AMAZING GRACE GOSPEL CHOIR CELEBRATES TRADITION
Creative expression has always been a part of the California experience. Yearbooks more than a century old students making music, putting on plays, sketching and writing for campus publications. Art exhibitions and more.

Much has changed since those bygone days, but creativity is very much alive. Our talented students enrich the campus experience for everyone around them. So please check our website to see what's scheduled, and join us for a talk, a concert or a student art show.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Geraldine M. Jones, University President

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs

Dr. Bruce Barnhart, acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs

President, California University of Pennsylvania

Geraldine M. Jones '72, '80 as president of California University of Pennsylvania.

The announcement was made April 7, 2016, in Harrisburg, after a nationwide search.

President Jones has led the University since May 16, 2012, when she was named acting president. She became interim university president on March 20, 2012.

Above: Board of Governors Chair Guido N. Pichini (left), President Jones and Chancellor Frank T. Bregan.

The Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has selected Geraldine M. Jones ’72, ’80 as president of California University of Pennsylvania.

Amazed at the latest happenings in California University of Pennsylvania, alumni may send their e-mail address to alumni@calu.edu.

Facing hundreds of students in identical caps and gowns, a U.S. Army general tells winter graduates to treasure their individuality.

DEPARTMENTS

CAMPUS CLIPS
12–15

ALUMNI CALENDAR
18–19

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
20–21

SPORTS ROUNDUP
24–25

MILESTONES
27–33

FEATURES

Amazing Grace

After more than 40 years, the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir is still singing, and its members still feel very much alive.

Opening Night

Roll out the red carpet! A new musical, composed by a student, makes its theatrical premiere.

Little Learners

Tots and future teachers are learning together at The Village Early Childhood Education Center.

Weather Report

State-of-the-art touchscreen technology brings an element of storytelling to broadcast meteorology.

A Soldier’s Diary

Word by handwritten word, students create a digital document from a faded, Civil War-era journal.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The Cal U Review is published three times a year to keep you updated with alumni news and information from all four Colleges at California University. Both the current edition and back issues, along with Cal U Review “extras,” are available online at calu.edu/Review.
Gospel choir ‘family’ celebrates tradition, worships through song

Like a mother discussing her own children, Almeda Pryor ticks off what she knows about many of the singers from her days as director of Cal U’s Young and Gifted Gospel Choir:

“There’s a drummer who is now a bishop. A former bass guitarist who lives in Connecticut. Three ministers, one lieutenant colonel and a deacon. A retired school administrator. In the early to mid-1970s they met on Cal U’s campus and sang with what originally was called the Young, Gifted and Black Gospel Choir. To reflect the group’s racial inclusivity, it was renamed the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir by the early 1980s. In 1971 student Ida Belle Minnie approached Pryor, whom she knew as a choir director at a church in the area. Would Pryor, of Donora, Pa., be the student choir’s first director? Although she wasn’t a Cal U graduate, Pryor accepted.

“I wiped away a few tears,” says Pryor, 90, as she recalls her first meeting with interested students. “Some of the students were homesick, and they viewed gospel music as a connection to how they were raised at home.”

Dinners on Sundays at Mrs. Pryor’s house became a regular occurrence for choir members. “We were a family,” she says. In fall 2015, at the group’s annual banquet, the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir honored Pryor as its founding director. In February, KDKA-TV visited campus to film the choir and interview Pryor for a segment celebrating Black History Month. A few weeks later, the choir performed at the Governor’s Residence in Harrisburg, Pa.

“I don’t miss my horn, but I am proud that the choir has continued,” Pryor says. “I hadn’t heard anything about them for a few years, but then they burst back on the scene. “My kids are still singing!”

Faculty leadership

Indeed they are. But more than 40 years later, the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir is all grown up.

Since 2013, the choir has been under the direction of Dr. Randy Tillmutt, an assistant professor in the Department of Music and Theatre. For most of its history the choir was a club activity under student leadership. But since 2014 it has been offered as a one-credit course.

“Having Dr. Tillmutt at the helm assures a consistency that could not have been achieved otherwise,” says department co-chair Dr. Yugo Ikach, director of University choirs.

“His expertise, vision and effort could not be duplicated by even the most over-achieving student. His leadership has garnered much praise.”

The 2015-2016 Young and Gifted Gospel Choir had 25 voices and seven band members. The group, which is open to all members of the campus community, performs traditional spirituals and African-American gospel music. Singers and band members travel to workshops and perform at a variety of venues in the region. Each spring, the choir hosts Joyfest, a concert that features nationally known gospel recording artists. Anita Wilson, nominated for Grammy, Stellar and Dove music awards, was the special guest at Joyfest 2016, in March.

‘A sense of togetherness’

Tillmutt sees a variety of reasons why students from all disciplines join the choir, and why it has lasted four decades and counting.

“For many, it’s a community where students can come for a religious experience and to worship, or for a sense of togetherness, camaraderie and friendship.”

Rising senior Lakija Rymal, a dual major in business and sociology, says the choir helps her to manage a busy schedule.

“It’s a home away from home. It helps me get through my week. When I walk into the choir room, I leave my stress at the door.”

Tillmutt says the choir also exposes students to the rich history of traditional spirituals and gospel music.

“And the fact that Cal U has a gospel choir is an element of diversity that may be appealing to a potential student,” he adds.

Rising junior Stephen Shraia, a commercial music technology major, plays saxophone and bass in the gospel choir band.

“It’s fantastic,” he says. “I’ve never played gospel music before, but I like the opportunity this gives me to learn something new.”

Says Tillmutt, “Whether you’re a music major or not, the thing I encourage students to do is to soak up as much as they can while they’re here.”

Joyce Tracy Wade ’75 sang in Almeda Pryor’s choir. A retired educator, she has been the pianist at Beulah Baptist Church in Smithfield, Pa., since 1968.

“By the time I got to college, I played the piano, but I didn’t really like to play,” she recalls.

“But Mrs. Pryor encouraged me. If we were performing five songs, she’d always tell me, ‘You can play one or two.’”

Wade also is the founder of the Youghiogheny Western Baptist Association Benefit Mass Choir, which performs in concert every October.

“Mrs. Pryor has attended many of those concerts, and she would always call and say, ‘Joyce, I’m so proud of you and how well you’ve done, and you’ve continued on with your music.’

“It’s still like we’re her little children. And to a certain degree, we are her children. Those things make you feel good and warm your heart.”

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U.
Composed by a student, a musical makes its theatrical premiere

A ct I: Curtain opens on two brothers, one a composer, the other a writer. Enter faculty from the Cal U Music and Theatre Department, who offer to stage a musical created by the pair. Cue music ...

Just weeks before graduation, on his 24th birthday, Dominic Carrola settles in to watch his original musical performed at Cal U. He’s already published a book for musicians and written the underscore for a full-length feature film. He’s composed and arranged music for the Washington Symphony Orchestra.

He’s nearly finished a degree in commercial music technology and a minor in Symphony Orchestra. Now 17 Cal U actors are performing his work onstage.

“His first film scoring job left him a bit disillusioned with the business, “but I was very open to the idea of a musical,” he says.

“For me, it breathed new life into music.” Yet Another Funeral is Carrola’s first venture into musical theater. It’s a thought-provoking variation on a boy-meets-girl story, with “a little dark comedy, like film noir with some comical moments” and 21 original songs.

Carrola’s brother Anthony, has written the “book,” weaving a storyline to support the music and lyrics. It’s his first musical, too.

“Tony’s the writer,” Carrola says. “I handed him the plot and said, “Write it for me.”

“We started with an idea,” his brother explains. “What if someone went through life and the plot changes; the characters have changed. Because it’s a musical, it’s very character-driven.”

