

# Parent News

Fall 2006

## CMU BUILDS REPUTATION FOR LEADERSHIP

### Programs, scholarships enhance student development

Derek Collard never knew he was a leader until he came to CMU.

Now he's the president of his hall community and spends his spare time cultivating his leadership skills through retreats, workshops, and volunteering through CMU's LEAD Program.



*Paul Pridgeon, a sophomore Leader Advancement Scholarship recipient and leadership minor, helps Tara Fairchild, a fifth grader at Mary McGuire Elementary, scale the rock-climbing wall during a CMU Leadership Institute outreach event.*

He's also developing plans to open his own business, combining his interests in psychology and commercial recreation.

"I never saw myself as a leader throughout high school," said Collard, a sophomore from Sterling Heights. "I gave into that idea that leaders are born, not made. I realize now that everyone has leadership qualities – there's not just a cutout of a leader."

Each year, CMU's Leadership Institute supports 4,000 students such as Collard with dozens of leadership training opportunities and practical experiences.

The LEAD Program – a free four-year experience open to any CMU student – teaches the fundamentals of leadership and helps students develop important skills for the rest of their lives. Under the LEAD Program, the Leadership Institute tracks leadership involvement for participants as they advance through the program. In their junior year students with a significant commitment to leadership are eligible to join a leadership honors society.

### Only leadership minor in Michigan

The LEAD Program is just one of many ways CMU is becoming known in the state for its leadership development.

CMU is the first and only four-year university in Michigan to offer an academic minor in leadership, which can be combined with any major. CMU also offers 40 Leader Advancement Scholarships. Each award is worth \$2,000 per year to high school students who show leadership qualities.

Collard first learned about CMU's LEAD Program by attending a free six-day off-campus conference called LeaderShape. The conference teaches participants how to commit to a vision, how to develop relationships to make the vision into a reality, and how to sustain a high level of integrity.

Other activities offered by CMU's Leadership Institute include Leadership Camp and Leadership Safari for first-year students; Alpha Leadership Experience; the Connections Conference; and Leadership Challenge.

### Is your son or daughter a leader?

Encourage your son or daughter to find out more about CMU's many free leadership experiences by visiting [www.cmich.edu/cmulead](http://www.cmich.edu/cmulead) or stopping by the Leadership Institute on campus in Powers Hall. ■

Parent News is the CMU Parent Association Newsletter, published for parents of current CMU students. The newsletter is a joint project of the university's Dean of Students and Public Relations and Marketing offices.

**Parent News**  
Central Michigan University  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

**Writer** – Cynthia Drake

**Editor** – Dan Digmann

**Designer** – Amanda St. Juliana

**Photographers** – Robert Barclay,  
Peggy Brisbane

Communication between CMU staff and our students' families is important to us. Feel free to contact us with your questions.

**Academic Advising and Assistance**  
(989) 774-7506

**Career Services**  
(989) 774-3068

**Counseling Center**  
(989) 774-3381

**Dean of Students**  
(989) 774-3346

**Leadership Institute**  
(989) 774-1909

**Minority Student Services**  
(989) 774-3945

**Receivable Accounting**  
(989) 774-3618

**Residence Life**  
(989) 774-3111

**Registrar**  
(989) 774-3261

**Scholarships and Financial Aid**  
(989) 774-3674

**Student Life**  
(989) 774-3016

**Volunteer Center**  
(989) 774-7685

CMU, an AA/EQ institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see [www.cmich.edu/aaeo](http://www.cmich.edu/aaeo)).

Produced by CMU Public Relations and Marketing and printed by CMU Printing Services.  
PRM 7319-19,000 (10/06)

## STUDENT-ATHLETES SUCCEED IN CLASSROOM

### CMU claims top MAC academic honor fifth year in a row

For the fifth straight year and the ninth time in the last 10, Central Michigan University student-athletes have captured the Mid-American Conference Institutional Academic Achievement Award.

The award is presented to the MAC school with the highest overall grade point average for student-athletes competing in MAC-sponsored sports. The Chippewas turned in a cumulative 3.075 grade point average among 368 student-athletes competing in 16 sports during the 2005-06 season.

The five straight titles is the longest consecutive run in the 12-year history of the award. After tying Ball State for the award in 1996-97, CMU rattled off another three championships before Bowling Green took the top honor in 2000-01. The Chippewas regained the crown a year later and haven't given it up since.

"The ultimate goal of our student-athletes is to be successful in the classroom," Athletics Director Dave Heeke said. "Once again this year, CMU turned in the most outstanding performance in the conference, and we are proud of that. Academic success will always be a core value of our department.

