CMU alumni make the best co-workers

5 ways to make your holiday style pop

Why one grad will run 100 races this year

Bonus!
CMU artwork to hang in your office
Up Close With: Shirley Brauker
This Smithsonian artist and CMU alumna is a keen observer of the world around her.

The Chippewa in the next cubicle
We visited four businesses where CMU alumni work and play together. Plus, tips for how to move your career ahead in 2014 … and a little something to spruce up your office.

What to Wear: Holiday Edition
Six tips from CMU apparel design faculty and students for adding some sparkle to your wardrobe.

This alumnus wants you to help fight Alzheimer’s
And he’ll run 100 races for the cause.
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PHOTO BY T.J. HAMILTON
Become a CMU Alumni Association Gold Member, and strengthen lasting connections with your alma mater and fellow alumni near and far who share your sense of CMU pride.

It’s your university, and this is your community.
This place is crawling with Chips (and I love it)

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

I cannot trace a path throughout my career without touching the name of a fellow CMU alumnus or alumna who helped me along the way.

With each career transition and job interview, it was always a comfort to know that on the other side of the desk, there was someone who had walked my same campus, sung my same fight song.

Maybe you have experienced that same camaraderie at your office. As the location where we spend more hours in our day than anywhere else, the kinship that arises from fellow alumni at work can go on a long way.

Nowhere is that more apparent than here at CMU, which employs 1,500 alumni – the largest concentration of any employer. Over the past 15 years, I’ve been privileged to work alongside people who not only went to school here but have made it their mission to help future Chippewas along, too.

In this issue, we uncovered some interesting stories of alumni at work, from a trio of former roommates with a wildly popular radio show to a school in Florida where one-third of the teachers are CMU alumni.

We found some common traits in offices where there are large concentrations of alums: 1) we alumni stick together, have fun and support each other in all kinds of workplace environments; 2) we like to help our fellow alums by networking and paving the way for employment opportunities; and 3) CMU alumni are known – and hired – for hard work and a solid work ethic.

By the way, if you happen to be in the market for a new career in 2014, we’ve also included some tips from our Career Services office, with free job-searching services available to all alumni.

As your alumni director, I want to remind you that your relationship with CMU doesn’t end with commencement – far from it. We encourage you to take advantage of the many regional alumni events and online resources we have available for you. It’s about being Forever Maroon and Gold.

And next time you see a fellow Chippewa near the water cooler, don’t be shy with your “Fire up, Chips!” In the event that your other non-CMU coworkers are a little jealous, just tell them there is still time to be a Chippewa … we have graduate school here, too.

Marcie

Marcie Otteman Grawburg

Calendar

February
2
CMU alumni skate day, Joe Louis Arena, Detroit

5
Orlando Magic vs. Detroit Pistons, Amway Center, Orlando, Fla.

8
Jazz Weekend, Mount Pleasant campus

March
14
Red Wings game and alumni social, Joe Louis Arena, Detroit

April
5

24-27
University Theatre Dance Company Concert, Bush Theatre, Mount Pleasant campus

This is a small sampling of the many alumni events throughout the U.S. Please visit alumni.cmich.edu for a comprehensive listing.

Letters

We received dozens of heartfelt letters in response to our “Lasting Lecture” feature including several beloved CMU professors. Here are a few excerpts:

“The ‘Lasting Lecture’ is a wonderful series of articles. I’m copying the articles to send to my great-nieces and nephews – lots of wisdom and life lessons contained within those pages.”

– Janet N. Mendler

“Love the piece about Gary Gagnon. He was the best professor I had at CMU. He teaches in a way that makes it fun to learn. His methods are brilliant, and I still think about the things he taught me today, nearly 10 years after I left his classroom.”

– Kim Sonefeld

“Great article on Dr. Mark Francek. I had him for over 10 classes at CMU from 1991-1995. He was the one who gave me the passion to be the geography professor I am today.”

– Brian Steinberg
Power to the turtles
It’s not exactly smooth sailing being a sea turtle.

Hatching under a brutal, hot sun only to be poached by seagulls or sharks, about one out of 1,000 of the endangered species will grow into an adult.

Thanks to CMU’s Alternative Breaks program, which dispatches CMU students to hands-on projects across the nation, like sea turtle rescue in Florida, a few more of those hatchlings will have a chance.

“This break has taught me how to take a step back from this crazy world we all live in and take time to appreciate nature, wildlife and the little things we take for granted each day,” says senior Rebecca Pittman, who volunteered over summer break.

The university’s Alternative Breaks program is ranked fourth nationally for the number of students participating in the trips, with 415 participants last year. Spaces for trips are nabbed as soon as they are posted.

Runway swagger
CMU’s popular fashion show, Threads, returned for a special night featuring the “Best of the Best” student designs over the past few years. The sold-out show included a designer meet-and-greet and a silent auction. Don’t miss our holiday fashion tips from CMU apparel design students on page 16.

Pardon our dust
The construction crews are busy completing CMU renovation and building projects on campus and elsewhere. Here’s a sneak peek of what they’ve been working on:

• In September, $14.4 million renovations were completed on Anspach Hall, which previously had not been renovated since its construction in 1966. Renovations included a student lounge, upgraded heating, cooling and ventilation systems, and better accessibility for disabled students, employees and guests.

• In October, CMU broke ground on a new College of Medicine facility in Saginaw, Mich. Estimated at $46.5 million, the building is at the site of Covenant HealthCare and will accommodate 200 third- and fourth-year students each year, as well as about 100 physician residents upon graduation from medical school.

• This summer, work will begin on the $89.4 million Biosciences Building, located east of the Education and Human Services Building. Opening date: fall 2017.
Neuroscience team embarking on innovative treatment for stroke

A CMU research team is investigating a treatment using adult stem cells that could promote recovery of the brain after damage caused by stroke, traumatic brain injury and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson’s, Huntington’s and Alzheimer’s.

