

# California University JOURNAL

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## BET Host, Hip-Hop Scholar Headline Annual Conference

Rocsi Diaz, co-host of the Black Entertainment Television (BET) flagship show *106 & Park*, will join hip-hop scholar Dr. James Braxton Peterson for the keynote presentation when at Cal U's seventh annual Hip-hop Conference Wednesday through Friday.

This year's conference, "Hoodies, Profiling, Gender and Hip-hop Culture" addresses the popular musical genre and explores issues that have been in the spotlight since 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed Feb. 26 in Florida.

The keynote speakers will discuss "Gender, Profiling and Commercialization in the Hip-hop Industry" at 6 p.m. Friday in the Learning Resource Center in Morgan Hall.

BET's *106 & Park* is the leading music video countdown show on television, seen in 85 million households worldwide.

Rocsi Diaz has co-anchored the show (along with Terrence J) since 2006, interviewing superstar guests before a live audience in New York City. A former radio deejay, she also is the host of BET's syndicated radio program *106 & Park Weekend Countdown*.

Dr. James Braxton Peterson is the director of Africana Studies and an associate professor of English at Lehigh University. He also is the founder of Hip Hop Scholars LLC, an organization dedicated to developing the cultural and educational potential of hip-hop, urban and youth cultures.

Peterson has been featured on BET and bet.com, the *Michael Eric Dyson Show* and the award-winning PBS documentary *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*.

Other conference events include a tribute to the "capha" musical style at 5 p.m. Thursday at Jozarts



Rocsi Diaz, co-host of the Black Entertainment Television (BET) flagship show '106 & Park,' will join hip-hop scholar Dr. James Braxton Peterson for the Hip-hop Conference's keynote presentation at 6 p.m. Friday in Morgan Hall's Learning Resource Center.

Studio on Second Street, just blocks from the Cal U campus. Activities includes capha free-style, break-dance and fraternity party-hop competitions.

"The capha is a *umoja*, or unity, circle that gives its participants the opportunity to express themselves in the oral tradition, one at a time, in prose, poetry, singing or rapping," explained Dr. Kelton Edmonds, director of the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U and organizer of the annual conference.

"The capha also be applied in instances of dance battles. It is part of the Western African cultural tradition that has been incorporated throughout the African diaspora, particularly in the Americas."

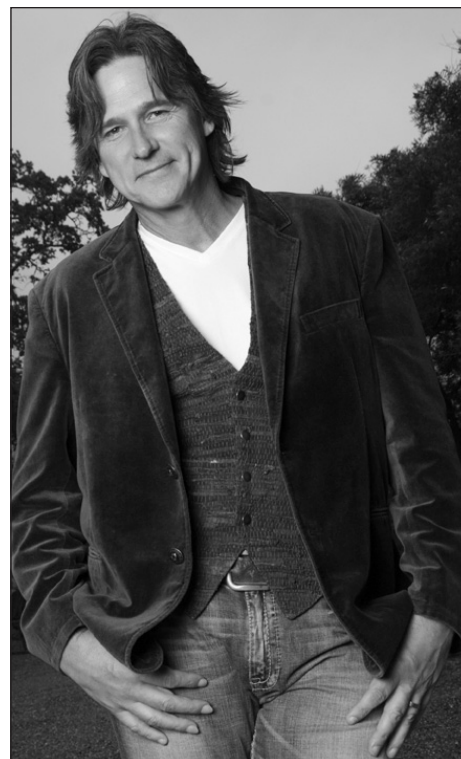
Students also will present topical papers, debate "Who is the Greatest MC?" and hold a roundtable discussion based on the Trayvon

Martin tragedy, "Armed with a Hoodie, Skittles, and Iced Tea: Does Hip-hop Reinforce Negative Stereotypes for Young Black America?"

Sponsors for the Hip-hop Conference include: Provost's Office/ Office of the President, Frederick Douglass Institute, Honor's Program, College of Liberal Arts, College of Education and Human Services, Black Student Union, History and Political Science Department, History Club, Cal U Men United, Omega Psi Phi Office of Admissions, CalU Welcome Center, Multi-cultural Studies Department, and Women's Studies Department.

For a complete conference schedule and more information, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu). All events are free and open to the public.

Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance.



Contemporary country music star Billy Dean (left) and singer-songwriter Andy Gibson will open the Kenny Rogers concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 20 inside the Convocation Center after an afternoon of festivities.

