Learning to give

Students make time to make a difference as they pursue their degrees

Proud to serve Distinguished alumni
on the cover
Young girls from Detroit are getting a big dose of science and math through a cool camp run by CMU med students.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE ’81

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stay connected

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What have you given back today?
By Marcie Otteman Grawburg, ’87, executive director of alumni relations

“AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT’S NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE OR EVEN WHAT YOU’VE ACCOMPLISHED ... IT’S ABOUT WHO YOU’VE LIFTED UP, WHO YOU’VE MADE BETTER. IT’S ABOUT WHAT YOU’VE GIVEN BACK.”
– DENZEL WASHINGTON

I was raised in a family that lived by such words. My grandparents volunteered at their kids’ schools, at church, for the American Red Cross, community projects and more.

You name it and they were there, sleeves rolled up. They raised their children to be involved in their community, involved in their world – to make a difference.

Sometimes the difference was small: dinner for a neighbor or help with a yard project.

Sometimes it was big: volunteering at blood drives and building projects.

There often wasn’t much money to give, but somehow they always found a little to put in the offering plate or give to the fund drive.

My mother taught me the same. “No matter what we have, how great or small, somewhere there is someone else who could use our help,” she would say. Much like going to college, giving back was an expectation – this is what we do in life.

That’s why this issue about giving back and supporting others is so near to my heart. You’ll hear it in the story from our alumni who have created scholarships for students as a way of helping others achieve their goal of a college degree.

You’ll read about our alumni who serve in the military, every day giving the ultimate gift of service by putting their lives on the line in defense of our country.

And you’ll read about our students in the College of Medicine who, before they even become doctors, are making a difference in the lives of others in our community.

CMU is a family, and we know how to care for each other.

I’m doing my part by passing that expectation along to my future Chippewa. She already has started by giving money from her craft shop sales to a fund at our local hospital and by doing volunteer work.

And if you ask her what gift I want this holiday season, she’ll tell you the same thing I say every year: “Don’t buy me anything; give a gift to someone else who won’t have one. That is the best gift of all.”

Time, talent, treasure – we all have some to give. At the end of your day, I hope you will think about what you can do to lift up others and make the world a better place.

You get what you give. I hope this year is the best yet!

Marcie

Calendar

January
14 Phoenix Coyotes vs. Red Wings
Phoenix, Arizona
16 Skiable Feast at Treetops, Gaylord, Michigan

February
5 Cape Coral, Florida, alumni social
12 Redwings game, Detroit

March
16 The Villages, Florida, golf outing
18 Pistons, Auburn Hills

This is a small sampling of the many alumni events throughout the U.S. Please visit alumni.cmich.edu for a comprehensive list.
Ex-Disney World leader brings magic to Mount Pleasant

CMU and the Mount Pleasant community hosted a visit in September from former Walt Disney World executive Lee Cockerell, who shared the philosophy behind Disney Great Leader Strategies.

The training tool was implemented with 7,000 leaders at the Florida flagship of Disney’s corporate empire. Cockerell is credited with establishing the legacy of leadership and customer service for the most-visited vacation destination in the world.

His appearance was sponsored by 21 entities, including on-campus groups, the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, McLaren Central Michigan, MidMichigan Health and the Mid Central Area Health Education Center.

In addition to three presentations to faculty, students and staff, Cockerell met with the College of Medicine, College of Business Administration, the Chamber and CMU senior officers.

In all, nearly 4,000 people were able to hear Disney’s former executive vice president of operations speak.

All presentations are available here: http://cmich.ly/LeeCockerell

“CMU has long been known for its dedicated and friendly faculty and staff that focuses on customer service,” says Harley Blake, manager of human resources’ professional development programs and chair of CMU’s Service Excellence committee. “Lee’s humorous and motivating style inspires everyone to create ‘Disney magic’ in their careers, our university and our lives.”

This was Cockerell’s second interaction with CMU in the past year. In November 2014, he spoke to CMU College of Medicine students from his Florida home about the value of customer service in the medical field.

CMU baseball program receives $1 million capital commitment

The largest financial commitment ever made to Central Michigan’s baseball program will bring a state-of-the-art indoor baseball training facility to campus.

An anonymous $500,000 gift – one of the largest in athletic department history – was made in support of the Performance Development Center, a privately funded capital project that will bring the indoor training facility to Theunissen Stadium. The donor also pledged another $500,000 as a dollar-for-dollar match toward all new commitments made to the center.

“The Performance Development Center will allow our players to hone their offensive and defensive skills year-round in a climate-controlled environment,” says Dave Heeke, director of athletics. “This will be one of the finest training and instructional baseball facilities in the country.”

The center will enable the baseball team to better develop its hitting, pitching and fielding skills. The 7,170-square-foot facility will include three regulation-size indoor batting cages and clay pitching mounds.

Points of pride: CMU sets records in fall enrollment

Central’s fall enrollment reflects record numbers of minority, transfer, international and on-campus graduate students. CMU’s Global Campus, which offers off-campus and online programs, also is showing its highest enrollment in a decade.

With nearly 27,000 students, CMU’s 2015-16 enrollment includes:

• 5,239 minority students, on and off campus, a 24 percent increase in 10 years, making up 19 percent of CMU’s total enrollment.
• 1,385 international students, both on and off campus, an 86 percent increase from a decade ago.
• 2,284 on-campus graduate students, a 35 percent increase during the past 10 years.
• 8,973 Global Campus students, a 25 percent increase from a decade ago.
• 4,719 Global Campus undergraduates, a 147 percent increase.

“The higher education marketplace is highly competitive,” says Steven Johnson, vice president for enrollment and student services. “Efforts across campus to connect with and support students and to deliver outstanding educational experiences inside the classroom and beyond continue to cement CMU as a first-choice university.”

CMU prepares for reaffirmation of accreditation

A multidisciplinary team is preparing documents that will be used by the Higher Learning Commission as it reviews Central Michigan University’s request for reaccreditation. Reaffirmation of accreditation is required every 10 years.

Michael Gealt, executive vice president and provost, says the review includes all facets of the university, including academics, resources and infrastructure.

