Olympic Medalist Headlines Women’s Conference

A softball player with two Olympic medals will deliver the keynote address at Thursday’s ninth annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women’s Studies Conference.

As a member of the U.S. women’s softball team, Jessica Mendoza won a gold medal at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and added a silver medal at the 2008 Games in Beijing.

Mendoza’s talk, at 7 p.m. in the Natali Student Center, caps off a daylong series of presentations related to social justice issues in athletics.

“The conference, Leveling the Playing Field: Examining Gender, Social Justice and Sports, will address topics such as gender equity in intercollegiate athletics, racism in sports and socially responsible images of female college athletes.

Today, Mendoza is a left fielder for the league champion USSSA Florida Pride, a member of the National Pro Fastpitch league. A color analyst for ESPN during college football season and the Women’s College World Series, she is past president of the Women’s Sports Foundation, which named her its 2008 Sports Woman of the Year. Mendoza is past president of the Women’s Softball Hall of Fame and the Women’s College World Series.

Mendoza also played softball at Angelo State and the University of Notre Dame. Her career with the U.S. softball team included a gold medal at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens and a silver medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

She graduated from Notre Dame and played for the San Diego Spirit of the Women’s Pro Softball League. In 2005, she was named the league’s Rookie of the Year, and she was a member of the National Pro Fastpitch league’s all-star team. Mendoza was also named the league’s MVP.

She has been a color analyst for ESPN during college football season and the Women’s College World Series. She was one of the first women to be color analysts on a college football broadcast and continues to cover the sport for ESPN.

Mendoza has been an advocate for women’s sports and has been involved in many organizations that support women in sports. She is the co-founder of the National Women’s Softball Hall of Fame, which was established in 1989 to recognize the achievements of women in softball.

Mendoza has also been involved in many community service projects, including volunteering with the United Way and the Special Olympics. She has been named the National Association for Girls in Sports Award recipient, the National Women’s Softball Hall of Fame’s Woman of the Year and the Women’s Softball Hall of Fame’s Woman of the Year.

She is a former member of the Women’s Sports Foundation’s board of directors and is currently serving on its executive committee.

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‘Fact-Finders’ Attend Mobile Technology Summit

Cal U faculty and staff explored mobile technology as a tool for teaching and learning at the 2011 Abilene Christian University Connected Summit, Feb. 27- March 2 in Abilene, Texas.

The summit, “Turning the Page: The Next Chapter for Education,” brought together leading experts and practitioners in K-20 mobile learning and emerging pedagogies.

Conference tracks focused on media and mobility, teaching and learning, the future of books, K-12 education, infrastructure and logistics, research, and campus spotlights.

Cal U has looked to Abilene Christian’s “ACU Connected” program as a model for Cal U Fusion, a campus-wide mobile technology initiative that has begun to explore innovative ways to use handheld devices in education.

“We participated in the conference for a variety of reasons, but the focus was faculty involvement,” said Charles Mance, Cal U’s vice president for University Technology Services.

“We wanted our faculty to experience what Abilene Christian is doing in the mobile education space and the challenges they face. It also gave them an excellent opportunity to collaborate and network with other universities.”

Cal U’s attendance at the Connected Summit was a joint venture between UTech Services and Academic Affairs.

“Provost Jones was instrumental in selecting the faculty that administration felt would best benefit from the experience,” Mance said. “ Someone from Cal U probably was at every session.

“The conference was a successful fact-finding mission that gave us a good look of what’s out there. We won’t mimic what Abilene is doing, but it’s a good sounding board as we start looking at mobile technology from our own perspective.”

One of the keynote speakers was Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Inc. and chief scientist at Fusion IO. One of two grand prizes awarded at the conference was an Apple iPad autographed by “Woz.”

Rutledge Scholars: Strong, Determined and Grateful

At a luncheon Feb. 22 in the Kara Alumni House, seven students thanked alumni benefactors Tom ’77 and Karen Rutledge for making a difference in their lives.

“You helped my family astronomically,” said one of the seven Rutledge Scholars in attendance. “Thank you for allowing me to give my son and myself a better life.”

Each of the Rutledge Family Scholarship recipients is married and/or has children. All are attending Cal U full time.

Their circumstances are reminiscent of the alumni couple’s college days, when Tom Rutledge was a nontraditional student and his wife was waiting tables and raising their daughter, who learned to walk on the Quad, the couple said.

Tom Rutledge went on to build a successful career in the cable/media industry. He now is chief operating officer of Cablevision, which serves 5.3 million customers in the New York metropolitan area.