“The question we’re asking is if these stem cells can produce proteins to help the brain remember and reduce cognitive deficits,” says Gary Dunbar, director of CMU’s neuroscience program. “We believe these stem cells can do that.”

The Society for Neuroscience named CMU the Undergraduate Program of the Year for its unique and innovative curriculum, which every year gives 50 undergraduate and graduate students valuable research opportunities.
It’s a way that the acclaimed artist draws inspiration for her artwork, which takes the form of her signature carved clay pots tinted with iron oxide, paintings and even songs. Her observations give way to stories, which Brauker weaves into her work, like pots that tell a complete tale as you turn them in your hand.

“My motivation to create comes from a place deep inside,” says Brauker, ’81 M.A. ’83. “It’s a constant desire that makes me want to put my hands on material and produce beautiful artwork. I’m aware of things, just the little things that give me messages all the time. I try to put that into my art; that’s important for me. Because when people look at it, they’re getting more than just that finished piece. They’re getting something really deep that goes into the creation of it.”

Storytelling is an important part of Brauker’s Native American heritage as a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians in Manistee, Mich., and the stories she tells through her artwork have helped reclaim and preserve that culture on a regional and national level.

Most recently, her painting, “The Rice Gatherers,” was selected for a national poster to celebrate American Indian Heritage Month by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The poster shows three Native American women harvesting wild rice, which was an important staple to indigenous communities around the Great Lakes. Floating just below the surface is the Rice Spirit. Her hair is wild rice.

Brauker’s work is also showcased in the Smithsonian, Heard and Eiteljorg museums. She will be an artist in residence for the Eiteljorg next year. Last spring, she was selected for the Olga J. and G. Roland Denison Visiting Professorship of Native American Studies at CMU, where she taught students traditional art forms such as beadwork, block prints and ledger art.

No matter the medium, she hopes her intent and her message are coming through her artwork: “To give back, to give inspiration and to have a record of what the Anishinaabe people are about,” she says. “I want a legacy that is about giving back, a gift of pride in our people. If everyone understands even one small idea and awareness about America’s first people, then I have done my job.”

In her house in Coldwater – the house built from proceeds of the work she made on a $150 potter’s wheel bought in college – Brauker can see the moon and the sun out of the rooftop windows. She can hear the birds singing a fall song. The artist takes it all in, and she is grateful.

Shirley Brauker notices these things: The cardinal that perched on her windowsill the morning her father died and how those birds have visited her every day since then. The deer that eat rings of ivy around her trees when food becomes scarce in the wintertime. The way a child’s breathing becomes slow and even when he is absorbed in his work.
The following native legend served as Brauker’s inspiration for pottery commissioned by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

When the creator made the earth, he wanted to admire his handiwork, so he placed it on his hand and gave it a spin. And where he touched it to stop it from spinning is where Michigan was formed.

The first day of creation everything was perfect – plenty of water, fresh air, sunshine, food, and the animals were all friends to each other. But the first night of creation it was black. So all the animals were scared, grumbling and frightened. The creator heard this, so he came down to earth the next day, and he brought a big giant bag and a big giant stick. In his mind, he was going to put all these little, tiny flowers that were as big as your fingernail on the end of the stick and put them up inside of the dome in these beautiful Ojibwe beadwork patterns.

After he had collected all those flowers, the creator went up on the mountain to take a nap. And meanwhile, this coyote came. And he’s seeing this big bag, and he’s thinking, “Oh, it must be full of food. And I’m just going to go up there and take a little bite, and no one’s going to miss it because it’s such a huge bag.” He takes a little bite in his mouth and then he gets all greedy and he says, “I’m taking the whole bag.” The bag rips open, all the flowers fly out all over the place. The creator wakes up and thinks, “Who made a mess of my sky?” Finally the coyote goes over and says, “OK, it was me. I thought it was full of food.” The creator didn’t get mad at him, because he knows that dogs are always hungry. He said, “I will leave it up to the humans to make sense of it.” That’s where the constellations came from.

And also, all the grandchildren of this coyote know what their grandfather did all these years later. And so that’s why when the moon comes out they are always crying.
When your co-workers are fellow CMU alumni, work is a lot more fun. Join us as we clock in at workplaces that are chock full of Chippewas.
next cubicle

When your co-workers are fellow CMU alumni, work is a lot more fun. Join us as we clock in at workplaces that are chock full of Chippewas.

by Terri Finch Hamilton, ’83
“Free Beer,” “Hot Wings” and their pal Zane have CMU spirit all wrapped up. Literally. The three Central pals with colorful monikers who host the popular “Free Beer and Hot Wings” radio talk show based in Grand Rapids, Mich., are wrapped up in a giant Central flag in their studio at WGRD.

“Free Beer” crafted the flag himself. “The C might be a little crooked,” he points out from behind the maroon and gold. But nobody notices, because of the weird faces they’re all making.

These guys will do anything for a laugh.

“Free Beer” is Gregg Neuenfeldt, ’96 (when he says his name on the air, he calls himself Gregg Daniels). “Hot Wings” is Chris Michels, ’95, and the guy who goes by “Zane” on the air is really Eric Zeitunian, ’95.

Neuenfeldt and Michels were CMU roommates who lived in Concord Apartments and got their start in radio together at WCEN in Mount Pleasant doing a top 10 country hits countdown show.

“We didn’t know what we were doing,” Michels says.

They do now. The popular syndicated “Free Beer and Hot Wings” program will be on 40 stations nationwide by the end of this year.

The two met up with Zeitunian in 2001 when all three worked in Knoxville, Tenn. The trio’s fun radio talk show covers everything from sports to current events to their family lives. And, of course, their alma mater.

“It’s cool to be able to talk about CMU on the air,” Michels says.

One time in particular has become legendary. Back in 1990 at CMU, Zeitunian entered a contest.

“I was really into weight lifting, and the Panhellenic Council had a bodybuilding contest,” he begins.

