Students in the Convocation Center. The doors open at 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday.

Dante E. Morelli ’02 will address students at both ceremonies this Friday and Saturday in the Convocation Center.

Grant Writers Recognized at Ceremony

Two awards to recognize the contributions of successful grant seekers were presented for the first time at the 2012-2013 Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Grant Writers Recognition Ceremony on Nov. 21 in Karr Alumni House.

Dr. Katherine Mitchem, of the Department of Special Education, received the President’s Award for Outstanding Grantsmanship. Dr. Kyle Fredrick, of the Department of Earth Sciences, received the Provost’s Award for Outstanding Grantsmanship.

The president’s award includes $500, and the provost’s award includes $300, both to be used to support research or professional development.

Also at the ceremony, professors John Kula and Laura Giachetti, from the Department of Academic Development Services, were honored as Million Dollar Achievers for their grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the TRIO Upward Bound programs at Cal U.

All told in 2012-2013, 56 proposals totaling nearly $3.6 million were submitted, and 36 projects totaling more than $2.4 million were awarded.

Faculty and staff who either were awarded or proposed grants were honored at the event on Nov. 21. They are listed online at http://www.calu.edu/faculty-staff/sponsored-research/grants-yearbook/index.htm.

A link is provided on the Cal U website’s homepage.

“I am grateful for the funding because it has enabled us to provide an array of educational services and opportunities for prospective college-bound high school students, many of whom are from low-income families and will be first-generation college students,” said Kula, program director for TRIO Upward Bound.

“Cal U has received this very competitive funding since 1968, and it is definitely put to good use.”

Mitchem, who was honored for her history of successful grant writing, her focus on research and...
Student-Athletes Prepare for Games’ End

Through injury or circumstances, an athlete’s career can end suddenly. Whether you’re a hall-of-fame professional or a student player, making the transition to the next phase of your life can be challenging.

Associate professor Dr. Taunya Timley joined former Pittsburgh Penguins player Troy Loney to discuss those challenges with more than 400 Cal U students during a workshop Nov. 14 in Steele Hall.

Sponsored by the Department of Recreational Services and the Cal U ice hockey club, the workshop was part of a regular series of talks organized each semester by Recreational Services and Greek Life. Cal U’s varsity athletes also are invited to attend.

“You can generalize the experiences from sports to that of Greek Life and other extracurricular activities,” said Timley, of the Counselor Education Department.

“Sports ties in whatever group you may be involved with, because transitions are pretty much the same across the board.”

Timley is a counselor educator, as well as a practitioner in private practice. She explained that a student-athlete who suffers a career-ending injury can suffer from the same depression that some older people experience when they retire.

“It’s never too early to … start preparing to transition,” she said.

Loney was a left-winger who played for 12 years in the National Hockey League, from 1983-1995. He was part of the Penguins’ 1991 and 1992 championship teams and the first team captain of the Anaheim Ducks in 1993-1994.

“My last year in hockey was 1995. My body quit in 1994, and my brain thought I could do it another year,” he joked.

Loney is now a businessman, and he discussed the similarities and differences between sports and the business world.

“With business, just as in sports, you have to train, know your product and know what the competition is doing, because it’s all relevant,” he said.

“But in sports you instantly know if you win or lose, because there is a constant scoreboard. In business and many other fields, it’s difficult to transition … because it takes a year to know if you won the sale.”

Loney urged the students to broaden their base of friendship and support, not just for moving on to the next step in life, but also to avoid trouble.

“Obviously you need to do the right thing, but if someone tells you that you’re in a self-destructive mode, you’d better transition and reset yourself,” he said. “It’s up to you to be a good teammate and do the same for someone else, as well.”

CUTUV Airs Championship Live on PCN

The red-and-black CUTUV logo appeared on every replay when California University Television produced and broadcast last month’s PSAC football championship game at Bloomsburg University.

PCN, the Pennsylvania Cable Network, aired the game live with Cal U sophomores Tyler Harris and Zach Lamarre handling the play-by-play and color commentary.

“By the second or third play of the game, people realized it was a Cal U broadcast,” said Gary W. Smith, director of operations for CUTUV.

“I think the conference and other channels know we will do a good broadcast and be right down the middle of the road,” said Smith, emphasizing the student sportscasters’ objectivity.

“This gets our broadcast out there statewide and gives another real-world experience to our students.”

In addition to airing Vulcan football and a weekly high school football game, CUTUV has produced at least one high school football game for PCN in each of the past 15 years. This was the first time the campus TV operation produced a PSAC game for the cable network.

