President: Hotel is ‘Win-Win’

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. calls a new hotel in California Borough a “true win-win” for both the Washington County business community and Cal U.

President Armenti, a member of the Redevelopment Authority of Washington County, joined state legislators, county commissioners, authority members, local officials and members of the business community at groundbreaking ceremonies for a Hampton Inn and Suites hotel at California Technology Park, about 2 miles from the Cal U campus.

“I have no doubt that this hotel will make a positive impact on our University — and that Cal U will be a driving factor in filling rooms at the Hampton Inn and Suites,” the President said.

The families of prospective and current students will appreciate being able to find lodgings so close to the school, he said.

“The project is especially welcome as the University prepares to open the Cal U Convocation Center and expand its executive conferencing services. Having a hotel within a few minutes’ drive from the Convocation Center certainly will add to its appeal.”

The 4-story, 84-room hotel will be built on a 5-acre parcel in the technology park, off Maiden Road near the Cal-Ed Credit Union building. It will include 3,000 square feet of banquet space. Total cost is estimated at $10.2 million.

Bill McGowen, executive director of the redevelopment authority, noted that a separate restaurant also may be added at the technology park.

Also speaking at the groundbreaking were representatives of California Hotel Associates Inc., a partnership that includes Summit Development and a management team from AVI FoodSystems Inc.

AVI, a family-owned business based in Warren, Ohio, is a drive from the new Hampton Inn and Suites at the California Technology Park.

‘Kids Talk Democracy’ to Mark Constitution Day

Cal U students, faculty and some proud parents filled Old Main Chapel Sept. 20 to hear a panel of sixth-graders help the Cal U community observe Constitution Day with “Kids Talk Democracy II.”

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. welcomed the students, who attend Ben Franklin Elementary School in Uniontown, Pa.

“When leaders in Washington talk about the big issues of the day — things like taxes and budget deficits and new legislation — they often mention the impact of these policies on their children and grandchildren,” the President said.

“This morning we’re going to hear directly from that younger generation.”

Dr. Holly Diehl, an associate professor in the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education, served as moderator for the event. It was modeled after a similar panel videotaped last year.

Diehl led the children through a series of politically themed questions ranging from “What do you want to be when you grow up?” to “What does it mean to live in a democracy?”

“I want to be a police officer when I grow up, because I enjoy helping people and seeing people happy to have someone save their lives,” answered Jeffrey. The young students, who were identified only by their first names, gave complex answers that were sometimes insightful and even inspiring.

“Democracy means to be able to live in a place not ruled by a particular person,” said Noah. “It is a system of checks and balances. It is freedom.”

When asked about the meaning of freedom of speech, Peyton responded, “Freedom of speech means you can say what you want, but it is not right to go around and say bad words.”

Of course, some of the children’s answers drew laughs from the audience.

“I would like to be the president of the United States, because he can do things that others can’t, like take Air Force One to the beach,” Kylee said.

Lauren said she would not like to be the president because “I wouldn’t want to do all that paperwork.”

Despite their light-hearted comments, the children were well aware of high gas prices, and several spoke about war and saving the environment.
Grayson Speaks to Cal U Men United

In a stirring, heartfelt keynote address, the Rev. Glenn Grayson challenged Cal U Men United members to use their talents to make their mark as they work toward a college degree.

The father of Jeron Grayson, who was fatally shot last year in California, said his son was known to friends and family as “Li’l G,” a nickname that now resonates with a deeper meaning.

“G stands for ‘Never Touch a Gun,’” he said, as he invited those in the audience who would stand by that pledge to take and wear wristbands imprinted with that statement.

Before Grayson’s remarks, guests heard from University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and Anthony Kane, a member of Cal U Men United.

President Armenti urged the students to use the Cal U Men United support system to be successful at school, and then to help others.

“Some day when you hang your diploma on the wall, you’ll look back on your college career and hopefully you’ll decide to pay it forward to another promising young person,” President Armenti said.

Kane urged his fellow students to take advantage of the resources that Cal U Men United can provide.

“The program is designed to help us succeed, so that more graduate than drop out. If you have a problem, we’re here to help. “We want to be someone and get somewhere."

For more information about Cal U Men United, contact the Office of Social Equity at 724-938-4014.

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Paper Looks at Argentinean Cinema

Dr. Marinna Pensa, assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, presented a paper on Argentinean cinema at the 24th annual Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference.

Hosted by Duquesne University, the conference was held Sept. 23-24 at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh, in Green Tree. Her paper was titled "Caballos salvajes: Escape, salvation and the two Argentinas."

Pensa’s primary field of research is Latin American theater, but she is developing a secondary interest in Argentinean cinema. She published a paper on that subject last year.

