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Cal U Football Field Sports New Name: Hepner-Bailey Field

Highlighting an exciting full day of numerous activities at Roadman Park Aug. 31 was honoring Cal U's rich athletic past while its promising sports future continued.

Prior to the kickoff of the defending PSAC-West champion Vulcan football team's 26-9 season-opening win over Fairmont State College, the playing field of Adamson Stadium was named Hepner-Bailey Field. A ribbon-cutting ceremony before the game was held in honor of two of Cal U's distinguished alumni and most recognizable athletic figures – the late Bill Hepner '50 and Mitch Bailey '53.

Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr., Geraldine Hepner, wife of the late Mr. Hepner, Mitchell and Deborah Bailey, Mitchell Bailey, Jr., Tony Cichochi, and Joan Cichochi, sister of Mr. Hepner.

"Mrs. Hepner and Mr. Bailey: Please accept these commemorative footballs as a reminder of this dedication ceremony, and also as a small token of our deep affection and gratitude," said President Armenti. "Because of the great example they set for hard work, dedication and an unwavering commitment to excellence, from this day forward, and for all time to come, the Hepner and Bailey names will be enshrined as a permanent part of the university's rich history and tradition."

Professor Hepner taught in Cal U's social science department for 40 years,



The naming of Hepner-Bailey Field was one of many exciting events that took place on a festive last day of August. Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony before the start of the Vulcans' 26-9 season-opening win over Fairmont State were Jeff Petrucci, Tony Cichochi, Joan Cichochi, Geraldine Hepner, President Armenti, Mitchell Bailey, Deborah Bailey, Mitchell Bailey, Jr., and Tim Susick.

from 1956 until his retirement in May of 1996. He was also the football team's head coach from 1962 through 1969 and compiled a 35-26-4 cumulative record for a .569 winning percentage. Hepner guided the 1968 Vulcans to the PSAC co-championship. He passed away January 7, 1999.

Professor Bailey retired this past spring after 47 years of service in Cal U's biological and environmental sciences department. He was a multi-sport star at Cal U, including a star receiver on the Vulcans' 1951 Pythian Bowl team as well as a defensive standout. A longtime assistant football coach at Cal, Bailey was also the

baseball team's head coach for 20 years, from 1960 through 1979. He led the team to 17 winning seasons, several trips to the NAIA national tournament and the 1979 PSAC championship.

"Bill Hepner was a senior when I was a freshman, and we played on the same

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Graduate Athletic Training Program Receives National Accreditation

Over the past five years, California University of Pennsylvania's Graduate Athletic Training Education Program has achieved a perfect 100 percent placement rate with approximately 80 percent of these professionals securing positions at the college or university level.

Sustaining this high level of excellence while improving curriculum and educational opportunities for its students has resulted in this program receiving a full five-year accreditation from the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). The next comprehensive review, including a self-study and site visit, will occur in the 2011–2012 academic year.

According to Dr. William Biddington, chairperson of Cal U's Health Science and Sport Studies (HSSS) Department and director of the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program, Cal U is one of only 12 NATA accredited programs in the nation.

"I think one of the things that is unique about this is that we are the only one of the 12 programs that is not from a big school that has NCAA Division I athletic teams," Biddington said. "Being nationally accredited gives you quite a bit of distinction and certainly brings credibility to the program."

Several other of the 12 schools nationally accredited by NATA include the



Cal U's Graduate Athletic Training Education Program is one of just 12 programs nationwide nationally accredited by the NATA.

University of Virginia, Temple University, San Jose State and the University of North Carolina.

The impressive NATA accreditation helps Cal U continue to fulfill the PASSHE Chancellor's charge to all 14 schools of getting as many of its academic programs nationally accredited that are capable of attaining this distinction through an accrediting body.

"NATA accreditation provides solid evidence for the high quality of this academic program," said Cal U President

Angelo Armenti, Jr. "It is significant that this judgment comes not from us—who have a vested interest—but from an outside group of objective professionals. I commend the program faculty for the hard work and dedication that led to this excellent achievement, and I especially commend Dr. Biddington for his outstanding leadership."