“Bodybuilding? No, dude – it was a full-on man pageant,” Michels interjects.

In addition to the bodybuilding, contestants had to demonstrate fashion sense (“I had a Bill Cosby sweater,” Zeitunian says), be interviewed and perform a choreographed dance. And there were lots of muscleman poses in very tiny underwear. It was called the Mr. Ten Contest.

Years later, the three friends were chatting about CMU on the air, and Zeitunian let it slip that he competed in Mr. Ten. His friends are still laughing.

“Of course they described it in gory detail to the audience, then posted the video of the pageant online,” Zeitunian says.

Pretty embarrassing. But they turned it into something good. They challenged their listeners to donate $70,000 to Johns Hopkins University for research into the rare childhood genetic disease, Ataxia-telangiectasia, or A-T. If their listeners succeeded, Zeitunian would get a tattoo of himself in a dance pose from Mr. Ten.

Zeitunian pushes up his sleeve and flexes. Yup. There he is.

“It seemed like the most embarrassing image he could get,” Neuenfeldt explains cheerfully. “Him in a onesie.”

The video, Michels says, “is one of the funniest things I’ve ever seen.”

All joking aside (but not for long) the trio say CMU gave them the tools for their radio success.

“CMU has such a reputable broadcasting program,” Neuenfeldt says. “It seems every TV station I’ve watched, I’ve seen people I knew from CMU, looking way more professional than when they were in college.”

These guys talk for a living. And it seems to spill over into their home lives, too.

“My wife has heard so many CMU stories, she finally said, ‘OK, I get it – you loved college,’” Neuenfeldt says. “When we drive by campus on the way to my parents’ house, I’m always saying, ‘Oh, see that building? That’s where this or that happened.’”

“This is where Zane used to shoplift,” Zeitunian quips.

He’s kidding, of course. Right?

Swapping embarrassing college stories on the air.
It didn’t take long for Clint Schmidt to realize he wasn’t the only Chippewa working at The Dow Chemical Co.

“A lot of us have ‘Fire Up Chips!’ on our cars, in our offices,” he says. “I have the ‘Flying C’ on my pin board. It’s very easy to connect with alumni here.”

Schmidt, ’98, strategic market manager at Dow, says you don’t always need a bumper sticker to identify a fellow Chip. About 300 employees are alums.

“Sometimes, you can just tell,” he says. “We have a go-do attitude. A good work ethic. CMU turns out a lot of go-getters.”

Ted Coale, ’12, has a CMU flag on his bulletin board but you can find a bunch of CMU alums, he says, by following the chatter.

“About 20 of us CMU grads go out to lunch once a month,” says Coale, who works in information systems in Dow’s Saginaw office. “We talk about our jobs, college, life. It helps us stay connected. We have a sense of camaraderie.”

Coale says he owes his job to “the heavy connections” between CMU and Dow.

His CMU professor for an information systems course, Mark Buckley, is a Dow employee who taught the class after work.

“He thought I had promise and recommended me for an interview on campus,” Coale says. “And the guy who interviewed me was from CMU, too.”

He landed a summer internship that turned into a job.

“We must be doing something right,” Coale says with a laugh. “Dow keeps hiring us.”

When Mary Klenk, ’11, was a CMU student, studying integrated public relations and journalism, “I trolled the CMU Career Services website like crazy, looking for internships and jobs,” she says. Like Coale, she landed a Dow internship that turned into a job.

Armed with the “real-world skills” she learned at CMU, Klenk says she showed up at Dow and realized Chips were everywhere.

“You see a lot of CMU diplomas on peoples’ walls,” she says.

Hers hangs in her workspace, along with a CMU pennant and a CMU alumni button.

“You hear a lot of ‘Fire Up Chips’ around here,” Klenk says. “Once you start talking to people and realize they’re also from CMU, you end up talking about the Central-Western game or the homecoming game. I was surprised to hear how many people were going back for homecoming – not just recent grads, but people from all years. There are a lot of proud alumni here.”

One trait they all seem to have, Klenk says, is a passion for giving to the community. That was honed at CMU, she says.

“There’s a volunteer culture at CMU,” she says. “People get involved in campus organizations, in the community, they go on Alternative Spring Breaks. That says a lot about our students – we like to serve and be part of our community. It gets ingrained in you.”

Klenk volunteers with the Dow team on Habitat for Humanity projects. And when she served on a United Way panel, she met another CMU grad.

These days you can often find her back on campus, speaking to public relations classes – and keeping an eye out for talent. She’s a recruiter for Dow.

“I go to CMU,” she says, “because I know there are top candidates there.”
It all started with Krista Valentage, ’06, and her killer résumé. Valentage, with a brand new teaching degree and bonus endorsement in middle-level education, sent her résumé to Alison Kennedy, the principal at Safety Harbor Middle School in Florida. Impressed, Kennedy hired her a week before school started. “Do you need anybody in science?” Valentage asked. Because she had a friend, Natalie Clark … As a matter of fact Kennedy did. Now there were two Chippewas on board.

“I was so happy with these two, I’ve hired 30 from CMU,” Kennedy says. “No joke. It just grew and grew.” There are currently 26 CMU grads teaching at Safety Harbor, a bustling west Florida middle school with 1,450 students located just outside of Tampa. They make up one-third of the school’s 85 teachers.

“They’re a reflection of the great program you have there,” Kennedy says. “You can have the smartest person out there, but that doesn’t matter if they don’t have the background and training. CMU grads come prepared.” When they show up at Safety Harbor, the alumni have an instant support system – and somebody to watch CMU football games with.

“There are so many of us now, we have groups within the group,” says Chris Bobrovetski, ’08, who teaches eighth grade history. He married a fellow teacher, alumna Natalie Clark, ’06.

“A lot of us didn’t know each other before we came down here, because we graduated in different years,” he says. “But now we watch CMU football games together, we go to the beach, kayaking, to amusement parks together.”

