Popular Panel to Examine Election Results

Just two weeks after Pennsylvania voters choose their next governor, a panel of political experts will examine the election and its results at the 2010 Election Analysis Forum.

Jon Delano, money and politics editor for KDKA-TV, will serve as moderator for the event at 7 p.m. Nov. 16 in Room 110 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center. Delano and the panel last appeared at Cal U in March for a lively look at the first year of the Obama presidency.

Returning as panelists are William Binning, professor emeritus of political science at Youngstown State University; Louis Jacobson, staff writer for Pulitzer Prize-winning PolitiFact and a frequent contributor to Politics PA.com; Costas Panagopoulos, director of the Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy at Fordham University; and Daniel Shea, director of the Center for Political Participation at Allegheny College.

“This is an excellent opportunity to hear three outstanding scholars who write on parties and elections, along with a Beltway journalist, discuss and analyze the gubernatorial and Congressional election outcomes,” said Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg, a professor of political science and campus director of the American Democracy Project at Cal U. “This is a ‘must’ event for anyone interested in politics.”

The forum is part of the American Democracy Project (ADP), a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education’s role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens. This will be the third election analysis forum at Cal U since the 2008 presidential election.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs, the Department of History and Political Science, and Cal Campaign Consultants.

For more information, e-mail Blumberg at blumberg@calu.edu.

New Center Supports Community Service

Diane Williams wants to enhance the exemplary service work done by Cal U students.

As director of Cal U’s newly created Center for Community Service and Civic Engagement, she also wants to document their efforts.

“The center and I are here to serve as a resource for the students,” said Williams, who joined the Cal U staff in mid-October. “My goal is to communicate with community agencies and organizations that do service and be the liaison between them and the students. I want to help benefit both communities.”

“Cal U students do so much community service already,” she added. “Whether they do community service through student government, Greek organizations or our athletic teams, it’s going to flow in here. I will keep track of the overall hours for our campus.”

The student-oriented center reflects Goal 8 of the University’s Strategic Plan, which calls for the University to foster civic engagement. Establishing an office for community service is an explicit element of the plan.

Through a grant from AmeriCorps Community Fellows program, 10 Cal U students already have committed to 300 service hours over the course of the academic year. The purpose of the program is to address compelling community needs in the areas of college access and success, while developing college students as active citizens.

Any student who is interested in doing service work should contact the center, Williams said.

“Come in here and talk to me,” she urged.

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Vulcans to Play on Penguins’ Home Ice

Cal U’s partnership with the Pittsburgh Penguins will bring the Vulcans hockey teams to the new, state-of-the-art Consol Energy Center on Thursday.

A pre-game reception for alumni and University friends will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. in the Cal U Conference Center, located inside the new facility. Then fans can cheer for the Vulcans as the women’s team faces Penn State at 6 p.m. and the men face off with Robert Morris at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available on game night at the Consol Energy Center box office. Cost is $8 for general admission seating. Cal U students are admitted free with a valid CalCard.

Buses will take fans from Cal U to the Consol Energy Center at 3 and 5 p.m. Students may register at the information desk inside the Natal Student Center.

As part of the activities, the Cal U teams will pay tribute to John Barbosa ’69, ’72 before the women’s game and honor Patrick McIlvain prior to the men’s game.

Barbosa, the longtime public-address announcer for the Pittsburgh Penguins, recently lost his battle with an inoperable brain tumor. McIlvain is a former Cal U hockey player who enlisted in the military and was critically wounded while in combat in Afghanistan.

Adding to the festivities will be the Cal U cheerleaders and dance team, the Penguins’ Iceburgh mascot and more.

Cal U is the official education partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the hockey teams have participated in fundraising events at the Pens arena, said Jamison Roth, Cal U hockey’s general manager and the University’s director of sports clubs.

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Giving Thanks

Nearly 500 guests attended the 14th annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner held Oct. 28 in Gallagher Hall. “This evening is very special,” said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. “We are here to honor our students and the donors who contribute to their education.”

President Armenti pointed out that Cal U is blessed to have such hard-working, committed and dedicated students, and he said the same holds true for the donors. “Our donors have all chosen to make a difference in the life of a student,” he said. The Scholarship Recognition Dinner is an annual event designed to give students an opportunity to thank their benefactors. “These people care so deeply about California University and our students that they have donated a significant portion of their hard-earned money to invest in your future,” the President told the scholarship recipients. “You earned that trust, and you deserve their support and faith. Tonight, you have the opportunity to share a meal with them and thank them, personally, for their benevolence.”

For giving opportunities, call 724-938-5775.

