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President and Alumnus Address Graduates

California University's graduate and undergraduate classes of 2004 were treated to inspiring and encouraging words from President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and distinguished alumnus Charles C. Keller, Esq. '47 at the 158th commencement ceremonies.

"You will now join a select group," said President Armenti. "You'll build the America of tomorrow. You'll build the world of tomorrow."

On Saturday, May 8, in Hamer Hall, President Armenti conferred more than 700 degrees as family, friends and classmates applauded their loved ones' accomplishments. The previous evening, during Cal U's second ever graduate commencement, President Armenti conferred close to 200 degrees following each student's formal hooding.

On Saturday, Cal U's campus, alive with spring's rebirth and glowing as a completely clear sky allowing the sun to shine freely, created a worthy backdrop for the traditional procession composed of the platform party and graduates. In Hamer Hall, the ceremony began with the Posting of Colors by Cal U's Army ROTC, Star Spangled Banner and invocation by Reverend Cristen Decious, Pastor, California United Methodist Church. Provost Curtis Smith introduced the platform party.

Following a performance of "This is the Day" by Cal U's choir, directed by Dr. Ellen Michael, President Armenti welcomed everyone to California University.

"The academic year, 2003-2004, has been a great year for California University," President Armenti began. "Student enrollment has steadily increased for the past seven years; incoming students' SAT scores have increased by more than 60 points during that time; the quality of faculty has never been higher; the quality of academic programs, evident in the national accreditation many have received, has never been higher; and the quality of facilities, also, has never been higher."

Finally, President Armenti lauded Cal U's NCAA championship women's basketball team. "We're extremely proud of our team not only because they're exceptional athletes, but they're also exceptional students," he said after a burst of applause. He recognized that two team members, Crystal Cornish and Sameera Philyaw, would receive their degrees that morning.

President Armenti also acknowledged the men's baseball team's state championship victory.

Finally, before addressing the graduates, President Armenti thanked the faculty for their commitment to education. "The university owes you a debt of gratitude," he said. "Thank you and congratulations for producing another outstanding class at California University." Members in attendance rose to receive recognition.

Symbolized in the whistles and applause as well as the graduating classes' smiles, pride and joy filled the gymnasium during both the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies. But, as the graduates' finished their tenure at Cal U and said goodbye to the faculty, staff and friends who shaped them into the distinguished individuals they had become, sadness was also evident.

"California University is your alma mater," President Armenti reminded the graduates during both ceremonies. He assured them that they were always welcome to return and visit the campus.



Leaving a lasting impression on the May 2004 graduates with their inspiring words at the 158th Commencement were Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr., and distinguished Cal Alumnus Charles C. Keller, Esq. '47, who was the keynote speaker and received the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

"The Kara Alumni House is a tangible symbol of the great respect and admiration which California University of Pennsylvania has for its alumni," President Armenti said. "If you have not already done so, please visit the Kara Alumni House. It was designed and built to be the focal point for our alumni as they return to campus in the future." President Armenti told the graduates that they would receive a California University Alumni Association pin during the ceremony.

In addition to joining the Alumni Association, President Armenti also reminded the graduates that they could take with them another part of Cal U: generosity.

is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get; and experience is what you get when you don't get what you want," he said. "I wish you success, happiness, and no more experience than absolutely necessary."

"Congratulations on your magnificent achievement," President Armenti told both the graduate students and the undergraduate students during each ceremony before Mr. Keller delivered the commencement addresses.

Keller, a senior counsel at the law firm of Peacock, Keller & Ecker, LLP, graduated from California State Teachers College



Savoring the moment he received his bachelor's of science degree culminating from years of hard work and commitment was Michael Nemoscek of Belle Vernon, an electrical engineering technology major.

"In addition to wearing your Alumni Association pin proudly, I hope you will become a part of the University's culture of philanthropy," he said. He suggested that each spread good news about the university, encourage others to apply for admission and contribute to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

President Armenti asked both the graduate and undergraduate classes to exemplify the university's core values, integrity, civility and responsibility, in everything they do, both professionally and personally. Finally, to conclude his remarks, President Armenti spoke about success and happiness. "Success

(CSTC) with a B.S. Ed. degree in English and social science before attending law school at the University of Pittsburgh. Keller graduated from CSTC with highest honors and received the Distinguish Service Award for his involvement in an array of clubs and activities on campus.

