FUELED BY FUN.

Andrew Dost, ’05, rockets to Grammy-winning fame.

Plus
CMU love stories
Treasure hunting with an HGTV star
Colin Powell stops by
on the cover

Grammy award-winning band fun., backed by keyboardist Andrew Dost, ’05, jams at a sold-out show at the Fillmore Detroit in January. Read our exclusive interview with the rising star on page 24.

PHOTO BY MELANIE MAXWELL, ’03

Michele (May) Brannan, ’91, and Tim Brannan, M.B.A. ’97, carried on a Brannan family tradition of falling in love at CMU.

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When we started brainstorming ideas for this issue related to “love at CMU,” we had no shortage of heartwarming stories.

I love hearing from the many alumni who met and fell in love at Central, who proposed on bended knee in front of the Warriner seal and who – decades later – have seen three or even four generations of their family come back to CMU. All because two people found each other here.

It’s stories like Chuck and Barb DeGolia, who met 60 years ago on the dance floor at CMU and never looked back – as well as the stories that are yet to be told, like the alumni whose receptions I’ve attended on campus recently – that fuel my belief that romance is alive and well.

But along with these more traditional love stories, we also wanted to delve into some lesser-known stories about passion and commitment.

So we talked with first lady Elizabeth Ross about her life as a single mom and how her tremendous love and commitment to her daughter blossomed into a mission of helping others who face the same struggles.

And as we observe multiple sclerosis awareness this month, we looked at how the university and several alumni are tackling this debilitating disorder. We followed the unlikely story of love between two people living with MS, my colleague, Dan Digmann, and his wife, Jennifer, a graduate student at CMU. I hope you’ll come away from their story with a renewed hope that love can indeed prevail in spite of the odds.

If you need a little soundtrack for your fine CMU romance, we humbly suggest a tune from Grammy award-winning CMU alumnus Andrew Dost of the band, fun. Chances are you’ve already heard the No. 1 single “We are Young.” We were thrilled to chat with Andrew about his time at CMU, and we can’t wait to see what’s in store for him.

So in this season as we shake off the winter chill and look forward with anticipation to the earliest signs of spring, allow yourself to wander back to CMU – the place that even for just a little while, your heart found a home.

Marcie

Calling all bucket listers!

The Centralight staff is on the lookout for alumni who have achieved monumental – and even quirky – feats. Have you climbed Kilimanjaro? Saved an endangered animal? Read “War and Peace” backwards? Get in touch with us and share your story by emailing alumni@cmich.edu.
Celebrating a legacy
CMU’s Events Center now features a display that commemorates the university’s relationship with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. The partnership began when CMU athletic teams adopted the Chippewa name in 1942. The corridor display features art and artifacts on loan from the Ziibiwing Center. •

Voyage into the deep
“...our otter trawl pulled up a Dumbo octopus. Its skin was dark purple and it had floppy earlike flaps on either side of its head – the same appendages that triggered scientists to name it after the big-eared Disney elephant. It is a deep-sea octopus, so its skin was so soft with so little internal structure that I almost could not tell that I was touching it. Being able to handle a deep-sea creature – let alone something as cool and as intelligent as an octopus – has definitely been awarded a spot on my top 10 experiences for this trip so far.”

– blog post from Abigail Hollingsworth, CMU senior, who joined a team of student researchers and CMU biology professor Andrew Mahon on a six-week winter journey of the Southern Ocean in Antarctica to study little-known wildlife species. •

Coming soon to a faucet near you
A CMU chemistry professor has developed a water filtration method that targets contaminants including perchlorates in water – a technology that currently does not exist on the market. Perchlorates have been linked to certain cancers and developmental delays and are extremely dangerous to pregnant women and infants. Professor Anja Mueller developed a patent for the filtration technology and partnered with CMU Research Corp. to license and commercialize the product. It is expected to hit stores later this year. •
Alternative Breaks takes top five rank in U.S.

CMU’s Alternative Breaks, which sends more than 400 students to various destinations in the U.S. and abroad annually for volunteer work, earned a top five ranking for most trips coordinated and fourth highest number of students participating. The ranking came from Break Away, a national nonprofit organization.

“You learn a lot about yourself,” says senior Shannon Schmutz, who spent her holiday break in Urabamba, Peru, working with school children and participating in reforestation. “College is about learning who you are and what you want to do with your life. Alternative Breaks really teaches you about what you want to do in the future, which strengthens your education.”

Laura Eickhoff and Kelly Sczomak spent their Alternative Break volunteering in New Orleans, where they rebuilt homes damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Isaac.
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Sometimes you need someone to lean on when times get tough.

For 18 years as a single mom following a divorce, Elizabeth Ross leaned on her family. She worked full-time as a high school teacher and a part-time teacher for evening classes, took out loans and earned a master’s degree, and devoted her attention to her daughter, Joronda— for whom she had big dreams. During those busy times, her parents and sister pitched in to babysit when she had to study. Her dad floated her the occasional $20 bill.

But it was her grandmother—a woman from a generation that had never experienced divorce—who really uplifted her. “She told me, ‘Baby, you have options,’” Ross remembers with a smile. “You are educated and hold a college degree. You can take care of yourself—do what you feel is best for you.’ She really gave me courage and sealed my conviction that I could do this on my own.”

That kind of encouragement and support is something Ross has worked hard to create for CMU students. As chairperson of the Women’s Connection scholarship foundation, she reads dozens of heart-wrenching applications from CMU students who are single parents or come from single-parent families. One recent recipient was a single father whose house burned down. “You know how sometimes you talk yourself out of going to school?” Ross says. “I think it’s very courageous for adults to go back to school. It’s hard work.”

Ross also is working to create an initiative called First Impressions, which will give new or gently used suits to students preparing for their first job interviews. It’s one more initiative that CMU’s self-described “hands-on” first lady is undertaking in order to make a difference for students.

You will sometimes catch her lending her voice to accompany a big band or even twirling around a dance floor in a “Dancing With the Stars” style competition to raise money for a worthy cause.

“It’s humbling for me to serve as the first lady of Central Michigan University,” she says. “I believe in giving, and I believe in serving. Dr. Ross and I both believe in our hearts and souls that it’s about the students, because they are our future.”

Scarfes for Scholarships

Ross created a limited edition CMU scarf in order to raise additional funds for the Women’s Connection scholarship foundation. The scarves retail for $80 and half the funds go toward scholarships for students from single-parent families. For more information, call 800-358-6903.
THE STORY OF US

A heartwarming look at couples and families who fell in love at Central

BY TERRI FINCH HAMILTON, ’83
Nick + Lisa

How love bloomed at Troutman Hall

Nick Marrone, ’80, and his roommates were painting a Laurel and Hardy mural on the wall of their Troutman Hall room when Lisa (Westby) Marrone, ’82, and her roommates from 410 popped in to say hi. It was 1976, and Nick was a sophomore.

