Come home

There is no better time to visit campus than during its maroon-and-gold fall glory.
On the cover
Each fall, CMU’s stunning campus greets new students and welcomes back alumni in its colorful splendor. There’s no better time to walk the grounds and take in the breathtaking display of changing leaves – mostly maroon and gold!

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE ’81

Features

6

Making and breaking news
Over the decades, CM Life has brought news to students on campus and trained scores of journalists and communicators.

16

Fisher’s back on the field
CMU’s first No. 1 overall NFL draft pick Eric Fisher returns to campus to serve as this year’s homecoming grand marshal.

26

Hidden Central
Tucked inside Moore Hall, you’ll find CMU’s costume shop, a repository of more than 50,000 articles that grace campus stages.

40

Do you remember?
Relive some classic homecoming memories from the 1950s, ’60s, ’70s and ’80s.
Departments

4 CMU Today
CMU debuted its new Master of Health Administration degree program this fall.

20 Big Picture
The field at Kelly/Shorts Stadium got a turf upgrade this summer, with beautiful results.

36 Alumni news
BCA alum was part of a New York Times Pulitzer Prize finalist team investigating the world of New York nail salons.

38 In Memory

Stay connected
Send change of address information to:
Alumni Relations
Carlin Alumni House
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone: (800) 358-6903
Fax: (989) 774-7159
Email: alumni@cmich.edu
Web: cmich.edu/alumni/Centralight

Centralight is published four times each year by the Central Michigan University Office of Alumni Relations. It is printed by Quad/Graphics, Midland, and entered at the Midland Post Office under nonprofit mailing. CMU, an AA/EO institution, provides equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie). Copies of Centralight are distributed to alumni and friends of the university who are paid Gold Members or donors to CMU. A virtual edition of the magazine is available free online at alumni.cmich.edu/Centralight.

UComm 9619-150,000+ (9/16)
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
Celebrate and reconnect with CMU through Centralight

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

It’s fall, and things certainly are changing around here. The calm and quiet of summer has given way to a ramped-up campus bustling with students, bikes, traffic, faculty and all things Central Michigan University. The leaves are changing, too – to vibrant shades of orange and red … and, of course, maroon and gold.

It’s a perfect time to introduce some changes to Centralight magazine. If you’re holding the magazine and it has never been mailed to you before, you’re part of the new Centralight plan. We want as many of our alumni as possible to see the magazine’s beautiful photos and read its current, compelling and sometimes nostalgic stories about our great university. So we’ve increased the circulation sixfold: 150,000 CMU grads living in the U.S. will receive the fall issue every year.

We’d love to keep you on our Centralight mailing list, and we don’t want you to miss the winter and summer issues now that you’ve had a chance to read this one. Please consider becoming a Gold Member to keep the magazine coming. To learn more, visit us online at cmich.edu/alumni or call our office at (888) 292-5366.

We’ve got some great stories for you in this issue, including a piece about CM Life newspaper staffers who have gone on to do some pretty amazing work in their careers, fueled by their experience at our award-winning student newspaper.

We’ll also tell you how CMU is welcoming back Eric Fisher as homecoming grand marshal. Fisher made us all proud in 2013 when he was selected No. 1 overall in the NFL draft. And Central’s beloved alumnus and iconic sportscaster, Dick Enberg, has submitted a guest column chronicling one of CMU’s enduring love stories.

While there’s always change in the air around here, some things do stay the same: A beautiful fall day on campus is still pretty much the best thing ever – just as you remember it. The 2016 homecoming game is Oct. 8, so please come celebrate and reconnect. I’d love to visit with you and hear your fond stories of Central.

Fire Up Chips,

Marcie
CMU Today

CMU’s new Master of Health Administration degree program debuts this fall

Courses combine flexibility of online learning with real-time interaction

The number of health care management jobs in the United States is anticipated to increase in coming years, and Central Michigan University is poised to meet demand with a new Master of Health Administration degree. The online format of the program, which debuted this fall, provides a flexible option for those wanting to advance their careers.

“With online classes, we are able to give individuals the flexibility to take classes from any part of our nation,” says Steven Berkshire, interim M.H.A. program director and director of CMU’s health administration division.

In addition to management education, the 51-credit-hour program includes courses in health systems and operations, health care finance, organizational behavior, and more. Courses are offered in an eight-week format.

The new degree rounds out CMU’s health care administration programs offered at the undergraduate and doctoral levels. As the program grows, the university will explore opportunities to offer face-to-face classes at its main campus in Mount Pleasant and satellite locations throughout the U.S.

“The growth in health care and need for efficiently run health care systems is a national trend,” says Berkshire. “This program is an exciting addition to our offerings in health administration.”

CMU receives $19.5 million to build Center for Integrated Health Studies

Allocation will expand health care expertise, services across state

As part of the $55 billion state budget approved by the Legislature this summer, Central Michigan University will receive $19.5 million to build a new Center for Integrated Health Studies.

The project will address significant student demand and expand health care expertise and services across the state, especially in rural and medically underserved areas.

The allocation will expand CMU’s physical therapy, physician assistant, audiology and speech-language pathology programs, which have been at capacity for more than a decade because of space limitations. Graduates of these programs are known for nearly 100 percent first-time pass rates on national certification exams and 100 percent job placement rates.

The proposed renovation and addition to the Health Professions Building also will fuel collaboration among several CMU colleges to expand or add programs.

“The investment in the students of CMU will increase the health and wellness of families and communities across the state,” President George E. Ross says.

The CMU Center for Integrated Health Studies will include about 62,000 square feet of space, cost about $26 million and will be built in Central’s health professions corridor. Students will be part of a patient-centered medical home model, which emphasizes the teamwork needed among health care professionals.

CMU mobile recreation program hits the road

Play on the Way – a first-of-its-kind program developed by the department of recreation, parks and leisure services administration – took recreation on the road for rural Michigan families this summer.

Play on the Way was designed to promote learning by involvement while addressing the growing problems families face due to lack of exercise. It is the only service learning-based mobile recreation unit in the United States sponsored by a university.

CMU students gained experience facilitating the programs, which ranged from organized sports to family games and environmental and outdoor education activities.

CMU’s new Master of Health Administration degree program debuts this fall

Courses combine flexibility of online learning with real-time interaction

The number of health care management jobs in the United States is anticipated to increase in coming years, and Central Michigan University is poised to meet demand with a new Master of Health Administration degree. The online format of the program, which debuted this fall, provides a flexible option for those wanting to advance their careers.

“With online classes, we are able to give individuals the flexibility to take classes from any part of our nation,” says Steven Berkshire, interim M.H.A. program director and director of CMU’s health administration division.

In addition to management education, the 51-credit-hour program includes courses in health systems and operations, health care finance, organizational behavior, and more. Courses are offered in an eight-week format.

The new degree rounds out CMU’s health care administration programs offered at the undergraduate and doctoral levels. As the program grows, the university will explore opportunities to offer face-to-face classes at its main campus in Mount Pleasant and satellite locations throughout the U.S.

“The growth in health care and need for efficiently run health care systems is a national trend,” says Berkshire. “This program is an exciting addition to our offerings in health administration.”

CMU receives $19.5 million to build Center for Integrated Health Studies

Allocation will expand health care expertise, services across state

As part of the $55 billion state budget approved by the Legislature this summer, Central Michigan University will receive $19.5 million to build a new Center for Integrated Health Studies.

The project will address significant student demand and expand health care expertise and services across the state, especially in rural and medically underserved areas.

The allocation will expand CMU’s physical therapy, physician assistant, audiology and speech-language pathology programs, which have been at capacity for more than a decade because of space limitations. Graduates of these programs are known for nearly 100 percent first-time pass rates on national certification exams and 100 percent job placement rates.

The proposed renovation and addition to the Health Professions Building also will fuel collaboration among several CMU colleges to expand or add programs.

“This investment in the students of CMU will increase the health and wellness of families and communities across the state,” President George E. Ross says.

The CMU Center for Integrated Health Studies will include about 62,000 square feet of space, cost about $26 million and will be built in Central’s health professions corridor. Students will be part of a patient-centered medical home model, which emphasizes the teamwork needed among health care professionals.

CMU mobile recreation program hits the road

Play on the Way – a first-of-its-kind program developed by the department of recreation, parks and leisure services administration – took recreation on the road for rural Michigan families this summer.

Play on the Way was designed to promote learning by involvement while addressing the growing problems families face due to lack of exercise. It is the only service learning-based mobile recreation unit in the United States sponsored by a university.

CMU students gained experience facilitating the programs, which ranged from organized sports to family games and environmental and outdoor education activities.
Summer was a busy construction season on our Mount Pleasant campus

Check out all the changes to your alma mater’s landscape

Michiganders call the warmer months “construction season,” and Central Michigan University was humming all summer long with a number of building projects.

