Education Summit Focuses on Leadership

Hundreds of educators from overseas and across the country have registered to attend The Leader In Me Global Education Summit 2010 at California University.

Admission is free to the Aug. 4-5 event, which is sponsored by Cal U, AVI Foodsystems Inc. and Franklin Covey Co.

The summit will highlight the educator’s role in equipping every student with leadership skills and a sense of personal responsibility. Breakout sessions will address issues relevant to elementary, secondary and college/university education.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and The Leader In Me: How Parents and Schools Around the World Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at a Time. His topic will be “A New Paradigm of Leadership.”

Other speakers and topics include:
• Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. — “From Dreams to Reality: Achieving the End in Mind.”
• Sean Covey, author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens — “Creating Greatness in Education.”
• Salome Thomas-El, author and contributor to the Dr. Oz Show — “The Immortality of Influence: Believing Every Child Can Achieve Their Dreams.”
• David P. Langford, president of Langford International Inc. — “Quality Learning Innovation and Learning.”
• Jerry Saldrandio, entrepreneur, inventor and president of IRIS Technologies — “Growing up Poor: The Best Business School on Earth.”

Last year’s education summit at Cal U attracted more than 600 students, teachers, principals, school superintendents and other education professionals from 18 U.S. states, as well as leaders and educators from the health-care and business communities.

“The Franklin Covey educational summits enrich the professional experiences of those Cal U — Continued on page 3

Lecture Explores Clemente’s Life

The widow and son of Pittsburgh Pirates baseball star Roberto Clemente will be special guests at a free lecture held in conjunction with Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition now on display in the Manderino Gallery.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. Guest speaker is Maria Torres-Carmona, of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in Washington, D.C. Guests include Mrs. Roberto (Vera) Clemente and her son Luis.

Before and after the lecture, guests may visit Beyond Baseball in the gallery on the third floor of Manderino Library.

Beyond Baseball was developed by the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico with the Cartnar Design and Research studio.

At Cal U, it is complemented by more than 100 objects and photographs from The Clemente Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa. To register for the talk, contact Linda Volek at 724-938-5759 or volek@calu.edu.

Autism Partnership Benefits Grad Students, Area Children

Cal U has entered into a partnership with Highlands Hospital, a not-for-profit community hospital in Connellsville, Pa., that promises advanced training for Cal U students in the Department of Special Education and a brighter future for children with autism.

The hospital in Fayette County — one of Pennsylvania’s most medically underserved regions — is working with the nationally recognized Cleveland Clinic to develop state-of-the-art services for children with autism in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The program’s building, staff training and curriculum will mirror a program that has been operating for 10 years at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism in Ohio.

Graduate students from Cal U will prepare for careers in special education by participating in clinical experiences at the new autism center, scheduled to open next year at Highlands Hospital.

Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, represented Cal U when the partnership was announced June 16 near Connellsville.

Cal U’s graduate program in special education offers a certificate in teaching children with autism, he said, “and the certificate of study in autism adds to the value of the degree.”

Cal U’s graduate program has taught Applied Behavioral Analysis, the approach used by the Cleveland Clinic’s autism program, for many years, he added.

“Our graduate students are energetic, well-prepared and well-supervised. With the increasing incidence of autism spectrum disorders, we are proud to be a part of this, and we thank (Highlands Hospital) for including us in this partnership.”

The national Centers for — Continued on page 3

Professor Certified

Dr. Raymond Haisl, a professor in Cal U’s Department of Justice, Law and Society, is now an AccessData Certified Examiner in Computer Forensics. He plans to use the certification to help give students a competitive edge. See story on page 3.
Robotics Camp Part of Summer Vacation for High School Students

One week of summer fun with technology may influence the career paths of nearly 30 high school students who participated in the first Cal U Robotics Camp.

Students entering grades 9-12 received hands-on experience in agile robotics, mechatronics, rapid prototyping and animatronics while experiencing the college campus setting in June.

Cal U’s Office of Lifelong Learning and the National Center for Robotics Engineering Technology Education (NCRETE) sponsored the team-oriented outreach initiatives in grades K-16. This is a natural partnership to give our SEEK graduates a spin-off, and teaming with Lifelong Learning gave us a suitable model,” said Terrie Greene, director of Lifelong Learning, hopes the robotics camp is just the start of more successful SEEK spin-offs.

“High school-age students are involved with many extracurricular activities, so we can offer more of our University resources to the community.”

Greene and her staff added campus tours and other University experiences to the robotics campers’ schedules. They dined at the student center, for example, and visited the Beyond Baseball exhibition at Manderino Gallery.

“A friend of mine told me about this program, and we both decided to come to camp,” said Cameron Barrick, a student at Ringgold High School. “I am not really interested in robotics, but I thought the camp would be fun — and I had a really good time.”

Other instructors were Cal U faculty members Laura Hummel and Mike Valoski, and Tanner Huffman from Richland High School in Johnstown, Pa.

