Applied Sociology Accredited

California University's Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Applied Concentration has been accredited by the national Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology, the only accrediting body in the country for applied and clinical sociology programs.

The University is one of only four schools to have an accredited undergraduate program or concentration in applied sociology, according to the commission's website.

"The accreditation means students are assured that they are in line with national standards of excellence and quality," said Dr. Elizabeth Larsen, assistant professor and director of the applied sociology concentration.

"This will really benefit our students," Larsen added. "When they graduate with a degree in sociology with an applied concentration, they are automatically certified as sociological practitioners at the bachelor's level. Certified Sociological Practitioner, CSP, is a very nice credential to put after their names."

The applied sociology concentration was established at Cal U in 2004 and "is designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment," Larsen said.

In upper-level courses, students participate in class projects, which often benefit other campus organizations, and must complete an internship during their final semester.

One student did an internship with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services in Charleroi and Monessen to assess what kinds of services baby boomers need. Another student worked with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services to establish at Cal U in 2004 and "is designed to prepare graduates for immediate employment," Larsen said.

In upper-level courses, students participate in class projects, which often benefit other campus organizations, and must complete an internship during their final semester.

One student did an internship with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services in Charleroi and Monessen to assess what kinds of services baby boomers need. Another student worked with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services to establish a local office.

"We also did work for the P.E.A.C.E. Project on campus to help them analyze instances of stalking and violence. We were able to give them a thorough report that was helpful as they applied for outside funding."

After gaining this experience, Larsen said, graduates are ready to work in "just about any kind of business where research studies need to be done."

One area of considerable job growth is in evaluation research," she said. "Organizations everywhere are having to become more accountable about their productivity and they need people who can design and carry out studies to determine how well they are doing at meeting their goals."

When reviewing a program, the commission considers research and experiential learning opportunities, support for teaching and ongoing faculty research, and an integration of sociological theory, knowledge, methods and skills.

In April 2008, the commission conducted an on-site evaluation of the program, and in August 2008, provisional accreditation was granted. In April 2009, accreditation was granted. In April 2009, accreditation was granted.

Lady Sings the Blues

Composer and musician Gaye Adegbalola will be singing the blues March 29-30 at Cal U.

On March 29 the award-winning performer will give a blues duo performance with pianist Roddy Barnes at 8 p.m. in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. On March 30 she will lead a workshop on the history of women in the blues at 11 a.m. in Vulcan Theatre, inside the Natali Student Center.

Adegbalola is a powerful singer and songwriter who has composed many blues hits. She has received the Blues Music Award (formerly known as the W.C. Handy Award) for Best Song of the Year. A founding member of Saffire- The Uppity Blues Women, she also performs solo, in a classic blues duo with accompanist Roddy Barnes, and as the front woman for Miz A & The Freedom Band.

Before making music her full-time career, Adegbalola taught science in public schools in Fredericksburg for 18 years. She was named Virginia State Teacher of the Year in 1982.

"We asked her to perform at Cal U because she is a triple threat — an entertainer, an educator and an activist," said Dr. Marta McClomick-Comeaux, director of the Women's Studies program. "Her work touches on many of the areas we examine in Women's Studies, such as women's rights and empowerment, civil rights and gay rights."

The performance and workshop celebrate Women's History Month. Sponsors are the Women's Studies Program, History Club, Department of History and Political Science, Rainbow Alliance, Office of Multicultural Student Programs, Women's Center and Frederick Douglass Institute.

The program is open to the public. Admission is free.

For details, contact Kim Lucchini, an intern in the Women's Studies program, at 724-938-5245 or luc6162@calu.edu.

Tinsley Speaks at Conference

Tinsley is president of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association, a division of ACA and a chapter of the American College Counseling Association. She also served as the North Atlantic Regional representative for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development.

Tinsley is one of six founding members of the Minnesota Association of Counselors of Color. Since 2006, she has been working in collaboration with the ACA to develop and facilitate the Sports Counseling Interest Network, a forum for professional counselors who are interested in learning about counseling athletes.