Returning to Washington County after law school, Keller served on CSTC's Alumni Association Board and, with his wife Mary Lou '46, co-chaired California's first Homecoming Day. For more than 50 years he has been legal counsel to the Student Association, Inc. (SAI). He is currently a director of the Foundation for California

University and chaired its successful \$13 million capital campaign fund in 1998. Throughout the years, Keller has received many university awards, including the Alumni Association's Californian Award, the Jackman Award of Distinction and the Job Johnson Award.

He organized and chaired the Association of State Colleges and Universities (ASCO), a consortium of the state organizations of alumni, faculty, students, trustees and presidents, which resulted in the separation of those institutions from the Department of Education by Act 14 in 1961. This in turn led to the creation of the State System of Higher Education (SSHE).

On Saturday, at Hamer Hall, before he spoke, Keller was presented the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* from Cal U. President Armenti conferred the degree. Provost Smith, introducing Keller, said that he truly holds a special place in the entire community's heart, for his work with Cal U and his work throughout the community.

In addition to his work with Cal U, Keller served as President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and as a member of its Board of Governors for six years. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Washington County Bar Association in 1963 and served as its President in 1965. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and of the American Bar Foundation.

Keller, a Past President of the club, has been a member of the Rotary Club of California since 1950. He has served Rotary International as District Governor, Committee Chairman, Director, twice as Chairman of the Council on Legislation, and President in 1987-88. A Trustee of the Rotary Foundation from 1988-94, he served as its Chairman in 1992-93. He currently serves as Chairman of the Rotary International Centennial History Committee.

"I'm delighted to be here with you this morning," Keller said to the platform party, graduates, family and friends beginning his commencement address. Accepting the honorary degree presented to him, he said, "It's always sweeter when the recognition comes from your friends."

Keller said, as many didn't know, that he gave the commencement address at California State College in 1983, that being the last graduating class of CSC before the school became California University of Pennsylvania. "In those twenty-one years," Keller said, "Cal U has become a full-fledged university."

He lauded the university's mission of promoting positive growth in academic programs, faculty and facilities during that time. "There's a physical rebirth going on all around us, an aura of excellence" he said.

Speaking to the graduates, Keller said, "I hope you will treasure the memory of your time here during those past twenty-one years." He spoke of retrospect, encouraging the graduates to look back and think about what they have become. At Cal U, he said, they have gained knowledge, skills and good habits of preparation and performance. He said the complete "California experience is full of moments of triumph." That experience also includes making acquaintances, Keller giving the example of meeting his wife at California State Teachers College.

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CONSOL Energy Supports Student Scholarships

Recognizing the importance of higher education for students in Washington and Greene counties, CONSOL Energy Inc., the largest bituminous coal producer in the United States, has pledged \$100,000 to the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania to be available for school district scholarships over the next 10 years.

CONSOL Energy will contribute \$10,000 annually to establish \$500 scholarships, which will be awarded to students in each of Washington and Greene counties' 19 public school districts.

Robert Thorn, director of financial aid, Bill Edmonds, dean of admissions, and guidance counselors from each district will select the students based upon their high school GPA and involvement with community service. The selected students will receive the \$500



CONSOL Energy's commitment to California University will provide many students with needed assistance in fulfilling their dreams of a college education. Joining Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. during the recent announcement were William Stanhagen, president of CONSOL, and Lloyd C. Price, vice president of CONSOL.

non-renewable scholarships that will be applied to their costs during their freshman year.

"This mutually beneficial partnership will not only help to partially fund the academic career of students in CONSOL's serving area," said President Angelo Armenti Jr., "but, it will also solidify their commitment to education and the community at large."

Previously recognized for its extensive work in preserving the environment, CONSOL Energy has now made a commitment to promote education and improve the lives of area students.

"The role CONSOL Energy is playing in building the characters and careers of tomorrow's leaders," President Armenti said, "is testimony to its commitment of preparing our youth for the world of higher education as well as the world of work."

Cal U Team to Review DEP Mining Records

Built on the Pittsburgh coal seam, often called the richest mineral deposit in the world, small towns throughout Western Pennsylvania have prospered from the bituminous pockets of coal in the ground below.

