After almost two months, the Cal U community is “settling in” to a new system of paid parking, campus officials say.

“We have heard some good things from commuters,” said Chris Johnston, director of the Department of Parking and Transportation. “They like the convenience of knowing which lot they can park in and not having to search for a spot. It also has decreased vehicular traffic on campus since people aren’t driving around looking for a parking space.”

“It is exciting to see how the campus community has transitioned to our new system over the past few months,” said Robert Thorn, interim vice president for administration and finance.

“No change of this magnitude can be implemented without some challenges. I believe we are nearly through most of those challenges, and over the course of this year we will be working to refine our parking and transportation strategies in order to provide enhanced customer service to our campus community.”

Faculty, staff and students had the chance to pre-register in June to identify their parking preferences. Paid parking began Aug. 30.

The University has 3,265 parking spaces on the main and south campuses. Spaces were not “oversold,” so that everyone who purchased a parking hangtag could be assured of having a parking space.

There are 705 spaces at Roadman Park on the south campus, and as of mid-October, 260 were still available in Lot 24. All the spaces on the main campus have been sold.

“It’s important to realize that the permits have been sold” even in lots that may not appear to be full at certain times, Johnston explained. Not everyone who purchased a permit will be on campus at the same time.

**Collecting data**

To gauge parking patterns, counts are conducted six times a day in every lot — a process that will continue throughout the spring semester. This will help the parking office to determine how many more spaces may be sold.

“The University has invested in technology that is allowing us to collect data and monitor a lot of things, and we are gathering as much hard data as we can to predict the performance of various lots,” Johnston said.

“We need time to make decisions based on that data. We have to be very careful in determining how many more permits can be sold without causing problems.”

Johnston said Vulcan Garage, with 660 total spaces and 375 set aside for hourly parking, is averaging 616 cars per day.

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**Students, Staff Take Advantage of Flyers**

The Vulcan Flyer fleet, which runs between the main campus and the south campus at Roadman Park, “has added dependable and timely transportation service to our overall parking strategy at Cal U,” says Robert Thorn, vice president for administration and finance at Cal U.

Here are some updates about the new transportation system at Cal U:

- Six Vulcan Flyer buses are now in service. Chris Johnston, director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, reported they are running on time — every 10 minutes during peak hours and every 15 during non-peak times. He rides the Flyers periodically and says impromptu meetings have been held during the ride to the main campus, and groups of employees are riding down together, building camaraderie.
- From Aug. 30 to Oct. 12, an average of 1,597 people per day have ridden the Flyers, for a total of 70,268 riders.
- GPS tracking, currently available through the Next Bus application on iPhones and iPod Touches and soon to be available on other smart phones, shows when the next shuttle is due to arrive. The system gives administrators even more information, such as the current number of riders and the speeds of the Flyers.
- Johnston reported that many students who live in Vulcan Village are using the Flyers to come to the main campus. “Some students are saying they haven’t had to move their cars from Vulcan Village all semester,” Johnston said.
- As of mid-October, nine students have subscribed to the Zipcar service at www.zipcar.com/calu. The cars are parked on Hickory Street between residence halls A and B.
- Students also are taking advantage of the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (www.mmvta.com), which offers several routes that serve the main and south campuses with service to local shopping areas.
- Beginning Nov. 1, Johnston said a River Lot shuttle service will begin to pick up riders at each of the two shelters in Lot 4 and make a loop around Heisel Hall. Service may be expanded in the spring.

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**Text Alerts Give Timely Warning**

Campus officials are urging students, faculty and staff to register for text alerts in the wake of the tragic event on Oct. 17.

A Pittsburgh man, 18-year-old Jaron Grayson, was fatally shot at an apartment building on Mechanic Street in California Borough. A Cal U student also was injured.

Less than 24 hours after the shooting, Washington County District Attorney Steven Toprani announced that Keith Edward Jones, 19, of Monessen, had been arrested and charged with criminal homicide and other crimes. He was jailed without bond on Oct. 18.

As soon as news of the crime could be verified, campus officials acted quickly to notify students, faculty and staff. The University issued a text alert; sent an alert via e-mail to all members of the campus community, and posted the crime alert on the University website. Flyers with information about the crime also were posted.

The crime alert was issued out of concern for student safety and in compliance with the Student Rights-to-Know and Campus Security Act, passed into law in 1990. The law requires colleges
Survey Says ... Students Glad They Chose Cal U

Open Houses to Help Adults, Nation Reach Goals

Alumni Return for Homecoming

Recital Series Opens Tomorrow
Manderson Library is offering two workshops designed to help voters make informed decisions on Election Day.

