California University of Pennsylvania will host an appearance by talk radio host Glen Meakem at 11 a.m. Sept. 28 in Room 110 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center on the Cal U campus.

Meakem’s talk, Help Save the American Dream: We Need You is free and open to the public. Visitors may park in the Vulcan Garage, near the campus entrance.

Known for his conservative views, the speaker has hosted The Glen Meakem Program on radio since 2008. It reaches listeners in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Meakem is an entrepreneur who was the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of FreeMarkets Inc., a business-to-business Internet company that helped Global 1000 companies save money by automating and improving their purchasing functions. He founded the company in 1995, took it public in 1999, and sold it to Ariba Inc. in 2004.

In 2005 he co-founded Meakem Becker Venture Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm headquartered in the Pittsburgh area. A trailblazer in electronic commerce, Meakem was named one of 40 technology pioneers by the World Economic Forum in 2003. He holds eight U.S. patents for electronic commerce inventions.

“Glen Meakem truly understands the role our American values play in achieving economic, professional, political and social success,” says Dr. Michael Hummel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at California University.

“Regardless of the profession we pursue, integrating these values into that process produces a synergistic effect: We reap more benefits than we originally planned for.”

The program at Cal U is co-sponsored by the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute, the American Democracy Project, the College of Liberal Arts and the Leadership Club. For more information, visit www.calu.edu.
Geology Students Study New England Terrain

Fredrick believes the exploration gives real-life visual examples to supplement standard course material. He also collects photos, rock samples and student accounts to enhance his introductory geology and mineralogy courses.

“You can tell students about the different types of beaches, but they don’t completely understand until they see and feel those beaches themselves,” he said.

“This course provides the opportunity to see things outside of Pennsylvania and gives students a visual reference throughout the program.”

Students first studied salt marshes and beach sediment composition in Cape Cod, Mass. Before leaving the state, they visited the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. The institute specializes in the understanding of the ocean and its interaction with the Earth system. It is the world’s largest private, nonprofit, research, engineering and education organization.

Students toured the research station and met three distinguished scientists who discussed their job responsibilities and educational background.

Another highlight of the field course was visiting Acadia National Park in Maine, where students hiked to the peak of Cadillac Mountain. Pushed up by the Earth’s volcanic forces millions of years ago, the mountain stands at 1,532 feet and is the highest point along the North Atlantic seaboard.

“Cadillac Mountain, we looked at some of the glacial erosion features and also got to see some of the rock-type variations across the island,” said Fredrick.

After viewing a 5 million-year-old fault line on the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont, the students camped for three days in New York’s Adirondack Mountains.

“They toured the Barton Garnet Mines to view road cuts of varying rocks, and visited Lake Placid before exiting their voyage at Niagara Falls.”

“After our return, a friend of mine reminded me how important it was to teach students the basics of camping,” said Fredrick. “When retrieving samples, many scientists hike to remote locations and set up camp by themselves. Hopefully, this experience will help to prepare my students for future careers in the field.”

Camping also helped to minimize the price of lodging for students. Cal U provided vans and absorbed the cost of food; students paid for food and lodging.

“The administration has been wonderful to work with,” said Fredrick. “They have never questioned the benefit of this course, or our use of the University’s vans.”

Last year, students drove from the Cal U campus to Wisconsin, into South Dakota, through Wyoming and finally to Idaho’s Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. The field course plans to visit the Colorado Plateau next summer.

If students continue the trips every year, they have the opportunity to study different parts of the country each time. “The students seemed to really enjoy it, and I think they all learned some important things about geology, their future career choices and also about themselves,” said Fredrick. “They seemed to develop a tight-knit bond that makes for a great learning environment back on campus.”

The participating students were Samuel Ambrose, Karen Babjak, Matthew Baird, Evan Bruce, David Danko, Tana Deklevar, Matthew Erkel, Joshua Greene, Nathan Hartman, Renee Jaxline, Matthew Miller, Chantelle Parrish, Andrew Tomcik and Kristen Wesolowsky.

Summer Institute a Success

Twenty-four teachers from 13 school districts attended the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) fifth annual Summer Institute last month to learn about teacher resources at the Library of Congress and how to integrate oral history into classroom instruction.