Even before the songs are finished and the dialogue fleshed out, this musical has a destination: Cal U.

“Act II: Stage set for readings, workshops and rehearsals. Music lights dim as directors, cast and production crew enter and take their places.

For the cast, Yet Another Funeral is a rare opportunity. Mounting an original Broadway-style musical is an enormous undertaking. Few actors — let alone college students — have a chance to participate in the birth of a new artistic work.

But here, the student performers are part of the musical’s evolution. Mike Meketa, a commercial music technology major, arranges Carrola’s music for the pit orchestra. There are readings, then workshops where cast members try out their lines and the “beautiful, intricate” songs.

The Carrola brothers listen, tweak dialogue and adjust the score.

“He still can’t fully understand how the music and script work together until you see it onstage. And that’s pretty terrifying,” Carrola admits.

But theater and public relations major Sidney Popielarcheck embraces the uncertainty. “It’s exciting to take these guidelines and create a totally new character. It’s like a coloring book you get to fill in.”

“For previous shows, there was always a movie or a review. People have done it before,” says Saleem Carpenter, an electrical engineering technology major. “But this is like engineering. As actors, we’ve been given an assignment and a deadline, and now it’s up to us. There’s a ton of material to create something beautiful, something great.”

Carrola’s music adds to the challenge. Theater major Ryan Johnson plays one of the leads, the money-hungry manager of the Bottom Line Hotel. “It’s all very clean and modern; the designs are very fresh-looking,” director Pagen says. “With this production our faculty have taken a major leap as well.

Students, alumni and community members filter in as Carrola takes his seat in the audience. There’s been a red-carpet event in the Steele Hall lobby, with a parade of VIPs. Now it’s showtime. And then, in what feels like just moments, applause.

“Nothing feeds creativity like support from people who are interested in your art.”

No one wants Yet Another Funeral to end where it began.

“We’re going to see it somewhere else,” Popielarcheck says confidently, “and we’re going to say, “This is ours.””

CAST

Ryant Ryan Johnson plays one of the leads, the money-hungry manager of the Bottom Line Hotel, the focus of attention during a scene from ‘Yet Another Funeral.’

Yet Another Funeral does not take off,” he says with a smile, “I guess I’d have to postpone my legal education.”

By Christine Kneid, communications director at Cal U

READ THE PLAYBILL

To see more photos and the cast list for the debut production of Yet Another Funeral, visit calu.edu/Review.

Ensemble members gather around theater major Ryan Carter Johnson as he sings about the hotel business in ‘Yet Another Funeral.’
With a smile on his face and a gleam in his eyes, Musa Habeeb spills into the room, chattering enthusiastically about his morning activities. He’s smartly dressed, in a three-piece suit and a tie. Clearly, this is someone going places. Well, at least as far as the car.

“C’mon,” says his mom, Dr. Maggie Habeeb, a professor in the Math, Computer Science and Information Systems Department at Cal U. “We have to get going.”

Musa is the sharpest-dressed preschooler you are ever likely to meet.

“We talk about process- and product-oriented learning in my University classes — product is the end result, and process is the steps and creativity that get you there. It’s fun to see them reach developmental milestones,” she says, “writing their names, forming letters, understanding concepts.”

Her work at The Village provides real-world examples of classroom topics, Malarkey adds.

“Faculty at The Village have been able to apply their skills to what some might consider challenging when they question things, but it’s like to hold a marker. ‘I had to write a lesson plan for one of my night classes at Cal U, and I tested it out with my preschool class. It was a good way to see if I needed to make any minor adjustments,’” she says while “her kids” have grown and changed, she has, too.

“My preschoolers ask me a lot of questions when we do experiments — what if we use more, shake it, whatever. It can be challenging when they question things, but we figure it out together.”

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

The Village Early Childhood Education Center, within walking distance of Cal U’s main campus, has an enrollment of about 70 children — about 60 infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and the rest children in before- or after-school programs.

It follows The Creative Curriculum, which promotes hands-on learning through play — and the occasional superhero outfit — and aligns with state and local standards to prepare children for kindergarten.

The Village is fully accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children and holds the highest Keystone Star 4A rating.

“One of the measures for a Keystone Star is staff education,” explains Village director Ashley Baird Roth ’10, ’12. “The lead teacher in each classroom here has a degree in an education-related field. That’s pretty rare.”

The relationship with Cal U is strong, with several University faculty and staff on The Village’s board of directors.

During the spring 2016 semester, 11 students from the University worked at The Village in paid positions. As assistant group supervisors, they lend a hand with daily activities while observing how lead teachers prepare lesson plans and manage their classrooms. In addition, two students completed fieldwork assignments at the center.

The benefits to Cal U students are many, says Dr. Diana Nettles, chair of the Department of Childhood Education. “The Village has NAEYC accreditation, which is very difficult to attain. Many of our students have been hired there, which enables them to get a head start on their careers in early childhood education.

“Faculty at The Village have been able to visit our classrooms at Cal U to share their experiences and wealth of knowledge with our students. The Village children visit our campus rather frequently for events such as Christmas caroling, summer picnics on the Quad, theater and nature activities.

“It’s a great opportunity for the children, as well as our teacher candidates.”

Echoing that thought is Cherie Sears ’81, president of The Village and a graduate student in early childhood education at Cal U.

“The more collaboration, the better, because it brings energy to both Cal U and to us. We have a great working relationship,” explains Baird Roth ’10. “I earned her bachelor’s degree in early education services and began as a lead teacher at The Village in January after starting as an assistant group supervisor.

As she considers returning to Cal U for a master’s degree and teaching certification, she applies her skills to what some might consider an unlikely group of students: infants.

“I get that a lot,” she says, anticipating a hint of skepticism about what one might teach children in the birth-to-1-year age group.

“We do lesson plans that emphasize things like grasping and pulling,” she explains. “We sing songs, we dance, we do projects with paint materials or crayons. Even if the babies can’t do it by themselves, we’ll do it ‘hand over hand,’ so they get a sense of what it’s like to hold a marker.

“We track their progress and document the projects that we do. We notice if they use their hands differently or hold a ball or how they interact with their peers.”

There is so much more to working with infants, she says, than “holding them and feeding them and changing their diapers. You can teach them, not just watch them.”

Malarkey, the teacher of tiny professionals and superheroes, has been working at The Village since 2003.

She has watched Musa and his classmates grow up, teaching them as toddlers and now as the lead teacher in the preschool class.

“It’s fun to see them reach developmental milestones,” she says, “writing their names, forming letters, understanding concepts.

Her classroom at The Village helps her in practical ways, too.

“I had to write a lesson plan for one of my night classes at Cal U, and I tested it out with my preschool class. It was a good way to see if I needed to make any minor adjustments.”

Malarkey says while “her kids” have grown and changed, she has, too.

“My preschoolers ask me a lot of questions when we do experiments — what if we use more, shake it, whatever. It can be challenging when they question things, but we figure it out together.”

Village Scholarships

The Village provides scholarships for child care to single parents who are also college students. To be eligible, the student must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average, volunteer four hours per week at The Village and attend two free parenting classes per month.

To learn more about scholarships, or to make a contribution, e-mail cherie.sears@thevillagecares.org or visit www.thevillagecares.org.
The outlook is clear for the Cal U meteorology program. Expect more timely, interactive forecasts, thanks to a state-of-the-art upgrade to equipment in the forecasting lab.

Called StoryTeller and created by AccuWeather, the 70-inch, high-resolution touchscreen device uses software applications to bring forecasts to life, says Dr. Chad Kauffman, a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences. “Students are able to gather the weather data and then bring that information to StoryTeller to produce a weather forecast,” he explains. “The name ‘StoryTeller’ is also the mission: You have to tell a story when you present a forecast.”

