Three Students Receive Woman of the Year Honors

The President’s Commission for the Status of Women presented awards to three outstanding students during a luncheon Nov. 3 in Kara Alumni House.

Graduate student Jenna Chirichetti, undergraduate Jeana DiNovis and non-traditional undergraduate student Monica Ankrom Wieder were honored at the Fall 2010 Woman of the Year event for their excellence in the support and advancement of women at California University.

Chirichetti, of Monaca, Pa., will graduate with a master’s degree in education. She has worked with younger girls, with a focus on women’s empowerment and issues of gender. She has facilitated discussions on topics such as communication among women, leadership and body image.

DiNovis, of Lititz, Pa., is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in biology. She is a member of the University Honors Program and is a Presidential Scholar. At Cal U, she is active with the Big Event and Relay for Life, and she gives campus tours during Discovery Days. She is a peer mentor and a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Alpha Mu Gamma, the foreign language honor society.

Wieder, of Pittsburgh, Pa., will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in physics. She is president of the Women in Science Club and a member of the National Association of Women in Science Organization. She has organized outreach trips emphasizing science activities at regional schools and works part time at a private school to encourage young women who are interested in the sciences.

“It is a privilege to recognize the efforts of such outstanding young women,” said Dr. Lisa McBride, special assistant to the president for equal employment and education opportunity. McBride also is the University ombudsperson and interim president of the President’s Commission for the Status of Women in the Office of Social Equity.

Gena Sprool, assistant director in the Office of Social Equity, introduced the award-winners and also guest speaker Brandi Kennedy ’07, a former Woman of the Year winner. Kennedy is the legislative assistant for state Rep. Marc J. Gergely, who also attended the luncheon.

“I want to congratulate you on your efforts,” Kennedy told the women, “and encourage you to never give up or to forget where you came from. It’s your heart that will get you places. Behind every great woman is another great woman.”

First Lady Barbara Armenti also attended the luncheon.

Men Can Hear Anti-Violence Message

Men attending Cal U will hear from two Pittsburgh-area experts in conflict resolution and violence prevention during a presentation at 11 a.m. Thursday in Morgan Hall.

“Breaking Chains: To End Violence” has been organized in response to the tragic death of Jeron Grayson, a Hampton University student who was fatally shot Oct. 17 in California Borough. No registration is required. The program is being held during the common hour.

Presenter Darnell Drewery is co-founder of the Shyne Awards, which celebrate the positive achievements of young adults in the Pittsburgh region. He is a certified crisis responder for the National Organization for Victim Assistance, as well as a certified conflict resolution and mediation counselor.

Speaker Cornell Jones is head Protestant chaplain at the State Correctional Institution of Pittsburgh and pastor of Iron Cross Ministries. He has 15 years of professional experience with anti-violence community initiatives and has earned certificates in conflict management.

“The purpose of the event is to provide space for male Cal U students concerned with violence to discuss contributing factors and to formulate a plan to address the violence,” said Dr. Lisa McBride, special assistant to Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and University ombudsperson.

“The event will provide an opportunity for — Continued on page 2
1940s-style ‘Radio Show’ Features Holiday Tunes

The Department of Music will recreate a World War II-era holiday broadcast when it presents A Radio Christmas Show Friday, Sunday and Nov. 22 in Morgan Hall Auditorium.

Set in California’s WCAL studio in December 1944, this 90-minute musical revue captures the feel of a live radio program. The “studio audience” will sample a complete day of programming reminiscent of a time when everyone in the country was behind the war effort and radio stations were determined to do their part.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Nov. 22, and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The program features an on-air soap opera and game show. Musical numbers include “Baby It’s Cold Outside,” “Count Your Blessings/White Christmas,” “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “Santa Baby,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” and many other holiday favorites.

Associate professor Dr. Yugo Beach directs the show. He also is director of the University Choir.