## Grand Opening Features Alumna, Officer

### Free Music Celebration Leads Up to Rogers Concert

Festivities at the Grand Opening of the Convocation Center on April 20 will include a free Community Celebration of Music featuring two performers with close ties to the University.

Country music singer Amber McDonald, a Cal U graduate, will return to her alma mater from Nashville, Tenn.

Her set-list includes "I Want to Know What Love Is,"

— Continued on page 4

## Ridership Rising on Vulcan Flyers

More buses plus longer operating hours equals greater convenience for more Vulcan Flyer riders. That's the formula for success reported by the Office of Parking and Transportation.

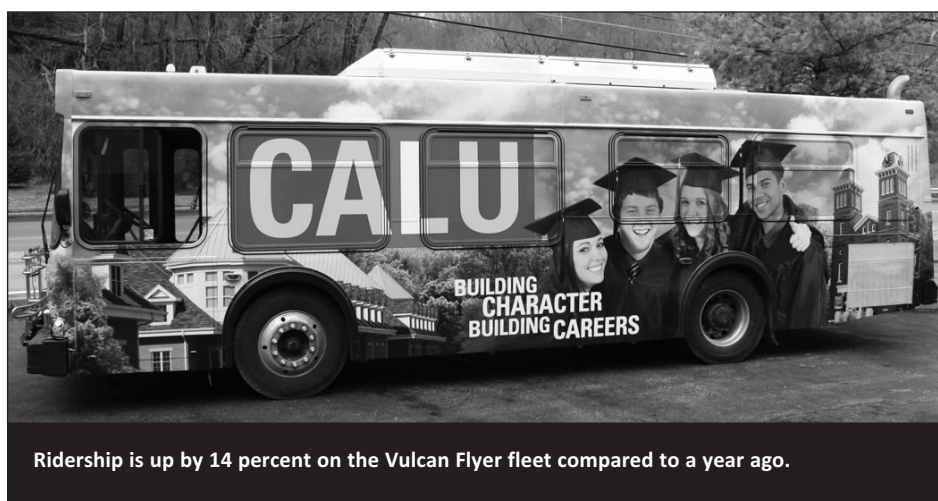
Compared to last year, ridership is up by 14 percent on the Vulcan Flyer bus fleet, which runs between the main campus and the south campus at Roadman Park.

As of March 8, the Vulcan Flyer had provided 97,360 passenger-rides, compared to 85,400 for the 2010-2011 academic year.

"The Vulcan Flyers have evolved a lot in the past year. The fleet has grown from six buses to 14, and we now operate on extended hours Monday through Saturday," said Chris Johnston, director of Parking and Transportation.

"What was envisioned as a Monday-through-Friday shuttle service has grown into a significant element of Cal U's managed transportation system."

As the fleet has grown, so has its



Ridership is up by 14 percent on the Vulcan Flyer fleet compared to a year ago.

efficiency — and the technology that keeps the buses running on schedule has been installed in every vehicle.

The Vulcan Flyer buses run on time, Johnston reported, arriving at stops every 10 minutes or less during peak times and every 15 minutes during non-peak hours.

GPS tracking, available on most mobile devices through the NextBus

application, shows riders when the next bus is scheduled to arrive. All 16 buses now are equipped with the NextBus system.

All Vulcan Flyers also have Wi-Fi hot spots on board, so passengers can use their mobile devices and laptops during their ride.

Security is also a point of emphasis for the fleet.

"Through the continued support of the California University Police Department, we now have officers and parking security officers riding on board as part of their normal patrol duties," Johnston said.

"We are anticipating over 100,000 riders this academic year, and we wanted to increase the level of security visible on our buses."

Other universities have taken notice of the Vulcan Flyers, he added.

"We have had a growing amount of interest in the Vulcan Flyer fleet, including our distinctive graphic bus wraps, Wi-Fi capabilities and passenger counters.

"We just hope to keep improving and expanding our service to provide a safe and reliable form of transportation for our students, faculty and staff."

Vulcan Flyer bus service runs from 5:30 a.m.-1:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday.

For more information about parking and transportation, visit [www.calu.edu/parking](http://www.calu.edu/parking).