Romance, he says, “was the last thing I was looking for.”

But as the weeks went on, Nick and Lisa clicked.

“I really didn’t want to be tied down,” he says. “But by our junior year, we fell in love.”

Then – the fateful Halloween Party of 1977.

“We got into an argument,” Nick says. “It was probably my fault. When that happened, I realized I loved her. I thought, ‘What did I do? I screwed this up.’ So I went back to her.”

They married three months after graduation in August.

Now, 32 years later, Nick is a financial adviser at Merrill Lynch and Lisa is a customer relations manager for eCA, a company that builds science kits. Two of their kids attended Central.

What was it like, that moment of falling in love?

“We’d go for walks, especially in the fall,” Nick recalls. “It was so neat to be walking around campus then, it was so beautiful.”

They both had biology classes, so they’d look for leaves and plants to identify. They loved hanging out at the swinging bridge at Deerfield Park.

“When the holidays came, I always thought that was so romantic,” Nick says, “going to that Christmas breakfast in your PJs with the candles. Some of my very best memories of my lifetime originate from CMU.”
JASON + CATHY

It’s dangerous to propose to an empty stomach.

It was a blind date, but as he watched the young woman approach his front porch, Jason Constantine, ’01 M.A. ’03, realized he had seen Cathy (Deskin) Constantine, ’02, before. Cathy had starred as Anne Frank in a CMU production the year before.

“I remember sitting there and thinking, ‘Anne Frank is really cute,’” says Jason. “But I thought she must be a senior, to have the lead. I was just a sophomore. She was totally out of my league.”

Turns out Cathy was just a very talented freshman.

“But I am totally out of his league,” Cathy jokes. Jason made a good first impression that summer of 1999. The next few months theater major Cathy and music major Jason went to a lot of plays and concerts and hung out at The Malt Shop, “beating the snot out of each other at air hockey,” Cathy says.

They both remember the first time Jason told Cathy, “I love you.” It happened on her really ugly couch at The Forum apartments. Jason was unusually quiet that night. Cathy was worried. What was wrong?

“Finally he blurts out, ‘I love you!’” she says. “And I responded with the very eloquent, ‘What?!’”

“Neither of us had been looking for a serious relationship,” Cathy says. “To cross that line to ‘I love you’ was kind of a scary prospect. But when I thought about it, I realized that’s what I felt, too.”

Jason proposed a year after they met on his favorite nature trail by the Chippewa River. He had the ring in his pocket.

But Cathy wasn’t thrilled about a nature walk – she was hungry and wanted to go eat.

Jason tossed rocks in the river, waiting for the right moment. Meanwhile, Cathy was wild-eyed starving.

“I was about ready to kill him,” she says.

Finally, Jason got down on one knee and said, “Cathy, look at THIS rock.”

“She squeaked out a yes, and we drove to The Embers – that’s where my parents got engaged,” Jason says. They were married two years later, two weeks after Cathy graduated.

Looking back, they say CMU was a great place for romance.

“Everything is right there, so it was easy to run into each other, to meet for lunch, to walk each other to class,” Jason says. “We could be together.”

THE BRANNANS

Six decades of CMU history

There’s been a Brannan on CMU’s campus – either teaching or attending – for nearly six decades.

Sam Brannan, ’59 M.A. ’62, and Carol (Musselman) Brannan, ’66 M.A. ’70, met on campus in 1961 when Sam was the graduate assistant for freshman Carol’s trigonometry class.

Their whirlwind romance started once the class was over, and by the time Carol finished her sophomore year, they were married. She recalls lots of dates at Jon’s Drive-in – in Sam’s car loaded with her dorm friends.

“He was so nice to take everybody,” she recalls of her husband, who passed away in 2009 after 46 years of marriage. Carol graduated from CMU in 1966 and went on to a 31-year career working at Park Library.

The Brannan’s kids, Tim and Lisa, both earned M.B.A.s from CMU. And Tim carried on the CMU romance tradition, meeting his wife, Michele, there.

When Tim blew out his Achilles tendon playing basketball and was in a cast for nine months, Michele helped take care of him.

“We were destined for each other,” he says happily. They married in 1991, the same year Michele earned a master’s in audiology. Tim later earned his M.B.A. at CMU in 1997.

Tim has been on CMU’s faculty as a professor in teacher education and professional development for 12 years, continuing another family tradition – both his dad and Michele’s dad were CMU professors.

Now daughter Katelyn, a high school senior, is planning to attend CMU to carry on the tradition.

Will Katelyn find love at CMU, too?

“Oh,” says her grandmother Carol, “wouldn’t that be neat.”
THE MCDONALDS

A squeaky clean proposal

When Robert McDonald, ’60 M.A. ’71, graduated from CMU, he was smack in the middle of a family legacy. He proudly graduated alongside his mother, Marietta, who finished her bachelor’s degree at the same time he did.

McDonald’s parents, Howard and Marietta, met at Central in the 1920s, both studying to be teachers and earning their two-year teaching certificates.

Decades later, their kids, Robert and Ellen, went to CMU in the mid-1950s. After a two-year leave to serve in the Army, Robert earned his degree in secondary education and then his master’s in secondary administration, eventually becoming principal at Tawas Area Schools.

He and wife, Carolyn, have four kids. Their second daughter, Kathi (McDonald) Mulder, ’81, continued the McDonald/CMU love story.

Kathi met Craig Mulder, ’78, at CMU in the fall of 1980. Their CMU romance was filled with long walks on campus, cross-country skiing, bike rides to Island Park, lunches at Stan’s.

By January, Craig proposed.

“It wasn’t the most romantic proposal,” Kathi, a Traverse City midwife, recalls with a laugh. “We were doing laundry on a Sunday night.”

Somewhere between the wash and spin cycles, Craig blurted out his proposal. Kathi was pretty sure she’d say yes – but made him wait a week. An agonizing week, Craig is quick to add.

They married on Aug. 18, 1982, on grandparents’ Howard and Marietta’s 50th anniversary.

Now Kathi and Craig have three daughters and their youngest, Hannah, is a junior at Central.

“We go back deep there,” says Robert, who often makes his way back to Central. “It was sort of a given we’d all go there.”
Kendra + Eric + Sara + John + Meredith + Fred

How three roomies married three roomies … and lived happily ever after CMU roommates Eric, Fred and John were pals in Merrill Hall, then Herrig, then at the Theta Chi house.

Kendra, Meredith and Sara were true-blue friends and roommates at the Tri Sigma house.

When Kendra (Barany) DeGroat, ’91, and Eric DeGroat, ’90, met and fell in love, it set off a love chain reaction that still makes all six roomies shake their heads, two decades later.