Tinsley oversees the day-to-day operation of AIM. A professor in the — Continued on page 3
Young Historians Square Off

Education and history intersected when 110 eighth-grade students from Belle Vernon Area, Charleroi, Ringgold and Uniontown Area school districts competed in the third annual Primary Sources History Day. Participating school districts included Cal U history and social science faculty, current and retired educators, and community members who belong to local historical societies.

The event was modeled after the National History Day competition. For many students, the Cal U contest was a warm-up for last weekend’s regional competition, held at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

One of these students was Drew Gillingham, of Bellmar Middle School in Belle Vernon. He and classmates Preston Williams and Paul Rathway created an exhibit depicting the history of blues music.

“Winning or losing didn’t matter, because we made a good topic choice and learned a lot,” said Gillingham, whose group began working on the project in September.

“Were it not for the contest context, we would not have known who most of these musicians were,” he said.

Dr. Michael Bria, director of Cal U’s Teaching with Primary Sources program, called the event a complete success.

“Both students and teachers reported a greater understanding of the use of primary sources for research and learning in relation to historical inquiry,” he said.

“This event afforded teachers and students the opportunity to participate in learning beyond the classroom,” added Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

“We highly value our affiliation with the Library of Congress and the opportunity to share its valuable resources with members of our educational network,” he said.

First-year Belle Vernon Area superintendent Stephen Russell, who served as a consultant with the Heinz History Center for many years, praised the sponsoring schools and teachers for encouraging students to participate.

“Perhaps most important is that students learn the importance of using primary sources, along with collaboration in (creating) the final product,” he said.

Intern Addresses Governors

Andrew Pirring went to Washington, D.C., last summer with a clear picture of what he wanted for his future.

Then Pirring, a dual operational meteorology and political science major with a concentrations in law and business, received a phone call from Earth Aid Enterprises. That phone call helped shift the focus of his future and led him to make a presentation before the Board of Governors of PASSHE, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Earth Aid Enterprises, based in Washington, D.C., provides education about energy and water use. Earth Aid enables households to monitor their utility usage and find ways to save energy.

“I was the only intern with environmental experience,” Pirring said. “It was better for them to introduce me as their environmental intern, rather than just a history and political science intern.”

Pirring obtained his internship through the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, an organization that places students from across the country with internship positions in Washington.

Program adviser Kia Hall served as Pirring’s counselor during his internship. “Earth Aid is a wonderful thing to say about Andrew,” she said.

That thought was echoed by Earth Aid Rewards program director Lindsey Peterson, who was Pirring’s agency supervisor. “Andrew was a really great intern and a fun person to have around the office,” she said.

Pirring’s academic advisor, history and political science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg, recognizes his drive, adding that Pirring “is very committed, very driven in what he wants to do.”

Because of his exceptional performance during his summer with Earth Aid, Pirring was invited to speak before the Board of Governors and the PASSHE university presidents in Harrisburg.

“I let them know that the scholarship and the money that’s put forth towards internships are really doing some good,” Pirring said. “Presenting to the Board of Governors was definitely a great experience.”

Despite job offers, Pirring says he is concentrating on applying to graduate school.

“I’m trying to get my master’s (degree) in environmental legislation,” he explained. “I’d like to earn my Ph.D. and teach, but then again, I’d also like to run for office someday. We’ll see how everything goes.”

Penguins’ Bourque to Discuss Leadership

Pittsburgh Penguins radio analyst and former standout player Phil Bourque will discuss leadership March 30 before signing autographs for Cal U students and hockey fans.

Sponsored by the Leadership Advisory Board, Leadership Studies Program and Leadership Club, the event is scheduled for 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Morgan Hall audittorium.

In a 30-minute talk, Bourque will discuss his leadership experiences, challenges and successes within the sports arena. He will sign autographs after the talk.

Bourque played eight of his 12 National Hockey League seasons with the Penguins and was a key member of Pittsburgh’s back-to-back Stanley Cup championship teams in 1991 and 1992. He has been with the Penguins broadcast team since 2003.

“This is an annual event in which we identify a leader from a specific career path to speak to the campus community about their leadership experiences,” said Dr. Emily Sweitzer, who serves on the advisory board with faculty colleagues Drs. Gary DeLorenzo, Melanie Blumberg and Craig Fox.

