

**CALU**

# REVIEW

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MAGAZINE • FALL + WINTER 2021



## LEADERSHIP IN MOTION

President of three  
campuses sees  
one road ahead

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year begins with a renewed sense of purpose as we get ready to consolidate Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro to create Pennsylvania Western University.\*

Hundreds of people on all three campuses have spent more than 24 months preparing to launch PennWest. It's a complex project, and the integrated university's July debut will be a starting point, not the finish line. As we move forward:

- New students who enroll at PennWest will select their preferred campus or choose a 100% online degree program.
- Current students will complete their academic programs at the campus where they're enrolled, so they can graduate as planned.
- Our PennWest faculty will gradually transition the curriculum to a single array of courses that leverage the best of what each campus has to offer.
- Within their respective divisions, PennWest staff will work to streamline operations, foster inter-campus collaboration and provide enhanced student support.

What will *not* change is our commitment to retaining the culture and identity of each PennWest campus. At Cal U, the Vulcan mascot, Homecoming celebration and other memorable traditions will remain, along with the can-do spirit that makes California such a special place.

As you can see on page 6, the logos for PennWest California and its sister campuses include traditional school colors and incorporate a bit of each location's current identity, such as our iconic clock tower. We cherish our past, even as we look to the future.

And what a bright future it will be! With about 180,000 alumni, PennWest will be among the largest universities in western Pennsylvania. We will always be Vulcans, but we will also be part of a powerhouse university that is breaking new ground in higher education.

With your loyalty and support, our California campus will continue to transform the lives of students across Pennsylvania and beyond.

Forging ahead!



Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson  
INTERIM PRESIDENT,  
CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

\* Pending approval by our accrediting body,  
the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

## CAL U REVIEW

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MAGAZINE

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Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson is a woman on the move, balancing her time between presidential duties at Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro universities.

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# LEADERSHIP IN MOTION

## PRESIDENT OF THREE CAMPUSES SEES ONE ROAD AHEAD

**D**r. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson is a woman on the move. Since July, when she was named interim president at Cal U, she's balanced her time among California and Clarion, where she's been university president since 2018, and Edinboro University, where she took over as interim president in December 2020.

A color-coded schedule pinpoints her location each day, but she seems to be everywhere: Taking selfies with students at Homecoming, sitting down with community leaders, meeting with faculty and staff, phoning University trustees, connecting with alumni, and taking part in countless Zoom calls with campus administrators and State System officials.

"If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we can adapt. We can do things in new ways, and do them well," says Dr. Dale, as she's known to students and employees alike.

"Right now we're building a new university – and at the same time, we're keeping our campuses going. We're educating our students and caring for them and helping them stay on track toward a degree. It's a lot to take on, but we have the tools and the talent to do it."

### BEYOND BORDERS

On July 1, Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro will unite as Pennsylvania Western University – a regional powerhouse with nearly 14,500 students and about 180,000 living alumni. It's a groundbreaking move that's being closely watched by higher education experts across the country.

PennWest will have one president, one leadership team and one faculty cohort teaching across all three campuses. A fourth, "virtual" campus, PennWest Global Online, will offer 100% online degree programs.

Professors will teach in person at their home campus while, in many cases, using technology to reach students at other PennWest locations. Students will choose their preferred location when they enroll and select from an extensive menu of in-person and distance education classes.

"We're still in the business of classroom-based teaching. That's the experience that many students are looking for, and that's what we'll deliver at each campus," says Dr. Dale, who began her 25-year higher ed career in the field of counselor education.

"But State System research shows that nine

out of 10 current and future students are willing to take some courses online, either to add flexibility to their schedule or to have access to a wider range of courses.

"By combining our strengths and making good use of technology, PennWest can offer our students more academic options than any single campus could provide."

### COUNTDOWN TO LAUNCH

Heading into the spring semester, Dr. Dale is focused on launching the new university. Accreditation has been requested, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education is expected to respond in March. Once it does, she anticipates the NCAA will rule on a plan for each campus to retain its current lineup of athletics programs.

PennWest will continue to evolve in the coming years, but a framework is in place. The new university will open with eight divisions, each with a senior leader. A "campus administrator" has been designated at each location to deal with critical incidents, such as a snow day or water main break, and to stand in for the president when she's not available to attend local events.



Dr. Dale joins incoming students for the traditional candle-lighting ceremony that caps off Welcome Weekend.



Dr. Dale dives right in, kayaking with students on the Mon River near campus.

On the academic side, faculty have been assigned to departments within PennWest’s six colleges. The provost, college deans and department chairs have been identified.

“People often ask, ‘How can one president lead three campuses, especially when they’re so far apart?’” Dr. Dale says.

“I tell them it’s not about the president, it’s about the presidency. It’s about having strong leaders in place who can manage day-to-day operations. My role is to set the strategy, to listen carefully, to review the facts and make decisions that will keep us moving forward.”

In meetings with employees and community members, Dr. Dale stresses that widespread layoffs are not anticipated as a result of consolidation. Organizational charts are being rewritten to promote efficiency while ensuring that both academics and student services remain robust.

Savings will be re-invested to support student success.

“Yes, we want to strengthen our finances and increase enrollment,” says Dr. Dale. “But that’s not the end of the story. Ultimately, our goal is to have more students graduate from PennWest and go on to have successful lives and careers.”

### ‘ENERGY ... AND ACCOMPLISHMENT’

Since the start of integration planning, Dr. Dale has been a tireless champion for the project. Whether she’s talking to legislators, trustees, major donors, alumni, university employees or student leaders, she radiates confidence and positivity.

She has no doubt that PennWest and its counterpart in northeastern Pennsylvania – an as-yet-unnamed school formed by

integrating Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield universities – will benefit both the communities where they operate and the students they exist to serve.

“Dr. Dale’s commitment to students is unparalleled and has been throughout her career. It underpins her energy, creativity, compassion and accomplishment as a higher education leader,” says Daniel Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education.

“I look forward to working with her as she guides PennWest through its critical start-up years.”

If being the new university’s chief ambassador means racking up highway miles, Dr. Dale is game. She packs her bags with school colors in mind. She carries three sets of magnetic signs, one with each campus logo, so her SUV can double as a traveling billboard.

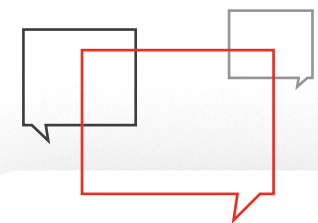
In the end, it’s the mission that drives her.

“Like its sister campuses, California has transformed itself many times over the past 170 years. This latest transformation is all about giving our students, as well as our campuses, more opportunities to grow and thrive.

“Our beautiful setting, our wonderful history and traditions – they all will remain. But we will be stronger, more sustainable and better able to educate and support our students as PennWest California. I’m convinced we’re on the right path.” ■

### ONLINE EXTRA

Visit [calu.edu/review](http://calu.edu/review) for a link to Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson’s online biography.



## THREE QUESTIONS FOR DR. DALE

**Q** What’s your favorite spot at Cal U?

**A** I love the Emeriti Fountain.

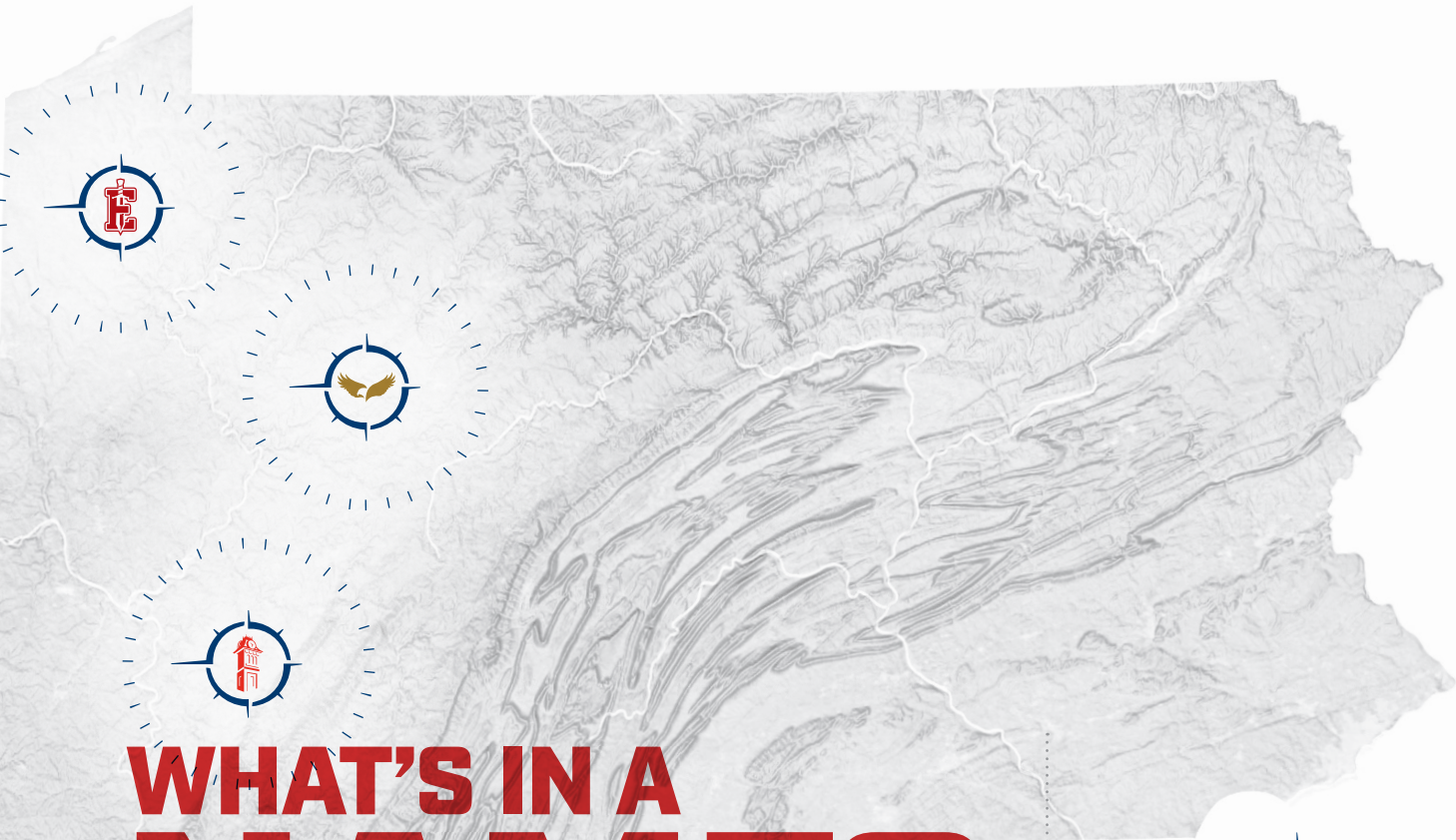
**Q** What’s on your drive-time playlist?

**A** No playlist! I’m using Duolingo to study Spanish, and I’m in the Diamond League.

(The top competitive level on the language learning app).

**Q** What’s one “must-have” item in your travel bag?

**A** My bike helmet. I try to ride 100 miles a week on my bicycle, Rosie.



# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

## Integrated university will be known as PennWest

It's a new name for a new institution: Pennsylvania Western University. Formed by the consolidation of Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro universities, PennWest is poised for launch in July, pending approval by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

"It's a strong name, a clear name, for our integrated university," says Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, Cal U's interim president. "It says who we are, where we are and what we do. And the nickname, PennWest, combines well with our location names to identify our campuses."