Visitors to campus now can stay adjacent to Kelly/Shorts Stadium in the new Marriott property, the Courtyard by Marriott at Central Michigan University. The 148-room, six-story, contemporary hotel features an indoor swimming pool, fitness center and guest laundry, and offers 6,200 square feet of meeting space to accommodate functions of up to 250 people. The hotel also offers the Sigma hospitality suite with a balcony overlooking campus.

Other major projects this summer included work on the $95 million Biosciences Building, the $10.8 million renovation and expansion of Grawn Hall, and the installation of two new CMU gateway signs along Mission Street.

Read more about all the key projects here: cmich.ly/construction16 •

CMU offers rare online certificate to train deafblind interveners

Program is one of two in the United States

Imagine the challenge of having an impairment of both your sight and hearing. This is the reality for nearly 10,000 children and young adults across the nation with deafblindness. In Michigan, more than 300 residents younger than 21 live with it.

As one of only two programs of its kind in the U.S., Central Michigan University’s new online Deafblind Intervener Certificate Program will train students and professionals to improve educational outcomes for those who are deafblind.

“Deafblindness is a disability of access,” says Beth Kennedy, director of DeafBlind Central. “An intervener works one-on-one with a child who is deafblind to provide access and support. They foster growth within the student, assist them in making social connections and help them access the curriculum. They are a bridge between the student and teacher.”

Students completing the certificate can submit their final portfolio to the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals to obtain the national intervener credential. Only about 100 people in the U.S. have this credential.

The program is relevant to those who study or work in special education, communication disorders, physical therapy and therapeutic recreation.

“What I am most excited about is that it’s an online program. There could be interveners from anywhere in the U.S. and the world taking classes,” Kennedy says. •
Student newspaper alums took what they learned on campus and turned it into newsworthy careers

IT ALL BEGAN BY WALKING THROUGH THE CM LIFE OFFICE DOOR FOR THE FIRST TIME, KNEES PROBABLY A BIT SHAKY.

From there, “Lifers” learn hands on what it takes to produce one of the top college newspapers in the country.

CM Life is a big deal: It’s earned the Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker award – the highest national honor in college journalism – more than a dozen times since 1975. Most recently, the Michigan Press Association and Michigan Collegiate Press Association recognized CM Life as the 2015 College Newspaper of the Year for its division.

It’s the perfect training ground for eager, driven journalism students.

CM Life alumni are leading national news coverage, working at global communications firms, designing pages seen by millions and putting their stamp on the world in lots of other ways.

But so much more than great college journalism happens in that newsroom, whether in the iconic basement of Anspach Hall years ago or in the sleeker Moore Hall office today.

“We created a sense of community,” says Jim Wojcik, who was the campus newspaper’s adviser for nearly 30 years and a father figure to many Lifers.

Going back decades, working at CM Life has meant late nights laying out the paper three times a week, spirited debates over controversial and hard-hitting stories, and so much takeout food.

Bonding happens there. And the start of something big. >
WAYNE KAMIDOI, ’87, DREAMED OF BEING A SPORTS WRITER COVERING THE DETROIT TIGERS.

The eager freshman from the tiny village of Capac, near Port Huron, showed up at the CM Life office and said, “I’ll do anything.”

They gave him the women’s field hockey beat. Kamidoi had never even seen a game, but he shrugged, dug in and spent the next four years helping publish a 13,500-circulation campus newspaper.


He loved studying the paper, noticing how great the sports photos looked when they ran big. He remembers late nights laying out the paper with then-adviser Jim Wojcik dependably supervising in the background.

“At CM Life, we worked seemingly around the clock,” Kamidoi recalls. “At the end of the night, you were tired. Maybe you had an exam the next day. You just wanted to finish. Then Woj started asking the hard questions. It set us up for how real life would be.”

After graduation, he spent seven years on the design team at the Detroit Free Press, considered one of the top design papers in the country.

These days, Kamidoi loves pushing design boundaries: He once published a blank page to illustrate the lack of inductees into the 2013 Baseball Hall of Fame.

For the Times’ annual United States Open preview, Kamidoi created an innovative scrapbook layout about Serena Williams.

He’s won more than 50 awards from the Society for News Design and was honored as Sports Designer of the Year in 2007 and 2012.

“No matter how big or small the project, I want the end result to be better than everyone anticipated,” Kamidoi says. “I want it to be the best it can be.”

He still thrills at the simple pleasure of watching people read the paper.

“I ride the bus into Manhattan every day, and I see people reading the paper,” Kamidoi says. “People bring it to their kid’s soccer game. I’m fascinated that they’re reading the newspaper and with how they’re digesting it. It’s the best affirmation of my work.”
SANDY PETYKIEWICZ, ’75, SHOWED UP TO FRESHMAN ORIENTATION EXCITED TO BE A TEACHER.

“Then they said, ‘If you’re planning to be a teacher, find something else,’” recalls Petykiewicz, former editor and publisher of The Jackson Citizen Patriot. “There were no jobs.”

Stunned, she thought fast. What else did she love? Writing.

“It was the best thing that ever happened to me,” she says. “I fell in love with journalism.”

As news editor at CM Life, Petykiewicz supervised 80 reporters and discovered she loved management.

“There were a lot of balls to juggle, and I could do it,” she says. “I just really enjoyed being on top of things, always knowing what was going on.

“I saw so many friends end up in jobs they hated because their jobs weren’t like college,” she says. “At CM Life, you learned if you liked the job. There’s lots of stress in reporting and in deadlines. You found out if you could handle the stress.”

She could.

Petykiewicz was the first female editor in the Booth Newspaper chain and was editor of the Jackson Citizen Patriot for 12 years before being named publisher in 1999.

“I think it was duly noted at the time, but I don’t remember a lot of hoopla,” she says of her pioneering role. “I was proud of it and yet didn’t want to be known just for that.”

She also was CEO for Ann Arbor Offset, a commercial printing company formed when the Ann Arbor News closed in 2009.

During her 36-year career in journalism, Petykiewicz was a reporter at The Washington Post, was selected as a Pulitzer Prize juror and served many years on the Michigan Associated Press Editorial Association Board, for which she was president two years.

She retired in 2011 after helping lead the eight Michigan newspapers owned by Advance Publications into a digital future with MLive Media Group.

You can take Petykiewicz out of the newsroom, but …

“I pitch stories in Florida,” she says. Petykiewicz spends winters in Bonita Springs and has landed stories about her community in area papers — including on page one of the business section.

She laughs.

“I know how to work the system.”
RANDY LOVELY, ’86, GETS BORED EASILY. HE PICKED THE PERFECT CAREER. HE KNEW THAT, EVEN AS A ROOKIE COLLEGE JOURNALIST.

“At CM Life, the guiding force is that the world in which we work as journalists is changing rapidly,” says the man who – three decades later – is vice president of community news for the USA TODAY Network in Washington, D.C.

Lovely oversees the editorial content strategy of Gannett’s newsgathering operations around the country. The 109 papers he guides used to be independently operated but are now part of a collaborative nationwide network.

Before taking this role a few months ago, he was senior vice president of news and audience development for the Gannett-owned Arizona Republic, where he ran the state’s largest newspaper, a website and a TV station.

He’s had to be nimble and grounded – basics he learned at CM Life.


“This is my 30th year in the business, and I still draw on those CM Life experiences,” Lovely says. “It’s in my DNA. The questions I ask when talking to reporters and editors – they’re baked in.”

Lovely started at The Republic 14 years ago as managing editor and steadily worked his way up. During his time there, the paper twice was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize.

But times have been tough. The Great Recession sent the U.S. newspaper industry into a tailspin in 2008, forcing mass layoffs and a reorganization of the industry. The upheaval left a newsroom workforce that’s 20,000 positions smaller than 20 years ago.

“The last decade has been devastating for all of us,” Lovely says. “I’ve had to sit across the table and deliver bad news to some really talented journalists. I’d be lying if I said there weren’t times I thought I should close this chapter and look for something new.

“But the public is consuming information at a pace unparalleled in history, and that gives me hope,” he says.

“People are deciding who they can rely on for information and who they can’t, and I hope that bodes well for us.”
SARAH OPPERMAN, ’81, WAS FASCINATED AS A YOUNG JOURNALIST COVERING THE CMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CM LIFE.

“I thought, ‘Wow, this is cool – they’re making really important decisions,’” says Opperman, who retired in 2009 after a 28-year career at Dow Chemical. “I thought, ‘I’d love to do that someday.’”

Opperman planned to be a business journalist and had a double major in business and journalism. She showed up at the CM Life office ready to write. Expectations were high.

“It’s about real events and real people, not a class assignment,” she says. “I knew that what I wrote better be my best.”

But her business journalism plans were nudged aside after Opperman had a public relations internship at Dow Chemical. She was hooked on using her business and writing skills there.

“I realized that rather than reporting on the news, I could be a news source,” she says.