“We view leadership from a multidisciplinary perspective and acknowledge that leaders exist across many disciplines, fields, and cultures,” Sweitzer said.

Bourque’s talk is open to the Cal U community and to the public; admission is free.

Jackets Needed for Earthquake Victims

The Modern Language Club, the Hispanic Student Association and the International Club are collecting jackets for people who lost their homes when an earthquake, and then a tsunami, struck the island of Juan Fernandez, off the coast of Chile.

With winter fast approaching in the southern hemisphere, jackets of all sizes are desperately needed. The clothing will be collected Thursday at the Natali Student Center.

For more information, contact the Modern Languages and Cultures Department at 724-938-4246.

Cross Country Teams Go Academic Distance

Both the men’s and women’s cross country teams recently were named NCAA Division II All-Academic Teams by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

To receive the award, a team must have competed and compiled a team score at an NCAA Regional Championship and also attained a minimum 3.0 team cumulative grade-point average.

The women’s team achieved a 3.53 GPA, which is tied for 20th among the 101 women’s teams to earn the honor. The men’s team, with a team GPA of 3.27, was one of 62 teams recognized.

Earlier, freshman Erin Kling and graduate student Clara McSweeney received individual all-academic honors from the USTFCCCA, along with freshman Chris Werner, junior Tony Russo and graduate student Eric Reeger.

AVI Awarded Contract

AVI Fresh, the largest privately held, family-owned and operated food service company in the country, will continue to provide dining and hospitality services for Cal U.

A five-year base contract will take effect June 1. After that, as many as five one-year renewals are permitted.

In the coming months, a number of food service venues will be refreshed, and new dining concepts will be introduced.

AVI also is committed to working closely with Cal U’s executive conference services staff to provide “three diamond” conference services and amenities at a reasonable cost.
Tinsley Speaks at Counseling Conference

— Continued from page 1

Psychology Department at Springfield College, he is director of AIM’s Center for Youth Development through Sport.

“It was an honor for me to present with those gentlemen at a national conference,” said Tinsley, who previously worked at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. “Dr. Petipas is regarded as a guru in the field of sports counseling and psychology.”

Cal U’s Counselor Education Department hosted a networking event March 20 at the conference, and Drs. Jackie Walsh, Gloria Brusoski and John Patrick presented a poster.

“This was an ideal opportunity for students, alumni, site supervisors and faculty to network and learn more about the important things our department is doing at Cal U,” Tinsley said.

Faculty, Students Choreograph Concert

The Department of Theatre and Dance continues its 2010 season with a spring dance concert featuring the innovative choreographic talents of faculty and students. Performances are at 8 p.m. March 25-27 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. The program includes jazz, tap, contemporary lyrical, modern and narrative dances, plus an abundance of high-energy athleticism.

Faculty choreographers are Donna Marovic, Diane Eptipethner and Dr. Becky Hess. Student choreographers are Ashley Betmarz, Rachel Cabon, Kaitlin Desctiner, Jessica Krieger and Sarah Pena.

The performance is open to the public. Cost is $12 for adults, $10 for seniors and children. Cal U students with valid CalCards are admitted free but must pay a $5 deposit, which will be returned when they attend the performance. For ticket information, or to order tickets (with a credit card) by phone, call the box office at 724-938-5945. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Tickets also may be purchased at the door.

Applied Sociology Accredited

— Continued from page 1

Larsen submitted an annual report highlighting the growth in the concentration, and the commission granted full national accreditation effective Dec. 31.

“The commission was very impressed that we had gotten the concentration to the point where it could be accredited in such a short period of time,” she said.

“They also were very impressed with how much support we have received at every level of the University — from the President and provost, to the dean and department chair, to the faculty. Larsen wants to build on the new accreditation to expose students to career possibilities.

“We need to spread the word about what applied sociology is and why it’s important. Sociology students leave here with so many skills. They can work in almost any job setting.”

Tinsley Mend Storm-Damaged Trees

The trees on Cal U’s campus took the brunt of last month’s heavy snowfall, which damaged some historic specimens and posed a challenge for the University’s physical plant and grounds crew.