Cal U's Graduate Athletic Training Education Program began in 1992, and its first national accreditation by the NATA came in 1995 followed by a second

one in 2001. The NATA made its recent site visit to Cal U this past fall.

In 2004, the NATA accreditation guidelines were revised, and Biddington was part of this, having served six years on the NATA's national accreditation committee.

"The new guidelines allow the program to have more of a professional niche," Biddington said. "You can create your own area of emphasis rather than being so blocked into a prescribed program. They've allowed us to have more latitude to provide more depth and breadth to our program while maintaining our emphasis on research and teaching."

A rapidly growing department, HSSS offers a variety of programs with five different Bachelor of Science programs, three Master of Science programs and one associate degree option. Rather than one of the nine different academic options diminishing the amount of potential students, Biddington strongly believes that each of the different programs directly or indirectly feeds off of or enhances the other.

"One of the concerns we had early on was that our very successful master's online program in exercise science and health promotion would take students away from the graduate athletic training program," said Biddington. "But if anything, it has probably helped us to

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# Career Services Welcomes New Associate Director

Cal U’s new associate director of career services has two main passions in his life.

Gene Sutton, 39, has been doing one since his childhood, riding motorcycles. The other, helping prepare college students for the real world of work, he began in 1996.

As a kid growing up in Indiana, Pa., Sutton began riding on a five-horsepower, three-speed mini bike. He has ridden ever since then. For a while, motorcycles were more than just a passion for Sutton, they were his career.

After graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in health and sports science, Sutton became a motorcycle safety instructor at the university. However, after five years, he lost his full-time position when the state headquarters for the motorcycle safety program was moved from IUP to Millersville University.

So, in 1996, Sutton decided to go back to school. He enrolled in IUP’s student affairs in higher education master’s program. He spent the next two years working toward his master’s degree, and he also took a position in IUP’s Career Services and Student Affairs Office conducting mock interviews with students.

After receiving his master’s in 1998, Sutton spent one year working as a career consultant at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. After leaving UConn, he spent five years as a career adviser for Oregon State University in Corvallis.

It was during this time in Oregon when Sutton experienced a triumph on the road while also doing his job.

Early one October, he had to go to an OSU branch campus in Bend, Ore., to

give a full day of presentations relating to the job search for students.

“The forecast was calling for scattered showers and a high of 62 degrees,” Sutton recalled. “I decided to take my motorcycle, because it is a beautiful drive over the mountain to Bend. Since they were calling for scattered showers, I put on my raingear, loaded up the bike and headed out of Corvallis.”

As he drove, Sutton said, he noticed dark rain clouds overhead. When he reached about 3,000 feet above sea level, the rain began, and Sutton’s rain gear was tested as rain poured, and he continued up the mountain.

Sutton hadn’t counted on what would happen next. As he continued to climb in elevation, temperatures began to drop, and soon, he was no longer in heavy rain, but instead, heavy snow.

“Visibility was at a minimum,” Sutton said, “so, I had to slow down to 20 mph. I rode through this snowstorm for what seemed like an eternity, and at one point, I had two vehicles behind me, but they soon disappeared. I’m not sure if they pulled off the road or not.

“There were times I was thinking to myself, that if I were to lose control and go over the guardrail, I wouldn’t be found until spring.”

Fortunately, Sutton made it to the other side of the mountain safely and was greeted by sunshine. The next day, he gave his presentations to the students and headed back to Corvallis with the sun shining all the way.

Sutton left OSU after five years. His next stop was Marietta College, in Ohio, where he spent the last two years as associate director of career services.

Now, he brings his passion for helping students get a start on their future to Cal



U. Sutton will be working with freshmen all the way up through alumni.

He looks forward to helping undergraduates with things such as picking majors. He will also help upperclassmen find internships, jobs and prepare for job interviews, and he will work with alumni around Pennsylvania and the country to find Cal U students to fill positions in various organizations. Also, he plans to work with faculty to increase student participation and employer development. Sutton will also train and supervise graduate assistants.