To learn more about the process or to provide input, visit http://cmich.ly/CMUHLC.
Gov. Snyder tours STEM disciplines on campus

Gov. Rick Snyder visited Central Michigan University this fall, making time to see the College of Science and Technology and the College of Medicine. The governor spent time with CMU students who designed and built a competition Baja car, reviewed research being done by the Institute for Great Lakes Research as the result of a $10 million federal grant, and looked in on the College of Medicine.

Watch a video of the governor’s visit here http://cmich.ly/SnyderCMU

EPA awards CMU $20 million in six years for Great Lakes research projects

Central Michigan University researchers will continue to lead efforts to protect and restore coastal wetlands vital to the overall health of the Great Lakes, with a second $10 million grant in six years from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CMU was selected in 2010 to lead an initial $10 million initiative. This enabled the nation’s first collection of scientific data assessing the health of coastal wetlands spanning more than 10,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline – more than the west and east coasts of the United States combined.

The second grant, announced this fall, will fund identification, monitoring and extended evaluation of restoration efforts during the next five years.

“These wetlands are very important to the overall health of the Great Lakes, which much of our economy – including our fisheries and tourism – relies on,” says Donald Uzarski, CMU professor of biology and director of CMU’s Institute for Great Lakes Research and the Biological Station on Beaver Island. “Anyone living or doing business near the Great Lakes watershed will benefit from these efforts.”

“Congratulations to Central Michigan University on being awarded this grant,” U.S. Rep. John R. Moolenaar says. “The Great Lakes are vital to our state and the $7 billion economy they support. This GLRI research will play a valuable role in protecting them for future generations.”
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CMU, an AA/EO institution, provides equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie) UComm 9182
CMU medical students

give back

At a time when they're intensely focused on their studies, these Chippewas are finding ways to help others in their community and across Michigan.
"I believe with every fiber of my being that helping young people find a greater purpose is an endeavor I'm meant to pursue."

- Nicholas Cozzi, CMU med student
It started as the dream of two medical students. First-generation college students and now M.D. candidates Nicholas Cozzi of Chicago and Leonhard Verhey of Toronto wanted to spread their enthusiasm for the health professions to area high school students – particularly those from underserved areas. 

“Our main objective is that we want to reach those kids who are first-generation college students with lesser access to postsecondary opportunities, whether they are facing social or economic burdens,” Verhey says. “This is what we’re all about here at Central Michigan, and this is what the med school is here to do.”

This fall, the inaugural Health Careers Pipeline Program for Area High School Students launched with a group of 15 students selected from three area high schools – Mount Pleasant High School, Sacred Heart Academy and Montabella Junior/Senior High School in Blanchard. 

For nine weeks, the students – each partnered with a CMU health professions undergrad – are learning about wellness and gaining insight into a variety of health professions. Sessions include cardiac health, exercise physiology, eating well and the importance of health care to rural communities, all using the tools and technology available in the state-of-the-art College of Medicine Building.

The pipeline takes inspiration from similar programs at Michigan State University and Emory University. Seed funding comes from the Mid Central Area Health Education Center, which includes as one of its main pillars the mission to identify health pipeline programs for middle and high school students.

High school students had to apply for the program and were selected with input from science teachers and counselors.

“Having access to a mentor, exposure to knowledgeable guest speakers, experiencing clinical situation simulations, as well as taking up-close tours of the campus, labs and facilities is are amazing opportunities for a high school student to experience,” wrote one of the high schoolers in the application letter.

Cozzi and Verhey see the opportunity as more than getting students excited about health professions – more broadly, it opens them up to all the possibilities that college holds for them.

“As second nature as it might seem to us, some young people don’t believe they have the permission to dream. I believe with every fiber of my being that helping young people find a greater purpose is an endeavor I’m meant to pursue,” says Cozzi. “When speaking to students at my former high school in Chicago, I see myself in them. This program was built for students who need a bit of guidance and mentorship to inspire them to move forward.”

Verhey says the program also ties into the mission of CMU’s College of Medicine.

“We thought it’s the right thing to do – we’re supposed to be leaders and build leadership in our community as med students,” he says. “Until now, the med school has been a building that the community has watched come together, but the impact that it can have on the community is yet to be seen. We’re allowing the community into the school to see what we’re all about.”

A pipeline for big dreams
INAUGURAL PROGRAM INSPIRES AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO CONSIDER HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE, M.A. ’08

centralight | winter ’15
Getting girls engaged in STEM
STEMPOWERED CAMP ENLIGHTENS AND EXCITES INNER-CITY FOURTH GRADERS

The bare concrete floor and brick walls of the warehouse in Detroit echoed the chatter and laughter of 19 fourth-grade girls as they manufactured gas bubbles from dry ice, created vacuums in straws while competing in a relay race and performed other experiments.

Welcome to STEMpowered, a weeklong science, technology, engineering and math camp for Detroit girls and the result of a vision of the nonprofit group’s co-founders, Madeline Palmer and Erika Brockberg.

Palmer, part of the inaugural class of the CMU College of Medicine, is now in her third year as a medical student. She says articles detailing how women are under-represented as professionals in STEM fields, along with studies showing girls self-select out of STEM topics in elementary school, led to the creation of STEMpowered in 2013.

Online fundraising and sponsorship from Big Boy Restaurants allowed every girl in the inaugural camp to attend for free. This year, Palmer, from Birmingham, and Brockberg secured sponsorship from Fox Sports Detroit. They also expanded the camp to two weeks — one week for first-time campers and a second for girls who attended in 2014.

This year, half of the girls used a variety of materials to craft containers to cradle an egg so it would not break when dropped from the top of a tall ladder. The other girls used supplies to create Rube Goldberg machines.

Palmer and the other mentors said they plan to recruit more leaders for next year and continue STEMpowered. For now, Palmer, Fortin and DiGiandomenico are back to medical school in a year filled with clinical rotations and a half-year of a community clerkship with internal and family medicine doctors.

