

Gary Peters named new Griffin Chair

Former lottery commissioner eager to share knowledge of public service



Gary Peters

Former Michigan Lottery commissioner **Gary Peters** will bring years of political and business experience to his new role as the **Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government**.

As chair, Peters will teach two political science seminars and organize two forums each year that address public policy and political issues throughout Michigan. Peters also plans to implement an electronic journal that will bring students, academics and practitioners together on public policy issues facing Michigan and the country.

"As a former state senator, city councilman and candidate for Michigan attorney general, I look forward to sharing my nuts-and-bolts knowledge of public service with students at Central Michigan," Peters said. "I am also looking forward to hosting forums that will explore some of the public policy challenges we face in Michigan."

Peters' public service experience includes serving as a member of the Michigan Senate and the Rochester Hills City Council. His business experience includes positions as vice president of investments for UBS PaineWebber Inc. and assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch Inc., both in Rochester Hills. Peters also has served on arbitration panels for the National Association of Securities Dealers and the New York Stock Exchange. Peters served as a lieutenant commander and Seabee combat warfare specialist in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

As lottery commissioner, Peters was responsible for the overall management and operation of the lottery. The Michigan Lottery is a \$2 billion-plus business, which last year generated a record \$688 million for the state School Aid Fund. Under Peters' leadership, the lottery set new records for three consecutive years.

"Coming directly from the public sector, Gary will bring to this position a fresh perspective of what's happening in Lansing today, as well as many new contacts," said **Jim Hill**, director of CMU's

honors program and former political science faculty member.

Peters received a bachelor's degree in political science from Alma College, a Master of Business Administration in finance from the University of Detroit Mercy, a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School and is currently a doctoral candidate in political philosophy at Michigan State University. He also has held teaching positions at Michigan State, Wayne State and Oakland University.

The Griffin Endowment was established in 1999 through private donations to fund the salary and associated costs of a government and public policy expert who serves as a faculty member in CMU's political science department.

The Griffin program seeks to build interest and increased engagement in politics among young adults, faculty and the general citizenry. The endowment honors Robert and Marjorie Griffin, both distinguished CMU alumni.

Bill Ballenger leaves legacy of notable accomplishments



Bill Ballenger

Although the Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government position at Central Michigan University is a three-year term, **Bill Ballenger** stayed four. The decision to extend the contract was

based on his notable success as chair, which will not soon be forgotten.

Ballenger, the editor and publisher of Inside Michigan Politics, brought many positive things to his students, fellow faculty members and the entire CMU

community. Among these include a day visit to the Capitol building in Lansing each semester and the creation of a Griffin Endowed Chair Web site.

"The most important thing Bill brought to his students was his enthusiasm for public service coupled with an incredibly extensive knowledge of Michigan government and history," said Larry Sych, CMU political science faculty member. "He supercharged his classes, and his students time and again have told me that while he's one tough professor, he is among the best they have had."

As chair, Ballenger taught two political science seminars and organized two

forums annually that addressed public policy issues. The forums covered many diverse topics, including threats to the Great Lakes, gambling, judiciary elections, Michigan's economy, the 2004 presidential campaign, affirmative action, state elections and Michigan's Constitution.

"The most rewarding part of my role as the CMU Griffin Endowed Chair was developing both an academic and personal relationship with some outstanding students and personalities who I am convinced will go on to really make something of themselves in coming years," said Ballenger. "There is a lot of talent among the nearly 200 undergraduates I taught, and my life may grow dull without them."