New Tenure-Track Faculty

Please welcome these seven new tenure-track faculty to the Cal U family!

**Jason Kight** (Early, Middle & Special Education), Ed.D., West Virginia University, has interests in classroom management, behavior disorders, and public school staff development.

**John Massella** (Student Services), Ed.D., Duquesne University, is a licensed nationally-certified professional counselor, and certified clinical supervisor.

**Cindy Persinger** (Art & Design), Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, is an art historian focused on artistic modernism and the history of art history and its methods.

**Anthony Rodi** (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems), D.S., Robert Morris University, served as Director of Cal U’s National Center for Robotics Engineering Technology Education and is actively involved in STEM outreach.

**Melissa Sovak** (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems), Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, is a statistician who researches statistics education, teaching methods, statistical reasoning, and color models for image decomposition.

**Christina A. Toras**, (Professional Studies), J.D., Capital University Law School, is a licensed attorney bringing 20 years of practical legal experience to Cal U’s Legal Studies programs.

**Julie Warnick** (Justice, Law & Society), J.D., Cooley School of Law, specializes in procedural and substantive criminal law as well as court processes. With American Mock Trial Association coaching experience, she plans to further develop the Cal U mock trial team.

Parents/Family Portal

**Cynthia Young**, formerly a student success facilitator in the Office of Student Retention and Success, was hired this semester as the first manager of Cal U’s Parents/Family Portal. The portal will serve as the primary liaison between Cal U and our students’ parents and families. The portal will inform parents and families about information that is critical to student success in academic progress and degree completion; including degree requirements, prerequisites, advisement procedures, academic policies, major deadlines, and other topics. The portal will feature a blog, Q&A boards, a Facebook community, and other social media tools designed to connect and inform. The Parent/Family Portal is located at: www.calu.edu/families-parents

GO: #1 and Growing

Cal U’s Global Online (GO) was ranked the top online program in the country in The Top 25 Online Colleges study conducted by the SR Education Group. GO continues to grow with enrollments up 7% this semester and Spring 2011 applications and admissions up 35% and 48%, respectively. In October, PASSHE approved GO’s letter of intent to submit a proposal for a new B.A. in Arabic Language and Studies.

Career Services News

More than 300 students and alumni attended events conducted by Career Services this fall. Your Major Dilemma: A Carnival of Career Opportunities engaged students in exploring Cal U’s Career Advantage Program and highlighted job shadowing, internship, co-op and career opportunities for each major. At the Unique Careers for Education Majors Networking Event and the Women’s Networking Event at Southpointe students and job-seeking alumni participated in panel sessions and speed-networking with more than 32 employers and Cal U alumni, including Carol Mitchell, President and CEO of the Verland Foundation; and Michele Mandell, retired Executive VP of Talbots.
Faculty Achievements

PUBLICATIONS

- Silvia Braidic (Educational Administration & Leadership), Lexicon of Online and Distance Learning, Rowman and Littlefield Education Publishing & Brain Based Learning Environments in an Online Setting, International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education
- Paul Crawford (History & Political Science), co-editor: The Debate on the Trial of the Templars 1307-1314, including his manuscript The Involvement of the University of Paris in the Trials of Marguerite Porete and of the Templars 1308-10
- William Hug (Early, Middle & Special Education), “Eew! There’s dew on my toes. Common characteristics of preservice elementary teacher learning in environmental education and instructional strategies for science teacher educators” The Inclusion of Environmental Education in Science Teacher Education
- Andrae Marak (History & Political Science), Explaining Oil Nationalization in Latin America: Economics and Political Ideology, Review of International Political Economy
- Mary O’Connor & Cheryl Hettman (Nursing), Nursing Education Careers: A Conversation with Regional Nursing Educators, Western Hospital News
- Christine Romani-Ruby’s (Exercise Science & Sport Studies), The Pilates Chair: Challenging the Core, Healthy Learning Publishers & The Sway Back Posture, IDEA Health and Fitness

PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITIONS

- Maggy Aston (Art & Design), Small Wonders, Maryland Federation of Art Hoyt Mid-Atlantic Exhibition, Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts
- Sheri Boyle (Social Work), Ayanna Lyles (Health Science) and Taunya Tinsley (Counselor Education), Incorporating Multicultural Education into Your Curriculum, PASSHE Diversity Summit 2022
- Laura DeFazio (Art & Design), Society of Sculptors at 75 Years Juried Exhibition, American Jewish Museum
- Bill Denny (Library Services), Embedded Librarian: Transforming the Role of the Librarian, U.S. Distance Learning Association Conference
- Holly Diehl & Diane Nettles (Early, Middle & Special Education), It Takes More Than Mentoring: Improving Teacher Candidates’ Ability to Teach Reading Comprehension, PA Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators
- William Dieterle (Chemistry & Physics), Anomalies in Applications of Inkjet Printing in Microfluidic Device Fabrication, American Vacuum Society International Symposium & Exhibition
- Liz Gillette & Silvia Braidic (Educational Administration & Leadership), The Power of an Online Peer Advisement Model, Sloan-C International Conference on Online Learning
- Glenn Hider (Applied Engineering & Technology), Professional Technology Education Master’s Degree: 100% Online, Oswego University Fall Technology Conference and Technology & Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania Conference
- Laura Humnell (Applied Engineering & Technology), Incorporating STEM Concepts through Digital Communications, Technology & Engineering Education Association of PA Conference
- Scott Lloyd (Art & Design), Beyond City Limits: Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, Gallery at Sutton Hall at IUP
- Kevin Lordon & Silvia Braidic (Educational Administration & Leadership), Teacher Supervision in an Online Environment, PA Association of Elementary & Secondary School Principals Conference
- Andrae Marak (History & Political Science), Yankee Indigenismo: The Seri, SEP, and BIA, XIII Encuentro de Historiadores de México, Estados Unidos, y Canadá & Transnational Indigenismo and the Seri Indians in the 1920s, Western Historical Association
- Richard Mieczeznikowski (Art & Design), Art in the Garden & Society of Contemporary Craft
- Patricia Milford (Communication Studies), Stress Factors for Immigrant Women in a Multicultural World, PA Counseling Association Conference
- Suzan Mohney (Art & Design), Bridging the Gap, PA Art Education Conference
- John Nass (Justice, Law & Society), Prehistoric Farming, Soil Association and Technologies of Cultivation in the Central and Upper Ohio River Valley, Eastern States Archaeology Federation
- John Patrick (Counselor Education), Asthma in the Workplace, PA Counseling Association Conference
- Todd Pinkham (Art & Design), Artform Gallery
- Aleksandra Prokic (Applied Engineering & Technology), Using Scratch for improving problem solving and design strategies, ATMAE Conference

See Faculty, next page
Faculty (continued)

• Taunya Tinsley (Counselor Education), Counselor Education Students’ Cultural Immersion in Africa, Pennsylvania Counseling Association Conference

• Jacqueline Walsh (Counselor Education), Biofeedback: A Mind-Body Intervention for Stress Management, Pennsylvania Counseling Association Conference

• Stephen Whitehead (Applied Engineering & Technology), Where to find quality graphic employees?, Graph Expo, Collaboration between math and technology education using robotics, League for Innovation STEMTech Conference & Using robotics for STEM collaboration, Technology & Engineering Education Association Conference

OTHER NOTABLES

• Dave Argent’s (Biological & Environmental Studies) ichthyology class assisted the Pennsylvania and West Virginia agencies with fish surveys this fall to monitor Monongahela River health.

• Cheryl Hettman (Nursing) was elected President of the National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA.