Valentage, who teaches eighth grade advanced U.S. history, has a photo of herself with CMU alum Andrew Dost, ’05, of the Grammy-winning group fun. in her classroom. She met up with him backstage when the band visited Florida last year.

“My students didn’t believe me, for the longest time, that he was my neighbor in the dorm,” Valentage says. “They’re pretty impressed.”

The Chippewas are a tight group, she says.

“We have a common mentality,” she says. “We share certain jokes about Mount Pleasant. We all have one thing in common: positive memories.”

Allyce Avery, ’11, teaches eighth grade advanced English. She says the rare middle-level education minor they all earned from CMU gives them an edge in their field.

“We all learned the same things and have an education specifically geared to teaching kids this age,” Avery says. “We know they learn not just in classes, but in their activities, too. So we’re all involved in extracurricular stuff. I’m the volleyball coach, Chris is the track coach, Krista mentors cultural groups.”

The CMU alumni at Safety Harbor have Jan Hagland, ’77, to thank for much of the CMU spirit in their classrooms.

Hagland is student teaching coordinator for CMU and president of the CMU Alumni Association. Whenever she’s in Florida, she takes a side trip to Safety Harbor, to visit “the kids,” as she calls the CMU teachers, and strengthen the connection between CMU and the bustling middle school.

She always brings goodies – candy bars with wrappers sporting the Action C and CMU flags the teachers love to display in their classrooms.

“It’s important that the teachers know CMU still cares about them,” Hagland says. “And it’s good relationship building. I want that door of opportunity to stay open.”

Principal Kennedy appreciates the camaraderie.

“Oh, my golly – they’re tremendous,” she says of her CMU teachers. “I love it when they buy houses here, because that means I’ll probably have them for a while.”

And when it’s time to drive back home to Michigan for the holidays, Valentage says, “there’s always somebody to carpool with.”
Career Services: Still on the job for you

Looking for a new job a few years – or a few decades – after graduation from CMU?

Career Services can hook you up.

All the career services available to CMU students are free and available to alumni, too, says Brian Partie, associate director of career services.

“You can use them no matter how long ago you graduated,” he says. “And they’re underutilized by alumni, for sure.”

Go to careers.cmich.edu to access “Career Central.” You’ll find information on hundreds of companies that have CMU connections.

Alumni also are welcome to attend several job fairs at CMU during the year. Dates are posted on the website.

Access a career guide on the site that includes all kinds of helpful information, Partie says, from tips on building a résumé to negotiating salary to a chance to sign up for mock interviews.

“The idea these days isn’t to make a résumé and blast the market with 500 copies,” Partie says. “Instead, find a job you want and spend an entire weekend perfecting your application and résumé. Submit it strategically.”

Don’t forget to stay in touch with your old CMU professors, he says.

“Our faculty have a sincere passion for their students,” Partie says. “They’re connected to the industries, they know people in their field. They’ll help you network.”

Know that CMU grads have great reputations in the workforce, Partie says.

“We’ve been told time and time again that CMU grads have less of a sense of entitlement than graduates from other schools,” he says. “Our students advance quicker. They work well in teams and embrace diversity. They know how to roll up their sleeves and get the job done.”

Let that CMU flag fly

At Quicken Loans, you easily can find the CMU grads. Just look for the homemade signs.

Look for Sarissa Fish’s CMU mug full of pencils and her CMU pennant. Watch for Scott Cargill’s maroon and gold during the company’s School Spirit Day. Or Maria Cairo’s handy CMU pen.

Quicken Loans’ downtown Detroit office is crawling with Chips. Last count: 144.

“On School Spirit Day, we just take over,” Cargill, ‘11, says with a laugh. “We have the most people, by far.”

Cargill likes a tidy desk, so he can’t compete with Fish, whose desk is considered the CMU shrine of school spirit. (”Her desk looks like a CMU dorm room,” Cairo quips.)

Cargill, a Quicken Loans recruiter, shows his school spirit in other ways.

“When Central shows up on a résumé, I am excited to talk to that Chippewa,” he says.

Why?

“We weren’t just given things,” he says. “We had to earn them, with blood, sweat and tears. We worked through high school, worked through college. Then, when we accomplish something, we’re proud of it. We’re not afraid to take on a hard job. Bring it on – it’s what we’ve been doing all our lives.”

Cairo, ‘10, associate recruiter for the mortgage lender, says the CMU connection forms an instant bond in the office.

“It’s really cool,” she says. “You see people becoming friends because of it. We’re really excited when we hear positive news, like homecoming, sports teams and student athletes who are now playing at a professional level.”

She loves discovering CMU on job candidate résumés.

“Whether they graduated last year or 20 years ago, we have an instant connection,” she says. “It makes us both feel good.”

The Chippewa crew at Quicken Loans says CMU prepared them well.

Fish, ‘12, majored in human resources management and says the program helped her hit the ground running.

“Everything was really relevant to what I do here,” she says. “I was a step ahead of other people.”

In other words, hiring a Central grad? Always a good bet.
KEEP CALM AND FIRE UP CHIPS™

Just add spirit: Cut out and display proudly in your office.
Men shouldn’t overlook the power of accessories, either — a scarf, tie or kerchief, vintage cufflinks or even a great watch, can add visual interest.

For men, remember that a blazer is a great way to dress up your look — try a blazer with jeans.

what to wear this season

Stumped about how to add some sparkle to your holiday wardrobe? CMU’s apparel design team is at your service.

“The little black dress is always a staple, but it’s very much in fashion right now,” says Maureen MacGillivray, apparel merchandising and design professor, who tasked a few students with imagining the perfect holiday wardrobe. “Think about different cuts or fits. Peplum is a big thing now.”

Illustrations by CMU juniors Allyson Vara and Kelly Tuls.
Add a signature jewelry piece, something that’s not mass-marketed (think: Etsy.com or something vintage).