This legacy is alive today in the gray faces of the men who once slipped from the earth's surface into the underground caverns lined with black gold dust during the days of king coal. Southwestern Pennsylvania's coal mining tradition created a landscape of cookie cutter houses and a work ethic stronger than the steam engines that hauled the earth's bounty to Pittsburgh during the 1950s and 1960s.

Although far less miners exist today – approximately 7,500, compared to more than 50,000 in 1960 – the coal industry remains a strong force in the local economy.

But with more and more reports of damage caused by subsidence coming from concerned property owners, the coal industry has recently received a lot of negative publicity.

In 1999, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, following the guidelines set forth by the state's 1994 Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act, known as Act 54, produced a report on underground mining's effects on the property and water sources at ground level.

That report, which focused on 1,884 properties located in 10 Southwestern Pennsylvania counties where underground mining took place, received a lot of criticism for being internally produced, and Pennsylvania's Coal Caucus suggested that an independent source produce the next report required under Act 54 for 2004.

The DEP, in order to track the progress of mining, its related damage to properties and resolutions for affected property owners in an objective manner, hired California University of Pennsylvania to write a comprehensive report on longwall mining's, as well as the traditional room and pillar mining's, effects on structures, water sources, roads and utilities throughout Western Pennsylvania.

"Those who already have bias can see the DEP is being rational and objective," said Dr. Lawrence Moses, chair of the earth sciences department. Moses, Professor Donald Conte and several faculty and staff members from the earth sciences department will prepare the report that will be presented to Governor Edward G. Rendell, the

Pennsylvania General Assembly and the DEP's Citizens Advisory Committee in September.

"It's not a contemporary report," Moses said. He explained that they will only report on data collected between 1998 and 2003. Except for a minimal amount of primary research on water sources and wetlands, the entire report will be comprised of information contained in underground mine permit applications, monitoring reports, enforcement records and other data submitted by mine operators.

Although the report will focus on both room and pillar mining and longwall mining, the latter is most typically blamed for issues involving subsidence.

"With longwall," Conte explained, there's a more immediate effect over a larger area of land."

More profitable by using fewer employees and extracting the coal faster than the traditional room and pillar techniques of the past, longwall mining, since its introduction in 1980, has altered not only the livelihood of many Southwestern Pennsylvanians, but the land as well.

The technique uses large machines that remove horizontal panels of coal, 800 to 1500 feet wide and 2 to 3 miles long. Because these machines are so large, they cannot easily leave pillars of coal to support the ground, and as they move forward, the ground collapses behind them. The subsidence on the surface, according to the DEP's 1999 report, is predictable, and mine operators, as well as property owners, can take steps to avoid damage to structures and water sources.

Moses and Conte, aware of the claims made against the mining industry, said that the report will examine whether natural causes may have effected the study area's water supplies as well.

"We all form opinions," Moses said, "and everyone with any type of property damage blames the mines."

Objectively he, the faculty and staff members from the earth sciences department will document damage made to property, water sources and utilities, and study the resolutions compensating those damages in their final report.

"When you mine for 100 years," Moses said, "you're going to have consequences."

The DEP, by hiring Cal U to produce its 2004 report on mining's effect, has committed itself to resolving issues raised by the mining industry.

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Reiterating President Armenti's message to promote philanthropy, Keller said, "Most of you have reached graduation through helping hands." He encouraged the graduates to give back to the university. Referencing a Chinese proverb, Keller said, "What I gave, I had. What I spent, I had. What I kept, I lost."

Finally, before the degree candidates at each ceremony were bestowed their diplomas, Keller introduced them to his "keys to success."

Rule one: work harder, longer and smarter. "It all lies within you," he said. Rule two: your learning is not finished. He asked the graduates not to fear taking reasonable risks. He said, "They're a part of life indeed." Rule three: live life in the middle ground. "Don't let yourself get so high that you lose touch with reality and never so low that you forget the joys of life itself," he said. Rule four: Set goals and pursue them. Citing Ralph Waldo Emerson, he said, "Point your wagon to the stars." He said his father, the late Dr. I.C. Keller, who served as chairman of the English department of California State Teachers College from 1924 to 1952, added another line to that phrase. "Don't forget to get in the wagon."

Following another performance by Cal U's choir, "You'll never walk alone," Provost

Smith; Geraldine Jones, dean of the College of Education and Human Services; Dr. Richard Helldobler, dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Leonard Colelli, dean of the Eberly College of Science and Technology; and Dr. Joe Forester, president, Community College of Beaver County, presented the degree candidates.

