Beaver Island Biological Station is an important outpost for CMU research, classes. An Olympic effort CMU alumni play key roles in the Rio Summer Games.
Let the games begin
The 2016 Summer Olympics kick off in Rio de Janeiro in August, and an army of Chippewas have been working behind the scenes to make it happen.

Creating their own careers
Entrepreneurship is hot, and CMU alumni are part of the most successful and encouraging business startup climate in two decades.

Excellence on, off the field
Student-athletes benefit from the Dick Enberg Academic Center, a highly supportive environment where they find help with their studies.

Do you remember?
Shelving and printed reference collections at Park Library are transforming into collaborative study spaces with movable furniture and learning technology.
departments

4 CMU Today
Auto giant Ford Motor Co. looks to CMU for innovative new talent.

34 Hidden Central
CMU’s student memorial gives grieving students, faculty and staff a place to reflect when students pass away.

36 Alumni news
A journalism alum has the tables turned on her when Tina Fey starts asking the questions.

39 In Memory

Make new connections, but keep the old. Some are silver, but these are Gold

There are no connections like your CMU connections. Become a CMU Alumni Association Gold Member, and build lasting connections with your alma mater and fellow alumni, no matter where you are.

Go Gold today
Cmich.edu/alumni
Cool jobs for Chippewas everywhere

Olympic Games and creative entrepreneurs are fueled by CMU passion

By Marcie Otteman Grawburg, ’87, executive director of alumni relations

My family moved to the country four miles outside of Clare in the summer of 1976.

With a TV antenna that seemed to reach the treetops, we got just three channels on a good day. I spent two full weeks that July watching any Olympics coverage I could tune in.

I was 11, and I couldn’t get enough of it.

I witnessed Nadia Comăneci win three gold medals and become the first gymnast to score a perfect 10. I cheered for the USA in swimming and boxing and the decathlon. I remember how excited and proud I felt seeing athletes wearing red, white and blue parade in during the opening ceremonies as “The Star-Spangled Banner” played for all the world to hear.

Fast forward four decades, and I’m emailing my friend and fellow alumnus Kelly Skinner about the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The very best part of what I do is connecting with alumni such as Kelly and his colleagues at the United States Olympic Committee about their really cool jobs. I love hearing how their CMU connection is alive and strong as they work together to bring Team USA to Rio.

In this summer issue, don’t miss our feature about all the CMU grads involved in making things happen for our Olympic athletes as they prepare to compete for our country in Brazil.

And speaking of cool jobs, I can’t wait for you to read about four entrepreneurs who are putting their stamp on the world by turning their ideas into success with interesting, imaginative and helpful products.

This year’s 10 within 10 class brings us another amazing group of recent alumni who have jumped into their careers with gusto. They include a Harvard law grad, an administrator making an impact with Special Olympic athletes and an Emmy-winning Fox Sports broadcaster, to mention a few.

Famed sports broadcaster Dick Enberg, ’57, continues to make his mark at CMU by supporting the Enberg Academic Center in Athletics, which opened on campus in 1999 to serve the academic needs of CMU student-athletes. In this issue, you’ll read about the success students are achieving because of the center, reaching high as they compete as athletes and work to earn their degrees.

It’s summertime. I hope you’re enjoying a moment in the sun with your copy of Centralight.

Marcie
New Carnegie Classification places CMU in higher doctoral research category

Central is among 7 percent of schools in the nation with prestigious doctoral classification

Central Michigan is one of just eight doctoral universities in the country to advance from limited research activity to higher research activity in the 2015 Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

The Carnegie Classification is the most comprehensive review of more than 4,660 colleges and universities in the U.S. CMU is recognized as one of the nation’s 335 doctoral universities and is among only 5 percent of U.S. institutions in the two highest research classifications.

Doctoral universities fall into three categories – R3, limited research activity; R2, higher research activity; and R1, highest research activity. The 2015 classification moves CMU from R3 to R2. Only two other Michigan institutions join CMU with R2 status – Michigan Technological University and Western Michigan University.

Partnership with Ford Motor Co. a win-win
Auto giant looks to CMU for innovative new talent

CMU students learned about all aspects of Ford Motor Co. when they visited the company’s conference and event center in Dearborn this spring as part of an ongoing effort to nurture a partnership between CMU and the automotive and mobility company.

“CMU’s growing relationship with Ford Motor Co. has opened countless opportunities for our students,” says Robert VanDorin, associate director of career services and employer relations.

Ford also benefits from the relationship. The company employs more than 900 Chippewa alumni globally, and the recruiting team wants even more. Various recruiters from manufacturing, purchasing, and information systems and technology make regular trips to Mount Pleasant to foster partnerships with faculty and students.

“Our relationships with universities like CMU are critical in attracting the best talent to drive innovation and make people’s lives better,” says Felicia Fields, Ford group vice president of human resources and corporate services. “The demand for talent continues to increase globally, and our relationship with CMU helps to build strong connections with the students who will help us build an exciting future.”

Learning and giving back in Detroit
Service learning trip helps Leader Advancement Scholars grow and bond

Each year, the Leader Advancement Scholar freshman cohort participates in an annual tradition – a service learning trip to Detroit. Alongside students from previous cohorts who help plan and facilitate the trip, 63 CMU students left their mark on the community this spring.

“The service learning trip to Detroit is not only an opportunity for students to serve and grow as leaders, but to bond and grow with their cohort and reflect on how much they have already gained from the Leader Advancement Scholar experience,” Brighton junior Jordyn Salerno says.

The Leader Advancement Scholarship is awarded each year to 40 outstanding high school seniors who have distinguished themselves through leadership and service. CMU offers more scholarships for leadership than any college or university in the Midwest.

On this visit, CMU students facilitated a service day for the high school students at Jalen Rose Leadership Academy, including projects for Special Olympics, the Children’s Hospital of Michigan and Arts & Scraps. They participated in three service projects at Cass Community Social Services and learned how the organization has evolved to meet the community’s needs.
CMU student awarded institution’s first national Goldwater Scholarship

The first Goldwater Scholarship in Central’s history has been awarded to Kristopher Kieft, an honors student majoring in biology. Kieft was one of 252 scholars chosen from a pool of 1,150 national nominations. The Barry Goldwater Scholarship Program was created to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to pursue research careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Kieft, a junior from Rothbury, believes the nationally competitive scholarship will be crucial to his acceptance into a graduate program where he plans to continue his research in emerging viruses.

Plymouth junior Brent Piligian was named a 2016 Goldwater Honorable Mention, the third in CMU history. Piligan, a biomedical science and neuroscience major, plans to pursue his M.D./Ph. D. in chemical and molecular biology.

Alyssa Shepard, a senior honors student from Holland, Michigan, has been offered a prestigious 2016-2017 Fulbright Study/Research Grant to the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. She will complete graduate level study in a Cancer Cell and Molecular Biology program at University of Leicester. •

Where entrepreneurial dreams become a business reality

New Venture Competition unites students and industry experts

The Central Michigan University New Venture Competition is more than just a daylong business pitch event. The sixth annual competition, which resulted in more than $80,000 in startup capital awards, was the culmination of months of learning and collaboration by 22 teams and industry mentors to bring their innovations to life.

The overall winner, ShareCase LLC, earned $30,000 for its interactive web portal designed to revolutionize outdated technology used in medical schools.

