Yamba Named Interim Dean of Liberal Arts

Dr. Mohamed Yamba will serve as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. has announced. Yamba replaces Dr. Michael Hummel, who will return to the classroom. Hummel became acting dean of the College in January 2009, after serving as chair of the Department of Justice, Law and Society.

“I want to thank Dr. Hummel for the great work he has done as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and to welcome him back to the ranks of the faculty,” President Armenti said.

“I know that his students will welcome his return to the classroom, and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.”

A faculty member since 1989 and now past chair of the Department of History and Political Science, Yamba earned dual master’s degrees in international affairs and political science with a certificate in public administration at Ohio University. He earned his Ph.D. in public policy research and analysis at the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

“I am delighted that Dr. Yamba has accepted my offer to serve as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts,” said President Armenti. “He comes highly recommended for this position because of his excellent work as a professor and academic department chair.

“I am confident that he will do a fine job in this new role, and I look forward very much to working with him.”

Yamba, who was born in Old Tafo, Ghana, is affiliated with the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U. He coordinates the Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) and the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Essay Competition.

His perspective is both global and local: In addition to his University duties, Yamba is a member of the steering committee of Researchers’ Alliance for Development (RAD), a key component of the World Bank. He also volunteers to read to children at Dunbar Elementary School in Connellsville.

In May 2002 Yamba received the Faculty Professional Development Committee Merit Award for Research. He was honored in June 2010 at the University.

Theatre Department Welcomes Artist-in-Residence

Cal U theatre students will have a special opportunity to polish their skills when a well-respected director and choreographer arrives on campus this week.

Gary John La Rosa will be an artist-in-residence for a month in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He will direct a cast of five students in *Twilight of the Golds* and offer workshops on topics such as auditioning and breaking into the business that will be open to all theatre students.

La Rosa, who lives in New York City, has worked on nearly 200 productions including off-Broadway and regional theatre, industrial shows, dinner theatre and summer stock. He also coaches performers looking to sharpen their acting and auditioning skills.

“Auction Boosts Scholarship Fund

Bidding opens Wednesday for the third online auction supporting the Pittsburgh Penguins Scholarship at California University.

On the auction block are eight items, including autographed Penguins memorabilia, a children’s party and a game-night experience at CONSOL Energy Center in Pittsburgh.

Hockey fans who visit the Cal U homepage, www.calu.edu, will find a link to the auction site once bidding begins. A link also will be available at the Penguins’ website, http://penguins.nhl.com.

Bidding closes at 5 p.m. Feb. 4, 2011. Pens fans may bid on:

• One Penguins game night experience. The package includes four premium seats, dinner for four in the Lexus Club and four game pucks; the foursome may view warm-ups from the penalty box, and two people may ride the Zamboni during intermission.

• Four all-star packages. Each winner receives a jersey and a mini-helmet signed by a Penguins all-star: Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Kris Letang or Marc-Andre Fleury.

• One Sidney Crosby Winter Classic package. The high bidder receives a Winter Classic jersey autographed by Crosby, a Winter Classic print and a commemorative package.

• One Jordan Staal Winter Classic package. The winner receives a Winter Classic jersey autographed by Staal, a Winter Classic print and a commemorative program.

• One Icuburg party for kids. The Penguins mascot will make a 90-minute appearance at the winner’s house, bringing 10 autographed pucks, rally towels and more.

Cal U is the official education partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Auction proceeds support the Pittsburgh Penguins Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student who demonstrates financial need and maintains a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher. The scholarship was established last year with proceeds from two similar online auctions.
Autism Expert Homes in on Play

For children on the autism spectrum, play doesn't come naturally. So a seminar led by the originator of the “integrated play group” model will focus on teaching children with autism to play.

Presented by California University and Intermediate Unit 1, the introductory seminar is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Feb. 1 in the Performance Center. The session is intended for educators, therapists, related practitioners and parents or family members of children with autism.

The program presenter is Dr. Pamela Wolfberg, an associate professor of special education and director of Project Mosaic, the autism spectrum graduate program at San Francisco State University.