Opperman started at Dow as a communications representative and worked her way up to jobs in media relations, financial and business communications, and various leadership roles, retiring as vice president of global government affairs and public policy.

“Throughout my career, I used the tenets of accuracy, timeliness and tenacity I learned at CM Life,” Opperman says. “As you work there, you mature and grow as an individual, so whatever you do after college, those life lessons stay with you.”

In 2009, Opperman was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the CMU Board of Trustees – the same board she covered during her CM Life days.

“I wanted to give back to the university that always believed in me, nurtured and drove me,” she says. “Serving on the board goes beyond giving back to looking forward – to investing in future generations of students.”
BACK WHEN GOOGLE NEWS ALERTS WERE NEW, CHAD LIVENGOOD, ’05, SET UP ALERTS ON ALL THE CMU OFFICIALS AS HE COVERED THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CM LIFE.

It’s how he found out President George E. Ross, vice president of finance at the time, was a finalist for a job at another university.

“I went to a Board of Trustees meeting to ask Ross about it,” recalls Livengood, now a political reporter at The Detroit News Lansing Bureau. “He said, ‘How do you know this?’ He didn’t even know he was a finalist.”

Livengood laughs.

“It was a sign of things to come. Livengood is known as a guy who knows things first.

He broke the shocking story this year of the affair between State Representatives Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, and Courser’s phony email alleging he paid for gay sex behind a Lansing bar to direct attention away from the affair. That coverage won awards from the
HUNDREDS OF CM LIFE ALUMNI HEAR JIM WOJCIK IN THEIR HEADS.

No use trying to tune him out.

“Never burn a bridge. ‘Don’t sweat the small stuff.’ When I face a professional or personal decision about how I should behave, I hear his voice,” says Sheila Gruber McLean, ‘82, a former editor of CM Life and now senior vice president at MSLGROUP, a global communications firm.

“And it’s not just me,” she says. “Hundreds of people will tell you the same thing.”

As adviser for the student newspaper from 1972 until 2001, Wojcik was responsible for two significant upgrades. He transformed it from a tabloid into a broadsheet newspaper, and he made it financially self-supporting.

“Money gives you power and freedom,” says Wojcik, who teaches in the CMU journalism department and advises two student public relations groups. “So we built up the advertising program to get a good stream of revenue coming in. We didn’t have to ask the administration or the student government for money. We could cover anything we wanted.”

They did and still do.

CM Life has a stellar national reputation and a host of national and state awards. Editors know a CM Life alum is a great hire – you’ll find them in successful careers all over the country.

Where? Ask Woj.

“Somehow, he always knew what you were up to,” says Wayne Kamidoi, ’87, art director at The New York Times, “without you even telling him.”

“He was a father figure to a lot of students, myself included,” says Sandy Petykiewicz, ’75, who retired in 2011 as editor and publisher of The Jackson Citizen Patriot.

“He helped a lot of us get jobs. Then, when I was an editor, he came to me, suggesting I hire his students.”

She often did.

“He’s everybody’s dad.”

That is, if your dad is funny, sarcastic, honest, doesn’t miss a thing and won’t put up with any crap.

“My philosophy, as corny as it sounds, was to push every student as hard as I could, so they could work to the best of their ability,” Wojcik says. “Some, I could push right to the wall. I could challenge them and frustrate them, and they’d get better, just to prove the old Polack wrong.

“I’m proud of them,” Wojcik says. “They accomplished things because they wanted to. I might have pushed a hot button, prodded at the right time.”

He pauses.

“Or maybe I just listened,” he says. “I did a lot of listening.

“We were family down there,” Wojcik says of the students who worked in the Life offices in the basement of Anspach Hall.

“We worked on the whole person. The common goal was they wanted to be good journalists. My end goal was to make them feel they could do it.” •

PHOTO BY JAKE MAY, CHIEF PHOTOJOURNALIST, THE FLINT JOURNAL

Jim Wojcik: ‘He’s everybody’s dad’
It’s the best-looking rear end on the road

A friendly reminder that CMU always is behind you

Order your CMU license plate today

cmich.edu/alumni
6 ONLINE programs
new

CREATE YOUR PERSONAL PATH

in one of these high-demand fields.

» Master of Arts in Special Education
» Master of Health Administration
» Master of Science in Administration/Project Management
» Master of Science in Administration/Training and Development
» Undergraduate Certificate/Deafblind Intervener
» Undergraduate Certificate/Technical and Professional Writing

Central Michigan University Online
877-268-4636
CMUglobal@cmich.edu
cmich.edu/Global
FISHER

NFL STAR RETURNS TO SERVE AS HOMECOMING GRAND MARSHAL

BY ANDY SNEDDON
FOR ERIC FISHER, it’s all about the work, taking each day as an opportunity to get better and pushing to see just how far he can go.

He’s come a long way.

The former Central Michigan University All-American is in his fourth year as the starting left offensive tackle with the Kansas City Chiefs, and this summer he signed a contract extension with the team, giving him a six-year, $63 million deal. That makes him one of the highest-paid offensive linemen in the NFL. Fisher returns to Mount Pleasant as CMU’s homecoming grand marshal on Oct. 8, when the Chippewas take on Ball State at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

“It’s a huge honor,” says Fisher, who, because of NFL commitments, has not been to a CMU game since his playing days ended in 2012. “How many people get to be the grand marshal of a college homecoming game? I’m really looking forward to it. It’ll bring back a lot of good memories.”

Fisher made a lot of those as a player at CMU from 2009-12. He helped the Chippewas to a MAC championship, two bowl victories, was twice named All-MAC, and in 2012 he became the first CMU player to earn All-America honors in nearly two decades.

The pinnacle came in late April 2013, when he was selected No. 1 overall by the Chiefs in the NFL draft. He became the first – and still only – player from a Mid-American Conference program. There are a lot of great football schools out there that have never had a first overall pick. It really demonstrates what’s possible for a young man who comes to play here. There are no limitations to what you can achieve.

THE BIG STAGE

Fisher’s NFL baptism came early in training camp, when he lined up across from teammate Justin Houston, a linebacker who in 2015 made his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl.

“Right off the bat, I come in, first overall pick, high expectations,” Fisher says. “And I line up across from Justin Houston, who’s probably the best linebacker in the league. I was thrown in the fire.”

Thus began a journey endured by most rookies, particularly those on the offensive line, where the learning curve is steeper than anywhere except perhaps quarterback.

It was yet another challenge and this one came with the built-in pressure of being the No. 1 overall pick. The second-guessing, the scrutiny and the criticism that comes the way of professional athletes can be particularly cutting. Thick skin is as much a part of a player’s toolbox as the playbook or his helmet.

“There were a lot of growing experiences,” says Fisher, who has appeared in 49 NFL games, including 45 starts. “I learned a lot about myself both on and off the field. Every little thing you do is seen. There’s a bull’s-eye on your back. And, obviously, there’s the competition level. You’re playing the best of the best every week.

“Keep on working, that’s how I’ve always been. Keep your nose to the grindstone.”

GROWING INTO GREATNESS

Fisher was hardly pegged for greatness coming out of Stoney Creek High School in suburban Detroit’s Rochester. He added 50 pounds to his 6-foot-7 frame during his freshman year at CMU. By his senior year, he weighed 300-plus pounds, was the first CMU All-American in nearly two decades, and was projected by most to be selected late in the first round.

Making such great strides in four years didn’t come as a surprise to his high school coach, Calvin Gross, who moved Fisher to the offensive line for his senior year at Stoney Creek. Fisher had played quarterback as a freshman and then moved to linebacker for his sophomore and junior seasons.

“Right before his senior year started, he approached me and said, ‘Coach, do you think I might have a chance to play college football?’ Gross remembers. ‘I told him, ‘Eric, if you’re going to play college football, you’re probably going to have to be an offensive lineman.’

“He had great feet, he was a very good basketball player, and he was a good-sized kid, frame-wise. He said, ‘Whatever it takes.’”

After the 2012 CMU season ended with a victory in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, Fisher steadily improved his draft stock, first at the Senior Bowl, then the NFL Combine and, finally, on Pro Day at CMU.

By the time he got to New York for the draft in late April, he was touted as a potential top-five pick.

HE’S NO. 1

Sitting in the green room along with other draft hopefuls at New York’s Radio City Music Hall, Fisher’s cell phone rang. It was the Chiefs, informing him that they were taking him with the first pick of the draft.

Then, Fisher heard his name called by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, his cue to come on stage to be photographed alongside the most powerful man in sports. Hoisting a red Kansas City Chiefs jersey, he stood in front of thousands in the hall and millions more watching live on TV.

“It was such a surreal experience,” Fisher said. “It was hard to remember that whole night after the phone rang. It was quite a shock. After all those years of work. It paid off.”

All smiles and all good for all parties involved.