Friday evening, during the graduate commencement, Provost Smith, Dr. Thomas G. Kinsey, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research; and Dr. Rose Reinhart, associate provost/registrar, presented the candidates. Before the newest members of Cal U's alumni sang the first verse of the alma mater, President Armenti conferred their degrees.

"As you graduate today, you will join the 40,000 plus living alumni of California University who have gone on to distinguish themselves and to bring credit to their families, their communities and their university," President Armenti said to the graduates. "Our alumni constitute a very accomplished group of individuals, and, as you join that elite company today, I have every confidence that you will distinguish yourselves in similar fashion. On behalf of the California University community, I offer to you our congratulations."

Attend a 7 Habits Workshop This Summer

It's the end of the semester, and you still haven't attended a *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* workshop? Don't worry! There are three workshops being offered this summer, and there is still time to register.

- June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17, from 8:30 a.m. to noon daily, with Belinda Holliday
- June 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, July 1 and 2, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with Dr. Michael Slavin

Both workshops will be held in the Eberly Science and Technology Building, Room 115.

To register for a workshop, please call the Office of Lifelong Learning at 724-938-5840 or email Diane SESCO at sesco@cup.edu.

Participants must attend all dates associated with a workshop to receive a certificate of completion.

The *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* workshops can now be included on the CUE (California University Experience) transcripts. For more information, please contact Pam DelVerne at 724-938-4515 or delverne@cup.edu.

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Integrity, Civility, Responsibility

ROTC Holds Commissioning Ceremony

Earl Glenn A. Bowser was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at a Commissioning Ceremony conducted by the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), United States Army.

The ceremony was conducted at California University of Pennsylvania's Performance Center Friday, May 7.

Jason Vipperman, vice president of Cal U's Veteran's Club, served as the master of ceremonies. Remarks were made by University President Angelo Armenti Jr., Charles B. Williamson, assistant dean, student development, director of Cal U Veteran's Affairs, and Lt. Col. John E. Richerson, the regional battalion commander, professor of military science. 1st Lt. Matthew Maletestinic, United States Army Reserves Quartermaster, delivered the Oath of Office, and 1st Lt. Christopher P. Siget, United States Field Artillery, handled the presentation of the Commissioning Certificate Oath.

Born in Connellsville and a 1993 graduate of Frazier High School, 2nd Lt. Earl Glenn Andrew Bowser began his military career by joining the Army Reserves 1005th GS Company, Uniontown, Pa., in November 1992. He departed for basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina July 28, 1993. Upon completion of basic training September 27, 1993, he remained at Fort Jackson and completed his advanced individual training where he graduated with a military occupational specialty of 71L Administrative Specialist November 11, 1993. The 1005th was dissolved, and Bowser was placed into the 23rd AG Postal unit in Pittsburgh, Pa., from November 1993 to April 1994. He transferred to the 1004th Quartermaster in Greensburg, Pa., but spent only a short time there before he returned to the 23rd AG. He earned the rank of sergeant while assigned to the 23rd. Upon completion of "Warrior Forge" at Fort Lewis, Washington, July 28, 2003, Earl transferred back to the 1004th and was assigned as a platoon leader. Later, he was assigned the duties of rear detachment commander when his unit was deployed overseas.

The son of Edna Grace Bowser and Thurman David Bowser, Earl graduated May 8 with a bachelor's degree in science



Taking part in a moving Commissioning Ceremony on May 7 at the Performance Center from left to right included Charles B. Williamson, guest speaker and assistant dean student development/director of Veteran Affairs; Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr., Second Lieutenant Earl Glenn A. Bowser, and Lieutenant Colonel John E. Richerson.

and technology. He will now be assigned to Fort Lee, Virginia, for his Officer Basic Course. His final assignment will be to a component of the Active Duty Army.

A popular and active student on the Cal U campus, Bowser served in a variety of roles with the Cal U Veteran's Club, including treasurer (2000-2001), vice president (2001-2002), president (2002-2004) and the Charlie Company Commander, ROTC, from August 2003 to May 2004.

In his introduction, Vipperman cited President Armenti as "The most avid supporter of the Army ROTC program on this campus."