It all started in 1990, Kendra’s junior year, when she posted a flier about a spring break trip to Cancun she was selling for a travel company.

Eric saw it. He and some friends met with Kendra to sign up.

“Af‌er they left, I told my mom, ‘I just met the guy I’m going to marry,’” Kendra recalls.

They got married in March 1993. By all accounts, it was a pretty fun wedding.

“Oh, there was a lot going on. Kendra had suggested that her girlfriends come to the wedding without dates.

The wedding was packed with Chippewas. Eric’s roommate, John Havrilla, was having a great time with Kendra’s roommate, Sara (Bidwell) Havrilla, ’93.

And best man and roomie, Fred Kark, ’88, was getting cozy with Kendra’s roomie, Meredith (Wall) Kark, ’92.

“I had no idea Sara was Kendra’s roommate,” says John, owner of Systematic EH&S, an environmental consulting business in South Lyon. “We just started talking at the reception and danced. She had big beautiful blue eyes and a great smile. That got my attention.”

Meanwhile, Meredith had spied best man Fred up on the altar.

“I thought, ‘That best man is really cute,’” she says. Later, they danced and talked at the reception.

The rest is history – Fred and Meredith were married in 1994. John and Sara were married in 1995.

The CMU-born romances have bonded the six friends, who all live within an hour or so from each other in southeast Michigan. Their kids are all friends, too.

“We don’t get together as often as we’d like, but even if we haven’t seen each other in three or six months, we pick up where we left off,” says Sara. “And if there’s a CMU thing, we’re all there. Every Homecoming, every big game. There’s a permanent bond with this group.”

“We always joke, ‘Thank God you guys got together,’” Meredith says of Kendra and Eric. “It’s pretty incredible.”
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Amelia Davis – CMU Global Campus Graduate

“Before I started my education at CMU, I got my undergraduate degree and worked for two years, then realized that I was in a situation that I didn’t like. Some people told me, ‘Oh Amelia, it’s too late for you to go back to school.’ Don’t let anyone tell you what you can’t do… I can go back to school, I can start my own business, and I can do whatever I want to do because I know that I can do it!”

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treasures redefined

HGTV star Cari Cucksey, ’01, shows millions the value in repurposing

TErXT BY DAN DIGMANN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANIE MAXWELL, ’03
Cucksey, who received her degree from CMU in 2001, is an estate sale expert and host of HGTV’s reality show “Cash and Cari.” Her warehouse is headquarters for Cucksey’s Westland, Mich.-based RePurpose Estate Services and her HGTV show that launches its third season in March.

“It is crazy, but it’s a fun crazy,” the free-spirited Cucksey says as she reflects on maintaining a successful business with her husband, Vincenzo Iafano, and starring in a TV program. “It’s so rewarding, and when you love what you do, it isn’t work.”

“Cash and Cari” camera crews follow Cucksey as she pours through her clients’ basements, attics and garages searching for antiques, collectibles, decorations and other rare items to sell and refurbish. After evaluating the items, she holds a sale to bring in as much money as she can for her clients.

It isn’t uncommon for Cucksey to purchase many unsold estate items – and sometimes entire estates – and sell them through her warehouse.

“I’ve been around this my whole life, and I wouldn’t be in this business if I didn’t collect things,” she says, adding that she sold her first antiques when she was 12 years old.

Grandpa’s gratitude turns trash into treasures

The philosophy that one person’s trash is another person’s treasure guides Cucksey as she helps others refashion, reclaim, reinvent and repurpose everything.

She credits her grandfather Morris Cucksey for instilling in her this frame of mind. He often brought home items – such as furniture, appliances and bicycles – and proudly proclaimed he found them on the side of the road.

Cucksey says her grandfather was confident that with some hard work and creativity he’d someday make use of each piece. She shares his vision.

“My grandpa was the one who taught me about gratitude,” Cucksey says. “Everything has a purpose. At first maybe I don’t know what its purpose is, but I will find it.”

Cucksey describes herself as an entrepreneur. Before attending CMU, she was a fitness fanatic operating a personal training business and traveling throughout southeastern Michigan to provide in-home sessions.

This interest led Cucksey to pursue her degree in health fitness in preventive and rehabilitative programs at CMU. Even as a student living in Sweeney Hall, her entrepreneurial spirit drove her to diversify her education. Cucksey also enrolled in art- and business-related courses.

“I had an incredible experience at CMU and established great relationships with so many people,” she says. “I’ve always done my own thing and always am looking into things that bring me happiness.”

Cucksey began selling items on eBay shortly after leaving CMU as a full-time student. She soon followed this passion and established her estate services business. This eventually caught the eyes of HGTV executives searching for a female to host a show similar to the network’s hit show “American Pickers.”

“I got a phone call from the production company. They used a Flip cam shot of me walking through the warehouse, and ever since then it’s been a crazy whirlwind of activities,” Cucksey says.

She says the exposure has presented other opportunities to share her expertise. This includes working on a show with Oprah Winfrey to facilitate a 100-family garage sale as well as developing a repurposing-related book that will be released this September.

Cucksey is seeing that with the increased exposure comes more fans, more followers and more interest in repurposing.

“A person recently posted on my Facebook, ‘Thank you for sharing what you know with us,’” Cucksey says. “Hopefully I can continue doing this in a larger and larger way.”

And it all starts with a priceless piece of someone’s past that finds its way from someplace hidden – like a shoebox buried in a basement – and into the hands of a person curious and creative enough to discover its use for today.
Looking to try your hand at turning something long-forgotten into something forever-fabulous? Here are some tips straight from Cari Cucksey, ’01 – host of HGTV’s “Cash and Cari” – to help you get started:

**Keep an open mind when hunting for treasures.** It is amazing what a little bit of paint will do for a piece – everything from an old picture frame to a dated side table.

**Not comfortable with DIY (do it yourself) just yet?** Find a $10 to $15 piece of furniture at a thrift store or tag sale and buy “oops” paint from your local hardware store. You can experiment with painting a piece of furniture with only a small investment and some elbow grease.

**A RePurpose state of mind.** Try to think out of the box when looking at pieces. Like an old wooden soda crate: Use it to sort craft items, hang it on the wall for a shelf or turn it into a planter.

**Be careful biting off more than you can chew.** I often run into folks who purchased a “project” piece but never got around to tackling the project because it was just too overwhelming. Start small and get your DIY skills polished, then tackle the larger projects like refinishing a dresser with peeling veneer and rusty hardware.
Nearly 5,000 people packed CMU’s McGuirk Arena in late January to hear Gen. Colin Powell illustrate what it takes to be a leader.

The retired four-star Army general who also served as U.S. Secretary of State under George W. Bush was the keynote speaker for CMU’s Martin Luther King Jr. Week celebration.

Powell engaged audience members with stories of his lifetime experiences, motivating them to take charge and make a difference.