The PennWest name was announced this fall after a multi-phase process that involved surveys and focus groups with students, alumni, trustees, faculty and staff from all three campuses.

To assist with the project, Cal U and its partner universities engaged Carnegie Dartlet, a national leader in higher education marketing and enrollment strategy, to zero in on the traits that distinguish each campus and outline a

brand identity for the new university.

The Carnegie team then researched competitors' names and took a deep dive into how various monikers might perform online, where most students begin their college search.

Once the pool of prospective names was reduced to three, researchers went to the marketplace, testing each name's appeal to more than 330 future students, families and influencers, such as guidance counselors, who help students make their college decisions.

The PennWest name was a standout.

### **DISTINCTIVE AND APPEALING**

Naming a new university is no simple task, says Jaime Oleksik, AVP for Enrollment and Marketing Strategy at Carnegie.

The name must be distinctive, yet easy to remember. It must reflect the school's character and identity while appealing to everyone from current and future students to alumni, faculty, staff and university leaders.





Whether we're known as Cal State, Cal U or the California campus of PennWest University, what matters most is the experience we provide for our students, and the success they go on to achieve."

DR. DALE-ELIZABETH PEHRSSON

Critically, a university name must rise to the top when a potential student types it into a search engine such as Google. And the new name must be able to gain traction quickly, inspiring individuals – especially future students and their families – to learn more about the school.

When a new university is born from the integration of three existing schools, each with more than 150 years of history, choosing the right name is even more important.

"That shared identity begins with a shared name," Oleksik says.

"The university comprising Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro needs a name that can represent the unified structure while still retaining each campus's authentic personality.

"Fortunately, these three institutions share similar truths about who their students are and how each provides access to life-changing education."

In market tests, the name Pennsylvania Western University took top marks in all categories. Clear and literal, it sounds "collegiate and established" while "suggesting a prominent role in the region."

And the PennWest nickname excelled on marketability measures such as "easy to use in conversation" and "would look good on apparel."

Since students are often the ones wearing those T-shirts, caps and hoodies, it made sense to have them choose what the new name would look like. Behind the scenes, that process was already underway.



## DESIGN OPTIONS

Minutes after the PennWest name was announced, every student at Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro received an email with a link to an online survey. It explained the PennWest color palette of dark blue, red and gold, derived from the three campuses' school colors.

It also showed three design options for the new name.

Students could vote online for the logo that appealed to them most, or visit the student center to see the choices and use a QR code to make their selection.

In addition to the full university name and its nickname, the design package included wordmarks for each of the integrating campuses, plus the global online division.

In all, nearly 5,000 students took part in the survey – a remarkable level of engagement.

The winning logo was the preferred choice on all three campuses and received 39% of the overall vote. It features a compass that points the way to Pennsylvania Western University. A keystone represents the commonwealth. When the nickname is used, the extended westward compass point crosses the lowercase "t" in PennWest.

To honor local identities, the wordmarks for PennWest California, PennWest Clarion and PennWest Edinboro include the colors of each location and incorporate a bit of each campus's current logo, such as Cal U's iconic clock tower.

"From the start, we have been intentional about building a student-focused university through the integration process," says Pehrsson, who also is president of Clarion and interim president of Edinboro.

"This is one demonstration of what that truly means. Our students voted, and we will use the design they chose. They are the future of Pennsylvania Western University, and we want them to wear the name proudly."

The winning design was announced before winter break, accompanied by giveaways of T-shirts and stickers for on-campus and online students. Once accreditation is in place, it will be featured in marketing campaigns for Pennsylvania Western University.

"All of our institutions have changed their names and logos over the years," Pehrsson says.

"Whether we're known as Cal State, Cal U or the California campus of PennWest University, what matters most is the experience we provide for our students, and the success they go on to achieve." ■



## THE BIG REVEAL

See the videos announcing the integrated university's name and its design at [calu.edu/name-reveal](http://calu.edu/name-reveal).

**STUDENTS**

# HELPING

**STUDENTS**

## TOUGH COURSE? PEER-TO-PEER INSTRUCTION CAN HELP

**A** 38-year-old cat lover is among those who found success thanks to Cal U's Supplemental Instruction program.

Meet Nicole Shatzer, who's enthusiastic about her career possibilities once she graduates from the veterinary technology program, but also realistic about academics.

She learns at a slower pace due to a medical condition. And – let's be real, she says – high school chemistry was almost 20 years ago.

"A professor with 30 students in a class can't slow down just for me," Shatzer says. "And there was one concept, unit conversion, that I wasn't understanding. Everyone else had already learned it in high school. But that was a while ago for me."

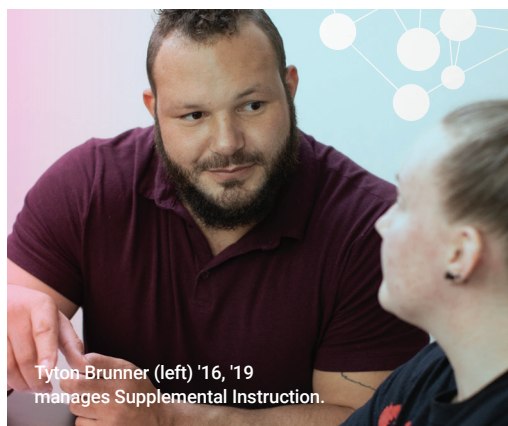
### SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION

No matter your age or major, the one-stop place for peer-based academic support is the Vulcan Learning Commons in Noss Hall. It's home to the Foundry Writing Center and the Learning Assistance Center.

Within the LAC is a learning option called

Supplemental Instruction, under the guidance of Tyton Brunner '16, '19, an academic achievement specialist in the Office of Academic Success and the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Supplemental Instruction, or SI, is offered in person and online at Cal U through a five-year, \$2.1 million grant awarded in 2020 from the U.S. Department of Education's Title III Strengthening Institutions program.



Tyton Brunner (left) '16, '19 manages Supplemental Instruction.





The students who attend the Supplemental Instruction sessions have a 5% to 10% higher exam score.

RILEY BELL

It uses a group-learning approach designed to enhance student success in “barrier courses” – classes with higher failure and withdrawal rates.

Cal U offered 27 Supplemental Instruction courses in Fall 2021, from Arabic to vet tech.

Brunner recruits, hires and trains SI leaders – current students with a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher who already have passed these historically challenging courses with a B+ grade or better.

SI leaders take the course again, along with the students in their group.

“They work hand in hand with the professors to figure out the most important content each week,” Brunner explains.

“It’s not tutoring. Neither is it re-lecturing of the course. SI leaders are using collaborative learning techniques and strategies that help students think critically for themselves.”

For example, students might work together in groups using a “Jeopardy!” answer-and-question format to learn a particular lesson.

“Leaders won’t give you the answer,” Brunner says. “They’ll allow the students to think before they answer, maybe send them back to the notes, PowerPoints, textbooks or sample equations.”

## BENEFITS FOR LEADERS

Sophomore Riley Bell is a health science major who’s interested in a career as a physician assistant.

He’s highly motivated, accumulating clinical hours as a rehabilitation aide for UPMC Magee Women’s Hospital and UMPC Rooney Sport Complex.

In Fall 2021, Bell was back in an Anatomy & Physiology I class three times a week and assisting a group of A&P students who were learning the fundamental systems of the human body for the first time.

“The students who attend the Supplemental Instruction sessions have a 5% to 10% higher exam score,” he says. “And I’m able to give them some direction so they don’t spend time overstudying for something that’s not going to be on the test and understudying for something that might be.

“I can give them some advice about approaching a professor with a question, which can be intimidating if you’re not used to doing it.”

As Bell explains a typical week in the life of a peer leader, it’s evident that they learn during the semester, too.

“You don’t realize how much you miss until you take a class again,” he says.

“I really love A&P. It’s the basis of medicine, and you really have to understand it before you can dig deeper into the mechanisms of the body and how things work. When I get to (physician assistant) school, it’s going to be very intense, and I want to make sure I have a solid background.”

One way to demonstrate knowledge, he says, is “being able to help someone else learn.”

## ‘FINAL’LY PREPARED

Vet tech student Shatzer described her impressions of Supplemental Instruction an hour before her basic chemistry final, and she said she felt ready after a semester of hard work.

# SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS

The Vulcan Learning Commons in Noss Hall is home to several peer-education options for students.

In addition to Supplemental Instruction, the Foundry Writing Center provides writing consultations, writing workshops and English as a second language assistance.

The Learning Assistance Center is the place for individual tutoring in all subject areas, as well as study groups and help with placement and proficiency exams.

“We work at the student level, with assistance from faculty, to identify challenging courses where students tend to struggle,” says Dr. Scott Hargraves, executive director of Vulcan Learning Commons.

“We want to make sure those students who are most challenged have an opportunity to change their situation.”



“I wasn’t doing the homework correctly,” she recalls, circling back to her struggles with conversions. “But then, at SI, the leader was like, ‘Oh, you have to multiply the top numbers and then the bottom numbers and then divide the top by the bottom.’”

Finally, it clicked.

Shatzer attended a few Anatomy & Physiology sessions, too, only for animals, not people.

“I actually talked with Tyton about SI and asked him if maybe someday I could be (a leader) for our A&P class,” she says.

“The vet tech major is pretty new, so they don’t have someone who has taken that class specifically. I’m a little older, so I know how to study, and I try to help other students out the best I can.” ■

Communication studies majors MacKenzie Darst (left), Erin Patrick and Lindsay Pegg celebrate.

# Major Achievements

## Cal U celebrates the classes of 2021 and 2020 at Winter Commencement

**W**hen Kristin Anderson was in sixth grade, she had a history teacher who made quite an impression.

"We ate our way through history," the brand-new Cal U master's degree graduate recalled. "We'd taste the rations during the Civil War. Or we'd have different cuisines as we studied other cultures. I thought it was really cool!"

Cool enough, in fact, that Anderson now teaches civics and law, sociology and world history at McGuffey High School in Claysville, Pa.

She graduated Dec. 10 with a master's degree in educational leadership, as did her younger sister, Kelli Anderson, a first-grade teacher at Washington Elementary School who earned her master's degree in early childhood education.

"We applied at the same time, got accepted at the same time, started in Fall 2020 at the same time, and never took a break!" Kelli Anderson said. "Doing it together kept us on our toes. We kept each other on track and accountable."



66

If you cannot see where you're going, ask someone who went there before you. Then pay it forward. Serve your community, volunteer, become a mentor yourself and get involved."

JESSE MCLEAN JR. '83, '94

## A JOYOUS WEEKEND

Perseverance – and joy – were weekend themes, as associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees were awarded to about 1,000 students who completed their studies in summer or winter 2021.

All members of the Class of 2020, whose spring and winter Commencement ceremonies were postponed due to COVID-19, also were invited to participate.

This was the first Cal U Commencement for interim President Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, who addressed graduates along with guest speaker Jesse McLean Jr. ’83, ’94, executive director of Western Pennsylvania for Pressley Ridge.