The third class of 104 College of Medicine students arrived in Mount Pleasant this fall, bringing the number of medical students at CMU to 272. Of those, 85 percent are from Michigan, reflecting the mission of the college to provide quality physicians for underserved areas in the state and the Midwest.
Madeline Palmer recently was named one of INSIGHT Into Diversity’s 100 Inspiring Women in STEM honorees. The national award recognizes women who work to make a difference in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. While women who work in these fields enjoy significant opportunities to engage in new discoveries and innovations, they are rarely recognized for their hard work and dedication.
ALUMNI FIND PURPOSE IN THE MILITARY, HONORING THEIR SCHOOL AND COUNTRY

A retired brigadier general with a wall full of medals who volunteers his time to help veterans and their families.

The first female head of the national guard in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

An Army Reserve officer of the year, whose stroll past the recruiting station on Mission Street in Mount Pleasant changed her life.

They’re a diverse trio, but they’re all Chippewas who turned to CMU to earn degrees while serving their country.

These three alumni represent a myriad of other CMU students and alumni who have achieved great things in the military, giving of themselves in one of the most selfless ways – by serving their country.

They talk about battles and duty, service and sacrifice, and how CMU prepared them for life in the military and beyond.

Proud Chippewas, proud to serve

BY TERRI FINCH HAMILTON, ’83
Retired Brig. Gen. Michael Ferguson

When Michael Ferguson, ’77, gave the commencement address at the University of West Florida last spring, he was characteristically blunt and funny at the same time.

“Thanks to the Viet Cong for being bad shots most of the time,” he told the crowd, his honorary degree graduation cap tassel swinging. “Otherwise, I wouldn’t be here.”

Ferguson has a wall full of military honors and medals and lots of stories to go with them.

The retired brigadier general spent 26 years in the U.S. Army.

He commanded a brigade in Korea, did overseas tours in Hawaii, Germany and Japan, and battled in one of the most famous and harrowing conflicts of the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive of 1968.

Ferguson has received more than 30 military awards, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor and the Distinguished Service Medal.

“I’ve been in more than my fair share of crises,” he says from his home in Pensacola, Florida. “What doesn’t kill you will help you survive and grow.”

Ferguson was honored last spring with a Lifetime of Service award by the Association of the Army of the United States of America.

It all started in 1956, when young Michael applied for a spot at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point through a competitive exam for sons of deceased veterans.

He was sent to Vietnam after graduation and served there twice, including in the harrowing Tet Offensive, when North Vietnamese and communist Viet Cong forces launched a coordinated attack against a number of targets in South Vietnam.

Early on during an attack, a mortar round landed just a few feet away from Ferguson, rupturing his eardrums and killing the advisor next to him. Ferguson, known for being cool under fire, carried the advisor’s body to a bunker and began directing counter fires.

Wounded later during another rocket barrage, Ferguson dragged several other wounded soldiers to a bunker and started coordinating a reprisal.

“We were surrounded, until we fought our way out,” he recalls. “Any time you survive, that’s a highlight in your military career.”

Ferguson attended the prestigious National War College, a senior-level course in national security strategy, while he was pursuing a master’s degree in business administration from CMU’s Global Campus.

“You have to tailor your program to make it possible, and Central Michigan does that,” he says. “These men and women going to war have to squeeze things in. Kudos to Central Michigan for making it work out for soldiers.”

Ferguson says his business degree from CMU helped him immensely with his evolving career.

After his storied 26-year military career, Ferguson retired at age 49 and decided to go to law school on what remained of his GI Bill.

Ferguson was an attorney for players such as Emmitt Smith, Emory Smith and Danny Wuerffel, as well as designated counsel for numerous professional sports teams.

His Army background has served him well, he says.

“Plan. Prepare. Inform. Supervise. You need that matrix no matter what career you pursue,” he says, “whether you’re a business attorney, an NFL agent or anything else.”

These days, Ferguson is a volunteer advocate for veterans, current service members and their families, as North Florida’s senior civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, a three-star level position.

Almost daily, Ferguson meets with active duty or retired members of the United States Army, helping them with everything from housing and education for their families to helping veterans adapt to civilian life.

“How do you continue to contribute?” he asks. “Give back to others.”

Ferguson (right) is pictured on a civilian aide trip to Fort Lewis, Washington, in 2014, when he visited with soldiers and commanders.
Capt. Caitlin Hinterman

As a freshman at CMU, Caitlin Hinterman, ‘04, often walked past the Army recruiting station on Mission Street. Some days, when the recruiter was outside taking a break, he’d call out to her, “Hey, want to join the Army?”

One day, she took him up on it. “I didn’t have plans for that summer, so I joined the Army,” Hinterman says. She laughs. “My family said, ‘Really, Caitlin?’ “I just get these ideas,” she explains.

It may have started as somewhat of a whim, but Hinterman, now Capt. Hinterman, has stuck with the Army Reserve for 14 years. Last spring, she was named Transportation Corps Reserve Officer of the Year. It’s a prestigious honor, worthy of a fancy awards dinner. But Hinterman couldn’t make it. She was too busy packing parachutes and jumping out of airplanes.

She spent several weeks last spring at the rigorous Aerial Delivery Materials Officer Course, where she honed those skills. “It was incredible,” she says. And sobering. “Lives are in your hands,” Hinterman says. “If you don’t pack the parachutes right, soldiers die.”

Her title now is special projects officer, which means she could get tapped at any time to do just about anything. That included crafting a plan to transport a Logistics Support Vessel, the Army’s largest powered watercraft, across the country. “I’m not just sitting at a desk doing one job,” she says. This suits her just fine.

“I always was athletic, always up for a challenge,” Hinterman says. “And I hate to fail at anything.”

After simultaneously earning her bachelor’s degree and ROTC commission from CMU in 2004, Hinterman became a transportation officer. She deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, in 2007, then to Kuwait in 2010, where she held the position of plans officer for the Port of Ash Shuiaba. But Hinterman the adventurer calmed a bit two years ago when she had a baby girl, Camille.

“It’s a game changer when you have a child,” she says. ‘Before I had her, I would say ‘Sure, I’ll go’ to anything. Now, I don’t want to leave her for a second. “Before I had a child, my understanding of people with families, well, I didn’t quite get it,” she says. “I’d say things like, ‘Well, you better find a babysitter, because you’re going.’ I had to make the mission happen and that was the only thing on my mind.