Wolfberg originated the Integrated Play Group (IPG) model and founded the Autism Institute on Peer Relations and Play, which leads efforts to develop inclusive peer play programs worldwide.


An active speaker, Wolfberg also serves as principal investigator on major research and training grants and as associate editor for Autism: International Journal of Research and Practice.

The seminar will address the complex challenges that children on the autism spectrum encounter in peer relations and play.

Participants will become familiar with the principles and practices of IPG, a model designed to support children with autism as they enjoy playing with siblings and their typical peers at home, in school, or in community and therapeutic settings.

Based on award-winning research, the IPG model has been found to be effective in enhancing reciprocal social interaction, communication, play and imagination in children of diverse ages and abilities with autism, Asperger’s and related social-communicative needs.

A link to online registration is available at www.calau.edu, or visit www.solutionshere.com/2/1/cw/showcourse.asp?2753.

Professional fee for the seminar is $50. Scholarships may be available for Early Intervention partners; for details, please contact kotchmanr@iui1.k12.pa.us.

Autism Conference

Set for March 8

Online registration will be available soon for the University’s fourth annual autism conference for parents, educators and service providers.

The daylong conference is planned for March 8 in Gallagher Hall.

Keynote speakers will be Drs. Lynn and Bob Koegel, co-founders of the Koegel Autism Center at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The Koegels are experts in Pivotal Response Treatment (PRT), which has helped to produce positive effects on behavior, communication and social skills for children with autism.

The Koegel Autism Center works to increase awareness of autism spectrum disorders, develop and implement PRT and improve education for children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Last year Lynn Koegel was the expert called in to assist nanny Jo Frost on a segment of the ABC television show The Supernanny.

Campus Briefs

Faculty Convocation Thursday

The Spring Faculty Convocation will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Learning Resource Center auditorium in Morgan Hall.

Staff Convocation is scheduled for 3 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Performance Center, where Student Convocation will be held at 11 a.m. March 1.

Summer College Registration Begins

Registration is under way for Summer College sessions held in June, July and August. A wide variety of undergraduate and graduate classes are offered on campus and online. Both five-week and 10-week sessions are available.

Summer College welcomes both current Cal U students and visiting students from other schools. Cal U students may register online or visit the Office of Lifelong Learning in the Eberly Science and Technology Center, Room 202. Visiting students must complete an application before they may register.

The Summer College catalog includes course listings and information about admissions, financial aid and the Cal U campus. To obtain a print copy of the Summer College course schedule, contact the Office of Lifelong Learning at 724-938-5840 or (toll-free) 866-268-9154.

Learn more about Summer College at http://www.calu.edu/academics/lifelong-learning/summer-college/index.htm.

Fruity Fog Aims to Send Crows Packing

Fruity birds are roosting on campus — but California University officials aren’t ready to crow about it just yet.

During winter break, the University used a fruit-scented “fog” in an attempt to alleviate unpleasant and unsanitary conditions created by large flocks of crows.

The crow relocation program was approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve health and safety on campus.

Thousands of birds flocked to Cal U after a cold snap earlier this winter. Throughout much of December they returned nightly to roost in trees and on rooftops. Their droppings fouled lawns, sidewalks and parking areas, especially near the Quad.

Beginning Dec. 29, trained and licensed pest removal technicians sprayed a mist of natural grape extract into roosting areas at dusk to discourage the birds from settling.

The program continued through Jan. 14.

The USDA protocol also permitted the use of laser lights and pyrotechnics to shoosh the birds, but the grape extract proved most effective.

The fruity mist is not harmful to humans, animals or wildlife.

“The anti-roosting measures don’t harm the crows,” explained Ken Grezalk, assistant director for campus support services. “We’re just trying to change their roosting habits and encourage them to relocate.”

Notices about the crow dispersal program were posted on the Cal U website and on campus buildings before spraying began. Staff from Physical Plant and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety monitored the work.

By the time classes resumed, campus sidewalks were noticeably cleaner. But Grzelak noted that crow relocation is an annual event at the Capitol Complex in Harrisburg.