The weather app, for instance, uses data from AccuWeather to power what the company calls MinuteCast technology, which allows students to present forecasts that provide precise timing on weather patterns. Instead, the technology upgrade allows them to download data “on demand” from AccuWeather servers, develop their forecasts and present them using the StoryTeller system.

“It’s very different from the green screen,” says sophomore Kaitlyn Moffett. “Because you can interact with the StoryTeller (equipment), you can be more creative and personal with how you present a forecast.”

Presentations can be recorded on a smartphone and live-streamed with an application such as Periscope, or uploaded to YouTube and archived on the meteorology program’s channel.

A social media presence is simply part of who you are as a student with how you present a forecast,” says sophomore Kaitlyn Moffett. “Because you can interact with the StoryTeller (equipment), you can be more creative and personal with how you present a forecast.”

“Students accustomed to today’s electronic forms of communication worked to transcribe each handwritten word as it appeared in the journal.”

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

In addition to giving students experience in making a primary resource accessible to researchers, the project provided a new way to teach students about the editing process and the intersection of literature and culture. “Many of the print texts that we study today were originally script texts, transcribed by any combination of copyists, compositors and editors,” Murray says. “My students have learned about the shaping influence of editors and how original texts are transformed, and sometimes corrupted, by transcribers and editors.”

“A lot of the journal was faded and blurred,” says English major Hannah Tervo, who plans to graduate in May. “The hardest part was just figuring out exactly what was written.”

For another May graduate, Rebecca Kaufman Taylor, the project “is an argument for continuing to teach cursive handwriting.” A liberal studies major, Taylor plans to pursue her master’s degree in teaching. “I also want to bring projects like this, which are valuable to the community, into my classroom when possible,” she says. Last fall, seven Cal U students shared their experiences in making a primary resource accessible to researchers, the project provided a new way to teach students about the editing process and the intersection of literature and culture. “Many of the print texts that we study today were originally script texts, transcribed by any combination of copyists, compositors and editors,” Murray says. “My students have learned about the shaping influence of editors and how original texts are transformed, and sometimes corrupted, by transcribers and editors.”

“A lot of the journal was faded and blurred,” says English major Hannah Tervo, who plans to graduate in May. “The hardest part was just figuring out exactly what was written.”

For another May graduate, Rebecca Kaufman Taylor, the project “is an argument for continuing to teach cursive handwriting.” A liberal studies major, Taylor plans to pursue her master’s degree in teaching. “I also want to bring projects like this, which are valuable to the community, into my classroom when possible,” she says. Last fall, seven Cal U students shared their discoveries about Phillips’ life during a presentation at the Robinson Township Municipal Building.
CLIPS

New playbook for Liberal Arts

The University has reorganized its College of Liberal Arts, which now consists of seven departments rather than nine. Within the streamlined College, the newly renamed Department of History, Politics and Society now encompasses anthropology, sociology and women’s studies, as well as history and political science. The departments of Music and Theatre have combined, and the departments of Art and Modern Languages have merged.

The former Department of Communication Studies now houses philosophy, graphic design and art history courses, paving the way for innovative collaborations. The conflict resolution program has moved into the Department of Psychology, while the departments of Justice Studies and English remain unchanged.

The reorganization was led by Dr. Mohamed Yamba, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, in collaboration with the Liberal Arts faculty. The changes are intended to make operations more efficient, with no loss of value to students.

Degree lets nurses build business skills

In today’s increasingly complex healthcare environment, leaders in nursing require a broad range of skills, including an informed perspective on business issues and management practices. So this spring Cal U launched a program that combines a Master of Science in Nursing with a Master of Business Administration. The MSN-MBA dual degree program prepares graduates for management positions in nursing and other areas of practice, entrepreneurial ventures, or roles as chief nurse officers.

The new program is delivered 100 percent online, with no campus residency requirement. Students may attend full time or part time, and graduates of Cal U’s MSN: Nursing Administration and Leadership program can add the MBA degree on an accelerated schedule.

Applications are being accepted through Cal U Global Online. For details, e-mail calop@calu.edu or phone 866-595-6348.

Online site works for job seekers, employers

Are you seeking a new job or a career change? Looking to hire a qualified Cal U student or alumnus? Check out Hire CAL U, an “online career center” that featured more than 4,100 job postings during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Job seekers can use the website to browse job openings, upload a resume, register for a jobs fair or networking event, or practice interview skills online.

Employers can recruit Cal U students and alumni by posting jobs on the site. They also can read resumes of qualified candidates, schedule interviews with students, or arrange an information session or table at a campus event.

In addition to job openings posted directly to Hire CAL U, hundreds of thousands have been listed there through the NACELink national jobs board. Hire CAL U also supplements the work of the Career and Professional Development Center, which last year connected 755 employers with about 1,500 students and alumni at career fairs and networking events. Career advisers also reviewed more than 2,000 resumes and other job-search documents to help students and alumni make the best possible impression on prospective employers.

To learn more about the jobs website, visit www.calu.edu/careers and click on the Hire CAL U logo, or call the career center at 724-538-4413.

Outstanding women

University President Geraldine M. Jones (left) recognizes December graduates Kiyana King ’15 (center) and Felisha Wright ’15 as the fall 2015 Women of the Year. King spent 300 hours as an AmeriCorps volunteer for Domestic Violence Services of Southeastern Pennsylvania, based in Pacific County; was president of the Activist Club; and worked in the Women’s Studies Office. Wright was a graduate assistant for the Master of Social Work program and an intern in the State University System of Florida. The Women of the Year awards are presented each spring and fall by the President’s Commission for the Status of Women.

Athletic trainer wins quiz bowl slot

Here’s the plan: Six weeks after he collects his Cal U diploma, Dillon Gorby will represent his alma mater at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association National Quiz Bowl, a Jeopardy-style competition held in Baltimore, Md. Cal U’s first athletic training student to advance to the national quiz bowl, Gorby will be one of 10 competitors vying for top honors in June at NATA’s 67th annual Clinical Symposium and Expo.

Gorby earned his slot in the national contest — and placed his name on the District II traveling trophy — by defeating 18 contestants at the Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association’s District II Quiz Bowl in Boston.

Regional and national quiz bowl questions are derived from NATA’s Athletic Training Educational Competencies, which focus on knowledge, skills, clinical abilities and professional practice.

Shortly after his quiz bowl appearance, Gorby begins a summer internship with the New Orleans Saints. He expects to work through the National Football League team’s pre-season with hopes of being asked to stay on.

“This is a tremendous opportunity that only a few students receive each year,” Gorby says. “Cal U has prepared me for an excellent start to my athletic training career.”

Ready in red

Vulcan basketball fans turn out in school colors for a “Red Out” doubleheader vs. the IUP Crimson Hawks in the Convocation Center. ESPN aired the NCAA Division II Games of the Week live on the multi-screen sports network available in 99 million homes. Campus organizations lined the concourse, and the pep band provided a musical backdrop for the women’s and men’s contests. Prizes, giveaways and performances added to the event, which attracted nearly 1,800 fans.

Professor: World’s lakes getting warmer

Dr. Derek Gray, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, is a key contributor to a global study that finds climate change is rapidly warming the world’s lakes, threatening freshwater supplies and aquatic ecosystems.

The study’s findings were announced at a gathering of the American Geophysical Union, the world’s largest Earth and space science meeting.

Gray and his fellow researchers assembled and analyzed a massive database of temperature readings for 235 lakes and reservoirs — more than half the world’s freshwater supply — between 1985 and 2009.

The study reveals that lakes are warming an average of 0.05 degrees Fahrenheit each decade, more than the warming rate of either the oceans or Earth’s atmosphere. As lake water warms, evaporation increases and water levels decline, making less water available for human use.