“This is good old-fashioned entertainment inspired by our greatest generation,” Beach said. “Our students have worked very hard, and they are falling in love with music of the 1940s. No doubt our audience will, too.”

The show is written by Gary Latshaw, of Latshaw Productions, with contributing author Lisa Klein and musical arrangements by Russ Shively.

The cast includes host Glenn Ferrigno (Robert Nelson), stage manager (Tim Evans), his comedic news anchorman (Shane Brown), Windy the weather girl (Natalie Palombini), reporter Bill Drake (Adam Such), and studio singers and dancers. Other cast members who play multiple roles are Taylor Hackley, Kristin Ross, Rosanna Paterna, Paige Williams, Devin Phillips and Daniel Plumley.

Ticket price is $10 at the door; Cal U students are admitted free with a valid CalCard.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 724-938-4878 or graduate assistant Melissa Yanosh at yon8400@calu.edu.

Election Analysis Forum Set Tuesday

A popular panel of political experts will return for the 2010 Election Analysis Forum, set for 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 110 of the Ebery Science and Technology Center. Jon Delano, money and politics editor for KDKA-TV, will moderate.

The panelists will discuss issues that defined the 2010 election and the results both in Pennsylvania and in Washington. The presentation will close with a question-and-answer session.

Panelists are William C. Binning, professor emeritus of political science at Youngstown State University; Louis Jacobson, staff writer for the PolitiFact online fact-checking website and a frequent contributor to PolitiFactPA.com; Costas Panagopoulos, director of the Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy at Fordham University in New York; and Daniel M. Shea, director of the Center for Political Participation at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

This American Democracy Project event is free, and the public may attend. For more information, visit www.calu.edu.

NCRETE to Host Robotics Contests

tournaments around the globe.

“This competition is part of our globalization concept for our robotics program, which is in line with similar University goals,” said Amrhein. “We are partnered with global organizations and because of those partnerships, the things that we do are advertised globally.

People from all parts of the world can see our robotics program, and hopefully that will impact recruitment and the prestige of both our program and the University.”

For more information, contact Mike Amrhein, co-director and outreach coordinator for NCRETE, at 724-938-5906 or amrhein@calu.edu.

Anti-Violence Program Set

male students at Cal U to have an open and honest discussion about their experiences with violence, hear from advocates who have created successful programs to prevent gun violence, and help to form a plan for their campus community.

The event is being sponsored by Cal U Men United, a newly formed mentoring group that supports the growth, development and achievement of men of color as they strive to become men of character prepared to take an active role in the global community.

For more information, contact Dr. Lisa McBride at 724-938-4104 or mcbride@calu.edu.
PASSHE Board of Governors OKs Funding Request

T he Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) has approved a 2011-2012 state appropriation request of $482.6 million.

The request seeks the restoration of soon-to-expire federal stimulus funding with state dollars and would place funding for the System at the level it was four years ago.

“This budget proposal is below our projections of costs for next year, but reflects the reality of significant state budget deficits for the foreseeable future,” said PASSHE Chancellor Dr. John C. Cavanaugh. “We are hopeful that the commonswealth’s fiscal picture improves enough over the next few months that we can receive an increase in our funding.

“The State System has been aggressive in implementing a number of significant cost-saving efforts in the last year to help address our budgetary and other challenges,” Dr. Cavanaugh continued. “These efforts include a voluntary retirement incentive program that was offered earlier this year and a system-wide academic program review.”

More than 250 eligible non-faculty PASSHE employees accepted the retirement incentive, which is expected to save the State System between $5 million and $8 million annually starting next year.

The program review, which also was completed earlier this year, led to the elimination of 15 programs in which no students were enrolled and the placement of another 56 low-enrolled programs in moratorium. A program that is placed in moratorium does not accept any new students, but continues in place until those in the program have graduated.

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In addition to the most recent cost-saving efforts, PASSHE has employed a variety of energy conservation programs and the development of cooperative programs and services across universities. Combined, these efforts have resulted in a decrease of more than $200 million in operating costs across the System since 2001.