“I always look to incorporate findings from my theater and cinema research into my courses, and I encourage our students to work on these genres,” said Pensa, who teaches Latin American literature at Cal U.

She thanked Dr. Mohammed Yamba and the College of Liberal Arts for supporting her attendance at the conference.

Kids Talk Democracy

— Continued from page 2

They told the audience that children’s opinions matter.

“I wish adults knew that all kids have ideas and a purpose in the world,” Kizzy said.

Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Institutions that receive federal funds are required by law to observe the holiday each year.

Many Cal U students at this year’s celebration said they were impressed with the children’s level of understanding.

“They were more insightful than I thought sixth-graders would be. They seem to have a good heart and lots of ideas,” said senior accounting major Michael Harvey. “I am excited about the future, and think the next generation will be just fine.”

Organized by the American Democracy Project, the program was co-sponsored by the Office of the President; Academic Affairs/Office of the Provost; the College of Education and Human Services; the College of Liberal Arts; the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education; and the Department of History and Political Science.

President: Hotel a ‘Win-Win’

— Continued from page 1

of the Americas. They provide dining services at Cal U and more than 600 other locations.

“AVI’s relationship with Cal U has value beyond business,” said the company’s president and CEO, Anthony Payiavlas. Acknowledging President Armenti as a mentor, he thanked the California-area community “for allowing my family the privilege and honor of becoming part of your family.”

Construction of the hotel is expected to be complete in fall 2012.

Cal U alumni were among the government officials who spoke at the ceremony. Lawrence Maggi ’79, chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, praised the cooperation between borough, county, state and federal government that resulted in funding for the project. State Rep. Peter J. Daley II ’72, ’75 described the decades-long process of turning the former farmland into a thriving industrial park. Both are members of the University’s Council of Trustees.

Also addressing the audience were county commissioners Bracken Burns and Diana Irey Vaughan, and state Sen. Richard Kasunic. The Rev. Jana Quisenberry provided the invocation and benediction, the Men Valley Leathernecks presented the colors, and Cal U singing groups A Capella Stella and Vulcanize provided music, including an a cappella version of “Hotel California.”

“Adding appropriate infrastructure and well-planned amenities can only make Washington County a better place to live, to work, to learn and to visit,” President Armenti said.

“I look forward to working hand in hand with the borough, the county’s business community, and with California Hotel Associates to make this hotel a true ‘win-win.’”
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his fall 2011 “State of the University” address, President Angelo Armenti, Jr., said, played a significant role in helping them succeed. Separate convocations for staff and students were held Sept. 19-20 in the Performance Center.
The President’s talks echoed his Aug. 30 presentation to faculty. Despite this year’s steep decline in state funding, President Armenti remains confident that Cal U will continue to meet the PASSHE mission of providing the highest-quality education at the lowest possible cost to students, while accomplishing the University’s mission of building character and careers.
Cal U’s three greatest goals remain student achievement and success, institutional excellence, and community service, he said.
The President urged both students and staff to focus on their “circle of influence” rather than fretting about outside forces they cannot change. “This is a place of opportunity that remains strong and vibrant whatever the future may bring,” he said, noting that the University is nearly 160 years old. “We put the students first, because our success comes from your success. We’re betting on you to succeed.”
The President praised the staff for its role in Cal U’s ongoing progress, announcing that enrollment has increased for a 14th consecutive year. Staff members were given a packet of brochures so they can see how prospective students are being introduced to the University. “You can help us recruit good students and be thinking of ways to make this place better,” President Armenti said.
“This is a beautiful campus, and you have a lot to be grateful for. I thank you for your success and recognition we receive daily because of what you do.”
In his talks the President emphasized two ongoing initiatives: Cal U Fusion and the Cal U Leader for Life program. He announced the start of a Teaching and Learning Center that will help faculty use mobile technology and “smart” classrooms as effective tools for education.

Mission Day XIII Oct. 26

aytime classes will be cancelled Oct. 26 so all members of the campus community can discuss the notion that “education is a self-organizing system.” That’s the topic for this year’s Mission Day, when faculty, staff and students gather as equals to discuss an idea of importance to the campus community.
The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sugata Mitra, professor of educational technology in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom.
His well-known “hole in the wall” project, and other research, informs his assertion that students who are given appropriate resources and technology will teach themselves and learn from one another.
Visit the Cal U website for links to videos about Dr. Sugata Mitra’s work. Watch for more information about Mission Day XIII at www.calu.edu.

