

California University
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Special Convocation Focuses on Haiti

As Haiti attempts to recover after a devastating earthquake, the Cal U community will have a chance to explore issues raised by the disaster.

“Help for Haiti: A Special Convocation” will be held from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Thursday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

After an introduction by University President Angelo Armenti, Jr., a panel of faculty experts will discuss the complex problems facing the people of Haiti as they attempt to reconstruct their island nation.

Topics will range from health care and concerns about child trafficking to the earthquake’s effect on Haiti’s environment, infrastructure and society.

A question-and-answer session will follow.

The gathering is sponsored by the Office of the President, the Provost’s Office, the American Democracy Project and the Student Government Association.

Moderator is David Argent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Panelists are:

— David Boehm, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

— Deborah Farrer, Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

— Kyle Fredrick, Department of Earth Sciences.

— Cheryl Hettman, Department of Nursing.

— Emily Sweitzer, Department of Justice, Law and Society.

“This will be a learning experience,” said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus director of the American Democracy Project.

“Even after the immediate needs are met, Haiti faces an ongoing struggle. We are asking our students to look beyond the headlines and think more deeply about what it takes for a nation to rebuild.”

Before and after the event, participants will have the opportunity to donate to the Haiti Relief Fund. The project will collect donations from all 14 PASSHE universities and use the funds to rebuild a school in Haiti. Information about the Haiti Relief Fund is available at www.calu.edu.

All members of the Cal U community are invited to the special convocation. The gathering is scheduled for the common hour so that all interested students and faculty may attend.



Cal U will take an in-depth look at the tragic events that recently took place in Haiti with a special convocation beginning at 11 a.m. Thursday in Steele Hall.

PASSHE Project: Rebuild a School

To help with Haiti’s ongoing needs, Cal U has joined an effort led by PASSHE, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, to rebuild a school in the earthquake-ravaged nation.

Contributions can be made through the Cal U website; all donations to the Haiti Relief Fund will be transferred to the PASSHE Foundation, which is managing the project. Cheyney and Kutztown universities will identify and “adopt” the school.

“The outpouring of donations across the world has been impressive and quite moving,” President Armenti said. “In its relief initiative, PASSHE is looking beyond the immediate needs to a time when rebuilding will commence, both for the country and for the Haitian people.”

To donate to the Haiti Relief Fund, visit www.calu.edu.

Intern Works in Preservation Bureau

Jessica Lane, a Cal U senior majoring in history and secondary education (social studies), is working for the state Bureau of Historic Preservation as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).



Jessica Lane

Lane, of Annville, Pa., is one of 14 students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program, which provides students the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester’s worth of credits. THIS invites students from each of the 14 PASSHE universities to participate.

The daughter of Thomas and Sarah Lane, she is a 2005 graduate of Annville-Cleona High School.

Lane and the other students participating in the program will attend several academic seminars during their spring semester internship. Each also will complete an individualized research project as part of the program’s requirements.

— Continued on page 4



The 2010 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, which were held at Cal U for the first time, culminated yesterday with an awards presentation. Jessica Lottman '08, a past Scholastic winner, spoke at the ceremony in Steele Hall.

Art, Writing Awards Presented

The first year of a partnership between California University and the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of Southwestern Pennsylvania had a “storybook ending” Sunday in Steele Hall.

Seventy-six students, including some multiple awardees, from schools in Fayette, Greene and Washington counties were honored for their achievements in art and writing at yesterday’s ceremony. Those students who won Gold Keys and

or/American Vision and Voice nominations will now compete at the national and regional levels, respectively, for prizes and scholarships.

Cal U faculty, staff and student volunteers from the departments of Art and Design and English partnered with others from Scholastic to serve as organizers and judges for the event, which drew 441 submissions.

The competition was the second collaboration this

— Continued on page 2



Pittsburgh's scenic PNC Park will be the site for 'a P.R. affair,' a student-organized event set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 19. Registration ends Wednesday.

'P.R. Affair' Set for PNC Park

Wednesday is the last day to register for "a P.R. affair," a student-organized event set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 19 at PNC Park in Pittsburgh.

The event is hosted by the PRactitioners, Cal U's student-led public relations firm, and the campus chapter of PRSSA, the Public Relations Student Society of America. It is intended to raise awareness of public relations as a career and offer networking opportunities for students from colleges and universities throughout western Pennsylvania.

Leaders of student PR firms and Pittsburgh professionals will offer advice and help participants develop workable public relations approaches. Professionals will discuss strategies, tactics and keys to success, while student leaders share tips for starting a firm, managing clients and

organizing the work.