Penn State University also has a recurring problem with crows.

“I’m leery about saying the bird problem is resolved,” he said. “No one at Ehrlich (pest removal company) or the USDA will tell us that the work we’ve done will eliminate our crow problem altogether.”

The USDA-approved crow dispersal program is used annually on the grounds of the Capitol Complex in Harrisburg. For answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.dgs.state.pa.us and click on “Property and Asset Management” in the left-hand column, then search for “Crow Dispersal Program.”

Yamba Named Interim Liberal Arts Dean

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President’s Gala, where he received the President’s Faculty Award for Service.

“T"he opportunity to serve as interim dean of Liberal Arts and working with so many outstanding faculty,” said Yamba. “I sincerely appreciate the opportunity President Armenti and Provost (Geraldine) Jones have given me.”

“The University has gone through a metamorphosis, both academically and physically, during my 20 years as a faculty member,” Yamba added. “Several faculty are doing cutting-edge research, which is recognized by scholars across a wide spectrum of disciplines.

“I plan to encourage and support their efforts, as our students are the real beneficiaries of their work. The world is our next stage, and I intend to work diligently to enhance that step.”

As he resumes his teaching duties, Hummel also will serve as director of the newly established Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute.

“It has been a fun and fulfilling experience, rich in learning and professional growth,” he said of his time in the dean’s office.

“As a faculty member in the Department of Justice, Law and Society, I have books to write, students to teach and service to seek. I know that Dr. Yamba will receive the same professional support that I received.”
Presentation Looks at Cal U for Life

Because of its Cal U for Life initiative, the University is rapidly becoming a sought-after leader in student philanthropy. On Feb. 1, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will give the opening presentation at the Building a Culture of Student Philanthropy Conference in San Diego, Calif.

Accompanying him will be Amy Lombard, executive director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, and Ryan Jerico, coordinator of student and young alumni programs.

The three-day conference is presented by Academic Impressions, a Colorado-based organization that provides professional development for administrative and academic leaders in higher education.

In the event’s opening session, President Armenti will share his vision and strategy for student philanthropy, and explain why, in the current economic climate, institutional student philanthropy is so important.

“Through awareness, appreciation and, ultimately, giving, we must have our students forge and maintain a lifelong relationship with Cal U,” President Armenti said. “We chose Cal U for Life as our brand because the name was all encompassing. You must instill a culture of philanthropy immediately among students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

Jerico and Lombard will present a case study explaining how Cal U’s student philanthropy program developed, including the comprehensive student orientation program that Cal U initiated in 2009 for freshmen and other first-year students.

Last year, this same Cal U trio explained the Cal U for Life initiative at a similar conference in Atlanta, Ga., and to more than 400 higher education professionals through an online seminar also hosted by Academic Impressions.

“The student philanthropy conference is excellent for any school looking to create and expand a student fundraising program,” said Randy Lofgren, associate vice president for development programs and solutions at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. “Many ideas were explored that can lead to a successful program.”

Students Respond to Tabletop ‘Disasters’

A mayor of West Newton, Cal U faculty member Mary Popovich uses miniature people, vehicles and buildings to help her borough prepare for big disasters.

Popovich organizes tabletop disaster drills that train emergency personnel to follow protocols established by the National Incident Management System. This structured framework is designed to help local, state and federal government entities respond effectively to natural disasters and/or terrorist attacks.

Popovich, a nationally certified emergency medical instructor also incorporates this tabletop exercise into her emergency medical training class at Cal U.

Using children's building blocks, toy cars, aluminum foil, plastic and cardboard, the EMT students created “hazard scenes” such as an overturned cattle truck or a chemical spill. They mapped out safety zones to isolate the danger zone and showed how an accident might affect people in other areas.

Popovich was particularly interested in how the scenarios affected emergency medical scenarios. For instance, responders might need to move patients through a decontamination zone on their way to a triage station or treatment site.

Theatre Welcomes Artist-in-Residence

Theatre Welcomes Artist-in-Residence

— Continued from page 1

they’re very fortunate.”