A recent review of university operations by the Pappas Group, a nationally recognized higher education consulting company, concluded that any additional cost-cutting efforts would have only "modest" results, "primarily due to PASSHE's diligence in recent years to significantly reduce and/or minimize" its operating costs.

While all of the initiatives already undertaken have helped to ensure PASSHE universities can continue to offer the programs students want and need, they still are not enough to match the expected budget increases “over which we have no control,” said Board of Governors Chairman Kenneth M. Jarin.

The proposed budget includes expected near-double-digit increases in the cost of employee benefits and utilities in 2011-2012.

PASSHE universities saw their utility rates increase significantly at the beginning of this year with the expiration of electric generation rate caps. The remaining 10 universities will experience the same thing in January 2011.

The proposed budget does not include any provision for salary increases for PASSHE employees. The State System currently is negotiating with all of its labor unions — which represent nearly 90 percent of PASSHE employees — whose contracts will expire June 30, 2011.

Meteorology Club Named Chapter of the Year

F or the second time in four years the Cal U Meteorology Club has received the Chapter of the Year Award from the National Weather Association.

NWA President Steve Zubrick presented the award to student members and faculty advisor Dr. Chad Kauffman at the University’s 35th annual meeting, held last month in Tucson, Ariz.

The club — the NWA’s Three Rivers Chapter — was recognized for exemplary outreach, mentoring and science-sharing activities that have significantly raised the awareness of weather and the NWA in both the community and the region.

“Obviously, this is a tremendous honor and a tribute to our students’ hard work and commitment,” Kauffman said. “At the conference they participated in a wide variety of activities, and I believe their successful involvement showcased why they so deserved of the Chapter of the Year Award.”

Club members initially participated in a student conference where professional meteorologists reviewed their resumes and engaged them in mock job interviews.

Students James Nieder, Dustin Snare, Steven Michel and Katelyn Welsh gave two presentations to the entire audience. Their talks highlighted Geographic Information System-based flash-flood research done in collaboration with Bob Davis of the NOAA-National Weather Service in Pittsburgh.

“The presentations were both well-received by the audience, and other NWS offices around the country are interested in potentially having these students work with their data sets,” said Kauffman, who also served as a session chair for other research presentations on the first day of the conference.

Two days later, Snare, Nieder and Eric Beamesderfer gave the daily weather briefing to the entire conference. The Cal U trio had to deliver a professional-grade analysis of the current atmospheric scenario and use numerical simulations to make a forecast.

“This was quite an undertaking, considering that almost everyone in the audience was a professionally trained atmospheric scientist,” Kauffman said. “Our students did well, and I received excellent feedback from professors at Missouri and Keane (N.J.) universities.”

“It really was a great honor, and it just shows how hard our whole club is working to attain a higher goal,” said Snare, the chapter president. “We have made some great contacts in the past couple of years and have started some activities and events within our club that will hopefully be continued and improved for years to come.”

Heather Dominik assisted with the registration desk at the conference. Other participating students were David Fischer, Chad Philistine, Amber Hill and Emanuel Janisch.

Cal U’s meteorology students are preparing to attend January’s annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Seattle, Wash. At that event, Welsh, Tim Lahmers and Chris Werner will present research posters and Dominik, Brittany Petrella and Karly Bittura will serve as student assistants.

SITES Exhibition Nears Conclusion

T he Working White House: 200 Years of Tradition and Memories is on display through Sunday in the Manderino Gallery.

The exhibition, which features the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) was developed with and supported by the White House Historical Association (WHHA), with assistance from the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

All SITES exhibitions at Cal U are open to the public. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and 2-6 p.m. Sunday.

The exhibition gives exhibit visitors a rare view of the inner workings of America’s most renowned residence through the experiences, firsthand accounts and one-of-a-kind artifacts of the largely unrecognized people crucial to the everyday lives of the country’s first families

For more information call exhibitions coordinator Walter Czekaj at 724-938-5244 or send an email to czekaj@calu.edu.