Mike Peplinski, director of physical plant, said most of the tree damage occurred on the Quad, the heart of the campus arboretum recognized by the American Horticultural Association and the American Public Gardens Association.

“We had 10 of our big trees damaged, not counting the small ones we could handle,” Peplinski said.

After the grounds crew plowed the February snow and an outside contractor helped to haul it away from the main campus, Peplinski brought in Bartlett Tree Experts, one of the world’s leading scientific tree and shrub care companies.

“They are registered arborists, and they pruned all the broken branches off,” he said.

A number of limbs snapped under the weight of snow and a thick layer of ice that built up during the storm.

“Our guys cleaned up everything that fell, but there were a lot of branches that were just hanging,” Peplinski said.

Arborists are trained in safe pruning practices that maintain the health of the tree.

Several of the recently planted ornamental trees beside Hamer Hall were destroyed and must be replaced. And the oldest tree on campus, a sycamore London plane tree behind Herron Hall, was among those that took a hit from the storm.

“The big sycamore had a cable and chain on it to hold the two branches on it upright, because it was spreading out too far,” Peplinski explained.

The weight of the snow actually broke that chain, and two pieces were still hanging there,” Bartlett will return to campus for further branch removal and to repair the sycamore once the snow melts. The trees need special care because wood that has been damaged becomes easy prey for pests and diseases.

“The trees will get a fertilizer and insect spray in the spring before they leaf out, just to make sure they don’t get infested.”

Peplinski said he often discusses tree issues with Dr. Robert Whyte of Cal U’s Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Whyte is curator of the John Franklin Lewis Herbarium, a collection of plant specimens.

Another staunch admirer of Cal U’s arboretum is President Angelo Armenti, Jr., whose father was a groundkeeper.

“Our trees and shrubbery are a significant part of our beautiful campus,” the President said, praising the grounds crew’s efforts to restore the campus landscape.

“We are committed to restoring anything that was damaged during the storms and to preserve and increase the arboretum.”

Coal Mining Focus of Author’s Music, Discussion

Dr. Shirley Stewart Burns, author of Bringing Down the Mountains and co-director of Coal Country, will discuss “Mountaintop Removal in Central Appalachia” at a free event 7 p.m. March 26 in Morgan Hall auditorium.

The presentation also will include original music inspired by the coalfields of southern West Virginia, including songs from Burns’ latest CD, Coalfield & Cappello.

A native of Wyoming County in the southern West Virginia coalfields and the daughter of an underground coal miner, Burns has a passionate interest in the communities, environment and histories of the southern West Virginia coalfields.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in news-editorial journalism, a master’s degree in social work and a doctorate in history with an Appalachian focus, all from West Virginia University.

The event is sponsored by the Northern Appalachian Network Learning Community and funded by the Faculty Professional Development Center at Cal U.

The program is free and open to the public.

THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY FORUM

Academic Policy Committee Faculty Election Results

Presiding Officer

Hoover presented the following Academic Policy Committee Faculty election results to the Executive Committee via e-mail ballot for certification. The Office of Continuous Improvement submitted the electronically-balloted results. The term for the faculty seats is a three-year term (2010-2013). Notification and voting instructions were sent via e-mail to eligible faculty members on February 17 and 18, 2010, which were the dates the elections were held. Two hundred eighty-two (282) full-time permanent faculty members were eligible to vote. One hundred thirty-two votes were reported for a voter participation rate of forty-seven percent (47%).

The election results are presented as follows:

College of Education & Human Services

Clarissa Confer 41

Chris Harman 52

Holly Dahl 43

Barbara Bonfani 42

Laura Miller 32

Denise Joseph 18

College of Liberal Arts

Clariisa Confer 41

Craig A. Smith 39

Elizabeth Larsen 36

Greg Harrison 33

R. Scott Loyd 32

Evelyn College of Science & Technology

David Argent 66

Swann Gill 55

Lisa Kovatch 34

Darya Shlapinsky 28

Mario Majcen 12

Edward Mondada 8

Therefore, the top two vote-getters from each college are as follows:

College of Education & Human Services

Chris Harman

Holly Dahl

College of Liberal Arts

Clarissa Confer

Craig A. Smith

By a majority e-mail vote of the executive committee, the Academic Policy Faculty election results were certified electronically on March 10, 2010 as presented. Successful candidates will assume their terms at the beginning of the fall 2010 semester.