“Fresh water is one of our most vital resources,” says Gray, who notes that lakes are important sources of water for drinking, irrigation, energy and food production.

“Ultimately, water security is an issue that affects us all.”

Winter courses speed route to graduation

Winter College continues to grow in popularity. This was the third year for the five-week winter session, when students can take intensive courses 100 percent online.

During the 2015-2016 winter break, more than 1,400 students collectively earned nearly 6,600 credits — an enrollment increase of more than 9 percent compared to last year’s Winter College, and an 11 percent increase in credits.

It appears that scheduling a class or two during the winter term is becoming the norm not just for online students, but for many students enrolled in on-campus programs. Cal U officials say.

They note that Winter College can accelerate students’ progress toward graduation and help them maintain their academic momentum between the fall and spring semesters. The additional credits also can help to improve a student’s grade-point average or allow the addition of a minor or second major.
Campus pantry stocks food for students

Students who are experiencing food insecurity have a new place to turn. The Cal U Cupboard is a student food pantry based in the Natali Student Center.

“We don’t think food insecurity is a widespread problem, but we’ve heard anecdotally that students sometimes need assistance,” says Diane Hasbrouck, director of the Center for Volunteer Services. The Cal U Cupboard accepts cash donations and nonperishable food items to restock its shelves. To date the pantry has received more than 1,500 nonperishable food items, as well as more than $1,000 in monetary support.

Cal U is one of more than 275 schools nationwide that are members of the College and University Food Bank Alliance. For details or to support the project, e-mail cupboards@calu.edu or phone 724-938-4794.

Student research appears in scientific journal

Research into grasshoppers has propelled one Cal U student into print. Graduating senior Sean Wineland, an environmental studies major, saw his research published in the journal of Orthoptera Research, a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

The article was based on his 2014 summer internship with the University of Notre Dame, when he traveled to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to study food-web interactions between spiders and grasshoppers, a species within the Orthoptera order of insects.

Having undergraduate research accepted for a peer-reviewed scientific journal is notable, says Dr. David Argent, of Cal U’s Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

“At Cal U, we offer training that prepares students to compete well with job or graduate school applicants from larger universities.”

Campus ministries lead alternative spring breaks

After a summer 2015 research project at National Bison Range in Montana, a scholarship and a State System grant allowed Wineland to continue building his research portfolio during his final semester as an undergraduate.

He was among the students featured in the State System of Higher Education’s “Invest In Me” advocacy campaign, designed to inform legislators about the contributions of public university students.

Athletic trainer enters Hall of Fame

Dr. Thomas West, of the Department of Health Science, will be inducted this summer into the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers’ Society Hall of Fame. A PATS member since 1999, West has served as the society’s Convention Committee chair and president. He received the PATS Distinguished Merit Award in 2014 and the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Service Award in 2015.

West has spoken at athletic training meetings at the state, regional and national level, and he serves as a site visit chair for professional level programs with CAATE, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

A former chair of the Health Science Department, West teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate athletic training programs, and he serves as clinical coordinator for the undergraduate program.

Studies continue at Summer College

Registration is under way for Cal U’s 2016 Summer College. Students who attend any college or university, including the 14 universities in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, may choose from among more than 200 for-credit undergraduate or graduate courses. Both on-campus and online courses are available.

To learn more about Summer College, visit summer@calu.edu, keyword “Summer’s a College,” e-mail calu.edu or call 724-938-4407.

Campus ministries lead alternative spring breaks

Campus ministries led two groups of students to the Sunshine State for “alternative spring break” activities in March. Six students from the Cal ROCKS (Reaching Out for Catholic Kinship) student group traveled to Destin, Fla., to repair homes, mend fences and pick it with yard work at a Habitat for Humanity site.

In addition, 13 students from New Life Christian Fellowship headed south to join a Lifeway mission that provides free pancakes during the day and safe transportation at night to the thousands of young adults who vacation in Panama City, Fla., each spring.

“We wanted to offer an opportunity for students to do something … meaningful over spring break,” says senior Kaitlyn Strossner, a secondary education and biology major who helped to organize the Cal ROCKS trip.

“The opportunity exists to share our time, energy and service to make a difference.”
General issues call to action at 2015 winter Commencement

Lt. Gen. Alan R. Lynn ’79

“History is replete with people who have changed the world. ... Believe that it can be you.”

A

As he addressed the graduating students at Cal U’s 181st Commencement, Lt. Gen. Alan R. Lynn ’79 quipped that seeing the audience members all dressed in the same outfits made him feel right at home.

Although their uniforms of caps and gowns united them as graduates, the career Army officer told the students that their differences would matter more in the days ahead.

“Individuality is the key to success,” Lynn said. “Your individuality and that quality of your character... will define you in every choice you make.”

He spoke to master’s degree candidates Dec. 11 and undergraduates Dec. 12. Both ceremonies were held in the Convocation Center.

Lynn’s 36-year military career has included command assignments at every rank from captain to lieutenant general. Currently he holds dual roles as director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, a combat support agency of the U.S. Department of Defense; and commander of the Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Networks, based at Fort Meade, Md.

“It’s been more than 36 years since I graduated from Cal U,” he told the graduates. “Although this University gave me a great start, I never imagined that I would be a general or be invited as the Commencement speaker.

Often the best of plans change, and you must be able to adapt.”

‘Never hold back’

Following the general’s remarks, interim University President Geraldine M. Jones conferred more than 645 graduate and 565 undergraduate degrees. Not every student attended the ceremonies.

“Graduates, please know that I am very proud of you for your hard work and the sacrifices you have made to reach this point,” President Jones said.

“You truly can do anything you put your mind to, so never hold back. Whatever you choose to do, give it your all. Be courageous and know that you can, and will, make a difference for those you meet along the way.”

Giving back was a goal for Ephraim Yoder ’09, who was among the first Yoder Family helped to open more doors for the special needs students in Intermediate Unit 1.

“Never hold back”

Following the general’s remarks, then-interim University President Geraldine M. Jones conferred more than 645 graduate and 565 undergraduate degrees. Not every student attended the ceremonies.

“Graduates, please know that I am very proud of you for your hard work and the sacrifices you have made to reach this point,” President Jones said.

“You truly can do anything you put your mind to, so never hold back. Whatever you choose to do, give it your all. Be courageous and know that you can, and will, make a difference for those you meet along the way.”

Giving back was a goal for Ephraim Yoder ’09, who was among the first Yoder Family helped to open more doors for the special needs students in Intermediate Unit 1.

“History is replete with people who have changed the world... Believe that it can be you.” —LT. GEN. ALAN R. LYNN ’79

in English as a Second Language through an agreement between California University and Intermediate Unit 1.

He called the specialized degree “a way to open more doors” for the special needs students he teaches.

“I made the most of my Cal U experience,” he said. “My mother always said, ‘Don’t do what you like to do; do what you’re called to do.’ I did both, right here at Cal U.”

Senior gift

The University’s tradition of “paying it forward” continued during the undergraduate ceremonies when Nicole Alfer, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, presented President Jones with a check for more than $28,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

More than $140,000 has been raised for an endowed scholarship since the first senior class donation was delivered at the spring 2010 Commencement.

The President acknowledged Emily Grace Dickey and Kayla Nicole Zaken for earning bachelor’s degrees while attaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. Eight other students earned two separate degrees simultaneously.

President Jones also acknowledged Global Online student Amy Sherell Walker, who traveled from Qatar to receive her master’s degree in Exercise Science and Health Promotion: Wellness and Fitness.

Family was definitely front and center for Nicole Husk ’13, who received her master’s degree in school psychology. She wore a cap decorated with glittering beads and LED lights, a design created by her 6-year-old son.

“I was the only married woman and the only mother in my cohort,” said Husk, who also has a younger son. “It was really hard, but I wanted to do it. It taught my children the importance of education.”