The holidays are all about color – cobalt blue and emerald green are very on trend.

Experiment with different fabrics and cuts to update your typical holiday look.
Fresh mud covers Brad Kloha’s arms and face as he prepares to scale a concrete wall.

Without breaking stride, he wipes the plastic-and-Velcro wrap on his left forearm and glances to see the 2011 picture of his grandmother Phyllis Brinkman on her last birthday.

100 races. 52 weeks. $1 million.

Recovering from a weekend of racing, the 2006 sport studies graduate pauses to reflect on what led him to develop Run to Remember—his aggressive plan to compete in 100 different races in 52 weeks.

Sure, Kloha’s an intense athlete who thrives on grueling obstacle and challenge races. But there’s something close to his heart that’s pushing Kloha through these multimile races that include everything from fire jumps to barbed-wire crawls and rope climbs.

This is his way to honor his Grandma Brinkman and Great-Grandma Lydia Kloha. Both had Alzheimer’s disease, a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

“When my great-grandmother was living with Alzheimer’s, I was pretty young and I think our parents shielded us from it,” says Kloha. “But I was 14 when my grandma started developing it, and I could understand then what was happening. Sometimes we’d go visit and she’d forget who we were. That always was the hardest part.”

His Run to Remember goals are to increase Alzheimer’s awareness and raise $1 million for the Alzheimer’s Association.

“Logging long miles for the long goodbye” Kloha’s 100 races cover 15 states such as New York, Florida, Texas and California, as well as Toronto.

“I really don’t enjoy running,” admits Kloha, division administrator in CMU’s enrollment and student services office. “I don’t look forward to road races, and a trail 5K isn’t enough to do what I want to do. I like the tough personal challenges of obstacle races like a Tough Mudder and the Spartan Beast.”

Kloha wears his purple Run to Remember shirt in every race he enters, which sparks conversations about Alzheimer’s disease and continues to build his support and fundraising base.

“Raising the $1 million to reach my goal through private donations and sponsorships is intimidating to me,” Kloha says. “The most exhausting thing isn’t always the races; it’s the traveling.”

The campaign started on June 15 with the Savage Race in Zanesfield, Ohio. Kloha’s been all but nonstop since then, often competing in as many as three obstacle races in different states during any given weekend.

He’s endured countless cuts, bruises, pulled muscles and running-related injuries. He’s had to visit the emergency room several times and consult his doctor to ensure he was eating enough calories to sustain the demands of his aggressive regimen.

But through it all is the picture of his Grandma Brinkman to keep Kloha centered and remind him why he’s put himself up to these challenges.

“That’s the symbol of hope for me and the reminder that it’s not for me. It’s for them,” he says. “My Grandma Brinkman had a 13-year battle with the disease and its effects. That’s why they call it ‘the long goodbye.’

“Remembering what she lived with for 13 years, what my family went through, and knowing the millions of individuals and families going through the same experience, I can get over the exhaustion of any race.”

The final race on his schedule is the Run to Remember Finale on June 14, 2014, in Mount Pleasant. Follow his footsteps at runtoremember.net.
With four international student-athletes, CMU’s field hockey team is a global microcosm. But despite their differences, the athletes say the team feels like family.

“They are always there for you,” says Anne Middledorp, who hails from Den Haag, Netherlands. “It’s the closest thing I have here to family.”

Middledorp, along with Canadian Simone Lazar and teammates from South Africa and Belgium, have fallen in love with Central Michigan since arriving their freshman year.

One of the unique aspects of recruiting overseas is that the majority of the student-athletes do not step foot on campus until they arrive two or three days prior to their first practice in August. For many, it is their first time in the U.S. But, teammates, coaches and administrators smooth the transition.

“You aren’t just thrown into a new country; they help you get where you need to be,” says Lazar of Etobicoke, Ontario.

Teammates are given the opportunity to travel home with one another during holiday breaks or summer vacation. Whether it is exploring various states or traveling to different countries, adding international student-athletes to the roster enhances the student-athlete experience at CMU.

“They get to see the United States, not just Mount Pleasant and the state of Michigan,” head coach Cristy Freese says. “The entire team gets to learn more about the world, and these international student-athletes get to learn more about the United States.”

The Chippewas earned the highest team grade point average in the country in 2012 and have recorded the highest GPA among all Division I public universities for each of the last three seasons. Also, the CMU field hockey team garnered a single-season program record seven Academic All-Mid-American Conference selections last season, nearly half of its 16-person roster.

When asked what it means to them to be Chippewas, Middledorp and Lazar look at each other and smile in agreement.

“Pride.”
In the months leading up to the 2013 NFL Draft, much of the focus was on All-American offensive tackle Eric Fisher, who emerged not only as the top lineman in the draft but potentially the first pick overall. However, as the buzz circulating around his teammate continued to grow, safety Jahleel Addae was in the midst of his own preparations for a career in the NFL. These preparations, as well as his own stellar career at CMU, would eventually land the three-time All-MAC selection a roster spot on the San Diego Chargers.

Central Michigan head coach Dan Enos witnessed Addae establish himself as a top playmaker over the past three seasons and was not caught off guard by Addae’s accomplishment.

“It doesn’t surprise me,” Enos says. “He’s a great player, a great person. He plays with great intensity, and he was a pleasure to coach and be around every day.”

Addae places a strong value on his time at CMU, including his role on the team that has helped him at the next level.

“My time at CMU prepared me very well for the NFL,” says Addae. “I played all over the field, which allowed me to see a lot of different phases of the game. Having all that in my back pocket helped me land a spot because that is the sort of stuff I’m doing here.”

Addae has already seen substantial time on the field for the Chargers early on in his rookie season. After the Chargers’ first game of the regular season on Monday Night Football, Addae spoke about the significance of that experience.

“Playing in that first game was a blessing, a dream come true. My adrenaline was pumping. I was excited. It was an experience that I wouldn’t trade for anything. I’ll remember that moment for the rest of my life.”