“Having Camille opened my eyes, big time,” Hinterman says. “Now, there’s a softer side to Caitlin. I can say, ‘I’ve been there. It’s hard. I know.’

Capt. Caitlin Hinterman, Officer of the Year, is a great role model for Camille. “Anything she wants to do is up for grabs,” Hinterman says. “If anybody tells me I can’t do something, I say, ‘Well, watch me.’ Already, she seems pretty resilient, too.”

When Hinterman retires from the military in a few years, she plans to pursue a career in community recreation, using her degree from Central.

But she says she’s already used her CMU knowledge – lots of times. “In my recreation classes, the professors would assign us to be in charge of a team or in charge of planning a fundraiser,” she recalls. “I didn’t want to. I was shy. I didn’t want to tell people what to do. “That was my start in how to plan things, how to run things, how to supervise a team,” she says. “When I was a lieutenant, I had to take a platoon of 25 people to Iraq. I used the same things I learned at CMU – supervising, putting a plan into action, delegating, making a team cohesive.

“Who I am now, it all started in 2001 when I walked into CMU,” Hinterman says. “Everything has been a building block to the next step, to all I’ve been able to do.”

Adjudant General Deborah Howell, U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard

The U.S. Virgin Islands hadn’t experienced a hurricane in 100 years, so when Hurricane Hugo smashed into the islands in 1989 with 200 mph winds, residents were both battered and shocked. Deborah Howell, ’95, a lifelong island resident, was in the Virgin Islands National Guard. She helped with relief and rebuilding efforts as stunned island residents struggled without power for four months. They needed water, food, shelter and comfort.

Helping when disaster strikes is part of what drew Howell to join the Army right out of high school. But this was personal.

“It’s even more touching when it’s your neighbors,” Howell says from her office in St. Croix. “It’s people you know. You see the pain in their eyes. You realize a simple bag of ice makes a big difference for them.

“This is why we serve.”

It’s kept Howell serving in a career that recently propelled her to her prominent role as Adjutant General of the U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard. She’s in charge of the day-to-day coordination and management of the Army and Air National Guard there.

Howell is the first woman in the position. “It’s not the ‘first’ part of it that’s important to me,” Howell says. “But it lets the young girls in our predominantly black community know that somebody like me can do this. I can be a role model for...
Student Veterans of America helps foster a smooth transition to campus

Shortly after Army veteran Nick Mellon returned from eight months in Afghanistan, he was in the midst of freshman orientation at CMU.

Surrounded by 18-year-olds who moved to campus fresh from their childhood bedrooms, he felt completely out of place.

So he headed to the Student Veterans of America, where a whole group of students knew exactly how he felt.

“Finding a group of like-minded people was so important for me,” says Mellon, 23, a sophomore studying accounting. “They understood everything I was going through. In the Army, I was used to working with my hands and my back. Sitting in a classroom was a whole different mindset. They helped me tremendously.”

Student Veterans of America is a national organization with chapters at colleges and universities across the country. The goal: help veterans make a smooth transition from the military to college and provide a community of support.

While the CMU Veterans’ Resource Center helps vets and their dependents with the paperwork and questions related to benefits and other issues, the student group is more about personal connections, says Mellon, president of the group. “We’re a student community for veterans, so they feel welcome,” he says. “The need can be as simple as, ‘I need a couple guys to help me move my couch.’ We’re there for each other.”

The student group also provides a social component, says Duane Kleinhardt, director of CMU’s Veteran’s Resource Center and a U.S. Army 1st sergeant. “They’re older than the average college student. They have life experiences and skills beyond the average college student,” Kleinhardt says. “They feel a little out of place in a normal classroom. They’re 24 or 25, and they’re sitting in English 101 with 17- and 18-year-olds. It can feel awkward.”

Despite the challenges, “Central has been amazing,” Mellon says. “The student body has reached out to us, shown us support.”

A group of speech pathology graduate students offers study tips to veterans with minor traumatic brain injury. Campus groups invite the student veterans to tell about their experiences. Student Disability Services has visited their biweekly meetings to explain how their office can help.

Says Mellon: “We make veterans feel welcome, as long as they need it.”

Colonel Howell, Chief of Staff, greets U.S. NORTHCOM commander at the Henry Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix on his first official visit to the Virgin Islands in 2004.
Preserving their legacies

BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE, M.A. '08
CMU development staff members often hear donor stories that touch their hearts. Every year, gifts to the university are made in memory of friends, loved ones, and special events or relationships that began on campus.

Three of those stories, each with heartfelt reasons for giving, follow in these pages.

Donors hope that by making gifts to CMU they are paving the way for history to repeat itself – for generations of students to be inspired, to dream and to one day pave the way for someone else.
Alumnus focuses gifts on helping students tackle the 'big issues'

W. Curtis White, ’67, M.A. ’68, Hon. D.C.S. ’14, has long been inspired by the holistic integration of science with business and the arts. That guiding principal inspired White and his wife, Pat, in their decisions about more than $220,000 in gifts benefitting the CMU Fabiano Botanical Garden, public broadcasting and athletics.

“It’s the altruistic idea that the problems of the world center on things that can be impacted by the application of good science,” says White, who started his career as a microbiologist and chemist for Dow Chemical Co. in 1962.

“I’m talking about big things, like hunger, dealing with waste, energy – the really salient problems of today and the future. Science isn’t going to solve the problems. Science becomes a tool, and it’s going to take business people, it’s going to take everyone in society, to solve the problems,” he says.

“If we can stimulate some crossover between the sciences and the other disciplines, we see that as constructive for solving the problems that we have today and in the future.”

The Whites’ gift to the botanical gardens means students studying botany and biology – as well as artists and poets – will benefit from the evolving landscape. “It’s more than just a bunch of flowers and plants and a pond, it’s a performing arts stage. It’s the chance for photographers and painters and poets to enjoy the natural setting, and for school children to integrate with the campus community,” White says.

He also helped underwrite scholarships for college students to go to Europe and learn about environmental issues and social problems through the Curt & Pat White Award for Public Service. He made gifts to public broadcasting and Beaver Island research, and he has been involved in CMU’s New Venture Competition. In 2015, he was named ambassador to the NVC and a Mentor in Residence. He also has served on the College of Science and Technology’s Alumni Advisory Board.