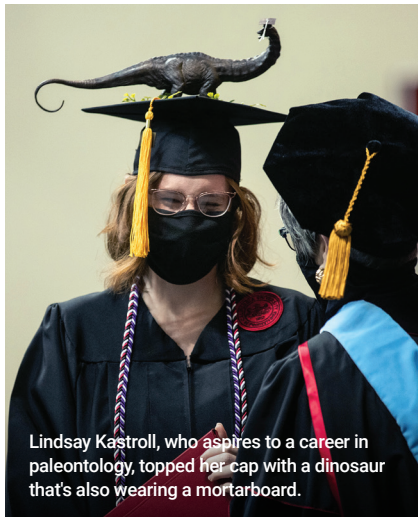
“You persisted through times of extra challenges,” Dr. Dale told the graduates. “We celebrate your commitment, enthusiasm and devotion to Cal U.”

McLean shared his story of growing up “on the playground” in west Philadelphia and applying to California State College without ever visiting campus.

“Cal chose me,” he said, “and it taught me the keys to success.”



Interim University President Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson welcomes graduates, families and guests.



Lindsay Kastroll, who aspires to a career in paleontology, topped her cap with a dinosaur that’s also wearing a mortarboard.

Figure out what you’re passionate about, and then find a mentor, advised McClean, an experienced human services professional who also mentors Cal U students.

“If you cannot see where you’re going, ask someone who went there before you. ... Then pay it forward. Serve your community, volunteer, become a mentor yourself and get involved.”

## A BIG FINISH

Gregory Williams, a 2020 graduate who earned his master’s degree in conflict resolution, traveled from Virginia to attend the ceremony.

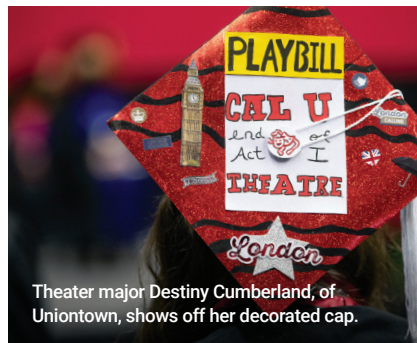
“It’s the finishing exclamation point,” he said.

Criminal justice major Gabrielle Schultz, another 2020 grad, from Clearfield, Pa., paid tribute to her grandparents by decorating her cap in their memory. She brought a cheering section of family members.

“I wanted a chance to walk,” she said. “I’m the first grandchild to graduate, and my other grandparents are watching (the livestream) from Georgia.”



Graduation is a family affair for Desirae Andrzejczak, of Erie, whose husband, Dan, and daughter, Novalee, 4, attended the ceremony.



Theater major Destiny Cumberland, of Uniontown, shows off her decorated cap.

Social work graduate Alexi Fleming ’20 wasn’t about to let the pandemic take away her moment onstage. “I put a lot of heart into Cal U as a tour guide and New Student Orientation leader,” she said. “I had to do it for the satisfaction.”

Stephan Brooks earned his Doctor of Health Science degree in 2021. He soon will start a new job in area health education at the WVU Research Corp.

“This degree was affordable and online, which made it possible,” Brooks said. “The best part of the degree is the interdisciplinary approach to public health and research practice.”

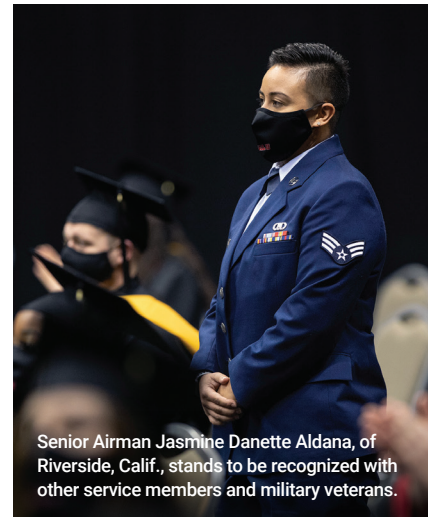
Michael Bordonaro earned his bachelor’s degree in business with a concentration in marketing. He was active in the Student Activities Board and a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

“I wanted to meet people, make friends and get involved,” he said. “I enjoyed putting on activities and concerts for the students (with SAB). It was a phenomenal experience.

“I learned how to work with vendors and artists, plan events and be a leader.” ■



Kala Alford, a psychology major from Pittsburgh, does one last check of her attire before crossing the stage.



Senior Airman Jasmine Danette Aldana, of Riverside, Calif., stands to be recognized with other service members and military veterans.

# PLAIN AND SIMPLE

## FUTURE SCIENTISTS LEARN TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, IN LAYMEN'S TERMS

**A** project supported by Cal U's Center for Undergraduate Research aims to make future scientists better communicators.

Using a timely topic – COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy – five undergraduate biology majors at Cal U joined two graduate students from Duquesne University for the 10-week project.

The researchers conducted an analysis of outreach in the greater Pittsburgh area to understand what is being done to encourage vaccinations. The project addressed COVID-19 vaccine concerns, using publicly available vaccination data and interviews, and included recommendations on strategies for more effective communications.

Students presented their results to the campus community this fall.

Dr. Michelle Valkanas, a molecular biology and microbiology instructor at Cal U, led the project with Dr. Kate Carter, the director of Community Science Education at the National Center for Science Education.

"The deficit model says that individuals aren't educated about a scientific concept, and if you just explain the facts, they'll make different decisions," Valkanas says.

"But we know there are other factors, including personal experiences, political and religious beliefs, and culture, that require alternative methods of engagement."

The students prepared for in-person interviews by role-playing real-world scenarios to practice finding relatable ground.

"It only takes one sentence for someone to shut down," Valkanas says. "How do you

navigate difficult topics? How do you have conversations that don't escalate?"

Being an effective communicator is an important skill for scientists in all fields, she adds.

"The biggest struggle is that the fields are so technical, and you spend the majority of your education developing those skills, so you might have a difficult time having a conversation," she says.

"Being able to regurgitate technical information doesn't mean you understand it. I have my students take a scientific article and write it up as a regular blog with a take-home message.

Some thrive at that, and others struggle. But it's great practice for a career in science."

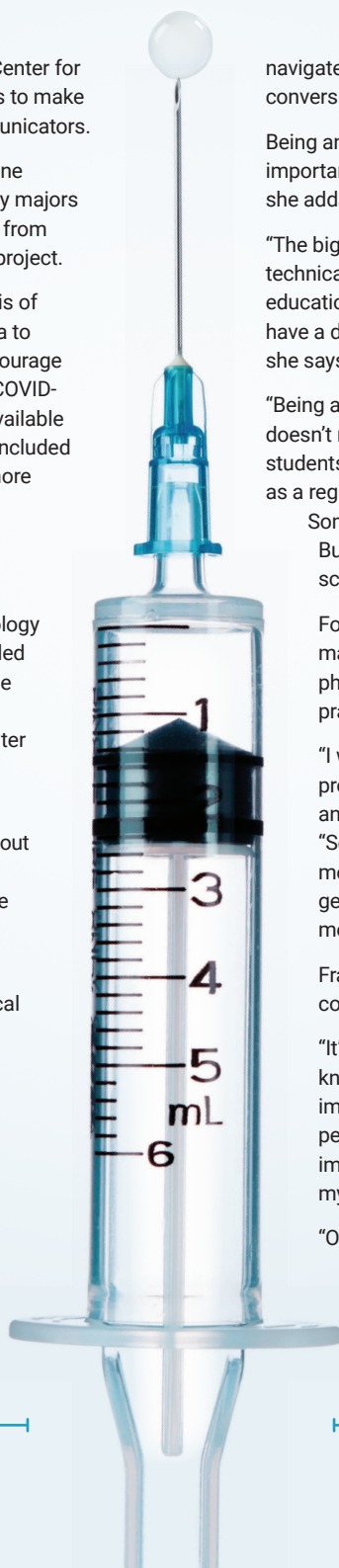
For senior Divonne Franklin, a biology major who's anticipating a career as a physician assistant, the project was both practical and challenging.

"I wanted to participate because this project focuses on the COVID-19 vaccine and the fear and distrust of it," she says. "Some people aren't educated about medicine in general, and where they are getting their information, like from social media or their friends, is not legitimate."

Franklin also wants to improve her communication skills.

"It's out of my comfort zone, but I know that communication is very important. I'm nervous to interview people, but I'm hoping this will improve other skills I will need for my medical career."

"Our field needs more of this," Valkanas says. "We need to stop speaking over people's heads." ■



Dr. Michelle Valkanas



Divonne Franklin



## CAL U HOUSING AMONG NATION'S BEST



Cal U's on-campus housing has been ranked No. 8 in the nation by Niche, an online provider of educational rankings and information for high school and college students.

In "2022 Best College Dorms in America," Cal U's five on-campus residence halls were ranked based on key statistics – average housing cost, housing capacity and safety – as well as student reviews.

"We take pride in keeping our residence halls well maintained," says Becky Barnhart, associate director of residence life. "Our spacious residence hall rooms provide a space to foster both academic and student success."

Adds Brittany Brommer, a community assistant and criminal justice major, "No matter what style of room they choose, students will have the opportunity to feel at home during their time at Cal U." ■

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS EARN NEW ACCREDITATION

Education programs at Cal U have been accredited by CAEP, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, for the next seven years.



Accreditation is a "seal of approval" that assures quality in teacher education, demonstrating that teacher candidates are prepared with the knowledge, skills and disposition to teach effectively.

Programs seeking CAEP accreditation must meet rigorous standards in areas such as candidate quality, subject matter expertise, knowledge of learner development, professional standards, quality assurance, and creating a safe and supportive learning environment.

Teacher preparation has been at the heart of California's mission since its founding in 1852. Cal U education programs have been accredited since 1954 by NCATE,

the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, which unified with another accrediting body to form CAEP.

## BEST IN THE REGION, SAYS PRINCETON REVIEW

Cal U has been named one of the top universities in the northeastern United States for 17 years running.

The Princeton Review again recognized California among the "Best in the Northeast," including the University in its online resource, *2022 Best Colleges: Region By Region*.

*Continued on Page 14*

Schools were selected based on academic excellence, information submitted by each school, and reports from students about their campus experiences.

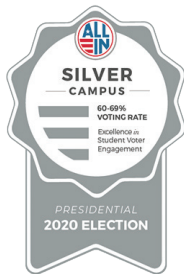
“This recognition speaks to the consistently high quality of Cal U’s academic programs and student support services,” says Dr. Daniel Engstrom, interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

“It reflects the expertise of our faculty and the caring staff who support our students throughout their educational journey.”

Cal U students cited in the report mentioned strong programs in education, criminal justice and biology, among other disciplines, and professors who are “very passionate and well-versed in their given area.”

**STUDENTS ACCEPT VOTER CHALLENGE**

Cal U earned a Silver Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for its success in encouraging students to vote in the 2020 election.



The ALL IN Challenge is a national, nonpartisan initiative that “inspires, supports and celebrates colleges and universities working together to improve civic learning, political engagement and voter participation.”

Awards are based on NSLVE, the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, which examines and reports data about student voting across the country. More than 840 institutions enrolling close to 9 million students took part in the latest challenge.

The study found that 66.4% of Cal U students cast a ballot in 2020, slightly above the voting rate for all U.S. institutions. The University also made strides in voter registration, with 80.6% of eligible students registered to vote in 2020.

The Cal U chapter of the American Democracy Project leads voter engagement efforts on campus.