“It is incredible to see our students’ passion for their business ideas or innovations and watch them grow as entrepreneurs,” says Bruce Marble, entrepreneur-in-residence in CMU’s Isabella Bank Institute for Entrepreneurship and Department of Entrepreneurship. •

Congrats, #cmich2016 grads

More than 2,400 students received their undergraduate degrees in May, alongside more than 800 students who received their master’s degrees. See more scenes from commencement at cmich.ly/cmich2016pics •

Event video
AN OLYMPIC EFFORT

ARMY OF CHIPPEWA ALUMNI SUPPORT TEAM USA

BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE, M.A. ‘08
John Geddert watches one of his students at Gedderts' Twistars USA Gymnastics Club in DeWitt
HEARING “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” WHEN YOU’RE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY CAN BE SPINE-TINGLING.

Anyone who has ever attended the Olympic Games or traveled with a team abroad can’t help but talk about the rush they feel at the opening ceremonies and again each time Team USA athletes lean forward to accept their medals. It’s a deep, loyal pride felt by hard-working athletes and their throngs of supporters.

“That gets the chin quivering a little bit,” says Kelly Skinner, M.A. ’02, one of several CMU alumni working to make big things happen for our Olympic athletes as they prepare to compete this summer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

“I totally get caught up in the moment. I believe myself to be a patriotic person, but when you’re in a foreign country and you see that flag go up, that’s a dream that just came true,” he says.

For so many people involved in the 2016 Rio Games, dreams will come true. And that’s in no small part due to the love, drive and commitment of Skinner and other Central alumni working behind the scenes and around the globe.
KELLY SKINNER’S CHIPPEWA ARMY
Skinner has been involved with the Olympics since 1995, and time and again, it’s CMU alumni involved in that organization who credit Skinner with their career trajectory.

“There’s a rumor that Kelly is secretly building a Chippewa army to take over the whole USOC,” one alum jokes.

It’s no rumor, Skinner says. “I flat out say it to people.”

Skinner had been working in sales in the early ’90s, but he had a dream to get involved with athletics promotion. He started working on his master’s degree at Central and heard of a CMU alumna who had interned with the Olympic weightlifting team in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

“Because she had done so well, weightlifting was where I ended up going,” he says. “A CMUer had knocked it out of the park, so I had a chance. She did that for me, so I can do it for others.”

Since then, Skinner has made it his personal mission to get as many qualified CMU graduates in front of the Olympics organization as possible.

“We have a soup-to-nuts story here about what we’re doing,” he says, referring to the broad scope of activities that CMU alums are involved in throughout the Olympics. “And it’s going to all come together down in Rio.”

PREPARING THE ATHLETES
When Olympic athletes need to train, they may choose one of three USOC Training Centers: Chula Vista, California; Lake Placid, New York; or the flagship training center in Colorado Springs, where Justin O’Connell, ’08, M.S.A. ’12, is based.

As assistant manager of the training center, O’Connell schedules the facility’s gyms, pools and other spaces, and he makes sure teams such as track and field and swimming are able to train when they need to. Some teams, such as women’s wrestling, stay year-round in Colorado Springs. Other teams are more decentralized.

“I think it’s really unique to work with athletes in this environment,” he says. “I’ve gotten to meet athletes from every single country in the world.”

O’Connell says he’s inspired by the average Olympic hopeful – the one who is busting his or her tail and working toward qualifying for the team.

“A lot of athletes are actually broke,” he says, adding that they dedicate their lives to their sport, forgoing school, work and other pursuits.

Like O’Connell in Colorado, Nathan Kopp, ’11, works at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. The 155-acre outdoor summer sports training facility is home to track and field, Paralympic track and field, men’s and women’s rugby, men’s field hockey, BMX, and Paralympic tennis.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work with some of the best sprinters in the world, such as Allyson Felix, Dawn Harper and Jeneba Tarmoh,” says Kopp. “I really cherish the fact that I get to see the side of athletes that the media and general public don’t get to see.”

Though neither O’Connell nor Kopp will travel to Rio, they’ll both be cheering on the athletes who trained so hard in their facilities.

“I am looking forward to seeing all of the athletes I work with every day compete on the largest stage in the world,” Kopp says. “I’ve seen the hard work and dedication they have put in over the last four years, and it’s their time to shine.”

Other specialized training facilities around the U.S. serve Olympic athletes, too. Before gymnastics Olympian Jordyn Wieber competed during the 2012 Summer Games in London, she had been training with CMU alumnus John Geddert’s Twistars USA Gymnastics Club in Lansing – since she was 3.

“Olympians are a rarity in the sport of gymnastics,” says Geddert, who attended CMU from 1976 to 1980. “Less than one-tenth of 1 percent of gymnasts will earn a spot on the Olympic team.”

Geddert was head coach for the Olympic team in 2012 and the world team in 2011. This year, he will travel to Rio in support of an Olympic hopeful representing Trinidad and Tobago.

SETTING THE STAGE
Skinner’s team has the crucial responsibility of setting up Olympic Village, where 16,000 people will live and eat. It includes a dining hall that can serve 10,000. His mission: make that environment feel like home for the U.S. Olympians.

“These are brand new buildings, and you are the first tenants,” he says. “It goes from being a city where no one lives to being fully operational within 30 days.

“We encounter all kinds of things. We’ll encounter broken toilets, keys that don’t work. Everybody’s schedules are different. We have to think strategically – being in one 18-story building is a new challenge, but it will be a fun one to think about how to put the puzzle together.”
MAINTAINING ATHLETIC INTEGRITY, ALWAYS

As athlete services coordinator at the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, Kirk Waara, ’10, coordinates drug testing for 25 Olympic and Paralympic sports.

“It really keeps me on my toes to be ready for anything,” Waara says.

Though doping among athletes grabs headlines across the globe every year and continues to be controversial, Waara says he focuses on the USADA mission: to preserve the integrity of competition and protect the rights of athletes.

“We aren’t in business to remove athletes from sport, but to promote clean competition and ensure a fair and level playing field for all athletes,” he says. “My biggest fear is an athlete losing out on an Olympic medal because they lost to an athlete who was doping and got away with it. That’s why I do my job every day – to prevent that from happening.”

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Though she works with some of the fastest athletes on the planet, one of the most rewarding parts of the job for Talia Mark, ’06, involves inspiring children.

As associate director of anti-doping and community programs for USA Track and Field, Mark works in a variety of challenging roles, but she gets excited talking about the organization’s RunJumpThrow program for children. It involves USA Track and Field athletes working with children worldwide to get them pumped about sports.

Through a Hershey sponsorship, the program and its curriculum are free for schools and other organizations.

“Traveling abroad, we’ll go to children’s hospitals or juvenile detention centers,” says Mark. “There are hundreds of thousands of kids who get on the track with the athletes and see what it’s like to throw a turbo jab – a kid version of a javelin. Our athletes love to give back to the sport that’s given them so much.”

When the program started about two years ago, the goal was to reach 1.3 million children by 2020. But Mark said it’s been so successful, they’ll surpass that goal three times.

FROM THE SIDELINES IN RIO DE JANEIRO

When Lindsay Wyskowski, ’08, was 10 years old, she made a scrapbook of the 1996 Atlanta Games. By 14, she had amassed a VHS library of Olympic swimming. “That was the only time you saw swimming on TV,” she says. “I was really taken with NBC’s reporting – that drew me to the sports journalism side of it.”