“There’s no Superman. There’s super people like us who decide what we want our government to do,” Powell said. “Start talking.”

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more

PHOTO BY PEGGY BRISBANE
In March, as the nation observes multiple sclerosis awareness, we bring you three stories of people impacted by this debilitating disease—three stories woven together by the painful reality of MS’s far reach and the beautiful hope that lives in its shadow.

A student who has put everything on the line to graduate with her master’s degree.

A physical therapy professor who is testing out an innovative treatment therapy.

An entrepreneur with an ambitious goal to raise money for a good cause.

Jennifer Digmann, a graduate student, toasts to sweet success with her husband, Dan Digmann, an editor at CMU. Jennifer was diagnosed with MS 16 years ago; Dan has had the disease for 14 years.
It’s the first night of the class that will wrap up Jennifer Digmann’s master’s program at Central Michigan University.

She and husband, Dan Digmann, an editor at the university, scarf down a quick dinner of Hot Pockets. They’ve got a few minutes before it’s time to load up the van and get to class. “Thank you, sugar,” she whispers as he helps her into her coat.

For more than five years, this has been a well-trodden path. For every class Jennifer has taken, the couple has undertaken at least three “run-throughs” before the semester begins in order to ensure she’ll be able to enter the buildings, access the classrooms and get to the bathrooms.

Jennifer has secondary-progressive multiple sclerosis and cannot walk – that’s one way that makes the 38-year-old different than the average college student.

Her husband, Dan, not only shares her name, but also her disease (his form of MS is relapsing-remitting) – that’s another way that makes theirs different from the average love story.

But if all you see are the differences, you’ll miss the best part.

An MS romance

The January wind blows cold against Jennifer’s cheeks outside Powers Hall as nervousness begins to settle into her bones. “History is not my forte,” she says, bracing herself for the work ahead in her historiography course. Dan, always a step ahead, opens the door for her.

Jennifer’s got a bold, radiant smile, but her voice falters at times – a side effect of the MS. Every research paper she has written has been typed out with the one finger she can most control.

“When I graduated from college, I graduated with a degree in sociology,” she says. “Six months after I graduated, I was diagnosed with MS, so my whole world turned upside down. I had never forgotten I wanted to go to grad school.”

Jennifer met Dan through a special MS outreach program called “Finding Your Buried Treasure.” The couple now reflects on the hidden significance of that title to their relationship. They were married in 2005.

Within a year, Jennifer had her sights set on returning to the classroom, to a master’s program in humanities. And now she is mere months from graduation.

“This is something I wanted so badly, and then I married someone who made that happen,” she says. “I have to do this to prove to myself that MS didn’t keep me from fulfilling my dreams.”

Bumps in the road

When the Digmanns began their life together, there was a huge learning curve ahead.

It was a couple of years before they became brave enough to try to transfer Jennifer from her chair to the couch so they could enjoy the simple pleasure of falling asleep in each other’s arms while watching TV.

A rotating cadre of caregivers started working at the house each year, allowing Jennifer to create a life for herself within the home, while Dan earns a living at CMU. The caregivers are blessings, but they don’t come without some challenges.

That also goes for Jennifer’s No. 1 caregiver, her husband.

“I’m still learning,” says Dan. “You have to know when to step in and know when to back off. When you see that she’s struggling, your tendency is to step in, but when you do that, you’re saying, ‘You can’t do this.’”

Over time, the Digmanns have developed a sort of agreement that involves an immense level of patience with each other. He waits while she laboriously cuts through her entrees when they go out to eat. She reminds him to pick his feet up when he goes for a run – his fingers and feet have gone numb, thanks to MS.

And despite all this, there are always breakdowns with the plan.
Their wheelchair accessible van breaks and needs repairs, leaving Jennifer housebound for days and adding stress to Dan’s already crunched schedule. Dan slips and falls while he runs due to the numbness, gets patched up in the E.R., and keeps running, anyway. It worries Jennifer, but she understands that it’s his way of outmaneuvering MS, and you have to do these things to persevere.

Jennifer will fall once in a while, too – that’s inevitable. Once she fell in the bathroom at CMU, and the Digmanns were at the mercy of any college students who could be pressed into helping her get up.

Oddly enough, those are times that have opened Jennifer’s heart.

“I think people are kinder than we give them credit for,” Jennifer says. “It’s unfortunate that it took getting a chronic illness to realize that people are kind, to see what really mattered to me. I wanted to be successful – I think I am successful, but I have a different measure of success now.”

The finish line

Last Christmas, Jennifer anxiously eyed the lumpy present with her name attached under the tree, hoping her husband would remember – hoping it would be the only gift she really wanted.

“I think every semester, I have a nervous breakdown. I’ll say, ‘I can’t do it – this is too hard.’ The hardest part of it is not letting it win. MS can affect you cognitively. I may not have been an athlete, but I’ve always been smart, and I don’t want to let this muscle atrophy,” she says, pointing to her brain.

Every college student goes through a few trials in order to cross the finish line – all-nighters, bad test scores, a few moments of serious metaphysical reflection.

Jennifer has dealt with all of those – and many more. She smiles in spite of the setbacks. Her buried treasure gives her a reason to smile every day.

And now, she has an official CMU alumni sweatshirt – her prized gift. Can’t wear it until May. But that sweatshirt – it makes all those trials worth it.

The Digmanns blog about life with MS on their website, danandjenniferdigmann.com.

alumni.cmich.edu/centralight for more
Physical therapy that incorporates the movement of a horse (also known as hippotherapy) may help patients suffering with multiple sclerosis faster than traditional forms of therapy.

Deb Silkwood-Sherer, a CMU physical therapy professor, has overseen four research projects since 1999 involving hippotherapy with patients who suffer from both relapsing-remitting and progressive (the more severe) MS.

Silkwood-Sherer says people who have MS are a good fit for this therapy because the neurological disease affects so many body parts. Patients are seated on a highly trained horse without a saddle and are led – rarely do the patients ever take the reins themselves.

The therapy is effective because the movement of a horse replicates a real world environment through a horse’s gait, movement through space and the presence of outside stimuli that physical therapists are hard pressed to recreate in a lab.

“When you get someone on a horse, you see their balance improving. They get better at dealing with environmental cues and making reactive adjustments,” says Silkwood-Sherer.

Her studies have shown that MS patients are better at walking on uneven ground, walking up and down stairs, and listening to their body’s cues. And patients with progressive forms of the disease tend to see the biggest gains.

Does hippotherapy provide lasting improvement? “We think so,” she says. But more studies are required to prove whether these gains will last after patients are no longer undergoing hippotherapy.

In the meantime, she has seen some remarkable outcomes firsthand, such as the patient who thought she would never ride horses again following her diagnosis.