Sutton enjoys working in a college atmosphere, and one of the lures of Cal U was that it is the ideal environment for him. At Marietta, Sutton said, there wasn’t enough variety in his job due to the small size of the school, approximately 1,250 students. On the other end of the spectrum, OSU was too large. Sutton felt that it was difficult to establish relationships with the students.

“What I like about Cal U,” he said, “is that it’s small enough to build relationships with the students we work with, but big enough that there is a good variety of students and student questions—something different every day.”

When he’s not working, Sutton enjoys fishing, gardening, golfing and skiing, but his number one love is riding his Yamaha V Star. He is still exploring the roads in the California area looking for a favorite place to ride. In Ohio, his favorite place to ride was a stretch of road known as Dragon’s Tail, which featured banking turns and rolling hills.

As different as motorcycles and career services seem, Sutton draws one distinct connection between the two.

“The connection would be my passion,” he said. “I have a passion for riding and helping students with their college careers leading up to the real world of work.”

## Hepner-Bailey Field – continued from page 1

side defensively,” Bailey said. “He was a great man and took me under his wing from the moment I started. He was truly a mentor to me and to have my name with his makes this remarkable honor all the more special.”

Emeritus faculty member Chuck Gismondi, who replaced Bailey upon his retirement after the 1979 season as the Vulcans’ head baseball coach after serving as his assistant coach for seven years, lauded Bailey for his competitiveness and perseverance.

“I’ve spoken about Mitch at so many banquets or roasts that I don’t know what else more there is to say,” Gismondi joked. “You won’t find a person who wants to win and is willing to put in the kind of hard work necessary than Mitch. I never remember a day or game that he was not fired up and ready to go.”

One of Hepner’s many exceptional football players was Jeff Petrucci ’69,

two-time All-American quarterback (1967-68) who later served as Cal’s head football coach from 1981 through 1992. Petrucci, along with Tim Susick, another Vulcan football alumnus and interim vice president for student development and services, held the ribbon for the cutting.

“He was way, way ahead of his time,” said Petrucci, Cal’s associate director of athletic development. “Many of the double-slot or option formations you see today, he was running years ago. Coach Hepner was a very serious man, and I incorporated many of the concepts he taught me when I was a player into my own coaching. He always kept in touch with me wherever I coached, and just as Mitch, I would proudly call him my mentor, too.”

Hepner-Bailey Field’s next action will be Sept. 16 when the nationally ranked Vulcans host Cheyney University at 5 p.m.



Savoring the moment and sharing laughs during the Hepner-Bailey Field naming were Mitchell Bailey, Jr., Mitchell Bailey, President Armenti, and Geraldine Bailey.

## Celebrate Constitution Day Sept. 14

California University of Pennsylvania will celebrate Constitution Day Thursday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m. in the Performance Center. This year’s panel discussion is titled “Comparative Constitutions: The impact that other constitutions have had on the U.S. Constitution and vice versa.”

Guest panelists will include Scott Morgenstern from the University of Pittsburgh and Derrick McKisick, visiting Frederick Douglass Scholar. They will join Cal U faculty members Joe Heim, John Cencich, Michael Slaven and James Wood. Andrae Marak is among the faculty members of the history and political science department who are involved in planning this year’s Constitution Day on Cal U’s campus.

“Students need to know more about the constitution, so they can better formulate their own ideas and decisions, so they can not only know more about the world, but about themselves,” Marak explained. “For example, we are engaged in a war on terror. They need to know not only what to fight for, but also against, and what is at stake. They also need to know who they want to vote for. We cannot tell students what to think, nor should we. Some of the best discussions last year were when the students stood up and asked provocative questions at this same event.”

Senator Robert C. Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat and the United States Congress unofficial constitutional scholar, believes that American primary,

secondary and post-secondary students lack significant knowledge regarding the United States Constitution. In December 2004, Senator Byrd offered an amendment that was passed by both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate in an attempt to increase constitutional knowledge.