Bill Meloy, an assistant professor in the Department of Library Services, will lead 30-minute sessions at 11 a.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Nov. 1 in Room 208 in the library. Election Day is Nov. 2.

Thursday’s session is “On the Campaign Trail,” and the Nov. 1 workshop is “Stop the Spin and Find Nonpartisan Resources to Help You Decide Whom to Vote for on Nov. 2.”

“I’ll be taking workshop attendees through some hands-on searching to find local voting information, including where and when to vote, checking on registration status, and so on,” said Meloy, who also serves as a reference librarian and the serials collection manager.

All faculty, students and staff may attend.

Spaghetti Served on Election Day

A part of the 2010 SECA fundraising campaign, “Give Hope Today, Build a Better Tomorrow,” a spaghetti-and-meatballs lunch will be offered from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 2 — Election Day — at the Performance Center. Cost is $6.50; the meal includes salad, dessert and beverage. All proceeds are donated to SECA, the State Employees Combined Appeal.

Dine-in and take-out options will be available. Take-out tickets must be purchased in advance. All ticket-holders will be eligible for a chance to win a door prize.

SECA serves as an umbrella for nine major organizations that support local, regional or international charities. A parent organization of the SECA/Cal U drive is the United Way of Mon Valley. This organization’s president for a fourth term is Cal U’s First Lady, Barbara Armenti.

To purchase a lunch ticket and support the annual SECA campaign, contact either Dana Turic (turic(at)calu.edu) or Norm Hasbrouck (hasbrouck(calu.edu)).

Cal U Adjusting Well to New Parking Plan

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Faculty, staff and students should continue to manage their parking options at www.calu.edu/parking.

This data will be used to help make decisions on lot capacities.

Manage Your Account

Johnston also emphasized that faculty, staff and students should continue to manage their parking options at www.calu.edu/parking. Drivers can add cars to their parking accounts and place themselves on waiting lists for other lots, among other options.

A “parking lab” is open during normal University business hours on the first floor of Manderson Library to help explain the wait list process or other parking concerns.

Johnston says there are about 1,400 names on a wait list for parking permits. Some of those people who already have permits and are managing their accounts to access more desirable lots.

The University has hired two parking enforcement officers — visible in their red, environmentally “green” Smart cars — who work closely with University Police.

As of Oct. 13, Johnston said, 995 tickets or citations had been issued — 611 warnings and 384 tickets.

“Enforcement is important to ensure that people who have paid for a space have a space,” he said. “It’s not about generating revenue. Enforcement is meant to change behavior.”

Johnston says the Parking and Transportation Department is gearing up for the first set of parking registration renewals for those who are paying by the semester. That phase likely will begin in late November and run through early December.

“(Registration renewals are) going to be a constant process, which is why it is so important for people to continue to monitor their parking accounts,” Johnston emphasized.

“I know how important parking is to people,” he added. “As an alumnus, I know the impact parking has on a guest who may be coming to campus for the first time. We are striving to make the necessary improvements and constantly improve the process.”

Concerns:

Many cars come to campus for these functions.

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Singer to Perform, Discuss GLBTO Issues

E ntertainer, educator and activist Gaye Adegbalola will discuss her personal struggles for equality when she makes a return visit to Cal U in November.

She will present “Gay Rights vs. Civil Rights” from 1:1-5:00 pm and 5-5:50 pm. Nov. 3 in Dixon Hall 327. On Nov. 4, she will present “History of Women in the Blues” in two sessions from 12-3:30-15.5 in the Performance Center. These presentations are open to faculty, staff and students.

Also on Nov. 4, Adegbalola will perform a neo-classic blues concert with accompanist Roddy Barnes beginning at 7 p.m. in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. This free concert is open to the public as well as the Cal U community.

“We are so pleased to have the opportunity to bring Ms. Adegbalola back to Cal U to present on her life experience and vast knowledge of the civil rights movement and the similarities and differences with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender movement,” said Sheleta Webb, a resident director and coordinator of the Cal U Safe Zone Program. She also advises the Rainbow Alliance, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender student organization.

“She is the United Way of Mon Valley . This organization’s president for a fourth term is Cal U’s First Lady, Barbara Armenti.

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Text Alerts Offer Timely Warning

— Continued from page 1

and universities to issue a “timely warning” about crimes that may present a threat to the campus community.

“Text alerts are the most immediate way for students, faculty and staff to receive notification if a dangerous situation arises,” said Dr. Lenora Angelone, vice president for Student Affairs. “We want to be sure that our students, and others in the campus community, have the timely information they need.

We want everyone to be safe.”