“He emerged as a great leader for us last year,” says Enos. “I’m sure that right now he’s feeling his way, as rookies should do, but, as his role continues to grow on the Chargers and his time there increases, I think his leadership will make an impact as well.”

Addae has already seen substantial time on the field for the Chargers early on in his rookie season. After the Chargers’ first game of the regular season on Monday Night Football, Addae spoke about the significance of that experience.

“Playing in that first game was a blessing, a dream come true. My adrenaline was pumping. I was excited. It was an experience that I wouldn’t trade for anything. I’ll remember that moment for the rest of my life.”

BY KEVIN MEYER

JAHLEEL ADDAE

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The fog on grandma’s kitchen windows clings to its transparent prison. It wants to escape and commune with the frost on the other side of the glass. It is November in Detroit, which means the smell of snow and exhaust hangs heavy in the air. My grandmother has just melted the ice ball in my chest with her smile. I ride on her shoulders. I fit there nicely. She is waist-deep in Detroit. Like a river (she is a river), she carries anything she is given — leaves and snow, twigs and Styrofoam plates, old underwear too small for a growing grandson. She turns what she is bequeathed into useful things like rags, patches, and rope. She makes use of whatever she’s awarded — a daughter, Detroit, a poem. Like a river (she is a river), she carries what she’s given. This is what faith looks like.

– from “This is What Faith Looks like,” by Derold Sligh, ’05 M.A. ’07, English instructor at Daegu University, South Korea

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
The Bell Tower Society

Extraordinary friends of Central Michigan University

Central Michigan University’s Bell Tower Society includes some of the most exceptional friends of the university – friends who are central to helping CMU.

Bell Tower Society members help fund endowments, scholarships, facilities, technology and many other critical needs. They provide energy, enthusiasm and generosity that propel CMU forward as a focused, doctoral-level institution, and they understand the value of CMU’s applied research, creative endeavors and scholarship.

Bell Tower Society members exceed the ordinary and expect the most from their commitment to CMU.

The heritage of the bell tower

The bell tower first rose to prominence during the 1928 dedication of Warriner Hall. Eighty-four years later, the bell tower remains a beloved campus landmark and symbol of the involvement of CMU’s most exceptional donors: The Bell Tower Society members.

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Membership in the Bell Tower Society is the most visible and distinguished donor recognition offered by CMU. Names of donors are permanently inscribed on the Bell Tower Society Donor Wall adjacent to the Rotunda in the Bovee University Center. Bell Tower Society members also are invited each spring to a special recognition event on the CMU campus.

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“My favorite CMU memory really revolves around my first day at Central Michigan in 1961 when I first arrived at Robinson Hall. Because I was the first person in my family to ever go to college, it’s a memory I won’t forget.”

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Shirley Gross-Moore, Chicago

A gift from Shirley Gross-Moore, M.A. ’81, of Chicago helps students like Rene Manning, a CMU junior from Warren, Mich., who says that until now her degree in administration has been “an unfinished project.”
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For additional information about giving options, contact:
David Bunting ’80
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We want your donor list to be accurate.
If you have corrections, please call Dave Bunting, director of administration, at 800-358-6903 or 989-774-1012 or email david.l.bunting@cmich.edu.

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A parade, well played

If you tuned into America’s Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit this year, you might be interested to know that an alumnus played a key role in its success.

Four years ago, Tony Michaels, ’81, president and CEO of The Parade Co. got to work on building momentum and infusing excitement into the parade. Starting with a rehab of the parade warehouse in an old Chrysler plant, Michaels courted new sponsors, including Art Van Furniture, and reinvigorated the tradition.

“Everything we do we tie into smiles, entertaining moments for families and kids. We bring people together, and we celebrate our region,” says Michaels. “The parade serves as an ambassador for Detroit.”
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1950s
Harlan Clarey, ’51, lives in the Kalamazoo area with his son. He was a teacher before working for The Dow Chemical Co. for 30 years, where he was involved in finding a formula to keep wool from shrinking.

1960s
Glenn Palmer-Smith, ’63, is the author of “Murals of New York City,” published in October by Rizzoli of New York. He lives in New York, N.Y.

Greg Merwin, ’68 M.A. ’79, and Carole Merwin, ’68, were named the grand marshals for the 2013 Mount Pleasant High School Homecoming celebration in September.

Gordon Ostrowski, ’69, was recently interviewed by Opera News, the magazine published by the Metropolitan Opera Guild. He is assistant dean of opera studies/opera production at the Manhattan School of Music.

1970s
Randy Gilman, ’73, retired in 2005 after teaching special education in the Lansing School District for 31 years. He now guest teaches for East Lansing Public Schools.

Mary Murnighan, ’74 M.A. ’81, teaches eighth grade U.S. history and language arts at L.A. Ainger Middle School in Rotonda West, Fla. She received the 2012 Florida VFW Citizenship Educator of the Year Award for six through eighth grade. Her classes have made quilts to send to servicemen and women in combat duty for the last 22 years.

Eric R. DeLong, ’77, Grand Rapids deputy city manager, received the 2013 John M. Patriarche Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Local Government Management Association.

Brian J. McKeen, ’78, was awarded the Dan Cullan Memorial Award from the American Association of Justice and the Executive Board of the AAJ Birth Trauma Litigation Group. He resides in Northville, Mich.

1980s
Robert Irwine, ’81, is the senior vice president of bank solutions for Fiserv in Lake Mary, Fla. He is featured as one of the 2013 “Faces of Technology” in the Florida High Tech Corridor Council’s annual magazine, florida.HIGH.TECH.


Teresa Valerio, ’85, an Illinois State University faculty member, has been honored with the Marie Lindsey Spirit of Advanced Practice Nursing Award by the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing.

Mark LaCross, ’85, was recently named director of information technology for Vail Valley Medical Center in Vail, Colo.