Guest speakers include Nick Lucido, vice president of professional development at PRSSA and a member of the group's national e-board; Tracy Gray, manager of public and media relations at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium; Lisa Tristano Martin, senior account supervisor of MARC USA; and Tim McNellie, communications manager at the Pittsburgh Zoo.

PRSSA membership is not required, but all participants must register in advance. Deadline is midnight Wednesday. Registration fee is \$30.

In addition to "a P.R. affair," an optional social event will begin at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at Bar Louie, in Station Square on Pittsburgh's South Side.

For more information, visit <http://regionalpr.wordpress.com>

Local Students Brush Up for History Day

Young historians will prepare for regional competition at the third annual Primary Sources History Day competition 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Performance Center.

Sponsored by the Library of Congress of Teaching with Primary Sources program in collaboration with the Department of History and Political Science, the event is modeled after the National History Day competition.

This year's National History Day theme is "Innovation in History: Impact and Change."

Participants in junior (grades 6-8) and senior (9-12) divisions will compete in both individual and group projects. Cal U faculty members, students and other volunteers will judge exhibits, documentaries, websites and research papers.

All students receive framed certificates, and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places in both group and individual divisions. Students from the Belle Vernon Area, Charleroi, Ringgold and Uniontown Area school districts will participate.

The regional competition, known as NHD Pitt, will be held March 20-21 at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. Students from schools in Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset counties will compete.

"Several years ago I served as a judge at the regional competition and noticed that hardly any of our area schools were there," said Dr. Michael Brna, TPS director. "So we set up a go-between local competition to prepare these schools for the regional competition. This is a win-win for everyone involved."

Rep. John P. Murtha brought the Library of Congress TPS program to Cal U so that local educators and students would have opportunities to take advantage of the vast array of Library of Congress online resources.

Scholastic Awards Honor High School Students

— Continued from page 1

academic year between Cal U and Scholastic. In November, the University hosted 250 middle and high school students from 17 school districts for the Art and Writing Encounter. Participants observed classes and participated in workshops taught by faculty from the Art and Design and English departments.

Dr. Michael Hummel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, praised the work of those involved with arts and writing awards competition.

"This major academic event was nothing less than a prodigious task readily accomplished through the combined efforts of the Scholastic Committee and the Department of Art and Design and Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts," Hummel said. "We are very proud of the strong sense of service and commitment in our faculty. They volunteered their time and knowledge to ensure our area high school students have the opportunity to participate in this rich learning opportunity. They are true professionals."

Faculty who judged the arts and writing competition were excited about

the number of quality entries and thrilled that the competition, which began in 2003 at Waynesburg University, is at home at Cal U.

"I'm very excited about this, and I know many others on campus are as well," said Dr. William Hendricks, professor of English, who is in his fifth year as judge of the competition. "Many of the writing submissions I've read over the years have been of very high quality, probably better, for example, than the submissions for the Governor's School awards (based at the Intermediate Unit), for which I also was a judge for several years."

Added Dr. Christina Fisanick, assistant professor of English: "The entries I read (in the science fiction writing category) showed an awareness of genre and audience expectations, and I could tell that the writers are enthusiastic about practicing the craft. I am thrilled that we were able to bring this program to Cal."

Janice Hatfield, co-director of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of Southwestern Pennsylvania along with Beverly DeMotte of Uniontown High School, noted the strong entries from

middle school students this year. For example, three of the top Gold key honors in art went to two eighth-grade students.

"We are thinking that the talent pool (among middle school students) is very strong and are looking forward to the excitement they are going to bring down the road," Hatfield said.

Other standouts included Shannon Ozimok, a senior at Lakeview Christian Academy, who earned three Gold Keys in writing, among several other awards.

"It was great to see such great writing from our students in this area," said Dr. Krystia Nora, assistant professor of English. "It was a joy to do," she added of her role as a judge.

Added Gregory Harrison, chair of the Department of Art and Design: "We are so pleased to have had this opportunity to be the host for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards this year. I'm both excited and grateful for the participation from the Scholastic Board of Directors, the many volunteers and all the faculty and staff here at Cal U that made this significant event possible."

"I look forward to continuing and growing the relationship we have forged with Scholastic for many years to come."

Faculty and Staff Serve on Board, as Judges

The following faculty and staff at Cal U are serving on the 2009-2010 Scholastic Board: Jennifer Adamson, Tempa Cantrell, Dr. Christina Fisanick, Pamela Harrison, Gregory Harrison, Dr. William Hendricks, and Dr. Krystia Nora.