Women’s, Men’s Hockey Teams to Play on Pens’ Home Ice

The team’s leading scorer in each of the past two seasons, Juha helped the Vulcans win the Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey Conference Division III title in the program’s initial season in 2008-2009. The team was the conference runner-up in the regular season and post-season a year ago at the Division I level. The team’s first-year head coach is Gregg Kaminski. “It’s a privilege and very exciting to play at the new arena, which will be the first time I’ve seen it,” Juha said. “Our women’s program has accomplished so much right away, and I don’t think people thought we would have. “To be picked to play in this arena just adds to it. I can’t wait.”
eight Cal U students displayed their knowledge of wildlife ecology at the 17th annual national conference of the Wildlife Society held last month in Snow bird, Utah.

For the fourth consecutive year, Cal U competed in the conference’s Quiz Bowl, an undergraduate competition that requires quick, accurate answers. Some are broad ecology questions, some of them are wildlife techniques, history of the Wildlife Society, and some of them are what I call the ‘ologies’ — identification basically of living organisms such as dendrology, etiology, ornithology and basically identifying trees, grasses, reptiles amphibians, mammals, birds and so on,” said Dr. Carol Bocetti, the group’s adviser.

A total of 17 schools competed in the single-round elimination. Cal U’s team won in the first two rounds and advanced to the semifinals before losing in overtime to defending champion Texas A&M.

Because the students spent the summer at off-campus internships or tech jobs, there really was no training for the conference until the team arrived in Utah, Bocetti said. In contrast, winning school Humboldt (Calif.) State University offers a for-credit class on preparing for the Quiz Bowl.

The other semifinalist was Penn State University.

“You basically know it or you don’t,” Bocetti said of the Quiz Bowl questions. “We did assign topics to students who were on the team. We reviewed briefly when the semester started and spent our evenings at the conference going over books, field guides and manuals.”

Student Mark Lazaran was the Quiz Bowl captain; team members were Kevin Hagerman, Matthew Maleseic and Jacob Kerr. Also attending the conference were Courtney Smay, Greg Parks, Maureen Wood and Frank Christopher.

“It was pretty awesome,” said Lazaran, a fisheries and wildlife major who expects to graduate in May. “We were just a small school going against huge schools, and we were not supposed to do so well. So we were surprised and obviously felt pretty good about how we did.”

Bocetti said the program’s active fieldwork played a significant role in the Quiz Bowl success. She credited colleague Dr. Robert Whyte for also providing many off-campus projects for the students.

“All four of the competing members had done internships or tech jobs where they were placed in a position through our network,” Bocetti said. “I think the strength of our program is the hands-on experience we provide, and our showing at the Quiz Bowl was a positive reflection of the students and our program.”

Other activities

During a plenary session about diversity within the profession, Lazaran presented an idea to the Wildlife Society’s executive council: Why not conduct a demographic study of students and professional participants at the conference to get a better understanding of where members’ interests lie?

“Mark’s idea was brilliant, and it stimulated an hour-long discussion among the council,” said Bocetti. “We need to get the students to commit to the rigorous technology of the profession. Mark’s idea and additional data collected will help the Wildlife Society respond by bringing the technical aspect down to the student level.”

All the Cal U students participated in a student breakfast, where ideas about fundraising, field activities and service projects are shared. As a result of the discussions, Cal U was asked to write two “tool kits” about student activity to be used by all the student chapters.

“At these conferences, the feedback I got was that many schools are impressed with the amount and quality of activity that we do,” Bocetti said.

The Cal U wildlife students also were planning to compete at a conclave of the Wildlife Society’s Northeast Region this spring at State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill. At this smaller version of the national conference, Cal will participate in workshops, Quiz Bowl and field competitions.

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) set the ninth straight enrollment record this fall, with nearly 120,000 students taking classes at the 14 state-owned universities.

The 2,576-student increase over last fall’s total marks the 14th consecutive year of higher enrollment for PASSHE. A total of 119,513 full- and part-time students are enrolled in classes this semester. Nearly 90 percent are Pennsylvania residents.

PASSHE remains the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth.

“PASSHE universities, with their commitment to student success, continue to be popular destinations for students,” said PASSHE Chancellor Dr. John C. Cavanaugh. “Our universities offer a unique combination of quality and affordability that results in an average of higher education in the nation and is significantly lower than the amount charged by other institutions in the Mid-Atlantic region, according to the College Board’s most recent survey of college costs.

PASSHE’s Board of Governors has limited tuition increases in recent years to help ensure the universities remain affordable. Annual increases have been below the rate of inflation in four of the last six years. The total overall increase over the past five years has been among the lowest in the nation, according to an annual survey conducted by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board.

While seeking to keep costs affordable, PASSHE universities are continually enhancing their academic programs, the vast majority of which are accredited by professional organizations nationally.

Several of the universities, including Cal U, have been recognized recently for their quality and value by such well-respected publications as The Princeton Review.