Carol (Korte) Koch, ’86 M.A. ’87, an associate professor in communication sciences and disorders at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., was recently named the director of hearing and speech at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. She will begin her new position in January 2014.

Ron Strachan, M.S.A. ’86, has been named chief information officer at McLaren Health Care.

1990s
Joel Doepker, ’91, has been named vice president of external relations at East Central College in Union, Mo.

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UComm 8937
Meet the university’s alumni award winners

Each year CMU recognizes alumni and friends who have made significant contributions of their time, talent or financial resources to help the university and its students.

Recipients for the 2013 awards include:

**Distinguished Alumni Award**

**Saylor Frase**

Saylor Frase is the founder and president of Nuspire Corp., a technology firm that provides a full range of managed IT security services to Fortune 500 companies. Saylor studied information systems at CMU and is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School. Extensive work in creating technologies has set Saylor apart as a pioneer in managed services. In 2010, he was recognized by the state of Michigan as a leader in the technology sector.

**Community Recognition Award**

**Mary Lu Yardley**

Mary Lu Yardley has made a lifelong commitment to CMU. She is a two-time graduate and was an employee of CMU for 34 years until she retired. Mary Lu is also an active member of many community groups and organizations such as the Mount Pleasant Area Community Foundation and Art Reach of Mid Michigan. She is a regular presence at campus events, including those sponsored by athletics, the performing arts and academic departments.

**Alumni Commitment Award**

**Judy French Smith and W. Sidney Smith**

The dedication and commitment Sid, ’65, and Judy French Smith, ’65, have shown to CMU is evident in their volunteer work and financial support. Sid is the president/CEO of Smith Equities and an emeritus member of both the CMU Development Board and Board of Trustees. Judy serves as a trustee for Art Reach of Mid Michigan and co-chairwoman for the Art Reach Capital Campaign. Together Sid and Judy were Honorary Education Building Steering Committee Members, lead donors for the Education and Human Services Building and have established countless scholarships.

**Distinguished Young Alumni Award**

**Mara Shorr**

In 2011, Mara Shorr, ’05, founded The Leone Co., a marketing, community relations and fundraising consulting company. Today she serves as its president and also is a partner and vice president of marketing and business development for The Best Medical Business Solutions. In Florida, Mara serves on planning committees and donates her time to raise money and awareness for AIDS prevention and battered women and children.

**Outstanding Recent Graduate Award**

**Emmy Pontz**

Emmy founded the Hope for Huruma Foundation, a non-profit organization that spreads awareness and raises funds to help with basic necessities for children in Huruma, Kenya. She currently serves as the executive director for the foundation and organizes all fundraising and outreach efforts. A two-time CMU graduate, Emmy earned her Bachelor of Science in political science in 2009 and a Master of Arts in political science in 2011.

**Corporate Partner Award**

**The Morey Foundation**

The Morey Foundation has been instrumental in providing leadership support to a variety of key academic programs and centers on campus. In conjunction with Morbark, Inc., the foundation also supports CMU through internships, career services activities, athletic events and alumni programs. In addition to these events and activities, The Morey Foundation has established many scholarships and continues to support CMU through generous donations.
Craig Keilitz, '91, was recently promoted from athletic director to vice president of athletics at High Point University, N.C. He has served as director of athletics at High Point since 2008.

Gregory Stiffler, '93 M.A. '04, was recently named director of career services at Northwood University. He resides in Midland, Mich.

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Hunt, M.S.A. '94, recently retired after 53 years in the U.S. Army. He earned the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge, a Bronze Star for Heroism, the Purple Heart, five Air Medals, and numerous foreign service awards.

John V. Cipriani, M.S.A. '97, has published three books under the pen name Jean Vincennes. Profits from sales of his book “Cop Stories” are donated to Fallen Officers Remembered, providing protective body armor for K9 officers.

Michael Hester, '97, is the senior executive casino host at the Horseshoe Casino and Hotel in southern Indiana. He resides in Louisville, Ky.

Larissa Lynn Linton, M.A. '01, Ph.D. '03, was recently hired as an organizational development and change management consultant for the global talent management team at Perrigo in Allegan, Mich.

Dan Kesterke, '02, recently received the Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award from the Adrian Schools Education Foundation and AHS Alumni Association for his focus on building a community among band members.

Jonathan Seyferth, '02 M.S.A. '10, was recently named executive director of Downtown Muskegon Now, an economic development organization focused on downtown business development and place-making in Muskegon, Mich.

Jamie Westrick, '02, vice president of local and national production at Detroit PBS, was recently named to Crain’s Detroit Business’s 40 under 40 list.

Paula (Veverica) Gentile, '05, has been chosen to receive a five-year teaching fellowship from the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation.

Quentin Bishop, '06, received the 2013 Michiana Forty Under 40 award from the St. Joseph (Mich.) County Chamber of Commerce. The honor recognizes 40 outstanding professionals for their business success and community contributions.

David Elmore, '07, recently joined JK Winters P.C. He received his J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where he graduated cum laude in January 2012. He is a former clerk to the Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina and also served as a legislative intern with the ACLU.

Travis K. Leyndyke, '09, was recently promoted to director of ticket operations at the University of Florida Athletic Association.

Bobby Rouse, '10, has a new online business venture, Tie & Fashion Guy, offering discounts on designer merchandise and signature neckwear. He resides in Houston.

Nick Theis, '10, was recently promoted to senior accountant at Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP. He lives in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Evan Annis, '12, completed U.S. Navy Basic Training in Great Lakes, Ill., in September. He is currently in technical training for information technology in Pensacola, Fla.

John G. Phillips, '12, received the Woobank Fellowship from the University of Tulsa. He is entering his second year of graduate school.

Claudia Charlotte Marsh, '13, won the women’s national championship at the 2013 United Pipe Clubs of America competition in May.

