

California University
JOURNAL

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 7 FEB. 28, 2011

Hail to Hamer Hall

Cal U junior Chad Tipton takes a shot during the Feb. 19 game against Gannon. The Vulcans defeated the Golden Knights, 53-50, in the last regular season basketball game ever to be played at Hamer Hall. The three-point win concluded a full day of 'Hail to Hamer' activities. See the story on Page 4.



Creative Teens Win Scholastic Awards

More than 180 talented middle school and high school students were honored in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre this month for their participation in the 2011 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Students enrolled in public or parochial schools throughout Washington, Fayette, and Greene counties were invited to participate in the annual awards program. This is the second year that Cal U hosted the awards.

The mission of the Scholastic Awards is to nurture the talent of young artists and writers. The regional affiliate here at Cal U seeks to stimulate, promote and reward creative excellence in the visual arts and creative writing.

"I was so excited to see all of the participants' work and to see that there are indeed other people out there that love and appreciate art just like I do," said Lauren Mahokey, a junior at Geibel Catholic High School.

"I was very surprised and very thrilled to have gotten a merit award. It meant a lot to me and made me feel that maybe I really could try to pursue a degree in art."

Eighth-grader Faith Gaffney, who attends Central Christian Academy, said she already is looking forward to next year's program.

"I was only hoping to get *into* the show, let alone get a Silver Key!" she added.

— Continued on page 3

Students Mark Tuition Freedom

As part of the *Cal U for Life* initiative, students celebrated Tuition Freedom Day on Feb. 15 with a march across campus and a rally at the performance Center.

Tuition Freedom Day is the mathematical date when the tuition funds that students or their families paid for the 2010-2011 academic year are exhausted. This year that date was Feb. 17.

"At this point we are rescued by the taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and generous donors to our University, many of whom are alumni of Cal U themselves," explained Bonnie Keener, president of the Student Government Association.

"Although state appropriations are declining, it is still support nonetheless. Without the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's support, you could have paid over \$10,000 this year in tuition alone! We students indeed have a great

— Continued on page 2



Cal U student Mike Hackenberg, a meteorology major, leads the Tuition Freedom Day march across campus to the Performance Center on Feb. 15.

Meteorology Club Wins Carnegie Science Award

The Cal U Meteorology Club, the Southwest Pennsylvania chapter of the American Meteorological Society, has been named an honorable mention recipient of a Carnegie Science Award.

The award was announced Feb. 3 during a media luncheon at the Carnegie Science Center on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

The club will be recognized in the University/Post-Secondary Student category at the science center's 15th annual awards ceremony, scheduled for May 6. In addition to honoring award winners, the event includes a silent auction, dinner and a keynote address by

Anousheh Ansari, the first female civilian space explorer.

Carnegie Science Center established the Carnegie Science Awards program in 1997 to recognize and promote innovation in science and technology across western Pennsylvania. More than 250 individuals and organizations have been honored.

Last year Cal U Meteorology Club received the Chapter of the Year Award from the National Weather Association. The club is the NWA's Three Rivers Chapter. Club members and their faculty adviser, Dr. Chad Kauffman, accepted the award in October at the NWA's 35th annual meeting in Tucson, Ariz.



The Cal U Meteorology Club was recently named an honorable mention recipient of a Carnegie Science Award. Taking part in the presentation were (left to right) Ann Metzger, co-director of the Carnegie Science Center; Geraldine Jones, Cal U provost; Chad Kauffman, faculty adviser; Dustin Snare, chapter president; Katie Mercadante, inaugural StormFest coordinator; Brittany Petrarca, chapter vice president; and Ron Baillie, co-director of the Carnegie Science Center.

Contest Preps Students for History Day

Education and history met when 158 eighth-grade students from Belle Vernon Area, Charleroi, Trinity and Uniontown Area school districts competed in the fourth annual Primary Sources History Day contest in the Performance Center.

The History Day competition is sponsored by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program.

First-, second- and third-place medals were awarded in junior and senior divisions for outstanding exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites and research papers. All participants received framed certificates.

Judges and event volunteers included Cal U history/political science and education students, University faculty, current and retired educators, and community members who belong to local historical societies.

The event was modeled after the National History Day competition. For many students, the Cal U contest was a warm-up for next month's regional competition, to be held at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

One of these students was Ashley Gillock, of Bellmar Middle School in Belle Vernon. She and classmates Rachel Parzynski and Jordan Bell created an exhibit depicting the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was sparked by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat for a white passenger in Montgomery, Ala.