**Warm hearts**

Students Sebastian Lauver (left), a junior social work major, and Danyelle McCarrison, a first-year environmental studies major, hand-knit blankets for refugees who arrived in western Pennsylvania from Afghanistan this fall. The volunteer opportunity was sponsored by the Hispanic Student Association and the College of Education and Liberal Arts. The blankets were distributed by JFCS Refugee and Immigrant Services, in Pittsburgh.

**FUTURE EDUCATORS PRACTICE TEACHING**

Three dozen Cal U education majors provided lessons and activities this fall at a literacy event for preschool and kindergarten children in the Uniontown Area School District.

Organized by district staff and sponsored through a grant from the United Way, the event allowed Cal U students to use skills learned in their methods courses and gain experience interacting with children and their parents.

“We have first-year students who haven’t had any field experience yet, because that begins in their second semester,” says student-teaching supervisor Dr. Rebecca Maddas. “They were very willing to jump in, and the earlier the better for that!”

It was a good first experience for sophomore Mady Hallmark, a former swim instructor who was in her first semester as an education major.

“I love interacting with kids and helping them read,” she says. “This lets me dip my toes into teaching without it being overwhelming.”

**DEANS ASSIGNED PENNWEST ROLES**



Two Cal U deans, Dr. Kristen Majocho and Dr. Brenda Fredette, are among the academic leaders selected to serve as deans when Cal U, Clarion and Edinboro universities unite to form Pennsylvania Western University this summer.

Majocho will lead the College of Social Sciences and Human Services. Fredette will lead the College of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology.

Pending approval by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, PennWest will be organized into six academic colleges, each led by a dean. Within those colleges are 29 academic departments, each with a faculty chair.

A list of the academic degree programs and concentrations planned for PennWest is available online; look for the link at [calu.edu/integration](http://calu.edu/integration).

## SERVICE MEMBER SPEAKS AT LUNCHEON



Lt. Col. Jaclyn Sickles Berger '03 shared her story with current and former members of the military, their families and other guests at the

48th annual Veterans Day Luncheon.

Berger joined the U.S. Army Reserve on Feb. 3, 1999, and spent five years in the enlisted ranks before receiving her commission in the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2003.

Her original goal, she said, was to pay for her college education. But she soon found that a career in military service suited her well.

"I went from missing a Snickers bar (during a basic training exercise) to understanding

what our troops are sacrificing to serve our country. ... The military changed the way I look at the world."

Today, Berger serves in the 78th Training Command as an observer controller/trainer at Fort Dix, N.J. Her career has included roles as an ammunition specialist, platoon leader, ordnance officer, personnel mobilization officer, mobilization team officer in charge, unit maintenance officer and secretary of the general staff.

In addition to the shared meal, Cal U also recognized veterans with its annual campus-wide display of banners honoring men and women from all branches of the armed services.

## VULCAN GARAGE BACK IN SERVICE

After being shuttered for more than five years, the Vulcan Parking Garage has reopened.

The 5-story parking structure was closed in August 2016, when a piece of concrete on the facility's second level broke off and fell to the ground level. No one was injured and no cars were damaged, but Cal U officials

immediately shut down the facility, citing safety concerns.

A subsequent inspection revealed additional safety hazards in the \$13 million garage, which had opened in 2010.

Following a court settlement, contractor Howard Shockey and Sons Inc. spent more than a year making repairs, which included inspecting and rewelding key connections and fortifying beams with additional rebar to add strength.

Global engineering firm Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) and independent testing agency Construction Engineering Consultants Inc. performed inspections and testing during all phases of the repair. The state Department of Labor and Industry also inspected the garage and issued an occupancy permit.

"Bringing this parking structure safely back online provides greater flexibility not only for day-to-day parking needs, but also for special events that bring families and other visitors to campus," says Fawn Petrosky '95, '03, vice president for finance.

"We are glad to have the Vulcan Garage back in service."

## Let's get dressed

Bridgett Nobili, assistant director of the Career and Professional Development Center, shows off the professional attire available to students, free of charge, at the Campus Closet. The closet provides Cal U students with donated clothing and accessories that help them 'dress for success' as they prepare for job interviews, internships or their first days at work. Students who visit the Campus Closet also get help from a personal assistant who can walk them through the difference between business casual and more formal attire.

See the closet on video: [calu.edu/review](http://calu.edu/review)



## TRIO CELEBRATES FIRST GENERATION

For the fourth consecutive year, Cal U joined the First-Generation College Celebration, a national day of recognition for students who are the first in their families to attend a four-year college or university.

At California, nearly one-third of first-year and transfer students fit that description.

Noting that she was the first in her family to attend college, interim President Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson recorded a message to mark the occasion: "People care about your success, and we want to help you get there," she told students.

"This day gives first-generation students more visibility," says Mara Proie, a sophomore childhood education major and Rutledge Scholar. "Sometimes, we can't rely on the advice or tips that adults would give us if they had gone to college. The TRIO Club can provide that support."

Cal U's Department of TRIO and Academic Services helps students achieve their educational goals by providing counseling, financial literacy training, peer-to-peer

*Continued on Page 16*

supports, personal development workshops, graduate school preparation and cultural trips.

The TRIO Mentor Program connects first-generation students with staff and faculty mentors who offer academic, professional and personal support.



**A COOL NEW LOOK AT CLIMATE SCIENCE**

Earth science teachers in grades K-12 can look forward to learning more about climate science through Project Ice, a tuition-free, graduate-level course to be offered through Cal U's unique partnership with the American Meteorological Society.

The AMS has partnered with COLDEX, the Center for Oldest Ice Exploration, to develop content for the 3-credit summer course. Informed by subject matter experts from both organizations, Project Ice will include emergent science about climate change based on knowledge gained from extracting and studying some of Antarctica's oldest ice.

Beginning in summer 2023, teachers who enroll in Project Ice will complete online

coursework through Cal U, plus a one-week ice/climate science workshop at the home of the COLDEX technology center hub at Oregon State University.

The University has been awarded a five-year, \$131,567 grant from the National Science Foundation to add Project Ice to its lineup of courses.

In collaboration with AMS Education, Cal U currently offers DataStreme Atmosphere, DataStreme Ocean and DataStreme Earth's Climate System courses, delivered online in the fall and spring semesters; as well as Project Atmosphere and Project Ocean, summer courses with both online and in-person, workshop components.

**ALUMNI STEP UP FOR SPEAKER SERIES**

Successful alumni continue to share their real-world experiences through the Graduate Speaker Series.

Sponsored by the School of Graduate Studies and Research, the series invites engagement with "great minds and important ideas" in a virtual environment.

Among the speakers this fall were Chris "G" Georgetti '96, co-founder, COO and president of Santoro and Georgetti Postsecondary Educational Consultants in Florida; and Vince Wilson '12, deputy director of the Obama Foundation.

Previous speakers include Dr. Martin "Marty" Miller '07, director of education

and training at Technogym USA.

The series continues this spring with alumni speakers Zach Huth '04, owner of Huth Technologies LLC, at 11 a.m. Feb. 24; Josh Avart '11, manager of group sales and hospitality for the Pittsburgh Pirates, at 7 p.m. March 15; and Chase Loper '10, '12, director of shared services at Duquesne University, at 7 p.m. April 5.

Watch for links to the virtual lectures at [calu.edu/news](http://calu.edu/news).

**A LOTTA LAVA: FACULTY TALK ABOUT VOLCANOES**

Four Cal U professors – anthropologist Cassandra Kuba, geologists Kyle Frederick and Daniel Harris, and artist Jim Bové – spent the opening weekend of "Pompeii: The Exhibition" meeting with museum-goers at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh.

Along with Cal U instructors Renee Ho and Maxine "Tish" Neiburg, they gave hands-on demonstrations and talked with the public about volcanoes and other topics related to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

The eruption destroyed the Italian city of Pompeii, but also preserved a unique record of daily life at the height of the Roman Empire.

"Pompeii is such an interesting site, and it illustrates how we need a variety of experts and specialists to contribute to our understanding of history and prehistory," Kuba says.



**Fire drill**

Volunteer firefighters from West Brownsville practice reaching the roof of a Cal U residence hall during an emergency preparedness training session. California Borough, South Brownsville and Richeyville fire departments also brought their ladders and aerial trucks to campus for the exercise. Crews reviewed hydrant locations on campus and tested their equipment's ability to reach residence halls, the Natali Student Center, Manderino Library and the Convocation Center.





# MR. CALIFORNIA

## ‘TRUE STUDENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL’ LEADS HOMECOMING PARADE

In 1975, four California State College football players paused for a photo on their way off the field after the Homecoming game.

The moment got an update this October when the former Vulcans came back to campus for two special occasions.

The first was the retirement of the former No. 66 – a.k.a. Dr. Tim Susick '76, '78, who left his position as associate vice president for Student Affairs in July 2021 after a 30-year career.

The second was Susick's role as grand marshal for Cal U's Homecoming and Family Weekend parade.

"I was really humbled by the offer from Dr. Dale," Susick says of the invitation to serve as parade leader from Cal U's interim president, Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson.

"A number of my classmates and teammates came to help celebrate not only our Homecoming, but that they made it through the pandemic."

The original photo of the four players – Guy Leonard (No. 62) '79, Aldo Filoni (No. 50) '78 and Mark Remick (No. 41) and Susick '76 – was snapped by a friend's girlfriend.

"They came in from California, North Carolina, Tennessee, and a lot of the local guys for my retirement celebration," Susick says. "We re-enacted the photo, and I even got some red shirts made with our numbers."

His Cal U pride is evident.

"I had a reputation for hijacking the campus tours," he recalls, to tell potential students about his affection for the school.

"In 1972, I decided to come to Cal to play football, but I soon realized the NFL wasn't going to be interested in a guy who ran 5.3 in the 40-yard dash. So (coach) Elmo Natali took me to the side and tutored me on how to be a successful student."

It worked, and Susick earned two degrees from California, in 1976 and 1978.

Larry Sebek '91, '94, Cal U's interim vice president for Student Affairs, shares memories that reveal the hilarious part of Susick's personality – and the way he cared for the University and its students.

"Did you ever receive a handwritten thank-you note or plagiarized words of encouragement?" Sebek says. That was Susick.



"He never passed up a hot dog stand, even after just finishing a full meal. His true stories are funnier than his jokes. Who knew he accidentally ordered 10,000 business cards instead of 1,000 – and was able to distribute them!"

But seriously: "At a time of a campus crisis, he was always a first responder, even at 3 a.m. Tim is a true student affairs professional, a loving husband, a mentor and best friend to many." ■



# TOGETHER AGAIN

## Alumni return for Homecoming festivities

It was surely a Home Sweet Homecoming and Family Weekend celebration Oct. 1-3 as Cal U alumni and students gathered in person after a virtual event in 2020.

"It was wonderful to hear such warm and inspiring stories from our alumni," says Dr. Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, who joyfully participated in her first Homecoming as Cal U's interim president.

"This weekend truly showed the love and passion our alumni and students feel for California's past and present, and their hopes for the future."

A few highlights from a memorable weekend:

Everyone loves a parade on a beautiful fall day, including Dr. Dale and Caitlin Urban, Student Government president, who shared a ride on a convertible as the parade made its way down Third Street.



The Vulcans capped off a fantastic Homecoming and Family Weekend celebration by defeating Mercyhurst 37-0. The team has posted a victory in 15 of its last 16 games on Homecoming. Another bit of trivia: In 2021, the Vulcans recorded three shutouts for the first time since the 1958 undefeated season (8-0).