“Twilight of the Golds” explores the fictional idea that genetic testing could reveal the sexual orientation of an unborn child. La Rosa said the play, by Jonathan Tolins, appealed to him because it combines comedy and drama and will challenge the student actors.

“It merges a warm, family story with the emotional reality of the relationship with this family (with) some very, very interesting plot mechanisms that are very topical and interesting,” he explained.

“So this was the reason I was interested in doing this play. I love emotional depth, where the characters are different at the end than they were at the beginning.”

“That’s what I like to do as a director — help students realize their potential and not be afraid to experiment and grow as artists,” he added. “This play will allow them to sharpen their audition skills and acting abilities. You have to be fearless and willing to expose yourself as an actor. Twilight of the Golds is an opportunity to bare your soul.”

Pons said he is delighted not only for the students who will be cast in the play, but also for all theatre majors at Cal U.

“Our kids will make a connection here that will be useful down the line. If they move to New York and need a coach, they’ll know Gary. He’s not just a contact for the students he casts; he’ll be a contact for everyone.”

Allen Finen, a senior theatre major, said he’s excited about working with La Rosa.

“He’s a professional. He’s been out there; he’s lived the life. If we’re serious about this as a profession, he’ll teach us the little things we need to know.

“I’m glad the department is allowing this sea change and has invited him here,” Pons added. “Our department is hard-working, and he’s coming into a situation with kids who want to work hard.

“I’m expecting full attendance at every workshop he has.”

Correction


THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY FORUM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2010

V. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VI. PRESENTING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Miscellaneous Information

B. Notice of Executive Committee Meeting: February 1, 2011 – University Community Welcome

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. INTERPELLATION

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Forum TENTATIVE AGENDA

February 15, 2011

4:00 p.m, LRC Auditorium

TENTATIVE AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2010

(Approved by e-mail ballot – refer to Forum website or Public Folders in Outlook)

V. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Amendments:

Informational Only – Minutes January 18, 2011)

VI. PRESENTING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Miscellaneous Information

B. Notice of Executive Committee Meeting: February 1, 2011 – University Community Welcome

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. INTERPELLATION

AMENDED MOTION

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Forum

February 15, 2011

X. ADJOURNMENT

THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY FORUM

January 25, 2011

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Presiding Officer's Report

President Hoover noted that Senator Ryan, as the person who proposed the motion (on behalf of the Faculty Senate), would be allowed to speak first.

Senator Ryan moved to substitute for the pending resolution, the following:

Whereas, The Senate is very concerned about the fact that the University Curriculum Committee, the General Education Committee and the English Department were not consulted in making class substitutions for English Comp. II;

Whereas, This confounds faculty advisement;

Whereas, There's a pedagogical difference between a class in which writing is taught and a class in which writing is assigned;

Whereas, Admission to graduate schools and professional programs is negatively impacted;

Whereas, There are ramifications for student success in passing Praxis;

Whereas, The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) recommends a capsize for teaching courses in which writing is taught;

Whereas, Certain accreditation requirements will be compromised;

Resolved, That the University Forum reexamine the temporary substitutions for English Composition II and endorse a more collaborative decision-making process between the University Curriculum Committee, the General Education Committee, the English Department, and the Chairs' Forum ad hoc committee on writing.

Second by Senator Madden.

Senator Ryan spoke in support of the substitution, noting that Faculty Senate is concerned that English Composition II courses are being substituted without proper discussion with the appropriate parties. Senator Ryan further stated that this is critical to our students' education and for this reason, it is important for the Forum to make a statement – and reject the English Composition 2 substitutions.

Senator Ryan moved to amend the amendment to substitute. Second by Senator Angeretti.

President Hoover clarified that the vote will be on the pending motion for the previous question, meaning that we are voting on stopping discussion of the motion to amend by substitution, but not yet voting on the motion to amend.