"This success wouldn't be possible without the academic support system we have in place. The tradition we have built with

this award is due in large part to the commitment of Pat Podoll and Deb McAlpin."

### Award is a source of pride

Podoll is in her 16th year as assistant athletics director in charge of academics. McAlpin is in her eighth year as an academic advisor.

"We're proud of the fact that CMU student-athletes continue to balance academics and athletics successfully," Podoll said.

"The support of our coaching staff and administration has been key, along with the commitment from the student-athletes. The award has been a source of pride for the student-athletes. They talk about it with each other and are really starting to get competitive about keeping it at CMU." ■



Helping CMU student-athletes to earn the Mid-American Conference's top academic award for the highest GPA in nine of the past 10 years, members of the CMU women's soccer team ranked first in the nation for highest GPA (3.63) among 308 Division I colleges.

## BREAKING DOWN THE 2005-06 GPA RANKINGS

School	MAC Sports	Student-Athletes	GPA
Central Michigan	16	368	3.075
Eastern Michigan	19	411	3.073
Western Michigan	15	345	3.04
Northern Illinois	17	376	3.036
Toledo	16	330	3.010
Ball State	18	368	2.995
Miami	17	415	2.98
Akron	17	341	2.977
Bowling Green	17	355	2.97
Ohio	19	438	2.962
Kent State	18	373	2.88
Buffalo	19	491	2.833

## IMPORTANT INITIATIVES ENHANCE CMU EXPERIENCE

By Michael Rao, Ph.D.  
University president

Welcome to the Fall 2006 issue of *Parent News*, Central Michigan University's twice-yearly publication featuring university news that matters to you. I appreciate any opportunity to address the parents of CMU students. This newsletter is an effective tool to keep in touch.

### A New Vision of Excellence campaign a success

The CMU community recently completed the historic New Vision of Excellence campaign. CMU's first-ever capital campaign raised \$78 million through 70,000 individual gifts – most of which were for student scholarships. On behalf of the university community, sincere thanks to everyone who contributed.

In addition to scholarships, the New Vision already has funded several interesting projects on campus and across the state that enhance our learning environment. The university acquired a boathouse on Beaver Island to make CMU's biological station safer and more accessible for fieldwork and research. In August, the Ben and Marion Celani Residence Hall and Fabiano Family Residence Hall opened with modern living accommodations for 456 students, classrooms, and dining facilities. CMU also opened its new Troy Center, which houses its vehicle design program. It is one of seven CMU centers in metro Detroit and 60 centers nationwide providing strong academic degree programs for working professionals.

Please read about other outstanding initiatives in this issue of *Parent News*, including the ongoing academic success of CMU's student-athletes, the university's leadership training programs, and opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student research.



Michael Rao

### Advocate to ensure state dollars follow students

To continue offering outstanding educational programs like these while remaining accessible to motivated, talented students, CMU must see an increase in its state funding.

Despite the success of the capital campaign, a \$30 million drop in state appropriations over the last few years continues to have

aftereffects on the CMU community. CMU has had the state's fourth-highest overall enrollment and fourth-highest graduation rate, but the fourth-lowest per-student state appropriations.

In 2006-07, CMU's state appropriations increased by \$2.3 million – up a modest 2.9 percent from last year but \$10 million below its appropriation of five years ago. Meanwhile, the university's costs for salary and benefits, retirement, and utilities alone are expected to increase by more than \$15 million this year.

Please contact Michigan legislators and government officials to advocate for equal per-student funding at the state's public universities, just as Michigan does for K-12 education. Allocating state dollars to follow students would preserve the diverse landscape of the Michigan higher education system, allowing students to select a university that best fits their needs and holding universities accountable for providing an outstanding educational value.

I am grateful for the support of CMU's many constituents who write to legislators to encourage equal funding among similar universities, and I request that all friends of the university lend their voices to this important cause. By writing or e-mailing Michigan's elected officials, you can help influence decisions and ensure the quality of our state's public higher education system.

### STAY CONNECTED

In an effort to connect with you between *Parent News* publications, I will begin e-mailing periodic university updates to interested parents. Sign up to receive *News from the President* at [www.cmich.edu/parentmail.asp](http://www.cmich.edu/parentmail.asp).

Thank you for your support and your interest in the life of the university. We are proud to have you and your family as members of the CMU community. ■



A new \$1.25 million boathouse on Beaver Island was funded almost entirely by private donors. The boathouse will expand student and faculty research opportunities at CMU's biological station on the island. CMU is one of only two universities in the Midwest and the only one in Michigan to offer a research station on a Great Lakes archipelago.