Volunteers Needed to Pack Birthing Kits

Volunteers are encouraged to help faculty members from the Department of Nursing and representatives of the Zonta Club of Washington County pack birthing kits from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Natali Student Center’s Performance Center.
On Oct. 1 volunteers collected supplies at the Katar Alumni House. They will create kits for women in foreign countries who lack basic health-care services. Simple items such as soap, cord, plastic sheeting, gauze and latex gloves will be included to provide safer, healthier birthing environments.
For more information, contact Judy Byers and the Deparmg of Nursing at 724-938-5739 or e-mail byers@calu.edu.

Students, Staff Hear President’s Message

New Soccer Facility Praised

“it’s really been everything we had hoped for and more. One of the stories from another team we played actually thanked me for letting them play on it and said it was an unbelievable experience. It’s fantastic.”

The women’s soccer team, which entered the Family Weekend games ranked No. 2 in the nation, now has a national-caliber facility suitable for hosting NCAA tournaments.
“This is a great day for our soccer teams and for the Cal U family,” said Al Alvino, the team’s fifth-year head coach. “This facility shows how hard work can pay off. We are fortunate here to have a great tradition that continues to inspire us to land and give more on the playing field, in the classroom and in life.”

Team captains Charles Dagnal and Kayla Klimasko thanked President Armenti and voiced their appreciation for the support of both students and alumni.

Other speakers at the dedication were Michael R. Wagner, president of the SAI board of directors; Joe Regina, Regina Construction Co.; and Dave Hohman, senior landscape architect with Pennoni Associates Inc.

Senior goalkeeper Paula Jackson, a 2010 second-team Daktronics All-American, said she believes the new facility gives Cal a distinct home-field advantage.
“Other teams are impressed when they come here now, but it also shows them they are facing a team and a school that are totally committed to being successful,” said Jackson, who was third in the nation with a 0.34 goals against average last fall. “Everything about this is first class, and we are proud of it.”

While the Vulcans looked to the future, the Dunlevy Redbirds remembered the past, holding their annual reunion. Nearly 100 Redbirds attended the reunion, including 12 members of the 1965 junior team that won the West Penn Cup championship. Among that group was Domenick DiBenedetti, now the oldest living former Dunlevy player. “This is just beautiful,” he said of the new facility.

“We are not limiting ourselves to certain technologies,” the President said. “They are all amazing, each has a role to play, and the overall Cal U Fusion initiative gives the University a competitive advantage!”

Pointing to Cal U’s status as the first FranklinCovey Leadership University, he noted the benefits of student and staff participation in the Cal U Leader for Life leadership development process.

“When our students go for an interview and have a Leader for Life certificate as part of their Activity Transcript, employers are going to be very impressed, because no other students in the world will be able to claim that.”

Staff members who complete the training will become role models. “The leadership of each of our members of our campus community the opportunity to become an effective leader,” he said.

In other business, President Armenti said he expects the Convocation Center to be “substantially completed” by Oct. 15. Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams should start playing games there in November. A grand opening event will be held in spring, once the weather is conducive to travel and the facility’s technology is fully operational.

“it’s going to be magnificent,” President Armenti said. “Your hearts will swell with pride.”

Celebrating the dedication of the Phillipsburg Soccer Facility are (from left to right) Joe Regina, Regina Construction Co.; architect Dave Hohman, of Pennoni Associates Inc.; head men’s soccer coach Dennis Laskey; Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr.;; head women’s soccer coach Al Alvino; women’s team captain Kayla Klimasko; Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Nancy Preardi; and SAI Board of Directors President Michael R. Wagner.

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Cybercrime Expertise Sought in Europe

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r. Joseph Schwerha, associate professor in the Department of Business and Economics, will be a speaker at the fall 2011 Council of Europe Octopus Conference on Cooperation Against Cybercrime in Strasbourg, France.

The conference will be held Nov. 21-23. At the request of the Council of Europe, Schwerha drafted an article titled “Conditions and Safeguards under Article 15 of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime: Interpretation and the United States Perspective.”

According to a U.S. Department of Justice website, the council “consists of 47 member states, including all of the members of the European Union. It was established in 1949 primarily as a forum to uphold and strengthen human rights, and to promote democracy and the rule of law in Europe.”

Article 15 of the council’s convention addresses conditions and safeguards to protect human rights and liberties, such as privacy. This is a field Schwerha knows well: He is among only a few U.S. scholars named to the panel of experts for the Council of Europe’s Economic Crime Program.

Schwerha serves as an expert on legal issues involved with investigating the criminal abuse of computers and computer networks.

At Cal U, Schwerha teaches all aspects of business law, as well as issues related to privacy, cybercrime and information law. Schwerha also has taught for many organizations throughout the United States, and has written a book about managing cyber-liability risks.

Schwerha also taught for many organizations, including the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National District Attorneys Association, the FBI, the National White Collar Crime Center, the American Bar Association and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.