After being discharged following months of hippotherapy, the woman entered a riding stable once again with Silkwood-Sherer. The professor handed over the reins and expected the patient to start off trotting slowly. The next thing she knew, the patient was galloping away with a big grin on her face, shrieking, “Yee-haw!”

It sounded a bit outrageous: take a motley crew of friends, coworkers and CMU alumni, and bike from Mount Pleasant, S.C., to Mount Pleasant, Mich., to raise money for MS.

The nearly 1,200-mile trip, dubbed Challenge MS, was a brainchild of John Hunter’s, owner of several Mount Pleasant bars (Wayside Central, O’Kelly’s and Hunter’s Ale House). In the end, the group of eight cyclists raised nearly $30,000 for regional and national MS groups.

Hunter’s grandfather has MS, instilling a personal motivation to get out and make a difference.

“The seven other riders, they just did it out of their hearts, and we paid out of our pockets for the trip. When I woke up in the morning, I told myself, ‘I can’t be grumpy when people are taking a week off of work,’” says Hunter.

The trek was grueling at times – the terrain of the Appalachian Mountains is one Hunter says he’s not eager to repeat anytime soon.

“When it was hard to ride, I just kept thinking, ‘I’m blessed to be able to do this – some of these people would be grateful to walk, let alone ride hundreds of miles on a bike,’” he says. *
Andrew Dost, ’05, strikes the keys with Grammy-winning supergroup fun.
The CMU marching band stops playing.
And on a crisp, late fall afternoon, several hundred randomly assembled and untrained musicians form a makeshift choir that belts out an increasingly familiar chorus in perfect time … a cappella, picking up where the band left off.

Tonight
We are young
So let’s set the world on fire
We can burn brighter than the sun
It’s an anthem to innocence and freedom. And today it also is a song tinged with pride for the alumnus who went before them.

For it wasn’t long ago that Andrew Dost, ’05, keyboardist for the 2013 Grammy award-winning band, “fun.,” marched on this very field.

“When I was in high school we used to come down for CMU Band Day,” says Dost, who grew up in Frankfort, Mich., and played trumpet in the northern Michigan high school’s marching band. “One of the greatest things I remember was when we’d go onto the field to play with CMU’s marching band.

“To know that my music is now part of that tradition is something very special.”

From flugelhorn to fame
Dost is proud of the path that led to his current success.
He followed in his parents’ footsteps when he chose to attend CMU. Cheryl (Kozan) Dost, ’78, and Mark Dost, ’79, both received degrees in elementary education and recently retired after teaching throughout the Thumb and northern Michigan.

As valedictorian of his Frankfort High School graduating class, Dost was a Centralis Scholar and Honors Program student at CMU. He’s musically gifted – playing everything from the piano to drums, flugelhorn and guitar – but Dost wanted to develop other skills and pursued a journalism degree.

Turns out, the journalism background played a supporting role in his music career.

“When writing music it’s sometimes hard to cut away the lyrics you spent so much time putting together,” Dost says. “Then, going back to my journalism classes, I remember about writing compact sentences and editing out the fluff to make the songs better.”

Dost remembers a senior Honors project that had a particularly profound impact on his career. Working with Ed Long – then-Honors Program director – and music theatre faculty members, Dost wrote a musical called “Columbus” about the life of Christopher Columbus.

“I was very passionate about music, and I’m forever thankful they allowed me to go out on a limb and do something different,” he says. “That was a turning point in my life. I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunities and experiences I had at CMU.”

Best New Artist is incredible because … it represents us as a band and hopefully the fact that we’ll be an important part of music for a long time.”

Andrew Dost, ’05, middle, along with bandmates Nate Ruess, left, and Jack Antonoff after fun. won two Grammy Awards Feb. 10.
Throughout college, Dost played in various local groups and found success with the band Anathallo. After playing many local gigs at venues including New Moon Records and the Broadway Theatre, the band started gaining some regional and national attention. Dost left Anathallo when it relocated to the Chicago area. The keyboard player remained in Michigan.

Soon, front man Nate Ruess, former lead singer of The Format, contacted Dost to join him and guitarist Jack Antonoff to form a little band called fun.

‘Can we call it a hit?’

The band’s debut album, “Aim and Ignite,” was released by Nettwerk in 2009, earning modest success.

From there Dost says all that he, Ruess and Antonoff planned to do next was write songs that featured the type of music they like. They started scratching out song lyrics on the beach of Lake Michigan and at his parents’ house in Frankfort.

Then came the song that changed everything.

In 2012 the band released its album “Some Nights,” featuring the single “We Are Young.” Before long, Dost wouldn’t be able to go anywhere without hearing his music.

First “We Are Young” was featured on “Glee” and a 2012 Super Bowl Chevrolet commercial. Soon it was hanging out for six consecutive weeks atop Billboard’s “Hot 100” and setting single sales records. The band earned six Grammy-award nominations and high-profile performances such as on “Saturday Night Live” and at President Barack Obama’s inauguration gala this January.

Dost swears “Some Nights” wasn’t intended to be a commercial success. “We knew we liked it, but we didn’t think anything big would happen,” he says. “When ‘We Are Young’ hit No. 1, I remember us asking our manager several times, ‘Can we call it a hit?’”

Staying true to his roots

Mark and Cheryl Dost couldn’t be more proud of their son and his continued success.

“Andrew is a gifted musician and a gifted writer, and he’s a very hard worker,” Cheryl Dost says. “We knew he’d be successful at whatever he did, but I don’t think we ever could have seen success of this nature.”

Around Frankfort, a town of less than 1,300 residents, Mark Dost says the community is embracing Andrew as its local rock star. But the reality that their son is an international sensation didn’t hit until he joined Andrew for a show in Los Angeles.

“Photographers were taking photos of Cheryl and me, and when I asked the photographers, ‘Why?’, they said, ‘Because you are his parents,’” Mark Dost says. “That’s when it hit us that, ‘Wow, maybe he is a star.’”

Andrew Dost is enjoying his fame, but keeping himself grounded.

“The most surprising thing about the music industry is the sheer amount of work that goes into it. When you grow up singing to your hairbrush in the mirror, you never think about the work,” Dost says. “But I absolutely love it. And the best part is hearing people singing the songs we wrote.”

More than 150 people sit silently anxious in Frankfort, Mich.’s, Garden Theater waiting for Faith Hill to announce the Song of the Year Grammy winner. Mark, ’79, and Cheryl (Kozan), ’78, Dost are strategically positioned in the front center row reserved just for them.

It’s a huge night for the Dosts and an even bigger moment for their son Andrew, ’05, who is nominated along with his band, fun., for this top songwriting honor.

“Andrew is a gifted musician and a gifted writer, and he’s a very hard worker,” Cheryl Dost says. “We knew he’d be successful at whatever he did, but I don’t think we ever could have seen success of this nature.”