"At the time it was just a boycott, but her actions did so much for African-American civil rights," said Gillock, whose group began working on the project in September. "It's still talked about more than 50 years later, and we learned so much from the project."

Sewickley Academy made its first visit to the Cal U event simply to observe and help prepare for the regional competition.

"This has been really interesting and very competitive," said Sewickley Academy

student Katie Gideon. "Coming here has given us a good feel for what to expect — and a lot of good ideas."

Dr. Michael Brna, director of Cal U's Teaching with Primary Sources program, said the quality of the event has improved each year.

"This year's high quality of student entries was evidence that sponsor teachers do a fantastic job of helping students understand the value of using primary sources in the contexts of history and theme," he said.

"We give special thanks to the volunteer judges and Heinz History Center representatives who made the day a complete success."

Ross Farmer, a social studies teacher at Bellmar Middle School, has brought his students to each TPS History Day competition at Cal U. He believes it's an excellent prelude to the regional competition.

"It gives our students an opportunity for enhancement, to be creative and show off what they are capable of outside the norm of taking a test or writing a research paper," he said.

"They receive a tremendous amount of feedback and constructive criticism here. They need to use the feedback to make improvements and finishing touches."

Last year one of the Bellmar documentaries won the statewide History Day competition. However, Farmer believes the Cal U competition does far more than just help students succeed at the next event.

"They are learning to do bibliographies and using primary sources of information, the type of skills the students will need in college prep classes in high school," he said. "Instead of just running to Wikipedia to do a research paper, this competition forces them to do accurate research. If not now, then down the road our students will realize this competition is a tremendous benefit and springboard for them."



Belle Vernon Area Middle School student Anna Osiol discusses her project, 'William Penn's Utopia: A Legacy of Success and Failure,' with her uncle, Dave Treadwell.



Belle Vernon Area Middle School student Jason Morrow listens to Jessica Lane, a Cal U graduate student and History Day judge.

Students Mark Tuition Freedom Day

— Continued from page 1

deal to be thankful for."

In conjunction with the rally, 200 pieces of cake were distributed to students outside of Taylor and Byrnes in the Natali Student Center.

"This was all about awareness," said Ryan Jerico, coordinator of student and young alumni programs. "Our students appreciate the support they receive, and they demonstrated that."

Also offering remarks at the rally were James Lokay '02, a reporter for KDKA-TV and a member of both the Alumni Association and the SAI board of directors, and Brittany Balaz, chair of the 2011 Senior Gift Drive Committee.

Lokay urged students to remember the help they are receiving and to "pay it forward" by contributing to scholarships once they establish themselves in the workforce.

"Every generation at Cal U must leave its mark, and you can do that by helping the next generation of students," Lokay said. "We must always do what we can to make things better."

Echoing Lokay's sentiments,



During Cal U's celebration of Tuition Freedom Day, James Lokay '02, a KDKA-TV reporter, encourages students to leave their mark.

Balaz announced the kickoff of the 2011 Senior Class Gift Drive. The goal is to surpass last year's total of \$8,000. To help increase participation, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. has agreed to donate \$1 for every student who participates in the drive, she said.

"Their legacy (Class of 2010) is being the first class to give back not only time and talent, but also treasure," Balaz said. "Our legacy has yet to be determined."

To show their appreciation,

Cal U's students prepared and mailed an open letter to the taxpayers of Pennsylvania. Copies of the letter, which was approved through the Student Senate, were mailed to every member of the General Assembly and submitted to newspapers in Harrisburg and throughout western Pennsylvania.

"It is very important that we make everyone aware of our appreciation for the generous amount of money invested into our educations," Keener said.

Students Express Thanks

NOTE: This open letter was submitted to newspapers in Harrisburg and throughout western Pennsylvania.

To the legislators and taxpayers of Pennsylvania:

The students at California University of Pennsylvania write this open letter in the spirit of gratitude.

Thanks to your support of public higher education, we will be attending our state-owned university free of charge from Feb. 17, 2011, through the end of the academic year. That date marks **Tuition Freedom Day**, the mathematical date when the tuition funds that we (or our families) paid for the 2010-2011 academic year are exhausted.

For the rest of the spring semester, our education will be paid for by a combination of state funding, appropriated through the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and privately funded scholarships. Those critical non-tuition dollars keep our university running.