Abby Reichelderfer, a senior biology major, feeds a goat at a petting zoo on campus during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Other activities included Picnic on the Patio and Class of 2020 reunion at Kara Alumni House; dedication of the Greek Life Commons area that honors fraternity and sorority members; food trucks; and a special tasting of Cal U Brew, from Laurel Highlands Brewing.



Dr. Yugo Ikach, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, conducted the Washington Symphony Orchestra in a free outdoor concert in the Convocation Center courtyard.

First-year student Anna Curry joined the group to sing "Tennessee Waltz." The Mifflin County native is attending Cal U because "few in-state schools offer a commercial music technology program."



The Cal U Cheerleaders had even more to celebrate at the Homecoming football game. One of their own, Christina Hebda, was crowned Homecoming Queen, and Zachary Snedeker was named Homecoming King during a halftime ceremony. Hebda, a junior, is an early childhood education major. Snedeker, also a junior, is studying professional golf management.



Sigma Kappa sorority sisters Paula Mihalko Cardarelli, Frannie Coneybeer Russell, Adele White and Dawn Wilson returned to campus with other members of the Class of 1970 for a better-late-than-never 50th reunion, postponed last year due to COVID-19.

The women have maintained their friendship over the years and grew closer to support sorority sister Mary "Sis" Everhart before she passed away several years ago.

They purchased a brick in her memory and another in memory of Joe Lutz, "our Powderpuff Football Coach," for the Greek Life Commons at Kara Alumni House, which was formally dedicated as part of the festivities.

"It's always so good to get together to relive our fond memories and to share what's new in our lives," Wilson says.



The Home Sweet Homecoming parade was filled with marching bands, floats, fire trucks and fun, all led by Dr. Tim Susick as grand marshal. "Wizard of Oz," a float built by Delta Zeta, Sigma Kappa, Acacia and Alpha Kappa Lambda, won first place; "Sweet Home California," by Phi Sigma Sigma, Theta Xi and TEAC, won second; and "Home is Where the Heart Is," by Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, Sigma Tau Gamma and Fiji, won third and the Spirit Award.

# Lessons ON THE ROAD

The middle school field trip. Once a common experience for many children, educational visits to museums, battlefields and the like became most uncommon in 2020, when COVID-19 precautions prevented many in-person activities.

At Northeastern Middle School in York County, Pa., social studies teacher David Raymond '95 had a solution: "Lessons on the Road."

Now a series of 28 videos and counting, "Lessons" features Raymond; Mike Graham, a science teacher; Eric Gimbi, a social studies teacher; and Alex Raymond, David's son and videographer.

The videos align with the eighth-grade curriculum and are filmed with that age group in mind. The three teachers determine which segments they'd like to narrate, and then each does his own research on the topic.

Titles include "George Washington's Mount Vernon — Mansion's Interior," "James Buchanan's Wheatland," "Reddy Kilowatt — York History Center," "Mechanical Advantage & Simple Machines," and "18th Century Medicine, Smallpox Inoculation, and Amputation."

"There are a million videos out there about Mount Vernon," Raymond says. "But we try to look at it from a kid's perspective. The walls in one room are this vivid green, so the lesson was 'What's up with these walls? Why are they green?' And we talked about wealth in that era meaning that you could use copper in construction and then we talked about the science of how copper oxidizes."

Some videos feature exhibits at the York County History Museum, which hosted video production while it was closed to the public during the pandemic. Periodic Presidents, a producer of historical infographics and other products that "make history cool," is a new partner.

"It's been fun," Raymond says. "It's allowing me to reinvent and reinvigorate. I don't want to be that person who gets burned out in the classroom."

"I love my job. I always say, 'I don't go to work; I go to school.'" ■

For a link to watch 'Lessons on the Road,' visit [calu.edu/review](https://calu.edu/review).



## NETWORK CONNECTIONS

Vince Wilson '12, a sport management graduate, shared a secret to success with Cal U students as part of this fall's Graduate School Speaker Series.

"It's the network."

"You absolutely have to put in the work, but many doors have opened because of someone I established a relationship with," says Wilson, who was among a group of "Forty Under 40" grads recognized by the Cal U Alumni Association in 2019.

He spent five years working in development at Dartmouth College before heading to the Obama Foundation in 2021, where he works for a former colleague as deputy director of Northern California and the Pacific Northwest Region.

He raises funds to advance the foundation's mission of providing resources to underserved communities and helping build, operate and endow the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago.

66

We are where we are for a reason – not just for ourselves, but what we can do for others."



"It's been very rewarding to connect with different people and see the impact that the foundation is making," Wilson says.

At Dartmouth, the Ivy League college in New Hampshire, he began as an administrative assistant and volunteered to mentor student-athletes.

"I was 25," says Wilson, who was a track athlete at Cal U, "and students would gravitate toward me. I realized that what I did in fundraising made it possible for some Black and Brown students to come to Dartmouth."

Wilson's desire to "lift as we climb" at Cal U led him and two classmates to restart the

Xi Kapp chapter of Omega Psi Phi, which was founded at a historically Black university.

"When I got to Cal U, I realized that a lot of men I viewed as mentors were members of that organization," he says.

"I always feel compelled to help those who are coming behind me. I'm still active in the fraternity, still do community service, still mentor students who are in high school, primarily, but also in college.

"We are where we are for a reason – not just for ourselves, but what we can do for others." ■

## BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

"You're on speaker phone," says Melanie Marie Boyer '12 as the interview begins.

She's multi-tasking, sharing her thoughts as executive director of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce while simultaneously preparing for a video shoot after the call.

Boyer, a rising leader in the Hispanic community of Pittsburgh, has very little time to be still. There is much work to be done.

"I'm a citizen of Colombia and the United States," she says. "I really felt like I fit in everywhere, and I never understood or felt like there were cultural barriers. But as I grew up, it's clear to me most people don't feel that way. I want to do what I can to change that."

According to the Small Business Administration, there are 4.65 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, making them the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. small business sector.

Boyer reports that 87% of new jobs in the United States since the Great Recession

have been created by Hispanics, and 50% of all new jobs in the past year have been created by Hispanic women.

"Many people have no idea of the economic growth that the Hispanic population is providing for our country," she says.

At 33, Boyer has been a member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District Advisory Board, the Port Authority Stakeholder Advisory Group, the UPMC Community Health Partnership, CCAC Community Equity & Diversity Council, President's Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh Technical College and more.

She has been awarded the 2021 NFL Hispanic Leadership Award; 2021 Distinguished Leader Award from Pittsburgh Professional Women; and the 2021 Black History Achievement Award for her work in the Hispanic community.

In October, she spoke a campus event as part of Cal U's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

During the worst of the pandemic, Boyer hosted online events ranging from how



to use Google to reach customers to how to qualify and apply for the Paycheck Protection Program.

"This is what we need to be doing in Pittsburgh: putting our best foot forward so that we can thrive economically, retain talent, encourage innovation and make our city a better place for all." ■



## CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNTS

"Never tell the bride."

It's a customer service motto of sorts for senior Stephanie Bibel, a business administration major who interned at Bella Terra Vineyards, a winery and event venue near New Stanton, Pa.

Bibel worked on the event staff, helping to plan weddings, bridal showers and other activities. She kept in touch with vendors, ensured videographers were well positioned for the perfect shots, helped to decorate the venue, and got DJs off on the right notes.

"We had one bride's mom who wanted to call her about everything," she says. "But it's just a chair," she said of minor details. "We'll find another place to put it."

Bibel is now with the business part-time, attending to details and helping with social media, a vital part of promoting the venue.

"I'm starting a TikTok, and I've updated their website for WeddingWire," she says. "That allows brides to review how the day went and share their pictures."

"Customer service runs our business," Bibel says. "We rely on those reviews, authentic experiences, videos and firsthand accounts."

Her business major and event planning minor have helped her excel.

"I took a hotel management course that's help me understand the background for 'flipping' rooms, and Dr. (Susan) Ryan does a section on how to pair food with wine, which has been very helpful.

"My business classes help me do invoices and worksheets on how much money we can generate." ■

## PREVIEW OF POSSIBILITIES

David King's summer internship with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Southwestern Office in Bolivar, Pa., was a perfect preview of potential careers in a variety of related fields.

His jobs included banding birds, catching mosquitos to test for disease and trapping bears for research purposes. He also helped the commission with public programs it offers throughout the year.

"All of this will help me when I graduate from Cal U," says King, a senior fisheries and wildlife biology major. "It has exposed me to the many different routes I can take after I graduate. Employers are going to like to see that I have a diverse resume of things I've done.

"(Another) way it is going to help me is through networking. I've worked with so many different professionals ... who have given me great advice. You never know when knowing someone, and them knowing that you are a hard worker, can be the difference between getting a job or not." ■



## TEACHING AT THE TEE

"My dream career is working as a high school athletic director or a golf coach, or maybe both," says junior Alexandra "Lexi" Tofanelli, who's studying professional golf management.

She's better prepared for either (or both) after her summer internship at OnPar Now, in Pittsburgh, where she gave golf lessons to children ages 8-14 at all skill levels.

"It was fun to watch kids become passionate about the game of golf and to get to know them as individuals," Tofanelli says.

"My internship allowed me to improve on my own teaching craft that I have been building through my PGM classes at Cal U and the hands-on experiences the program provides."

OnPar is an indoor facility that uses technology to simulate a golf course experience. In addition to golf lessons, Tofanelli learned more about the traditional parts of the business, such as club repairs and fittings, and marketing.

"It's a new placement for us," says James "J.R." Pond, an instructor and internship coordinator in Cal U's PGM program. "We met the owner through a former student, and we've had the pleasure of watching the business transition from idea to reality."

"It's unique in that it's an off-course facility — one of the fastest-growing segments of the golf market."

For Tofanelli, the opportunity to introduce children to sports is exciting.

"I love creating an environment for kids to fall in love with sports," she says. ■



## MEDIA MATTERS

Senior Veonna King is compiling an impressive personal news highlight reel: *Cal Times* editor-in chief, WCAL DJ, Society of Professional Journalists student chapter vice president, social media chair of Cal U Women United.

A 2020 summer internship with PublicSource, a nonprofit news organization in the Pittsburgh area, and another with WAMO radio in 2021 have added to her experience.

"I helped one DJ put her show together, suggesting daily topics that she would mention on her show," King says. "I helped with Summer Jam and recorded commercials for local businesses."

At PublicSource, she reported on how children with autism were learning during the pandemic.

"It was probably the hardest story I did," she says. "I learned how to frame an email, how to find sources. I worked on breaking news, so I learned how to write faster."

Experience with different media is helping King find her career direction.

Internships, she adds, "are the closest you'll get to what a job will look like. You have to make sure this is what you want." ■

## A MEMORABLE SEASON FOR VULCANS FOOTBALL

It was a record-setting, award-winning year for the Vulcans football program. The team captured a share of first place in the PSAC West for the first time since 2016 and was ranked in the American Football Coaches Association's Top 25 poll.

Under the direction of head coach Gary Dunn '96, '97, the Vulcans opened the year with eight consecutive victories and finished the season with a 9-1 record. Cal U football soared as high as No. 3 in the coaches' poll after being unranked to start the year, and the team finished the regular season at No. 14.

Cal U boasted both the PSAC West's offensive and defensive athletes of the year for 2021.

On offense, junior quarterback Noah Mitchell ranked second in the league with a career-high 2,937 passing yards and tied his career high with 25 passing touchdowns.