The annual registration process for Cal U Text Alerts also should be a reminder to work with family members to develop or update a Family Emergency Plan, Angelone said.

“The Family Emergency Plan is an excellent way that students and their families have discussed and documented how they will communicate their safety and location in the event of an emergency,” she explained.

To find a simple and easy template, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website, www.ready.gov/america/ and click on “Make a Plan.”

Members of the campus community can find the Cal U Alert registration form by clicking “Quick Links” on the Cal U website, www.calu.edu. Updates and links to campus safety information can be found in the News carousel on the homepage.
WVolleyball Star Travels from China for Banquet

DingDing Lu lives in Beijing, China, but she was not going to let a few thousand miles prevent her from attending Cal U’s annual Hall of Fame banquet.

“First of all, it is such an honor for me to be inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame 2010 class,” she said. “I had to change a lot of plans, but I realized this was something too big and too important to miss.”

Lu — a four-time, first-team, all-conference middle hitter for the women’s volleyball team from 2000-2003 — traveled nearly 11,500 miles last week to return to her alma mater.

During her college career, Lu was a three-year American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and two-time Dakotans all-region selection. In her final year on the team, she helped the 2000 Vulcans and former head coach Limin Jin achieve the program’s first NCAA Division II post-season appearance. The team won 27 matches, in highest single-season victory output in seven seasons. Cal won the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional championship with three tenure victories over East Stroudsburg (3-1), Edinboro (3-2) and Lock Haven (3-1) universities. After overcoming deficits in both the semifinals and finals, the Vulcans wrapped up the crown with a 15-3 game four victory at defending champion Lock Haven.

Lu was named to the regional all-tourney team, and Cal advanced to the NCAA II Elite Eight. The team moved on to the semifinals after sweeping Pace (N.Y.) University 3-0 in the national quarterfinals.

The historic season ended with a 3-0 defeat to eventual national champion Hawaii Pacific University.

This remains the furthest a Cal U volleyball team has advanced nationally. Lu led the NCAA Division II in hitting percentage (.446) that season.

A consistent player, Lu helped the Vulcans achieve four consecutive winning seasons, and she set the groundwork for future success. The program’s last losing season in volleyball was in 1995; heading into 2010, the volleyball team has won the past three consecutive conference and regional championships.

Lu played her final two seasons for coach Melissa Myers, who was at Cal from 2002-2007 and now is the head coach at Illinois State. Lu praised both coaches and lauded Jin for recruiting her for two years.

“Both (coaches) took the program to a new level, and both made school history,” she said. “Off the court they pushed all players on their education. I admire the hard work and efforts they had for Cal U. My experience of playing volleyball at Cal U would not be this (successful) without them.”

Always among the PSAC leaders, Lu finished her career owning the single-season record in kills, with 579 in 2003 — a total that still ranks second. Her hitting percentage as a freshman remains the school standard. Lu’s 141 blocks in 2000 and her 52 service aces in 2003 still rank fifth and sixth, respectively. Lu’s 463 total blocks remain a school record, and her previous school career records of 156 service aces and 1,803 kills are second and third, respectively, even seven years later. She played in 446 career games, the eighth highest total in school history.

Lu is the second volleyball player to earn Cal U’s highest athletic honor, joining standout standout Jackie Wilson ’93, a 2002 Hall of Fame inductee.

“Not being the first one to be chosen from the volleyball program shows that players before me also put great effort in,” Lu said. “Undoubtedly, new players will understand that as long as they keep working hard, their achievement will be recognized by the school, and they will have the same chance to receive this wonderful award.”

Lu said she is pleased about the team’s continued improvement. “I am very happy to see that Cal U has become such a strong team in the region, and I am proud of being part of the team that started the turnaround,” she said.

Lu earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, both in business administration, from Cal U in 2004 and 2006.

“As a foreign student, I shared a different language, lifestyle and way of thinking with local students,” Lu reflected. “During my stay at Cal U, I learned how to interact and communicate with them, and I also learned to be tolerant and understanding. These are important parts of the wealth in my life.”

Cal U Hosts Coal Bowl Saturday

A second consecutive Coal Bowl trophy and possibly a third straight PSAC West Division title will be on the line for the Cal U football team Saturday when the Vulcans host rival IUP. Kickoff at Hepner-Bailey Field at Adamson Stadium is set for 1 p.m. This year’s Coal Bowl will be broadcast live by WPWC-TV.

As part of the pre-game festivities, Chris Higbee (formerly of the California Journal) will be interviewed by the Versailles High School marching band as part of the pre-game festivities. The game will also include the Versailles High School Marching Band, the Cal U Marching Band, the Cal U Drumline and the Cal U Athletic Trainers.

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