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Football team crowns season with a thrilling BOWL GAME

By John Regenfuss

The Chippewas won seven games overall in 2012, including four of their last five in the regular season, all in MAC play, to earn the program’s fifth bowl bid in the last seven years. The highlight of the regular season came in week four when Central Michigan scored nine points in the game’s final 45 seconds to knock off Iowa on the road, 32-31.

CMU punctuated 2012 with a thrilling 24-21 victory over Western Kentucky in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl in Detroit. Ryan Radcliff threw a touchdown strike to Cody Wilson late in the fourth quarter to give the Chippewas the lead and the CMU defense stopped Western Kentucky on fourth down with under a minute remaining to secure the bowl win.

Radcliff finished the game 19-of-29 passing for 253 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions to earn Most Valuable Player honors while Wilson had 10 catches for 101 yards and one touchdown.

Zurlon Tipton recorded his seventh-straight 100-yard rushing game and eighth of the season, gaining 101 yards on 23 carries, and redshirt freshman receiver Andrew Flory caught touchdown passes of 69 and 29 yards, both in the first quarter.

Junior linebacker Shamari Benton led CMU with a game-high nine tackles to earn Lineman of the Game honors.

Five Chippewas earned All-MAC recognition in 2012 – Eric Fisher (first team), Tipton (second team), Jahleel Addae (second team), Titus Davis (second team) and Wilson (third team). Fisher was named Second Team All-America by SI.com and received third team honors from the Associated Press while Wilson was an Academic All-America selection for the second consecutive year.

A Chippewa at the Super Bowl

Joe Staley became the eighth former CMU football player to vie for an NFL title when his San Francisco 49ers met the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XLVII at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans on Feb. 3.

Staley and the 49ers rallied from 22 points down in the third quarter, but their comeback attempt came up just short and the Ravens triumphed, 34-31. The San Francisco offense compiled 486 yards, including 182 on the ground, and scored three second-half touchdowns to get the 49ers back in the game.

Staley, a four-year letterwinner at CMU from 2003-06, helped the Chippewas post 10 wins and capture MAC and Motor City Bowl championships in his senior season, earning first team all-conference honors for his standout play. Staley became CMU’s first-ever first round NFL draft pick in 2007 when San Francisco took him with the 28th selection.

In six NFL seasons, Staley has risen to the pinnacle of his profession, earning All-Pro and Pro Bowl starter status this season. The athletic Staley anchors the 49ers offensive line from his all-important left tackle spot. In 2012, he was an integral part of a 49ers offense that ranked No. 1 overall in the NFL and topped the league in rushing.
It took a 5-year-old to really put things into perspective for the CMU women’s basketball team.

Katie Johns, a brain cancer patient from Midland, Mich., has been welcomed as an honorary member of the team since last July. She was diagnosed with pilocytic astrocytoma after doctors found a golf-ball sized tumor on her brain stem.

Johns cheers on the team, hands out water and dribbles on the court during timeouts. But her most important contribution, team members say, is her spirit.

“If you have a bad game, it’s so easy to lose perspective and think badly about yourself,” says senior Jessica Schroll, who originally approached head coach Sue Guevara with the idea of bringing Katie to the team. “But then you look down at the bench and you see this little girl whose hair is falling out because of her treatments and it makes you realize that things aren’t so bad. We use it as a springboard to see her enthusiasm, despite what she is going through, and it brings all our energy up.” •

Paying tribute to the trailblazers

By John Regenfuss

As the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX – the federal civil rights law that prohibits sex discrimination in education – the CMU athletics department is recognizing a handful of women who have left a mark on the university.

“Central Michigan was really in the forefront of women’s sports in the whole state of Michigan. We gave scholarships to women athletes before any other school in the state did,” says Marcy Weston, executive associate athletics director. “We had really great leadership that was committed to providing women opportunities.”

These women have used their education in the classroom and athletics to go on to great things in their professional worlds. Some of these former athletes are being featured on cmuchippewas.com.

**CMU adds two women’s sports**

On the heels of Title IX’s anniversary, the CMU Board of Trustees approved unanimously at its December meeting the addition of women’s golf and women’s lacrosse to CMU’s lineup of NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics.

The women’s golf team is scheduled to begin competition during the 2014-15 academic year, while the lacrosse program will start play in 2015-16. The addition of the programs will continue Central’s long-standing compliance with Title IX and will provide equitable athletics participation and education opportunities for both men and women.

“This is truly an exciting day for CMU and our athletics program as we continue to provide additional opportunities for young women to pursue their athletic and academic dreams,” CMU Director of Athletics Dave Heeke says. “These sports are great additions to our overall program and will attract outstanding student-athletes who will contribute to our championship culture.” •
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Hitting the slopes
More than 150 alumni met up at northern Michigan’s Boyne Mountain for a weekend of skiing and socializing in February.
Goal!
CMU alumni, family and friends hit the ice at Joe Louis Arena in March for the Fourth Annual CMU Skate Night, featuring fun and games right in the middle of the Detroit Red Wings’ home turf.

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Dollester Maxwell
Eric David Maxwell
Amanda R. Maybank
COL Dan J. McBride
Dr. Gary L. McConeghy
Rosalind Ruth McDavie
David E. McDonald
Richard L. McGuirk
Dr. Eugene Henry McKay III
Dr. Gordon Grant McWatt
David Leonard Merritt
Robert Laurence Miller
Maurice Nathaniel Mile III
LCDR Thomas A. Minnick
John W.R. Moffett
Dr. Anne Marie Monroe
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Ricardo R. Moore
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Jamie L. Morris
Michael John Morris
Scott Morris
Roger Paul Morrison
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Mary M. Murphy
William F. Myles
James M. Nelson
Jodie E. Neuman
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Ann Elizabeth Norton
Randall R. Norton
William Steven Nuber
Dr. Donald J. Nyquist
Dr. Patrick Joseph Offman
Thomas C. Ogg
Trustee Sarah Rowley
Oppeener
Jimmy Ortiz
Mark J. Osak
Alan Charles Osterdale
John Lewis Pannier
John T. Patow
Betty Paveglio Schubert
Mark Perry
Kari Peruski
Brian John Pesola
Dr. Brian A. Peters
Robert Paul Peterson
Patricia Ellen Phelps
Gregory A. Phillips
Chad M. Pleiness
Bob Prevette
Darcy N. Prins
Dr. Errol D. Putman
David C. Quade
Kathleen M. Quill
James J. Rafferty
Stacy Lynn Ragland
Thomas L. Randle
Dr. Michael Rao
William F. Rasschaert
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Carol A. Reareck
Mary Catherine Rentz
Mark A. Reseter
Katie J. Reynolds
Katrina Marie Rhodes
COL Bert Leon Rice
James Arthur Ringold
Jeffrey Louis Rivard
Dr. Bradbury Norton
Robinson
Dr. Winfred J. Robinson
Andrea Marie Rodriguez
Kirk Anderson Root
Dr. Janann Katherine
Rotman
Dr. Gwendolyn Rowe Gage
Charles P. Russian
Julianne R. Rybicki
Jeremy B. Rycus
Joyce E. Scape
Bob Schellhas
Daniel J. Schlattman
Save these dates

Mark your calendar today, and check future Centralight issues, regularly visit cmich.edu/alumni or call 800-358-6903 for more information on these and other great alumni events!