Mitchell became only the third player in school history to be named both the Freshman of the Year and Athlete of the Year. He closed the season tied for the all-time school record in passing touchdowns.

Junior defensive back Jermal Martin Jr. recorded a breakout campaign while becoming the first Western Division cornerback in two decades to receive Defensive Athlete of the Year honors.

He tied for second in the PSAC in interceptions; set career highs in tackles, tackles for loss and sacks; and scored a combined three touchdowns (two interceptions, one punt). The only cornerback in the country nominated for the 2021 Harlon Hill Award, Martin was chosen the Super Region One Defensive Player of the Year.

In all, the Vulcans featured 10 All-PSAC West selections and were one of only two teams in NCAA Division II to have multiple offensive linemen named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.

The Vulcans were the only eligible one-loss team in the country not selected for the 2021 NCAA Playoffs.



### GOALKEEPER GRABS FIRST-TEAM HONORS

Senior goalkeeper Trevor Zabilowicz claimed All-PSAC West First-Team honors in his first year as a starter for the men's soccer team this fall.

A native of New Jersey, he finished among the top five in the league with 55 total saves and a pair of shutouts. He played more than 1,300 minutes in net while starting 15 games this season, after previously playing a total of 45 minutes in his entire college career.

Zabilowicz is the third Cal U goalkeeper to receive All-PSAC status in the last three seasons. The Vulcans have placed a goalie on the all-league teams five times since the 2015 campaign.





### **VOLLEYBALL REACHES PSAC POST-SEASON**

After winning five of its last six matches, the Vulcans volleyball team qualified for the PSAC Tournament during the final weekend of the regular season.

Cal U has appeared in the league tournament 14 times in the last 17 seasons, winning six PSAC Championships.

This fall, the team finished fourth in the PSAC West standings, with all but one league loss coming against a team that appeared in the NCAA Tournament. The Vulcans finished the year with a 14-12 overall mark.

Senior Sarah Moehring and junior Chelsea Howard both received All-PSAC West honors for the first time in their careers. Moehring led the team with a career-high 245 kills and finished among the league leaders in service aces and points. Howard posted a breakout fall by setting career highs in every category and ranking among the PSAC's best in blocks.

### **BASKETBALL COACH BREAKS WIN RECORD**



Jess Strom, head coach for Vulcans women's basketball, broke the school's all-time record for wins in the team's season-opening game.

Strom had been tied with former head coach Darcie Vincent for first place in school history, with 212 victories.

Strom is in her 11th season as head coach and her 16th year with the women's basketball program. She's led Cal U to six appearances in the NCAA Tournament, highlighted by the 2015 NCAA National Championship.

Cal U's women have earned at least 25 victories in four of the last five seasons, while featuring the PSAC West Athlete of the Year three times.

One of the winningest active coaches in the PSAC, Strom joined Cal U's program before the 2006-2007 season as an assistant to Vincent. She and Vincent are the only two basketball coaches – men's or women's – in the history of the league to capture a national title.



### **CAL U BALLPLAYERS MAKE THE GRADE**

Cal U was the only PSCA school whose baseball and softball programs both were honored by their respective coaching organizations for academic achievement in 2020-2021.

In softball, the Vulcans earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Academic status for maintaining a 3.50 grade-point average for the academic year. This is the seventh time in the past decade that Cal U has claimed the team honor.

In addition, 16 individual softball players received NFCA Scholar-Athlete laurels for their academic prowess.

The Vulcans baseball team held the highest cumulative grade-point average among the eight men's sports offered at Cal U and earned the American Baseball Coaches Association's Team Academic Excellence Award.

### **RUNNERS EARN KUDOS AT KUTZTOWN**

Four Vulcans runners earned all-league status at the PSAC Cross Country Championships hosted by Kutztown this fall. Cal U placed in the top six of the team standings in the women's race for the fourth time since 2015.

Newcomer Malia Anderson led the team, finishing 26th overall while competing in just her third race of the season. The Vulcans boasted multiple All-PSAC honorees in the women's race for the fifth time since 2014.

In the men's race, a pair of Vulcans runners also received All-PSAC laurels at the conference meet. Sophomore Noah Bernarding paced the team and placed 19th overall to earn the honors for the second time in his career.



# WISDOM IN THE **L.A.**



# JNDRY ROOM

## EQUIPMENT MANAGER MENTORS VULCANS PLAYERS

**"T**he first thing an 18-year-old football player does when he tries on a helmet is look at his reflection in the dryer," says Benjamin Hilborn '05 from the equipment room and laundry facility at Adamson Stadium.

For a moment, that gleaming glass door becomes a mirror.



"Looks good,' he'll say. And I say, 'No, no, no.' They think 'looks, comfort, safety,' but it's just the opposite. Safety. Comfort. Looks. Your mother doesn't care if you look good. She wants to know the equipment guy took care of you."

Hilborn, the Vulcans' "equipment guy," has a Cal U degree in sport management. For more than a decade he's looked after the needs of Vulcans student-athletes across 18 men's and women's teams playing at the NCAA Division II level.

One of his primary jobs is to manage the equipment inventory for baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. He is a liaison with vendors to discuss team needs, deadlines and item availability.

He also launders the players' uniforms. And during football season, he's a regular on the sidelines.

More than 100 Vulcans play football, and equipment plays a major role in player safety, which is why Hilborn attends all practices and games for that sport.

"You know there's going to be contact," he says. "That's what the sport is about. In other sports, there's contact, but most of the time that contact is incidental or illegal."

Hilborn holds Athletic Equipment Managers

Association certification, which requires ongoing education to remain up to date on advancements in the field.

Few things escape his watchful eye, from the fit of a uniform to the human being underneath.

Known affectionately to Vulcans as Uncle Ben, or simply "Unc," Hilborn is the guy who cares about players' lives beyond sport.

"He's a safe place for athletes," says graduate student Kyle Brunson, a running back for the Vulcans who transferred to Cal U in June to pursue his master's degree in sport management.

"If you're having a bad day or a good day, he's always going to make it better. We respect him as much as a coach. He's a friend, but he's also a father figure."

It's not unusual to find a handful of players using the equipment room as a hangout spot.

"He's a friend, mentor and leader," says head football coach Gary Dunn '96, '97. "He's the first one players see when they walk into the facility and the last one they see when they leave."

"There are always three or four guys sitting around talking to him. They know he cares, and he wants to do all he can to help them."

This includes teaching the finer points of game preparation by using a children's song.

"You know that song 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes?'" Hilborn says.

"If you're packing a travel bag and you sing that song, you'll remember to include everything you need to play, and you won't have to ask the equipment manager if he has an extra." ■



Loads of laundry on an average day



Hours to wash game uniforms



Biggest shoe size in stock



Hours of work pre- and post-game



# Never Forgotten

## *Honor someone special with a gift to Cal U*

**E**ach year, many alumni and friends of California University choose to honor a family member, favorite professor or longtime friend by donating to Cal U. Others memorialize a loved one with a gift to the University.

These generous individuals know that donating to Cal U is a meaningful way to recognize someone who has been important to them. Their gift not only pays tribute to that special individual, it also can make a positive difference in the life of a college student.

Your honorary or memorial gift can do the same. And today, it's more valuable than ever.

Private support has become increasingly critical to our ability to provide all students with a high-quality education at an affordable cost. When you honor a special person with a gift to Cal U, you also help to advance the University's mission of providing an exemplary, career-focused education to our students.

Your gift will be acknowledged, and the individual you are honoring, or their family, will be notified as well, so they can see the lasting impact of your thoughtfulness. ■



For more information on how to make an honorary or memorial donation, please contact the University Development and Alumni Relations Office at 724-938-5775 or email [novak\\_m@calu.edu](mailto:novak_m@calu.edu). You can also make a gift online at [calu.edu/giving](http://calu.edu/giving).

## MILESTONES

### 70s

**Gregory Pandrock** '70 is a promoter, producer, director and president of the Futuristic Clubs of America Inc. He and Adele Pandrock live in New Eagle, Pa.



**Dr. Joe Yukish** '65, '72 is busy training as a half-day Reading Recovery teacher in the Tucson (Ariz.) Unified School District, where he

works with four first-grade students. His passion for helping beginning readers drew him out of retirement to work with students who lost much of their kindergarten year because of the pandemic. At Cal U, Joe was a member of Theta Xi, Alpha Psi Omega and Alpha Phi Omega. After teaching elementary and special education students in Pennsylvania public schools, Joe became a professor of education at universities in Ohio, South Carolina, Arkansas, Arizona and New York. In 1984 he took a leadership role in the International Reading Recovery Program at Ashland University, in Ohio. In 1989 he became founding director of the South Carolina Reading Recovery Program, setting up and supervising a statewide program based at Clemson University. He retired to Tucson in 2010.

**Don Bailey** '73 was selected for the Cambria County (Pa.) Sports Hall of Fame. A former administrator at Forest Hills High School, he was the school's head football coach for 45 years.

**Dr. Caryl Sheffield** '73, of Sarasota, Fla., wrote a guest column for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* titled "Debate Over Critical Race Theory Is Divisive – and Unnecessary." Caryl is an emerita professor of education and a former Cal U administrator.

**Karl Quinn** '74 has retired from the computer industry. He majored in industrial arts at Cal U and was involved in track and Phi Kappa Theta. He and Pat Quinn live in Round Hill, Va.

**Sally Greenawalt Buszinski** '79 has retired from teaching English as a second language (ESL) in the Mars (Pa.) Area School District. She earned her Cal U bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

**Marion Mitchell** '75 serves on the board of directors for Horizon Goodwill Industries in Hagerstown, Md. She studied elementary education at Cal U.



**Beverly J. "B.J." Harrington** '75 was named to the board of directors for the Young Marines, a national youth organization. She is director of

development at the MediCal University of South Carolina.

### 80s

**Richard Hitlan** '82 is president of the Rotary Club of Connellsville, Pa.

**Sherri May** '83 is a business counselor at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

**Dr. Brian Crawford** '84 retired as provost of West Liberty University, in West Virginia. He studied Earth science at Cal U.

**Bruce Lee** '85 planned to retire in January 2022 as technical education teacher and running coach at South Western High School.

**Scott Boothby** '85 is senior vice president of mergers and acquisitions for IPS, which services power transmission components. He studied industrial technology at Cal U.

**Dion Jansante** '84 retired from a career as a technology teacher at Bentworth High School and head coach of the school's baseball team. His wife, **Lori Jansante** '82, retired from her role as a fiscal technician in the Administration and Finance Office at Cal U.

### 90s



**Thomas Leturgey** '90 won two Golden Quill Awards at the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania's annual event in Pittsburgh. One of the awards, for

"Bob Orkwis Celebrates 35 Years Covering High School Sports in WPA," is about a Cal U graduate who started his career at what was then called WVCS radio. While at Cal U from 1986-1990, Thomas, who now has three Golden Quills, was active at WVCS and the *California Times* and served on Student Government. He and his wife, Marion, live in Pittsburgh.

**Barry Niccolai** '93, executive director of Centerville Clinics, received the Pittsburgh Smart 50 Award for the second consecutive year. *Smart Business* magazine sponsors the awards, which honor the top executives of 50 companies in the Greater Pittsburgh area. Barry is a member of Cal U's Council of Trustees.