After graduating from Central, she took an intro to sport management class with Tera Albrecht, now a CMU associate athletic director. She mentioned the Olympics, and “I thought that was the coolest thing that anyone ever said,” says Wyskowski.

She worked her way up, holding jobs with other teams before becoming the communications manager for USA Triathlon, the position she holds now. Wyskowski works with the media on behalf of Olympians and Paralympians, as well as the “everyday triathletes” who are involved in the sport.

Team USA has only placed once in the Triathlon – a bronze in 2004 – but this year’s teammate Gwen Jorgensen is a gold-medal favorite.

“She’s the No. 1 ranked women’s triathlete in the world. She hasn’t lost a race since May 2014,” says Wyskowski. “It’s going to be one of the best experiences I think I will have professionally and personally.”

With a potential medalist on her hands, Wyskowski is preparing for round-the-clock media coverage and all the excitement that may bring from the sidelines in Rio.

And she’s not alone – she’s got an army of Chippewa alumni right there with her.

MANY PATHS TO OLYMPIC EFFORTS

Kelly Skinner, M.A. ’02
Master of Arts, sport administration

Justin O’Connell, ’08, MSA ’12
Bachelor of Applied Arts, sport studies major, accounting minor; Master of Science in Administration, sport administration

Lindsay Wyskowski, ’08
Bachelor of Applied Arts, sport studies

Kirk Waara, ’10
Bachelor of Science, sport studies

Talia Mark, ’06
Bachelor of Applied Arts, integrative public relations

Nathan Kopp, ’11, M.A. ’13
Bachelor of Applied Arts, sport studies; Master of Arts, Sport administration

John Geddet, 1976-80
Physical education/athletic training (non-degree-holding alumnus)

At press time, Centralight learned Alex Rose, ’14, qualified to compete in the discus in Rio. Rose, who earned his bachelor of science in English and creative writing, has dual citizenship and will be competing for Samoa in August. He is a native of West Branch.
It’s the best-looking rear end on the road

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cmich.edu/alumni
Stuck on the island... happily

TEXT BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE, M.A. ’08
PHOTOS BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
CMU employee looks back after nearly four decades on Beaver Island

CMU’s “northern campus,” as some call it, is an island only accessible by plane or boat and sometimes neither, when the weather’s nasty.

People still leave the keys in their cars here. The community school is one building for K-12, and fewer than 100 students attend. It’s a place where everybody really does know your name.

CMU’s Biological Station on Beaver Island celebrates its 50th anniversary this year as an important outpost for university scientific research and summer courses.

The university purchased lakefront property on the island for $1 in 1942. Now it includes a multi-million-dollar academic center with lecture halls and labs and its own 28-foot research vessel named the M/V Chippewa, which moors in the municipal marina.

“I don’t know too many computer labs that have a view of Lake Michigan,” says Carolyn Works, the university’s food services director.

Works, ‘80, has been there 35 years as a student, employee and a yearlong resident of one of Michigan’s most unique, beautiful and unforgiving places.

“I loved observing nature,” Works remembers of her first years on the island 30 miles out from Charlevoix’s pristine Lake Michigan shoreline.

“When I came up here for the summer, I brought my sketching stuff and my books to write in. I just love this place. I like the air. Beaver Island’s the kind of place that you either love it or you hate it. Or you fall in love with the place and do anything to stay here.”

Works, who eventually met her husband, John, on the island, took the third option and happily remained there thanks to her position with CMU.

In addition to the diehard year-round locals and the people who own vacation homes there, every summer brings a crop of college students.

“Every year you see master’s candidates up here to work, Ph.D. candidates doing field research. ... It can be a real intellectual atmosphere,” says Works.

CMU researchers have studied a host of issues confronting Michigan wildlife there. Some of it hits close to home on Beaver Island, like when CMU teamed up with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the growing cormorant population and its effect on local fish.

The university nurtures its relationship with the island and its community, even though the station is five miles from where the locals, live, work and shop.

Works once presented a slideshow to the community of photos she captured as part of a class she took in the 1980s. And each year, the Biological Station hosts a community open house to showcase the research CMU does on water quality and invasive species in the Great Lakes.

Works enjoys living with a foot in both the town and the university, and fostering new connections to the place she’s proud to call home. •
We celebrate the 50th anniversary in 2016 – marking its official name change in 1966 – but the story of CMU’s Beaver Island Biological Station actually began in 1942. In February of that year, Norm Bovee and Charles Anspach worked together to purchase 45 acres on the isolated island in Lake Michigan. Purchase price: $1. Rate of return, invaluable.

1959 | CMU builds its first building on the island, establishing the Central Michigan University Beaver Island Center. It includes a great room, men’s and women’s dorms, cafeteria, kitchens, laundry and garage.

1966 | In 1966, Dr. Matthew Hohn requested the university change the name of the facility to CMU Biological Station

1968 | The station now operates independently of NSF grants (relies on tuition).

1967 | CMU students use the island to focus on a range of biology independent study projects, including:
» Distribution of orchids on Beaver Island
» Embryological development and behavior of leeches
» Status of wild turkeys on Beaver Island
» Transect study of wood decay and fungi on both coasts of Beaver Island
» In total, 39 independent study research projects were completed.

1970 | Growing classes cause a shortage in student housing, so men’s and women’s platform tents and showers are constructed across the road from the main building in the campground.
1971 | Director Matthew Hohn wrote, in a reflection of his time at Beaver Island, “1971 was the year I saw the true range of potential in the biological station.” Credit and non-credit courses for high school students and a May summer session were added. Many groups outside of CMU’s biology department start utilizing the station.

1980 | Student participants in the early days of the island are required to submit a field research study, and in 1980 there were approximately 200 research papers on file at the station. Topics ranged from entomology and plant and fungi studies to reference guides for fish and bird populations on the island. Twelve Master of Science students have written theses based on Beaver Island research by this year, including studies on algae, smallmouth bass, grasses and garter snakes.

1983 | New buildings included a pole barn/garage with a shop for the vehicles and three new cabins holding six students each; more were added the next year, replacing the platform tents in the campground.

1988 | Through a new undergraduate biology research course held on Beaver Island, CMU established itself as one of the leading institutions offering undergraduate research opportunities.

1995 | A parcel of land known as Miller’s Marsh on Beaver Island is acquired.

1999 | Whiskey Point boathouse, a structure that has been on the island for decades, is acquired by CMU. The former Coast Guard Station had been decommissioned in the ‘70s and fallen into disrepair before it was purchased and returned to its original appearance. Whiskey Point serves as the gateway to Great Lakes water research at the Biological Station.

2006 | The Biological Station added 12 individually controlled mesocosm tanks at the Biological Station. This state-of-the-art system is unique to the Great Lakes and allows a wide range of researchers to investigate a multitude of factors. The installation reinforces CMU’s leading research in biological factors affecting the Great Lakes.

2007 | The James C. Gillingham Academic Center was completed. The state-of-the-art facility houses three classrooms, a large lecture hall, library and computer lab. The building replaced labs originally built in 1959, and expanded the capacity of the CMU Biological Station on Beaver Island.

2012 | The station hosted the 23rd North American Diatom Symposium, an international conference which united researchers from 12 countries around the world. The biannual meeting produced 80 abstracts over its five-day duration, and exposed 90 scientists to CMU’s presence on Beaver Island.