## Bon Appetit

Cal U’s Jason Capello (from left), Cody Schwanger and Gabe Martin cook venison wrapped in bacon at the 15th Annual Outdoor Bash and Game Dinner hosted by Cal U’s Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. This year’s event took place March 24 at the Richeyville Volunteer Fire Department. ‘This is really good for the students, not just because it’s a fundraiser for the society but also because it’s a great opportunity for them to network with professionals in the industry,’ said Dr. Carol Bocetti, associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

# ‘Leadership Day’ April 10

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to join special guests from the community and around the country at a Leadership Day presentation from 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Speakers including University President Angelo Armenti, Jr., faculty members and students will address the Cal U *Leader for Life* process and outline progress toward achieving Lighthouse University status.

In August, Cal U was named the world’s first Franklin Covey Leadership University in recognition of its efforts to incorporate leadership principles into teaching, learning and campus life.

Since then, students have begun participating in the campus-wide leadership development process based on the principles outlined in Dr. Stephen R. Covey’s bestselling book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

All students are eligible for the process. It will be available for faculty and staff members later this spring.

“Leadership Day is one of the criteria that will enable Cal U to achieve Lighthouse University status,”



explained Ron Paul, executive director of the Character Education Institute.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the University to open its doors and show our community and guests from other higher education institutions the progress we have made with the *Leader for Life* process thus far.”

Students can document their participation in the *Leader for Life* process on their Activities Transcript. Those who complete the *Leader for Life* courses, attend Leadership Forums, meet with a Career Services adviser and complete a capstone project can earn the *Leader for Life* certificate and a graduation cord to wear at Commencement.

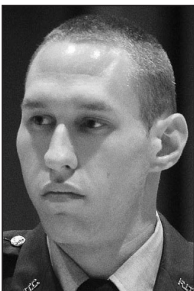
To learn more about the *Leader for Life* process, access courses or register for the “7 Habits” online program, look for the “*Leader for Life*” button on the Cal U homepage, [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

# GIS Manual Earns Kudos at Conference

Working together, a Cal U student and a faculty member have created a Geographic Information System (GIS) manual that soon will be published on the website for ESRI, the largest GIS software provider in the world.

Meant to assist in the planning and execution of military missions, the manual was created by senior Ben Snyder and Dr. Tom Mueller, a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences.

They presented “GIS for Military Operations: Tools and Techniques for ArcGIS Desktop 10” at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Towson University Geographic Information Sciences Conference in late March.



Ben Snyder

ArcGIS is a complete software system for designing and managing solutions through the application of geographic knowledge.

ESRI’s training offices are evaluating the manual as a training tool.

“Its layout is similar to a book or common instruction manual,” Snyder explained. “It utilizes step-by-step instruction, hypothetical scenarios and comprehensive quizzes to teach and reinforce key concepts.”

The four-part manual guides trainees as they learn to work with different types of data provided by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGIA). Ultimately they discover how to augment their maps using a Military Operational Graphics layer.

The manual familiarizes users with position analysis techniques such as coordinate conversion and geodesic editing. It also covers concepts related to terrain, elevation and line-of-sight analysis.

Snyder, who will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army next month, plans to meet with ROTC officers to discuss a workshop based on the document.

Snyder was one of 13 Cal U students attending the Towson University conference.

Senior Grant Eaton earned second place in a map design competition, and juniors Brooke Romesberg and Josh Alderson presented a poster on a web GIS application called Community Analyst.

Eaton, who will intern with the NGIA this summer, submitted a map he created during an internship at Badlands National Park in South Dakota.

The design and layout of the map helps the park’s administrative and maintenance departments distinguish between true geographical boundaries and legislative borders.

It assists park law enforcement with search and rescue by showing nearby roads and the elevation of hills and other features of the badlands terrain. The map also helps the biology department identify the location and condition of dams and ponds, so they can ensure an adequate water supply for the park’s bison.

Romesberg and Alderson’s poster was created in Mueller’s demographic analysis course. It shows how quickly and easily certain information can be obtained from ESRI Community Analyst, a cloud-based mapping solution that provides GIS capabilities through a Web application.

“You could call it a one-stop shopping area for demographic and spatial information,” Mueller said. “Brooke and Josh’s work really had a unique take. ESRI is very interested in their results.”

Mueller, who earned his undergraduate degree at Towson, also serves on the conference’s advisory board.

“Cal U students have played an invaluable role over the years in making the conference a success and make the most out of this professional development opportunity,” said conference coordinator Dr. John M. Morgan III, a professor of geography and environmental planning, and director emeritus of Towson’s GIS center.

“They are very helpful to us and on a professional level they look the part and they act the part.”