This year’s Summer Institute was held in collaboration with Intermediate Unit 1. The theme was “Teaching ‘Pop Culture’ Using Primary Sources: The Coca Cola Case Study.”

The two-credit course was designed to introduce teachers to Library of Congress online primary sources and teacher resources, and to show them how to use primary sources in conjunction with oral history to enhance classroom instruction.

The TPS program is housed in Cal U’s College of Education and Human Services. Affiliation with the program “enables Cal U to provide both pre-service and in-service teachers with high quality professional development opportunities, so they can remain current with leading educational trends,” said Dr. Kevin Kozny, dean of the College.

For more than six years, Cal U has been a member of the TPS Consortium, which includes just 24 institutional partners from 11 states.

“This exclusive membership not only gives us access to Library of Congress resources, it gives us opportunities to interact with some of the country’s finest institutions,” said Dr. Michael J. Brna, director of Cal U’s TPS program. “The result is a strong teacher professional development program that enhances our region’s educational network and enables us to share with our teachers the work of experts from across the nation.”

For more information about TPS teacher professional development opportunities, contact Brna at brna@calu.edu or 724-938-7430.
Veterans Use Road Trip to Raise Funds

Over Labor Day weekend, six members of the Cal U Veterans Club achieved victory for a good cause and then enjoyed the Vulcan football team’s exciting come-from-behind season-opening overtime win at Saginaw (Mich.) Valley State.

Robert Prah, club director and director of veterans affairs, made the trip to Saginaw with students and military veterans Joshua Furlong, Chris Gray, Josh Hager, Mike Lukas and Robert Marrone. On the way, they stopped at various American Legion halls and collected donations for Global Online graduate student Jacquelyn Syverson, whose husband, Maj. Paul Syverson, was killed in Iraq six years ago.

“She definitely could use the money,” said Prah, “and even though it’s been six years (since his death), something like this said Prah, “and even though it’s been six years, something like this ran with it and coordinated everything.”

“At the road trip, we wanted that we have not forgotten about her and her husband making the ultimate sacrifice.

“We also want it known that we support our online students, too. They are part of the Cal U family, even though they don’t come onto the campus.”

During the trip, the veterans posted entries on the American Legion’s national blog, and they were interviewed by the TV news crew from a local NBC affiliate.

“Josh Furlong spoke about what we were doing at each American Legion we visited, and they responded,” Prah said.

“I just reserved a van. ‘I thought of the world of Josh after this,’ he added. "He took this to heart, ran with it and coordinated everything." The Veterans Club hopes to present the money to Syverson on Veterans Day, Furlong said.

“We just wanted to take a trip and do something worthwhile,” he explained.

“The bigger thing is that we have guys coming out of Iraq or Afghanistan having problems, and to best help them we have to get back to being involved with the American Legion. These older guys have the resources and political connections to get us the help we need.”

The veterans raised more than $1,000 on their trip, and the donations have not stopped.

“Some of the American Legion groups are now contacting us, saying they want to make a donation specifically from their post,” Prah said. “On the trip we did not take donations from the whole organization but rather from individual members.”

The journey culminated with the Vulcans overcoming two double-digit deficits and defeating the host Cardinals, 42-41.

“It was a quick weekend with a lot of driving but for a good cause,” said Prah. “I’m proud of our people for stepping up.”

Wildlife Society Plans Field Day

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society will present its fifth annual Family Field Day from 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday in Frich Hall.

The public may attend this free event conducted in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Held rain or shine, the field day includes an archery demonstration, a fly-tying demonstration and casting contest, a display of animal tracks and scat, displays of wildlife and a lumberjack match featuring Cal U hockey team members at ringside.

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Wrestling Event Saturday

A professional wrestling event 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Holcombe Hall will benefit Cal U hockey teams and the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

Presented by the International Wrestling Cartel, “College Fightingest” will pit wrestling legend Tito Santana against Star 100.7 radio’s Bubba the Bulldog. In “College Fightfest” will pit wrestling legend Tito Santana against Star 100.7 radio’s Bubba the Bulldog. In addition, Shima Xion will take on Cal U alumnus and Uniontown native Jon Bolen ’90, an All-American nose tackle with the Vulcan football teams in the late 1990s. Other matches feature wrestlers including Mia Yim, Jimmy DeMarco, John McChesney and Shane Taylor.