"We are proud of our students in ROTC who make the commitment to serve our country, and we commend Earl as he stands to take the oath as an officer in the United States Armed Forces," said President Armenti. "Those who value freedom and love peace are not always permitted to have them free of charge. California University of Pennsylvania fully supports ROTC and the students who have decided to defend our country and work so hard to gain a commission. To Earl Bowser, who will be

commissioned here today, his parents, family and friends, I say that California University is both proud and grateful to you."

Fittingly, Williamson, who was instrumental in Bowser's decision to pursue a career in the ROTC program, was the guest speaker.

"What a thrill and honor this is for me to be a part of this ceremony today," said Williamson, who Bowser has worked for most of his undergraduate career. "Since 1991, some 2,500 reservists and veterans have come through my office, and I cannot think of any two people besides Earl and Chris Siget who have touched me more."

Williamson deftly compared Bowser's undergraduate and military experience to the university's core values of integrity, civility and responsibility. He shared several personal stories of Earl's strong commitment to his family and his honesty at work.

"Our university has benefited from Earl being here, and his road to this ceremony today and our core values go hand-in-hand. He exemplifies what these core values are supposed to mean, and he has carried more on his shoulders than any other student I

have known. He has accomplished so much already and is poised to do great things."

Richerson, who has served the military for more than 21 years and holds a master's degree in strategic intelligence, praised Bowser while reminding him of the imposing tasks ahead.

"Our country is in a real challenge, and the military faces a large challenge that is now your challenge," Richerson said. "I know you will boldly meet these challenges, and leaders are always judged by those they lead. You are a person of good character, and now you must become a leader of good character."

The final remarks were to Bowser's parents.

"Your son will now go out and lead our sons and daughters, which is a tremendous responsibility," said Richerson. "You should be very proud of what your son has accomplished, and you have played a big role in that."

Chaplain Jim Staggers gave the invocation and benediction, and Master Sergeant Lee Cottrell gave the First Salute to the new officer.

SEEK Offers Summer Adventures to Community Children

The Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids Program (SEEK), planned for children in grades 2 through 9 starting this fall, will have two weekly sessions on the campus of California University of Pennsylvania this summer.

Conducted through Cal U's Office of Lifelong Learning, SEEK will have sessions from June 21 through June 25 and July 19 through July 23.

SEEK is an opportunity to participate in a variety of academically challenging yet entertaining learning experiences.

"We try to do everything hands-on in a fun way while still getting concepts across," says California University's director of special programs Terrie Greene. "The kids have such a good time that they don't even know they're learning."

Also a mother of three, Greene wanted her own children to make the most of their summer when she started the SEEK program five years ago.

"I wanted them to do something more than play Nintendo," Greene said.

Classes run from 8:30 to 10 a.m., 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The theme weeks for June 21-25 include "A Better Me" (grades 2-4), "Fun, Food and

Fitness" (grades 5-7), and "Mind and Body Connection" (grades 8-9).

Regular classes cover a wide variety of topics including mathematics, golf, science, scenic watercolor painting, martial arts, reflexology, identifying DNA, field trips to the UPMC Sportsworks at the Carnegie Science Center and much more.

The fee for the full day theme week of June 21 is \$140 per child. The fee for SEEK week of June 21 is as follows: full week, full day program is \$125 per child. Full week, half day (morning or afternoon) is \$80 per child. The fee for the week of July 19 is as follows: full week, full-day program is \$125 per child. Full week, half-day (morning or afternoon) program is \$80 per child.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, and once registered, participants will receive a confirmation letter, which lists the classroom location. This confirmation letter must be presented on the first day of class.

Those interested in this unique summer program may register by mail, in person or by calling 724-938-5840. Completed registration forms can be faxed to 724-938-5963 or sent to California University of Pennsylvania, Office of Lifelong Learning, 250 University Avenue, Box 12, California, PA 15419. Payment must accompany the registration form.

Faculty Member Lands NASA Fellowship

By participating in the NASA Faculty Fellowship Program, engineering and science faculty members from any U.S. college or university are given the opportunity to learn about new NASA technologies and research. Through this experience, chosen faculty members can network within the agency for future collaborations, develop protocol for future collaborative work with NASA, learn about potential research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and expand their own research interests.