# Cal U Takes Kids to Work Again

Cal U will continue a national tradition that began nearly two decades ago when the campus hosts “Take Your Child to Work Day” Tuesday.

This year’s theme, “Build Opportunity,” reflects the national theme of “Build Opportunity: 20 Years of Education, Empowerment, Experience.”

The national day is traditionally held on the fourth Thursday of April. Because the region’s K-12 schools will be administering standardized tests that week, Cal U opted to welcome employees’ children on the Tuesday after the Easter holiday, when many schools are not in session.

The event is open to Cal U staff and faculty members only. Children must be ages 8-18.

In addition to workplace visits, the program includes physical and educational activities at the Herron Recreation and Fitness Center as well as visits to the Vulcan painting studio, biology labs and the *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion* exhibit at the Convocation Center. Children age 13 and older also



Monika Pankratz, secretary in Cal U’s University-Wide Mentoring Department, enjoys sharing time at a previous ‘Cal U Take Your Child to Work Day’ with her daughter, Melissa Ann.

can meet with Career Services staff to explore college opportunities, preferably at Cal U.

“The goal is to get them thinking about all the possibilities available to them,” said Gena Sproul, event coordinator and assistant director in the Office of Social Equity.

“Along the way, they’ll have a

good time, pick up some career ideas and take home some valuable stress-reducing skills.”

Founded in 1993 as “Take Our Daughters to Work Day,” the annual program now includes sons, as well.

For more information, e-mail [sproul@calu.edu](mailto:sproul@calu.edu).



# Political Panel Predicts Narrow Obama Win

Addressing an overflow crowd in Eberly Hall, four political experts predicted that President Barack Obama will win re-election by a razor-thin margin in November.

Political analyst Jon Delano served as moderator for the *2012 Election Outlook*, which brought a popular panel of political scientists back to Cal U on March 27 for a lively discussion of the race for the White House.

Delano grabbed a legal pad and took notes as he elicited forecasts from panelists Costa Panagopoulos, of Fordham University; Dan Shea, of Allegheny College; William Binning, of Youngstown State University; and Louis Jacobson, a staff writer for Politifact.com.

All have visited Cal U before, and even before the presentation began, University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. invited them to return and dissect the election results.

“We’re coming back in November,” said Delano, the money and politics editor at KDKA-TV. “We’ll talk about whether your predictions turn out to be right or wrong.”

The audience of students, faculty, staff and community members listened intently as Panagopoulos explained a mathematical model that successfully has predicted the result of all but four presidential races since 1948.

Only two variables — the incumbent’s approval rating and the state of the nation’s economy — are needed to forecast the result several months in advance, he said.

“It’s likely to be a close election, decided in the battleground states,” Panagopoulos concluded.

“It’s going to be darned close,” agreed Shea.

Elections are won by persuasion and mobilization, he explained: “You have to convince voters, and then get them to the polls.” But a highly polarized electorate and the rise of “super PACs” with millions to spend on political advertising make the current election less predictable than past races.

The panel agreed that Mitt Romney is likely to be the GOP contender, despite his tepid appeal to conservative voters. “But will disgruntled Republicans hold their nose and vote for Romney, or will they stay home?” Shea asked.

Binning focused his comments on the role of healthcare policy, a polarizing issue for voters. The Supreme Court is scheduled to rule on the Obama administration’s Affordable Health Care Act in June, he noted, “and the decision, either way, will have ramifications for the presidential election.”

“No matter what happens ... people will realize that who we elect as president will make a difference in the



Political analyst Jon Delano addresses an overflow crowd in the Eberly Hall Auditorium during an election analysis forum event presented by the American Democracy Project on March 27.

“It’s still basically a toss-up, and there’s still a long way to go.”  
— Louis Jacobson  
Politifact.com

makeup of the Supreme Court,” he said.

Discussing the role of the Electoral College, Jacobson described this year’s presidential race “not as a national election, but as an election of 50 states and the District of Columbia.”

The outcome will turn on results in about a dozen battleground states, he said, including Ohio and Pennsylvania.

In 2010, Republicans in many of those states gained ground in the governor’s mansion and state legislatures.

“It’s still basically a toss-up, and there’s still a long way to go,” he said.

Noting that none of the current Republican candidates appears willing to step aside, “the GOP convention could be an interesting one to watch.”

The conversation took a lighter turn when Delano asked the panelists, “What does Republican candidate Mitt Romney need if he’s going to win?”

“A heart transplant would take him a long way,” quipped Binning, who suggested that a running mate who seems “less robotic and out of touch” might help Republican voters warm up to the candidate.