A women’s tag team match will be held, along with a lumberjack match featuring Cal U hockey team members at ringside.

Cal U students with valid CalCards will be admitted free to general admission seating or pay $5 for ringside seats. Student tickets are available at the Natali Student Center Information Desk.

Tickets for the general public are available at the door, by phone at 412-995-7688 or online at www.svcs+wrestling.com. Adult tickets cost $10 for general admission or $15 for ringside seats; children younger than 10 pay $5 for general admission. The show is intended for mature audiences, and parental discretion is advised. Visitors may park in the Vulcan Garage, near the campus entrance.

Campus BRIEFS

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‘Christmas Carol’ Auditions Set

The Department of Theatre and Dance, along with the Mon Valley Dance Council, will audition singers and dancers for roles in 4 Christmas Carol, the Musical on Oct. 2 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Performers may audition for singing and/or dancing roles in this musical version of the holiday classic. Participants should dress appropriately and arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled audition times.

Male and female performers of all ages and ability levels are needed. Auditions are scheduled by age:

Ages 6-8: dance, 11 a.m.; singing, 11:55

Ages 9-12: singing, 11 a.m.; dance, 11:55

Ages 13-18: dance, 12:50 p.m.; singing, 1:35

Adults: singing, 12:50 p.m.; dance, 1:35

Performance dates will be Dec. 9-12. Dr. Michael Slavin will direct the musical, with choreography by Donna Marzoni.

For more information, call Cal U’s Department of Theatre and Dance at 724-938-4220.
Fifth Hall of Fame Sweetest for Hamer

Next month, Dale Hamer will be inducted into his fifth different Hall of Fame. The veteran official shares a laugh with former player Herschel Walker.

‘Options’ for Risky Behavior
— Continued from page 1

stops or standing in cafeterias lines, for example. George compared this endeavor to the national “Above the Influence” campaign.

“As the name indicates, Quick Hits will be very unannounced and over-the-top,” George said. “This will grab their attention and give students something to think about.”

During the program’s initial stages, George received recruiting help from residence hall Community Assistants and from the Peer Mentoring Program.

“They’ve been excellent,” George said. “Karen (Posa, director of Peer Mentoring) has helped in our recruitment phase and had some great ideas.”

George also praised PASSHE for implementing the Basics program — Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students — at all 14 state-owned universities.

“Cal U and all the other PASSHE schools are addressing alcohol and other drug issues in their strategic plans for a reason,” George said. “The productivity of all students while they go to school here — and potentially long beyond their years as college students — can be compromised by choices made now.”

Tennis Team Serves Academic Ace

Cal U’s women’s tennis team does as well in the classroom as it does on the court.

For the seventh consecutive year, the team was recognized as an Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-Academic Team.

Six players were honored as ITA Scholar-Athletes. Senior Tina Kowalski, a business administration major, earned ITA Scholar-Athlete status for the third straight year. In the Spring 2010 semester, the College Sports Information Directors of America also named her an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District II selection.

Juniors Assiele Fernandez and Marianna Oliveria both repeated as ITA Scholar-Athletes. Sophomores Jutta Bornefield and Jade Pondeca, and first-year player Julia Cohen, also received the honor.

With six ITA Scholar-Athletes, the team matches the program record set in 2006-2007.

The ITA All-Academic Team award for 2009-2010 was given to programs that had a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.20 or higher on a 4.00 scale.

To earn ITA Scholar-Athlete status, an individual player must be a varsity letter winner, have a grade-point average of 3.20 or higher on a 4.00 scale.

The team had a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.50 for the current academic year, and have been enrolled at Cal U for at least two semesters.

Under the guidance of ninth-year head coach Pablo Montana (165-49), the women’s tennis team has won four consecutive PSAC and NCAA Regional championships.

Senior Tina Kowalski earned ITA Scholar-Athlete status for the third straight season last spring while helping Cal U’s women’s tennis team win four straight PSAC and NCAA Regional titles.

The California Journal is published weekly by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.