Dr. Kausar Yasmin, assistant professor of physics at Cal U, received one of NASA's highly competitive fellowships two summers ago at Dryden Flight Research Center. She enjoyed the research work she did there so much that she reapplied for another fellowship this summer. Again, Yasmin was selected from a pool of nationwide applicants and will participate in the 10-week program at NASA's Ames Research Center in San Jose, Calif., this June, July and August.

"It will be a nice change of pace for a short time," Yasmin said. "This will give me an opportunity to do some scholarly research." After returning to Cal U in the fall, Yasmin, like many participants in the fellowship program, plans to continue her research and

involve students at Cal U in the project. Although she enjoys the field work offered through NASA's program, Yasmin says that she enjoys teaching a lot more.

According to the NASA Faculty Fellowship Program's 2002 annual report, "Participating universities have the opportunity to involve faculty and students in cutting-edge research and retain that knowledge at their institutions, benefiting higher education on a national level."

This summer, Yasmin will conduct theoretical research on atmospheric physics. "This matches very well with my research interests," she said.

In addition to giving Yasmin the opportunity to do research on topics that interest her, the fellowship will also benefit NASA by making substantial contributions to its mission.

Not only does the Faculty Fellowship Program help NASA reach its research objectives, but it promotes awareness of the agency throughout the United States' academic community as well.

Assisting NASA and involving students at Cal U with her research goals will be a challenging and rewarding experience for Yasmin. "It's a lot of hard work," she said, "but it's also enjoyable and rewarding at the same time."

Elementary/Early Childhood Education Department Honors Two Summa Cum Laude Graduates

Two local students who graduated summa cum laude at California University of Pennsylvania's 158th Commencement May 8 received prestigious awards from the department of elementary/early childhood education at a ceremony held Wednesday, May 5.

Jennifer Folmar received the Elementary/Early Childhood Education Department Memorial Award, and Apryle Shashura was the department's Outstanding Future Teacher Award nominee.

Jennifer is the daughter of J.K. Jr. and Joy Folmar of Belle Vernon and is a 2000 graduate of Frazier High School.

Apryle is the daughter of Joe and Sue Shashura of Grindstone, Pa., and is a 2000 graduate of Geibel Catholic High School.

The Elementary/Early Childhood Education Department Memorial Award is presented to a student who exemplifies the department's philosophy, and criteria used are academic achievement, service to the department, the university and community. The same criteria is used for the Elementary/Early Childhood Education Outstanding Future Teacher Award as well as strong student-teaching skills.

"I have always said that this is one of the most pleasant aspects of being the department chairperson," said Dr. Carryl Sheffield, professor of elementary/early childhood education. "Both of these students are individuals for other students to look at as role models. They are both actively involved with so many things as well as being outstanding students. There is no question they are both going to become excellent teachers and welcome additions to the school districts that are fortunate to hire them in the future. Our department could not be any prouder of them."

A member of Cal U's Honors Program, Folmar was a 4.0 student during her undergraduate career and also a Presidential Scholar. Last fall, Folmar served as president of the student chapter PSEA, the



Dr. Carryl Sheffield, chairperson of Cal U's elementary/early childhood education department, presented plaques to 2004 award-winner Jennifer Folmar (left) and Apryle Shashura at a presentation ceremony on May 5.

Pennsylvania State Education Association, which is a pre-professional teaching organization under the umbrella of the National Education Association. She was also the PSEA's webmaster. A University Peer Mentor, Folmar worked in the periodicals department of Cal U's Manderino Library for the past four years under Virginia Sharrer. She was involved with many elementary/early childhood education department Professional Development School collaborative activities such as Duck Days, Math Carnivals and "An American Tribute," a presentation made at Belle Vernon Area's Marion Elementary School one year after the terrorist attacks. This past year, Folmar served as a student teacher at the Yough School District's Mendon and H.W. Good Elementary Schools. Folmar's mother is in her 19th year as a secretary with California University's purchasing department.

Also a University Peer Mentor and past member and chairperson of student PSEA, Shashura was also very active with the PDS activities. She was a regular participant in Duck Days and Math Carnivals that were held on campus and at Belle Vernon Area's Rostraver and Marion Elementary Schools and previously at Charleroi Elementary School. Shashura was also a member and historian of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, which is dedicated to scholarship and excellence in education. This past year, Shashura completed her student teaching duties at Donora and California Elementary Schools. For three years, she worked in the housing/residence life/conferences department where her mother retired from this past March after a distinguished career of more than 30 years.