Haylee Kraushaar, who graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in education, said she was “beyond excited” to have completed her studies. She worked full-time as an EMT while attending school and finishing her student teaching.

“I made the most of my Cal U experience,” she said. “I can’t wait to get some rest and start my life.”

Ever the general, Lynn left the graduates with a call to action:

“History is replete with people who have changed the world... Believe that it can be you.”
ALUMNI CALANDER

JUNE 4 ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON
Honor some of Cal U’s most distinguished graduates at the Alumni Awards of Distinction Luncheon. Reservations are required for the noontime event in the Convocation Center. For details, contact the Alumni Office at 724-938-4418.

JUNE 18 CAL U NIGHT AT CONSOL ENERGY PARK
Meet your Mon Valley neighbors, support Cal U students and enjoy great baseball at CONSOL Energy Park. On this Mon Valley Community Night, proceeds from 50 percent of all tickets sold will support the California University of Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund. To order tickets online, visit www.washingtonwildthings.com and click “Get Game Tickets” near the top of the page. Type in username “Mon Valley” and password “Vulcans.” For a brochure, visit the “Events and Reunions” page at www.calu.edu/alumni.

JUNE 20 GOLF OUTING AT SOUTHPOINTE GOLF CLUB
Don’t miss our 35th annual golf outing at Southpointe Golf Club, in Canonsburg, Pa. Cal U Athletics sponsors this popular event, and proceeds benefit the Athletic Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Staci Tedrow in the Alumni Office at 724-938-4418.

JUNE 23 ATHLETIC TRAINING SOCIETY ALUMNI GATHERING
Meet up with Cal U athletic training alumni at the National Athletic Trainers Association convention in Baltimore, Md. Stop in at The Baltimore from 8-11 p.m. for the Cal U Alumni Reception. Cost to attend is $10 for alumni, $15 for guests; admission includes two beverage tickets and light hors d’oeuvres. For details, e-mail Shelly DiCesaro at dicesaro@calu.edu.

JULY 20 ALUMNI NIGHT WITH THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES
Cheer on the home team this summer at PNC Park. Check www.calu.edu/alumni for the date and time, or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418.

SEPTEMBER 17 FAMILY DAY & PRESIDENT’S SHOWCASE
Look for a lineup of family-friendly activities, including the third annual President’s Showcase talent show.

OCTOBER 21 CLASS OF 1966 50TH REUNION
Formal invitations will be sent for the Class of 1966’s 50th Class Reunion in the Kara Alumni House.

OCTOBER 22 ANNUAL HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
Mark your calendar for our Cal U’s annual Homecoming celebration and parade!

SUNSHINE AND BASEBALL

On March 6 the Alumni Association hosted its annual gathering at McKechnie Field, the spring training home of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Sixty-five alumni and friends from Pennsylvania, Florida and points in between joined the get-together in Bradenton, Fla. After catching up on University news during a pre-game picnic, they watched the Pirates take on the Houston Astros.

Connect with our Alumni Directory
Cal U has partnered with Publishing Concepts Inc. (PCI) to produce an updated edition of the Cal U alumni directory. It’s our guide to the more than 53,000 California graduates living across the country and around the world.

During the course of this project, postcards and e-mails will be sent to all Cal U alumni, giving you the opportunity to call in and verify or update your contact and employment information.

The print edition of the directory will be available for purchase by California University of Pennsylvania alumni only. We expect it to be completed in early 2017. Read more about the project at www.calu.edu/alumni-directory.
The story is about the author’s father, Elmer Norval Carter, who died just 11 days after D-Day during World War II. Although the author’s mother rarely shared stories about his father, in 1995 Carter discovered hundreds of personal letters that his father had written in the months leading up to his death. It was such a touching story, and I cried through the entire recording process because I could feel the love and pain (Carter) experienced growing up without a father, Bischoff says.

“I didn’t have experience in creating audiobooks, but I had the skills necessary and the drive to learn specifics of the industry. It was such a great project to be involved in.”

Bischoff learned many of those skills in Cal U’s commercial music technology program. “While I was working on the audiobook, I was able to reflect a lot about my time on campus at Cal U” she says, “I can say with great pride that the skills I learned in the CMT program made projects like this audiobook possible.”

Bischoff isn’t using her skills only for freelance work. She is a concert manager and audio engineer for the Music Department at Dickinson, where she is responsible for the sound quality and recording of all concerts the department hosts each year. “I knew I wanted to be involved with music, but I wasn’t sure how,” Bischoff says. “My skills probably were not good enough to be a (professional) musician, but technology is being used more in the industry, and I thought it was a good opportunity.”

“The program allowed me to produce the audiobook, and I never say ‘no’ to an opportunity where I can gain experience.”

By Jeff Bender, assistant director for digital communications at Cal U
Six Enter Hall of Fame

It’s the highest University honor bestowed on former members of the Vulcan athletics program, recognition shared with a select group of onetime teammates or fellow alumni. This spring University President Geraldine M. Jones honored six Vulcan standouts by inducting them into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame.

Gary Butler ’08

Gary Butler ’08 was a three-year starting linebacker for the football team from 2005-2007. The 2007 PSAC-West Defensive Player of the Year, Butler earned D2Football.com and Daktronics All-American honors after setting single-season school records with 72 tackles and 19 tackles for losses. He helped Cal U’s 2007 defense rank first nationally among all NCAA Division II teams in scoring (111 points per game), rushing (55.9 yards per game) and total defense (2016 yards).

That year the team won a school-record 13 games (13-1) and advanced to the NCAA Division II national semifinals. Over Butler’s four seasons, Cal U compiled a 29-6 cumulative record.

After graduation, Butler played at North Park University in Chicago, Ill. for four years of professional football in the Canadian Football and Arena leagues.

Chris Clark ’08, ’09

Chris Clark ’08, ’09 was a five-time NAIA Division II All-American — four times in track and field and once in cross country — as a Vulcans runner from 2007-2009.

His indoor NCAA All-American time (13:58.51) at the 2008 Nationals remains a PSAC record for the 5,000-meter run in cross country. Clark finished fourth at the 2008 NAIA Division II Nationals after winning the PSAC and NAIA Division II Regional titles.

Among his numerous honors, Clark was named the 2009 Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. He also received the conference’s inaugural PSAC Sportsmanship Award in 2008-2009, and was a 2009 College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) Academic All-American.

Today Clark is a science teacher at Atholton High School in Columbia, Md., where he is the head coach for the boys’ cross country and track and field teams. He lives in Catonsville, Md., with his wife, Jillian.

Simone DeSouza ’09

Simone DeSouza ’09 was a three-time NAIA Division II national qualifier and All-American for the women’s golf team from 2006-2009.

She was the first Cal U women’s golfer to earn All-American honors and to medal at the PSAC championships.

In her senior season, DeSouza posted 11 top-20 finishes and finished fourth overall at the NAIA Division II Women’s Golf Championships. She was named the 2008-2009 PSAC Women’s Player of the Year, with a team-best scoring average of 76.3 through 13 events.

DeSouza holds the 2008 PSAC individual championship and led the Vulcans to the program’s first of five PSAC championships.

Eventually Hester was promoted to associate professor, became chair of his department and served for 18 years as athletic director. He also spent 12 seasons as head coach for Vulcans men’s basketball and 16 years as president of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, District 18.

Hester retired from Cal State in spring 1976 and received emeritus professor status in June of that year. He passed away on Sept. 22, 1979.

He and his wife, the former Betty Little, live in California, Pa., for many years. The couple lives in Johnstown, Pa. They are expecting their first child this summer.

Eugene Hester

Eugene Hester is remembered for his 30-year career as an educator, coach and administrator at California.