The following served as judges for the arts and writing competition: Jennifer Adamson, Maggy Aston, Dr. Christina Fisanick, Gregory Harrison, Pamela Harrison, Dr. William Hendricks, Dr. Scott Lloyd, Dr. Krystia Nora and Dr. Madeline Smith.

Black History Month Continues with Poetry Night, Valentine's Dance

Two events this week continue Cal U's celebration of Black History Month 2010.

A Poetry Night will be held 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Natali Student Center's Gold Rush. Professional "slam poets" will perform, and student artists will be encouraged to share their skills at an

open microphone session.

On Thursday, a Valentine's Dance will be held in Johnson Hall's Community Room. Admission is free until 10 p.m.; after that, admission is \$2. Half the proceeds will be donated to the Kingsley-Lincoln Freedom School.

The Black Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Student Programs sponsor the annual Black History Month events. Look for a link to the complete list of activities on the Cal U homepage, or visit the BSU web page at <http://sai.cup.edu/sai/clubs/bsu/html>.

Reading Group Goes to the Movies

Reading is an ideal way to cure the winter blues, and the Louis L. Manderino Library is enhancing this experience.

Louie's Lit is a newly formed, monthly discussion group with a general theme of books that have been turned into movies.

Fittingly, the group's first book is *Push* by Sapphire, the author-poet who is the keynote speaker for Cal U's Black History Month celebration. She will discuss her life and work at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Performance Center.

Louie's Lit will hold its first discussion at 5 p.m. Feb. 22 in room 408 of Manderino Library. Readers who want to see the Golden Globe-winning film *Precious*, based on Sapphire's book, can visit Vulcan Theatre at 4 or 8 p.m. daily, Feb. 21-27.

"We decided to start this group to provide a place for the Cal U community to celebrate reading for sheer

enjoyment in a relaxed atmosphere," explained Alyssa Archer, a reference librarian at Manderino.

Although the library's core mission is to support Cal U's curriculum, the facility offers a considerable array of leisure reading, from its graphic novel collection to Oprah's Book Club picks.

"There are many studies showing that reading for fun is an important part of lifelong learning," Archer added. "It increases personal fulfillment and can even strengthen job performance."

All are welcome to attend the Feb. 22 discussion; RSVP by e-mail to reference@calu.edu. Copies of *Push* will be loaned on a first come, first served basis; a limited number of books are available.

For more information about Louie's Lit, or to suggest titles for further reading, e-mail program developers Monica Ruane at ruane@calu.edu or Archer at archer@calu.edu, or call 724-938-4097.



Reference librarians Alyssa Archer (left) and Monica Ruane pose with the book *Push*, which is being used for Louie's Lit book discussion group.

Shop Foreman Works for Youth Wrestling

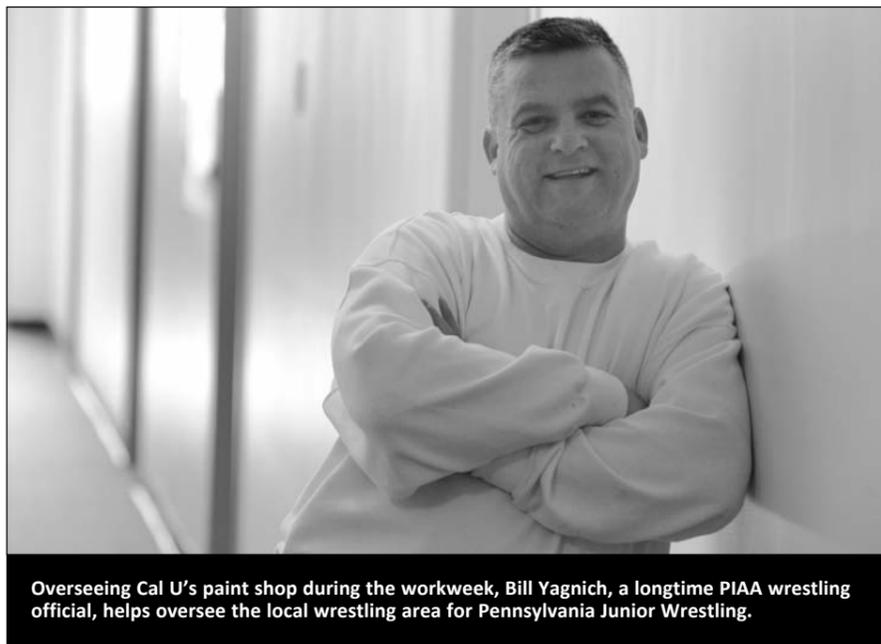
As a longtime painter and now shop foreman, Bill Yagnich is a familiar person on the Cal U campus.

