Shale Panel Draws a Crowd

Students, faculty and some passionate community members filled Room 110 in Eberly Hall to hear a panel of experts and community leaders discuss the potential benefits and problems associated with drilling in the Marcellus shale formation.

Dr. John Confer, assistant professor in the Department of Earth Science; Dr. David Argent, chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Science; Dr. Pamela Twiss, chair of the Department of Social Work; Bracken Burns, Washington County commissioner; and Erika Staa, of PennEnvironment, each made presentations, followed by a question-and-answer session.

A screening of the documentary Gasland, which focuses on communities in the United States impacted by natural gas drilling, preceded the panel discussion on April 13.

The Marcellus shale formation runs a mile underground from New York to Tennessee. Experts say it could produce enough natural gas to supply the country for more than two decades.

One of the main concerns is the hydraulic fracturing — or “fracking” — of the rock in order to extract the gas. The process uses water, sand and a mixture that may contain toxic chemicals. The water that comes back out of a drill site also contains radioactive materials found naturally in the ground.

How to safely treat that water is one issue. Another is the potential for contamination of drinking water sources near well sites.

The panelists agreed that Marcellus drilling will continue, and that monitoring and enforcement of drilling regulations is not passing fancy in today’s energy-dependent society during an on-campus panel discussion about the environmental, social and economic impacts of this drilling.

Communications Expert Talks Politics

Communications expert Mark Weaver has advised Ronald Reagan and briefed the national press corps on high-profile prosecutions by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Now he’s bringing a new message — Attractive, Independent Voters: Banish Obama and John Boehner Are Stalking You — to Cal U.

Weaver will share his insights on the current political scene at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Room 116, Duda Hall, during a talk sponsored by the campus chapter of the American Democracy Project.

Weaver is a national communications expert with more than two decades of experience counseling clients at the national level and in 16 states. He has served as the deputy attorney general of Ohio, as assistant director of public affairs for the U.S. Department of Justice, and as a communications executive at firms in Washington, D.C., and the New York City area.

Throughout his career, Weaver has provided speech coaching, news media counsel and crisis communications services to public officials, major corporations, universities and nonprofit organizations.

An experienced First Amendment attorney, he has been interviewed by national media outlets including 60 Minutes, Nightline, CNN, FOX News, USA Today, the New York Times, the Washington Post, National Public Radio and Time magazine.

Weaver’s talk at Cal U is free and open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance.

The American Democracy Project (ADP) is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education’s role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens.

This ADP event is co-sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and by Cal Campaign Consultants.

Recycle it!

Cumulative weights collected during the RecycleMania competition, in pounds per person:

- Building A: 0.91
- Building B: 4.96
- Building C: 2.24
- Johnson Hall: 1.25
- Building E: 6.28
- Carter Hall: 1.52

Students Clean Up in Contest

What a bunch of garbage! That’s the reaction to the amount of waste — 3,096.5 pounds — recycled from Cal U’s six residence halls during RecycleMania, a national event that wrapped up April 2.

Students in each hall were challenged to recycle paper, plastic, aluminum and metal cans, and glass bottles and jars over an eight-week period.

This is the first year Cal U participated in RecycleMania, said Matthew Nebel, a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Affairs.

He worked with Ken Grzelak, assistant director for campus support services; Sharon Elktani, director of environmental health and safety; and community assistants from each hall on the program.

“It went surprisingly well,” Nebel said. “We really relied on the community assistants in each hall to get the students involved.”

Cal U competed in the Benchmark Division, which allows schools to include only a segment of the campus. Schools in this division do not compete for prizes at the national level.

Nebel said he would like to see Cal U participate in the Competition Division, which would include the entire campus, rank the University compared to other schools nationwide, and make Cal U eligible for prizes.

“I’d also like to see us compete against the other PASSHE schools,” he said.

In all, 1,499 students in the six residence halls were able to participate in RecycleMania. The winner was Building E, which collected 6.28 pounds for each of the 228 residents.

The hall celebrated with a progressive dinner on April 20, with each course being served on a different floor to encourage student interaction and a group celebration.
Brazile Calls for Civility, Participation

How will you create lasting change for generations to come? Author, syndicated columnist and TV political commentator Donna Brazile posed this question when she delivered the keynote address at a conference focusing on environmental responsibility and civic engagement.

"Public service is a call to serve and a call to make a difference," she said. "Democracy depends on men and women who are willing to keep it alive and keep it relevant. This is the moment to answer the call, because tomorrow is not soon enough."