2015 | CMU researchers will utilize countless trips across Lake Michigan between April and December on the Beaver Island Boat Company’s Emerald Isle ferry. The boat is equipped with monitors to track water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and several other variables. A unit below deck collects raw water samples multiple times per trip. The transit is critical in the assessment of climate change factors in the Great Lakes.

2016 | A parcel of land known as Miller’s Marsh on Beaver Island is acquired.
Now in its third year, the 10 Within 10 program recognizes young alumni who bring honor to Central Michigan University through their work in their career or community.

This year’s slate of Chippewas is making a difference in politics, television, human resources, higher education, the court system and finance.

And they carry their Central pride wherever they go.
Mara D’Amico

Graduated: 2010, College of Business Administration
Age: 29
City: Arlington, Virginia
Job title: Hillary Rodham Clinton communications fellow with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

What is your proudest achievement so far?
“Overall, I continue to be amazed and fulfilled by the kinds of opportunities I’ve been offered through pursuing a career in public service.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?
“The College of Business Administration gave me a strong foundation to work in a variety of different settings, on unique issues and to communicate effectively with a broad set of people.”

What motivates you?
“Wanting to put my skills toward contributing to the greater good, which has meant a lot of different things for me, from services for the formerly incarcerated to women’s rights and global advancement. Since I can remember, I always have wanted to fight for the underdog and give voice to the voiceless.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?
“When I was a student, I wanted a five-year plan and to know exactly what my next step was, but my career hasn’t been like that at all. You don’t need to have every step of the way mapped out. Just be receptive and open to opportunities that present themselves.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?
“CMU will always hold a special place in my heart. It continues to be an incredible place for students to grow and develop, and that’s something I want to continue to be part of.”

Jason Dizik

Graduated: 2008, College of Communication and Fine Arts
Age: 31
City: Franklin
Job title: Freelance television producer (primarily for Fox Sports Detroit)

What is your proudest achievement so far?
“Getting to do what I love. The awards are nice, but getting to go to work every day and do what I set out to when I enrolled at CMU is incredible. To be able to do it for the teams I grew up cheering for makes it that much better.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?
“Being a student when the football team was having a lot of success – more games were televised, ESPN was coming to Mount Pleasant, and it allowed me to freelance with several different companies and network with people established in the field.”

What motivates you?
“I’m fortunate that my career is one many consider a dream job. I go to work every day and try to put on the best show I can. Whether we have five viewers or five million, I want them to be entertained by a great product.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?
“Take advantage of cocurricular activities and various opportunities available to CMU students. They provide a great place to hone your craft and learn from your mistakes.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?
“I would have loved to have someone with my job come back to work with me, talk with me and just serve as a mentor. For me, I think it is important to do that for students.”
DAN EKONEN

Graduated: 2007, College of Communication and Fine Arts
Age: 31
City: Mount Pleasant
Job title: Director of unified sports initiatives for Special Olympics Michigan

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Helping start unified intramural sports at CMU. It was the first-ever unified intramural league in the country, and since then, it has really exploded at other schools.” The league partners CMU students with Special Olympians.

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?

“CMU really prepared me for life after college by allowing me to connect with people as well as learning how to be a professional, to explore and to learn.”

What motivates you?

“One of the greatest motivators is our athletes and their achievements. When I have long days of traveling, getting to interact with athletes and volunteers at events makes my job worth it.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?

“Never stop giving back or volunteering. All of us have some sort of talent we can give back to others. You never know whose life you might change by donating your time.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?

“In my role, I help develop unified sports programs. Part of my job includes going to different colleges and raising awareness. Seeing the impact students can make is incredible, and I love seeing what they can achieve.”

SUMMER HICKOK

Graduated: 2009, College of Business Administration
Age: 29
City: Troy
Job title: Human resources director, Target

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Being able to lead the teams that I have. I’ve led a store of more than 130 employees. Now, I lead human resources for a group of 65 Target stores. Being able to impact as many people as I have, helping to mold their careers and influence the culture of the stores I manage has been very rewarding.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?

“At CMU, you are put in situations to make friends quickly – whether in the residence halls or in classes – and many times with people who are very different from you. I work with people of different ages and backgrounds, and CMU helped prepare me for these different types of interactions.”

What motivates you?

“When I have a team that counts on me to be a great boss, that is what gets me up in the morning.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?

“I know a lot of students who, when trying to build a resume, think they need to get involved in as many groups as possible, but it’s really more important to focus on quality over quantity. When I interview a student, I’d rather hear about the in-depth experiences you’ve had rather than all groups you are just part of to add to your resume.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?

“I truly think I can relate to the students and say, ‘Hey, only seven years ago I was doing what you were doing, and now I’m here.’ Sometimes students think it’s going to take 15 to 20 years to achieve a certain professional role. It doesn’t. For me, it’s important to connect with students to show them they can reach their goals.”
MARK LUNQUISIT

Graduated: 2006, College of Business Administration
Age: 34
City: West Bloomfield
Job title: Financial adviser at Edward Jones

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“I’m very proud to have been elected both president of our local Rotary Club and president of our local Chamber of Commerce. As a business owner, it’s important that we are involved in our communities and strive to unite citizens, businesses, civic organizations and government entities for the advancement of our community. Since being elected, we have collaboratively raised more than $50,000 for the benefit of our community and increased active membership by nearly 50 percent.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?

“The College of Business Administration provided the framework for a successful career. As a member of the baseball team, I was taught life skills like leadership, teamwork and strategy. Both aspects combined to prepare me well for a successful balance of both work and life.”

What motivates you?

“Accountability. I’m responsible for the financial well-being of my clients, and I am held to a very high standard of care. Further, as president of two civic organizations, a youth baseball coach and foundation board member for our local hospital, I am accountable to our community as well.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?

“My grandfather told me that you get the respect you give. Respect one another and get involved in a cause in which you believe.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?

“As more time passes, I’m increasingly aware of just how much CMU has shaped the person I am today. Like the many alumni who have helped me along my journey, it is now my turn to give back to CMU.”

BRITTANY MOUZOURAKIS

Graduated: 2011, College of Business Administration
Age: 27
City: Dearborn Heights
Job title: Judicial law clerk to U.S. District Judge Bernard A. Friedman

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Serving as a federal judicial law clerk. My position allows me to see how the law operates behind the scenes and to work very closely with a well-respected federal judge. It is the greatest job a young attorney could hope for, and I am very thankful and proud to have this experience.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?

“The key to an attorney’s success is the ability to write well. By following the writing-intensive curriculum of the College of Business Administration, I became a stronger, more confident writer, which helped position me for success in law school.”

What motivates you?

“I want to continually improve my skills and increase my legal knowledge. As a law clerk, I strive to produce work that is not only thorough and well-researched, but will aid the court in achieving a fair and balanced decision in every case.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?

“Take advantage of the vast opportunities around you and hone in on your passions. It was during my time at CMU when I developed a strong interest in animal rights and issues surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault – issues I still care deeply about today.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?