“It was a thrilling opportunity not only to grow myself, but also for the CUTUV crew to showcase what we can do,” said Lamarre, a communication studies major from Marietta, Ga.

“To be a sports announcer is a big dream of mine, and to be part of a statewide broadcast is a great step in building my career path.”

The PSAC championship was just one showcase for CUTUV. This season the Champs Sports Network asked the station to produce two WPIAL football playoff games, which aired via tape-delay on the CW Pittsburgh channel.

Smith also produced a public service announcement for the PSAC. The 30-second spot aired nationally on CBS Sports during a live telecast of the Shippensburg-Bloomsburg football game.

“It was pretty cool,” Smith said.

“After showing some pictures, there was a map of Pennsylvania that showed each PSAC team logo in their school’s location.”

The PSAC is the largest NCAA Division II single-state conference, the announcement noted, with 16 teams, 23 championship contests and more than 7,000 student-athletes.

“The PSAC is very fortunate to be able to utilize the resources provided by CUTUV,” said Will Adair, associate commissioner for the conference.

“Over the past several years, Gary Smith and his staff have been extremely helpful in helping our conference develop its identity. Now, with the agreement we have with PCN, we are able to draw on the experience of CUTUV and expand our relationship to live television. CUTUV is a tremendous asset for us.”

J.R. Wheeler, director of student media, said CUTUV has come a long way since 1986, when it began operating out of a tiny office on the third floor of the Natal Student Center.

“We are now a known commodity across the state,” he said.

Holiday Pottery, Jewelry Sales Start Today

The annual Cal U Holiday Student Pottery Sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the Ceramics Studio, CER 100, near Vulcan Hall.

The sale features handcrafted holiday gifts including mugs, bowls, pitchers, jars and vases of all sizes. In addition to pottery handmade by the Student Pottery Association, this year’s sale will include jewelry created by students in the Vulcan Metals Club.

For more information, contact the Department of Art and Design at 724-938-4182, or professor Richard “Duke” Miecznikowski at 724-938-4083 or miecznikowski@calu.edu. The Cal U community and general public can find an ideal holiday gift during the annual Cal U Pottery Sale this week.
Effective Messaging is Key, Says Weather Specialist

Meteorologists are scientists, of course, but they need strong communication skills if they hope to respond effectively to natural disasters — or to build successful careers.

Fred McMullen, the warning coordination meteorologist at the Pittsburgh forecasting office of the National Weather Service, emphasized the importance of communication during the first presentation in the Meteorology Club’s new Colloquia Series.

As an example, he cited the devastating Superstorm Sandy, which was not classified as a hurricane when it made landfall Oct. 29, 2012, in New Jersey.

“There was a hurricane in place, but because the storm was never declared a hurricane, people didn’t take it seriously,” he said. “As scientists, we know the message, but getting the message out clearly is something we are constantly working on.”

McMullen urged the students in attendance to master math and science, but he stressed that the field of meteorology needs professionals who can relate to a lay audience’s perception of weather-related risk and craft effective messages.

“Interpersonal skills are first and foremost what weather agencies are looking for,” he said. “Because if you can’t put two words together, you’re not going to be able to help.”

Social media has become a valuable tool for communicating forecasts and weather warnings, McMullen said. And volunteer networks can help meteorologists gather information quickly and reliably.

For instance, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Skywarn® program, a volunteer effort, has trained more than 380,000 severe weather spotters. Weather scientists can post an image or a question through social media and receive thousands of responses within an hour.

“Students are very good at understanding how to get the message across, and the use of social media has helped us (at the National Weather Service) to modernize many of our programs,” McMullen said.

“Something may replace it, but for now we are riding the wave. Social media is changing our approach.”

Although improvements in weather-related technology allow for increasingly complex analyses, the information distributed to the public must be condensed.

“People want the bottom line, not some 66-slide presentation about the weather,” McMullen said. “We are trying to get away from the headlines and talk about the facts,” sometimes in just the 140 characters that comprise a “tweet.”

Sophomore R.J. McGinnis, a meteorology major, is the Colloquia Series coordinator.

“We want to educate not just Cal U students, but also the public, on what meteorologists do to help them,” he said.

“I thought this was really interesting. I never realized how much communication skills differed from the scientific standpoint, and how they are used in dispensing weather information to the public.”

Students Ask Questions Live, Via Twitter at Campus Talk

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Students were encouraged to ask questions and to tweet their thoughts on the social media platform.

One day after the meeting, every student received an e-mail outlining specific plans to install more bicycle racks and add ashtrays near building entrances — two requests that students had made in person and via Twitter.