Senator Koury moved for a roll call vote on Senator Madden’s motion for the previous question. Under general consent, President Hoover directed that a roll call vote be taken on the motion for the previous question as follows:

Dr. Lenora Angelone Y
Ms. Brittiny Balaz Y
Ms. Roberta Busha Y
Ms. Marsha Elkettani Y
Dr. Kevin Koury Y
Dr. Leonard Colleti N
Dr. Charles Mance N
Ms. Geraldine Jones N
Ms. Candice Kmetz N
Ms. Nancy Pinardi N
Ms. Sarah Scholar Y
Mr. Gary Seelye Y
Mrs. Jenifer Sigado Y
Mr. Cory Stoner Y
Dr. Emily Szwetrz Y
Mr. Mike Wagner Y
Mr. Craig Butzine Y
Ms. Mary Williams Y
Mr. Dan Wood Y
VOTE: 17: No 4: Motion passed.

The pending motion was the amended resolution as submitted by the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Lenora Angelone Y
Ms. Brittiny Balaz Y
Ms. Roberta Busha Y
Ms. Marsha Elkettani Y
Dr. Kevin Koury Y
Dr. Leonard Colleti N
Dr. Charles Mance N
Ms. Geraldine Jones N
Ms. Candice Kmetz N
Ms. Nancy Pinardi N
Ms. Sarah Scholar Y
Mr. Cory Stoner Y
Dr. Emily Szwetrz Y
Mr. Mike Wagner Y
Mr. Craig Butzine Y
Ms. Mary Williams Y
Mr. Dan Wood Y
VOTE: Yes: 18: No 4: Motion passed.

The pending motion was the amended resolution as submitted by the Faculty Senate.

Senator Koury noted that there was no longer a quorum, and therefore no further business could be conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mrs. Dana Turcic, Recording Secretary.

MINUTES APPROVED BY MAJORITY VIA E-MAIL BALLOT.

President Hoover asked the secretary to conduct an attendance roll call to establish if there was still a quorum.

The following senators were in attendance:

Dr. Lenora Angelone Y
Ms. Brittiny Balaz Y
Ms. Roberta Busha Y
Ms. Marsha Elkettani Y
Dr. Kevin Koury Y
Dr. Leonard Colleti N
Dr. Charles Mance N
Ms. Geraldine Jones N
Ms. Candice Kmetz N
Ms. Nancy Pinardi N
Ms. Sarah Scholar Y
Mr. Gary Seelye Y
Mrs. Jenifer Sigado Y
Mr. Cory Stoner Y
Dr. Emily Szwetrz Y
Mr. Mike Wagner Y
Mr. Craig Butzine Y
Ms. Mary Williams Y
Mr. Dan Wood Y
Mr. Tom Wickham Y
Ms. Mary Williams Y
Mr. Brian Williams Y
VOTE: 17: No 4: Motion passed.

The pending motion was the amended resolution as submitted by the Faculty Senate.

Senator Koury raised a parliamentary inquiry regarding whether the departure of two senators had impacted the pending motion.

President Hoover asked the secretary to conduct an attendance roll call to establish if there was still a quorum.

The following senators were in attendance:

Dr. Lenora Angelone Y
Ms. Brittiny Balaz Y
Ms. Roberta Busha Y
Ms. Marsha Elkettani Y
Dr. Kevin Koury Y
Dr. Leonard Colleti N
Dr. Charles Mance N
Ms. Geraldine Jones N
Ms. Candice Kmetz N
Ms. Nancy Pinardi N
Ms. Sarah Scholar Y
Mr. Gary Seelye Y
Mrs. Jenifer Sigado Y
Mr. Cory Stoner Y
Dr. Emily Szwetrz Y
Mr. Mike Wagner Y
Mr. Craig Butzine Y
Ms. Mary Williams Y
Mr. Dan Wood Y
Mr. Tom Wickham Y
Ms. Mary Williams Y
Mr. Brian Williams Y
VOTE: 17: No 4: Motion passed.

The pending motion was the amended resolution as submitted by the Faculty Senate.

Senator Koury noted that there was no longer a quorum, and therefore no further business could be conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mrs. Dana Turcic, Recording Secretary.

MINUTES APPROVED BY MAJORITY VIA E-MAIL BALLOT.