He also is a recognizable figure at high school and middle school wrestling meets throughout the region. But Yagnich, a licensed Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association wrestling official for the past 16 years, has taken a break this season to return to youth wrestling.

He serves as assistant director to John Burns for the Area IV section of Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling (PJW). One of 13 PJW geographic areas statewide, Area IV includes wrestlers from Washington, Beaver and parts of Westmoreland counties.

The PJW divides the wrestlers into four age groups with varying numbers of weight classes — 8-and-under (8 classes), 9-10 (12 classes), 11-12 (15 classes) and 13-14 (18 classes).

The assistant director is a problem-solver and liaison between area coaches, wrestlers and the director, Yagnich explained. As he does in the paint shop, Yagnich oversees all the paperwork and administrative responsibilities in Area



Overseeing Cal U's paint shop during the workweek, Bill Yagnich, a longtime PIAA wrestling official, helps oversee the local wrestling area for Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling.

IV's South region. He also coordinates post-season tournaments with Burns.

Youth wrestling season concludes at the 2010 PJW State Championship Tournament, which will be held March 26-27 at Wachovia Arena in Wilkes Barre, Pa.

"This is a great organization, because

it's all about the kids," Yagnich said. "Wrestling is a tremendous sport, and Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling is concerned about developing these young wrestlers and not just about having them win matches."

Yagnich hopes his position can give the Mon Valley more of a wrestling

presence. He began wrestling at age 5 and was a four-time section champion wrestler during his scholastic days at Charleroi High School.

"Youth wrestling is where I made my bones officiating, and getting kids interested and enjoying wrestling while they are young is so important," he said. "We have never really had any representation in this part of the county with youth wrestling, so hopefully I can be a voice for our area."

During his career as a referee, Yagnich officiated at each of the past eight youth state championships. He was also a referee for many WPIAL post-season matches, as well as several Powerade and Tri-County tournaments.

On the mat as a referee, Yagnich was the final confirmation for successful points awarded. Now he enjoys working behind the scenes.

"We just want to give these kids the opportunity to have fun, learn some discipline and better themselves through wrestling," said Yagnich, who has worked at Cal U for 20 years. "The young kids deserve this opportunity, and I really enjoy working with and helping them."

Campus BRIEFS

Daffodil Days Orders Taken

Cal U again will participate in one of the American Cancer Society's oldest and most beloved fundraising programs, Daffodil Days.



As the first flower of spring, the daffodil represents hope and renewal. To the American Cancer Society, the daffodil symbolizes the hope for a rapid cure for this disease.

Society supporters can order a bunch of 10 cut daffodils for \$10; a pot of mini-daffodils for \$12; a vase with daffodils for \$15; or the "Birthdays R. Hope" collectible Boyd's Bear with

daffodils for \$25. Daffodil lollipops are available for \$1 each.

Order forms have been distributed; additional copies are available in Duda Hall, Room 111.

Checks should be made payable to the American Cancer Society. Orders are due by Feb. 17; send them to campus coordinator Judy Andresky, of the College of Liberal Arts, at Box 52.

Flowers will be ready for pickup after 11 a.m. on March 17.

During the last 14 years, Daffodil Days has raised more than \$240 million in gross revenue to support this life-threatening disease.

For more information, e-mail andresky@calu.edu or call 724-938-4240.

Students Explore Map

With Black History Month in mind, typography students in the Department of Art and Design studied a map project created by assistant professor Robert Meyers for the Young Preservationists

Association of Pittsburgh.

Meyers discussed "The African-American Experience in Southwestern Pennsylvania: A Historic Tour." More than 100 sites of local, regional and national significance are represented in this guide to 200 years of black history in southwestern Pennsylvania.

"Showing the students the use of typography in this map relates directly to the projects we are working on here," Meyers said.

The nonprofit Young Preservationists Association encourages the participation of young people in historic preservation. Meyers hopes to arrange future class projects with the association.

Staff Convocation Set Feb. 16

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will host the 2010 Spring Staff Convocation on Feb. 16 in the Performance Center, beginning at 2 p.m.

President Armenti will provide an update on campus projects and initiatives, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Williams Nabs Record for Steals

Senior Helps Women's Basketball Team Continue Winning Streak

As Cal U's women's basketball team continues its decade-long run of success, senior Brooque Williams is leaving her legacy in the school record books.

