

# Newsletter

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Dr. Brent House (English) read his poetry at the Fairhope Writers Conference in Fairhope, AL; and presented papers at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association Conference, the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers, the Conference on College Composition and Communication, and the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference.

Dr. Kevin Lordon (Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership) recently presented a series of lectures on teaching and leadership to staff and students at Hebei University in Baoding China.

Dr. John D. Massella (Counseling Center) was the keynote speaker and presented a 2 hour workshop "Problem Gambling: Addictive Disorder and Disorder of Impulse" at the California University Inaugural Problem Gambling Conference, April 4, 2014 in California, PA.

Ms. Julia McGinnis (Library Services) presented "The RFI process: where we are and where we are going" at the SSHELCO Annual Meeting in Harrisburg, PA on April 3, 2014.

Dr. Thomas Mueller (Earth Science) presented "A Spatial Statistical Analysis of Two Basketball Seasons: A

Boston Celtics Example," at the Association of American Geographers National Conference in Tampa, FL, on April 8-12, 2014.

Dr. Keat Murray (English) presented "A 'New Kind' of James Fenimore Cooper in the Pseudonymous A.B.C. Letters and The Monikins," at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Harrisburg in April 2014; in May, Dr. Murray presented "Political Prattle In James Fenimore Cooper's 'Favorite Book': Reciprocal Readings of the A.B.C. Letters and the Monikins," at the American Literature Association Conference in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mary O'Connor (Nursing) will present "Linking Interprofessional Education (IPE) & Collaborative Practice through MSN Practicum Projects" at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute in Myrtle Beach, SC on June 18, 2014.

Dr. Linda Pina (Nursing) will present "Learning and Leading with Themes" at the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute in Myrtle Beach, SC in June 2014.

Ms. Christine Romani-Ruby (Exercise Science & Sport Studies) presented "Pilates for

a healthy back" at the Pilates on Tour Conference in London, England on April 23 and 24, 2014.

Ms. Christine Romani-Ruby (Exercise Science & Sport Studies) presented "Patellofemoral pain, lessons learned and applications in Pilates" at the Pilates on Tour Rehabilitation Conference in Phoenix, AZ April 5, 2014.

Dr. Michael Slaven (History and Political Science) was a speaker during The Art Museum of West Virginia University's "Art Up Close" series and on April 8, 2014 he presented on an early modern print attributed to Heironymous Bosch, entitled "The Temptation of Saint Anthony."

Dr. Jody Spedaliere (English Department) read his poem "Good Advice" and participated in a panel discussion on April 29, 2014 as part of South University Online's: "Poems We Love: A Celebration of Poetry Open Mic."

Dr. Laura Tuennerman (History and Political Science) presented at the Gender Matters Conference, and discussed the book she co-authored with Dr. Andrae Marak, at the Border of Empires in April 2014.



## Academic Affairs Mission

Under the direction of the provost, the Office of Academic Affairs at Cal U comprises three undergraduate colleges and the School of Graduate Studies and Research. The Office of Academic Affairs supports the mission of building the character and careers of individuals by ensuring quality academic programs, classroom technology, student enrichment activities and world-class instruction. California University provides students with the tools they need to have a lifetime of success, both educationally and professionally.

## From the Desk of Acting Provost Dr. Barnhart

In order to thrive, Cal U must continue to provide academic programs that meet the needs of both students and employers.

The Office of Academic Affairs is taking steps toward adding new graduate-level programs to the University's offerings.

The State System of Higher Education has received our proposal for two Professional Science Master's degrees: one in Cybersecurity and another in Applied Mathematics. PSM degrees dovetail perfectly with Cal U's emphasis on career-focused education.

They combine rigorous study in science or math with professional skills-based coursework. Instead of a thesis, students typically complete a collaborative research project, as well as an internship with an employer in the business, government or nonprofit sector.

Cal U's proposed programs draw on the University's existing strengths in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas specifically, forensic and computer science, and applied mathematics.

Academic Affairs also has submitted a letter of intent for a proposed Doctor of Health Science degree. If the State System approves, this program will be housed in the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies.

The University continues to pursue its goal of having every eligible academic program achieve accreditation.

Most recently, the bachelor's degree program in chemistry received initial approval from the American Chemical Society (ACS).

In the words of the ACS, "A certified degree signifies that a student has completed an integrated, rigorous program that also emphasizes laboratory experience and professional skills. ... This comprehensive undergraduate experience provides an excellent foundation for a career in the molecular sciences."

The Office of Grants and Contracts reports that 13 Cal U faculty and staff have been notified of grant awards totaling more than \$8,300 this quarter.

An example is history professor, Dr. Laura Tuennerman, social work professor, Dr. Pamela Twiss and library professors Julia McGinnis and William Meloy will explore community history as a tool for transforming classrooms.

Academic Affairs congratulates all our successful grant applicants!

Sincerely,

*Bruce D. Barnhart*

Acting Provost



## Accreditation Corner

The University continues to pursue its goal of having every eligible program achieve accreditation.