A World War II Navy veteran, Hester became an assistant professor at California in what was then called the Health and Physical Education Department. He also began coaching, serving as head coach for both golf and tennis, and assistant coach for football and basketball.

Eventually Hester was promoted to associate professor, became chair of his department and served for 18 years as athletic director. He also spent 12 seasons as head coach for Vulcans men’s basketball and 16 years as president of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, District 18.

Hester retired from Cal State in spring 1976 and received emeritus professor status in June of that year. He passed away on Sept. 22, 1979.

He and his wife, the former Betty Little, live in California, Pa., for many years. The couple’s son, Dr. Joseph Hester, accepted the award in his memory.

Joanna Nist-Haupt ’10

Joanna Nist-Haupt ’10 was a four-year starting outside hitter for the women’s volleyball team from 2006-2009.

A two-time American Volleyball Coaches Association and three-time Daktronics All-American, Nist-Haupt also was the Daktronics Atlantic Region Player of the Year for three consecutive seasons.

A three-time, first-team all-conference pick and the 2009 PSAC-West Athlete of the Year, she was a two-time CoSIDA Academic all-district selection.

During Nist-Haupt’s four seasons, the Vulcans won three straight PSAC and NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional championships.

Also a track and field standout, Nist-Haupt still owns the school indoor record in the high jump.

Today Nist-Haupt is a fifth- and sixth-grade reading teacher in the Blacklick Valley School District in Nanty Glo, Pa. Since 2013 she also has been the head women’s volleyball coach at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where her husband, Justin, is the assistant coach. The couple lives in Johnstown, Pa. They are expecting their first child this summer.

Brooque Williams ’10

Brooque Williams ’10 was a four-year starting guard for the women’s basketball team from 2006-2010.

A two-time Women’s Basketball Coaches Association All-American and three-time first-team all-conference selection, Williams was the 2009 PSAC-West Player of the Year and the 2009 NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Tournament’s Most Valuable Player.

She is the program’s career leading scorer with 2,205 points, which ranks third in PSAC history. Her 424 career steals remain a conference and team record, to do the 744 points and 303 field goals she scored in 2008-2009, when Cal U won the regional title.

Williams’ 892 career field goals rank third in the PSAC, and her 1,023 rebounds and 375 assists place third and seventh, respectively, in the school record book.

Williams now plays professionally overseas. This season she is averaging 18 points and 4.0 rebounds per game for the Arras Pay d’Artois team of the French Basketball Federation.

By Bruce Wood ’85, information writer for Cal U
This was her fifth appearance at NCAA nationals, where she has run twice in cross country and three times in track and field. Zanella also helped the distance medley relay team, which included Summer Hill, Gabby Irving and Jaclyn Reinfold, win the league title for a third consecutive year.

**Hockey clubs enjoy success**

The ACHA men’s hockey team won its ninth College Hockey East championship in 10 years and competed in the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division III National Tournament. Forward Bob Robison scored six goals and was named CHE Tournament MVP.

**Swimmer places 3rd, 6th in national competition**

At the NCAA Division II National Championship, swimmer Jade Arganbright earned All-American honors for a second consecutive year, finishing third in the 100-yard breaststroke and eighth in the 200-yard breaststroke. She is only the third Cal U swimmer in program history to earn individual All-American honors at least four times in a career, and the most recent of 18 Cal U swimmers to earn this national distinction. At the PSAC, finals Arganbright repeated as the 100-yard breaststroke champion and finished third in the 200-yard breaststroke.

**Runner repeats as PSAC champ**

Alex Zanella repeated as PSAC champion in the 1-mile run and helped the Vulcans indoor track and field team achieve its third consecutive top-five finish at the conference’s indoor championship meet. The championship qualified Zanella for the NCAA Division II Nationals, where she finished 14th in the preliminaries.

**Top scholar times two**

Guard Miki Glenn was named PSAC Champion Scholar Award MVP for Advocacy. This award honors the student at each contest with the highest cumulative grade-point average.

The season culminated with the Vulcans making their 13th NCAA Division II Tournament appearance in 15 years.
Campus may be quieter on weekends, but the lights are always on at the Convocation Center. Events were booked at the facility for weekday events and all but two weekends during the spring semester, and 80 percent of summer weekend dates are filled. In fact, the Conference Services team anticipates a 15 percent increase in revenue-generating business for the spring and summer terms. Nearly 74,000 visitors came through the doors of the Convocation Center last year. Here’s a look at the types of events beckoning to them.

Scholastic competitions bring middle school and high school students to the Convocation Center arena. Young athletes from organizations such as NJWYV wrestling, BG’s Gymnastics and AAU basketball are in their comfort zone at the home of Cal U’s intercollegiate volleyball and basketball programs. The sizeable, high-tech arena also hosts “smart sports,” including regional FIRST Robotics, BotIQ and National Robotics League tournaments.

Conferences attract students and adults who are eager to learn in a comfortable, academic setting. The region’s waterways, STEAM education, women’s history and more. In addition to the flexible space within the Convocation Center, clients such as the Wilderness Education Association use other campus locations, including the 143-seat Vulcan movie theater and the climbing wall in the Herron recreation center.

California University welcomes its own campus community to the Convocation Center. In addition to Vulcan athletics, the facility hosts Cal U events from Move-In Day through Commencement. Students, families, faculty and alumni visit this landmark building for the annual “Starkie and Spark” undergraduate research conference, Honors Convocation, the Alumni Association awards banquet and many other events.

Consider the Cal U Convocation Center for your next event. Learn more at www.calu.edu/conferences, e-mail conferences@calu.edu or call (toll-free) 866-941-7437.
IN PRINT
Chris Hogan ’95 has written a book, Retire Young, Retire Rich: It’s Not Age, It’s A Financial Number, published by Ramsey Press. An expert on mortgages and investing, Chris lives in Thompson Station, Tenn., and speaks nationally on financial matters as part of Ramsey’s tour, “Get Your Financial House in Order.”

Dr. Shirley Babiya Dickinson ’83, ’90 is the author of two books, including the recently released Queens of Means: A Call to Action to Stop the Vicious Cycle of Girls Bullying Each Other. Shirley also is the author of Children First: ARCs of School Success — A Guide for Parents. She has served as a teacher, principal, federal programs coordinator, author, parent, guest writer and child advocate in Pennsylvania. Shirley also has been a judge for two pageants, Miss WV USA and the 2016 Miss Connecticut.

Karen Urbaniak Perkes ’81 is a retired special education teacher from Duquesne (Pa.) City School District.

Shelley Lusk Valentino ’83 is a teacher. She studied early childhood/elementary education at Cal U and lives in Mountville, W.Va., with Charles ’82.

Steven Jeffries ’83 has been named trooper of the year by the Chardon Post of the Ohio Highway Patrol. He was chosen for his leadership, ethics, courteousness, enthusiasm, work ethic and cooperation.

Pamela ThistedTeutel Tonya ’83 studied math and computer science at Cal U. She and John Tonya live in Monessen, Pa.

Wayne Lock ’85 is a warehouse general manager for George Deloet Co. Inc. He studied math and computer science at Cal U, where he also played baseball. He and Cynthia Lock live in Trafford, Pa.

John Interval ’86 is a petroleum geologist for John Interval Geological Services. He lives in Bridgewater, Bridgewater, Pa. At Cal U, John was in the Geology Club.

Dr. Thomas Walters ’92 owns a dental practice, with four partners, in Erie, Pa. Tom has recently started a business, Erie Sleep Treatment, which aids in the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea.

Edward Hood ’98 is a correctional officer for the state of Delaware. He majored in education at Cal U and was in ROTC. He and Dawn Breachamp Hood ’98, who does clinical social work for Coastal Therapeutic Services LLC, live in Felton, Del. Scott Freier ’95, ’99, of Ocean City, Md., is a consultant. He earned his Cal U degrees in education.