The All-American guard from Pittsburgh Perry High School recently became Cal U's all-time leader in career steals. She also moved up to take second place in career scoring and third in rebounds.

Through January, Williams had career marks of 366 steals, 915 rebounds and 1,888 points. She surpassed the previous steals record of 359 set by Megan Storck (2003-2006) and trails 2003 Cal U Hall of Fame inductee Traci Cox by 45 rebounds for second place.

Sara McKinney, who finished her stellar career in 2005, is Cal's career leader in both points (2,117) and rebounds (1,204).

This season Williams leads the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference in scoring, averaging 20.2 points per game. She ranks third among all conference rebounders with a 9.9 per-game average.

Teammate Kayla Smith is the league's top rebounder at 12.1 per game.

Williams has helped the Vulcans compile a 92-26 cumulative record and 35-9 PSAC-West mark since 2006-2007, with two NCAA Regional and PSAC-West titles and three consecutive NCAA II tournament and PSAC championship game appearances.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Mark Swasey, Cal U owned a 15-4 overall record and 5-1 divisional record heading into February.

The Vulcans travel to Clarion and Lock Haven universities this Wednesday and Saturday before returning home Feb. 17 to play IUP. Tip-off at Hamer Hall is set for 6 p.m.



As she helps Cal U's women's basketball team to another banner season, senior Brooque Williams is firmly entrenching herself in the school's record book.

Intern Working in Preservation Bureau

— Continued from page 1

The Bureau for Historic Preservation is part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office. The role of the bureau is to identify and protect the architectural and archaeological resources of Pennsylvania.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me," Lane said. "It's a lot of work with many responsibilities, but definitely worth it."

Dr. Mohamed Yamba, professor of history and political science, is the campus coordinator for the THIS program at Cal U.

"We have a long list of THIS alumni from Cal U who have found jobs in state government following their internship, or been inspired by their experience to go on to significant achievements in public service," he said.

More than 500 students from PASSHE universities have participated in THIS since the program began in 1989.

Interns have worked with dozens of state agencies, as well as in the offices of the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the state attorney general.

Cal U students interested in should contact Yamba (yamba@calu.edu) or Cal U's internship center at 724-938-1578.

Deadline Near for FPDC Merit Award Nominations

The deadline for the FPDC's 2010 Merit Award nominations is noon on Feb. 15.

Each FPDC subcommittee—Research, Teaching and Learning, Technology, Service and Service-Learning and Grants and Contracts— offers a \$1,000 award that can be used for professional activities. The form to nominate a faculty member can be downloaded from the Faculty Professional Development Committee's website. Self-nominations are acceptable.

Completed nomination forms must be received at the Faculty Professional Development Center, 134 Azorsky, before the deadline. For more information call 724-938-4505.

Certified Results of Faculty Election California University Forum

Members of the Executive Committee of the California University Forum met in open session on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m., in Room 408 of the Manderino Library. The purpose of the aforementioned meeting was to certify the faculty election results. The following members were in attendance: Dr. Lenora Angelone, Dr. William Biddington, Ms. Rachel Fletcher, Dr. Susan Ryan, Ms. Jenifer Sigado and Dr. Tom Wickham. Also present were Douglas Hoover, Presiding Officer, Loring Prest, Parliamentarian and Dana Turcic, Recording Secretary.

Eligible faculty members were notified via e-mail that the election would take place on December 2nd and 3rd, 2009 and the instructions on

how to vote were included in the e-mail. Two hundred eighty (280) full-time permanent faculty members were eligible to vote. One hundred seventeen (117) votes were recorded; for a voter participation rate of forty-two percent (42%).

The Office of Continuous Improvement submitted the results, which were tallied electronically and reported the results as follows:

Notification and Certification of Faculty Election Votes

College of Education & Human Services

Vote for two (2):

*Jane Bonari	82
*Brian Wood	78
None of the above	17

College of Liberal Arts

Vote for one (1):

*Emily Sweitzer	45
Sean Madden	39
John Nass	28
None of the above	1

At-Large
Vote for one (1):

Emily Sweitzer	32
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Liberal Arts
*Sean Madden 21

Liberal Arts
Kyle Frederick 18

Eberly College of Science & Technology
John Nass 16

Liberal Arts
Paul Sible 12

Eberly College of Science & Technology
Sarah Meiss 9

Eberly College of Science & Technology
Paula Caffrey 5

Eberly College of Science & Technology
None of the above 2

*Designates winner.

By unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, the faculty election results were certified.

A plurality of the votes cast was necessary to win. The successful candidates will assume their terms at the September 7, 2010 Forum Meeting.

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