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ATTENTION ALL FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS, STAFF, STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY!!

Call for NOMINATIONS to the University Forum Standing Committees

The California University of Pennsylvania has announced a call for the nominations of standing committee constituent seats. Nominations form will be sent to your campus mailboxes March 10, 2010. Nominations must be available in Public Folders/Campus Wide/Review. University Forum standing committee names — Standing Committees of the University of the Distinguished Outreach. Members of the University community may nominate themselves or another person. Nominations must be on separate pages, with your name or name of the person you nominate, along with your name and signature. Students, staff, administrators or coaches. Alumni have received a nomination form in the winter edition of the California Journal. The deadline for alumni nominations is set for March 28, 2010.

The deadline to nominate yourself or a colleague is Friday, March 12, 2010. All nominations must be returned to Ms. Diana Tsenko, Forum Recording Secretary, 222 Administration Building. You may contact her at 724-938-1033 or via email at CalUForum@calu.edu. This is your opportunity to participate in the continuous improvement of your university. The information below outlines which committees you are eligible to serve on.

Constituent Seats Available on Forum Committees

FACULTY SEATS AVAILABLE ON FORUM COMMITTEES

Faculty members are encouraged to nominate themselves or faculty colleagues for appointment to Committees of the California University Forum. (All appointments are for three (3) years.)

I. Academic Policy Committee

One (1) seat is available for a faculty member who is currently serving on the California University Forum. The Executive Committee shall appoint this member. The chair and vice chair of the Curriculum and Instructional Improvement Committee shall be ex-officio members of this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

II. Budget Committee

One (1) seat is available for a faculty member who is currently serving on the California University Forum. The Executive Committee shall appoint this member. The chair and vice chair of the Academic Policy Committee; the Academic Program Committee; and the Financial Management Committee shall be ex-officio members of this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

III. Communication Committee

Three (3) student seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

IV. Core Values Committee

Three (3) student seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

V. Planning & Priorities Committee

Three (3) student seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

VI. Safety & Social Equity Committee

Three (3) student seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

VII. Student Life Committee

One (1) seat is available for the President of Student Government. The Executive Committee shall appoint this member. The Director of Student Life; the Director of Academic Services; the Dean of Student Development; and the Director of Enrollment Services shall be ex-officio members of this committee. The Executive Committee shall notify these members.

VIII. Technology Committee

One (1) seat is available for a faculty member who is currently serving on the California University Forum. The Executive Committee shall appoint this member. The chair and vice chair of the University Forum Automated System Committee shall be ex-officio members of this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

STAFF SEATS AVAILABLE ON FORUM COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee shall appoint these members:

A. Staff member is defined as any person belonging to any one of the five staff unions on campus: AFT/MEC, AFSCME, APSCUF (Coaches), OPE, SCUPA. Staff, members are encouraged to nominate themselves or alumni colleagues for appointment to Committees of the California University Forum. (All appointments are for three (3) years.)

B. Planning & Priorities Committee

Three (3) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

C. Safety & Social Equity Committee

Three (3) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

D. Technology Committee

Three (3) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

EMERITUS FACULTY SEATS AVAILABLE ON FORUM COMMITTEES

Emeriti faculty are encouraged to nominate themselves or alumni colleagues for appointment to Committees of the California University Forum. (Appointments are for three (3) years.)

A. Academic Policy Committee

One (1) staff seat is available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint this member.

B. Budget Committee

Two (2) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

C. Core Values Committee

Two (2) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

D. Technology Committee

Two (2) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

EMERITUS FACULTY SEATS AVAILABLE ON FORUM COMMITTEES

Emeriti faculty are encouraged to nominate themselves or alumni colleagues for appointment to Committees of the California University Forum. (Appointments are for three (3) years.)

A. Academic Policy Committee

One (1) staff seat is available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint this member.

B. Budget Committee

Two (2) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

C. Core Values Committee

Two (2) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.

D. Technology Committee

Two (2) staff seats are available on this committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint these members.