall. The \$9.8 million project included a 15,151 square-foot addition; a contemporary theater for 613 and a 149 seat black box theater.

Renovations to this 52-year-old facility will enhance the University's theater arts program which recently attained full accreditation through the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Last fall, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate our fourth and fifth new residence halls. That tradition continued in August when the University opened the doors to another on-campus housing facility, Carter Hall, which also houses the University's multicultural and wellness centers.

When students returned to campus to occupy this wonderful facility, California University had the distinction of being the first college or university nationwide to completely replace its student housing. These luxurious residence halls reflect the University's commitment to providing students with the most comfortable living environment possible with amenities such as individual climate controls, private and semi-private baths, courtyards with wireless Internet connections, and state-of the-art sprinkler and security systems.

Visitors are always welcome at Cal U and those exploring campus for the first time will be treated to a handsome new entrance as they pass between the Booker Towers. Nearby is the new Duda Hall. Named after the late President Michael Duda, the new classroom building opened Feb. 15, houses the College of Liberal Arts office, 10 SMART classrooms, three lecture halls and seven general-purpose classrooms. The original building, which opened in

1968, was razed to make room for the expansion of Old Main Park. The original building's corner wall continues to stand with the Ascent of Humanity sculpture perched atop its crest.



Cal U art students enjoy working in the confines of Vulcan Hall's painting studio complete with a catwalk that overlooks the open working space below.

The re-opening of the two older buildings highlighted the start of the Spring 2007 semester. Formerly the school's gymnasium built in 1895, Vulcan Hall now creates a perfect environment for our art students. Highlighting this

“  
**Formerly the  
 school's gymnasium,  
 Vulcan Hall now  
 creates a perfect  
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 art students.**  
 ”

\$1.3 million renovation is a beautiful painting studio where students work on a catwalk that overlooks the open working space below.

The 102-year-old Noss Hall is the focal point for academic assistance. Both a referral and resource center, Noss Hall houses the Office of Student

Success/Retention, placement testing, academic and tutorial support in mathematics, computer science, writing, critical thinking and reading through the math laboratory, writing center and reading clinic, course specific tutoring, first year seminar, and student peer mentoring are just a few departments benefiting from this \$3.1 million renovation project.

As new basketball and tennis courts are being constructed and a further expansion of Herron Fitness Center offers more recreational opportunities for our students, please excuse the dust as California University continues to grow.

# Cal U's Energy Management Efforts Recognized in Green Report

Sixteen minutes a day may not sound like a lot of time, but at California University of Pennsylvania, it equates to \$46,000 a year in energy savings.



Leroy Staley and Bob Houston, both utility plant operators for Cal U, work on the boilers in the power plant on campus. Cal U's exemplary energy management program was recently highlighted in the PASSHE's 2006-2007 Green Report.

**A**s one of the many ways the University cuts energy costs, each workday the heating and cooling systems in offices and classrooms begin 10 minutes late and shut down six minutes early. Energy savings begin with small percentages, and on our 92-acre campus, this three percent reduction has paid huge dividends.

The University's commitment to conservation was evident when California University's energy management efforts were recognized as an exemplary program in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) 2006-2007 Green Report.

Submitted to the governor's Green Council last June, the report provides an overview of "green concepts" or environmental stewardship at the 14 member universities within PASSHE. Although Cal U was mentioned throughout report sections, a separate appendix was designated to highlight the University and its energy management program.

During the 1990-1991 fiscal year, California University consumed more than 150,000 BTUs per square foot. As our facilities were updated and expanded, we invested in energy-reducing technologies and implemented an energy management system.

## Building Character. Building Careers.

In 2004-2005, that figure dropped exponentially to 66,493 BTUs per square foot setting a record that is projected to be even lower in 2007-2008.

Featured in the Green Report as using approximately 57 percent less energy than the average PASSHE university, our energy management practices have saved the University more than \$6 million in energy costs—the equivalent of four years of free energy at our current consumption—since 1992. In addition, we’ve garnered the best Energy Utilization Index or least BTUs of energy consumed per square foot in PASSHE for the past 13 years.

As stated in the report, Cal U “continued aggressive incorporation of green concepts and energy management into all of its campus and facilities operations, planning, and construction.”

To cut energy consumption, the University’s physical plant was reorganized, and a new utilities and energy management office was created to operate the central heating plant,

oversee the consumption of all utilities, implement energy reduction projects and design energy savings into every renovation and construction project. Staff is encouraged to experiment with various ways to conserve energy,

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as well. Each window of the new residence halls hold magnetic switches that shut down the heating and air conditioning of individual rooms when the window is opened. Each residence hall also boasts a geothermal heat pump that exchanges heat with the earth through a system of buried plastic pipes stored in the ground.