In the end, the panelists agreed that both President Obama and his GOP rival must focus on the economy if they hope to win votes.

“And that’s frustrating for all the candidates, because they can’t control it,” Jacobson said.

A lively question-and-answer session touched on topics ranging from energy policy to healthcare, clearly a subject of interest to many audience members.

“America is coming to the realization that the healthcare system is dramatically broken,” Shea said, as heads nodded throughout the room.

The 2012 Election Outlook was presented by the American Democracy Project, a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education’s role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens. Dr. Melanie Blumberg, a professor in the Department of History and Political Science, advises the ADP and organized the presentation.

Co-sponsors of the event were the Office of the President, the Office of Academic Affairs/Provost, the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of History and Political Science, and Cal Campaign Consultants.

## ’Burgh Big Band Plays Jazz Thursday

A performance by the ’Burgh Big Band at 8 p.m. Thursday wraps up the 30th annual California Jazz Experience, three days of master classes and jazz performances.

The event brings high school and middle school jazz bands to campus to work with guest artists.

Among the guest clinicians is Dr. Stephen Hawk, professor of music at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, where he instructs the trumpet studio and directs both the jazz studies program and the Jazz Ensemble I.

Jim Sheppard, a long-time CJE clinician and private studio teacher, serves as the sight reading clinician, along with Dr. Marty Sharer, Cal U’s associate director of bands.

Students will give a “Pop A Cappella” concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Morgan Hall Learning Resource Center Auditorium, and the Cal U Jazz Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Morgan Hall. Lunchtime concerts will be performed at the Natali Student Center during CJE XXX.

The ’Burgh Big Band performs at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Morgan Hall Learning Resource Auditorium. All concerts are free and open to the public, as well as the campus community.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 724-938-4878.

## ‘Digital Violinist’ at Vulcan Hall



Dixon’s Violin brings his captivating performance to the painting studio inside Vulcan Hall at 7 p.m. Friday.

Powerful musical energy will emanate from the painting studio in Vulcan Hall when the Cal U Art Club plays host to Dixon’s Violin at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Dixon, who uses a single name, calls himself a concert violinist, a digital effects master and a musical shaman all rolled into one.

His performance is titled “A Transformational Journey via Digital Violin.”

“I want to inspire people, to weave and feel energy and give it to people,” he said. “It’s not about just playing a song but trying to move people to feel things in their soul they’ve never felt before.”

Classically trained from the age of 10, Dixon performed as a symphony violinist before developing his captivating, one-man show

He has performed across the United States and beyond, from free-wheeling gatherings like Burning Man to a TED talk and performance at the Max M. Fischer Music Center in Detroit. Dixon also participates in Pittsburgh Frostburn, a winter celebration of art and community held at Cooper’s Lake Campground.

“He’s great, and so different and energetic,” said Todd Pinkham, associate professor in the Department of Art and Design. “His performance also has a captivating visual element, as he uses fractal imagery projected behind him. Dixon will mesmerize you.”

Seating is limited for the performance by Dixon at 7 p.m. Friday in Vulcan Hall. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. For more information, e-mail pinkham@calu.edu .





Sophomore Clarissa Enslin helped the Cal U women’s swimming team earn 13 points in the Dixon Trophy standings by repeating as PSAC 200-freestyle champion and being a part of two relay state title teams.

## Vulcans Still Lead Dixon Trophy Race

Following a successful winter sports season, Cal U athletics has maintained its lead in the Dixon Trophy standings.

The Dixon Trophy is awarded annually to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) member institution with the most successful all-around program. The winner is determined by a point system based on the results of conference playoffs and/or regular-season records.

Each institution’s point total is calculated by adding its top six women’s finishes and top six men’s finishes in 22 conference sports.

Cal U compiled 48 points during the winter season, increasing its overall point total to 136.5 overall points.

The five winter sports teams are women’s swimming, and women’s and men’s basketball and track and field.

Women’s swimming led the way as the team equaled its best finish in school history by placing third at the PSAC Championships for 13 Dixon Trophy points

The women’s indoor track and field team also achieved a program-best showing, with a fifth-place finish at the

league championships for 11 points.

The basketball teams each accounted for 9.5 points after reaching the quarterfinals of the PSAC Tournament.

In men’s indoor track and field, the Vulcans placed ninth in the team standings to earn five points.