# Parent News

## FROM ONE EMPTY NEST TO ANOTHER

### Here's what you need to know about sending your son or daughter off to college this fall

We asked alumni parents who have been there to share their advice with parents who sent college freshmen off to campus for the first time this fall. From dealing with life changes to upset phone calls, here's what they had to say.



Sophomore Allison Jakubowski from Casco had the help of her parents, Mark and Connie, as she transported the contents of a trailer, an SUV, and a car into her new room in Celani Hall.

### How your life changes

"The hardest part of sending Alison off to college was knowing that she would not be there each morning to wake up for school or to stop to chat with before bed each night. We knew a special chapter in our lives was drawing to a close. What we didn't realize was that the new chapter would bring with it a wonderful young woman with great ideas, a sense of humor, compassion, and an adult relationship with us. We still have a very important part in her life – it's just different."

– Chris Gottleber, '73, mother of Alison Gottleber, a CMU senior

"Once you drop them off you'll walk by their bedroom, and it's going to be empty – you're going to have days when you miss them. I just found it was a period of time

where both of our kids really started to appreciate the whole family thing a lot more and us as parents. Look at it as a growing period for your children, and know they're going to come back as different people – but in a positive way."

– Sue Hank, '76, mother of Sarah Hank, '02

"On a personal level, her going away to college represents an ending of an era, so to speak. As a dad, I want her to be safe, and I want to be able to be there for her on a moment's notice. But now she will be using much more of her own ingenuity and common sense to help her cope with day-to-day demands. Until now, I ask myself, 'What's Anna doing?' and I have a pretty good idea. Once she is away at school I'll ask myself the same question and often answer with, 'I have no clue.' Parents learn to give up more and more control throughout their child's high school years. That relinquishing of control is even more precipitous once college comes along."

– Paul Coleman, Psy.D. '83, clinical psychologist and father of Anna Coleman, who started at CMU this fall

### Phone calls home

"Believe in your son or daughter's ability to survive without you. When they call and want you to bail them out with advice, money, picking them up, or whatever tactic they might use to pull you into solving a problem for them, patiently encourage them to tell you what they can do to solve the problem themselves. If they get upset with you because you won't take the bait and become responsible for their problem, you may have to patiently say you are going to hang up now and will talk to them later. And no matter how homesick they get, or how bad they tell you their roommates or teachers are, or how bad the food is (all tactics to pull on your heartstrings), tell them you would like them to stay until the end of the semester and you can re-evaluate then. Tell them you believe in them and that these things will

help them learn how to cope with life. Of course they may say a few choice words to you at this point, but hold firm."

– Sandy Kreps, '80, guidance counselor and mother of Kelli Krepps, a CMU senior

"Students may have a lot of anxiety at first – they might not like their roommates, their professors, their schedules, living arrangements. Cliché advice should be avoided. Don't say things like, 'Oh, you'll get over it, you'll be fine, it's no big deal.' Those messages might sound encouraging or optimistic but can actually convey the message 'Your perceptions and reactions are wrong, you can't trust yourself to make sound judgments.' Better to hear them out, take them seriously, let the student come up with ideas for dealing with the problems. Often the student just wants to vent."

– Paul Coleman

### Last-minute advice – dos and don'ts

"In my mind, I keep hearing myself say to Anna as I'm driving away, 'JUST SAY NO!' but of course that is my anxiety talking. Last-minute advice on sex, drugs, or alcohol isn't likely to make a difference at this point in time. She knows how we feel. I'd like to remind her that we have faith in her. Don't give advice or comments that carry the underlying message: 'I have no faith in your judgment.' College kids realize at some level they are still quite young and inexperienced. But they want to view themselves as older and more mature. Give them room to make their own decisions, since they will make them anyway."

– Paul Coleman

– Paul Coleman

"Encourage your child to get involved in something outside of going to class and hanging out with roommates. It broadens their horizons so much."

– Sue Hank

"I was concerned she might not take the time to relax, meet new people, and become involved in CMU. I suggested to her to get to know her instructors, get involved with student organizations, and to take a bowling class or one she could just have fun in. As it turned out she did all of the above and much, much more, which made her have a great college experience."