“That’s a good investment, a really good investment,” he says of each of the gifts. “It’s going to provide ways for young adults to better understand their world and to integrate these ideas with a big goal to solve problems for a better world.”
Col. Gene Bruce served a large part of his life in the Army, retiring in 1990, three months short of 29 years of military service.

That commitment would not have been possible without the support of his first wife, Mary Lou Bruce, who died of cancer in 1981 and for whom he named a scholarship two years later. The Mary Lou Bruce Scholarship is open to students majoring in community or school health education or graduate students in public health.

“She was a wonderful human being, a devoted mother, a loving wife and career partner to me, a staunch military wife, and so much more,” he says.

“My military career was a successful one in large part due to Mary Lou’s support of me and others in the military family.”

Mary Lou Bruce worked for a year as a physical education teacher before devoting her time to raising her family, says Col. Bruce. She pursued a master’s in health education, graduating in 1973. But she also was an artist at heart.

“She never mentioned art as therapy, but I can certainly envision her doing that. Jane and I hope the scholarship will help encourage students to succeed and never give up.”

Col. Bruce is enshrined in the CMU ROTC Hall of Fame, having been a part of CMU’s cadre from 1972 to 1977. Throughout his career, he was stationed in Germany and Korea, and served two tours in Vietnam. He oversaw ROTC programs in Arkansas and Louisiana and served as director of the Army’s continuing education program in Washington, D.C.

Following his military career, he worked in higher education administration in Indiana. He currently lives with wife, Jane, in South Bend, Indiana.

Alumna honors a dear friend with a scholarship


Fifty years later, Krause would honor that friendship with a scholarship for the next generation of teachers with dreams of making a difference for children.

Krause now lives in Seaford, Virginia; Persinger taught second grade for 47 years at Jesse Loomis Elementary School in Saginaw.

“Observing and talking with Nancy when I’d come home from CMU really inspired me, due to her enthusiasm and love for the teaching profession,” Krause says. “Nancy had a true love for teaching young children. She had a special ability to connect with love and discipline.”

Persinger retired in 2010 due to poor health, and she has battled cancer for 10 years. That same year of her retirement, the newly rebuilt Jesse Loomis Math, Science and Technology Academy honored her by naming the media center for her.

Seeing her friend honored by the school, Krause wanted to take another step toward preserving Persinger’s legacy, so she founded a teaching scholarship at CMU in her name.

The two friends met the first recipient of the scholarship, Kelsey Rice, at a scholarship luncheon in 2014.

“The experience proved to be wonderful,” remembers Krause. “Kelsey was very interested in our experiences as teachers. It was a joy to share in her enthusiasm about her future as a special education teacher. It brought back fond memories for Nancy, and how we felt when entering the teaching profession – high ideals, wanting to make a real difference in children’s lives.”

In some ways, the scholarship has brought the two women back to their roots 50 years ago and reconnected Krause with the university that started her on her life’s path.

“CMU gave me the opportunity to have a better life,” she says. “Finding a career you truly love … CMU provided that for me, and no one can take that away.”

Scholarship honors late wife’s dream of helping others

Col. Gene Bruce served a large part of his life in the Army, retiring in 1990, three months short of 29 years of military service.

That commitment would not have been possible without the support of his first wife, Mary Lou Bruce, who died of cancer in 1981 and for whom he named a scholarship two years later. The Mary Lou Bruce Scholarship is open to students majoring in community or school health education or graduate students in public health.

“She was a wonderful human being, a devoted mother, a loving wife and career partner to me, a staunch military wife, and so much more,” he says. “My military career was a successful one in large part due to Mary Lou’s support of me and others in the military family.”

Mary Lou Bruce worked for a year as a physical education teacher before devoting her time to raising her family, says Col. Bruce. She pursued a master’s in health education, graduating in 1973. But she also was an artist at heart.

“She plans for using her master’s degree were just developing,” he says. “Once we became empty nesters, she envisioned working in public health in some capacity to help others.

“My wife, Jane, and I created the scholarship to honor Mary Lou in the community where she felt so much at home. Our basement on Watson Road was her painting studio,” he remembers. “She and her friends spent many hours perfecting their art, and many of her art works hang in our home to this day.

“She never mentioned art as therapy, but I can certainly envision her doing that. Jane and I hope the scholarship will help encourage students to succeed and never give up.”

Col. Bruce is enshrined in the CMU ROTC Hall of Fame, having been a part of CMU’s cadre from 1972 to 1977. Throughout his career, he was stationed in Germany and Korea, and served two tours in Vietnam. He oversaw ROTC programs in Arkansas and Louisiana and served as director of the Army’s continuing education program in Washington, D.C.

Following his military career, he worked in higher education administration in Indiana. He currently lives with wife, Jane, in South Bend, Indiana.
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Fire up for fall.

Celebrating the start of another academic year, the trees and flowers on campus donned vibrant maroon and gold. With so much colorful beauty decorating the university, we’re sure Mother Nature is a Chippewa.

Want to see more of Steve Jessmore’s beautiful fall photos? Check out the album on Facebook: http://cmich.ly/fallatCMU.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, ’81
Students, faculty connect with children at Mexican orphanages

Sometimes inspiration comes from unexpected places.

Just ask the 17 students and three faculty members from CMU’s College of Education and Human Services, who traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, on a service trip this summer.

Oaxaca is home to one-third of the country’s indigenous population, and it is also one of the poorest states in Mexico. Children there who live in orphanages, where the CMU group volunteered, do so in many cases not because they don’t have families, but because their families live in extreme poverty.

“Even though they may have intact families, they can’t afford to raise them. These aren’t kids who are going to be adopted out to forever families,” says Suzanne Gareiss, a recreation, parks and leisure services administration faculty member, who visited Mexico for the first time with the group.

Students raised money before leaving on the trip, which went toward their service projects, such as pea gravel for an orphanage playground and grounds maintenance. They also purchased some basic clothing and toiletry items for the orphanages.