Brazile praised Cal U's core values of integrity, civility and responsibility and said those values are shared across the land through public service. A veteran Democratic political strategist and native of New Orleans, Brazile emphasized civility or the lack of it, while reflecting on the federal response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and to last year's catastrophic oil spill. The hurricanes displaced her family from the city that had been her family's hometown for more than a century.

"There was no evacuation plan, and at the time I did not know if my family got out safely," said Brazile, a former member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. "I was angry, upset and frustrated. I had to make a decision to act, not act out."

Although the government's response was widely criticized, Brazile noted that $64 billion eventually was raised for reconstruction in the New Orleans area, $2 billion was used to build more levees, and 128 public schools have reopened.

Brazile, who served as the interim chair of the Democratic National Party for three weeks this spring, even developed a cordial working relationship with former Republican President George W. Bush. "Because he (Bush) wanted civility, I was able to work with him and got to know him," she said. "It's fine to openly disagree with others, but if you find a common ground, engage in civility and focus on a common goal, it's worth it."

The oil spill that ravaged the Gulf Coast waters was not handled in similar fashion, said Brazile, who was recognized as one of the top 100 most powerful women in the world by Washingtonian magazine.

"I found civility lacking in everything," said Brazile, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and recipient of honorary doctorates from Louisiana State University and Xavier University of Louisiana. "Leaders were not concerned about what was best for ‘we, the people’ but for ‘we, the party leaders’. It’s a mistake and not the way we should operate."

She urged the college students in attendance to pay close attention to the Congressional wrangling over trimming the federal budget and raising the debt limit.

"This affects all of us, especially those of you in college," she said. "They are making decisions today that will impact your life 15 or 20 years down the road. This is about your future."

Brazile reiterated her call for leaders to maintain civility and for citizens to become involved in what matters.

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Brazile traveled around the world to discuss “green chemistry,” the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate hazardous substances.

"But chemistry took a back seat to the broader topic of sustainability when Collins shared his thoughts with Cal U students and faculty April 12 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre,” he said. "We need a new code of ethics to respond to this new situation."

Collins spoke about the need to generate safe energy — he advocates solar power — grow renewable feedstocks and eliminate hazardous materials, especially those that persist in the environment.

"We face a major challenge," he said, "and we need to utilize sustainable technology to solve some of the problems."

Without education, innovation and the political will to change, however, efforts to improve sustainability will not succeed.

"A university like Cal U can make a big difference, because knowledge of political science, advocacy and business is critical for success in sustainability," Collins said.

"Universities need to think as a whole instead of by departments, and sustainability is an area that can unite all fields. ... Sustainability ethics can link all disciplines," Collins closed by urging the audience not to give up, even when efforts to reduce waste, curb pollution and build a green infrastructure fail.

"Many sustainable projects simply lose momentum because there is a slow process of building and collecting data,” he explained.

"We need to continue our initiatives and get people to care not only about the immediate future, but also about the long-term future of Pennsylvania and the rest of the world.”

Publisher Helps Writers Reconnect at Cal U

Dr. Terrance J. Collins, director of the Institute for Green Science at Carnegie Mellon, University, has traveled around the world to discuss “green chemistry,” the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate hazardous substances. But chemistry took a back seat to the broader topic of sustainability when Collins shared his thoughts with Cal U students and faculty April 12 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

His presentation opened Civic Responsibility: People, Policy and Politics, a conference organized by the American Democracy Project. Collins focused his message on “sustainability ethics” and “transgenerational justice” — the notion that today’s decisions must be made with the needs of future generations in mind.

"The power of science and technology has brought humankind to a place we have never been before," he said. "We need a new code of ethics to respond to this new situation."

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CMU's Collins Envisions a Sustainable Future

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Throughtout her pregnancy, Karin imagines her baby being born with skin that is a brilliant tapestry of color.

"We need to continue our initiatives and get people to care not only about the immediate future, but also about the long-term future of Pennsylvania and the rest of the world.”

Dr. Terrance J. Collins

D r. Carole Waterhouse and Cindy Lynn Speer ‘97 first crossed paths at Cal U in the 1990s. Waterhouse was a teacher, and Speer was her student. Both are still at the University — and both have released new books. They rediscovered each other through their publisher, Zumaya, of Austin, Texas.

Speer, the secretary for Cal U’s History and Political Science Department, began her latest release, Unbalanced, while she was a student.

"I remember having Dr. Waterhouse as my professor for the creative writing seminar," she said. "In fact, my most recent book was workshopped in that seminar."

Unbalanced is Speer’s fourth novel, and her second with the Zumaya Embraces imprint.

This month, Zumaya will release Waterhouse’s book The Tapestry Baby. She also has published a novel, Without Wings, and a short story collection, The Paradise Ranch.