– Sally Wojciechowski, '73 MA '76, mother of Jessica Wojciechowski, a CMU senior

### Finding the bright spot

"Try to find the humor and positive light in all of this. Don't get too serious. Your child will likely make a lot of changes or try out new beliefs like they are trying on a new pair of jeans. Don't be offended or frightened if their religious beliefs get questioned or if their political views start to vary from your own. A parent should have faith that by now they have left a strong imprint. Your child will use it as a basis to make many decisions. Veering away from a parent's way of doing things is common and necessary. They may veer back later on or arrive at some middle-road place. Don't worry about it. We parents never had all the answers, and we never will."

– Paul Coleman



Sophomore Jessica Lovy from Southfield moved into Celani Hall with a little teamwork from her parents, Bryan and Charline, and her brother-in-law, Artie. When Charline Lovy walked into the room, she announced to her daughter, Jessica, "I like this. I'm staying." Jessica quickly dismissed her mother.

## CMU INTRODUCES NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### New science majors enhance biomedical meteorological studies

Three new majors now offered through the College of Science and Technology give students the skills needed for biomedical professions as well as meteorology – a field of increasing importance during an era of global warming.

- Biomedical sciences. The biomedical sciences major is designed for students interested in pursuing professional programs in medicine, biomedical research, or education, as well as graduate studies in traditional biology fields.
- Biochemistry. The biochemistry major prepares students to enter professional programs in dietetics, forensics, health professions, and pharmacology, as well as traditional biology and chemistry fields.
- Meteorology. CMU students have the chance to sign up for the only undergraduate meteorology major offered by Michigan's 15 public universities. In fact, CMU's program is one of only a handful of undergraduate meteorology majors nationwide.

### Business program one-of-a-kind in Michigan

CMU's College of Business Administration has unveiled the most hands-on, team-oriented Bachelor of Science Business Administration Program in Michigan. Designed with input from today's leading business professionals, this exceptional curriculum enables students to hit the ground running. Students work with the same small team across a block of classes, solving a business problem or presenting the results of an all-inclusive project to demonstrate your new business skills. This new program gives students a solid analytic base of required courses in algebra, calculus, and statistics to prepare them for upper-level courses. And here's the great news: 91 percent of our graduates find career-track jobs within three months of graduation.



An Honors sign language class, taught by Susan Velguth of communication disorders, opened its doors to the public in October for an American Sign Language demonstration. The event was part of Deaf Awareness Week activities.

### American Sign Language minor supplements health and human services degrees

CMU launched a new minor in American Sign Language (ASL) this fall. The program provides yet another strong subject area that can effectively supplement a number of health and human services bachelor degrees. Courses include four levels of American Sign Language, the socio-cultural history of the American deaf community, ASL linguistics, and more. The Herbert H. And Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions has been a leader in the fields of audiology and communication disorders. Faculty member Susan Naeve-Velguth, an expert in ASL, is developing an ASL dictionary that promises to become a valuable tool for people who want to communicate more effectively with people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. ■

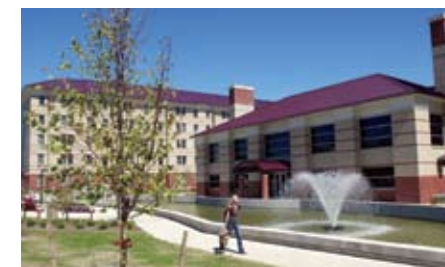
## POINTS OF PRIDE

### Student Success Centers fill important student needs

CMU is one of only a select group of universities in the country to offer critical student services right in the residence hall quads. Each quad of four residence halls has an academic advisor and counselor available to meet students' needs where they live. Assessment tools are provided to help students proactively identify any needs they have, and services are offered to help students be successful. The CMU counselor-on-site program also has received national recognition.

### Ben and Marion Celani and Fabiano Family residence halls opened this fall

Opening to students this fall were two new residence halls, named in honor of Ben and Marion Celani and the Fabiano Family. The halls provide 456 new beds. Each residential suite in the new buildings features four individual bedrooms, a shared living room, two baths, and high-speed Internet connections. Weight rooms, study lounges, computer centers, and a convenience store also are housed in this facility.



The new Ben and Marion Celani and Fabiano Family residence halls offer four-person suites with two bathrooms, a living area, and a kitchenette.

The Celani/Fabiano complex is the second residence hall expansion in the last three years. Three new halls – Campbell, Kessler, and Kulhavi – opened in fall 2003.

CMU is one of only a handful of Michigan's public universities that require freshmen to live on campus, reinforcing



Solomon Osifodunrin, left, a tutor in CMU's new Math Assistance Center, helps Kyle Shorr, middle, and Nathan Harutunian with their math course work.