## PAVILIONS DEDICATED

(Left) Teammates, friends and colleagues of former Vulcans linebacker and team captain Joe Lutz '70 gathered in September to dedicate the football alumni pavilion in Joe's memory. He was a teacher and administrator at Central Cambria High School in Cambria County, Pa., and was the 'tailgate master' for home football games at Adamson Stadium. He passed away July 16, 2021.

(Right) Four alumni — Bryan Schuerman '09, '16, Ashley Roth '10, '12, Ryan Jerico '09 and Dr. Tim Susick '76, '78 — were among the speakers when Pinarci Pavilion, located at SAI Farm, was dedicated in honor of Dr. Nancy Pinarci '94, '96, '98, retired vice president for Student Affairs. The ceremony was part of Homecoming 2021 festivities.

## MILESTONES

**Matthew High** '96 is senior vice president of operations for One Call, a specialty network management services company for the workers' compensation industry. He studied business administration at Cal U.

**Army Col. Lance Oskey** '93 is chief of staff at the U.S. Army War College. Previously, he was chief of staff, U.S. Army Cadet Command, at Fort Knox, Ky. Lance began his military career at Cal U, where he was an ROTC cadet and a Distinguished Military Graduate. He received his first military commission, as an Army second lieutenant, at Old Main in 1993, and he celebrated his promotion to colonel in a ceremony at the Kara Alumni House in 2014. In 2019, he addressed Cal U graduates at winter Commencement.

**Joe Kuhns** '97 is the former head football coach at Bethlehem-Center (Pa.) High School.

**Chad King** '97 is the police chief in Bridgeville, Pa.

**Dr. Robert Motte** '97 is principal of Aliquippa (Pa.) Elementary School.

**Laurie Kmetko Moran** '98 is a human resources director for Meyer Unkovic & Scott, in Pittsburgh, where she and Jason Moran make their home.

**Jonathan Malone** '98 is a financial adviser and managing partner at Castle Wealth Group in Mooresville, N.C. He earned his bachelor's degree in education at Cal U.

## 00s

**Marisa Shernock Hart** '01 is a teacher in the Mount Pleasant (Pa.) Area School District.

**Kristy Hunter** '02 was named the 2020 Athletic Administrator of the Year for Classes 5 and 6 by the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Kristy, who works at Gloucester High School, graduated from Cal U with a degree in athletic training and took numerous classes in sport management.

**Amanda Hull** '03 is a security specialist for the U.S. Army. She majored in environmental studies at Cal U, where she was in the marching band. She and Shawn Hull live in Elizabethtown, Ky.

**DeAnna Martin** '03, '07 is the administrator at Washington Park, in Washington County, Pa. She studied parks and recreation management at Cal U.

**Mike Daugherty** '03, '09, '17 is a therapist in the mental health field. He also provides commentary for four independent wrestling circuits in Pennsylvania.

**Lamont Lyons** '04, '10 is a principal in the North Hills School District, near Pittsburgh. He studied elementary education and educational leadership.

**Kristopher White** '05 has returned to his position as chief historian of Emerging Civil War. Kris is the organization's founding chief historian.

**Dr. Debra Roach** '05 is vice president of Workforce Development for Community College of Allegheny County.



**Nick Krasa** '05, '08, owner of Krasa's Cove in Findley Lake, N.Y., with his wife, Katie, was recognized recently by the North American Ice Cream Association.

**Alyssa Werner** '06 is an assistant principal at Washington Middle School, in Allegany County, Md. She studied Earth science at Cal U.

**Daniel Taylor** '06 is director of applied sports science for the Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

**Alicia Carter Harris** '06, '11 is a consultant for TNG Consulting LLC, which provides strategic risk management solutions to higher education institutions, K-12 schools and districts, and workplaces. She majored in criminal justice and legal studies at Cal U.

**Damian Stambersky** '07 is the pitching coach for the Radford University baseball team, in Virginia. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

**David Sibenac** '07 is a member of the Shaler (Pa.) Area School District Athletic Hall of Fame. He played baseball at Cal U and football, wrestling and baseball at Shaler.

**Lindsay Scarpo** '07, '10 is principal of West Point Elementary School in the Hempfield (Pa.) Area School District.

**Chad Tapp** '08 is the head coach for men's basketball at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

**Ryan Ridder** '09 is the head men's basketball coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Kathy Perrotta** '08 is a retired physical education teacher at Martha's Vineyard (Mass.) Regional High School. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

**Mike Ekanem** '08 is director of player development for the University of Arkansas men's basketball program. He earned his master's degree in exercise science.

**Col. Angela Ochoa** '08 is the first female commander of the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

**Marquis Martin** '09 is the defensive coordinator for the Brownsville (Pa.) Area High School football team.

**Dr. MaryAnn Rush Wallace** '09 is director of athletics at Lehigh Carbon Community College, in eastern Pennsylvania. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

## 10s

**Joe Glass** '10 is the head football coach at Hickory High School, in North Carolina. He studied sport management at Cal U.

**Paul Hart** '10 is an assistant coach for the Stanford (Calif.) University women's soccer team. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

**David Muench** '11 is the director of technology and director of student support services for the Bethel Park (Pa.) School District. He received his superintendent's letter of eligibility from Cal U.

**Amy Britt** '11 is an advanced practice registered nurse for HSHS Medical Group Family and Internal Medicine, based in Illinois. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at Cal U.

**Chad Salisbury** '12, the offensive coordinator for Cal U football, has been inducted into the Fayette County (Pa.) Sports Hall of Fame. He played football and basketball at Frazier High School.

**David Crewe Jr.** '12 is director of medical services and head trainer for the Phoenix Suns of the National Basketball Association. He earned his master's degree from Cal U.

**David Schmidt Jr.** '12 was ordained to the transitional diaconate at Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen Parish in Butler, Pa., part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

**Lindsay King** '12, of Washington, Pa., is North America marketing manager for Stanley Black & Decker. She majored in communication studies at Cal U, where she was a member of the dance team, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Sigma Alpha Pi.

**Russell Closs III** '13 is a full-time officer for the Pennridge Regional Police Department, in Bucks County, Pa.

**Nikki McIntyre** '13 teaches a studio painting class at Oakwood Creative Care, in Mesa, Ariz.

**Tyronne "Ty" Hayes** '13, '20 is the CEO and founder of Hayes Sports Management Inc. Tyronne majored in sport management at Cal U and lives in Cleveland, Ohio, with his wife, Kenetta.

**Nick Samples** '14 is a trust analyst for BNY Mellon, in Pittsburgh.

**Morgan Gregory** '14 is director of strength and conditioning and nutrition for the Philadelphia Phillies of Major League Baseball. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion with a concentration in performance enhancement and injury prevention.

**Michelle Carr** '14 is a teacher in the Hot Springs School District, in South Dakota.

**Kristin Zipnock Kelly** '14 is a speech pathologist for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. She and **Sean Kelly** '11 live in Pittsburgh.

**Carlita "Mickie" Scott** '14 received the 2021 Public Service Award from the nonprofit Women in Federal Law Enforcement. Since 2014, Mickie has been one of three international coordinator-instructors at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Leadership and International Training Division, at the National Capital Region Training Operations Directorate in Cheltenham, Md. She earned her master's degree in law and public policy at Cal U.

**Jesse Padgett** '14 is a sports performance specialist for Nationwide Children's Hospital at Bexley High School in Columbus, Ohio. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

**Emily Lorence-Ragan** '15 is director of children's theater, education and outreach for South Park (Pa.) Theatre. She earned a degree in theater at Cal U.

**Cara Senger** '15 is an assistant principal at Upper St. Clair (Pa.) High School. She earned her master's degree in education at Cal U.

**Benjamin Canan** '15 is the assistant principal at O'Hara Elementary School in the Fox Chapel (Pa.) Area School District.



## FOUNDATION AWARDS HONORS

After postponing an in-person event last year because of the pandemic, the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania welcomed award recipients from 2020 to join 2021 honorees for a recognition dinner in Kara Alumni House. Among those attending were (from left) are Drs. William "Bill" and Carole Biddington, Foundation president Bethany Hoag-Salmen, and Dr. John Cencich. The honorees:

**JOB JOHNSON AWARD** for excellence, innovation, community service and other achievements: **Jesse Hereda** '04 (2020) and Dr. John Cencich (2021). Jesse is executive director of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and a former member of the Foundation's board of directors. He and his life partner, Daniel Wu, established the endowed Jesse G. Hereda Honors Program Scholarship and the endowed Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg Political Science Scholarship. John is a professor, former department chair and dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. He developed the professional Doctor of Criminal Justice degree and established with his wife the Drs. John R. and Andrea V. Cencich Endowed Scholarship.

**DIXONIANS AWARD** for individuals with a direct connection to University operations: Drs. William "Bill" and Carol Biddington (2020) and the late **Gail Artyth (George) Lese** '61 (2021). Bill is an emeritus faculty member and former interim dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research; Carol is a faculty member in the Department of Exercise Sciences and Sport Studies. They established an endowed scholarship for students who play softball at Cal U. Gail was a member of the Cal U Alumni Association board of directors. A member of the University's Council of Trustees from 1983-1989 and reappointed in 1995, she also was a recipient of the John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service to the University.

**SOCIETY OF 1852 AWARD** for significant contributions to the University: **Cathy** and **Dave Rohm**, both Class of 1978 (2020), and the late **Michael Perry** '63 (2021). Cathy and Dave established an endowed scholarship fund that awards scholarships to students who are studying technology education and communication disorders. Michael was a former member of the Foundation's board of directors, established the endowed Perry Family Scholarship and supported other initiatives.

**Dr. David Friedman** '15 is a sports and exercise science faculty member at Lamar Community College, in Colorado. He earned his Doctor of Health Science at Cal U.

**Andy Cohen** '16 is a psychologist for the Prescott (Wis.) School District. He earned his master's degree in education at Cal U.

**Kate Cockerham** '15 is the athletic trainer at Columbus (Ind.) North High School. She earned her Cal U master's degree in exercise

science and health promotion with a concentration in injury prevention.

**Elizabeth Moore** '17 is the District Beginning Teacher of the Year at Vance County (N.C.) High School. She teaches ninth-grade world history and is in her second year of teaching.

**Tanner Steiner** '17 is head golf professional at the Country Club of North Carolina. He studied professional golf management at Cal U.

## MILESTONES

**Jake Urbanek** '17 is a production manager for audio company Benztown. Previously, he worked for Apple Music as an assistant producer, for Mr. Smalls Recording Studio in Pittsburgh as an audio engineer, and for the Washington (Pa.) Symphony Orchestra as a sound engineer. He studied commercial music technology at Cal U.

**Anthony Papageorgiou** '17, '20, '20 is in his second year of law school at Rutgers University, in New Jersey. He has completed a Fund for American Studies fellowship in Washington, D.C., exploring law, economics and public policy. Anthony earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, a master's degree in criminology and a doctorate in criminal justice, all at Cal U.

**Madeline Feliciano-Weiser** '18, an oncology clinical nurse specialist at the Penn State Cancer Institute at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, presented a webcast to

inform Latina women about breast cancer. Madeline earned her master's degree in nursing at Cal U.

**Matthew Flores** '18 is the strength and conditioning coach for the University of New Mexico men's basketball program. He earned his Cal U master's degree in exercise science and health promotion.

**Parker Lynn** '18 is an assistant baseball coach and manager of athletic facilities at St. Vincent College, near Latrobe, Pa.