On May 24, 2005, the U.S. Department of Education released a Notice of Implementation, announcing that all educational institutions receiving federal funding must provide an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution Sept. 17 of each year commemorating the Sept. 17, 1787, signing of the Constitution. When the date falls on a weekend or holiday, as it does this year (Sunday), colleges and universities that receive federal funding have a two-week window to hold events.

The United States Department of Education, charged with implementation of this legislative requirement, intentionally left the implementation language vague. With no specific curriculum or interpretation of the United States Constitution provided by the U.S. Department of Education or Senator Byrd, academic institutions are free to provide a wide array of programming for their students.

For more information about Cal U’s Constitution Day program, please contact Marak at 724-938-6021 or e-mail marak@cup.edu.



# Cal U's 19th Annual Health Fair Set for Sept. 20

The 19th Annual Health Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elmo Natali Student Center. The theme, “Go to Health,” is exactly what presenters want you to do — get healthy!

This year's exhibitors will give you a head start on a healthy 2006-2007 school year. There will be free food, health screenings, HIV testing, massages, facials, temporary tattoos, plenty of great give-aways (including Wal-Mart gift cards and condoms) and much more! Remember to bring your CalCard, because give-aways will be randomly selected from scanned names.

On stage in the Performance Center, a speaker will present an interactive program entitled, “Fit to Achieve,” which provides instruction on exercise and healthy eating. Enjoy a live music performance outside the Natali Student Center.

A Flu and Meningitis Vaccination Clinic will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Performance Center for all students. Payment by CalCard (Shop Dollars only), cash or check will be accepted (make checks payable to Passport Health). If you have any questions, please contact Fran Fayish at 724-938-5922.



On Sept. 20 a nearly two-decade-old tradition of promoting good health will continue when the 2006 Cal U Health Fair takes place.

## Cal U Professors Foster Student Civic Engagement

For Dr. Melanie Blumberg, a faculty member in California University's history and political science department, engaging students in the political process on California University's campus is not just a job, it's a passion that extends far beyond classroom lectures and activities.

One of her latest initiatives to involve students is via the American Democracy Project for Civic Engagement (ADP), a joint venture between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and *The New York Times* (NYT). At Cal U, she and co-director Dr. Joseph Heim manage ADP involvement on campus. “It's a natural fit for us as political scientists,” she explained.

As described on NYT Web site, the ADP is a national, multi-campus initiative that seeks to foster informed civic engagement in the United States, seeking to create a greater intellectual understanding and commitment to participate in the civic life of the United States.

Focused on undergraduates at public colleges and universities, the ADP has created a collaborative network of 199 public colleges and universities, representing more than 1.7 million students that are member institutions of the AASCU. The three-year project will

provide opportunities for participating campuses to engage in activities and projects designed to increase the number of undergraduate students committed to meaningful civic actions.

According to Blumberg, various task forces were created to support the ADP, including an Electoral Voices Task Force, of which she is one of 15 members. Led by Jim Perry at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), the task force has created a monograph that will be a guide for campuses interested in voter education, registration,



Dr. Melanie Blumberg

and participation, with campus examples.

“We decided it was an excellent way to document ‘best practices’ of what universities are doing to engage students around the country,” Blumberg said.

To compile the information for the monograph, a survey was sent to 400 public universities of AASCU. Respondents were asked to describe one initiative at the university instituted for civic engagement in the student body, and provide a brief case study. The monograph's case studies will detail the importance of student engagement; how campuses can measure effectiveness of initiatives; appendix of survey results; and appendix of the case studies.

Blumberg's involvement included designing the survey and analyzing the data collected, as well as writing an appendix for the monograph.

Blumberg indicated that the monograph will include a case study submitted by Cal U, which describes October 2004 political Kerry/Edwards rally featuring Senator Joseph Lieberman hosted by the College Democrats of California University of Pennsylvania.

The monograph, which will be distributed to all AASCU schools, will also be available soon on NYT Web site, as well as for sale to the general public.