By helping to finance our education, you have given us the ability to build a more promising future. We could not have achieved this dream without your financial support.

Soon many of us will be teachers, healthcare professionals, business owners, technicians or other productive members of the workforce. We also will be taxpayers, "paying it forward" to another generation of college students.

Recognizing this, we sincerely thank the General Assembly — and every Pennsylvania taxpayer — for investing in our education. Since 1852, California University has been a beacon of hope for students, and we are determined to play a positive role in the future of our university, our commonwealth and our great nation.

Bonnie Keener

President, Student Government Association
California University of Pennsylvania

(Submitted on behalf of California University's 9,400 students in accordance with a resolution passed unanimously by the Student Senate on Nov. 22, 2010. A longer version of this letter was submitted to every member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly shortly before Tuition Freedom Day.)



Cal U student-athlete Jerica Sneddon works on properly passing the baton with LeBron Pierce at the LeMoyné Multicultural Center's gymnasium in Washington, Pa.

Campus BRIEFS

Student Convocation Set for Tomorrow

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will host the 2011 Spring Student Convocation at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center. This gathering gives students the opportunity to learn more about "The State of the University" and to ask questions about their concerns.

Student Wins \$500 Scholarship

Last fall, students were asked to take part in an online survey concerning possible renovations to the Natali Student Center. Participating students were entered in a drawing for a \$500 academic scholarship from AVI FoodSystems.

Alexa Sobek, a senior elementary education major from Perryopolis, was the scholarship winner.

Read the Journal Online

The online Journal has a new look! To read the Journal online, click "News" at the top of the Cal U homepage, www.calu.edu. Then choose "Cal U Journal" to see the current edition in its new format or to review archived editions from 2011.

Staff Convocation Rescheduled for March 21

The Spring 2011 Staff Convocation has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. March 21 in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center. President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will give his "State of the University" address and answer questions from the staff.

Kids Take Tips from Track Team

In addition to running, jumping and throwing, Cal U's track and field teams are getting their kicks by working with youngsters ages 6-12.

Since January the coaching staff and team members have been conducting a track and field program on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at the LeMoyné Multicultural Center in Washington, Pa.

"We teach them how to run track by showing them the proper techniques of hurdling, passing the baton or even jumping," said Roger Kingdom, two-time Olympic gold medalist and Cal U's men's and women's head track and field coach.

"They are learning by doing, but the kids are having so much fun with it. When you have fun with what you are doing, a person tends to put forth a better effort and be more receptive to absorbing the information."

Kingdom is a longtime friend of Joyce Ellis, Lemoyne's executive director, who led the effort to rejuvenate the center four years ago.

Ellis praised Kingdom and Cal U assistant coach Jayson Resch for helping the youngsters build athletic skills and introducing them to some college-age mentors.

"We have a whole generation of kids

(in Washington) who really do not have any recreation centers to go to or anywhere to receive technical instruction in track and field," she said. "This gives the Cal students a community service opportunity and a chance to meet kids they otherwise would never meet."

Kingdom emphasized that his student-athletes are having as much fun as the aspiring track and field competitors.

"I was wondering if they would see this as being a chore or an opportunity," Kingdom said. "But they have not stopped laughing or joking about it yet, and each week we take more and more of our team down to the center."

Cal U's track coach has run many youth camps and clinics through the not-for-profit Roger Kingdom Foundation. Now he is helping the LeMoyné Center prepare to offer an AAU-sanctioned track and field program.

"The foundation Cal U is laying for us is going to be what we build on as we bring in the AAU program during the summer months," Ellis said. "What they are doing for us is a catalyst to get us to the next stage."

"Usually there's little bit of apprehensiveness, but kids took to them instantly," she added. "I attribute that to

Jayson and Roger, because they put such a nice program together and did what they said they would. We now have a nice relationship and our kids look forward to the instruction that Cal U is bringing to the table."

One of many Cal U team members to enjoy the volunteer work is junior Jerica Sneddon, a team captain and elementary education major. She used to give swimming lessons, and this was her first time offering track and field instruction to children. She also has become the group's unofficial photographer.

"I definitely have had a lot of fun, and I think it is something different for the children," she said "I believe they like working with us, and we like interacting with them."

Despite wintry weather, nearly 30 children have attended each session, Kingdom said.