The University’s energy-management system is very comprehensive and used to its maximum capability. After these many years of commitment, it was very significant being recognized by the governor’s office and PASSHE. The University’s message that it is committed to doing as much as possible to advance green programs on campus has never been more evident.



B u i l d i n g   C h a r a c t e r .

# Selling Students on Sustainable Living



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article was reprinted with permission of "Inside Higher Ed." It ran in the July 31 issue of the online publication. Since the article's release, the University dedicated its sixth new, state-of-the-art, green-design residence hall. The new residence halls were constructed to attract and retain students. Total cost of the project was \$121 million—or more than half of the \$210 million that has been spent on campus capital improvements in just 13 years. At 8,200 students for the Fall 2007 semester, the University's enrollment and applications are at an all-time high. Student satisfaction is also up significantly.

There was nothing particularly notable about California University of Pennsylvania's old dormitories. They were cramped, sure, but many colleges have old and cramped dorms — and those institutions manage to fill them each fall.

Not so at California. By the late 90s, dorms were nowhere near capacity, as many younger students opted for off-campus rentals. Enrollment began to sag, and outdated dorms were a contributing factor, said Angelo Armenti, Jr., who just finished his 15th year as President of the public institution.

"Demographics in this part of the world have been described as dismal," Armenti said. "Western Pennsylvania is

economically depressed, and the population is declining in most counties. In order for us to be viable and thrive, we need to attract students from farther away. We see attractive housing as one competitive advantage."

In the seven years since the University began demolishing its six old residence halls, full-time equivalent enrollment has risen from roughly 5,100 to 7,000 students. The past several years have seen 8 to 10 percent annual growth. Dr. Armenti credits some of that surge to the five — and soon-to-be six — new eco-friendly dorms, all of which are slated to be at capacity.

Come fall, when the final of the six new residence halls opens, about 2,200

## B u i l d i n g   C a r e e r s .

students will live in University housing, Dr. Armenti expects. The bed count is up, and the number of students per bathroom—an important ratio for undergraduates these days—is down. No student shares a bathroom facility with more than three others in the new halls and most share with one other person; a far cry from the previous double-digit norm.

Bathroom access wasn't the only motivating factor, or the most important, behind the dorm overhaul. President Armenti said the new residence halls will use two-thirds the amount of energy as did the former collection, and he estimates the University will save at least \$600,000 a year in energy costs. Colleges across the country are taking similar steps to construct green buildings and make green pledges—and they aren't shy about promoting their new projects.

California's dorms are using renewable energy in the form of a geothermal heating system. In the warmer months, when air conditioning is used, excess heat from the buildings is stored in the ground water. When winter comes, the system runs in reverse, and the heat comes from the ground and back into the buildings. Heat isn't wasted, Dr. Armenti said.

The University also has installed an energy-saving system that controls the air flow inside the buildings. Each dorm window has a magnetic switch so that when a student opens it, the air conditioning automatically shuts off.

Ian Griffiths, sustainability coordinator for the architecture and engineering firm Berners-Schober Associates, which didn't work on this project, said he is seeing geothermal become more popular for residence halls, although California's efforts still put the college in limited company of colleges taking on global warming with all dormitories.

"If you have the right characteristics, geothermal is a good way to go," Griffiths said. "But a lot depends on the type of campus and the type of soil."

Generally, colleges whose buildings

are surrounded by green space are the best candidates for geothermal. Griffiths said because installation costs can be high, the system isn't well-suited for many institutions.

California drilled 150 wells and dug 400 feet deep to install the piping for its first three new dorms. As a result, it invested about \$1 million into the project. President Armenti said it took less than three years for the college to receive a full payback on its geothermal investment.

No state money was used to finance the project, according to the President. Financing was coordinated by California University's Student Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation owned largely by the University's students. The costs of the entire project, including the fees paid to the developer, contractor and investment banking firm, came from bond proceeds.

The nonprofit ends up as the owner of the halls until the bonds are paid off, at which time California takes over ownership. The expectation, Dr. Armenti said, is for profits to come to the University gradually. Money it receives will go toward creating scholarship endowments.