First Lady Says ‘Thank You’ for Support of AHA Campaign

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I wish to thank the faculty and staff for your interest and generosity to the annual AHA campaign. I deeply appreciate it.

The annual Heart Walk in Washington County occurred on Oct. 2, and Cal U’s Heart Walk took place on Oct. 16 during the Homecoming parade. Approximately 36 walkers participated in the walk and more than $6,000 was raised.

Students and staff representing different campus organizations and several departments participated in this event through contributions and/or by participating in the walk. They include the offices of Lifelong Learning, Personnel and Elementary Education; the men’s and women’s rugby teams; the Strength and Conditioning Club; the council for Exceptional Children; men’s basketball; Alpha Lambda Delta; Acacia Fraternity; Alpha Kappa Lambda; Sigma Kappa; the cheerleaders and dance team; Phi Sigma Sigma; Theta Xi; Alpha Sigma Alpha; Sigma Tau Gamma; Alpha Phi Omega; the Black Student Union; Phi Sigma Pi; the Technology Education Association of California; and student government.

Also, a special thanks to committee members Mike Amthor, Karen Posa, Rendie Settles, Joy Heihel, Melissa Diane, Nicole Arthur, Lauren Vitt, Nicole Price and Shelby Clever.

On behalf of the American Heart Association, thank you, thank you and thank you!

Barbara M. Armenti
First Lady, California University of Pennsylvania
Kovalchick said. “I see very elite company in this Duke O’Hara. He was nominated for the Hall of Fame Elmo Natali, Don Maines coach Ted Nemeth and junior, Kovalchick was a member of the 1951 team, defensive back who also played halfback, in 1952. As a Vladimer.

brother Ted and sister Mary convinced me not to work on his own accomplishments. said, and baseball helped him to complete his degree. Vulcan baseball team. From 1949-1952 he made his name as a Hall of Fame inductees. Throughout the fall, the Journal has profiled each of 2010 Diane Service. Earning Hall of Fame honors has brought back Kovalchick batted over .330 in each of this first He dedicated his award to another brother, Vladimir.

Kovalchick batted over .330 in each of this first three seasons before batting .401 in his senior year, a mark he reached by bunting out two hits in the season finale. On the gridiron, Kovalchick was a starting defensive back who also played halfback, in 1952. As a junior, Kovalchick was a member of the 1951 team, which competed in the prestigious Pyhian Bowl. Earning Hall of Fame honors has brought back fond memories for Kovalchick, who recalled teammates and fellow inductees such as Mitch Bailey, Elmo Natali, Don Maines coach Ted Nemeth and Duke O’Hara. He was nominated for the Hall of Fame by longtime Cal U professor George Novak.

“The dedication to the Hall of Fame is something I never thought about in my wildest dreams,” Kovalchick said. “I see very elite company in this induction class alone, and it’s overwhelming. It was an honor just for George to think about me and nominate me.”

Following his final season on the baseball team, Kovalchick played second base for a semiprofessional team in Kingsley, Iowa. "To get paid anything to play baseball was incredible to me, because I would have done it for nothing," Kovalchick said. He tried out with the Pittsburgh Pirates and Brooklyn Dodgers but bypassed an invitation to the Pirates’ rookies training camp in order to continue student teaching, maintain his student deferment from military service, and complete his bachelor’s degree in education with an emphasis on industrial arts.

“I think everyone has that point in life where you need to make an important or painstaking decision, and that was for me,” he said. “I loved baseball, and putting on the Pirates uniform and taking infield drills with the utility players was a thrill, but I made the right decision.”

Once he graduated, the U.S. Army drafted Kovalchick. He served 16 months in Korea before being discharged in August 1955 with the rank of corporal. Just days after returning to the United States, Kovalchick began teaching at Bel Air Junior High School in Harford County, Md., along with his wife, Dolores ’53. The couple married in 1953, and together they raised three children — Karen, Tom and Mike. She passed away in 1999. He taught for 36 years before retiring as Bel Air’s television and audiovisual coordinator.

While teaching, Kovalchick earned a master’s degree from the University of Maryland. “At Maryland, both my master’s degree adviser and the heads of the industrial arts department were also graduates of California,” Kovalchick said. “That just showed me the kind of teachers California produces. I received an outstanding education.” Originally from Philadelphia, Pa., which is now part of the Cal U campus, Kovalchick was a 1948 graduate of East Pine Run High School, where he served as class president. The multi-sport star was part of that high school’s last graduating class before East Pine Run merged into the California school district. Despite making his mark in Maryland, Kovalchick marvels at his collegiate alma mater’s growth. “Oh my goodness, every time I come home there’s something new to see,” he said. “When I went to college we did not even have 1,000 students. I think it’s great.”