Program accreditation is a hallmark of excellence for the University, and it benefits our students also.

The Chemistry program received approval from the American Chemical Society (ACS) to award ACS-Certified Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees to graduating students.

The ACS publishes rigorous guidelines for undergraduate degree programs. The Cal U chemistry faculty members have worked towards this goal for many years and are proud to finally have the ACS "stamp of approval."

The Counselor Education Department– School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health programs received 8-year CACREP Accreditation.



## Office of Sponsored Programs & Research

The Office of Grants and Contracts reports that 13 Cal U faculty and staff received notification of new grant awards totaling more than \$83,118 during this quarter.

Dr. David Argent (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$31,200 from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for the grant "Ongoing Paddlefish Population Status, Abundance, and Restoration Planning - Phase IV."

Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$7,968 from the PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council (FPDC) for the grant "Documenting Toxoplasma gondii infection in native and invasion rodents in the rainforest of Madagascar."

Dr. Carol Bocetti, Professor Kelley Flaherty, and Dr. Sarah Meiss (Biological and Environmental Sciences) were awarded \$2,965 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the grant "University Service-Learning in Environmental Education."

Dr. Derek Gray (Biological and Environmental Sciences) was awarded \$9,896 from the PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council (FPDC) for the grant "Will Plankton on the Great Plains be able to keep up with climate change?"

Dr. Anthony Pyzdrowski (Math, Computer Science and Information Systems) was awarded \$8,249 from the West Virginia University Research Corporation for the grant "WvEB Math and Other Math Initiatives 2013-2014."

Dr. Susan Ryan (Earth Sciences) was awarded \$8,500 from the Gettysburg Travel Council, Inc. for the grant "Gettysburg Visitors Study 2013-2014."

Dr. Nancy Shaffer (Philosophy) was awarded \$4,800 from the PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council (FPDC) for the grant "National Endowment for the Humanities Institute: Dante's Divine Comedy."

Dr. Laura Tuennerman (History and Political Science), Dr. Pamela Twiss (Social Work), and Professors Julia McGinnis and William Meloy (Library) were awarded \$9,540 from the PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council (FPDC) for the grant "Transforming our Classroom Through the Exploration of Community History."



## Faculty and Staff Presentations

Dr. David Argent (Biological and Environmental Sciences) and W.G. Kimmel presented "Potential impacts of climate change on brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) populations of Pennsylvania's Laurel Hill," at the Keystone Coldwater Conference in Bellefonte, PA.

Dr. Mark Aune (Honors / English) presented "Audiences vs. Fans: The Facebook Romeo & Juliet," at the Shakespeare Association of America conference on April 9-13, 2014 in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg (History and Political Science) conducted a journal manuscript review on "Pennsylvania Voter ID Law: A Legitimate State Interest or an Unconstitutional Political Charade?" for the Journal of Economics and Politics.

Dr. Michael J. Brna (Teaching with Primary Sources) presented "Oral History Questioning," at the TPS Director's Meeting at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC on April 29, 2014.

Dr. Paula Caffrey (Biological and Environmental Sciences) presented "An Introduction to IACUC," at the Grant Writer's Fellowship Program 2014 Workshop at California University on May 15, 2014.

Dr. Shelly DiCesaro (Health Science) will present "Concerns and Considerations for Pediatric Athletes" at the National Athletic Trainers Association Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Indianapolis, IN on June 28, 2014.

Dr. William E. Dieterle (Chemistry and Physics) co-presented with his student Justin Antolin their talk, "Physics on a Budget: Calorimetric Determination of Laser Power," at the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers in Monessen, PA on April 5, 2014.

Dr. Gregg Gould (Chemistry and Physics) presented "Science You Can See", a science lecture demonstration show on two occasions recently. On Monday,

April 21, 2014 he presented at the American Chemical Society's Erie Section Annual Awards Banquet at Edinboro University of PA and on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 he presented at Duquesne University for the Duquesne Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Kevin Govern (Professional Studies) was a featured panelist and speaker on "The Legal Way Ahead Between War and Peace," conference on "The Weighing of Lives in War: Combatants and Civilians" in the Jus in Bello Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Law and Policy in Philadelphia, PA in April 2014.

Dr. Maggie Habeeb (Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Systems) presented "Publicly Verifiable Secret Sharing Schemes" at the Pennsylvania Association of Computer and Information Science Educators (PACISE) in California, PA, on April 5, 2014

## Community Outreach

The Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy (the community outreach program hosted in the Theatre & Dance Department) ended its academic year of study on Saturday, May 3, 2014, with its annual Showcase. Forty-nine students between the ages of 4 and 22 performed in the Blaney Theatre for a sold-out house.

Mr. Chris Wright from Steel City Improv (Pittsburgh's professional Improv Comedy Troupe) visited the Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy and gave a workshop to Academy and Theatre and Dance students on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Twenty students attended this three hour beginning level workshop.