— Elia Powers

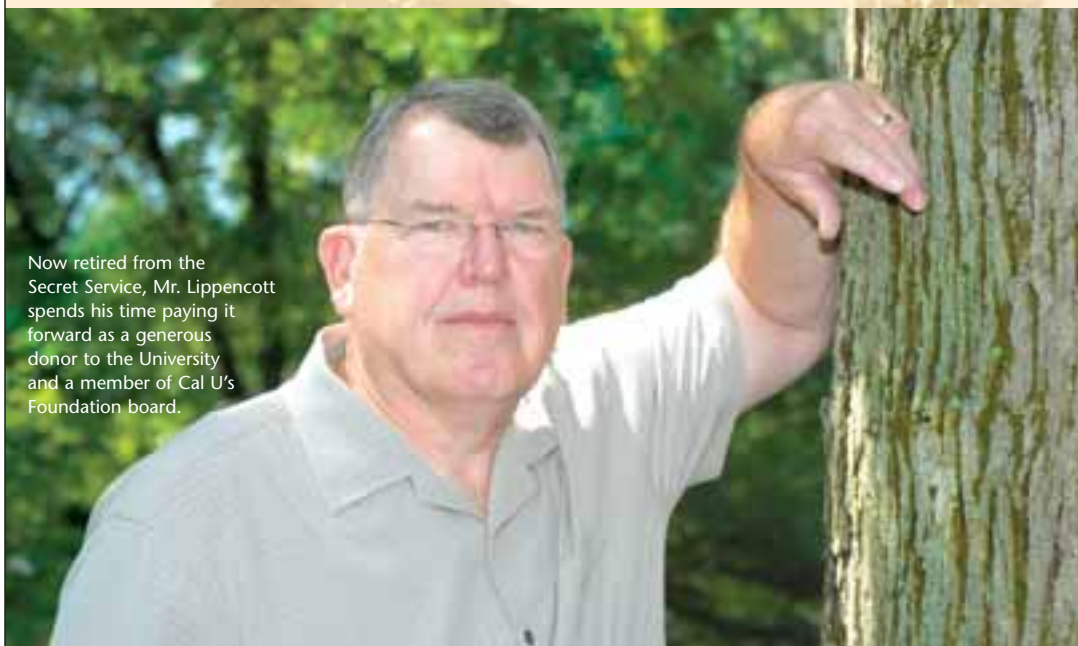


B u i l d i n g   C h a r a c t e r .   B u i l d i n g   C a r e e r s .

# Secret Agent Man

Bob Lippencott '66 enjoyed an exciting career protecting U.S. presidents and other dignitaries

Now retired from the Secret Service, Mr. Lippencott spends his time paying it forward as a generous donor to the University and a member of Cal U's Foundation board.



It would have been easy for Bob Lippencott '66 to develop a large ego over the years.

He hung around with Harry Truman. He traveled the world with virtually every U.S. president and vice president from Spiro Agnew to Bill Clinton. He met Popes, the Shah of Iran, former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, as well as virtually every other world leader from the past half century.

And yet, today, if you meet with him at his home just west of Chicago, Lippencott is as likely to be humbly working on a project to benefit Cal U and its students as he is to be doing anything else.

His life, which epitomizes the University's core values of integrity, civility, and responsibility, has come full circle.

Lippencott attended West Virginia University for three semesters in the

early 1960s. As money became scarce, he left WVU and took a job working construction. That's how he might have spent his next 40 years, too, if not for some far-sighted visionaries at California University.

The members of the University's Quarterback Club raised enough money each year to put 20 to 22 student athletes through school. They took a chance on Lippencott, a linebacker who wanted to become a schoolteacher, and he found himself returning to campus.

That was the start of something big. After graduating in 1966, Lippencott took a job as a science teacher in a school near Philadelphia. But, in the tumultuous days of the mid-1960s, when America found itself confronted by race riots, war protests and often not-so-civil disobedience, Lippencott felt called to go in another direction.

“  
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”

He considered joining the Pennsylvania State Police, but instead wound up as a Secret Service agent.

What resulted was a career that could be straight from a movie. With his wife Suzanne at home raising their three children, Lippencott waded into a world marked by hours of meticulous planning and moments of high drama. He investigated the theft of coins from a federal mint, faced off with a counterfeiter armed with a machine gun in a hotel room, guarded presidents in an era of assassinations, and traveled to places like the Berlin Wall during the height of the Cold War.

Now retired, save for teaching a few classes in criminology, he spends his time working to give something back to Cal U. As a member of the University's Foundation board and a generous donor, the Brownsville, PA native is working to make sure young people today get the same kind of help that launched his own lifetime of service.

Along the way, he's bringing honor not only to himself, but also to the people who helped give him his start more than four decades ago and to those who will benefit from his actions over the next 40 years.

Serving the U.S. government as a Secret Service agent for 26 years, Bob Lippencott '66 (left) escorts Vice President Nelson Rockefeller (center) and Sen. Barry Goldwater (right) at the 1976 Republican Convention in Kansas City, MO.



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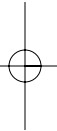
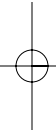
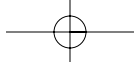
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