“As more time passes, I’m increasingly aware of just how much CMU has shaped the person I am today. Like the many alumni who have helped me along my journey, it is now my turn to give back to CMU.”
**JASON NICHOL**

Graduated: 2012, College of Business Administration and College of Communication and Fine Arts  
Age: 28  
City: Lansing  
Job title: Law clerk for Judge David W. McKeague, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

**What is your proudest achievement so far?**  
"My sophomore year of college, I developed and taught a class at a correctional facility on the history of jazz music. The experience had a profound impact on my view of criminal justice and was probably a much better learning experience for me than it was for my students."

**How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?**  
"CMU provided great cocurricular activities that shaped my world view and made me feel like I was truly in the driver’s seat with my career."

**What motivates you?**  
"I grew up surrounded by an incredibly dedicated and passionate family. Their successes and tireless efforts to contribute to their professions and communities motivate me to make a dent in the world."

**What advice do you have for CMU students?**  
"Read. Seriously, read. It’s a very big and complicated world, and I think we all have a responsibility – maybe even an obligation – to truly care about the nuances in our communities."

**Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?**  
"CMU is home to many of my fondest memories and greatest mentors. Staying connected to the university keeps me plugged into an institution that truly cared about my future."

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**ELYSE PACKARD**

Graduated: 2006, College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences; 2010, College of Education and Human Services  
Age: 33  
City: Lansing  
Job title: Undergraduate program coordinator at Michigan State University, spirit coordinator for MSU cheerleading and dance

**What is your proudest achievement so far?**  
"I’ve been able to use my education in both of my jobs. I have my academic advising job, but then I can combine that with my passion to coach."

**How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?**  
"I was a cheerleader at CMU and pursuing a degree in sociology. Ten years later, that’s exactly what I’m doing. I didn’t know my transition from student to professional would be so literal, but I love what I’m doing now, and that wouldn’t be possible without CMU."

**What motivates you?**  
"I grew so much both personally and professionally during my time at CMU, and that growth now motivates me to help 18- to 22-year-olds figure out what they want to do and who they want to be."

**What advice do you have for CMU students?**  
"Take your time. You have 40 years of your life to work and be in a career, so make sure it is what you want. You don’t have to know exactly what you want to do for the rest of your life at 18."

**Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?**  
"I grew up and found my independence at CMU, and now I want to make sure students are having the same experience I did."
Karly Satkowiak
Graduated: 2009, College of Communication and Fine Arts
Age: 29
City: Washington, D.C.
Job title: Law student

What is your proudest achievement so far?
“I am proud of serving as an advance coordinator and then as advance lead in the Obama Administration. The Office of Advance is tasked with maximizing the impact of the president’s time and message on the ground when he travels. Supporting the president’s work was fulfilling, and I saw more of the world than I thought I ever would.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?
“The Alternative Breaks program run through the Volunteer Center was my most important college experience. The White House Internship Program values applicants with public service backgrounds, and I was placed in the Advance Office because I had spent a lot of time working on public-service trip logistics through my trips with Alternative Breaks.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?
“It is tempting to take the first job offer, decide not to relocate or opt for the bigger paycheck instead of public service. Be careful. Yes, you must pay the bills, but make sure you pick something that fulfills and challenges you. The opportunities that made me feel ‘in over my head’ led to the greatest growth and satisfaction.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?
“Specific people keep me tied to CMU. My mentors, Director of the Volunteer Center Shawna Ross, alumna Michelle Somes-Booher and professor Cherie Strachan still counsel me in making life decisions and have become lifelong friends. Contributing to the programs I feel served me best makes sense, and I want other students to benefit from them.”

Erica Takach Berning
Graduated: 2006, College of Business Administration
Age: 32
City: Chicago
Job title: Senior partner at New York Life

What is your proudest achievement so far?
“Making senior partner at New York Life at my age. It was very hard for me to get, and when I did, I finally felt like I made it.”

How did your time at CMU best prepare you for your success?
“The mentorship and coaching that was given to me when I played field hockey at CMU really helped mold me as a person.”

What motivates you?
“Helping other people as well as being recognized for my accomplishments.”

What advice do you have for CMU students?
“Find a mentor as soon as possible. If I had found a mentor who could have helped me figure out what path to take, it would have helped me so much.”

Why is it important for you to remain connected to CMU?
“Whenever you’re part of a university, you feel like a family. When I see someone wearing CMU gear, I say, ‘Fire up Chips!’”
This spring, students from the CMU Dance Program participated in the CMU Dance Photography Project. Using the CMU campus as their source of inspiration, they identified locations to dance that would produce site-specific photographs. See more photos from the project at cmich.ly/cmudancegallery

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, '81
BY ANDY SNEDDON

area and hosts daily sport-by-sport study tables.

“Student-athletes have their head coach, their assistant coaches, their strength coaches,” says Tera Albrecht, associate athletic director for student-athlete services. “We’re basically their academic coaches from the time they’re being recruited until they graduate.”

Albrecht and her staff of four full-timers ensure all Chippewa student-athletes adhere to NCAA, Mid-American Conference, and university academic and eligibility requirements.

AWARD-WINNING EXCELLENCE

The center opened in 1999 and was dedicated in 2007 in the name of famed sports broadcaster Dick Enberg, ’57. The 14-time Emmy Award winner was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015.

The Dick Enberg Academic Center is a focal point of what Athletics Director Dave Heeke calls the championship culture at CMU. “We put every student-athlete in a position to succeed in their sport by hiring quality coaches, improving facilities and training techniques, and we work just as hard to ensure each has the resources to do well academically and earn a degree from CMU,” Heeke says.

It’s working.

In 2015, CMU earned the Cartwright Award, given annually to the Mid-American
Conference program deemed the best in all-around excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship.

“The academic center helped a huge deal, especially as an incoming freshman, with the mandatory study table,” says Blake Serpa, ’16, a football defensive end who earned a bachelor of science degree in social science with a minor in history in May. “It gave me a quiet place to go and it created good study habits for me. It was a motivator.”

Senior field hockey player Sadie Lynn Reynolds says the tutors have been crucial for her.

“Anytime I’m doing homework and I can’t figure something out, I can schedule a tutor. I think I would have been a struggling student-athlete, with the emphasis on student, had I not had those resources.” Reynolds won the 2015 Dick Enberg Scholar Athlete of the Year Award. In August, she will earn a bachelor of science in childhood development with a minor in sign language.

Student-athlete services hosts an annual academic banquet for student-athletes with a cumulative 3.5 GPA. This year, 140 Chippewas were invited, up from about two dozen for the inaugural event 24 years ago.

“It’s a testament to the type of student-athletes our coaches are recruiting,” Albrecht says. “We take a lot of pride in all the academic accomplishments.”

In the fall 2015 semester, CMU had 462 student-athletes spread across 74 majors.

Here’s what they accomplished:

• 312 achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher, earning a spot on the Athletic Director’s Honor Roll.
• 168 were on the Dean’s List, which requires a GPA of 3.5 or better; 22 earned a 4.0.
• They had an average GPA of 3.179, the highest ever for a single semester. It also marked the seventh consecutive year the average was 3.1 or better.
• 54 Chippewas in seven fall sports earned a spot on the Academic All-Mid-American Conference team for their respective sports. In order to qualify, a student-athlete must carry a GPA of 3.2 or better and participate in at least half of his or her team’s intercollegiate competitions.
Entrepreneurs in action
Central alumni are making their mark in careers of their own creation

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS HOT, AND CMU ALUMNI ARE PART OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND ENCOURAGING BUSINESS STARTUP CLIMATE IN TWO DECADES.