"Most of the characters (in The Tapestry Baby) grew from conversations,” Waterhouse explained. The main character is Karin, who becomes pregnant after a one-night stand with a mysterious tattooed man.

Dr. Carole Waterhouse and Cindy Lynn Speer have rediscovered each other by releasing new books through their publisher, Zumaya, of Austin, Texas.

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Dr. Carole Waterhouse

Cit I C R e s p o n s b I l I t y : p e o p l e , p o l I c y a n d p o l I t I c s
Appalachia Sparks Author’s Imagination

Western Pennsylvania is “not only dear to my heart, but essential to my writing life,” says author Jennifer Haigh. “This region is home to my imagination.”

Haigh spoke with affection about her Cambria County hometown, and about her work as a writer, when she delivered the keynote address April 11 at Celebrating Northern Appalachia in Word and Song, a daylong conference at Cal U.

The author of four books, Haigh concentrated her talk on Bakerton, a town of identical small coal-mining town where she grew up. “The main character in my book is really Bakerton, a town of identical company operating nearby.” The title “towers” refer to the “bony piles” of slag and mine waste piled up at the edge of town — a symbol of the Bakerton’s prosperity during its post-WWII heyday.

Haigh’s address opened the conference, which attracted more than 100 registrants. Sessions throughout the day focused on the Appalachian identity and the region’s black and senior populations, as well as exploring the poetry, prose and music of an area that encompasses portions of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, New York and Ohio.

Additional sessions examined topics related to mental health, Marcellus shale drilling and exploited children.

The program was organized by the Northern Appalachian Network, a multidisciplinary network promoting teaching, scholarship and service on Northern Appalachians and their environment. Conference co-chairs were Dr. Pamela Twiss, chair of the Department of Social Work, and Dr. David Argent, chair of the Department of Biology.

Sponsors included the Faculty Professional Development Committee, the Provost’s Office, the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Education and Human Services, the American Democracy Project and the Cal U Student Pottery Club, which made one-of-a-kind mugs for the conference attendees. “Our story — the story of towns like Bakerton — is the story of modern America, as our industrial economy morphs into some new thing,” Haigh said. “I’ve spoken about my novel Baker Towers to audiences across the country, but the Cal U community knew just what I was talking about. To me it was like coming home.”

Marcellus Shale Panel Draws a Crowd

— Continued from page 1

will be important.

“It’s naive to assume (Marcellus shale drilling) is a passing fancy; we live in an energy-dependent society,” Burns said. “There is a huge economic impact. But we need to be vigilant and hold people’s feet to the fire.”

Argent and Confer discussed the environmental and recreational impact of drilling.

Argent has been conducting tests in the Monongahela River to monitor water quality as gas development increases. Contaminated frack water, along with pollutants from other sources, such as mining and agriculture, can increase the amount of total dissolved solids in rivers, which can kill aquatic life.

Confer discussed the impact on parks and other protected areas.

“There are 2.2 million acres in our state parks, and about 700,000 have been leased” for gas development, he said. Twiss pointed out that Marcellus shale drilling affects the region’s people, as well as the environment. “We are at the front end of a boom, but we have a long history of busts” that we should be able to learn from, she said.

The influx of workers can change the housing market, alter the sense of community and present challenges for public health and safety, Twiss said.

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Musical tribute for Estill founder

Members of Cal U’s Acappella Stella singing group, alumni and Pittsburgh-area singers Chris Higbee, Vanessa Campagna, Peter King, Brad Yoder, Katherine Orlitch and Nina Sainato will join in a musical tribute to the founder of the Estill Voice Training system. The Celebration of Voice will be held in partnership with the Cal U Department of Theatre and Dance at 2 p.m. Sunday in Steele Hall Mainsstage Theatre. A $5 donation is suggested.

Josephine “Jo” Vadala Estill, a native of Donora, Pa., developed the training system used by well-known vocalists such as Madonna, Patti LuPone and Metropolitan opera singer Giuseppe Filiarnoti. She died Dec. 9, 2010, at age 89.

The tribute will include Cal U student Kristin Ross and a cappella singers Ashley Dary, Katelyn Dicenzo, Brooke Fais, Taylor Hackley, Britany Hartos, Christina King, Rosanna Paterra, Ashley Tokich and Paige Williams.

Alumnae Jamie Clement and Jennifer Majetic also will perform. Cal U is one of a handful of institutions in the world that provides a setting for group workshops in Estill Voice Training. The program is based on vocal physiology, acoustics and the perception of voice quality.