“It says a tremendous amount about our football program,” says CMU head coach John Bonamego, who spent 16 seasons as an NFL assistant. “You look at the very small percentage of players who are drafted each year. There are just 32 first-round picks, and there’s only one first overall pick every year.

“That puts us in very elite company as a program. There are a lot of great football schools out there that have never had a first overall pick. It really demonstrates what’s possible for a young man who comes to play here. There are no limitations to what you can achieve.”
CHIEFPAWA STARS IN THE NFL

Kansas City Chiefs offensive tackle Eric Fisher is among the many Central Michigan University alumni who have made their mark in the National Football League. Chipewas (with years they lettered at CMU) currently in the league include:

ANTONIO BROWN (2007-09), WIDE RECEIVER, PITTSBURGH STEELERS: Among the NFL’s best receivers, Brown tied for the league lead with 136 receptions during the 2015 season. His 1,834 receiving yards ranked second. Brown, entering his seventh year as a professional, is a four-time Pro Bowler and a two-time All-Pro. He has 526 career receptions for 7,093 yards and 38 touchdowns.

JOE STALEY (2003-06), TACKLE, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: Entering his 10th NFL season (all with the 49ers), Staley is among the league’s top offensive linemen. He was named to the Pro Bowl for the fifth consecutive time in 2015. He has been named an All-Pro three times in his career.

THOMAS RAWLS (2014), RUNNING BACK, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS: Rushed for 830 yards and scored five touchdowns in his rookie season in 2015.

FRANK ZOMBO (2006-09), LINEBACKER, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS: Made 16 tackles, including three sacks, during the 2015 season, his sixth in the NFL and third with Kansas City. He spent his first three years in the league with the Green Bay Packers.

CULLEN JENKINS (1999-2002), DEFENSIVE TACKLE, NEW YORK GIANTS: Credited with 26 tackles (15 unassisted) in 2015. He is in his 13th year in the league, his fourth with the Giants. He started his career in Green Bay where he played for CMU coach John Bonamego, who was then an assistant with the Packers. He has 47½ career sacks.

NICK BELLORE (2007-10), LINEBACKER, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: Credited with 17 tackles (12 unassisted) and recovered a fumble during the 2015 season, his first with the 49ers after spending four seasons with the New York Jets.


JAHLEEL ADDAE (2009-12), SAFETY, SAN DIEGO CHARGERS: Now in his fourth year in the league (all with the Chargers), Addae has 151 career stops, 124 of them unassisted, along with three sacks. In 2015, he made a career-high 65 tackles.

TITUS DAVIS (2011-14), KAVON FRAZIER (2012-15) AND LOUIS PALMER (2012-15): Davis, a wide receiver who went undrafted after completing his college eligibility in 2014, was scheduled to attend New York Jets training camp in 2016. Frazier, a safety and CMU’s leading tackler in 2015, was selected in the sixth round of the 2016 NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys. Palmer is a rookie defensive lineman who went to training camp with the Detroit Lions.

Eric Fisher and his teammates support First Downs for Down Syndrome in Kansas City.

BY ANDY SNEDDON

MAKING A DIFFERENCE BEYOND THE FOOTBALL FIELD

Eric Fisher came to CMU as a student-athlete, bent on a career in the NFL.

He realized that dream.

Fisher also made the most of it off the field, forging friendships, bonds and memories that will last a lifetime as he studied mechanical engineering technology.

Like many CMU athletes, Fisher volunteered with Special Olympics. He also helped at a local food bank.

That philanthropic tenet remained when he joined the Kansas City Chiefs in 2013. He and his teammates on the offensive line are members of First Downs for Down Syndrome, a nonprofit raising money for the Kansas City Down syndrome community. Fisher also became involved with an animal shelter in the Kansas City area last season, providing support for food and health care for dogs.

He sponsored a dog every week of the season in 2015, “and all 16 dogs were adopted,” he says. “As NFL players, we’re very fortunate. There are some people, some animals, out there that aren’t as fortunate. Giving back to the community is huge.

“When you leave an event, you leave with a good feeling. You did something to help someone.” •

Antonio Brown
**FRIDAY, OCT. 7**

**WMHW-FM 91.5 Alumni Takeover: 12:01 a.m.**
Tune in to 91.5-FM to hear alumni take over the student radio station all weekend, continuing 24 hours through midnight Saturday.

**Rock Rally: TBD**
Go to Warriner Hall’s Plachta Auditorium for the pep rally, mock rock contest for the Maroon Cup, presentation of the football team and the announcement of the 2016 Homecoming Gold Ambassadors.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 8**

**5K run and Miles for Medals fundraising run/walk: 8 a.m.**
Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. at Finch Fieldhouse for the 8 a.m. start. Choose a 5K run/walk or a one-mile fun run/walk. All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Michigan. Register online at [www.firstgiving.com/cmu5k/cmu5k2016](http://www.firstgiving.com/cmu5k/cmu5k2016)

**Alumni coffee and doughnuts: 9:30 a.m.**
Start your day off right with complimentary coffee and doughnuts inside Powers Hall. Stay right here to watch the parade.

**5K run and Miles for Medals fundraising run/walk: 8 a.m.**
Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. at Finch Fieldhouse for the 8 a.m. start. Choose a 5K run/walk or a one-mile fun run/walk. All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Michigan. Register online at [www.firstgiving.com/cmu5k/cmu5k2016](http://www.firstgiving.com/cmu5k/cmu5k2016)

**Alumni Village: Noon-3 p.m.**
Join the free, campuswide celebration near Rose Ponds. Great get-together for alumni, family and friends. Enjoy game-day Chippewa spirit! Also visit with a favorite professor, grab some food and soak up the atmosphere that is CMU homecoming.

**Tailgate Village: Noon-3 p.m.**
Maroon and Gold concert series featuring Jedi Mind Trip will be playing a free concert. Features a beer garden, open to the public.

**Cardboard boat race: 1 p.m.**
Held the afternoon of homecoming, this event draws quite a crowd to Rose Ponds (near the CMU Events Center). For two weeks, students in CMU’s engineering programs work on building cardboard boats. They sail the boats across the ponds, and the first team to the other side wins.

**Football game: 3 p.m.**
Cheer on the Chippewas as CMU takes on Ball State at Kelly/Shorts Stadium. Order tickets at 1-888-FIREUP-2 or online at [www.cmuchippewas.com](http://www.cmuchippewas.com).

For updates to the schedule, visit [alumni.cmich.edu](http://alumni.cmich.edu)
When the Chippewas kick off at Kelly/Shorts Stadium this fall, it will be on new turf. The synthetic turf is a multilayer system with one layer for drainage, topped by a backing system and then AstroTurf GameDay Grass, an all-weather surface in use at many collegiate and NFL stadiums. It is expected to last 10 to 12 years. The previous playing surface was installed prior to the 2005 season. This is the third time the playing surface has been replaced at the stadium.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans, and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie).
CMU Bookstore
Fall Hours
Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Extended hours on football game days.

989-774-7493
800-283-0234

CMU is an AA/AO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans, and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie). Ucomm 9599
fall. “It’s an honor, but when it comes down to it, you just have to go play, and it’s about how your team does. You’ve got to be able to execute for your teammates and your program.”

Rush is the consummate student in the classroom and on the field. As a redshirt freshman in 2012, he watched as quarterback Ryan Radcliff rolled up eye-popping numbers.

“I watched every single thing Ryan Radcliff would do,” Rush says. “Redshirt year, a lot of guys get in trouble because they take it off. That’s a mental year, basically. You’re taking mental reps every day, watching film, practicing and constantly just absorbing as much as possible.”

Now Rush is the unquestioned team leader, and it’s a role he embraces as he tries to pass along the same wisdom, particularly to younger quarterbacks.

“I’m not doing it perfectly, but I tell those guys, ‘Watch the guy who’s done it for a little bit’ because that’s what I did, and it helped a lot when I got a chance to play,” he says.

Among those young understudies is incoming freshman Tony Poljan, a 6-foot-7, 225-pound, highly touted recruit – also from Lansing Catholic.

Rush played high school basketball with David Poljan, Tony’s older brother, and Rush’s younger brother graduated with Tony.

The goal, Rush says, is that Tony Poljan, along with all the other young quarterbacks, follows the lead – film study, weight room, preparing each and every day, just as Rush did with Radcliff.

“We’ve known the family well, and we’ve known Tony for a long time,” Rush says. “I helped him throughout the process with recruiting. I didn’t really pressure him with Central stuff or anything like that. I just said, ‘Come to me if you need some help,’ and we talked about the process in general.”

In the grand scheme of things, it’s about perpetuating the program. From the likes of Dan LeFevour to Radcliff to Rush and beyond.

And beyond CMU for Cooper Rush? Perhaps the NFL, the next logical step for a kid who had one scholarship offer – CMU – coming out of high school and moved into the starting lineup just three games into his redshirt freshman season.

“That stuff’s nice to have,” says Rush, who graduated magna cum laude last spring with a 3.86 GPA and a bachelor’s degree in actuarial science. He’s continuing classes this fall. “It’s an honor, but when it comes down to it, you just have to go play, and it’s about how your team does. You’ve got to be able to execute for your teammates and your program.”

Rush is the unquestioned team leader, and it’s a role he embraces as he tries to pass along the same wisdom, particularly to younger quarterbacks.

“I’m not doing it perfectly, but I tell those guys, ‘Watch the guy who’s done it for a little bit’ because that’s what I did, and it helped a lot when I got a chance to play,” he says.

Among those young understudies is incoming freshman Tony Poljan, a 6-foot-7, 225-pound, highly touted recruit – also from Lansing Catholic.

Rush played high school basketball with David Poljan, Tony’s older brother, and Rush’s younger brother graduated with Tony.

The goal, Rush says, is that Tony Poljan, along with all the other young quarterbacks, follows the lead – film study, weight room, preparing each and every day, just as Rush did with Radcliff.

“We’ve known the family well, and we’ve known Tony for a long time,” Rush says. “I helped him throughout the process with recruiting. I didn’t really pressure him with Central stuff or anything like that. I just said, ‘Come to me if you need some help,’ and we talked about the process in general.”

In the grand scheme of things, it’s about perpetuating the program. From the likes of Dan LeFevour to Radcliff to Rush and beyond.

And beyond CMU for Cooper Rush? Perhaps the NFL, the next logical step for a kid who had one scholarship offer – CMU – coming out of high school and moved into the starting lineup just three games into his redshirt freshman season.

“It’s something Coach Bono talks about, that it’s something everyone should be striving for in the back of their mind,” Rush says. “Because to reach that goal, you’ll reach a bunch of other goals in front of it. I hope that opportunity comes.”


CMU quarterback Cooper Rush has it all.

“He’s very self-aware, which I think is a rare quality in this day and age,” says Central Michigan football coach John Bonamego, who has been coaching for some three decades – more than half of it in the NFL. It’s easy to get enamored with yourself and buy into your hype, he says.

“He’s on an ascending path, and he’s been on that path since he walked in the door. He wants to get better every day.”

Rush, out of Lansing Catholic, is entering his fourth season as the Chippewas’ starter, and he’s one of the all-time best in program history. He ranks second in touchdown passes with 67 and third in passing yards (9,351), passes completed (744) and passing attempts (1,183).

He is one of the Mid-American Conference’s elite and is on both the Maxwell (college football’s top player) and Davey O’Brien (top quarterback) preseason watch lists.

“That stuff’s nice to have,” says Rush, who graduated magna cum laude last spring with a 3.86 GPA and a bachelor’s degree in actuarial science. He’s continuing classes this fall. “It’s an honor, but when it comes down to it, you just have to go play, and it’s about how your team does. You’ve got to be able to execute for your teammates and your program.”

Rush is the consummate student in the classroom and on the field. As a redshirt freshman in 2012, he watched as quarterback Ryan Radcliff rolled up eye-popping numbers.

“I watched every single thing Ryan Radcliff would do,” Rush says. “Redshirt year, a lot of guys get in trouble because they take it off. That’s a mental year, basically. You’re taking mental reps every day, watching film, practicing and constantly just absorbing as much as possible.”

Now Rush is the unquestioned team leader, and it’s a role he embraces as he tries to pass along the same wisdom, particularly to younger quarterbacks.

“I’m not doing it perfectly, but I tell those guys, ‘Watch the guy who’s done it for a little bit’ because that’s what I did, and it helped a lot when I got a chance to play,” he says.

Among those young understudies is incoming freshman Tony Poljan, a 6-foot-7, 225-pound, highly touted recruit – also from Lansing Catholic.

Rush played high school basketball with David Poljan, Tony’s older brother, and Rush’s younger brother graduated with Tony.

The goal, Rush says, is that Tony Poljan, along with all the other young quarterbacks, follows the lead – film study, weight room, preparing each and every day, just as Rush did with Radcliff.

“We’ve known the family well, and we’ve known Tony for a long time,” Rush says. “I helped him throughout the process with recruiting. I didn’t really pressure him with Central stuff or anything like that. I just said, ‘Come to me if you need some help,’ and we talked about the process in general.”

In the grand scheme of things, it’s about perpetuating the program. From the likes of Dan LeFevour to Radcliff to Rush and beyond.

And beyond CMU for Cooper Rush? Perhaps the NFL, the next logical step for a kid who had one scholarship offer – CMU – coming out of high school and moved into the starting lineup just three games into his redshirt freshman season.

“It’s something Coach Bono talks about, that it’s something everyone should be striving for in the back of their mind,” Rush says. “Because to reach that goal, you’ll reach a bunch of other goals in front of it. I hope that opportunity comes.”
RELIVE IT
Cooper Rush’s Hail Mary pass vs. Western Kentucky topped ESPN’s list of best plays in the 2014 bowl season: bit.ly/CMU2014Bowl
Ann Dasen, CMU’s resident costume designer, shows off the impressive, student-designed 18th-century French gown worn by the Marquise Isabelle de Merteuil in “Les Liaisons Dangereuses.”
Fully stocked wardrobe

CMU’s costume shop is ready to dress shows from any era

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
When CMU’s theater and interpretation program moved into Moore Hall in 1971 for its first production – “Dracula” – it had to pack up its entire costume collection.

“Everything fit on three rolling racks,” says Ann Dasen, CMU’s resident costume designer.

Today, Dasen leads a team of staff and students who create, mend, organize and catalog more than 50,000 costumes and accessories.

From Renaissance regalia to flower-child bell-bottoms, there’s an outfit for every era.

A computerized database searches the entire collection, allowing quick access to items by time period, color, size, style and more. That’s a vital time-saver when a show requires more than 100 separate costumes.

“If I need a red, high-heel shoe for a 1940s production, I can narrow my search, and it will show me the 10 pairs we have,” Dasen says. “I don’t have to look through all 550-plus pairs of heeled women’s shoes.”

Delicate work

But the costume shop isn’t simply a repository for every article of clothing that’s been onstage in a production. The staff makes and repairs thousands of items.

“If the show is set before 1980, we make almost all of the costumes,” she says. The program’s showpiece is a royal blue, 18th-century French gown worn by the Marquise Isabelle de Merteuil in the department’s 2009 production of “Les Liaisons Dangereuses.” If you’ve seen the 1988 Stephen Frears film “Dangerous Liaisons,” it’s the Glenn Close character.

“The dress catches everybody’s eye,” Dasen says. “It pretty much lives on a dress form because we were pulling it out of the racks for every recruiting event and tour.”

Guests love to touch the dress and examine it closely. “They’ll say, ‘I want to learn how to do that!’ Well, we can teach you how to do that here, I tell them.”

The gown was a team effort.

One student – who’d never used a sewing machine – made the bodice. A pair of costume students built the undercarriage. An art minor with welding skills constructed the pannier, which makes the skirt flair on the sides.

Building inventory

University Theatre stages nine shows each year, including its summer productions.

“We did some research, and we do more shows than any other university in Michigan or in the MAC with four tech staff members,” Dasen says. “That means we have to manage our time really well and having a streamlined inventory system really helps.

You’re not searching everywhere for an item. I’ve worked in places where you had to dig through piles of clothes on the floor to find costumes.”

The costume shop’s cataloging process keeps everything cleaner, and it helps the items last longer.

In addition to making many of the items needed for productions, Dasen says the Mount Pleasant community has been generous with donations from their estates.

“The community has given us some beautiful articles of clothing and accessories. It’s a nice way for us to acquire vintage things,” Dasen says. “We probably construct 50 to 70 percent of the pieces for each production. With a show like ‘Dangerous Liaisons,’ I can’t just go to the store and buy what I need.”

Dasen says donated clothing can serve many purposes – it may be worn in a production, it may become a pattern for making a replica or it could be used for a costume history course.

“People don’t realize they can donate many things to us,” she says. “We have three file cabinets of just patterns that serve as historical reference. Furniture, appliances, small props – anything that has a ‘historical look’ could be used in a show.”

BY ROBIN MINER-SWARTZ

UPCOMING SHOWS

“Shooting Star”: A two-person romantic comedy set in a snowbound airport. Performances are Oct. 6-8 and 13-15 in Moore Hall’s Theatre-on-the-Side.

“A Chorus Line”: The iconic, Pulitzer Prize-winning musical about aspiring Broadway performers. Shows are Nov. 9-13 in Bush Theatre.

Tickets: cmich.edu/ticketcentral

Donations: Have something to contribute to the costume shop? Contact Ann Dasen at dasen1a@cmich.edu
A legacy of selflessness

Scholarship fund helps teaching students touched by cancer

Sue Maly, ’73, faced her death the way she faced her life – with grace, love and selflessness.

“When she got the news [she had terminal ovarian cancer], there was a little bit of that, ‘Here we go ...’ that lasted a couple hours,” says her husband, Tim Maly, ’74. “But she quickly just moved to, ‘OK, here’s what we’re facing. How do I get ready for it, and how does the family get ready for it?”

By Cynthia J. Drake, M.A. ’08
She put a cookbook of her recipes together so Tim would be able to make meals for himself. She thoughtfully recorded answers to questions from her four adult children on video.

And, from a hospital bed where she observed other cancer patients struggling to pay their bills, she brainstormed a way she could smooth the path for people in that situation, long after she died. That became the Susan Colby Maly Endowed Scholarship Fund.

“She had this incredible grace about her,” says Tim. “The hospice people told me a couple times that they really had never seen anything like it.”

In the midst of chemotherapy

Even as Sue was facing debilitating treatments and heartbreaking end-of-life decisions, she still thought of others.

“We were at the hospital, and Sue was getting prepped for her chemo,” Tim remembers. “There was a woman in the chair next to her who was receiving her pre-chemo drugs, when the nurse came in and informed her that her insurance was not covering the chemo. When the woman asked how much the treatment cost, she was told $5,000.

“You can imagine what happened: she couldn’t afford it and her treatment was stopped. We thought how awful to have to face all the emotions that go along with fighting a deadly disease and at the same time agonizing over how you are going to handle it financially. It just seemed wrong to us. This experience and others had a profound impact on us.”

The Malys knew they wanted to smooth the path for others who faced that particular financial hardship. The choice to focus their efforts on creating an endowed scholarship at CMU was not a hard one – that’s the place their love first bloomed.

On a sultry Michigan August day, the summer of 1971, I first lay my eyes on your dad,” Sue wrote to her daughter Michelle before her wedding. “One of the choice activities those days was to take a dive off of the dam on the Chippewa River and body-surf the rapids below. That’s when I saw Tim for the first time. My roommate and I were sitting on a blanket, not-so-subtly checking out the divers, when a tall, tanned, gorgeous man stepped in line for his jump.”

Tim and Sue were married 40 years.

The Susan Colby Maly Endowed Scholarship

The Susan Colby Maly Endowed Scholarship is for future teachers, just like Sue was, whose lives have been touched by cancer in some way.

Sarah Disanto, a senior special education cognitive impairments major from Macomb, was the first recipient. Disanto’s mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010, and the family suffered not only from the emotional but the financial impact of her diagnosis.

“It was a hard time for our family because my mom was a self-employed court reporter, so she received no benefits and no pay when she was going through surgeries and recovery,” says Disanto. “It kind of left my dad, my brother and I to pull together and find ways that worked to make ends meet.”

Of the scholarship, she says, “It’s an honor. I really don’t think there are words to say thank you enough.”

‘Mrs. Maly, don’t blow this pop stand’

During their careers, the Malys moved around the U.S. quite a bit for Tim’s positions in human resources. Sue Maly relished the adventure, always finding teaching positions and even working as a principal and in a men’s correctional facility. She was beloved by her students no matter where they went.

One time, when the family was leaving North Carolina for their next stint, community members added a special message to the sign at the local Taco Bell with one of her favorite sayings: “Mrs. Maly, don’t blow this pop stand.”

She left too soon, but someone whose light burned so brightly never truly leaves any of us. •
Annual CMU Scholarship Luncheon

The first CMU Scholarship Luncheon was in 1988, with 92 people in attendance. The 2016 event, honoring Sue Maly, welcomed more than 515 people.

By the numbers

Lifetime giving of all donors invited to the 2016 luncheon: $43.5 million

Lifetime giving of donors attending the 2016 luncheon: $6.5 million

2016 awards: 1,173 awards were given to 950 students for the 2015-16 academic year, totaling more than $2 million
Love of one’s partner. Love of the educational experience. Love of our alma mater.

It’s first authored by Mike and Gay in their remarkable 1970s CMU student experience and how deeply that college experience influenced their lives.

1971. They both arrived on campus from the Grand Rapids area, freshmen at Central Michigan University. Michael Jerome Franckowiak, the big, 6-3, 215-pound Polish kid, an athletic Adonis with steely, stare-through-you green eyes, studious, shy and spiritual. And Sparta, Michigan’s, Gay Lynne Ebers, an 18-year-old meteor with burning brown eyes and a desire to defy society’s preconceived notions of a woman’s place in society. Ebers, a sensitive contradiction, not hesitant to offer a you-can’t-be-serious stare, yet all the while, easily touched, quick to tears.

Mike ranks, historically, as one of the Chippewas’ all-time elite football players. He was the quarterback for CMU’s 1974 National College Division Champions, coached by Roy Kramer. After losing its first game in 1974, the team won 12 in a row, beating Boise State in the first round of the playoffs and then defeating defending national champion Louisiana Tech, snapping that team’s 23-game winning streak. In the championship game in Sacramento’s Camelia Bowl, CMU overpowered the Blue Hens of Delaware, 54-14. The Central Michigan Chippewas were the convincing National Champs!

A footnote: Every player on that team was from the state of Michigan.

Mike graduated from West Catholic High School in Grand Rapids. Central Michigan was the ONLY school to offer him a full football scholarship. His outstanding career at CMU would continue in the NFL. Drafted in the early rounds of the 1975 draft as a quarterback/kicker by the Denver Broncos – the 54th player selected – he would play four years of professional football, two with Denver and two in Buffalo.

To this day, he still wears his pride for Central on his right ring finger – his 1974 CMU championship ring. It features a maroon stone with a gold “C” nested in its center. For their 35th wedding anniversary, Gay had it restored. The stone, from decades of use, had worn thin. He hadn’t taken it off. He didn’t want to take it off. The ring is a symbol of his continuing love affair with his alma mater.

When his Polish mother drove him from Grand Rapids to Mount Pleasant for his first day on campus, he admits to being scared to death, a fear not at all ameliorated when his mother wept upon her son’s departure. Hard work built his confidence. He diligently earned a business degree, spending many late hours at Grawn Hall, earning the reputation that he was as solid in the classroom as he was on the football field. From the hundreds of eligible college quarterbacks in 1974, he was selected at the very top of the class, a FIRST TEAM College Academic All-America. Oh, my!

Gay Ebers was born in Grand Rapids, growing up in a family of six children, living on a 162-acre Centennial Farm (85 acres of apple orchard) in Comstock Park, Michigan. A cheerleader at nearby Sparta High School, followed her early education attending a one-room school with just four other students in her class in Comstock Park.

She didn’t consider herself a great student, but was proudly encouraged by an A in English 101 her CMU freshman year. The title of her finals’ essay: “Women Arise,” a paper advocating Women’s Liberation. She was only 18, but her paper was a strong announcement of what she was to become.

Gay gets emotional when recounting her mother’s influence, a teaching mother who taught and fought, was even a basketball referee and principal way ahead of her time. Gay recalls her mom’s sage challenge: “You have wings. You should fly.” And so she did, from graduating from CMU, to teaching seventh- and eighth-grade mathematics, to studying and producing in the heady and demanding classrooms of New York’s Wall Street.
Unabashedly, she expresses her love for Central. “To this day when I hear the fight song, I have to go off by myself because my eyes fill with tears. I’ve loved CMU since my very first day on campus. I was totally impressed by its beauty, as I stood by the CMU entrance emblem, looking up the leafy lane to stately Warriner Hall.” Gay earned her teaching degree while collecting meager spending money repairing books in the CMU library. When she returned home during spring breaks, her parents demanded she have a job. Easter was not a holiday. After all, a background of hard work does help strengthen young wings to fly. But we’re getting ahead of their love story …

It wasn’t love at first sight. In their four years on campus, she and Mike knew each other well. He was a Sig Ep and she was a Zeta, but a romantic connection avoided any CMU equation. They didn’t date, yet they always found each other interesting and attractive. Gay admired the fact that every Sunday morning she could look out her window of Woldt Hall and see Mike, the big football star, walking to Mass at St. Mary’s. Mike, on the other hand, amazingly shy for his omnipresent Central championship ring, was a signal caller of Invesco Capital Management Co., formerly Citibank Investment Management. Two winners, now retired and enjoying their summers at a home on Michigan’s remote Beaver Island. Their love for Central is blatantly apparent, his omnipresent Central championship ring, the CMU sticker on their car’s back window and the public fact that they are often seen proudly attired in Chippewa clothing. Even their 2-year-old black Scottish Terrier, Putter, wears a maroon and gold CMU collar.

Gay serves as a member of the prestigious 40-person CMU Development Board. “Our goal is to impress others to give back to our alma mater and cultivate relationships that will strengthen a campus that gave us all a chance to succeed. I see so much growth potential in our university. The medical school is a classic example. The campus has evolved with such beauty and promise. I’m so proud that CMU is making such a major contribution to our state, especially Northern and Upper Michigan. My love for Central continues. It makes me so happy.”