The number of new entrepreneurs rose 10 percent nationwide last year, and Michigan ranks in the top 10 states for growth in new business owners.

What are Central’s entrepreneurs selling? You name it. Their products are innovative, useful and just plain fun.

They include:

• A unique sports bra that landed a deal on the hit ABC TV show “Shark Tank,” which helps inventors finance, market and sell their products.

• Edgy greeting cards that regularly land on fun lists from Buzzfeed, a popular internet media company that generates six billion views a month.

• Training footballs with beeping sensors that help receivers fumble less.

• Intricate medical illustrations used to – among other things – help courtroom juries understand complicated medical cases.

Central is known for its stellar entrepreneur programs that spur startups, and the CMU Research Corp. – a business accelerator and incubator on campus – adds even more to the mix, offering gutsy and motivated businessmen and women multiple layers of support.

Four energized CMU entrepreneurs talk about how their time at Central prepared them, inspired them and continues to fire them up.>

Art with attitude

Julie Richardson, ‘06, designs greeting cards for the way we all feel – and how we actually talk.

Some proof: Her cards popped up on a Buzzfeed list of “Gifts for People Who Like to Swear.”

She laughs.

“It’s a bit of the way I talk,” says Richardson from her art studio in Orange County, California. “That has a lot to do with their success. I’m not the only one who talks that way.”

Mainstream greeting cards “kind of sugar-coat things,” she says. “I take inspiration from real conversations I’ve had and real situations I’ve been in.”

For wedding season: “Shit just got real. Will you be my bridesmaid?”

Apology needed? “Sorry. I effed up.”

Birthday: “I’m so frickin’ happy you were born.”

“They’re relatable,” she says. “I hear that from a lot of people.”

She heard it from popular retailer Urban Outfitters, which startled her with an email. The company discovered her cards online and was interested in carrying a few designs.

“I thought, ‘Is this spam?’ I sent the email to my husband and said, ‘Do you think this is legit?’”

It was.

“That was huge, to walk into Urban Outfitters and see cards I designed,” Richardson says.

The Clinton Township native earned a degree in photojournalism at CMU, where
Protect the ball

Fumbling: It’s a football team’s nightmare.

When Tom Creguer, ’95, was a senior at Harbor Beach High School in the Thumb, his football team lost a chance at the playoffs because of a fumble.

Years later, as the football coach at Shepherd High School, his team was poised for a playoff run. But fumbles turned a promising season into a disastrous 1-8 record.

“I had to look these kids in the eye,” Creguer recalls. “I thought, I need to create a solution.”

“The thing is, it’s completely controllable,” Creguer says of fumbles, “if you hold the ball high and tight. High and tight.”

Care to guess what Creguer named the training football he invented to help prevent fumbles?

Now, coaches and players all over the country are using it.

High school football coaches in Mount Pleasant and Saginaw. College coaches at Northwood University, Michigan State University, the University of Tennessee and Colorado State. Pro football coaches, including the San Diego Chargers, Baltimore Ravens and Cincinnati Bengals.

The ball has sensors that beep when a player holds the ball correctly — high and tight. It took Creguer more than two years to engineer and produce the ball, drawing not only on his high school experience, but his time on the CMU football team, and his high school and college coaching career.

He’s one of those guys who just doesn’t quit.

By his senior year at CMU, Creguer was playing football as an active duty Marine reservist, often getting beat up in a game and then driving 90 minutes for drill training.
Your bra, your way

It all started with the “Frankenstein bra.”

Sara Moylan, ’02, taped and glued parts of different sports bras together in a desperate attempt for the right fit.

“I never intended to start a business,” says Moylan, whom you may have seen in January on the ABC TV show “Shark Tank.”

“I was just trying to solve my own problem.”

An athlete, Moylan wanted to continue running while pregnant. But no sports bra controlled the uncomfortable bouncing.

“I'd pull the straps up behind my head and secure them with a rubber band,” she recalls. “Then I had these ugly bumps under my clothes. I was walking away from workouts because of the discomfort and that led to depression.”

Her hot-glued “Frankenstein bra” actually worked – until she put it in the washer. So she hired a professional seamstress to stitch one together for her. Suddenly, all her friends wanted one.

“Shark Tank” investor Daymond John swooped in with much-needed manufacturing help, and Moylan is thrilled to learn from the clothing pro and mentor who’s best known as the founder and CEO of FUBU hip-hop apparel.
Now Shefit has sales teams in five states with nearly 30 retail partners in the U.S., United Kingdom and New Zealand. The Shefit Ultimate Sports Bra also is available online at shefit.com.

What’s the big appeal?

Adjustability, Moylan says. Shefit adjusts 10 inches around the bust band and 15 inches with the straps.

“IT truly gives you a custom fit,” Moylan says. “Your bra, your way.”

It’s no surprise Moylan has the promotional lingo down. As Sara Dusendang, she majored in integrated public relations at CMU and minored in journalism.

“All of those skills come into play when you’re starting a business,” she says. “It’s been a huge help.”

That wasn’t the end of CMU support. Central was the first of Shefit’s 22 collegiate accounts. CMU athletes involved in basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer and dance wear Shefit bras, Moylan says.

“It’s the most important piece of equipment female athletes have,” she says. “They put that on before their shoes.”

Moylan loves the message her business sends to her four daughters, ages 3, 7, 8 and 12.

“It teaches them, as women, to take charge of their health,” she says. “And the importance of following your dreams.”

Drawing as a science

Lisa D’Angelo, ‘12, has a thriving business illustrating bones, hearts, muscles, lungs and the occasional uterus.

“Either people are totally grossed out, or they want to know all about it,” D’Angelo says with a laugh.

Her medical illustration business, D’Angelo Visuals, combines her skill as an artist and her fascination with human biology.

“A lot of people have never even heard of this career,” she says.

It was a struggle to find the right college program to get her started. Until she checked out CMU.

D’Angelo discovered she could combine art classes and science classes and get a Bachelor of Science in art – a perfect, but unusual solution hard to find at most schools, she says.

In addition to the classes typical for an art degree, she took anatomy, microbiology and zoology, and they counted toward her certificate.

“I was so happy with that flexibility,” says D’Angelo, who runs her business from her home in West Bloomfield. “Any time I approached a CMU professor about my game plan, they said, ‘We’ll get you there.’ Central was very good to me.”

After CMU, she earned a Master of Science in Biomedical Visualization from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her training there involved dissecting cadavers and sketching during surgeries.

“If you’re squeamish at all, it’s not for you,” she says.

Now, her clients are all over the map. They’re medical malpractice attorneys who need detailed illustrations to convince juries and med schools that need educational charts for doctors in training.

“It all varies, and I love that,” D’Angelo says. “But I really love drawing bones and hearts.”

While CMU offered the perfect course of study for her, it also prepared her for being an entrepreneur – in a sort of sneaky way, she says.

“Being away at school, your work ethic grows, because there’s no one there to tell you to get going,” D’Angelo says. “You have to be responsible. When you own your own business, you’re in charge of you. If you’re not productive, there’s no one else to blame.

“You also need to learn not to be afraid to ask for help,” she says. “That started with my time at Central.”