"We are excited about this and now have something very good going on with the center that could become an annual event," said Kingdom. "Most important, we are giving these kids something they can believe in, something that can keep them from being led by the wrong crowd."

"You don't have to be in the streets to have fun."

Creative Teens Win Scholastic Arts, Writing Awards

— Continued from page 1

Heidi Marx, a senior at Waynesburg Central High School, earned a Gold Key, the highest award. Her work also was nominated for national recognition.

"Winning an award like this has given me encouragement and inspiration to keep honing my talents," she said. "Thank you for the great experience."

Dr. Mohamed Yamba, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, welcomed the students, parents and teachers to the awards program.

The young writers and artists submitted 447 manuscripts and pieces of art in January, and two panels of professionals judged the work. The judges awarded 17 Gold Keys to young artists and five Gold Keys to young writers.

The 10-member panel judging writing included English Department professors Dr. Kurt Kearcher, Dr. Bill Hendricks, Dr. Madeline Smith and Dr. Krystia Nora.

The 10 art judges included Dr. Greg Harrison, Dr. Susan Mohney, Dr. Scott Lloyd,

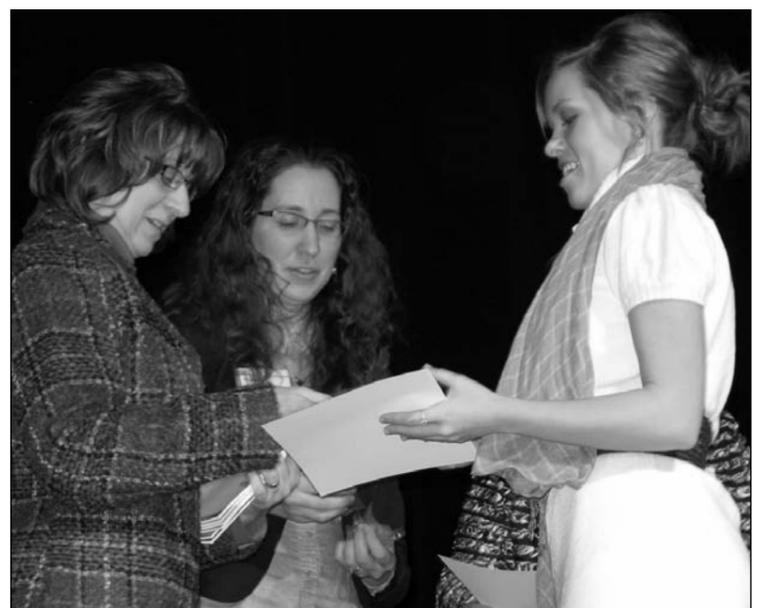
Maggie Aston and Richard Miecznikowski, of the Department of Art and Design.

Beginning Jan. 25, guests were able to view 256 of the art entries on exhibit in the second floor of Gallagher Hall. Cal U students who helped to stage the exhibit were Ashley Bouton, Tiffany Harris, Katie Resch, Ashley Rudacille, Samantha Sundburg, Jess Lane, Katie Mercandante, Jenn Murphy, Jonathyn Simpson and Jordan Verbofsky.

Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity members assisted. Mike Thoma produced a PowerPoint presentation the audience could view before the ceremony.

National judges at the Young Artists and Writers Alliance in New York City are now adjudicating the Gold Key art and writing. National winners will be announced on March 8.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program, which began in Pittsburgh in 1923, is the oldest and most prestigious awards program in the country. The Alliance reports that students from across the country submitted more than 180,000 entries this year.



Cody Byers, of West Greene High School, receives an award from presenters and board members Dr. Krystia Nora, an assistant professor in the Department of English at Cal U, and Sandra Boyes. Byers earned two Gold Key awards for her writing.



At left, the Cal U men's basketball team sports 'Hail to Hamer' T-shirts as players rally during pregame warm-ups. Above, Annie Malkowiak '94, '96, associate director of athletic development and assistant coach, gets a hug from Cal U senior Kayla Smith before the women's game. Both teams were victorious in the final regular season games at Hamer Hall on Feb. 19.

Alumni, Fans Share Memories of Hamer Hall

Former Vulcan players and fans returned to the bleachers in Hamer Hall on Feb. 19 to watch the final regular season basketball games contested in the arena and to reminisce at a "Hail to Hamer" celebration.

In games televised on WPCW-TV, both the men's and women's teams defeated divisional rival Gannon University in front of a large crowd.