90s
Tom Yoshio ’91 is a machine operator at Parker Plastics. He and Natalie Yoshio live in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Marcia Zuccon ’80, ’93 of North Belle Vernon, Pa., recently earned certification in English as a second language. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and her master’s degree as a reading specialist, both at Cal U.

Kelly Shannon Schoepf ’95 is a teacher in the Highlands School District. She and Mark Schoepf live in Apollo, Pa.

Stephanie Tyler ’96 lives in Bridgewater, Pa. She majored in education at Cal U.

Audra Kirby Comente ’96 is a corrections monitor for Renawal Inc. She majored in education, with a professional concentration, at Cal U, where she also was a pledge trainer for Alpha Sigma Tau. She and Frank Comente live in McKeesport, Pa.

Traci Carney ’98, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is an account manager for Truidance Marketing. She studied communications at Cal U, where she was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma and the Cal U Dance Team.

Mary Kate “Katia” Brown Evans ’98, of California, Md., is a senior operations officer for Ixora Research Inc. She majored in education at Cal U.

Christie Kisner Shahan ’98 is a compliance and security specialist for FISAP Trust Co. She studied parks and recreation management at Cal U, where she also was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma. Christie and Jim Shahan live in Dry Run, Pa.

Mary Popovich ’98 was a candidate to replace retiring state Rep. Ted Harhai, a Democrat from Monessen, Pa. Many teach at Cal U’s Department of Health Science.

Chad Bogiewicz ’02 is the minister of the Wurtemburg United Methodist Church in Ellwood City, Pa.

Dr. Jessica Croushore Pelto ’02 is an assistant professor of biology at Penn State York. She studied biology with a minor in psychology at Cal U.

Cynthia James ’02, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is president and chief executive officer of Youth Places. She studied political science, with a pre-law concentration, at Cal U, where she was a member of Zeta Phi Beta, Black Student Union, Student Government Association, University Ethics Committees, Student Activities Association and the Pre-law Society.

Sherry Yecco Sillings ’04 is a teacher in the McKeesport (Pa.) School District. She studied education and music in education at Cal U. She and Matthew Sillings live in Claron, Pa.

Robert Golustivo ’04 is the business manager for the Penn Hills (Pa.) School District. He studied business administration at Cal U.

Megan Andrey Albright ’05 is a human resources manager for Symmetry Financial. Megan studied criminal justice at Cal U. She and Bernim Albright ’05 live in Alpharetta, Ga.

Julio Caprari ’05 owns Caprari Media and works at his family’s store in Pittston, Pa. He and Melissa Maros were married Nov. 15, 2014, in Pittston.

Melissa Kalina Meyers ’06 is an office manager for Window World. She studied business administration at Cal U. She and Michael Meyers lives in Boswell, Pa.

Dana Keesner Schneider ’06, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is an assistant professor of psychology at Cal U.
Charles Schweinsberg '07 is a business analyst for PNC. He majored in business administration at Cal U, where he was a member of the band. He and Amanda Cassidy-Schweinsberg live in Greensburg, Pa.

Tanya Flunory-Parker '07, who earned her master’s degree in legal studies from Cal U, lives in Troy, Mich.

Elana Anthony '07 writes blogs on fitness and health. She is a certified group fitness instructor with the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America. She earned her graduate degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U. She also has a graduate degree in writing from DePaul University in Chicago, Ill.

Sharon Sajdal '08, of Bel Air, Md., is a logistics management specialist for the Department of Defense. She studied geography at Cal U, where she was a member of the TAU and Tourism Research Association, the Geographic Information Systems Club, a Peer Mentor, and a member of the Commencement Council.

Dai Forns '08 has joined the Rochester (N.Y.) Red Wings as strength and conditioning coach. He earned his master’s degree in exercise science from Cal U.

Marshall Carper '09, of Canonsburg, Pa., has written two non-fiction books, run an independent publishing house, works as a marketing consultant and teaches Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Demetris Caldwell ‘09 is assistant director of NCAA compliance at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. He earned his master’s degree in sport management from Cal U.

Monda Williams '09 has been elected to Washington (Pa.) City Council. Monda is a U.S. Army veteran and mother of three.

Ashley Altemeir '09, marketing director for the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, is a volunteer for the Young Professionals of Mon Valley. For the Young Professionals, she coordinates social events, development seminars and community involvement.

Joanne Duncan-Carnesciali ‘09 is an adjunct professor at City College of New York. She studied exercise science and health promotion at Cal U, where she also was a Jennie M. Carter Scholar. Joanne and Alido Carnesciali live in New York, N.Y.

10s

Mandy Woodford Mitchell '10 and Reno Mitchell live in Portland, Ore. At Cal U, Mandy was a member of Delta Zeta and an Alumni Ambassador.

Greg Johnson '10 of Sacramento, Calif., won the Life Fitness 2015 Personal Trainers to Watch competition, which recognizes elite training skills and passion for fitness. He owns Vanmix Fitness and is the lead trainer of RG Staff in Sacramento. He earned his degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Stefan Getzik '10 is a chef and owner in Washington County, Pa. Monda Williams ’09 has been elected to Washington (Pa.) City Council. Monda is a U.S. Army veteran and mother of three.

Ashley Altemeir '09, marketing director for the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, is a volunteer for the Young Professionals of Mon Valley. For the Young Professionals, she coordinates social events, development seminars and community involvement.

Joanne Duncan-Carnesciali ‘09 is an adjunct professor at City College of New York. She studied exercise science and health promotion at Cal U, where she also was a Jennie M. Carter Scholar. Joanne and Alido Carnesciali live in New York, N.Y.

Charles Schweinsberg '07 is a business analyst for PNC. He majored in business administration at Cal U, where he was a member of the band. He and Amanda Cassidy-Schweinsberg live in Greensburg, Pa.

Tanya Flunory-Parker '07, who earned her master’s degree in legal studies from Cal U, lives in Troy, Mich.

Elana Anthony '07 writes blogs on fitness and health. She is a certified group fitness instructor with the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America. She earned her graduate degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U. She also has a graduate degree in writing from DePaul University in Chicago, Ill.

Sharon Sajdal '08, of Bel Air, Md., is a logistics management specialist for the Department of Defense. She studied geography at Cal U, where she was a member of the TAU and Tourism Research Association, the Geographic Information Systems Club, a Peer Mentor, and a member of the Commencement Council.

Dai Forns '08 has joined the Rochester (N.Y.) Red Wings as strength and conditioning coach. He earned his master’s degree in exercise science from Cal U.

Marshall Carper '09, of Canonsburg, Pa., has written two non-fiction books, run an independent publishing house, works as a marketing consultant and teaches Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Demetris Caldwell ‘09 is assistant director of NCAA compliance at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. He earned his master’s degree in sport management from Cal U.

Monda Williams '09 has been elected to Washington (Pa.) City Council. Monda is a U.S. Army veteran and mother of three.

Ashley Altemeir '09, marketing director for the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority, is a volunteer for the Young Professionals of Mon Valley. For the Young Professionals, she coordinates social events, development seminars and community involvement.

Joanne Duncan-Carnesciali ‘09 is an adjunct professor at City College of New York. She studied exercise science and health promotion at Cal U, where she also was a Jennie M. Carter Scholar. Joanne and Alido Carnesciali live in New York, N.Y.
MILESTONES

CLASS MILESTONES

(35x732) CALU have joined the University’s Council of Alumni.

Natalie (a Cal U alumna and a current student ‘15) earned a spot on the U.S. Track and Field Team that won the NCAA Division II women’s basketball championship in 2015.

Baldwin, N.Y. Ava earned her master’s degree in educational leadership and principal certification from Cal U.