Lisa D’Angelo

Fractures

- Compound & displaced fractures of fibula
- Fracture and separation of tibia

Flexion
CMURC connects startups to resources and support

Tom Creguer spent a lot of time tinkering in a friend’s garage while he was inventing his High and Tight training football. Late nights fiddling with air gauges and computer chips ultimately led to an exciting business that’s taking off for the CMU alumnus.

But that’s just a small part of the enormity of becoming an entrepreneur.

For the rest of it, there’s the Central Michigan University Research Corp.

When Creguer signed on with the Mount Pleasant nonprofit business accelerator and incubator, “things really took off,” he says. CMURC partnered Creguer with CMU students who helped create a marketing video and public relations plan. It helped him raise money for a patent and a working prototype he could take to football coaches to test.

CMURC helps entrepreneurs on all levels, whether they’re just starting out with the seed of an idea or are well on their way and hoping for growth.

They can visit the comprehensive CMURC website at cmurc.com and click their way to a host of programs and services.

They can also visit CMURC in person at its building on the southwest corner of campus on Denison Drive.

“When entrepreneurs come in, they often don’t know what they need,” says Erin Strang, president and CEO of CMURC. “Maybe they think they have it all figured out, but they have no idea how to do payroll.”

So it all starts with a 30-minute meeting. Entrepreneurs get 10 minutes to tell about themselves; CMURC staff asks questions for 10 minutes. Next up, a tour of the place and its offerings.

Finally, there’s a debriefing to talk about what’s next. There are lots of options.

The accelerator’s Right Choice program offers everything from help developing a pitch to assistance with crowdfunding. The coworking space offers professionals a place to work. Maybe your company is in Texas, but you work remotely from home as a programmer.

“It’s tough to get motivated in your pajamas,” Strang says with a laugh.

Members also can use conference rooms, internet and printing services. Memberships range from $85 a month for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. access to $250 a month for a desk of your own and 24/7 access.

The workspace also includes the Station, where vetted regional companies offer affordable legal, accounting, web development, design and other services a startup needs.

“We help people make connections and form relationships,” Strang says. “So it’s a win-win for everybody.”

Entrepreneurship can be lonely. Bring your lunch at noon on Mondays and practice your investor pitches. “It’s easy for entrepreneurs to feel disconnected,” Strang says. “Here, they form a bond. They help each other out.”

Alumni can get in on the action, too, Strang says. Consider volunteering as a mentor.

“Even an hour phone call can be so helpful,” she says. “The things you can learn from somebody who spent 30 years in business are priceless.”

Alumni can support entrepreneurs financially by donating directly through the CMURC Exchange. Learn more at cmurc.com/exchange

And there are 300 acres of SmartZone land, ready to be developed. The CMURC vision for the land is a mix of tech companies, corporate satellite offices for potential recruiting and micro-businesses.

As entrepreneurs come and go, their ideas are different, Strang says, but there’s an exciting common thread.

“Theyir passion,” she says. “When they come in, you can feel their excitement, and that’s so important. It should be about the thrill of it – about creating something and seeing it grow. Motivation is critical.”

When she talks about all of this, Strang says, “It gives me goose bumps.”
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programs begin this fall!

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Mohammad Almutery, a student from Saudi Arabia, stops to look at the university’s student memorial adjacent to the Park Library and near Fabiano Gardens. The granite marker was placed in 2007 as a way to honor the memories of CMU students who have died.

The Student Government Association backed the memorial project to help grieving students, faculty or staff by having a place to reflect when friends and classmates pass away.

Almutery – in the U.S. since 2015 – is working on possibly transferring to CMU’s electrical engineering program from Mid Michigan Community College.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
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Tina Fey turns the tables on journalism alumna

Jessica Fecteau, a 2014 journalism alumna working for People.com, interviewed Tina Fey and Margot Elise Robbie about their 2016 film, “Whiskey Tango Foxtrot.” The actresses decided to turn the tables on Fecteau, interviewing her about her major at CMU and her celebrity crushes.

She blogged about the experience for People.com, saying, “As a reporter, it’s not often I find myself in the hot seat.” Read her blog post about it and watch the video of the interview at cmich.ly/1oPkHix.

Grand Rapids PR pro earns national honor

The National Association of Professional Women honored Valerie Kozikowski, ’84, as a 2015-16 inductee into its VIP Woman of the Year Circle. She was recognized with this distinction for leadership in business. Kozikowski is chief operating officer at PRA Global Business Development in Grand Rapids, which specializes in driving growth for its clients in new, vibrant international markets.

NAPW is the nation’s leading networking organization exclusively for professional women, boasting more than 850,000 members and more than 200 operating local chapters.

Former warden named to state post

Former Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Warden Ken McKee, ’82, was appointed deputy director for correctional facilities administration for the Michigan Department of Corrections. McKee served at the Ionia-based Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility as warden since its opening in 2001 and now is involved in hiring all wardens and higher-ranking correctional officials throughout Michigan. He also supervises the Bureau of Health Care Services.

McKee’s children followed in his Chippewa footsteps. Son Travis, ’06, is an accountant and daughter Michelle, ’10, is a teacher.

CMU alum inspires high school students to love broadcasting

Bloomfield Hills High School’s own radio station, WBFH, was named the best high school station in the country in 2015, under the leadership of a CMU alum.

It was the sixth time in 11 years the Detroit-area school has earned the award from the John Drury High School Radio Awards.

Pete Bowers, ’75, has been the station’s general manager for more than four decades. Through it all, Bowers has inspired students to pursue careers in broadcasting as he taught radio and electronic media. Bowers was one of the first students in CMU’s broadcasting program.

WBFH is a 360-watt noncommercial educational FM radio station owned and operated by the Bloomfield Hills School District. Affectionately called “The Biff,” WBFH also was named the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation High School Radio Station of the Year in 2015 and has won that honor nine times in 13 years.

Writing professor brings 20-year-old idea to print in ‘Pseudonym’

After decades of publishing news stories, nonfiction books and novels, Dennis E. Hensley, M.A. ‘73, has co-written a suspense drama titled “Pseudonym.”

The novel, written with author Diana Savage, sprung from an idea Hensley had 20 years ago when flying home from a speaking engagement.

“I gave up my seat to a woman who desperately needed to get to California to see her husband before he left for an overseas military assignment,” Hensley told the Marion (Indiana) Chronicle-Tribune. “But I wondered what might happen if two people just swapped tickets without telling anyone, and then one plane crashed and the wrong ID was given for who was killed.”

When he’s not writing books, Hensley is a writing professor at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. His wife, Rose, is also a CMU alum.

Dennis E. Hensley and Diana Savage
Alumni News

Beloved photojournalist’s work showcased in new exhibit

Ken Stevens: A Life in Photography, a new exhibition at the Muskegon Museum of Art, features photography by Stevens, ’85, a longtime Muskegon Chronicle photographer who died unexpectedly in 2014. Proceeds from the exhibit’s sponsors will be evenly split to cover exhibition expenses and provide funding for the Ken Stevens Memorial Photojournalism Endowment Fund at CMU. The goal of the fund is to develop the career potential of CMU photojournalism students. Stevens, a photographer for CM Life as a student in the 1980s, loved photography and he loved his alma mater.