**July 22**
Traverse City Alumni Golf Outing
*Traverse City Country Club, Traverse City*

**August 2**
Alumni night at the ballpark
*Wrigley Field, Chicago*

**August 31**
CMU vs. U of M football tailgate
*Ann Arbor*

**September 6**
Alumni Awards banquet
*Bovee University Center, Mount Pleasant*

**September 7**
CMU vs. New Hampshire football game
*Kelly/Shorts Stadium, Mount Pleasant*

**September 14**
CMU vs. UNLV football tailgate
*Las Vegas, Nevada*

**September 21**
CMU vs. Toledo football game
*Kelly/Shorts Stadium, Mount Pleasant*

**September 23**
Great Lakes Bay Region Alumni Golf Outing
*Apple Mountain, Freeland*

**September 28**
CMU vs. North Carolina State football tailgate
*Raleigh, North Carolina*

**October 19**
Homecoming, CMU vs. Northern Illinois
*Kelly/Shorts Stadium, Mount Pleasant*
1950s
Army Col. (Ret.) Harold L. Patrick, ’57, was recently recognized by the Alion Science and Technology Program Manager, Secretary of the Air Force Technical Analytical Support, for 25 years of service. He lives in Alexandria, Va.

1960s
Richard Dykehouse, ’67, was inducted into the Parchment (Mich.) High School Hall of Fame January 18.

1970s
Jeffrey D. Brasie, ’70 M.A. ’76, executive director of the Michigan Primary Care Consortium, was the lead editor of the university textbook, “Effective Non-Profit Management,” released by CRC Press.

Ray Ernst, ’72 M.A. ’75, is now retired and living in Fairview, Texas. He previously worked as a school counselor and as a psychologist in a private practice.

Erwin P. Lewandowski, ’73, was honored with the Best of Show award at the 2012 Michigan Exhibition in Novi, Mich., for his artwork. He has received many awards, including the Great Explorations award for exceptional achievement by the Colored Pencil Society of America.

Mark Haas, ’74 M.A. ’76, was appointed vice president for finance and treasurer of Michigan State University on Jan. 1, 2013.

James L. Hughes, ’76, a member at Dickinson Wright PLLC, has been included in The Best Lawyers in America 2012 in the areas of banking and finance law, corporate law, health care law, mergers and acquisitions law, and nonprofit/charities law.

Mariya Sinclair, ’76, retired from teaching, moved to Northern Michigan and owns a small business named Simply North.

Anne L. (MacManus) Drabczyk, ’78 M.A. ’80, was named chief executive officer of the National Association of Local Boards of Health in January 2013.

Thomas O’Farrell, ’78, is a senior vice president with RBC Wealth Management in Annapolis, Md. He and his wife, Carol, have three sons and reside in Davidsonville, Md.

1980s
Reggie Mitchell, ’84, will be inducted into the Greater Flint Afro-American Hall of Fame on March 24, 2013. He currently is the running backs coach at the University of Kansas.

Christine (Gilray-Yost) Nace, ’84, recently moved to Mount Pleasant, Mich., with her husband, Bob, after living and working in Virginia. She has been working in a private practice as a licensed professional counselor.

Carol Novak, ’84, was recently named one of Jackson Magazine’s Top Teachers. She also was named Bennett Elementary 2011-12 Teacher of the Year.

Zachery Mitcham, M.S.A. ’86, chief information security officer at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, recently completed the Certified Security Incident Handler Certification from Carnegie Mellon University’s Software Engineering Institute.

Todd S. Avery, ’87, was inducted into the Michigan Educational Theatre Association’s Hall of Fame in December 2012 and awarded their Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and commitment to the advancement of the performing arts.

Jim Brown, ’87, recently founded an enterprise mobile technology consulting company named Coil Group in southeast Michigan. The firm specializes in mobile sales solutions and executive dashboards on iPads and Android and Windows tablets.

Kenneth Neal, ’87 M.S.A. ’98, was elected president of the Old Newsboys’ Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, Michigan’s oldest charity. Each holiday season, the organization delivers holiday gift boxes to children in the Detroit metropolitan region.

Christopher J. Kauffold, ’89, has been commissioned by the Michigan School and Orchestra Association to compose a jazz piece in memory of Jack Saunders, CMU associate director of bands from 1965-2000. The piece, “The Gospel According to Jack,” will be performed at the 40th CMU/Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Weekend.

Michael A. Womack, ’89, recently joined AutoZone Inc. as senior vice president of human resources and customer satisfaction. Womack was previously the vice president of human resources with Cintas Corp.

1990s
David Haakasma, ’90, was named manager of aerospace bearing repair at Timken Co.

Jason S. Link, ’90, was named the first-ever senior scientist for ecosystem management at that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He will be the agency’s senior-most authority on ecosystem science and will develop tools to allow NOAA to deal with the impacts of climate change on marine trust species.

Merri-Susan J. Mattison, ’91, recently earned a Ph.D. in Leadership and Change from Antioch University. She is an army veteran and is currently professor of sociology at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colo.

Michael Steger, ’93, accepted the position of director of marketing and communications at the TELUS World of Science-Edmonton in Alberta, Canada.

Derek Tenbusch, ’94 M.A. ’01, is the co-founder and co-chief executive officer of Tournament Poker Edge, an online poker community.

Eric Gaertner, ’95, has published his first book, “Torn in Two,” a non-fictional account of the sinking of the Carl D. Bradley. He also was recently promoted to managing producer at MLive and the Muskegon Chronicle.

John D. Mead, M.P.A. ’95, was elected Benzie County probate judge. He was previously employed as a Family Division referee (19th Judicial Circuit Court) and District Court magistrate (85th District Court).

Kimberly ( Hilton) DeClercq, M.A. ’96, is the resident scientist at ABC affiliate WZZM 13’s “Take Five & Company” in Grand Rapids, Mich. She also is a chemistry instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.


Derek Avey, ’97, was selected to serve on the 2011 Board of Examiners for the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence.
Edward M. Rogalski, M.S.A. ’97, co-founded a new consulting engineering firm, PRVN Consultants Inc., which specializes in providing professional engineering and environmental services for utility, institutional and industrial clients, based in Muscatine, Iowa.