The couple’s philanthropy provides assistance to 20 Rutledge Scholars each year.

— Continued on page 3
Finances Discussed at Student Convocation

Cal U must continue to rely on entrepreneurial ideas and philanthropic initiatives as it deals with an ongoing funding crisis that is affecting all public universities in the state, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. told the audience at the spring Student Convocation.

The President presented information from “The Future of Public Higher Education,” a presentation he developed last fall for a meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees last fall at Kutztown University.

At the March 1 Convocation, President Armenti explained how tuition changes would benefit students who struggle to afford a college education and also assist the 14 state-owned universities.

“The amount of family resources that is required to send a student to college is greater (than in the past),” he said. “It is not your imagination. We are receiving less state funding and being forced to become ‘private’ because the changing demographics are changing the way public higher education is funded.”

President Armenti urged students to recognize those who have helped to pay for their education — taxpayers, family, friends and private scholarship donors.

“Somebody helped you,” he said. “That’s what the Cal U for Life initiative is all about. Be grateful for the help you received from others and when you can, you need to pay that forward.”

Until changes can be made to the way schools in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education are funded, the University will continue to cultivate new sources of revenue. As one example, President Armenti cited the executive conferencing services in the new Convocation Center, which will be available to outside groups.

“We are going to continue to live by our wins,” he said. The President also provided several other updates related to Cal U Fusion, defined as the fusing of technology with learning and life:

- Seventy-four rooms on campus will be upgraded and equipped as “smart” classrooms.
- An upgrade to the wireless technology on campus will allow for “ubiquity” — when all students use handheld devices such as tablet computers and smart phones.

A Teaching and Learning Center will be developed with help from the Faculty Professional Development Center. Students will be able to visit the TLC to learn more about emerging technologies — and to teach others about them, as well.

President Armenti discussed the status of various construction projects on campus, including the students’ vote to approve renovations to the Natali Student Center.

He announced that Cal U continues to make progress toward gender equity on the faculty and with its athletic teams, and he noted that enrollment again has increased. Spring enrollment for undergraduates is up 1.1 percent over last year’s figures, and graduate enrollment is up 10.1 percent compared to last year.

Students Experience Driving Dangers

How dangerous is drinking or texting while driving? A Teaching and Learning Center will be developed with help from the Faculty Professional Development Center. Students will be able to visit the TLC to learn more about emerging technologies. Students at the Convocation Center learned about emerging technologies and to teach others about them, as well.

The students really enjoyed using the simulators, said Donna George, Cal U’s alcohol and other drug prevention specialist. “This gave them an excellent chance to find out just how difficult operating an automobile can be under the influence of alcohol or texting.”

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Board of Trustees OKs Natali Project, Renews President’s Contract

This is a very necessary expansion, an aggressive step but one we must take. More space is definitely needed.
— Trustee Jerry Spangler ’74

Renovation and expansion of the Natali Student Center is one step closer to reality now that the Cal U Council of Trustees has given its unanimous consent for the project. The Trustees also renewed the contract of President Angelo Armenti, Jr. when they held their quarterly meeting March 2 in Old Main.

In green-lighting the plans for Natali, the panel echoed the wishes of students, who approved the project in a referendum Feb. 14-15. More than 72 percent of students who voted favored the renovation, which will expand the facility by 45 percent and provide a state-of-the-art gathering place for resident students and commuters.

“This is a very necessary expansion, an aggressive step but one we must take,” said Trustee Jerry Spangler ’74. “More space is definitely needed.”

Student Trustee Jackie Davis noted that even upperclassmen support the $30 million project, although it won’t be completed until after they graduate.

“Even though we won’t be here, we’re excited to come back and see what’s going to happen,” she said.

Under PASSHE regulations, students will pay for the renovations through an increase in the student center fee.

The project will be presented for approval by the PASSHE Board of Governors next month. If approved, plans call for construction to begin in March 2012, with a completion date of January 2014.

Two new bachelor’s degree programs — in special education and criminal justice — will be offered through the project.

Fact-finders Attend Mobile Technology Summit

Continued from page 1

The lucky winner was Cal U’s own Dr. Christina Patti, of the Department of Educational Administration and Leadership. She is donating the prize to the Department of Educational Administration and Leadership.