Choir Sings Thursday

The University Choir and Cal Singers, under the direction of Dr. Yugo Ikach, will be performing a spring concert in Morgan Hall’s Learning Resource Center Auditorium at 8 p.m. Thursday.

The repertoire will include original arrangements of songs by the Beatles and Earth, Wind and Fire. Performers will be accompanied by piano, bass, drums and strings.

Beatles songs include “Because,” “Yesterday,” “Hello Goodbye,” “If I Fell in Love with You,” “She’s Leaving Home,” “Eleanor Rigby” and more. Earth and Wind Fire songs include “After the Love Is Gone,” “Sing a Song,” “Get to Get You into My Life,” and other hits.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact the Department of Music at 724-938-4878 or e-mail ikach@calu.edu.

Pick Your Favorite Robot ’Hits’

Visit the Cal U homepage, www.calu.edu, to see highlights from the BotIQ competition held on campus earlier this month and to rank the robot clashes that made the contest so exciting.

BotIQ asks students to design and build robots that meet one-on-one in a gladiator-style contest. Supported by industry partners, the contest builds skills in science, math, engineering and technology.

Visitors can vote for their Top 10 favorite robot “hits” through Friday.

Read the Journal Online

The online Journal is easier to read! Just click on “News” at the top of the Cal U homepage, www.calu.edu, then choose “Cal U Journal” to see the current edition in its new format.
Vulcan Pride Celebration Honors Athletes

Nine teams and several individual student-athletes who contributed to Cal U’s athletic success this year were honored at the fourth annual Vulcan Pride Celebration April 14 in Hamer Hall gymnasium.

“The women’s tennis, golf, soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming and hockey teams were honored, along with men’s hockey and baseball.

Seven individual students were recognized for achieving All-American status.

They included swimmer Melissa Gates, the 2011 NCAA Division II national champion in the 50-yard freestyle.

Other All-Americans honored were Kayla Smith (women’s basketball), Brice Myers (track and field), Clarissa Enslin (swimming), Randy Sturgill (baseball), Jutta Bornemisza (tennis) and Clare McSwenery (track and field).

“We gather to celebrate with awe, respect and admiration the achievements of nine Cal U teams that gave us a rare glimpse of perfection — a state that is not usually available to humans — as even as they gave us inspiration, hope and confidence, not just for the future but, more importantly, for our future,” said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

Under the direction of head coach Justin Berger, the men’s hockey team finished the season with a 28-5 overall record and reached the ACHA Division III national semifinals.

The women’s hockey club concluded its third year on the ice by winning the Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey Conference Division I Championship. Teams that won PSAC titles in 2010 or so far this calendar year are women’s tennis (24-6), baseball (34-18) and women’s golf, which actually won the conference title twice in one calendar year because of inclement weather.

The women’s soccer (18-1-4), softball (37-14) and volleyball (23-13) teams were all NCAA regional finalists, and the women’s swim team finished the season at No. 14 in the nation.

Also competing in NCAA post-season play this year were football (10-2), women’s basketball (23-8) and men’s golf.

Heading into the spring sports season, the Vulcans were ranked second for the 2010-2011 Dixon Trophy, an annual award given to the best overall athletic program in the PSAC. Cal U won the trophy two years ago and placed second last year.

Offering remarks were coaches Mike Conte (baseball), Merrilyn Gibbs (women’s golf), Al Alvime (women’s soccer), Ed Benny (swimming) and Jan Battista (men’s and women’s hockey). Coaches Pablo Montana (women’s tennis) and Rick Bertagnoli (softball) were on the road with their teams, although women’s tennis participated in the parade of teams before leaving.

Annie Mallikowski served as emcee for the celebration and spoke on behalf of women’s volleyball.

Each coach emphasized teamwork, citing as examples their own players and coaching staffs, as well as the University administration, support staff, and even the band and fans.

Grad Student Receives Alpha Lambda Delta Fellowship

G

raduate student Jessica Lane is the recipient of a $3,000 Kathryn Phillips Fellowship awarded by Alpha Lambda Delta. Lane, who is pursuing a master’s degree in secondary education, is one of 25 award recipients worldwide.

Founded in 1924, Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honor society that recognizes and encourages academic excellence.

ALD members may apply for the Phillips fellowships during their senior year or after earning their baccalaureate degree, if they have maintained initiation standards throughout their college careers. The award is named for Kathryn Phillips, a leader in the field of women’s education and the first president of the National Association of Deans of Women. The fellowship is intended to help offset the cost of pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

ALD has chapters on 270 campuses and more than 85,000 members.

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

Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. University President

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The Journal is printed on paper made from trees harvested under the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (www.sfiprogram.org).

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