Those who went have majors in child development, special education, recreation, parks and leisure services administration, and communication disorders. CMU students have been making this trip to Mexico for more than a decade.

Though they were only there for three weeks, some of the CMU students made deep connections with the children from the orphanage. One child even asked a student to be his first communion sponsor.

“Going to another country with fewer resources brings out the best in people,” says Mary Lou Schilling, another faculty member.

“It was wonderful to be with the students for a three-week period, to get to know them as individuals, and to motivate them to share what they have with others who are less fortunate.”

Human development and family studies professor Mikiyasu Hakoyama agrees, noting: “Some students grow tremendously during the Oaxaca program. It is a joy to see them grow.”

Gareiss and Schilling did some fact-finding for the development of future programs while on the trip. Both noticed the lack of opportunities for children with disabilities, such as cerebral palsy or autism, and they hope to return in future years with therapeutic recreation students to implement some of their proven tools and activities.

The field of recreation, parks and leisure services administration is essentially about people, Gareiss says.

“Our job as recreation people is to enhance leisure time so people have enriching lives – and incorporating tools of human kindness and humanness. That’s what I think RPL students are good at.” •
SPOTLIGHT ON FOWLER

BY ANDY SNEDDON
Central Michigan basketball player Chris Fowler has taken some hits.

Many, in fact.

But it isn’t about what happens to you that matters – it’s how you react.

Fowler got up and kept getting up.

He got up from six surgeries on his right knee. He got up after being knocked around by his older brother in one-on-one driveway basketball. And he got up after the men’s basketball program went 21-42 in his first two years on campus.

“The joy of life is in the process,” says Fowler, a 22-year-old senior guard and the linchpin of the resurgent CMU men’s basketball team that, in 2015, won the Mid-American Conference regular-season championship for the first time in more than a decade. “The process of waking up every day and trying to be the best that you can be – that’s helped me tremendously.”

A member of coach Keno Davis’ first CMU recruiting class, Fowler joined a program that had not finished with a winning record since 2003. CMU won 23 games last season, more than it won the previous two years combined. Fowler averaged a league-best 6.1 assists per game, led the Chippewas in scoring and was runner-up in MAC Player of the Year voting.

Today, the Chippewas harbor legitimate hopes of landing a coveted NCAA Tournament berth.

“He’s the guy they’re going to learn from,” Davis says. “They’re going to learn that this is how we conduct ourselves on the court, this is how we conduct ourselves off the court, this how we conduct ourselves in class.

“He’s been as important as you can be to our program, and yet I don’t think you can really quantify how important he is until maybe down the road, when we look back at what this program develops into in the next five, 10, 15, 20 years.”

PLAYING AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE

Their commitment was a mutual leap of faith: Davis needed a leader around whom to build a program, and Fowler needed a place to play after every other school – Michigan, Stanford and several Ivy League schools among them – lost interest when yet another knee injury and subsequent surgery robbed him of his junior year of basketball at Detroit Country Day.

After a year of prep school in Florida, CMU was Fowler’s lone Division I offer. Today, nobody is talking about his knees, and he has started 94 consecutive games.

Part of Fowler’s competitive nature was cultivated in the driveway of the family home in suburban Detroit, where Chris and his brother, Bennie, engaged in myriad one-on-one games. Bennie, two years ahead of Chris in school, is now a wide receiver with the NFL’s Denver Broncos.

“He made me get off the concrete all the time,” Chris says. “He made me keep learning that is how we conduct ourselves on the court, this is how we conduct ourselves off the court, this how we conduct ourselves in class.

“He made me get off the concrete all the time,” Chris says. “He made me keep fighting, made me keep getting up.”

Fowler, a theater major, carries a 3.47 grade-point average. Among his list of accolades are two Academic All-American nominations and a spot in 2015 as a finalist for the Lou Henson National Player of the Year Award.

He serves as leadership chair of the Central Michigan Basketball School Matters program, is a two-time nominee for the Allstate Good Works Team, and he volunteers for Special Olympics and Meals on Wheels.

He was the 2015 winner of the CMU Bill Boyden Leadership Award.

This fall, he landed a lead role in the on-campus theatrical production of the Tony-winning Christopher Durang comedy “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.” Fowler’s interest in theater sprung from his desire as a high school student to make himself more attractive to colleges when the knee injury threatened his basketball future.

“I’ve learned a lot of lessons,” Fowler says. “I’m very religious. I try to live my best under God’s plan, under God’s will. I feel that everything that has happened to me has happened for me.

“In March, when it’s all over, I have to look back and say, ‘Did I put in every ounce of work to how I wanted to be?’ ” Fowler says. “Did I portray myself how I wanted to portray myself? If I can look at myself in the mirror and say, ‘You did what you could.’ Then that’s enough.”

Seniors Chris Fowler and Allie Jackson starred in the CMU University Theatre’s fall production of “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.”

Seniors Chris Fowler and Allie Jackson starred in the CMU University Theatre’s fall production of “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.”
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CMU, an AA/EEO institution, provides equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see cmich.edu/ocrie). Ucomm 9317
CMU launched a new Master of Science in engineering degree last fall, furthering the university's growing reputation as a leader in STEM education and a premier university for engineering.

The program, offered through the School of Engineering and Technology, is bolstering training and research opportunities and is feeding a growing need for engineers in the workforce, particularly those interested in working for research and development in industry.

The degree requires 30 credits – 24 credit hours of course work and six for research – and a successfully defended thesis. Up to nine credit hours can be double-counted from appropriate undergraduate courses for acceptance into an accelerated M.S. in engineering degree track.

“It’s a very research-intensive program, with the second year dedicated to students working with faculty on research projects,” says Tolga Kaya, assistant professor of electrical engineering.

“Graduates will be able to successfully apply advanced concepts in areas such as materials science, mechanics, photonics, electronics and nanotechnology to improve production processes and techniques in research and development areas of engineering industries.”

Students should visit grad.cmich.edu for more information or call (989) 774-4723.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, ‘81
This fall’s rainy homecoming didn’t dampen the spirit of scores of Chippewas. The annual Cardboard Boat Race drew a big crowd, and fans cheered the CMU football team on to a 29-19 victory over Northern Illinois.