Send us your news

We want to celebrate your noteworthy accomplishments. They will be considered for publication online or in a future issue of Centralight. 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

In Memory

Audrie E. (Skinner) Christensen, '42, Freeport, Ill., died Aug. 18, 2013, age 93.

William A. McComber, '42, Smiths Creek, Mich., died Aug. 9, 2013, age 94.


Winifred (Kane) Denton, '43, Clare, Mich., died Sept. 6, 2013, age 91.


William J. Phelan, '51, Plymouth, Wis., died Aug. 27, 2013, age 86.


David R. Lantz, '54 M.A. '64, Lansing, Mich., died Sept. 27, age 81.


George R. Jones, '57, Romeo, Mich., died July 30, 2013, age 78.

Robert E. Wallace, '58, Valdosta, Fla., died Sept. 27, 2013, age 82.

Edgar B. Decess, '59 M.A. '77, Detroit, died June 20, 2013, age 81.


Roger A. Kisseberth, '64, Goshen, Ind., died Sept. 13, 2013, age 77.
Alumni News


Carl Barberi, Ohio, died July 19, 2013, age 82.


Cornell Fuller, M.A. ’78, Virginia Beach, Va., died Aug. 21, 2013, age 71.


James A. VanDyke, M.A. ’78, Annandale, Va., died Sept. 21, 2013, age 79.


Linda M. (Fiorine) Bleck, ’80, Whitewater, Wis., died Sept. 27, 2013, age 55.


Joyce A. Saunders, M.S.A. ’88, Clayton, Ohio, died July 27, 2013, age 64.


Rex P. Rixie, M.S.A. ’91, Fort Worth, Texas, died Aug. 21, 2013, age 56.

Ellen M. (Morgan) Logan, M.S.A. ’93, Detroit, age 66.


Sandra J. (Butler) Moses, M.S.A. ’95, Augusta, Ga., died Sept. 6, 2013, age 60.

Carl Barberi, Ohio, died July 19, 2013, age 82.

John K. Groseclose, M.A. ’74, Spanish Fort, Ala., died Sept. 1, 2013, age 81.


Mary Jane Yaroch, ’70, Saginaw, Mich., died Sept. 27, 2013, age 64.


Paul F. Cudworth, M.A. ’71, Grand Rapids, Mich., died June 19, 2013, age 86.


John K. Groseclose, M.A. ’74, Spanish Fort, Ala., died Sept. 1, 2013, age 81.


Robert E. Beasley, M.A. ’75, Columbus, Ohio, died Oct. 1, 2013, age 88.


James N. McCready, M.A. ’75, Beaver, Ohio, died July 19, 2013, age 82.

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“I provide financial support to CMU Athletics so student athletes can have all the tools they need to reach their maximum athletic potential. Help me support the libraries so CMU students can reach their maximum academic potential. I pledge $25 to the libraries for every touchdown scored this season by the football team. I challenge other CMU supporters to do the same.”

- Randall Norton, CMU Alumnus ’77

Richie Hogan
- Senior, Logan Hills, CA
- GPA: 3.42
- Major: Health, Fitness
- Minor: Entrepreneurship
- Punter, CMU Football Team
- 2013 Bill Broyden Leadership Award Nominee
- Dick Erberg Award Nominee
- Special Olympics Volunteer

FIRE UP! YOUR MIND!
CMU LIBRARIES

Accept Randall’s Pledge Per Touchdown Challenge and help the Libraries support all CMU students!

Go to library.cmich.edu/fireup to make your pledge and find out what Richie has to say about the CMU Libraries.
On a crisp, sunny day in October, CMU hosted hundreds of returning alumni, who were treated to a beautiful parade (featuring 2013 grand marshal, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe), delicious food at the Alumni Village and a spirited game (38 NIU; 17 CMU).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
Stephanie Jackson
Senior art major, museum studies minor

From where do you draw your inspiration? A lot of my artwork has been controversial (a headdress made out of plastic bags and a jingle dress made from beer bottle caps are two examples), but I also want to make art that is kind of what everybody universally tries to achieve, which is inner peace. I think that’s reflected in my block prints and handmade papers.

CMU alumna Shirley Brauker (p. 6) is your mentor. What have you learned from her?
I really appreciate how she creates harmony from so many elements in her artwork. And she just makes me feel more in tune with my culture and more inspired and proud of my Native American heritage, watching her being proud of it.

Future plans? I want to work in education and outreach toward uniting the reservation and the greater community. I think there’s a lot of tension and misunderstanding between the two groups, and growing up half on the reservation, I always felt disjunction within myself. Art is a way to universally communicate an idea that can span across language barriers and ages. I think it’s really important for people to realize their interconnectedness with other people and with nature.
Lauris Martin Barr, ’57, and her husband, Robert, fuel learning through Libraries endowment

After receiving her teaching degree in 1957, Lauris Martin Barr embarked on her dream career and taught elementary students in Michigan and Arizona.

Inspired by her lifelong passion for learning and reading – library science classes were among her favorite at CMU – Barr is giving back to her alma mater in a meaningful way. Her charitable gift established for the CMU Libraries provides her a fixed income and will help equip students with the tools they need to reach their maximum academic potential.

“CMU gave me the skills necessary to a teacher, which is something I always wanted to be,” says Barr, who is retired and lives with her husband, Robert.

Many different ways of giving will not only provide financial benefits to donors now, but will make a difference in the lives of future CMU students. Include CMU in your will or estate plan to make a unique and meaningful impact.

Give today for the future

To learn more about this and additional ways you can give to Central Michigan University, contact:
Ted Tolcher, Associate Vice President, Development and External Relations
989-774-1441
ted.tolcher@cmich.edu
giftplanning.cmich.edu
In 2012-13, over 2,500 Chippewa Athletic Fund members gave a record-breaking $1,342,401 in annual gifts in support of the over 450 Chippewa student-athletes. We hope you will consider joining them this holiday season by making a tax-deductible gift to the Chippewa Athletic Fund.

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