At the awards ceremony, both recipients thanked and credited the department and their families for playing significant roles

in their success. Sheffield presented both Folmar and Shashura with plaques in the shape of apples. The custom of presenting an apple to a teacher is a simple gesture that has long demonstrated appreciation for the learning opportunity provided by a teacher's efforts. As students apply what they have learned, they, in turn, become the fruit of the teacher's labor. Today, the apple given to educators symbolizes and acknowledges the impact and importance of teachers in the lives of students.

"The awards being in the shape of an apple is fitting," Sheffield said. "Jennifer and Apryle have made teaching rewarding for us, and they will both reciprocate this feeling to their future students."

For more information on these awards, please contact the department of elementary/early childhood education at 724-938-4135.

President's Gala Set for June 5

President and Mrs. Angelo Armenti Jr. will host The President's Gala, *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, Saturday, June 5, at the Omni William Penn Hotel, in downtown Pittsburgh, to benefit student scholarships at California University of Pennsylvania.

The program will include recognition of outstanding faculty members, a presentation of all of the changes to the campus, a black-tie dinner and dancing to the Benny Benack Orchestra. Have a "prom photo" taken with you and your date. The reception begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$150. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Renè Brooks at 724-938-5938.

Communication Disorders Department Awards 2004 Bitonti Memorial Scholarship

Karen C. Seigel is the recipient of the 21st Annual John Bitonti Memorial Scholarship.

The award is given annually by California University of Pennsylvania's communication disorders department in memory of Dr. John Bitonti, former chairperson, who passed away December 9, 1978. The award was first presented in 1984 by his colleagues from the former department of speech pathology and audiology, who initiated it. Dr. Bitonti worked 16 years for Cal U, the last 11 as department chair.

This prestigious award is given each year to an outstanding junior or senior student majoring in communication disorders. The annual winner is awarded a cash stipend to aid tuition costs as well as having his or her name engraved on the Bitonti Award Plaque that hangs on the wall of the communication disorders lounge in Cal U's Learning Research Center.

The daughter of Gail Farmer and Steve Seigel, Karen is a junior who will graduate in May of 2005. Originally from Charles Town, West Virginia, and a 2001 graduate of Jefferson High School, Karen and her family now reside in Myersville, Maryland.

Along with her academic responsibilities, Seigel is a member of Cal U's Speech and Hearing Club as well as a member of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association. She is also a highest honors student with a cumulative grade-point



Emeriti Faculty members Chuck Gismondi and Dr. Richard Nemec, Bitonti Scholarship Committee Chairperson and Assistant Professor of Communication Disorders Dr. Robert Skwarecki, Dorothy Bitonti, 2004 Bitonti Memorial Scholarship recipient Karen Seigel, Emeriti Faculty Member Dr. Albert Yates, Assistant Professor of Communication Disorders Dr. Ralph Belsterling, and Communication Disorders Chairperson and Professor Dr. Barbara Bonfanti.

average of 3.60 and recently represented Cal U at the Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association's Convention held at State College, Pa.

This summer she was awarded a Residence Assistant position at the

West Virginia Governor's School for the Arts and will also work as a Cal U Peer Mentor this fall.

"The communication disorders department is smaller than a lot of other departments on campus, which makes it

easier to know the faculty more on a one-on-one basis," Seigel said. "They do a very good job of teaching and preparing students, and this award is quite an honor and very flattering."

Dr. Robert Skwarecki, assistant professor of communication disorders and chairperson of the Bitonti Scholarship Selection Committee, lauded Seigel's effort and performance.

"She is an excellent student who is very active with organizations and aspects of communication disorders," said Skwarecki. "This is a very competitive award that weighs in a lot of factors such as grades, campus and community involvement and activities. Karen is also a very pleasant person who makes teaching fun and rewarding. Not only is she very deserving of this award, but she is someone for newer students to emulate."

Attending the April 27 presentation and luncheon along with Seigel and Dr. Skwarecki were: Dorothy Bitonti, widow of the late John Bitonti; Dr. Barbara Bonfanti, professor and chair of communication disorders; Dr. Ralph Belsterling, assistant professor of communication disorders; and emeriti faculty members Dr. Richard Nemec, Dr. Albert Yates and Chuck Gismondi, who was one of the original creators of the Bitonti Scholarship.

For more information, please contact Skwarecki at 724-938-1567.