(California) Junior High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree in business management at Cal U.

Brian earned his bachelor’s degree in information technology at Cal U.

Jennifer Ann Holleran ‘96, ‘97, ‘04 and Edmund Thomas Nusser Jr. were married Aug. 29, 2015, at Clarksville (Tenn.) Christian Church. Jennifer studied education and geography at Cal U, where she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Alpha Theta. She also was a student worker in the College of Liberal Arts. Recently, she was promoted to director of the Talent Search program, a federal TRIO program, at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa. Edmund is a scientist in the toxicology laboratory at the Allegheny County Medical Examiner’s office in Pittsburgh, Pa. They live in Castle Shannon, Pa.

Janice is a photographer, and she volunteers for the Feline Rescue Association. Gerry works for U.S. Steel’s Clairton Works.

Christina Cupp (‘06) and Richard Smith were planning an April 2016 wedding. Christina majored in history and political science at Cal U.

Amelie Van Dyke ‘14 and Jeff Dickson ‘14 were married Jan. 9, 2016. Amelie majored in secondary education with a mathematics concentration. She works in the mathematics department at Passaic County Community College. Jeff majored in electrical engineering technology and works as a project test engineer at Fairbanks Scales. They live in Johnstown, Pa.

Louis ‘Busty’ Richards ‘10 and Angela Laturo Richards ‘10 welcomed their first child, Bria Marie Richards, on Nov. 9, 2015. The newborn weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Louis is an insurance maintenance caseworker for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and Angela is a special education teacher for the Unionsville (Pa.) Area School District.

Laura Stibich and Philip Kriss are planning a wedding for June 24, 2017. Laura is a math teacher at Greater Johnstown (Pa.) Middle School and is pursuing her master’s degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Michael Petrich ‘09 and Gabrielle Ash were welcomed their first child, Bria Marie Richards, on Nov. 9, 2015. The newborn weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Louis is a former member of the Cal U marching band, is a software developer at Bombardier Transportation.

Rebecca Smith ‘01, ‘05, of Waynesburg, Pa., and her partner, Michael Russell, welcomed a baby boy, Maxwell Freeman Russell, on July 13, 2015. The newborn arrived weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces.

Jennifer Anne Holleran ‘96, ‘97, ‘04 and Edmund Thomas Nusser Jr. were married Aug. 29, 2015, at Clarksville (Tenn.) Christian Church. Jennifer studied education and geography at Cal U, where she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Alpha Theta. She also was a student worker in the College of Liberal Arts. Recently, she was promoted to director of the Talent Search program, a federal TRIO program, at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa. Edmund is a scientist in the toxicology laboratory at the Allegheny County Medical Examiner’s office in Pittsburgh, Pa. They live in Castle Shannon, Pa.

Jeremy Pell ‘15 is the new assistant golf professional at Cuscowilla on Lake Oconee, in Georgia. He majored in professional golf management at Cal U.

Jason Shultz ‘15 is an assistant principal of Urbana (Ohio) Junior High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree in secondary education/social sciences and played on the Vulcans softball team. She was inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

The student Trustee and Council secretary is a rising senior in the University Honors Program. She is a Golden Scholar, a Student Government Association senator and the student ambassador for the Cal Times student newspaper.

Both new Trustees attended their first meeting in March 2016. They are the first new members since Sean Logan, an attorney with the criminal defense law firm Logan & Associates, joined the panel in March 2015.

Sarah Timm ‘04 and Zac Rutherford ‘03, who met at Cal U, were married July 10, 2015. Zac earned his degree in criminal justice and is a public safety officer and substitute teacher. Sarah majored in elementary education. After completing her master’s degree in English language arts certification, she is teaching eighth-grade reading in the South Allegheny School District.

Janice Zimmer ‘89 and Gerald Zimmer ‘80, of Bad Lion, Pa., marked their 25th anniversary with a trip to Ireland. They were married Oct. 13, 1990. Janice is a photographer, and she volunteers for the Feline Rescue Association. Gerry works for the Social Security Administration.

Andrew Herweg ‘09 and Ashlee Herweg welcomed their son, William, on Nov. 21, 2015. The newborn weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces. Andrew is a graphic designer at 2U and Ashlee is a sales manager at Marriott.

Michael Word ‘08 and Rebecca Avakian ‘08 were married Oct. 30, 2015, in Alhambra, Ga. Michael studied marketing and is a Rockstar for Keller Williams. Rebecca studied communications and is an account executive in advertising and media sales in the Atlanta, Ga., area.

Barry Wayne Anthony ‘74, Adrienne Arleta Ferguson Baldwin ‘84, Jerry M. Blackmon Jr., emeritus faculty, former chair, Department of Math and Computer Science John Robert Boedden ‘87

Donald O. Buttermore ‘51

Richard S. Caputo ‘64

Joseph P. Cardinale ‘70

James "Jim" Edward Daniero Sr. ‘47

Kimberly D. DeCarlo Rydeski ‘59

Robert G. DeFelice ‘75

Joseph "Joe" DeFelice ‘74

Ronald Lee Godsey ‘79

Mary Ann Cairns Vittone ‘75

Marilyn C. Kielbasa Smith ‘73

Donald E. Saunders ‘71

Florence Koury Thomas ‘70

Theodore J. "Ted" Tarka Sr. ‘99

Bernadette Marie Sokol ‘87

Constance L. DeCarlo Rydeski ‘59

Mason Reiff*

Robert S. Rable ‘64

Maison Renshaw

Caroline M. DeCarlo Rydeski ‘59

Bermadette Marie Sokol ‘87

Theodore J. "Ted" Tarka Sr. ‘99

Florence Koury Thomas ‘70

Donald E. Saunders ‘71

William Wayne Simms ‘70

Mary Anne Cairns Vittone ‘75

Rowe T. "Bunny" Hetherington Vogenberger ‘70

"Class year not on file"
The year 1852 is memorable for many reasons. The first edition of Peter Roget’s Thesaurus was published. Future U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes was married. And here in California, Pa., the South Western Normal School was founded — the first chapter in the proud history of California University of Pennsylvania.

Cal U has undergone many changes in the past 164 years. But as alumni, we feel the same pride in our alma mater as the school’s original graduates.

Show your Vulcan pride today by participating in the 1852 Campaign.

Your gift of $18.52 or more will support scholarships for a new generation of California University students.

Gifts to the 1852 Campaign must total $18.52 or more, be marked ‘1852 Campaign’ and be received by Sept. 30, 2016.

Use the envelope provided or mail your donation to:

**1852 CAMPAIGN**
Office of University Development and Alumni Relations
California University of Pennsylvania
250 University Ave., California PA 15419

For more information about giving to Cal U, phone 724-938-4248 or e-mail minerva@calu.edu.

Stay connected to the Cal U Alumni Association’s online community! Your personal ID number is on this magazine’s mailing label.

Keep in Touch

Information will be published as space and deadlines allow. Please indicate on another sheet what activities or sports you participated in while you were a student. We welcome high-resolution electronic photographs. Please e-mail images to revieweditor@calu.edu; put the words “Milestones photo” on the subject line of your e-mail, and be sure to tell us your name, year of graduation and the identity of everyone in the picture. Please do not send computer printouts or low-resolution digital photos, as they will not reproduce well in this magazine.

Send your Milestones news or address changes by e-mail to alumni@calu.edu, by fax to 724-938-5932, or by mail to Office of Alumni Relations, California University of Pennsylvania, 250 University Ave., Box 89, California, PA 15419.
Putting their heads together
Nick Nypaver, Matt Brown, Lisa Quashnock and Jillian Thorn study in the Heritage Lounge at the Natali Student Center. Flexible seating in the rotunda makes this an ideal spot for students to relax or study together.