## Professor To Lead Journalism Group

Margo Wilson, assistant professor of journalism/ English at California University of Pennsylvania, was elected president of a group for journalism professors who teach at small to mid-range schools. Wilson was chosen to head the Small Programs Interest Group of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication at AEJMC's annual conference in San Francisco from Aug. 1–5. AEJMC is the leading group for journalism professors and has about 3,500 members. The Small Programs Interest Group has approximately 100 members.

Wilson also had a paper published by the Community College Journalism Association: “Freewriting Fridays: How To Shift Your Students' Creativity Into High Gear.” The paper was submitted as part of a poster competition. Wilson displayed the poster at the convention Aug. 2. She also moderated a panel Aug. 4 about teaching online.

Travel grants from Cal U's Faculty Professional Development office and from the College of Liberal Arts dean's office helped pay for the trip.



Margo Wilson

## The Underground Holds Benefit Concert for Plea for Peace Foundation

The Underground and Play'r Productions will be hosting a benefit concert for the Plea for Peace Foundation featuring local music legend, Punchline. The musical line-up includes Zolof the Rock and Roll Destroyer, Isadora and The Victory Year.

The concert will be held Friday, Sept. 15, in the Performance Center. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and the concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for Cal U students are free, but a \$2 donation at the door for the Plea for Peace Foundation is appreciated. Tickets are \$7 for all non-Cal U students, and proceeds from those sales will be donated as well.

The Underground is sponsored by Cal U's chapter of BACCHUS (Boost Alcohol

Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students), which is a national student organization with 305 affiliated chapters at institutions of higher education in the United States. Through education and activities designed to increase awareness of changing alcohol issues, BACCHUS advocates informed, independent decision making and respect for the choice of abstinence.

The Plea for Peace Foundation, founded by Mike Park, is a 501C3 non-profit organization with a simple message: to promote the ideas of peace through the power of music. Members believe that all individuals are created equal, and through their efforts, they hope to

create a scene of positive-minded people to help bring forth action and education in the process of sharing ideas and practical uses of peace in everyday life.

The foundation has been active in both national and global musical tours, but the hope is to raise enough money to open a functioning teen center in the Bay Area of northern California in fall 2006. The center will give youth an outlet to perform music, create art, dance and talk to others of similar interests.

For more information, please contact Holly McIntosh, entertainment coordinator for The Underground, at 724-288-6391 or mci9930@cup.edu.



Two Faculty Members  
Attend Leadership  
Institute

Assistant professors Mary Randall, modern languages and cultures, and Chris Harman, health science and sport studies, were at the Toftrees Resort in State College, Pa., for a conference, which was sponsored by The Women’s Consortium, an organization dedicated to identifying and serving the needs of women in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

The conference featured speakers from universities within the PASSHE. Cal U’s Karen Posa, director of the mentoring program and assistant director of new student orientation, and Dr. Linda Toth, associate psychology professor, were two of the featured presenters.

Presentation topics included: “Doing the Thing You Think You Cannot Do,” “Leadership with a Global Perspective,” “Leadership with a Global Perspective,” “Communication Skills for Effective Leadership,” “Staying at the Table: Women of color and white women,” “The Art of Negotiation,” Building Bridges or Digging Trenches? The Process and Challenge of Making Difference Work,” “Are We There Yet? The Process of Self-Care in Women’s Lives,” “Leadership: A Gendered Postmodern Perspective” and “Leadership Enacted: Working with Women within the System.”

Randall and Harman were nominated to attend the conference by Dean Sean Madden, College of Liberal Arts, and Dean Geraldine Jones, College of Education and Human Services.

The Institute had a positive impact on the two women.

“It helped me gain perspective on myself as a teacher,” Harman said. “I learned how to be a better leader in the classroom and a better mentor to women outside of the classroom. I’m really looking forward to this year. I was also able to establish professional relationships with women at other universities.”

Randall echoed the same sentiment.