Campaign Stop: Cal U

One day before the Nov. 2 election, U.S. Rep. Mark Critz (D-12th District) makes a campaign stop on campus, where he spoke with sixth grade students from Manallen Elementary School and their teacher, alumna Beth Morgan ’94. As Cal U student Michael Michalko studies in the foreground, students Austin Beach (seated left) and his brother, Bryce Beach (seated right in background), greet the incumbent congressman, who defeated his GOP challenger the following day.

From left: Dr. Chad Kauffman, David Fischer, Chad Philistine, Katelyn Welsh, Dustin Snare, James Nieder (holding plaque), Eric Beamesderfer, Amber Hill, Emanuel Janisch, Heather Dominik and NWA President Steve Zubrick.

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Basketball Teams Rank High in Preseason Polls

I f pre-season polls are any indication, the final season of college basketball in Hamer Hall could be a memorable one.

For the second consecutive year, Cal U’s women’s basketball team was selected as the preseason favorite to finish atop the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) West standings in a vote by the league coaches.

The men’s team was picked to finish a strong third. They open their season tonight by hosting Penn State-Fayette at 7 p.m.

Under the direction of second-year head coach Mark Swasey, Cal U’s women’s team received four of the eight first-place votes, while IUP and Gannon were tabbed for second and third place, respectively. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own team.

The Vulcans return three starters from a team that finished 24-8 overall last season and reached the PSAC championship game for an unprecedented 10th consecutive season. Cal U also made a ninth straight NCAA Division II tournament appearance before being eliminated in the regional semifinals.

In alphabetical order, the student-athletes are Danielle Easton, Alyson Shaheen and McKenzie, Randi Miller, Jami Otter, Amanda Wallace.

Eleven Vulcan players also were named Girls Got Game/NFCA Scholar-Athletes for achieving a GPA of 3.50 or higher last academic year.

In alphabetical order, the student-athletes are Danielle Easton, Alyson Shaheen and McKenzie, Randi Miller, Jami Otter, Amanda Wallace. Ten Vulcans were honored for earning their degrees.

“We also have an outstanding academic support system for our student-athletes here at California University.”

Last spring, Cal U’s softball team went 37-14 overall and won its 13th PSAC-West title. The Vulcans made their 16th NCAA tournament appearance in 17 years and placed second at the Atlantic Region.

Campus BRIEFS

Earth Science Trio Gives Presentations

Dr. Kyle Fredrick, Thomas Katlin and Samuel Ambrose, faculty members in the department of Earth Sciences, gave presentations at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America.

More than 6,000 scientists attended the meeting, “Reaching New Peaks in Geoscience,” from Oct. 31-Nov. 3 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.

Established in 1888, the society promotes the professional growth of earth scientists at all levels of expertise and from all sectors: academia, government, business and industry.

Katlin’s presentation emphasized student perspectives on undergraduate research in solitary faculty programs, while Fredrick focused on defining the unique challenges of developing and conducting research within a single-faculty geology program.

Ambrose’s topic was the hydrogeometric processes in hill slopes, rivers and landscapes. He discussed fracture correlation of the Pottsville Sandstone with the Youghiogheny River Course through Ohiopyle State Park.

Lonich Speaks at Conference

Dr. Sam Lonich, chairman of the Psychology Department, was a featured speaker at a Nov. 4 suicide prevention conference held at the Four Points Sheraton near Greensburg, Pa.

ParentWISE and the Westmoreland County Suicide Prevention Task Force hosted the conference, where Lonich discussed cyber-bullying, a growing problem among children and teens.

Lonich proposed that school programs focus on the bully, not just the victim, and he emphasized that social training at the elementary school level would significantly help mitigate the increase in bullying on the Internet.

Other speakers were from Westmoreland County Behavioral Health and Development Services and the Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration.

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