Stevens’ work appeared in the Muskegon Chronicle and MLive for 28 years, bringing to readers images of major events and the quiet experiences of everyday living. Stevens was known as a passionate and professional photographer and a warm and generous colleague. He left not only a legacy of work, but as a teacher and supervisor he had a tremendous impact on a new generation of photojournalists. Images from throughout his career, drawn from the archives of the Muskegon Chronicle, MLive and the Muskegon Museum of Art’s own collection, are featured in the exhibition. It runs through July 24.

Animal conservation champion a finalist for Indianapolis Prize

Conservation biologist and CMU alum Dee Boersma, ’69, is one of six finalists for the prestigious 2016 Indianapolis Prize, the world’s leading award for work in animal conservation.

Boersma – considered the world’s foremost penguin expert – has overcome struggles against corporations, governments and the status quo to ensure that these charismatic creatures thrive and flourish. For more than 40 years, she has studied Galapagos penguins, showing how the seabirds are indicators of environmental change.

She has followed the lives of Argentina’s Magellanic penguins to help strengthen protection and conservation efforts for colonies, using her science to prevent harvesting, reduce oiling and secure marine protected areas.

The $250,000 prize will be awarded during an Indianapolis gala in October.

Watch Boersma’s 2010 TED talk on penguins here: cmich.ly/deeboersma

Taking Chippewa pride to the Shire

After graduating from CMU in 2015, Dennis Lafferty took the encouragement to fly his CMU flag to heart. Three days after graduation, he headed to New Zealand to celebrate. And he packed his CMU flag. Lafferty unfurled the maroon and gold in spots familiar to fans of the “Lord of the Rings” movies – Mount Doom, Tongario National Park, the Shire, Hobbiton and more.

Dennis Lafferty

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Dennis Lafferty
In Memory


Robert J. Tennant, ’56, St. Louis, Mich., died April 8, 2016, age 81.


Gerald J. Lazzaro, ’60, Leesburg, Va., died April 14, 2016, age 78.


Lawrence A. Nicholas, ’60, Elsie, Mich., died Feb. 25, 2016, age 90.

Dale V. Sherman, ’60, Caro, Mich., died March 16, 2016, age 82.


Suzanne E. (Henne) Mayer, ’61, Macomb, Ill., died March 14, 2016, age 76.


William D. Carmody, MBA ’70, Midland, Mich., died March 11, 2016, age 77.


Sally G. (Gillespie) Murphy, ’70, Clare, Mich., died Feb. 9, 2016, age 79.


Thomas J. Jones, ’72, Tallahassee, Fla., died March 14, 2016, age 70.

Carol L. (Grady) Schrandt, ’72, Ocala, Fla., died Jan. 8, 2016, age 95.

Thomas S. Settles, ’72, Rockford, Mich., died March 6, 2016, age 68.


Beatrice A. Ugartechea, M.A. ’72, Saginaw, Mich., died March 12, 2016, age 73.


Richard P. Isper, M.A. ’74, Fairborn, Ohio, died Feb. 14, 2016, age 84.


Richard W. DesReis, M.A. '77, Augusta, Ga., died Feb. 28, 2016, age 75.

Dennis O. Healy, age 75.

Augusta, Ga., died Feb. 28, 2016, Richard W. DesReis, age 63.

M.A. '77, Albert L. Alexander, died April 14, 2016, age 70.


Bridgewater, N.J., died Jan. 20, 2016, Ronald C. Jones, age 64.


Jerry D. Driscoll, M.A. '78, Wayzata, Minn., died Feb. 20, 2016, age 75.

Donald E. Newman, M.A. '78, Indianapolis, Ind., died Jan. 25, 2016, age 73.

Dorothy J. (Wischhusen) Hitchcock, M.A. '79, Dayton, Ohio, died April 24, 2016, age 89.


Charles P. Roberts, M.A. '79, Hilliard, Ohio, died Jan. 12, 2016, age 79.


Kay E. Basner, '80, Saginaw, Mich., died April 4, 2016, age 58.


Glenn E. Woodward, '80, Middleburg, Mich., died April 12, 2016, age 58.


Charles Benson, M.A. '82, Moore, S.C., died March 5, 2016, age 79.

Steven P. Binns, M.A. '82, Casa Grande, Ariz., died March 23, 2016, age 64.


Daniel L. Netzley, '82, St. Louis, Mich., died March 5, 2016, age 65.

Armand M. Melograna, M.A. '83, Beverly, N.J., died March 26, 2016, age 92.


Priscilla L. Farr, '86, Wilmington, Del., died Feb. 18, 2016, age 53.


Fred G. Jacobson, Ed.S. '87, Detroit, Mich., died March 31, 2016, age 64.

Frederick J. Zawilinski, '87, Mentor, Ohio, died Jan. 13, 2016, age 51.


Adele (Skurniak) Kulak, M.S.A. '89, Trenton, N.J., died Jan. 10, 2016, age 81.


Jean C. (Myers) Benzing, M.S.A. '91, Fort Gratiot, Mich., died March 1, 2016, age 77.

Billy L. Brown, M.S.A. '91, Thornville, Ohio, died April 2, 2016, age 78.


Olga M. (Super) Burn, M.S.A. '97, Las Cruces, N.M., died Jan. 20, 2016, age 79.

Robin S. Mayer, M.S.A. '98, Porter, Nev., died April 7, 2016, age 55.

Shelving and printed reference collections at Park Library are diminishing in this new age of digital information systems that are replacing print and other dated mediums. Those reference materials on the second floor south will evolve this summer into comfortable, collaborative study spaces with movable furniture and learning technology.

The $500,000 project is expected to be completed by the start of classes this fall.

The plan will be a significant upgrade to enhance teaching, learning and research in the library, which was identified by students in 2013 as their favorite indoor place on campus.
Contributing to student success

Gerald Riseley, ‘64, sees return on generous investments

Gerald, a retired salesman and engineer, understands the importance of making sound investments. The 1964 alumnus is establishing a scholarship in physics to advance CMU’s commitment to educational excellence.

“Supporting CMU and the lessons it provides is one of the best values in terms of return on investment,” Gerald said. “There’s a sense of pride knowing I can benefit a university that gave me so much.”

The avid sailor recognizes that the skills and training CMU provided him were instrumental in building a rewarding career and life. The gift Gerald established provides him with a fixed-income payment for the rest of his life, of which most of the payment is tax-free income. In addition, he received an immediate charitable income tax deduction when he made his gift to CMU.

Gerald chose the gift annuities because they are a "win-win" for him and CMU: “They provide a sense of giving back and a nice return for me,” he said.

Give today for the future

Like Gerald, you too can help students in an incredibly special way. To learn more about this and additional ways to give back to Central Michigan University, contact:

Ted Tolcher, Associate Vice President
Office of Advancement
989-774-1441
ted.tolcher@cmich.edu

giftplanning.cmich.edu
GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

CMU Football is poised for an outstanding 2016 season with 16 starters from last year’s MAC West Division championship team.

2016 HOME FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

PC
PRESBYTERIAN
SEPT. 1

UNLV
UNLV
SEPT. 17

WESTERN MICH.
WESTERN MICH.*
OCT. 1

BALL STATE*
BALL STATE*
OCT. 8
HOMECOMING

KENT STATE*
KENT STATE*
OCT. 29

OHIO*
OHIO*
NOV. 15

COOPER RUSH
2015 SECOND TEAM ALL-MAC
NCAA ACTIVE CAREER PASSING LEADER

*MAC GAME

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