“For me, it was an inspiring opportunity to network with some dynamic faculty and administrators in the PASSHE,” she said. “I received useful information about resources to help me become a better educator as well as ideas as to how I might make a difference in my own sphere of endeavor that will have a positive impact on Cal U.”

The offices of the PASSHE, the president and APSCUF funded the Institute.

Manderino Library Undergoes Reclassification

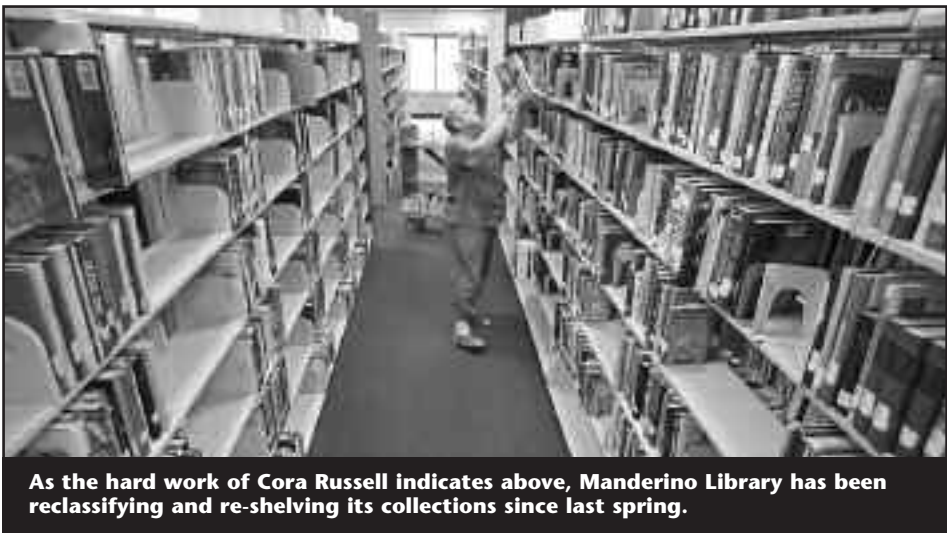
Manderino Library patrons may have noticed some unusual activity going on in the library this summer. Library hours were erratic, and there was a constant movement of workers, books and carts. Perhaps the most uncommon happening is that the upstairs stacks are closed to the public.

The library is currently reclassifying and re-shelving its collections. Generalities will no longer be under 000s or Philosophy and Psychology under 100s. The library is trading in the Dewey Decimal Classification System for the Library of Congress Classification System.

The project began during spring break. At the early stages, new material coming into the library was given LC numbers. The Technical Services Department began reclassifying 700s and 900s to create shelf space.

After Choosing Marcive, Inc., a Texas-based company, to facilitate the reclassification, the project of re-labeling, shifting, re-shelving and changing Pilot call numbers began May 15. While reclassification of the Manderino Reference Collection has been completed, this summer’s focus was on the main collection located on the third and fourth floors.

“Given the tremendous amount of chaos a reclassification project entails, summer provides the best opportunity to reclassify the collection while minimizing the disruption to patrons,” said



As the hard work of Cora Russell indicates above, Manderino Library has been reclassifying and re-shelving its collections since last spring.

Julia McGinnis, assistant professor and technical services librarian.

So just what is the difference between the two systems? The Dewey Decimal System, named after creator Melvil Dewey, organizes books into 10 classifications numbered 000-900. These classes are then subdivided by subjects. Each of the 10 subjects has 10 divisions, and each division has 10 sections.

Herbert Putnam developed The Library of Congress Classification System only 21 years after the Dewey system in 1897, two years before he was appointed librarian to the Library of Congress. As opposed to the Dewey system, these categories are labeled alphabetically with the exception of I, O, W, X and Y.

The LC classification system is “the standard for academic institutions,”

McGinnis explained. In fact, most academic libraries converted from the Dewey System to the LC System in the 70s or 80s. Eighteen out of 21 of Cal’s peer institutions are LC libraries and 11 of the 14 PASSHE schools are either already LC libraries or currently making the transition.