• Ryan Sittler (Library Services) was lead designer of Random Precision Studios, an educational game that won the Caspian Learning 2010 Serious Games Challenge in Britain

• Emily Sweitzer (Justice, Law & Society) was elected to the Board of Directors and appointed as Secretary for the International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning

• Stephen Whitehead (Applied Engineering & Technology) defended his dissertation; The effect of robotics on middle school students’ attitude toward science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and students’ motivation to learn STEM material

Grant Awards

Mon River Basin Project ($30,000), Heinz Endowments/CMU, Dave Argent (Biological & Environmental Sciences) to establish baseline data to measure pending and future water quality threats

Cal U High School Student Athletic Trainer Workshop ($11,960), Highmark/PASSHE, Shelly DiCesaro (Exercise Science), for a summer workshop for high school students interested in Athletic Training as a profession

Project 720 ($15,000), PA Department of Education/Consortium for Public Education, Dan Engstrom (Student Teaching) and Harry Langley (Student Retention/Success), for high school preparation for student success in college

Chemistry Lab Equipment ($3,000), Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, Gregg Gould (Chemistry & Physics), for chemistry lab equipment

PA Space Grant 2011 ($5,750), NASA/ Penn State, Tom Mueller (Earth Science), for scholarships for students in GIS, geology and/or meteorology clubs

WEDnet Basic Skills ($237,637) & WEDnet Information Technology ($61,608), Workforce & Economic Development Network of PA, Ellie Nesser (Southpointe Center), for incumbent worker training in regional firms

R. Benjamin Wiley Partnership ($97,200), PASSHE, Gwen Perry-Burney (Social Work), for a summer program focused on academic and social skills that inner city students need to succeed in college

CASE STEM Program ($6,937), US Department of Defense/Garrett College, for teacher math training with Lego Robots and WvEB & Math Initiatives ($4,720), WV Higher Education Policy Commission, to provide technological assistance to the WvEB project, Anthony Pyzdrowski (Math, Computer Science & Information Systems)

Student Support Services ($293,864), US Department of Education, JoAnn Rodriguez-Naeser (Academic Development Services), for academic assistance of educationally and economically disadvantaged university students

As part of Cal U’s participation in PASSHE’s Marine Science Consortium at Wallops Island, VA, Jeff Sumey (Applied Engineering & Technology), secured $50,337 from NASA’s Wallops Island Flight Facility for: Inexpensive Tethered Aerial Data Gathering Platform. The project, which will develop and test aerial data gathering systems using kites (like the one Jeff is standing next to in the photo) is one of four NASA research projects in PASSHE. East Stroudsburg University is providing oversight for the projects.

Tom Mueller (Earth Science) will contribute GIS expertise to the project, and Nathan Wright (Computer Engineering Technology student) will serve as a student research assistant. Wallops Island is NASA’s principal facility for the management and implementation of suborbital research programs. The mission plan for NASA’s Wallops Island facility includes objectives related to cost-efficient next-generation suborbital and small orbital payloads and launch technologies as well as pioneering productive and innovative partnerships with government, industry, and academia.
Internship News

Elissa Weimer and Michael Candiello are two of 14 Cal U students participating in the Harrisburg Internship Semester. Elissa, a Criminal Justice major, is working for the Office of Attorney General Tom Corbett in an internship sponsored by PASSHE. Michael is majoring in Technology Management, with a minor in Nanotechnology and is an intern for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Internship Center director, Karen Primm, reports that the following world-class partners are interested in recruiting Cal U interns: Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, National Building Museum, National Children’s Museum, United States Department of the Interior, National Endowment for the Humanities; the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum, and NASA. Cal U also has strong relationships with regional employers, including the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Carnegie Science Center.

National Weather Association Award

Cal U’s student club, the Three Rivers Chapter (Earth Science), received the National Weather Association’s 2010 Local Chapter Award. The award was presented at the National Weather Association Conference in October in Arizona. At the conference, meteorology club students James Nieder, Dustin Snare, Steven Michel, and Katelyn Welsh presented GIS-based, flash flood research they conducted with Bob Davis (NOAA-National Weather Service in Pittsburgh) and Cal U professor Tom Mueller. Nieder, Snare, & fellow student Eric Beamesderfer also gave a Daily Weather Briefing to the entire conference.

GO MSN Student Publishes Article

Major Richard Rickley, Jr., a student in the Global Online MS Nursing Administration and Leadership program, had an article published in Pennsylvania Nurse; the official peer-reviewed publication of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, about his experience as an online student while serving as an Army nurse caring for prisoners of war in Baghdad, Iraq. Nursing department chair, Cheryl Hettman, served as editor and writing coach on the article.