Want to see more photos? Check out the album on Facebook: http://cmich.ly/macwin15

Gold Ambassador Justin Toliver and Alli Adams, with Alexis Straub, Mark Moultrup and Kevin Morris.
GIVING AND RECEIVING
Alumni honored for their contributions to CMU

Central Michigan University is an innovative and dynamic university thanks to alumni who give back to their alma mater with their time and resources. Six people and one organization were recognized in September at the annual CMU Alumni Awards ceremony. The 2015 honorees are:

Honorary Alumni Award
Dr. Thomas Keating

Dr. Keating is the founder of Central Michigan Orthopedics and was a physician for CMU Athletics from 1978 to 2014. He also supervised athlete care as medical director through 2006. During his career, Dr. Keating served on the sidelines for more CMU football games – home and away – than anyone in school history. In 2000, the Dr. Thomas M. and Jayne Keating Scholarship Fund was established to support education benefiting high school students from Isabella County pursuing careers in the medical field.

Veha Chamichian

Chamichian’s passion for music began when she met her husband, Dr. Soren Chamichian, a Mount Pleasant eye doctor and a distinguished violinist. Throughout their lives, the Chamichians attended numerous CMU music events, and Dr. Chamichian performed in many string quartets and duets with CMU music faculty. Today, the School of Music hosts a variety of performances in Chamichian Recital Hall, and student musicians benefit from the Chamichian Master Series, which brings professionals to campus to work one-on-one with students.

Alumni Service Recognition Award
Adam Bayne, ’04
Dr. Melissa Bayne, ’02

The Baynes’ commitment to the Mary Ellen Brandell Volunteer Center is unprecedented. The alumni couple has promoted volunteerism through speaking engagements, hosting Alternative Weekend groups, founding the Volunteer Center Alumni Chapter at CMU and serving on the CMU Volunteer Center Alumni Executive Board. He is the principal of Holton Middle and High School, and she is an obstetrician-gynecologist at Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial Hospital.

Alumni Commitment Award
Scott McNeal, ’79

McNeal is the founder and owner of Gus Macker LLC, the legendary 3-on-3 basketball tournament hosted across the country. CMU students plan the event on campus each year, and McNeal donates $10,000 to the CMU Events Center to help the students involved. McNeal was selected as the 2011 Homecoming Grand Marshal and also is a season ticket holder with CMU’s football and men’s basketball teams.

Foundation Partner Award
The Jeff Lichon Spinal Cord Injury Foundation

The mission of the Jeff Lichon Spinal Cord Injury Foundation is to provide student scholarships and grants, with an emphasis on curing spinal cord injuries and other neurological disorders. It also is committed to enhancing the quality of life of children living with these conditions. The foundation has set up a five-year stipend agreement with CMU for graduate students in the neuroscience program. In addition, the foundation has established a $100,000 endowment to award scholarships to CMU graduate students.
Distinguished Alumni Award
Kevin Cotter, ’99

Cotter was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2010. After winning two re-elections, he is serving his last term. He also was appointed Speaker of the House for the 2015-16 legislative session. Cotter served as the 2015 CMU Homecoming Grand Marshal.
CMU alumni board member honored by Lansing Chamber of Commerce

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce’s 10 Over the Next Ten Award recognizes the Lansing region’s top young professionals expected to contribute significantly to the greater Lansing community over the next 10 years. John Kaczynski, ’03, M.P.A. ’08, was one of this year’s winners.

Kaczynski, who serves on CMU’s Young Alumni board, is the director of governmental affairs at Saginaw Valley State University. He has worked on various policy projects for the state and for local governments, including a transportation project for Cadillac, a brownfield redevelopment project for Grand Haven, a strategic planning session for Saginaw, and community surveys for Bay City and Midland.

Alum named VP of St. John Providence Health System

Frank Poma, ’89, has accepted the role of vice president of the Heart and Vascular Center of Excellence for St. John Providence Health System in Warren. Poma has been with the health system for more than 40 years. He also will continue his role as president of St. John River District Hospital in East China, Michigan.

Educator piles up honors in California

Jessica Fuller, ’04, has had a pretty great year.

For the second time in three years, she was named teacher of the year in the Corona-Norco United School District in California’s Orange County. And the Santiago High School language arts teacher was invited to speak at the “Ed Talks” portion of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Better Together summit, offering her unique point of view on inspiring students.

She also was featured in the “Be the One” educational seminar at the University of Redlands in California.

After teaching for eight years in a traditional high school setting, Fuller took a job at a continuation school for students who have been expelled. Since working there, she has learned about the vital role hope plays in reaching goals, factors that build personal resilience, the transformational power of kindness, the importance of cultivating community, and the pivotal role adults can play in the lives of young people.

Fuller combines experiences from her life both in and outside of the classroom with humor and heart to encourage educators and administrators to live out “their best self,” which in turn invites students to do the same. She says she believes examining our most deeply held beliefs about ourselves and about students allows educators to recognize their personal strengths and help students do the same.

Alum selected as a west Michigan business leader

Josh Gibbs, ’12 MBA, was selected as one of Grand Rapids Business Journal’s 40 Under Forty business leaders.

“A lot of professors in Grawn Hall poured their knowledge into my brain,” Gibbs says, “I’m just happy I was able to absorb most of it! I’ve had quite a career ride, and I’m very appreciative of what I took away from CMU.”

Gibbs is the president of Commercial Bank’s Greenville branch in west Michigan. He was promoted to that position five months into his tenure at the bank.

“Josh is a very dedicated employee,” Commercial Bank CEO Kevin Collison tells the Grand Rapids Business Journal. “He has worked hard to build a network of business associates in the Grand Rapids market to build business relationships for the bank and his customers.”

Gibbs is an active member of the Greenville community. He is a member of Rotary Club International and serves as a board member of the Patient Family Advisory Council at Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals. He also enjoys coaching his son, Grahm, in various sports through the local recreation department.