Radio Show Features Science Initiative

A recent broadcast of “The Allegheny Front” environmental radio program featured an initiative by Dr. J. William Hug and a group of future teachers to teach young children about science through outdoor activities.

A link to the podcast is available at www.cal.edu. Follow “Academics” to “Colleges and Centers” to “College of Education and Human Services” to “Department of Elementary/Early Childhood Education.”

The event held earlier this year at Ohiopyle State Park was funded by a grant from PNC Grow Up Great With Science.

More than 500 preschool children enrolled in Fayette County Head Start and their families were invited to the event. Hands-on lessons about rocks and soil were taught by Cal U students enrolled in the Instructional Strategies course. It was designed to introduce students to basic principles of science and reinforce academic skills necessary for success in school.

Cal U was one of just 15 colleges and universities to receive a PNC Grow Up Great With Science grant last year. The project targets preschoolers in Fayette County, where research shows that critical social conditions place many young learners at risk for low educational achievement.

Founded in 1991, “The Allegheny Front” focuses on issues related to the conservation of land, air and water. It airs regularly on FM stations WYEP 91.3 in Pittsburgh; WRIT 90.1 in Indiana, Pa.; eight WFPS-FM stations in northern and central Pennsylvania; WRFA-FM in Jamestown, N.Y.; and on West Virginia Public Radio.

For more information about the Allegheny Front, visit www.alleghenyfront.org

Cal U Finishes No. 2 in Directors’ Cup Race

The good times continue to roll for Cal U’s athletic programs.

After a successful spring sports season highlighted by an NCAA Regional championship in women’s tennis, the Vulcans finished second in the final standings of the 2009-2010 Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup.

This is the highest finish ever by a school in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

Announced through the National Association of College Directors of Athletics, the Directors’ Cup annually honors institutions maintaining a broad-based program in both men’s and women’s sports. The scoring system is based on the national finishes of seven men’s and seven women’s sports teams.

In all, Cal U won NCAA Regional championships this past athletic year in football, women’s volleyball, women’s soccer and women’s tennis. Other teams competing in NCAA post-season tournaments were women’s basketball, baseball, softball, women’s swimming and both the men’s and women’s golf and track and field teams.

Grand Valley State (Mich.) earned top honors for the seventh consecutive year with 1021.50 total points, while Cal finished with 703.00. Rounding out the top five were Central Missouri (672.50), Minnesota State-Mankato (660.50), and St. Cloud (Minn.) State (643.50).

In 2008-2009, the Vulcans placed ninth in the final Learfield standings for NCAA Division II.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment that really reflects on the quality of our student-athletes and coaches that we have here,” said Cal U athletic director Dr. Tom Pucci. “This is a direct reflection on the leadership of President Angelo Armenzi, Jr. and his support of our athletic program.”
Social Work Program Reaccredited

The Bachelor of Social Work Program at Cal U has been reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education. At its June 2010 meeting, the council’s Commission on Accreditation voted to reaffirm the program’s accreditation for eight years, ending in 2018.

“We couldn’t be happier as a department,” said Dr. Pamela Twiss, who chairs the Department of Social Work in the College of Education and Professional Services. “This success would not have been possible without the work of the department’s faculty, staff and students and the support of University administration.”

Twiss said the renewal is extremely important to students because it allows those who achieve a high enough grade-point average as undergraduates to waive foundational courses at the master’s degree level. Also, in states such as Pennsylvania, graduates cannot be called “social workers” unless they have graduated from an accredited program.

“The expectation is that faculty are working with outside agencies, sitting on various boards and doing work that benefits the region,” Twiss said. “And students are expected to be doing work in the field with professionals.”

“Maintaining our accreditation requires that our programs are dynamic and that we are staying on top of developments in the field. Going through the self-study was a wonderful opportunity to see what we were doing and why, and to make positive changes where necessary.”

August Education Summit Set

Continued from page 1

students who aspire to be teachers, as well as our faculty in the College of Education and Human Services,” President Armenti said.

“The summits also enrich the professional experiences of teachers, principals and superintendents at our regional schools. Those experiences, in turn, benefit the students in all of those schools, some of whom will eventually come to Cal U for their college education.”

A total of 11 Act 48 credits are available to Pennsylvania educators who attend the summit, and 1.1 Continuing Education Unit credits also are available for attendees.

Although admission to the summit is complimentary, seating is limited and registration is required. For more information, visit www.calu.edu, call University Conference Services at 866-941-7437 or e-mail conferences at conferences@calu.edu.

Leading the Way

Hsing-De Chen, a senior at Washington High School, rappels down a 50-foot tower during the recent Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute held at Outdoor Odyssey in Boswell, Pa. The new program offered leadership training to select students from area high schools. Dr. Harry Sereno is the president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and Linda is president of the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania Board of Directors.

Hsieh Uses Certification to Educate Students, Local Authorities

Dr. Raymond Hsieh, a professor in Cal U’s Department of Justice, Law and Society, recently became an AccessData Certified Examiner in Computer Forensics.