CMU's hallmark tight-knit residential collegiate community. More than 6,000 students occupy 20 residence halls.

CMU's Residence Life system, of which these halls are the latest addition, provides important academic benefits to on-campus students. Statistics show that students living in on-campus housing progress toward graduation faster, have a higher retention rate (10-20 percent higher at CMU), and are more engaged and academically successful.

### Education Building project breaking ground in 2007

CMU's College of Education and Human Services is finalizing plans for a new \$50 million Education Building, which will break ground in early 2007 and be completed by summer 2009.

This technologically advanced new facility will bring all education-related faculty and programs together into one environment that models the integrative, interdisciplinary, and collaborative nature of the teacher education profession.

The state of Michigan has committed \$37.5 million toward the cost of the \$50 million project. The university will raise the remainder of the funds. ■

### Center helps students overcome difficulties with math courses

Two cars leave Flint at the same time, traveling in opposite directions. The car that is traveling north is moving 9 mph faster than the car traveling south. If the two cars are 405 miles apart after 3 hours, what is the speed of each car.\*

These are the kind of math questions Debbie Steiner, director of

Central Michigan University's new Math Assistance Center (MAC), and her colleagues help students tackle every day.

MAC is a new effort on the part of the College of Science and Technology and the Department of Mathematics to create a permanent, convenient site to help students struggling with university-level math.

In its first two weeks the center's tutors-mathematics education students and graduate students – helped 286 students.

\*Solution: The car going south is traveling at 63 mph and the car going north is traveling at 72 mph. Here's a hint: (uniform motion - use  $d = rt$ ) Let  $r$  = rate of car 1 going south then  $r + 9$  = rate of car 2 going north.



An architectural rendering of CMU's new Education Building

## PARENTS FUND CAMPAIGN COMING

Parents of current CMU students soon will receive a call asking them to support the CMU Parents Fund. The annual fundraising campaign for the Parents Fund is scheduled to begin in early 2007.

Parents Fund-supported activities help introduce CMU students to a diversity of ideas and cultures, prepare them to make good decisions, and enable them to develop a heightened sense of awareness, all within a supportive environment.

"The Parents Fund offers a special opportunity for parents to get involved in their children's CMU experience," said Geoff Bartlett, director of annual giving.

Past annual gifts to CMU's Parents Fund have contributed to a variety of projects, speakers, programs, and activities, including leadership scholarships, the Take Care Initiative, and Alternative Spring Break.

For more information about the Parents Fund, call (989) 774-7112 or visit the Web site [www.giving.cmich.edu](http://www.giving.cmich.edu).

# NEWS

## INCREASED FUNDING SUPPORTS STUDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

### CMU 2010 initiative funds programs

Senior ceramics major Erica Passage is just one student who benefited from increased funding for undergraduate research through CMU 2010's support of research and creative activity.

CMU 2010 is funding \$68,200 for increased instructional support for student-centered research during FY06, FY07, and FY08 – specifically for the Undergraduate Summer Scholars Program and for the Undergraduate and Graduate Research and Presentation and Publication programs.

As a result, the number of CMU's summer scholars for 2006 was up to 23 from 17 last year.

"Hopefully, this will translate into more student publications and juried performances or shows over the next few years,"

said psychology professor Gary Dunbar, a cochair of the 2010 committee focusing on enhancing CMU's infrastructure for research and creative activity.

Through the Summer Scholars program, Passage spent five weeks this past summer studying and making ceramics in the northern and southern regions of China.

"I think it's totally great. It's nice CMU does this so we can go out and study on our own and experience something different," Passage said. "Taking ceramics at CMU has been awesome because I've gotten the chance to work with a whole slew of professors. Margaret Ware, in particular, has been a really good professor for me."

"Hopefully, this will translate into more student publications and juried performances or shows over the next few years."

—Gary Dunbar, professor of psychology

Passage first heard about the China ceramics program, hosted by West Virginia University, from a visiting professor. He showed them a slide show of his experiences and gave them a perspective on why China is the birthplace of porcelain, the hard ceramic that Passage specializes in.

"I like the process of ceramics. You make a piece and fire it and maybe you don't like it, so you have to start over. It's not predictable, and that's what I like most about it," Passage said.

After graduation Passage plans to teach secondary art education and, eventually, become self-supporting through her art. ■



*Senior Erica Passage finalizes the design of her artwork in a CMU art studio. Increased funding for undergraduate research at CMU helped Passage explore her artistic interests this past summer as she spent five weeks studying and making ceramics in China.*