The win by Cal U's women's team, under head coach Mark Swasey, clinched the program's 11th consecutive PSAC playoff appearance.

Next season, the teams will play in Cal U's new Convocation Center, a \$54 million facility slated to open this fall.

"This was a day of inclusion," said men's basketball coach Bill Brown, who initiated the Basketball Alumni Day tradition in 2000. "We are thankful so many people came to remember Hamer Hall and have some fun on a historic day."

Hamer Hall has been the home court for Vulcan basketball since 1965, two years after ground was broken for the campus landmark.

Basketball standout Dick Majernik '55 – who scored many of his 1,317 career points in nearby Herron Hall before Hamer was constructed — recalled Myles Witchey, Tim Loomis and Jim Boone, Cal U Hall of Fame coaches whose championship teams played in Hamer.

Majernik, a retired educator and the 2000 Basketball Alumnus of the Year, also singled out Brown's 2008 team, which won the NCAA Regional title in Hamer Hall.

"I fondly remember those championship teams and how exciting it was to watch them from the stands," said Majernik, a 1996 Cal U Hall of Fame inductee. "Coach Brown is a good friend, and he has done a wonderful job of bringing back the alumni and getting them involved."



George Roadman '68 (left), Charles Gladney '66 (center) and J. Patrick Patrick Hobart '68 share a laugh during the festivities marking the last regular season basketball games at Hamer Hall.



Alumna Monica Kramer '96 of Washington, Pa., a theatre and communications major, sings the national anthem before the final games.

In all, Vulcan basketball teams have won 12 PSAC titles and seven NCAA Regional championships during the Hamer years. Seven of the 12 conference titles and six of the seven regional crowns were won on the home court.

Tammy McIntire-Mandich '90, '91 was among the former players who attended the festivities. During her junior and senior seasons she helped Cal U's women's team make its first two PSAC playoff appearances, and she was part of Cal's initial Hall of Fame class, in 1995.

"Just looking out on the gym floor brings back so many memories," she said. "We were proud to start a winning tradition, and where the program has gone is just amazing. The 2004 team winning the national championship really put us on the map."

Becky Siembak '04, a star player on the national championship team coached by Darcie Vincent, helped Cal U win 68 of 71 games in 2003 and 2004, with 36 straight home wins.

"Playing in Hamer was special and definitely gave us an advantage," said the 2003 National Player of the Year and 2009 Hall of Fame inductee. "It was our home, and we were going to defend our court."

Also in attendance was Michael Andresky '79, '92, a dedicated fan who is past president of the Vulcans' Sixth Man Club and the 2003 Basketball Alumnus of the Year. Andresky, who said he has missed just a handful of home games since 1969, recalled Cal's thrilling 110-91 victory over heavily favored Cheyney in the 1970 PSAC championship game.

"In my opinion, that was the loudest

and most crowded Hamer Hall ever was," he said. "Cheyney had four players who went on to play in the NBA, but we whipped them, and it was a great atmosphere. I've always been a hometown guy, and I have seen so many great games at Hamer."

Traveling from Florida as he has done for many of the basketball alumni days was the oldest returning alumnus, James Zell '39. A Hall of Fame inductee, Zell joked that he once scored 19 points in a game, the school record at the time.

"He is what this is all about and is a treasured member of our basketball program," Brown said.

Annie Malkowiak '94, '96 has not only played in Hamer Hall, but also has been a public address announcer, athletic administrator and now an assistant coach. A 2000 Cal U Hall of Fame inductee, she was the first Basketball Alumna of the Year, in 2002.

"I really can't put into words all that Hamer Hall means to me," she said. "At the same time, though, the new Convocation Center shows how much the University is progressing. It will create so many outstanding opportunities for the teams, the school and the region. It's going to be incredible."

The 2011 Basketball Alumnus and Alumna of the Year were announced during the event. Award winners were Tom Graney '77 and Cris Winter '84.

Although the basketball teams are moving to a new arena, the women's volleyball team will continue to play its home matches in Hamer Hall.

"We are not saying farewell. Hamer Hall will remain a vital part of our campus," said University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "We will build a new tradition at the Convocation Center, but we will always remember the accomplishments of the student-athletes and coaches who proudly called Hamer Hall their home.

"They will always be welcome here."

The California Journal is published weekly by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

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The Journal is printed on paper made from trees harvested under the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, www.SFIprogram.org.

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