Ryan T. Hamilton, ’99, and his wife, Abby Hamilton, ’01, recently opened their second full-service audiology clinic in Gaylord, Mich. They welcomed their son, Winston Xavier, on Jan. 29, 2012. They also have a daughter, Clover Sophia.

2000s

Tamra (Bays) Watt, ’00, married Jesse Watt on Feb. 11, 2011, in Troy, Mich. She is employed as an academic services officer for Wayne State University.

Amy (Ballou) Ackley, M.S.A. ’01, published her debut young adult fiction novel, “Sign Language,” with Viking Juvenile (Penguin USA) in August 2011. “Sign Language,” drawn from the loss of her father to cancer when she was a young teen, won the 2010 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award for Young Adult Fiction.

Kai Chung, M.S.A. ’01, and his wife, Amber Chung, announce the birth of their second daughter on July 10, 2011.

Kevin Kelly, ’01, and Michele (Caldwell) Kelly, ’01, welcomed a baby girl, Anna Quinn Kelly, in May 2012.

Jacob Coughlin, ’02, married Francisca Wong on April 28, 2012, and is currently working as a family medicine physician assistant in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Crasha V. Perkins, ’02, is now the director for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Radford University in Virginia.

Angela Teubert, ’02, and her husband, Troy Adam, welcomed their first child, Oren Alexander, on May 1, 2012.

Christina Fenbert, ’03, recently completed a Master of Science in Real Estate Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a portfolio analyst with Colony Realty Partners in Boston.

Ryan LaPorte, M.S.A. ’03, was recently promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army.

Dan Mazei, ’03, was promoted to vice president/director at public relations firm Golin-Harris in New York.

Tasha Candela, ’05 M.A. ’08, was named the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning’s Pre K-12 Teacher of the Year.

Chad Livengood, ’05, and Amanda Draper-Livengood, ’04, welcomed their first child, Madison Paige, on Oct. 15, 2012. Chad joined the staff of the Detroit News in February 2012 as the paper’s capital reporter in Lansing.


Stephanie Wolf, ’05, is a 7th grade social studies teacher in Maryland. She married Jonathan Lee on Oct. 16, 2011.

Patrick Hayes, ’08, co-founded an environmentally friendly clothing company, Envolove Clothing, focused on offering eco-friendly clothing.

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Beth Kloesener, M.S.A. ’08, created Girls 2 Women Coaching, an organization designed to help students and professional women define a rewarding career path and obtain personal growth, whole-hearted success and financial independence.

David Tuttle, ’08, is manager of demand planning for New Breed Logistics in Greensboro, N.C. He and his wife, Katie (Reynolds) Tuttle, ’05, reside in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Jessica Seba, ’10, lives in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and has partnered with a local travel company, Journey Mexico, to offer first-hand accounts of life in Mexico through digital marketing and social media.

Melica Niccole, M.S.A. ’11, was named Otterbein University’s Alumni Author of the Month for August 2012. She also performed at the National Black Book Festival.

Rachel Jezowski, ’12, has been hired as a junior designer by Harrington Communications, a Grosse Pointe Woods-based strategic communications and design firm. She resides in Ferndale, Mich.

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

2010s

William T. Bowles, ’51, Ponce Inlet, Fla., died Nov. 29, 2012, age 84.

Laura Glenn, ’03, has her sights set on becoming CEO of a health system. There is little doubt that anything is going to stop her.

By age 31, she has already become vice president of physician services at Beaumont Health System and contributed to Beaumont’s status as the third liver transplant site in Michigan.

For her achievements, she was named to Crain’s Detroit Business’ “40 Under 40” for 2012.

“I attribute my success to having phenomenal mentors who have been willing to allow me to jump into new challenges, learn new things and expand my portfolio,” says Glenn, who looks forward to facing head-on the challenges of working in the health care industry in the midst of so much change.

At CMU, Glenn earned a bachelor’s degree in health fitness, which she says “has been critical in my ability to translate the components of a clinical program into a business plan.”

Beth Klopser, M.S.A. ’08, created Girls 2 Women Coaching, an organization designed to help students and professional women define a rewarding career path and obtain personal growth, whole-hearted success and financial independence.

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Mail: Centralight, University Communications, West Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant MI 48859

William T. Bowles, ’51, Ponce Inlet, Fla., died Nov. 29, 2012, age 84.
Clyde O. Troyer, City, Calif., died Sept. 12, 2012, age 66.


Marilyn E. (Gray) Schneider, ’73, Ublly, Mich., died Nov. 21, 2012, age 73.


Randolph Lee, MA ’76, Chattanooga, Tenn., died Jan. 1, 2013, age 82.


Mark L. Hoke, MA ’80, Frederick, Md., died Jan. 10, 2013, age 76.

Charles A. Pinson, MA ’80, Atlanta, Ga., died Oct. 9, 2012, age 71.


Martin F. Putz, MA ’81, Racine, Wis., died Oct. 29, 2012, age 69.


Thomas M. Birdsall, ’92, Battle Creek, Mich., died Nov. 27, 2012, age 43.

Robin E. Hecht, M.S.A. ’95, Dayton, Ohio, died Dec. 27, 2012, age 65.

Sue H. (Lott) Murphy, M.S.A. ’95, Wiggins, Miss., died Nov. 19, 2012, age 70.


Jeffery A. Sparks, M.S.A. ’01, St. Joseph, Mich., died Nov. 4, 2012, age 44.

Alonzo B. McGhee, M.S.A. ’02, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., died Jan. 4, 2013, age 44.


CMU Faculty, Staff and Retirees


We are Central:

Andrew Flory, Freshman
Brad Flory, ’80
Marylyn Flory, ’59 M.A.’76
A three-generation Central family

How is CMU related to the idea of love for you?
Marylyn: This is where my family started. The day I registered, I got pregnant [son Brad was raised in CMU’s married housing complex with his parents], and then I went through my whole senior year again pregnant. My family is rooted here.

Andrew (Marylyn’s grandson): I can’t help but think about how my parents met here and how my grandparents went here, and they’re my two biggest examples of love.

Brad (Marylyn’s son): This is where I met my wife, Candace. It almost seems like we’re still college kids, because that’s how we started.

How did you meet?
Andrew, interrupting: At the Wayside!

Brad: No, it wasn’t the Wayside. It was my senior year. She lived in Larzelere, and I lived across the street in what’s now His House. We had some mutual friends across the street, and we started dating.

Have you heard this story before, Andrew?
Andrew: I know enough to know he really is cleaning this up a bit.

How much do you have in common with your grandma?
Marylyn: I’ll tell you how much we have in common – Andrew and his college friends took me out to the casino the other night.

How has CMU changed since you were here?
Marylyn: I am blown away when I walk into Andrew’s dorm and his girlfriend lives across the hall. When I was here, it would be, ‘Marylyn, you have a caller in the lobby.’ … And I think those are good changes. •
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