Rivals Bloomsburg and Edinboro are second and third in the trophy standings, with 135 and 132.5 points, respectively.

Since 2008, Cal U has finished no less than third in the standings each year. The Vulcans won the Dixon Trophy in 2009 and placed second in 2010. Cal U is just one of seven different PASSHE institutions to have won the Dixon Trophy.

Seven PSAC championships will be contested this spring: baseball, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, men’s and women’s outdoor track and field, and women’s lacrosse, which Cal U does not sponsor as an NCAA varsity sport.

The announcement of the 2011-2012 Dixon Trophy winner is scheduled for May 15 at the PSAC Awards Luncheon in Harrisburg, Pa.

## Hargraves on FPD Committee

The faculty in the College of Education and Human Services has elected Dr. Scott Hargraves (Department of Health Science) as their representative to the FPD Committee for a four-year term beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year.

Dr. Denise Joseph was elected as the alternate in case the elected representative is unable to serve the full four-year term.

The faculty in the College of Education and Human Services should forward to Dr. Hargraves any faculty professional development concerns so that he can present them to the FPD Committee.

## Presentation Explores ‘Grotesque’ Play

Dr. Mariana Pensa will present an article at the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, April 19-21 at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Her article, written in Spanish, carries the English title “*Relojero* by Armando Discépolo: Confronting generations and the new social ethic.”

Dealing with a play written in 1934 by the Argentinean playwright Armando Discépolo, it describes the way different generations interact and the conflicts that arise.

Pensa said this particular play epitomizes several elements of “grotesque theater,” a literary genre that highlights conflict through the simultaneous use of laughter and tragedy. Pensa’s doctoral thesis dealt with several Argentinean and Italian playwrights who specialized in *grotesco*.

*Relojero* is the last play written by Armando Discépolo, who abandoned writing and continued a career as a director and translator until his death in 1970.

Pensa is an assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. She currently is teaching Survey of Latin American Literature, and she encourages her students to conduct research on theater.

Her presentation in Kentucky is made possible by a travel grant from the Faculty Professional Development Committee.



Dr. Mariana Pensa

## Opening Features Free Music Celebration

— Continued from page 1

which she recently recorded with the California University Choir at the Ocean Way Recording studio in Nashville.

Also performing at the free event will be Brother Jeep & the Old Shoes Band, featuring George “Jeep” Kyle, an officer with the California University Police Department.

A favorite at venues throughout western Pennsylvania, Officer “Jeep” and his band will get the crowd moving with a selection of oldies, classic rock and country hits.

“It’s an entire afternoon of great music, all leading up to the Kenny Rogers concert,” said Craig Butzine, vice president for Marketing and University Relations.

“We have so much talent at Cal U, and this seemed like the perfect time to showcase our alumni, staff and student musicians.

“We’re also encouraging people to drive in early for the Kenny Rogers show. They can relax and enjoy some free entertainment even before the concert gets started.”

Food and beverages will be available.

### Froggy ‘Idol’

The grand opening festivities kick off with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. to formally dedicate the Convocation Center.

The Community Celebration of Music will open at 4 p.m. with a song by the 2012 “Froggy Idol, winner of the radio station’s on-air, *American Idol*-style singing competition.

Froggy Radio’s Danger Frog personality will broadcast live from the Convocation Center Courtyard from 4-7 p.m., and various students groups are slated to perform.

In case of inclement weather, the celebration will move into the Convocation Center lobby.

At 6:30 p.m., doors open to ticketholders for a concert by American music legend Kenny Rogers, the voice behind hits such as “Coward of the County,” “The Gambler,” “Lady” and “Islands in the Stream.”

With 1 diamond, 19 platinum and 31 gold albums to his credit, Rogers’ voice is recognizable worldwide. In more than 50 years in show business, he has recorded more than 65 albums and sold over 120 million records.

“Kenny Rogers always gives a wonderful show,” said Tom Rooney, of The Rooney Sports and Entertainment Group. “He’s a true professional. People are going to have a really good time.”

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., with opening performances by contemporary country music star Billy Dean and singer-songwriter Andy Gibson, one of Nashville’s hottest young talents. Links to music videos and song clips can be found on the Cal U website, [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

*Tickets for the Kenny Rogers concert, with Billy Dean and Andy Gibson, are on sale now at all Ticketmaster locations, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), or at the Cal U Convocation Center Box Office between 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. To charge tickets by phone, call 1-800-745-3000. Ticket price includes parking at Cal U.*

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