“I seldom get an opportunity to interact with faculty,” she said. “I am grateful that a Student Affairs staff member was included. The conference really did give me a lot of ideas for increasing student engagement. Among them was a successful Black History Month celebration that featured 23 different events. Craig Butzine, interim Vice President for Marketing and University Relations, reviewed efforts to measure success in marketing and public relations. He discussed how technology can be used to enhance both faculty and student educational experiences,” he said.

Pam Delverne, director of new media services for the Student Association Inc., appreciated the chance to meet Cal U professors, as well as professionals from other schools.

“Butzine also described placing Cal U’s message before millions of viewers by purchasing discounted air time and showing the University’s new TV commercial during the AFC Championship and the Super Bowl, at a cost of just 5 cents or 6 cents per viewer.”

Ron Huiatt, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, reported that the inaugural Senior Gift Drive, which raised $8,000, set the bar high for donors. The 14.5 percent participation by the Class of 2010 exceeds the giving rate of all other graduating classes. Huiatt also reported that the Campaign to Build Character and Careers in the Elementary, Middle and Special Education Department.

Lenora Angelone, Vice President for Student Affairs, reported on student activities that highlight civic engagement. Among them was a successful Black History Month celebration that featured 23 different events.

Rutledge Scholars: Strong, Determined and Grateful

Continued from page 1

A separate scholarship assists students who accept internships outside the region. At the luncheon, the students spoke from the heart, explaining the difference that scholarship aid has made in the lives of their families.

“This is a very necessary expansion, an aggressive step but one we must take. More space is definitely needed.”
— Trustee Jerry Spangler ’74

Jurisprudence and Arabic — also will be presented for the Board of Governors’ approval. Both received unanimous “yes” votes from the Trustees.

In other business:

The Trustees agreed to confer an honorary degree upon alumnus Charles S. Pryor ’73. He will be honored during May 7 Commencement ceremonies.

Provoost Geraldine Jones reported that enrollment for the spring semester has increased by nearly 2.5 percent compared to last spring. Her report also introduced two new faculty members: Spencer Norma, of the Department of Art and Design; and Charlotte Orient, of the Department of Art and Design.

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Summer College Registration Continues

California University’s Summer College makes it easy for students to earn extra credits.

With classes offered online or in a variety of face-to-face sessions from May to August, students can pick the courses that fit their summer schedule.

Registration is ongoing, and visiting students are always welcome at Cal U’s Summer College.

Courses that fit their summer schedule.

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Read the Journal Online

The online Journal has a new look! To read the Journal online, click “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 or to review archived editions from 2011.

Staff Convocation Set for March 21

The Spring 2011 Staff Convocation has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. March 21 in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center. President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will give his “State of the University” address and answer questions from the staff.

Correction

A photo caption on page 3 of the Feb. 28 Journal gave incorrect information. The photo actually showed Cal U student-athlete Jerica Sneddon working on properly passing the baton with Leiltron Pierce at the LeMoyne Multicultural Center’s gymnasium in Washington, Pa. The Journal regrets the error.

ATTENTION UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY!!

Call for Student Nominations to Standing Committees to the California University Forum

The California University Forum has announced a call for the nomination of students for the University Forum standing committees. The Forum is the University’s shared governance system, which enhances the communication between and among all segments of the University. The University Forum consists of administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni, all of who have a voice in the university’s future. Alumni, faculty, staff, students, or community members may nominate any student of California University to serve. Self-nominations are permitted. The nominees will be contacted to confirm acceptance of their appointment.

The nomination form is available via the Public Folders (Campus-Wide Resources/University Forum) on the university’s Microsoft Exchange Server. (For detailed instructions, contact the Computing Systems Helpdesk at extension 5911.) All nominations must be submitted to the Forum Office by Friday, March 25, 2011. For more information contact Mrs. Dana Turcic, Forum Recording Secretary at 724-538-1633 or via email at CalForum@calu.edu or turcic@calu.edu. You may also write her at University Forum Office, Campus Box: 99, 250 University Avenue, California, PA 15419.

Olympic Medalist Among Speakers at Women’s Conference

— Continued from page 1

The Audrey-Beth Fitch Women’s Studies Conference is just one highlight of Women’s History Month, celebrated each March at Cal U. Also scheduled to speak are:

Ariko Iso, an athletic trainer for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the only female athletic trainer in the National Football League, at 9 a.m. March 21.

Jackson Katz, a nationally known anti-violence and women’s rights advocate, at 7 p.m. March 29.

To see a complete schedule for the Audrey-Beth Fitch Women’s Studies Conference and details about other Women’s History Month events, visit www.calu.edu.

All events are free and open to the public.

Visit parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance.