Homecoming 2012
Ready to celebrate with your CMU family? Get event information here.

The old stompin’ grounds
Check out alumni suggestions on what you must do during Homecoming weekend.

The beat goes on
Understand more about the traditions keeping Chippewa Marching Band alumni coming back for Homecoming.

The same Central spirit
A 1935 alumna recalls her alma mater. See how yesterday and today aren’t so different.

Parading by
For nearly nine decades, Central fans have cheered on the annual march down Main. View it through the years.

Diamond celebration
See how the 1962 baseball team marked the 50th year since Bill Theunissen coached his final season at CMU.

Grandparents U
Learn about the Central bonds alumni and their grandkids shared this summer.
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Scan the QR Code to hear a message from your Executive Director of Alumni Relations.
Cheering at the Rose Pool, Heather Imbault, ‘98, encouraged the Special Olympian swimmers. Her voice echoed throughout the competition area and her hands were red from clapping. “You are almost there!”

This summer, Imbault – who has volunteered at Special Olympics for more than 10 years – joined the 5,500 athletes, coaches, chaperones and volunteers who came together for the 41st annual Special Olympics Michigan State Summer Games on CMU’s campus.

“Special Olympics is something that you need to experience to understand,” Imbault says. “It has a spirit that unites people.”

This summer’s heroes-themed competition showcased 10 sports. CMU students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteered to bring the event to life in a partnership with Special Olympics Michigan that has spanned more than four decades.

CMU football player and Hartford, Wis., senior Jacob Olson says he has been involved in the program for three years, and he loves volunteering to help out in the competition.

“Small things in life make people happy,” Olson says. “You come here and talk to these kids, and they get so happy about it. I have a blast coming here.”

Central Michigan University professor Steve Thompson wants people to stand up for what’s right. And he – along with 12 CMU student advocates – has toured the globe sharing his “No Zebras” philosophy with the U.S. military.

Thompson has presented “No Zebras, No Excuses” – named after zebras standing and watching while one is attacked, instead of working together to assist – during CMU freshman orientation for nearly 15 years.

This summer Thompson was asked to make presentations to U.S. Navy sailors and Marines, traveling to several military bases, including San Diego and Pearl Harbor, as well as Guantanamo Bay and Japan.

“Our hope for sailors and Marines following the show is that they come away with a renewed sense of personal responsibility, for protecting each other and for being mindful of our own actions,” says Jill Loftus, Department of the Navy sexual assault prevention and response office director.

Standing up, speaking out

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Student focused

Steven Johnson, CMU’s first vice president for enrollment and student services, wants students to take advantage of what campus offers and to leverage their experiences.

Focused on maintaining and improving a seamless environment for student engagement, Johnson says students’ needs today are different than in the past. And the economic environment is playing a larger role.

“Often when students look at majors, they look at professions that seem to pay the best,” says Johnson, who began on campus Jan. 8. “But they may not know how to navigate the opportunities to be the best candidates for those careers. So our role as educators is making sure that we navigate and help guide students through educational opportunities.”

Offices reporting directly to Johnson include Admissions, Student Life, Residence Life, Scholarships and Financial Aid, and academic support services.

Johnson, who has 28 years of higher education experience and formerly served as CMU’s Global Campus director of operations and professional development, says he will continue to raise student awareness and connections to what CMU offers – such as career services and scholarship and financial aid opportunities.

Front and central

It’s showtime for CMU’s University Theatre. If you are on the Mount Pleasant campus, check out one of the upcoming 2012-2013 productions, which are all faculty directed and choreographed.

Never in My Lifetime
Written by Shirley Gee
Oct. 4 through 7 and 11 through 14

The Scarlet Pimpernel
Written by Nan Knighton (book and lyrics) and Frank Wildhorn (music)
Nov. 7 through 11

Criminals in Love
Written by George F. Walker
Feb. 13 through 17

The Fireflies
Written by Lauren McConnell and Jose-Luis Maurtua (music)
April 3 through 7

University Theatre Dance Company
Concert
April 18 through 21

For ticket information, go to cmich.edu/ticketcentral or call 888-CMU-0111.
Night-of-show tickets are available at Moore Hall’s Bush Theatre Ticket Office on the CMU Mount Pleasant campus.

A wellness plan

In a move to promote good health, CMU’s College of Medicine and University Health Services have formed a partnership.

This will expand medical services offered to students and will give UHS and its patients direct access to CMED’s newly formed clinical practices.

“As the College of Medicine develops its clinical practice sites, it makes perfect sense to provide additional top-quality, high-value health care for our own student body,” says Sean Kesterson, College of Medicine associate dean, clinical affairs.

UHS will continue to raise awareness of the health care resources available to students on campus, such as preventive advice, counseling services and immunizations. UHS also will assess ways to address barriers to care such as being underinsured or uninsured.

In addition to the partnership, a completely renovated Towers Clinic opened this fall.

The March 2012 University Theatre production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”
Talk with Robert Knapp and you’ll learn there was relatively nothing new about the principles driving the recent Occupy Wall Street-related movements.

The sense of “99 percent” of the population getting economically and socially buried by the wealthiest 1 percent actually dates back to ancient Rome, according to Knapp, University of California, Berkeley, professor emeritus in the Classics Department and author of “Invisible Romans.”

Knapp is a 1968 CMU graduate – he was valedictorian of the mid-year graduating class – and he recently returned to his alma mater to speak at the annual Friends of the Libraries Luncheon. He will return in November to receive CMU’s 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award.
Robert Knapp, the author of “Invisible Romans,” had attended the CMU lab school located in what today is Smith Hall.

Centralight recently had an opportunity to speak with Knapp about his love of history and of CMU.

Harvard University Press published your book “Invisible Romans” toward the end of 2011, nearly five years after you became a professor emeritus. It’s been featured in publications including The New Yorker Magazine and the Washington Post. What inspired you to write such a book?

At the University of California, Berkeley, I taught a course on Roman civilization. Over time I became more and more dissatisfied with the textbooks’ focus on the elite such as Julius Caesar and Augustus. They were the 1 percent, but there was little about the other 99 percent. This 99 percent were the ordinary people, and ordinary people drive any culture. I didn’t want it to be a dry, scholarly book. I wanted one that was carefully grounded in the facts, but entertaining as well as informative.

Understanding that there wasn’t a lot written about the “ordinary people” of ancient Rome, how did you research the men, women and children of those times?

Actually I discovered that there were quite a lot of sources for glimpses into the lives of these invisible Romans. There is a lot in the New Testament Gospels and Epistles that provides insight into how they lived. Books of ancient dream interpretations and astrological texts also show what people were afraid of and hoped for, and epigraphy in the grave stones shows how the people wanted to be seen. I was able to knit the strands together enough to tell their stories.

You and your wife, Carolyn, live in California, but still are very connected to Michigan and CMU. You regularly visit the area to restore an 1888 log home built by your great-grandfather as well as make extensive use of CMU’s Clarke Historical Library to conduct much of your research on Clare, which was your father’s hometown. Why such a continued interest?

You can’t take history away from a historian. I wanted to do research on the logging history of the Clare area, but when I started poking around I became more and more interested in the town itself. I’m currently working on a book about the 1938 murder of Isaiah Leebove, who was linked to the Purple Gang and killed in the bar at the Doherty Hotel.

In addition to graduating from CMU, you also attended the lab school here because your dad, Austin, was a political science professor, and your mom, Gall, was a history department secretary. What do you remember about your lab school experiences?

I attended through sixth grade in the lab school — now Smith Hall. I remember especially Miss Welch’s room. But every year was an incredible learning environment with the wonderful professionals and all the student teachers. Where else would you have seven teachers in each class? I established the website “College Elementary School” (cliophiles.com/collegeel) for telling the story of the “College El” and for tracking down students, teachers and student teachers from the lab school. I just didn’t want that part of CMU’s history to disappear.

This year you became the first CMU graduate to speak at the Friends of the Libraries annual event and are receiving the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award. What’s that like to have your alma mater recognize you?

I never would have dreamed it. It was such a surprise and is such an honor. I know my father and grandmother, both CMU grads, would be proud. And I have never lost my affection for Central, Mount Pleasant and Clare.

2012 CMU Alumni Award winners

The 2012 Alumni Awards ceremony will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, in the Bovee University Center, Mount Pleasant campus. The public is invited. For more information, contact the CMU Alumni office at alumni@cmich.edu or 989-774-3312.

Here are the honorees.

• Distinguished Alumni Award: Robert C. Knapp, ’68, of California, author, historian, professor emeritus

• Distinguished Young Alumni Award: Kenneth Anderson, M.S.A. ’11, of Maryland, U.S. Air Force aerial port flight superintendent; and Basil Lyberg, ’99, of North Carolina, entrepreneur/philanthropist.

• Alumni Commitment Award: Liz Campbell, ’77, of Midland and Gavin Smith, ’76 M.A. ’85, of Haslett, theater production volunteers and CCFA event organizers.

• Chapter/Club Service Award: Dale Wenette, ’67, of Arizona, president of the Scottsdale, Ariz., Chapter.

• Community Recognition Award: Ronald Farrell, ’65 Ed.S. ’81, of Blanchard, supporter of scholarships and the education system.

• Corporate Partner Award: Rollin Gerstacker Foundation, more than 15 years of partnership with CMU.

• Honorary Alumni Award: Robert “Bob” J. Garner of Cadillac, longtime friend of CMU Public Broadcasting.

• Additional alumni recognitions: Tasha Candela, ’05, Sarah Clark, ’99 M.S. ’05, Emily Doerr, ’07.
HOME COMING
2012

Saturday, Oct. 20

12:01 a.m. Friday to 11:59 p.m. Saturday
WMHW-FM 91.5
Alumni Takeover
Tune in to 91.5 FM to hear alumni take over the student radio station all weekend through midnight Saturday.

7 p.m. Friday
Rock Rally
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 2012 Homecoming gold ambassadors.

8 a.m.
5K run and Miles for Medals fundraising run/walk
Check-in begins at 7 a.m. at Finch Fieldhouse for the 8 a.m. start. Choose a 5K run/walk or a one-mile fun run/walk. Register online at www.somi.org. All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Michigan.

9:30 a.m.
Alumni continental breakfast
Start your day off right with a complimentary breakfast outside Powers Hall. Stay right here to watch the parade.

Guests of honor will include the CMU Class of 1962, celebrating its 50th reunion.

11 a.m.
Homecoming parade
The annual parade begins in Parking Lot 22 and travels through campus before heading north on Main Street to downtown Mount Pleasant.

Noon
Alumni Village
Join the free campuswide celebration near Rose Ponds for food, fun and friends. WMHW-FM alumni will broadcast live on location. Grand Marshals Herb and Marilyn Deromedi will stop by, and a 100-member kazoo band will perform. Visit with a favorite professor, grab some food and soak up the atmosphere that is CMU Homecoming.

1 p.m.
Cardboard boat race
Watch teams of engineering and technology students trying to stay afloat while paddling cardboard boats they’ve built.

3:30 p.m.
Football game
Cheer on the Chippewas as CMU takes on Ball State at Kelly/Shorts Stadium. Order tickets at 1-888-FIREUP-2 or online at cmuchippewas.com.

See cmualum.com for the latest information and further details.
A WINNING TEAM
Deromedis are 2012 Grand Marshals

Herb and Marilyn Deromedi wear maroon and gold on their sleeves.

Herb, former CMU football head coach and athletic director, has one of the most storied careers in the Mid-American Conference. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007 and the MAC Hall of Fame in May. And Marilyn, his wife of 51 years, has been there to support him through it all.

This Homecoming they both will become CMU’s Homecoming Grand Marshals.

“We’re really honored and humbled,” Deromedi says. “There are so many outstanding people that have been a part of CMU’s rich history. To be included and honored among them, we’re very appreciative.”

Herb Deromedi, who worked at CMU from 1967 to 2006, says that he’s especially glad that he and Marilyn share the honor.

“Marilyn would always go to the parade with the kids and later the grandkids. But until a few years ago, I was working,” he says. “This is a great way for us to show our Central pride and experience Homecoming together.”

Destination reservations
For the full Homecoming experience – enjoying the game, hanging out with friends and going to your favorite local breakfast place in the morning – here are several options for lodging in Mount Pleasant.

**Baymont Inn**
5858 E Pickard Road
866-539-0036
baymontinns.com

**Best Western Inn**
5770 E. Pickard Road
989-772-1101
book.bestwestern.com

**Chippewa Motel**
5662 E Pickard Road
989-772-1751
chippewa-motel.com

**Comfort Inn & Suites**
424 S. Mission St.
989-772-4000
comfortinn.com

**Country Chalet and Edelweiss Haus Bed and Breakfast**
723 S. Meridian Road
989-772-9259
countrychalet.net

**Fairfield Inn & Suites**
2525 S. University Park Dr.
989-775-5000
marriott.com

**Green Suites**
1900 Summerton Road
989-772-2905
green-suites.com

**Hampton Inn**
5205 E. Pickard Road
989-772-5500
hamptoninn1.hilton.com

**Mt. Pleasant Inn & Suites**
5500 E. Pickard Road
877-738-8715
mtpleasantinn.com

**Pleasant Dreams Bed and Breakfast**
400 E. Wisconsin St.
989-772-2543
pleasantdreamsbb.com

**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort**
6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
1-888-7-EAGLE-7
soaringeaglecasino.com

**Super 8 Hotel**
2323 S. Mission St.
989-773-8888
super8.com

**Wold’s Motel**
901 E. Bennett St.
989-772-3429
woldsмotel.com

Coach Herb Deromedi and wife, Marilyn, celebrate after the 1991 win against Michigan State.
Your welcome back itinerary

Our handpicked list of what to do and see when you’re in Mount Pleasant

With so much to do on campus and around Mount Pleasant, it’s a shame Homecoming only lasts one weekend.

To make the most of your trip back “home,” here’s a roundup of some of our favorite activities – from your old hangouts to some of the newest hot spots in town.

Tune in and turn on. There’s nothing like some old tunes to transport you back to your carefree college days. The annual alumni takeover of Modern Rock, 91.5 FM, is a 13-year-old tradition going strong. Can’t make it back? Listen online at wmhw.org.

“I like listening to the music. When I’m at Homecoming, I check out Peter Frampton, the Spinners, run a mile around Finch track and stand in the parking lot where Tate Hall used to be…” – Michael Booker, ‘85

Get outdoors. If it’s nice out, pack a picnic with goodies from Ric’s or the Market on Main and spread out in one of the local parks. Papa’s Pumpkin Patch, 3909 S. Summerton, is another fall fave among townies, offering hayrides, corn mazes, and fresh cider and donuts.

“I like to bring up my bike and take a ride through Deerfield Park.” – Joe M. Schubert, ‘02

President George E. Ross gets in on the action during the 2011 Alumni Takeover.
Visit your old haunts. Sure, your tastes might have changed a bit since college (Natural Light, anyone?), but chances are a visit to your favorite watering hole will bring back some fond memories. Marty’s Bar, the Bird Bar & Grill, and the Blackstone Bar – all alumni favorites – are still slinging value-priced bevvies in the laidback atmosphere you remember.

“I miss going to The Bird for 10-cent drinks in mason jars … Am I showing my age?” – Bill Casey, ’90

Keep the kids happy. If you’ve got little ones in tow, you’ll want to check out CMU’s Museum of Cultural and Natural History in Rowe Hall, currently featuring a hands-on exhibit called “Journey through the Jungle.” The new Soaring Eagle Waterpark, 5665 E. Pickard, offers splash-tastic fun indoors. Of course, the kiddos may also enjoy the homecoming parade, which kicks off on campus at 11 a.m. Oct. 20.

“After the parade and the game, my plan is to go to the Soaring Eagle Waterpark.” – Josh Shastal, ’05

Treat yourself to some maroon and gold. Whether you can make it back to campus or not, deck yourself out in some new threads to celebrate your CMU Chippewa spirit. Vintage designs are all the rage this year.

“I always stop by the University Cup, the bookstores, Alumni Village and game.” – Lisa Emerson, ’99

Don’t forget the main event. Get those spirit fingers ready, tune up your best holler and cheer on the Chippewas as they take on Ball State at Kelly/Shorts Stadium on Oct. 20. Reconnect with old professors and friends at Alumni Village near the stadium. While you’re there, try out some crazy hot chili and other delicious (and free) eats – it all starts at noon.

“Gotta hit the U.C. for the sole purpose of being true alumni. I go to the CMU Bookstore and SBX and end it with some good old-fashioned tailgating, Chippewa-style. Fire Up Chips!” – Helena Kelly, ’96

Discover Mount Pleasant’s new side. If you haven’t visited in a while, you might be surprised by some of the newest businesses that have taken up residence in your old college town. For sushi and martinis in some seriously swanky environs, head over to Midori, 105 E. Broadway. For casual fare, hit up Dog Central, 111 E. Michigan. Want a romantic date overlooking the Chippewa River? Canoodle over at Ginkgo Tree Inn and Riverbluff Bistro, 309 N. Main. You’ll have something in common when you chat up the proprietors – each business is owned by a Central alum.

“I’ll get a malt and go to the bookstore. But I’m going to explore a little. Mount Pleasant has really grown. There’s so much more!” – Jill Gauthier De Jesus, ’00

PHOTOS BY ROBERT BARCLAY AND PEGGY BRISBANE
As a Gold Member you will:

- Receive discounts on purchases, such as car rentals, tickets at the Palace of Auburn Hills and DTE Energy Music Theater, merchandise at the CMU Bookstore, and more
- Access CMU’s online networking service and stay connected with thousands of CMU alumni and friends worldwide
- Help your university host Homecoming events and other alumni programs during the year through your annual $35 membership
- Get regular news updates about exciting developments at CMU

Enjoy the many benefits and strengthen your pride in your alma mater as a Gold Member of the CMU Alumni Association.

cmualum.com
800-358-6903
Sue (Kloostra) Genau, ‘86, third from the left, and Pattee (Johnson) Bender, ‘84 M.S. ‘86, fourth from the left, perform with Chippewa Marching Band alumni during 1992 Homecoming events.

**In time with tradition**

Homecoming keeps current and alumni band members marching to same beat

Sue (Kloostra) Genau vividly remembers standing in front of her West Branch church and excitedly sharing her plans following high school graduation.

“I said, ‘I’m going to CMU, and I’m going to be part of the band.’”

Now more than 25 years since receiving her degree, Genau says these same words as she gets fired up and returns for Homecoming.

She forever is a Chippewa Marching Band member.
Genau, ’86, is eager to grab her clarinet and proudly take her place with other marching band alumni to perform in the Homecoming parade and on the field during the football halftime show.

“I’ve already got it marked on my calendar,” says Genau, who lives in Midland and has returned nearly every year since graduating from CMU. “With the marching band, there is such a legacy and so much heritage that you are carrying on something much bigger than yourself.”

Returning to enjoy time with college friends and play alongside current band members perpetuates the long-standing traditions of the Chippewa Marching Band, says James Batcheller, who took over as marching band director in 2000.

Batcheller knows about these spirited traditions firsthand. A 1986 CMU graduate, he played the mellophone and served as the Chippewa Marching Band drum major from 1981 to 1983.

“It’s not just about being able to show off to the alumni the new things we’ve implemented, it’s an opportunity for the current students to interact with the people who started that tradition of innovation,” Batcheller says. “We work very hard every year to make sure that the students realize they are part of the long line of spirited ambassadors for the university.”

These are the connections many current members look forward to making with alumni band members. Ask Corey Jahlas, a senior from Highland who is serving his second year as head drum major of the Chippewa Marching Band.

“It’s fun to hear the stories of ‘When I was a rookie ...’ or ‘When I was in Marching Band, this is how we used to do it ...’,” Jahlas says. “It makes me feel more connected to the Marching Chips, knowing that I am a part of this brotherhood of men and women who have come before me and gone on to do great things, and that one day, I too will be a proud alumnus coming back to share my stories of ‘back in the day.’”

Obi Unaeze, ’08, has returned to CMU each year since graduating to play his saxophone with the marching band.

“It’s important for me to come back to play with the alumni band to remind me that the band was my family at CMU,” says Unaeze, who currently is a limited licensed professional counselor in Comstock Park. “This family reunion rekindles the fact that the Marching Chips were and forever will be a part of me.”

What impresses Liz Fedewa, a current senior piccolo player in the marching band, is the alumni’s ability to pick up where they left off no matter how many years since graduating.

“It’s always so amazing to see the alumni, especially

... the band was my family at CMU

Obi Unaeze, ’08, gives a thumbs-up as he gets ready to take the field during the 2009 halftime show.
the older ones, fall right back into our traditions like they never left,” says Fedewa, a senior from DeWitt.

Marching and playing with the current band during the Homecoming parade and halftime show historically have served as the main events for the alumni band. Recent time adjustments for the football game have created the opportunity to add more events for the alumni. This includes hosting a formal event in the Powers Ballroom the night before the Homecoming game and a coffee hour before the parade.

For Grand Rapids alumna Pattee (Johnson) Bender, ’84 M.S. ’86, what makes the Homecoming experience so meaningful for so many marching band alumni is the bond they share.

“My social network during college was the marching band,” says Bender, who marched with the band’s color guard and married fellow Marching Chippewa Tim Bender. “When you go back for Homecoming you know you’re going to run into nearly 250 people who share your same interests in the band.

“It’s wonderful to be involved in a program that didn’t end when you graduated.”

Rick Goward, ’75, plays with the marching band during the 1975 Homecoming game. Goward, who is director of bands at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, is hoping to make it back to Homecoming this year. He says the best part about playing with the Marching Chippewas Alumni Band is, “Seeing young 18- and 19-year-olds filling my footsteps.”

Peyton Towler, ’08, breaks Melissa Holso’s concentration as he and other alumni band members join current members on the field during the 2009 halftime performance. Holso, ’11, says Towler had served as one of her rank captains in the band when he was a student. “He’s a truly hilarious person,” says Holso, who majored in music education. “Playing with the marching band was my way to make Central my own.”
A plate is worth a thousand words

Get motorists thinking and talking about your alma mater

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Order your CMU license plate today

cmualum.com
CMU celebrates its 120th anniversary with Facebook

CMU launches a ‘Facebook reunion’ through extensive timeline

This year, CMU is celebrating its 120th anniversary in a way it never has before.

Using Facebook Timeline, CMU is giving its fans an online opportunity to experience the university’s 120-year history through archive photos, trivia and Central stories.

Photos of the 1960s Vietnam Moratorium, graduation processions in the 1940s and the turn-of-the-20th century sports teams are among the hundreds of images on the Timeline.

“It gives a whole new meaning when you see the Class of ’08,” says CMU student Avery Banister, a secondary education major, commenting on a photo of a 1908 CMU women’s basketball team. “Nice to know that Central was ahead of the times.”

But the timeline is not just for Millennials to enjoy – it is for the entire CMU community.

The project was designed to bring together generations of CMU Chippewas for a celebration of the university’s role in individual lives and the state as a whole.

“Social media has expanded how we communicate,” says Sherry Knight, interim associate vice president of University Communications. “Using Facebook, we’re connecting alumni, friends and supporters from throughout the decades and across the world to celebrate CMU’s legacy.”

Facebook users who are fans of CMU’s page are encouraged to upload photos and share their memories.

Layne Davis, who works for CMU’s University Recreation, uploaded her grandparents’ Alice and Carl Ross’ 1942 graduation photo. “My grandmother was a teacher and a poet her whole life. She passed away a few years ago. My grandfather is now 92. He spent his career working for Ford,” she says. “They loved their time at Central.”

Danny Goodwin Jr., University Communications assistant director of public relations, says people are interacting with each other and telling others about their time at CMU.

“People just really love learning the history,” he says. “To have it right there in front of people on Facebook, a thing most people use daily these days, has made it really easy for people to have conversations about their – or someone in their family’s – CMU experience.”

Even after the 120-year anniversary on Sept. 13, Goodwin says historical photos will continue to be added.

“It’ll be the go-to place to look at CMU. It will show you where it’s come from and where it’s going.”

To visit CMU’s Facebook Timeline, go to www.facebook.com/cmich.
Canoeing on the Chip River with friends. Going to the Homecoming game with her roommate. Walking to class and stopping to admire Warriner Hall.

Beverly Milner, a 101-year-old Freeland resident, slowly flips through the pages of her black-and-white scrapbook. “Oh, that Warriner Hall was the grandest, most regal building I ever saw,” says Milner, ’35. “It still is. When I see it, there is such a sense of pride.”

1935 graduate reminisces about Central

‘Always a place
in my heart

TEXT BY SARAH CHUBY, ’03 M.A. ’11
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEGGY BRISBANE
With every story Beverly Milner tells, it’s apparent that although nearly 80 years have passed since her graduation, the spirit of Central remains the same.

“So many friends and wonderful teachers,” she says. “Central had such a warm, friendly feeling about it.”

Milner says her favorite professors – Cleon Richtmeyer and Judson Foust – were brilliant, and they balanced out each other’s teaching style.

“Dr. Richtmeyer was very serious and one of the smartest people I had met. Dr. Foust had a way of presenting material with humor. He could say things that would help you remember,” she says. “Both were wonderful. But I am probably biased because I love math.”

And she talks about the fun she and her best friend, Mary Beth Duguid, ’36, had at Central – especially during the first Homecoming after Milner’s graduation.

“Oh, the first Homecoming back was so enjoyable. Everyone should go back for that first Homecoming. Mary Beth and I hadn’t seen each other for quite awhile. We stayed up all night catching up. When we went to the game, many teachers remembered me. Even Ms. (Anna) Barnard, whom I had for only one semester in French, said hello to me by name. That is the type of place Central State Teachers College was.”

Milner, who majored in math, says she always wanted to work in a profession where she could teach the subject.

And she did – after graduation she taught in Elsie, Mich., and Muskegon. Later, she’d earn her master’s degree from the University of Michigan (1942) and go on to be one of the first women to work at Dow Chemical Co. in the spectroscopy lab. She retired in 1970.

“I liked numbers since first grade. So I thought I would be a teacher – but it needed to be a math teacher, preferably in a high school,” she says. “College was a way to do that. My father and mother always talked about going to college in my family so I never thought any different.”

Since she attended college during the Depression, Milner says she had to be smart about saving and spending so that she could attend school. Milner says it took her two years of working at a one-room schoolhouse in Midland County and saving before attending college.

“But even when people saved, they may have not been back the next term,” she says. “My parents’ bank stayed open, but many friends of mine had to leave because their banks closed and that was the end of their money.”

She said her older sister (“5 years and three quarters older to be exact”) Marvel (Milner) Mack, ’34, did what many students did at that time – she attended school for two years to earn a Life Certificate, worked and then returned to finish her degree.

“Marvel started back up when I began at Central. Even though we sometimes got on each other’s nerves, I was lucky to have my sister with me,” she says. “We shared a room in Ronan Hall. It was a room with two beds and a desk. It may have been a small room, but I liked living there. It was such a nice building with beautiful windows.”

Old Ronan Hall, Central’s first residence hall, was opened in 1924 and razed in the 1970s. It was located at the southeast corner of Franklin and Bellows streets.

Milner says nearing the end of her second year and evaluating her finances, she planned to do the same as her sister – earn her Life Certificate and then return to college after working.

But after telling Marvel – who had graduated and was working as an elementary school teacher in Midland – about her plans, Milner’s older sister stepped in and loaned her the money to continue her education.

“She told me it was hard to stop and go back and if I could go straight through and finish, I should,” says Milner, pointing to a photo of the two of them together in front of old Ronan Hall. “So I did. I will always be so grateful to my sister. Even though she always looked prettier in photos than I did.”

Milner sat on her yellow farmhouse’s front porch – the same house her grandfather built that she grew up in – and held onto a photo from 1985. It was her classes’ 50th reunion. Milner says she’s also attended Homecomings and attended the new Park Library’s grand opening.

Milner, right, on graduation day in 1935

She slowly shut the photo album. And sat with it in her lap.

“These photos may look old. But to me, sometimes everything seems like it could have been yesterday. No matter how much time passes, there is always a place in my heart for Central.”
Annual tradition is a Homecoming favorite

For nearly 90 years, the Central community has dressed up, made floats and infused spirit into the Homecoming crowd.

During the first Homecoming in 1924, faculty and students created a float and fired up the football crowds at halftime. And each year afterward, more attractions were added, and they took the parade off the field.

Today the parade – which will take place at 11 a.m. Oct. 20 – features the CMU Marching Chips, Homecoming Grand Marshal, Homecoming Ambassadors, colorful floats, community businesses and student organizations. It will begin at CMU’s parking lot No. 22, travel through campus and head north on Main Street.

“There has always been a fascination with parades,” says Clarke Historical Library Director Frank Boles. “And today the pastime of parades fills us with enthusiasm and a sense of nostalgia. Who can pass up a parade?”

Dearborn resident Ben Franas, ’70 M.S., ’76, says he remembers attending the Homecoming parade as a student and now enjoys watching it with his family.

“It seems like only yesterday that I’d come back for Homecoming and watch it with my daughter,” he says. “And now it’s fun to bring my grandkids.” He enjoyed the 2011 parade with family, including daughter Elizabeth Paddock, ’03, and her twins Matthew and Caleb, then 2.

Marcie Lehr Otteman, ’87, says CMU is one of the few colleges in the nation with an annual Homecoming Day parade. “I’m glad Central started it so many decades ago. Our parade is an important tradition. It sets the whole feeling for the day,” she says. “You can see how excited people are when they take their places along the street. You can just feel the energy.”

In honor of our Homecoming history, enjoy these photos – from the 1920s to the 1990s – and match them with the correct decade.

Answers on page 39.
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY C.LARKE HISTORICAL LIBRARY.
Team honors Bill Theunissen and 50 years since his final season as coach

Emphatic exclamations and roaring laughter accent the low-pitched hum of uninterrupted conversations filling the Events Center atrium.

It sounds like a huge crowd, but the source is a spirited group of less than 25 former baseball players and their spouses who are too busy talking to make it past the main entrance to the second-level VIP Lounge.

There’s a lot of catching up to do. For many it’s the first time in half a century they’ve seen each other and – most importantly – their coach.
Members of the 1962 CMU baseball team returned to campus Aug. 17 and 18 to mark a 50-year milestone and celebrate their legendary coach, Bill Theunissen.

The ’62 squad is the last-ever baseball team that Theunissen coached at CMU before he left coaching to serve as an academic dean at the university for 24 years.

“In ways he doesn’t even know, Coach Theunissen has impacted my life,” says Bob Burek. “Anytime when I’ve had an important decision to make and I didn’t know what to do, I would stop and ask myself, ‘What would coach tell me to do?’”

Burek, ’62, who lives in Fenton, played center field and served as team co-captain with starting second baseman Sam Licavoli, ’62. Burek and Licavoli were among 18 of the 24 remaining team members who attended the 50th reunion events, which included the dinner in the Events Center Aug. 17 and a brunch Aug. 18 before the annual baseball golf outing.

“It’s an honor to be recognized with a reunion like this,” says Theunissen, the namesake for CMU’s baseball stadium.

Theunissen ended his 10-year CMU baseball coaching career with a 151-114-1 record after leading his team to a 22-13 second-place finish behind then-Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference rival Southern Illinois.

Earlier in that season, Ron Finch, dean of CMU’s School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, had passed away. At that time, in addition to coaching the baseball team, Theunissen was chair of the physical education department. He applied for, and later was offered, the school’s deanship. He stopped and, later was offered, the school’s deanship.

“It was a tough decision because I loved coaching, and I loved the kids,” Theunissen says. “But I remember my dad coming to me, tapping me on the shoulder and telling me ‘If you want to go anywhere in education, you had better take advantage of it.’”

Theunissen reluctantly left coaching and took over as the school’s dean from 1962 to 1982, and then served as dean of the School of Education, Health and Human Services until he retired June 1, 1986.

Dave Kellitz, who was a sophomore and played first base on Theunissen’s final team, spearheaded the planning for the 50th reunion weekend.

“There’s no person, other than members of my family, who has helped me along the way more than Coach Theunissen,” says Kellitz, who later served as CMU’s baseball coach and the athletics director. “I have the greatest amount of respect for him as a teacher, coach, mentor and friend.”

Baseball chatter

Here’s what some of the members of the 1962 baseball team had to say about Coach Theunissen and the 50-year reunion.

“I remember we had a golf outing in Florida a few years ago, and Coach Theunissen made it down to play. When the players started talking about what we had done in our lives, it’s like we all had to look to him for a smile or nod of approval.”

– Leo Belill, ’63

“The dinner honoring Coach Theunissen was absolutely wonderful. It was great to see him and a lot of the guys again. I really wished that night had not ended.”

– Gary Strieter, ’64, M.S. ’65

“Coach Theunissen really got to know his players and was as concerned about them off the field as he was about them when they were on the field. The great turnout for this reunion says something about the coach and what he means to his players.”

– Sam Licavoli, ’62

Members of the 1962 CMU baseball team who attended the recent events honoring 50 years since the final team Bill Theunissen coached are, front row from left, Ray Marlatt, Royce Clay, Sam Licavoli, Bill Theunissen, Bob Burek, Dan Bodary, Fred Muntin; back row from left, Dick Fenech, Charlie Ohmer, Bob Janson, Jeff Evans, Dave Kellitz, John Stricker, Leo Belill, Chuck Gronda, Phil Clements, Dick Waters, Gary Strieter.
Fifth anniversary brings 130 people to campus

David Silden, '67, and his grandson Michael Silden, 12, traveled two days by car to return to his alma mater. It was the music major and Marching Chip’s first trip back to campus in 15 years.

“It’s so good to be back. And it’s even better bringing my grandson with me.” Michael, like his grandpa, also has an affinity for music. He plays the euphonium and is a vocalist. Silden, a retired high school band director, said walking through campus refreshed his memories.

“I even became re-acquainted with another Marching Chip from the ‘62-‘63 marching band,” he said.

During a walk to one of their sessions, David pointed to where he lived in Robinson Hall and certain building locations that he had for classes. Michael paused and took a long look around campus. He then asked, ‘Did you really have to walk all that way for class?’ And his grandfather replied with a laugh, “I guess you better start training for it now.”

To get the Central experience, grandparents and their grandchildren participated in the fifth annual Grandparents U. They stayed in Celani Hall and attended classes for a taste of the college life for three days in June. The families ate at a residential restaurant and could use the swimming pool and bowling lanes at the Student Activity Center or the rock-climbing wall at Finch Fieldhouse.

More than 25 class sessions were offered, which included crime scene science, surviving the Hunger Games and cultures of the world.

Annie Sanders, assistant director of Alumni Relations, said there were 130 participants – 59 grandparents and 71 grandkids – at the event.

Both Sildens agree – as expected – that their favorite class was the musical theater experience. They learned songs and a dance from “The Lion King.”

“Not only did we learn it, but we were singing the music from ‘The Lion King’ all the way home – for two days,” said Michael.

And his grandpa chimed in, “Doing the dance in the car ended up being a bit difficult, however. But we made it work. We always do.”

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more
David Silden, '67, and grandson Michael check out the Museum of Cultural and Natural History.
Put your toes in the sand.
And knowledge in your brain.

CMU’s Biological Station on Beaver Island has been a destination for students and faculty for 50 years.

And now – with the addition of the Institute for Great Lakes Research to Mount Pleasant’s campus – CMU plans to draw in more interest by increasing research efforts and equipment.

A 32.5-foot vessel, named RV Chippewa, will soon be moored at a slip in the harbor by the boathouse (pictured here) at the CMU Biological Station on Beaver Island. It will allow for the deploying of scientific equipment in deep water and will have a laboratory onboard.
CMU Bookstore 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 home football game days or visit CMU Bookstore’s Varsity Shop in Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

989-774-7493
800-283-0234
Central Michigan University is set to induct six former Chippewa greats into the Marcy Weston Athletics Hall of Fame this fall.


The newest class will be enshrined Friday, Oct. 26, in a ceremony at the CMU Events Center. The free event is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. The group also will be recognized at halftime of the CMU football game against Akron on Saturday, Oct. 27. Kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

The CMU Athletics Hall of Fame began in 1984 and the current roster now includes 178 individuals and three teams. Hall of Fame selections are made by the Marcy Weston Athletics Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

**Allison Campbell, Women's Soccer**
Campbell is a two-year standout on the women's soccer team after transferring to CMU and was named first team All-Mid-American Conference in 2001 and second team in 2000. She still holds CMU's single season records for goals (14), assists (8) and points (33) and recorded 10 goals in 2000, which currently ranks third on CMU's single-season chart. She is a native of Livonia, where she now works as a marketing and merchandising representative for a leading sales and marketing services company.

**Craig Fuller, Cross Country and Track**
Fuller is a four-time Mid-American Conference Cross Country Coach of the Year who spent 19 seasons as CMU's head men's cross country coach and one season as the women's coach. He was an assistant track coach for over 20 years, spending one season as the head coach and led the Chippewas to MAC cross country titles in 1999, 2002, 2003 and 2004, while being named MAC Coach of the Year each of those seasons. He earned six letters as a student-athlete at CMU and qualified for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Trials in the marathon and competed nationally in the steeplechase. A Mount Pleasant native, Fuller currently lives in Manistee, Mich., where he is coaching track at Manistee High School.

**Carleton Kinkade, Wrestling**
Kinkade earned All-America honors at 190-pounds in 1988 with a sixth-place finish at the NCAA Championships and is a two-time Mid-American Conference champion, winning at 177 pounds in 1987 and 190 pounds in 1988 and led the Chippewas to the MAC team championships in 1986 and 1987. He is a native of Union Lake, Mich., and currently resides in Lahaina, Hawaii, where he is a professional award-winning artist.
A full court press
CMU basketball ready for upcoming season

Look for fast-paced action, high-scoring contests and nationally prominent opponents at McGuirk Arena when the women’s and men’s basketball teams tip off their seasons this fall.

Former national coach of the year Keno Davis brings an up-tempo game plan to revitalize a proud men’s basketball tradition.

“You can expect to see a lot of full-court defense and a team that fast-breaks as much as anyone in the country,” Davis says.

The Chippewas have a nonconference schedule that includes visits to Michigan, Iowa and Nebraska along with the Sun Bowl Invitational (El Paso, Texas) and the Utah Thanksgiving Tournament.

A new group of Chippewas worked to pick up on Davis’ system during summer practices – allowed for the first time under new NCAA legislation – and preseason practices that led up to a series of August exhibition games in the Bahamas.

While a new style of play will debut for the men’s program, Chippewas fans are well acclimated to the superlative speed of the women’s team.

The team, which returns all but two players, is eager to hit “restart” as they use one-point losses in the 2011 MAC Championship game and the postseason WNIT as both motivation and learning experiences.

“I know the players are still hungry, and we’re all still hurting a little bit from how our season ended,” Coach Sue Guevara says. “Sometimes you don’t want to feel that feeling anymore, so you work a lot harder to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

The Chippewas are striving to ride their fast-paced offense, improved depth and defensive schemes to a MAC title and an NCAA Tournament appearance. They added two impact freshmen and senior transfer Jessica Schroll, who will join forces with returning MAC All-Tournament selections Crystal Bradford and Taylor Johnson and All-Freshman Team selections Jas’Mine Bracey and Jessica Green for a deep, talented attack.

The Chippewas will go up against some of the best in the country as they host Notre Dame, Green Bay and South Dakota, and take trips to Northwestern, Purdue, Florida and San Diego.

For more information, go to cmuchippewas.com.
Medical room makeover

 Students help update children’s hospital

Interior design students are helping make children feel more at home when they receive treatment at the DMC Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

Five rooms are being redesigned for what Dewitt junior Emily Waugh hopes will make the hospital a friendlier place for the kids.

“Our environments make us feel a certain way,” Waugh says. “Children have vivid imaginations, but they’re stimulated by their surroundings. If we can create a space that helps children feel at ease, we can make a world of difference.”

The semester-long project featured five rooms designed to create distractions for children undergoing different types of treatment, such as putting in IVs and receiving vaccinations. Rooms are themed around the ‘I Spy’ game.

For Anita Patrick, ‘12, redesigning the rooms was a very “personal experience” that she believes will have a positive impact on families.

“When my daughter was in the hospital as a toddler the rooms were dark, gray and institutional,” Patrick says. “It was very rewarding for me to see treatment rooms that will become child-friendly with happy colors and pictures to serve as a distraction.”

St. Charles senior Hali Gilbert says the highlight of her work has been watching the ideas come to life.

“We like to give back in our designs,” Gilbert says. “We don’t want to design just for money; we want to design to help people. That’s what is most important, and that’s we’re doing here.”

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more

Real World 411:
Student & Alumni Networking Event

Explaining, realizing and connecting the importance of transferable skills… It’s more than just about your major or the title of your job, it’s about the experiences and skills you bring to an organization.

Make plans today to attend a special event where you can connect with some of CMU’s finest students eager to network with professionals.

• 2 p.m.
• Nov. 14
• Powers Ballroom on CMU’s Mount Pleasant campus

You must register to attend this event. To register, visit cmich.edu/alumni/networking

For information
Contact CMU Alumni Relations:
• 800-358-6903
• alumni@cmich.edu
International experience

Education students teach students in Mexico

For more than a decade Central Michigan University’s teacher education program students have spent time in Oaxaca, Mexico, utilizing their teaching skills to educate bilingual children.

This summer, 13 students spent three weeks helping the children of La Salle, a private bilingual Catholic school, improve their English skills.

CMU Professor Norma Bailey says it’s important for students to gain experience internationally because it diversifies their background as they prepare to become teachers.

“Students have an opportunity to both experience the culture of Mexico and experience teaching in a school that is bilingual,” Bailey says. “This is a school that spends half of its day in English and half the day in Spanish, which allows our students to work with children who don’t speak English as their native language.”

Experiences such as this allow students to gain hands-on experience teaching in the field and forces them to step out of their comfort areas.

St. Charles senior David O’Toole, majoring in teacher education, said he enjoyed learning about the Oaxaca culture and working with the children.

“This was a great opportunity to see how other cultures do things,” O’Toole says. “I’m so glad I was able to have this opportunity.”

Teaching alumni receive accolades

For nearly 120 years, Central Michigan graduates have made a difference in the lives of their students.

And these alumni continue in that proud tradition.

Ottawa Hills High School teacher Bobbi Jo Kenyon, ’95, was named the 2012-2013 Michigan Teacher of the Year.

Kenyon says she is thankful for the acknowledgment.

“It’s such an honor in our teaching profession to reach this accomplishment,” says Kenyon. “There are so many other great teachers out there in the state, so it’s overwhelming to be representing them.”

East Kentwood High School teacher David Emeott, ’97, ranked in the final four before the decision was made to select Kenyon.

Emeott says his education at CMU prepared him for the future.

“I had such great professors who really prepared me,” Emeott says. “I felt like when I went out into the real world, I already had a step in the right direction from the very beginning because of my background at CMU. That should be encouragement to all of the CMU Chippewas who are going to be teachers in the future.”

And they weren’t the only CMU alumni educators winning awards.

- Gary Cousino, ’87, a science teacher at Hart Middle School in Rochester Hills, was named the Michigan Science Teachers Association’s 2011 Middle School Science Teacher of the Year.

- Sean R. Hill, ’01, ’03 M.A. ’05, M.A. ’08, was honored with the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. He teaches Spanish at Farwell Area Schools.

- David Hornak, ’94 M.A. ’99 Ed.S. ’12, principal of Horizon Elementary in Holt, is a recent Holt School District “Outstanding Educator of the Year.” He was featured on the front of the Lansing State Journal this summer for his efforts in implementing fitness measures for his students’ well-being.

If you have recently received a teaching award and would like it published in Centralight, please email alumni@cmich.edu.

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more
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Dearborn Heights
More than a family tradition
We are Central’s legacy

By Marcie Lehr Otteman, ’87
Executive director of alumni relations

Every day in the Carlin Alumni House, I pass the pictures from our early university days. I see the women’s basketball team from 1908 and the May Day celebration from 1913.

I look at the Homecoming Queen and her court in their beautiful dresses from 1955.

I see the medals from Central Michigan Normal School and the pictures of the presidents who have led our school from a downtown Mount Pleasant building to the major institution it is today.

And it’s humbling to think that we are all, as alumni, part of that legacy.

I think it would be fair to say my family has left me – the fourth generation in my family to attend Central – a legacy of pride and enthusiasm for our university.

Growing up, I heard my grandfather tell the stories often. His aunts (his mother’s two sisters) had both attended Central.

Great Aunt Nellie graduated from Central Normal School in 1900 at age 17 (she earned her high school diploma at 15) and earned her lifetime teaching certificate from Central State Teachers College in 1916. Great Aunt Verna, her younger sister, joined her at Central State Teachers College and received her lifetime certificate in 1915. Both would go on to further their education at Central taking courses and advancing their degrees well into the 1930s.

When Great Aunt Verna died, my grandfather was the executor of her estate and found a plethora of papers, photographs, certificates and books from Central Normal School.

An amateur historian and lover of all things in the past, my grandfather took the items to Clarke Historical Library, where they reside today.

My grandfather bled maroon and gold. He loved to walk around campus with me and share stories about where he had classes.

I remember the day I got my acceptance letter to attend CMU – I drove to his house to show it to him. Tears welled up in his eyes as he beamed with pride. “Way to go, another generation of our family at Central!”

With grandfather Ronald Cooper

He was so proud of the school he attended even though he never graduated. He was here right before WWII and went straight to work when he came home from the service. But Central was his school.

And many of us know that feeling – because Central is our school.

In September, we celebrate 120 years of our school history – right back to those early beginnings when Great Aunt Nellie and Great Aunt Verna were here. I wish I knew more of their Central experience. There are so many questions I would ask.

One hundred and twenty years is a long time to be in business. Much has changed in our world since 1892, but much remains the same.

The legacy of Central Normal School to Central State Teachers College to Central Michigan College to Central Michigan University has been felt by many generations of students and their families.

So this Homecoming share your CMU experience and pride. You never know how your story may affect someone else.

I thank my grandfather for sharing his.

Marcie (Lehr) Otteman

Marcie M. Otteman

Calendar

October
12  Football home game, Military Day, Kelly/Shorts Stadium
20  Homecoming, Mount Pleasant campus
1962 50-year class reunion, Mount Pleasant campus
26  Hall of Fame induction, Events Center
27  Football home game, Band Day and Hall of Fame Day, Kelly/Shorts Stadium

November
2  Alumni Awards Banquet, Bovee University Center
Phoenix Suns vs. Detroit Pistons, Arizona
14  Real World 411: Alumni and Student Networking Event, Powers Ballroom

December
16  Arizona Cardinals vs. Detroit Lions, Arizona
1960s

James E. Trosko, ’60, was invited as a Seoul National University World Class University Professor to conduct research on human stem cells and give lectures on related topics throughout universities in Korea. During his time abroad, Trosko published several scientific articles. After returning to Michigan, he has initiated new research and educational strategies based on 45 years of research in Japan, Sicily and Korea.

John Kulhavi, ’65, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. Kulhavi is a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch.

Bob Dustman, ’69, has written a new book, “Defining Moments: A True Story of War, Family Conflict & Reconciliation,” about his father’s journey in the South Pacific during World War II. The book focuses on the emotional and psychological journey of a 19-year-old solider, based on more than 300 descriptive and personal letters he wrote to his family.

1970s

Maurice W. Scherrens, ’70, has been appointed the 22nd president of Newberry College. He previously worked at George Mason University as the senior vice president and chief operating officer.

Jeffrey G. Phillips, ’74 M.A. ’76, was awarded the Northwood University Samuel R. Marotta Faculty Ethics Award for his teachings in the schools undergraduate programs. The award encourages professors to discuss moral and ethical issues faced by business professionals, responses to such issues and resulting impacts on those involved.

Dan Roundfield, ’75, has been inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame. This was the 56th induction. He passed away Aug. 6.


Robert J. Remenar, ’78, has been appointed CEO of Diversified Machine Inc. He joins DMI from Nexteer Automotive, where he served as president and CEO.

1980s

Michael Ross Federspiel, ’81, executive director of the Little Traverse History Museum is also a co-founder of Petoskey Yesterday tours. The tours offer well-researched information, anecdotes and insight into local history and the Hemingway family connection.

Robert D. Newvine, ’81, after 33 years of coaching and three state championships, Newvine has been inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame. He is currently coaching at Macomb Dakota High School.

Linda Meeuwenburg, M.A. ’82, has received the Registered Dental Hygienist Award of Distinction by Sunstar and RDH Magazine. She was nominated by her colleagues for outstanding contributions to improve oral health of uninsured people in Michigan and Florida.

Cynthia Toogood Braunlich, ’83, was invited to create costumes for the “Music Man” play produced by Theatre Guild of Simsbury in Connecticut. This is Braunlich’s third year as a costumer for the theatre.


Dennis R. Witherspoon, ’89, has been named associate professor of finance at Northwood University. Witherspoon previously severed as a full-time faculty member in finance at Northwood University for seven years and is returning from a position as vice president of member sales and service at United Federal Credit Union.

1990s

Patricia G. Lughezzani, ’91, joins Marketo as the company’s vice president of customer support. She has more than 17 years of experience in international business.

Andrew S. Fortin, ’92, was appointed vice president of government and public affairs of Associa, which specializes in community association management. Fortin will head the company’s public affairs efforts and serve as a liaison to allied organizations.

David A. Lien, M.S.A. ’94, a former Air Force officer, has documented his journey attempting to tackle the world’s highest peak, Mount Everest. In his second book, “Four Years and Forty-Fourteeners: Nemesis,” Lien shares his life-saving decision to turn back after climbing 25,200 feet during a team’s summit push.

Dore J. Shepard, M.S.A. ’94, has been selected by Florida Hospital, West Volusia, as the new director of cancer services. She joins Florida Hospital with more than 25 years of oncology experience. In this role, she will be responsible for maintaining a cancer service line for Florida Hospital’s DeLand and Fish Memorial.

Jim Davis, M.S.A. ’95, has been named director of business development at Grant Medical Center of Columbus, Ohio. In this role, he will be responsible for identifying and cultivating growth opportunities for GMC, including the south region of the Ohio Health service area.

Gwendolyn Bingham, M.S.A. ’96, was promoted to command the White Sands Missile Range. She has more than 30 years of service with the U.S. Army and is the first woman to hold this position. In this role, she will be responsible for planning and executing resources in order to generate and sustain the Afghan army and police.

Thomas Olver, ’98, was appointed executive director for United Way of Isabella County. His primary responsibilities include managing day-to-day operations, increasing visibility throughout Isabella county and expanding volunteer opportunities.

Tricia Raquepaw, ’98, has recently been promoted to vice president, director of marketing for Independent Bank in Bay City.

2000s

Providencia C. Monchek, ’00, with more than 30 years of experience in obstetrics, Monchek has been appointed the director of nursing for maternal child health and psychiatry at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Kimberley Fischer-Kinnie, M.B.A. ’03, was awarded the 2012 Employee Innovation Award from Northwood University. This award is given to persons who have demonstrated special attention to the university or students by creating special programs, processes or initiatives of improvement.
**Stephanie Calhoun**, ’04, was selected by Parenting magazine to represent the state of Connecticut at the third-annual Mom Congress on Education and Learning Conference in Washington, D.C. Calhoun was chosen for her contributions and dedication to improving schools. She is the wife of an active duty Naval Officer and mother to four children.

**Bill Schmiege**, ’04, current vice president of integrity at Parker Aerospace Group has been elected to a two-year term as chairman of America’s Aerospace Quality Group. The AAQG is a cooperative organization committed to achieving significant performance improvements through the development of standards, industry oversight and guidance materials for use throughout the supply chain.

**Solomon Reta**, ’05, has earned his Ph. D. in IT Management from Capella University.

**Miranda Haines**, ’08, is now an account executive in the meetings and convention sales department at the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau. In her new position, Haines will provide support to sales managers to book meetings and conventions from the Central state market.

**Nathan Tallman**, ’07 M.A. ’09, was recently hired by Metro Wire and Cable as the new corporate development and marketing director. In this role, he will be responsible for leading corporate strategy public relations, community outreach, corporate and employee development, community outreach and social media.

**Carla M. Essling**, ’08, received a doctor of medicine degree from Southern Illinois School of Medicine. She will enter a family medicine residency at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

**Lee Ray**, M.S.A. ’08, has published a book “Bushels and Barrels- Redefining the American Dream.” The book explores life challenges and ways to gain a positive perspective on life.

**2010s**

**Damon Jiggetts**, M.A.’11, has joined the Peter Paul Development Center as an executive director. He was previously the vice president of operations at Communities in Schools of Richmond Inc. in Virginia.

**Send us your news**

We want to include your news in Centralight. Write to us about recent job promotions, awards, marriages, births, and other noteworthy accomplishments or changes. Be sure to include your graduation year and contact information.

**Send your information:**

Email: alumni@cmich.edu
Fax: 989-774-1098
Mail: Centralight, University Communications, West Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant MI 48859.

**Sweeney sisters**

Roommates from Barnard Hall, and later Sweeney Hall, have reunited annually since 1990. These educators and friends gave a donation in memory of Barbara Konwinski Readwin, ’64, who passed away Sept. 13, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer. The money will fund an education scholarship.


**Margaret (Brainerd) McFarlane**, ’34, El Dorado Hills, Calif, died June 23, 2012, age 98.


**Myra (Thon) Johnson**, ’40, died June 29, 2012, age 94.


**Patty L. Looman**, ’47, Fairmont, WV, died June 6, 2012, age 87.


**Glenna M. (Lake) Chapin**, ’54, Chapel Hill, N.C., died May 1, 2012, age 100.


**Patricia (Bouma) Schaefer**, ’55, Decatur, Ala., died May 14, 2012, age 79.


**Edward P. Heitke**, ’57, Pascoag, R.I., died July 13, 2012, age 77.


In Memory


Gerald E. Burger, ’61, Urbanaede, Iowa, died June 18, 2012, age 74.


Benjamin Bushong Jr., ’64, Traverse City, Mich., died March 24, 2012, age 77.

Carol L. (Vanderlip) Galloway, ’64, La Porte, Ind., died April 26, 2012, age 69.


Noel Schroeder, M.A. ’70, Washington City, Utah, died June 29, 2012, age 80.


Daniel Roundfield, ’75, Atlanta, Ga., died Aug. 6, 2012, age 59.

Jimmie D. Ross, M.A. ’75, New Smyrna Beach, Fla., died May 2, 2012, age 75.


Robert J. Blanchard, ’81, Grand Rapids, Mich., died June 24, 1012, age 53.


Bernice L. (Brunkhorst) Stelloh, M.A. ’84, Solomons, Va., died June 16, 2012, age 84.


Rick Dennett, M.S.A. ’99, Newark, Ohio, died April 28, 2012, age 66.


Faculty and staff:


Roger L. Henrie, American Fork, Utah, died July 14, 2012.

Duane MacDonald, Clare, Mich., died May 26, 2012.

Marykaye Murphy, Mount Pleasant, Mich., died June 2, 2012.

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1920s
During Central’s first Homecoming game in 1924 – it was during the brief time that our university had the dragon as a mascot – Professor Oliver W. Troutman and some of his students rushed onto the field at halftime dressed up like a dragon for school spirit. It must have worked. Central beat Alma 13-0.

1930s
In the 1935 parade, sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma created a float in the shape of the sailboat, which is one of their organization’s symbols. For their efforts, the women were awarded ‘Most Beautiful Float.’

1940s
Helen Elizabeth (Holz) Rooney, the 1948 Homecoming Queen, rides with her court – Grace Dehnke, Joyce Foss, and Noreen Dickinson – down Preston Street. It was a bumpy ride and the weather was blustery. To help you see where they are on campus – the Bovee University Center would later be built to her left. Rooney, 84, passed away on June 13, 2012.

1950s
The 1955 Homecoming theme was “Big Top.” According to the 1956 yearbook, Homecoming began with a warm, sunny morning. The theme continued from the parade onto the field. At halftime, the “members of Central’s Gymnastics Team romped onto the field and delighted spectators with a lively interpretation with life under the Big Top. The band, encircling the performers, added to the atmosphere with traditional circus music.”

1960s
Alpha Sigma Tau and Tau Kappa Epsilon’s float featured brands that “washed away the Northern Illinois competition.” The 1963 Homecoming theme was “Mad-ison Avenue” and the parade – led by CMU’s Marching Band – had 16 floats and two other bands.

1970s
Connie Wilson, 1972 Homecoming Queen, and her court travel in front of Barnard Hall during the parade. Wilson, the university’s first African American Homecoming Queen, said in a CM Life article that she ran to see if it was possible.

1980s
The Marching Chips have always been an important part of setting the atmosphere for Homecoming weekend. In 1984, they must have really worked up the crowds - CMU beat Bowling Green 42-21.

1990s
Instead of large floats, Homecoming Ambassadors – which is like the Homecoming court of yesterday – are pulled in a horse drawn carriage, like shown here in 1998. Homecoming Ambassadors replaced the king and queen in 1997, following a national trend to put more emphasis on university service. The 1998 Homecoming Gold Ambassadors were Jim Cone and Letitia Costilla.
Vincent Thurman
Homecoming Ambassador nominee
Junior • Communications

Favorite Homecoming tradition?
The CMU Rock Rally. I go every year. When I was a freshman, I helped lead cheers for it and I was so nervous until the crowd started to go crazy. The feeling of getting the crowd and the team to “Fire up” because of you was amazing. It’s something I will never forget.

What does ‘Fire Up’ mean to you?
“It’s that underlying value that once you’re a CMU Chippewa, you’re always a CMU Chippewa.”

Is that something that you see?
I was in Kentucky and waved to a guy wearing a CMU shirt. I had the urge to yell ‘Fire up!’ He looked at me, put his fist in the air, and said ‘Fire up, Chips!’ Now that’s what I call camaraderie. It’s everywhere.”

As a CMU Leadership Institute student, what do you do to foster camaraderie?
I want to inspire people; get them thinking and talking. A focus of mine is on the education system. I’m the K-12 program coordinator for the Leadership Institute. And I am working with faculty member Adam Barragato on a book about how student learning and teaching styles are changing. I’m a junior working on a book. How cool is that?

You are nominated as a Homecoming Ambassador. How do you show CMU spirit?
I try to be involved in as much as I can – Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, the Comfort Zone Organization and Leadership Camp. I love learning and that is something that I never want to stop doing. I am a part of CMU. And through Central, I am a part of the world. That’s what CMU spirit is all about. •
I am Central: ‘It’s really nice to be able to share with others.’ – Suzanne Baber ‘48

Suzanne L. Houghton Baber, ’48, and her husband, Raymond “Bud” Baber, have made remarkable contributions in a variety of areas to support many projects at Central Michigan University.

Through their estate plans, outright gifts and a giving plan that provides them a fixed income during their lives, the Babers have touched and will continue to impact the lives of many in the CMU community.

Among their contributions, Baber and her husband, who passed away in 2005, established an endowed scholarship in education and the Baber Classroom in the Education and Human Services Building. The Baber Room in Park Library also was named in honor of their support of the library’s expansion project.

“My husband and I were fortunate enough to have the resources available,” she says. “It’s really nice to be able to share with others.”

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