The President’s message also was sent to faculty and staff, and it was posted on the Cal U website.

In addition, the message told students where to find in-person help with selecting meal options, and it announced a student focus group to discuss campus safety concerns, “a subject of critical importance.”

Cal U administrators are reviewing the remaining twitter responses and tweets, and students can expect to see more answers soon. Some may be directed to individuals, but responses of general concern will be posted on the Cal Times website.

“We are always open to new ideas,” President Jones said. “We can’t always tell students what they’re hoping to hear, but it’s important that we listen to their questions and try to provide them with answers.”

Two Nursing Programs Accredited

The Board of Commissioners for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education has approved accreditation for two Cal U nursing programs.

The bachelor’s degree program in nursing has been re-accredited for 10 years, through 2023, and the master’s degree program in nursing administration and leadership has been accredited for five years, through 2018. Both accreditation actions are effective as of March 25, 2013.

Grant Writers Feted

— Continued from page 1

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Chancellor Unveils Electronic Admissions Application

Last month at PASSHE’s Fall Counselor Information Day, Chancellor Brogan officially unveiled the State System’s new Multi-University Electronic Admissions Application (MUEAA).

The new online tool allows potential students to apply to any Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education university — or to multiple universities — with ease.

Since its quiet launch in August, which included Cal U, more than 50,000 applications have been submitted or are in progress.

“Today’s 15- to 18-year-olds are very sophisticated consumers of information and products, including what they expect in the application process for college,” Brogan said. “Our research shows us that speed and ease of use are at the top of the list of their must-haves. Call it the ‘one-click’ rule.”

The MUEAA can be accessed from the PASSHE website (www.pasu.edu) or from any of the 14 individual PASSHE university websites, including www.calu.edu.

Potential students begin by completing the application at the PASSHE university of their choice. Once the initial application has been completed, the student can easily apply to another university. All of his or her personal information and educational history will already be pre-populated on the second form.

“We know for the vast majority of students who enroll at one of our 14 universities, that institution was their first-choice school,” Chancellor Brogan said. “We also know that many of our applicants apply to multiple PASSHE universities. The new multi-university electronic application makes that process simple.”
Runner is Champion Scholar

Cross country standout Morgan Huegel is this year’s first Vulcan student-athlete to receive the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Champion Scholar Award. Huegel, a junior, accepted the award during the PSAC championships at Kutztown University. The Vulcans placed fourth and tied its best-ever finish at the conference meet.

Clairon junior Mirea Schall was the female recipient of the award, which honors the male and female student-athlete at each contest with the highest cumulative grade-point average. Established during the 2011-2012 academic year, the award is presented at each of the PSAC’s 23 team championship finals. The selection criteria is identical to that of the NCAA Elite 88 awards, which honor the student-athlete with the top GPA at each of the championship finals sites of the 88 NCAA championships across divisions I, II and III.

A native of Cranberry, Pa., Huegel is majoring in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics. He has a perfect 4.00 cumulative grade-point average and is a two-time PSAC Scholar-Athlete.

Last summer he received a Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2ADA) 2012-13 Academic Achievement Award, which goes to active team members with a GPA of 3.5 or higher for at least four semesters. Huegel competed in several cross country races this fall, finishing sixth on the team at the PSAC Championships. Overall, his selection marks the ninth time that a Cal U student-athlete has received the PSAC Champion Scholar Award. Huegel is the second men’s cross country recipient; Tim Lahmers received the initial award in 2011.

“I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to work with Morgan,” said head coach Daniel Caulfield. “He’s an extremely intelligent and polite young man, and he’s going to have a tremendous amount of success in his future.”

Spring Break Travelers Visit Argentina, Brazil

The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures will sponsor “The Spring Break Trip of a Lifetime,” an excursion to Argentina and Brazil, from March 13-23. The trip is open to students, faculty and staff, as well as their spouses or significant others. Cost is approximately $4,000 per person. Travelers will depart from and return to Pittsburgh International Airport.

Students may register for a related course, MFL 479, which introduces Brazil and Argentina through films, music, literature and art, and culminates with the tour. Travelers are not required to register for the three-credit course.

Dr. Margarita Ribar, chair of the department, says the trip will include a visit to the famous beaches of Rio de Janeiro, the spectacular Iguazu Falls and the city of Buenos Aires, the home of “Evita” Peron and tango. “Are you ready to walk under Iguazu Falls or sunbathe on Copacabana Beach?” she asks. “This will truly be the spring break of a lifetime!”

For more information, e-mail Dr. Margarita Ribar at ribar@calu.edu.