And they have taken positive action. With funding help from Mount Pleasant natives and CMU graduates Todd and Terri Anson (Class of 1977), they have shared in a recent donation that provides iPads for the entire football team, which Coach John Bonamego says has given the Chippewa football program a cutting-edge tool to succeed.

Now the true love, the BIG HUG. Recently, Gay and Mike gifted the university a commitment of $1 million – the LARGEST GIFT EVER TO THE CMU FOOTBALL PROGRAM. As football has been a significant part of their lives, Gay agrees with Mike that a substantial part of that endowment should go to the “End Zone Project.” They love Coach Bonamego and are genuinely excited by the building success of the CMU football program. Coach Bono was speechless when he learned of the Franckowiaks’ generosity. “Mike was a game-changer on the field when he led us to the 1974 National Championship. To have one of our all-time football greats step up and demonstrate this level of support is incredibly inspiring. Mike led us on the field to a National Championship. Now he and Gay are establishing a game-changing legacy for our football program.”

So I hope you agree. This is a wondrous love story authored by two typical, but dynamically different, products of Central Michigan University. The Latin alma mater translates to “Nourishing Mother.” Our Nourishing Mother (CMU) has given to so many. How appropriate Gay and Mike’s passionate generosity has given back. Subtly placed in the Ebers-Franckowiak home is a small placard. It reads, “It’s never too late to live happily ever after.” Their noble-minded devotion to CMU freshens that philosophy. It’s their statement to the next generation of CMU students. May they have the opportunity early, and not too late, to live happily ever after. •
CMU pride starts with you. Here are a few ways you can share your pride within your community and family.

Fire Up Friday
Join others on campus and across the nation for Fire Up Friday. Wear your maroon and gold each Friday to spread Chippewa spirit wherever you go.

Support CMU students
Get involved and hire recent graduates as employees or current students as interns, financially contribute to CMU programs and scholarships, and encourage potential students to apply for admission.

Alumni Legacy Award
Your family can carry on the CMU tradition from out of state, too. Visit cmich.edu/alumni/benefits/scholarships to find out how your children can earn in-state tuition with the Alumni Legacy Award.

cmich.edu/alumni
Young Alumni board

President
Michael Zeig, ’08
East Lansing

Vice president
Scott Hillman, ’10
Chicago

Past president
Ashleigh (Klipper) Laabs, ’07
Royal Oak

Directors
Michael Decker, ’07
Beverly Hills

Morgan (Curtis) Hales, ’06,
M.A. ’11
Clare

Eric Johnson, ’11
Mount Pleasant

Danielle Leone, ’10
St. Clair Shores

James (J.J.) Lewis, ’06
Thousand Oaks, California

Jaime R. Leyrer, ’10, M.P.A. ’12
Saginaw

Jennifer Lopez, ’10
Royal Oak

Gregory Marx, ’08
Troy

Brittany Mouzourakis, ’11
Dearborn Heights

John Reineke, ’09
Oxford, Ohio

Michelle (Curtis) Rush, ’07
Saint Joseph

Jeffrey Stoutenburg, ’10,
M.P.A. ’13
Midland

Michael Wiese, ’09
Grand Rapids

Young Alumni regional fellows

California
San Francisco Bay
Courtney Duvendack, ’10
court.duvendack@gmail.com

Chicago
Spencer Long, ’08, M.A. ’10
spencer.long@gmail.com

Florida
Miami
Adam Romano, ’13
aromano734@gmail.com

Orlando
Raychel Cesaro, ’05
rcesaro@holocaustedu.org

Mara Shorr, ’05
marashorr@thebestmbs.com

Michigan
Holland
Briana Hartline, ’09
bhartline@sentinel.com

Metro Detroit
Emily Lamoreaux, ’07
emily.lamoreaux@gmail.com

Mid-Michigan
Megan Lawless, ’08
adelm1me@cmich.edu

NYC/New Jersey/Philadelphia
Michael Waas, ’05, M.A. ’07
michael.terracycle.com

Ohio/Oxford
Tylere Presley, ’12
tyleres.presley@betathetapi.org

Texas
Austin
Dan Rathke, ’07
rath1dj@gmail.com

Washington, D.C.
Colleen Scheidel, ’10
schei1ce@cmich.edu

Alumni board

President
Ryan A. Fewins-Bliss, ’02, M.A. ’04
Bath

Vice president
Brian Jones, ’90, MBA ’94
Midland

Past president
Jan (Keegan) Hagland, ’77
Berkeley

Directors
Rebecca Reyes Barrios, ’00,
MBA ’02
Canton

Carrie Baumgardner, ’99,
M.A. ’02
Lansing

Lynn Garrett, ’97
Detroit

Jacalyn (Beckers) Goforth, ’82
Beverly Hills

Laura Gonzales, ’79, M.A. ’89
Mount Pleasant

Bret Hyble, ’82, M.A. ’86
Mount Pleasant

Linda (Scharich) Leahy, ’82
Midland

Scott Nadeau, ’89
Dexter

Mount Pleasant

Frederick Puffenberger, ’95
Mount Pleasant

Kandra (Kerridge) Robbins, ’90
Portland

Whitney Robinson, ’03
West Bloomfield

Darryl Shelton, ’85
Grand Rapids

Nathan Tallman, ’07, M.A. ’09
Auburn Hills

Robert VanDeventer, ’74
Saginaw

Bradley Wahr, ’03
Mount Pleasant

Thomas L. Worobec, ’93
Dearborn Heights

Nicole (Williams) Yelland, ’05
Clarkston
**Alumni News**

**Global Campus grad named ‘Most Valuable Diverse Business Partner’**

The Detroit Tigers selected Temeria Heard, M.A. ’10, and her company, Corporate52 Marketing Group, as the recipient of the 10th annual Jackie Robinson “Most Valuable Diverse Business Partner” award. Heard is the first African-American woman in Detroit to receive this award.

“To be presented with this distinct and prestigious award is an honor, and it creates a new passion within me to continue to break through barriers that I thought were impossible in highly competitive organizations such as the Detroit Tigers,” says Heard, owner and president of Corporate52 Marketing Group.

Heard is a resident of Troy. She has a master’s degree in international business from CMU.

---

**Two CMU alums among most influential women in Michigan**

Rebekah Smith, M.S. ’11, and Tricia Keith, ’93, were named to the Crain’s Detroit 2016 list of the most influential women in Michigan.

Smith has spent her career working for Lake Huron Medical Center in Port Huron. She started as a staff nurse; today, she is president and CEO of the hospital, overseeing about 800 employees. Smith led the medical center through the transition from St. Joseph Mercy, a nonprofit, to its present identity under its new for-profit owner Prime Healthcare.

Keith is the executive vice president, chief of staff and corporate secretary for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. She led the company’s consolidation of 7,000 employees into a seven-building, three-block urban campus in downtown Detroit in 2010. Keith also serves as the vice chair of CMU’s board of trustees.

---

**Phi Kappa Tau member earns national recognition**

J.J. Lewis, ’06, was one of nine Phi Kappa Tau members inducted into the 2016 class of “Phi Taus Under Forty.”

He is the president and CEO of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of California’s leading virtual public charter schools.

“Phi Taus Under Forty” recognizes successful members younger than 40 who have exhibited outstanding success in their chosen profession while living Phi Kappa Tau’s values.

“I am passionate about my work with both AAS and Phi Kappa Tau and am proud to be associated with both groups,” Lewis says.

---

**BCA alum part of New York Times’ Pulitzer Prize finalist team**

Broadcast and cinematic arts alum Yuhan Liu, M.A. ’11, was part of the team honored as Pulitzer Prize finalists for the New York Times exposé Unvarnished: The High Price of Pretty Nails.

The series, on which Liu was a reporter, researcher and translator, was among three finalists in the category of local reporting, one of the most competitive Pulitzer Prize categories, routinely drawing thousands of submissions annually.

From the story: “The New York Times interviewed more than 150 nail salon workers and owners, in four languages, and found that a vast majority of workers are paid below minimum wage; sometimes they are not even paid. Workers endure all manner of humiliation, including having their tips docked as punishment for minor transgressions, constant video monitoring by owners, even physical abuse. Employers are rarely punished for labor and other violations.”
'No Class' reunion documented CMU student activists' time on campus during turbulent Vietnam War era

Clarke Historical Library has helped alumni share and preserve their stories about what CMU was like during the tumultuous period of the late 1960s and early 1970s – the era of Vietnam War protests and the rise in activism related to civil rights, women's rights and many other causes.

The Mountain Madness 2016 “No Class” Reunion this spring was a gathering of alumni who were activists back then. They visited Clarke Historical Library to speak with archivist Marian Matyn about the library’s documentation of their student days. More than a dozen participants told stories about their time at Central – major events such as occupying Old Central Hall in the aftermath of the Kent State shootings and how their experiences shaped their lives after they left CMU.

An impromptu telephone call to former CMU President William Boyd (1968-75) was an unexpected surprise for the alumni. The oral history participants expressed their appreciation for President Boyd and the fair manner in which he dealt with activist students. He, in turn, was touched by the conversation, declaring it one of the best he had shared in 20 years. •

Crain’s Detroit includes CMU grad among ‘20 in their 20s’

Alicia Decker, ’08, was named one of the “20 in their 20s” to watch in metro Detroit in 2016.

Decker, 29, is vice president of operations for Centria Healthcare, a Novi-based home health care provider. She joined the company in 2013. One year into the job, she learned about insurance reform that allowed for Medicaid and private insurance to fund a specific type of in-home behavior therapy, called Applied Behavior Analysis, for children with autism.

“My passion developed when I started digging into this,” she tells Crain’s Detroit.

She grew the client list from three to almost 800 in two years. A year ago, autism services were about 10 percent of Centria’s business. Today, they’ve grown to 45 percent. Almost 950 people have been hired in Michigan because of the added service.

“She’s built a program that is changing lives,” says Centria CEO Scott Barry.

Decker says her psychology degree from CMU gave her the background in personally reaching out to families after a diagnosis of autism. •
In Memory

Kenneth N. Downing, ’45, Madison Heights, Mich., died April 5, 2016, age 84.
Marilyn L. (Lee) Olds, ’47, Lancaster, Pa., died June 15, 2016, age 90.
Donald E. Kinman, ’52, Linden, Mich., died April 25, 2016, age 90.
Margaret R. (Larsen) Archer, ’60, Dublin, Calif., died June 10, 2016, age 78.
Wayne A. Bell, ’60, Umatilla, Fla., died May 26, 2016, age 79.
Shirley (Vernon) Hirschenberger, ’60, M.A. ’69, Traverse City, Mich., died May 13, 2016, age 77.
Vilma M. McDowell, ’60, Central Lake, Mich., died April 26, 2016, age 81.
Marvin K. Blunk, ’61, Whitmore Lake, Mich., died June 8, 2016, age 76.
Cathaleen (Miller) Hardy, ’61, Saranac, Mich., died April 25, 2016, age 76.
Eugene A. Bischoff, ’64, Arcadia, Mich., died June 28, 2016, age 82.
Robert A. Clark, ’64, Commerce, Mich., died May 29, 2016, age 75.
Carol J. (Kuras) Fellovs, ’64, Ludington, Mich., died May 19, 2016, age 79.
Virginia A. Snyder, M.A. ’68, Vestaburg, Mich., died May 8, 2016, age 89.
Leonard C. Oliver, M.A. ’69, Mackinaw City, Mich., died April 20, 2016, age 77.
Michele S. (Kolb) Smith, ’70, Roanoke, Va., died May 23, 2016, age 68.
James K. King, ’71, M.A. ’75, The Villages, Fla., died June 16, 2016, age 76.
Stanley J. Gorzinski, M.S. ’72, Bay City, Mich., died July 1, 2016, age 77.
Jeananne Holbert, ’72, M.A. ’79, The Villages, Fla., died May 10, 2016, age 64.
Martha L. (Drury) Lynett, ’74, West Branch, Mich., died June 12, 2016, age 77.
Charles B. Cushway, M.A. ’75, Big Rapids, Mich., died June 1, 2016, age 87.
Walter R. Smith, ’75, M.A. ’81, Clare, Mich., died May 1, 2016, age 77.
Laurie L. (Klaiss) Sperry, ’77, Glendale, Ariz., died June 3, 2016, age 60.
Robert L. Harper, M.A. ’78, Hayesville, Ga., died June 4, 2016, age 68.
Bernard P. Healy, M.A. ’79, Pompton Plains, N.J., died May 25, 2016, age 64.
Robert E. Bergman, M.A. ’80, Halifax, Mass., died April 21, 2016, age 78.
Richard C. Goven, M.A. ’80, Colorado Springs, Colo., died Sept. 28, 2015, age 80.
Douglas N. Grize, M.A. ’80, Marietta, Ohio, died May 25, 2016, age 73.
Rufus C. Lazzell, M.A. ’80, Punta Gorda, Fla., died March 12, 2016, age 86.
Dorothy M. (Speer) VanBooven, M.A. ’80, Shawnee, Kan., died May 12, 2016, age 74.
Frank A. Celeskey, ’81, Garden City, Mich., died May 14, 2016, age 58.
Mae F. Scioneaux-Oubre, M.A. ’81, St. James, La., died July 1, 2016, age 68.
Donald W. Shea, M.A. ’81, Helena, Mont., died May 18, 2016, age 80.
Edward G. Thompson, M.A. ’81, Ortonville, Mich., died June 9, 2015, age 76.
Thomas A. Budnik, ’84, Rochester, Minn., died May 10, 2016, age 54.

George B. DeMarse, M.A. ’84, M.S.A. ’86, Wake Forest, N.C., died June 16, 2016, age 64.


Jeremy L. Jones, ’85, Roscommon, Mich., died March 5, 2016, age 87.

Carol M. (Strong) Miller, ’85, Sebring, Fla., died May 17, 2016, age 68.


Charles R. Bonnett, M.S.A. ’87, Conroe, Texas, died June 1, 2016, age 67.


Greg A. Melvin, ’89, Dexter, Mich., died June 8, 2016, age 49.

Michelle L. (Beers) Orr, ’89, Columbus, Ind., died June 27, 2016, age 49.


Cami M. Sulen, ’90, Oakley, Mich., died June 22, 2016, age 49.

Dave J. Hill, M.A. ’90, Cornins, Mich., died July 7, 2016, age 70.


Matthew A. Airdood, M.A. ’92, Elsie, Mich., died June 12, 2016, age 54.


Wayne D. Atwood, M.S.A. ’96, Jacksonville, Fla., died May 28, 2016, age 56.

Randy L. Rolston, ’96, Mount Pleasant, Mich., died July 18, 2016, age 60.


Amy S. (Swan) Arreguin, ’03, Saline, Mich., died June 3, 2016, age 44.


Melissa A. Bebout-Schmitz, ’05, Goshen, Ind., died June 3, 2016, age 34.


Kerry L. White, M.S.A. ’07, Springfield, Ohio, died May 24, 2016, age 37.


Faculty

Carol Young, Midland, Mich., died Feb. 7, 2016, age 76.

Staff


Bernadine Lefebvre, Shepherd, Mich., died June 11, 2016, age 74.

Stanley Martin, Mount Pleasant, Mich., died June 24, 2016, age 60.

Edna Nartker, Shepherd, Mich., died May 7, 2016, age 89.

Do you remember?

Homecoming

For many students, homecoming is one of the most beautiful and anticipated football weekends of the season. It has remained a steadfast tradition that revives memories and provides an opportunity for alumni to reconnect.
Dale Wernette, ’67, MBA ’72, chose to attend CMU because of its friendly atmosphere and inviting faculty. During his time on campus, he studied business, joined Alpha Kappa Psi and served as a resident assistant in Robinson Hall.

Today, Wernette is giving back to the university so students can have the same opportunities he did. The Dale and Karen Wernette Scholarship, created through a tax-free IRA rollover, will be given to a College of Business Administration student who demonstrates financial need.

“I wanted to support CMU students and young adults following in my footsteps,” Wernette said. “The IRA rollover option became permanent and a way to make such a gift. There were great tax benefits.”

Give today for the future
Like Dale, 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, visit giftplanning.cmich.edu or contact:

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

The gift that gives back
The Dale and Karen Wernette scholarship helps more than students

CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/oei). UComm 9/18

giftplanning.cmich.edu
The Fabiano Brothers Tailgate Village is where CMU football fans entertain friends under a furnished tent with entertainment, food and tickets. Located by the ponds between Kelly/Shorts Stadium and Broomfield Road, Tailgate Village will be in action at each of the first four home games.

TAILGATE PACKAGE INFO

- Pricing starts at approximately $45 per person (minimum 25 people)
- Package includes access to the Fabiano Brothers Tailgate Village area close to stadium, an exclusive tent for your group, tickets, parking, a customizable food package and drinks.

Leave the work to us! Follow these steps to have the ultimate college football tailgate experience.

1. Pick your game.
2. Select your food and beverage options.
3. Show up and enjoy your event and the concert.

CONCERT SERIES

The free McGuirk Sand-Gravel Maroon and Gold Concert Series begins three hours before kickoff and is part of the Tailgate Village scene.

The full lineup is:
- Sept. 1 vs. Presbyterian: Uncle Kracker
- Sept. 17 vs. UNLV: Jedi Mind Trip
- Oct. 1 vs. Western Michigan: Cadillac West
- Oct. 8 vs. Ball State (homecoming): Paddlebots