AccessData is a pioneer in developing digital investigation software and training programs. They also evaluate academic knowledge and practical skill through a certification process that is widely accepted by national and international law enforcement agencies.

This specific certification validates Hsieh’s expertise in recovering deleted computer files, encrypting messages and deterring Steganography — the science of hiding computer files within pictures and other file types. Criminals are using digital technology to target victims and conceal information, so forensics experts must continue to expand their knowledge on current crime trends. Hsieh studied new digital investigative techniques to become certified and hopes to share this information with his students.

“I tried to establish my knowledge. That is the reason I have been certified as a Computer Forensics Examiner,” Hsieh said. “As an educator, I need to pass this knowledge on to my students.”

Hsieh also plans to prepare students for careers in digital forensics. Future courses will be modeled to parallel the material on certification tests.

“My goal is to have students graduate from Cal U with a degree in one hand and a certification in the other,” Hsieh said. “Students will be more competitive when looking for a position because they are young, knowledgeable and already certified.”

Few other area institutions in southwest Pennsylvania offer advanced digital forensics courses, so Cal U will continue to be an attractive destination for prospective forensic science students, he said.

Through the Cal U Institute of Criminological and Forensic Science, the University is a resource for local law enforcement authorities. The institute offers a team of criminologists and scientists to assist in both fieldwork and professional development.

With the desire to expand its services regionally, nationally and internationally, Hsieh and the institute will host three members of the Taiwan Police Delegation for a weeklong training program in August. The delegates will attend courses on campus, meet with local FBI agents and study at the Allegheny County Forensics Laboratory.

Autism Center Planned

Continued from page 1

Disaster Control and Prevention reports 1 in every 94 children in the United States has some form of autism. In rural Fayette County, an estimated 444 individuals ages 5-24 are affected by this complex developmental disability that appears in early childhood and affects communication and social interaction.

Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions (CCADS) will assist Highlands Hospital in designing and staffing the new autism center, which will offer developmental screening and a day program that children with autism will attend five days a week, year-round.

Empirical studies conducted by Cleveland Clinic show that the program’s approach, Applied Behavioral Analysis, is effective in teaching basic and complex skills to children with autism. Cal U students will learn to apply their ABA skills by working with Highlands professionals who have been trained by CCADS staff.

This is the first time that Cleveland Clinic has partnered with a health-care provider in southwestern Pennsylvania.

No similar program is available in the region, which has one of the highest poverty rates in Pennsylvania. Many Fayette County families lack both economic resources and basic transportation, making it difficult for them to access services for their children on the autism spectrum. The hospital will offer both community-based autism services and community awareness education to encourage early diagnoses.

Highlands Hospital will be the nation’s third health-care provider to open an autism center with assistance from Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions. Successful programs are under way at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestington, Ky., and at the Ozark Center for Autism in Joplin, Mo.
Five Win Faculty Merit Awards

Four Cal U faculty members with different areas of expertise were the recipients of the 2010 Faculty Merit Awards given by the five subcommittees of the Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC), the awards recognize Cal U professors who are engaged in exceptional research, committed to teaching, using grants and contracts, devoted to service or exploring cutting-edge technology.

The awards were presented at a luncheon on May 7. Winners are Dr. Mark Aune (English) for Research; Dr. Carol Bozetti (Biological and Environmental Science) for Service and Service-Learning; Dr. Christina Fisnack (English) for Technology; Dr. J. William Hug (Elementary/Early Childhood Education) for Grants and Contracts; and Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux (Women’s Studies) for Teaching and Learning.

Along with a plaque, each recipient received a $1,000 award and was recognized at Commencement. The money can be used for professional activity such as travel, supplies, equipment, books or periodicals, publications, or professional memberships.

“There are many good things going on within the University,” said President Angelo Armeri, Jr., “and I believe the FPDC is the jewel in the crown of California University’s excellence.”

He commended the award winners for their efforts and said they should be proud to be honored by their peers, something that takes hard work and dedication.

Co-chairs of the FPDC for 2009-2010 were Ali Sezer and Lisa Solomon-Driscoll.

Mylan Classic Ticket Sales Support Cal U Athletics

Golf fans who purchase tickets for the inaugural Mylan Classic golf tournament can support athletic programs at California University of Pennsylvania.

Cal U athletics is one of the nonprofit organizations eligible to receive funds generated by the PGA TOUR’s new Nationwide Tour event, to be held Sept. 2-5 at Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, Pa.

The 72-hole, stroke-play tournament will feature 156 players from 19 countries competing for a purse of $600,000. The Golf Channel will televise all four rounds of the Mylan Classic in the United States, and the PGA TOUR will distribute it to 72 countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

As with all events sanctioned by the PGA TOUR, 100 percent of the net revenues generated by the Mylan Classic will be donated to regional charities and nonprofit groups.

Golf fans can order tickets — and direct their donation to California University athletics — by visiting www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/. As with all events sanctioned by the PGA TOUR, 100 percent of the net revenues generated by the Mylan Classic will be donated to regional charities and nonprofit groups.

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