**Carlee Wickstrom** '18 is a learning support teacher at Trinity South Elementary, in Washington, Pa., and head coach of the softball team at Peters Township (Pa.) High School.

**Nicole Meehan** '18 is the head coach for girls lacrosse at Perkiomen School, in Pennsburg, Pa. She studied sport management at Cal U.

**Alicia Herzog** '18 is program coordinator for the Master Gardener Program with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

**Allison Gillis** '18, a licensed social worker, is a member of the Division of Student Affairs at Kent State University, in Ohio. She earned her M.S.W. at Cal U.

**Jo Rupp** '18 is a financial institutions examiner for Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities. At 48, she nurtured her love of running by competing in the Penn Relays Summer Series.

**Rebecca Wilkerson** '18, '20 is an assistant coach for the men's and women's swimming and diving program at Clarion (Pa.) University.

**Ron Dziezgowski** '19 is the police chief of Jefferson Hills, Pa. He earned his master's degree in legal studies with a concentration in criminal justice.

**Emilee Downing** '19 is an officer for the New Albany (Ohio) Police Department.

## 20s

**Chelsea Rieppel** '20 is an athletic trainer for the Williamsport Crosscutters, a collegiate summer baseball team of the Major League Baseball Draft League.

**Monica "Mo" Burns** '20 is an assistant women's basketball coach at Alderson Broaddus University, in West Virginia.

**Dr. Hari Drayton** '20 is a speaker, real estate specialist and security expert. He earned his Doctor of Criminal Justice degree from Cal U.

**Cameron Strawderman** '20 is an athletic trainer for Lees-McRae College, in North Carolina. He earned his master's degree in exercise science from Cal U.

**Justin Gates** '20 is a senior enlisted advisor for Region 6, Marine Corps Embassy Security Group. He majored in exercise science at Cal U. He and Tiffany Cole live in Dulles, Va.

**Garrett Reid** '20 is a dispatcher for transportation provider First Student. He and Miranda Reid live in Westmoreland City, Pa.

**Dr. Matthew Loeslie** '21, who earned his doctorate in criminal justice at Cal U, is the founding dean for the inaugural School of Applied Technology at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. He will be based in Detroit Lakes, Mich. Matthew spent the past five years as program director and a criminal justice faculty member for the Humanities, Social Sciences and Education Department at the school.

**Samantha Wangner** '21 is an assistant athletic director at Ferrum College, in



## WRIGHT LEGACY

Three siblings — **Kathy Wright Schmidt** '74, **Robert Wright** '78, '92 and **William Wright III** '70, '78 — along with their spouses have established the Wright Family Scholarship in memory of their parents, Helen Wright and William Wright II. Although neither graduated from college, Helen and William stressed the importance of higher education, and many members of their family are Cal U alumni. Pictured at a family wedding are (row 1, from left) Helen Wright, **Donna Wright** '97, '07, '18, **Nathan Wright** '12, **Sarah Wright** '14, '16, and **Robert Wright** '78, '92; (row 2) Matt Crosby, Lindsay Wright Crosby, **April Wright** '07, '09, '20, **Nigel Wright** '07 and Amelia Wright; (row 3) Kate Schmidt and **Eliot Schmidt** '14; (row 4) **Kathy Wright Schmidt** '74, Jamie Wright and **Christopher Wright** '03, '05; (row 5) Eugene Schmidt, **Rose Wright** '71, '75 and **Bill Wright** '70, '78.



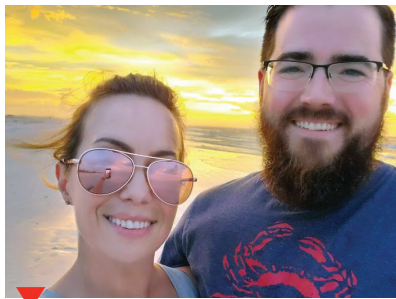
Virginia. She earned her Cal U master's degree in exercise science and health promotion.

**Olaniyi Iyiola '21** is an assistant professor of mathematics at Clarkson University, in New York. He earned his M.B.A. at Cal U.

## BIRTH

**Brittany Prater Zaruta '09**, of Orlando, Fla., announces the birth of daughter Juliana Lynn Zaruta in April 2021.

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Mark Minnicks '10** and **Kristen Minnicks**, of Newell, Pa., celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in October 2021. They work in the oil and gas industry.

**Kalim Goodman '09** and **Amanda Velazquez-Goodman '08** recently celebrated their 12th anniversary.



**Jeffrey B. Good '76** and **Elaine Nicholson Good '75** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 1, 2021. Jeff retired as a towboat captain in 2019 and is an expert witness for the marine industry. Elaine teaches part time in a program for high school dropouts.

## MARRIAGES

Molly Smith and **Joshua Jurik '13** were married in May 2021 in Savannah, Ga. Joshua is a software developer for Five Star Development, in Pittsburgh.

**Andrew Grobe '13** and Ashley Dzurnak were married in October 2020. Andrew works for Allegheny County (Pa.) Parks and Recreation as assistant deputy director of recreation.



**Kara Smith '18** and **Colby Davis '17**, of Freedom, Pa., were married in November 2020. Kara is an accounting clerk for Performance Inspired Nutrition. At Cal U, she studied communications with a minor in event planning. She interned with the Women's Center and the END Violence Center and was a member of Gamma Sigma Sigma. Colby studied sport management at Cal U. He was the equipment manager for the hockey team and interned with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He now works for UPMC.

## IN MEMORIAM

Vincent L. Andreani '63  
 Elvera D. Dolfie Barcelona '95  
 Loretta "Lori" A. Bartley '67  
 William J. Bartman '75  
 Alex Bezjak '59, former instructor  
 Jude A. Kudrik Bodnar '71  
 Paul Kent Boord '58  
 Stephen E. Burns '67  
 Jack Carson '87  
 Sidney John Cicchini '62  
 Edward Alan Colebank '87, '05  
 Dr. Philip Y. Coleman,\* emeritus English professor; former dean of liberal arts and part-time track coach  
 Dana Yvonne Corrick '04  
 Audrey J. Crockett '65, '69  
 Craig Eugene Cunningham '65  
 Jerad Jude Cypher '12  
 Darrel A. Davis '71  
 Scott Brian DeBerry '94  
 Dr. William Dieterle, retired physics professor  
 Jennifer Bettina Dranzo '98  
 Dr. Donald "Doc" Franks '59, former assistant professor of mathematics  
 Patricia "Trish" Franks '59

## IN PRINT

**Amy Leput Strahl '73** is the author of *Blackie: A Memoir of a Year with a Crow*, based on her childhood recollections.

**Melissa Brusoski Wiesner '15** is the author of *Her Family Secret* and *The Girl in the Picture*. A social worker from Pittsburgh, Melissa studied mental health counseling at Cal U.

**Paulette Glover '70** is the author of *Mindfully Ever After: How to Stay in Love Now and Forever*. She lives in the Pittsburgh area and is retired from teaching.

**Robin Acton '87**, of Latrobe, Pa., is the author of *The Taker*, which follows Pittsburgh crime reporter Rita Locke as she works with an abducted girl's father to catch a kidnapper. Robin, a native of Brownsville, Pa., had a 33-year career as a reporter and editor and received more than 100 awards from state and regional professional journalism organizations for her work on investigative projects, general news, features, business, health and education writing.



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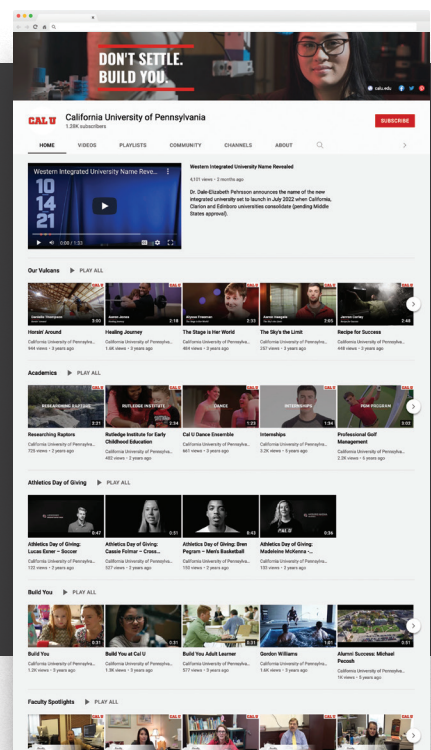
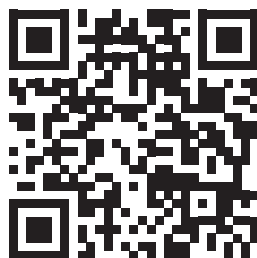
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## IN MEMORIAM CONTINUED

William "Bill" J. Gabonay Jr. '67  
Michael Galaida Jr. '00  
Regis Gamble '98  
Janet George '71  
Rudolph John Godzak '94  
H. David Goldblum '74  
Janet Thea Zajac Grote '73  
Robert S. "Bob" Haley '81, '85,  
former defensive coordinator  
for Vulcans football  
Dr. Phillip Lynn Hayes,\* emeritus  
professor; former dean of Student  
Development and assistant  
wrestling coach  
Lisa Helmantoler '91, '92  
Charles B. Holman '05  
Ken Hulst '99  
Kirk Holman, former member,  
Cal U Council of Trustees  
Ray LeMoyné Jennings '63  
George James Kabay '62  
Karen J. Katsuleres '68  
Clyde W. Kearns '74  
John N. Kerestan '54  
Joyce K. Kootsouradis '96  
John Loversidge '70  
Regina Knight-Parker '90  
Donald Delmar "Jake" Landman '75  
E. Wayne Hyre '60  
Kenneth Livingston '78  
Eugene "Gene" Robert Lukan '62  
Marianne Z. McMahon MacBeth '86,  
'88, retired English professor  
Stacey Ann Mayer '92, '97  
Nancy Martha Masuga '72  
Alison LoGreco McClain '00  
Eric "Rick" Anthony Meneskie '74

Dr. Charles "Mick" Paroda '66  
William "Wil" David Pena '14  
Ann L. Popa '81  
John Porter Reagan '84  
Robert B. Reed '94  
Peter A. Regal '56  
Catherine "Cathy" Regets '69  
Marcia Savina Rendina '75  
Alene Roebuck,\* former food  
service worker  
Rebecca Jo Rowan '17  
Dr. Joseph A. Sanfilippo '62,  
emeritus professor of applied  
engineering and technology  
Joyce Ann Santore '69  
Philip Edward Schaltenbrand,\* emeritus  
professor of ceramics and art  
Cheryl Ann Scott '82, '85  
Kimberly A. Bontrager Shope '82  
William E. "Bill" Slosky '54, former  
assistant professor of biology and  
environmental science  
Helen Marie Komacek Staruch '55  
Joseph Smatlak '56  
Amy Harris Spangler '72  
Rev. Robert Spence Jr. '05  
Heidi Lynn Stenson '01  
Joyce Eileen Streator '81  
Robert L. Sumara '15  
Martin Regis Tunney '67  
JoAnne Marie Mastandrea Welling '66  
Dr. Thomas C. "Doc" Wilkinson '59,  
emeritus professor and former  
associate dean, director of  
student teaching and director  
of the superintendent letter of  
eligibility program  
Janis Patton Yeager '91

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Fireworks illuminate the sky over Cal U's award-winning residence halls, a welcome sight for students who eagerly returned to campus this fall.