While the reclassification project will not be entirely completed until next summer at the earliest, public access to the third and fourth floors reopened with the start of the fall semester. The Technical Services Department will finish reclassifying the 800s during the fall semester. Non-circulating materials such as videos, DVDs and special collections are scheduled to be finished during the spring ’07 semester.

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enhance our quality of students even further. I just think that the publicity from that program has had a rippling or trickle-down effect and made prospective students more aware of all our programs. Our most recent graduate athletic training class might have been our most excellent, and five of those 16 students have already secured jobs at other universities. Cal U is more in the mainstream of healthcare professions than ever.”

More than 80 percent of the graduate athletic training students at Cal U come from outside the state of Pennsylvania, and Biddington believes the accreditation plays a significant role in that statistic.

“The NATA accreditation provides an opportunity to get a national group of students,” said Biddington. “We encourage our undergraduate athletic training students to pursue master’s degrees elsewhere just to get different experiences from different professionals. Our graduate program has students from all over the country and overseas. It is a national program.”

Through the exercise science program and revised NATA guidelines, Cal U has added the Performance Enhancement Specialist (PES) Certification, which Biddington labeled a “very positive piece” that was also incorporated into

the graduate athletic training curriculum.

One graduate athletic training student is using the Professional Golf Management’s (PGM) facility in Gallagher Hall for his research project on the analysis of a golf swing.

“Even though the university added the golf facility for an entirely different program, the equipment that is over there has enabled one of our students to do his experimental research dealing with that sport,” Biddington said. “It would be impossible to answer the question of how many faculty members help with the graduate athletic training program. No question it is a team effort.”

Cal U’s women’s swimming coach Ed Denny has allowed three graduate athletic training students to do research projects pertaining to his sport. Further accentuating the team effort is that a multitude of HSSS faculty members, as well as some from other academic departments, contribute their teaching to the graduate athletic training program.

The NATA visiting team did recommend that Cal U’s graduate athletic training students do more poster presentations and or publish more papers at the national level. This past summer, Cal U student Sara Paugh presented a paper at the NATA national meeting in Atlanta, Ga. Biddington and Dr. Bruce Barnhart, director of Cal U’s undergraduate athletic training program, will submit a report addressing NATA’s recommendations. Cal U’s undergraduate athletic training program has been nationally accredited from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) since 1983. That program received a six-year full accreditation in 2004.

“Accreditation makes you better and re-focused,” said Biddington. “We have already addressed the recommendations and done some minor things to make

the program better. The accreditation process is positive and helps you take your programs to the next level.”

Cal U’s \$9.5 million renovation of Hamer Hall and the HSSS facilities in 1998-99 significantly enhanced the ability for its students to do better research, particularly with experimental research. One of the goals before the next NATA accreditation visit is to create an exercise physiology laboratory to provide even more research opportunities for students. Biddington is preparing a grant proposal for this project. A Cal U faculty member since 1977 who started working as an athletic trainer at Cal in 1976, Biddington emphasized the administration’s support as a significant factor for the continued national accreditation of this program. In particular, he thanked Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and Dr. Tom Kinsey, dean of Cal U’s College of Graduate Studies and Research.

“There are a lot of non-accredited athletic training programs out there that have not gone through the accreditation process for a number of reasons,” said Biddington. “But it is the exact opposite here where President Armenti, Dean Kinsey and the other administrators actively seek program accreditation which is obviously a very good thing.”

“Our 100 percent placement rate, with 80 percent of those people working at the college level, are significant numbers for us,” said Biddington. “When we first started this program, the numbers were reversed where we had 20 percent of our master’s graduates getting college jobs, while the other 80 percent were going to clinics or high schools. Our reputation is growing, and the re-accreditation gives the department a sense of pride.”

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Mr. Bruce Wald, Writer  
Mr. Greg Sofranko, Photographer

Office of Public Affairs, 250 University Ave., California, PA 15419  
724-938-4195, wald@cup.edu

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