Poma, third from left, helps cut the ribbon for his hospital’s new endoscopy department

Alum named VP of St. John Providence Health System
Award-winning TV producer welcomes President Obama to Alaska

This summer, in an effort to find funny, relatable ways to talk about climate change, the White House reached out to CMU alum Delbert Shoopman, asking how President Obama could be included in an episode of Shoopman’s “Running Wild with Bear Grylls.” The NBC show features the famed adventurer and naturalist taking celebrities on journeys to some of the wildest and most remote places.

“We'd just wrapped season two, I had just gotten married, and during all of that we had a voicemail from the White House,” Shoopman recalls. “My honeymoon turned into a working honeymoon.”

Fortunately, his wife was understanding.

Shoopman, who created and produces the show, worked with the White House and Secret Service on logistics and soon found himself in Alaska with the president.

“We only had two hours to shoot with him,” Shoopman says. “He was the nicest guy, down for the majority of activities we threw at him.”

When they weren’t filming, Shoopman says he and Obama “just talked about normal stuff.” Shoopman, a nondegree-holding alum who was a theater and broadcast student, was proudly wearing his CMU hat on the set.

“He asked about my hat, and we chatted about MAC football,” Shoopman says. “Since he’s from Chicago and a sports enthusiast, he knew a great deal about the MAC.”

The episode is still being edited, with a broadcast date to be determined, but you can see clips of it here: http://www.nbc.com/running-wild-with-bear-grylls.

Shoopman is the executive producer, consulting producer and creator for a multitude of television shows both in the United States and abroad, including “The Island” (Channel 4 U.K./NBC), “Running Wild with Bear Grylls” (NBC), “Britain’s Biggest Adventures” (ITV), “Survival School” (ITV) and “Get Out Alive” (NBC). “The Island” earned Shoopman his first BAFTA award (the U.K. equivalent to our Emmys), as well as a Royal Television Society Award in 2015. •
In Memory

Barbara M. (Hammond) Simmons, ’38, Mount Pleasant, Mich., died Aug. 18, 2015, age 98.
Barbara (Brueck) Schwendemann, ’47, Suttons Bay, Mich., died June 23, 2015, age 90.
Keith W. Pietscher, ’52, Bad Axe, Mich., died June 28, 2015, age 84.
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In Memory
Charles R. Kreher, '58, Salt Lake City, Utah, died Sept. 23, 2015, age 79.


Gerald A. Barber, '59, Midland, Mich., died Sept. 1, 2015, age 82.

Paul D. Schell, '59, M.A. '63, Traverse City, Mich., died Sept. 23, 2015, age 78.

Max D. Hall, '60, Williamston, Mich., died Sept. 22, 2015, age 84.


Ruth E. Mohr, '63, Big Rapids, Mich., died July 3, 2015, age 82.


Charles P. Willson, '62, Portland, Maine, died July 5, 2015, age 75.


Sidney E. Apley, '64, M.A. '67, Pasadena, Calif., died June 15, 2015, age 73.

Bruce C. Brumels, M.A. '64, McBain, Mich., died Sept. 4, 2015, age 77.


Molly B. (Beller) Massoll, '64, Bay City, Mich., died Sept. 19, 2015, age 89.


John W. Symons, '64, Juneau, Alaska, died Sept. 5, 2015, age 76.


Donald A. Gleeson, '65, M.A. '72, North Branch, Mich., died Aug. 3, 2015, age 76.

Stanley A. Marcus, MBA '65, Coleman, Mich., died Sept. 12, 2015, age 83.


Nancy J. (Bolhuis) Yarrick, '68, M.A. '76, Barryton, Mich., died Sept. 29, 2015, age 69.

David W. Fosgett, '68, M.A. '69, Traverse City, Mich., died Sept. 8, 2015, age 69.


Marlene C. (Burrows) Payne, '69, Byron Center, Mich., died Sept. 25, 2015, age 82.

Kathryn D. (Sanwald) Davidson, '70, Royal Oak, Mich., died July 5, 2015, age 67.


Wayne E. Tyler, '70, Gaylord, Mich., died Sept. 19, 2015, age 76.

Bruce W. Bailey, '71, Lake Orion, Mich., died July 1, 2015, age 66.


Anne P. Dombro, '73, Royal Oak, Mich., died Aug. 30, 2015, age 63.

Fannie M. (Brinkman) Hoeksema, M.A. '73, Ed.S. '82, Holland, Mich., died June 1, 2015, age 84.


James L. Hopp, '74, Rogers City, Mich., died Sept. 9, 2015, age 66.

Gus R. Templin, '74, Crystal River, Fla., died June 27, 2015, age 63.


Early R. Hartley, M.A. '76, Wilmington, N.C., died Aug. 18, 2015, age 91.


Laurie E. (Wilson) Eller, '77, St. George, Utah, died June 16, 2015, age 61.

Richard L. Farkas, M.A. '77, New Franklin, Ohio, died July 6, 2015, age 71.


Harold D. VanLuem, M.A.'77, Hampton, Va., died July 31, 2015, age 77.

Donald J. Corrigan, M.A. '78, Lisie, N.Y., died Aug. 29, 2015, age 66.


Idred G. Mugford, M.A.'80, Calumet, Mich., died June 22, 2015, age 84.

Mark A. Goulder, '82, Clare, Mich., died Sept. 11, 2015, age 55.

Barbara L. (Hill) Benson, '84, Bountiful, Utah, died Aug. 5, 2015, age 55.

Elizabeth M. Elenbaum, M.A. '84, North Street, Mich., died July 6, 2015, age 66.

Gary P. Gibney, M.A. '84, Jenks, Okla., died July 2, 2015, age 76.

William J. Gwalney, M.A. '84, Fort Worth, Texas, died Aug. 26, 2015, age 67.


Darlene J. (Baldwin) Pritzkau, '85, Plano, Texas, died June 30, 2015, age 74.


Patricia A. (Aqui) Tiner, M.S.A. '87, Palm Springs, Calif., died May 18, 2015, age 76.


David W. Ellis, M.S.A. '91, Toms River, N.J., died Aug. 6, 2015, age 64.

Martin Nicholas Coppola, M.S.A. '95, Lubbock, Texas, died June 20, 2015, age 50.

Heidi R. (Cook) Enyart, '95, Athens, Mich., died Sept. 28, 2015, age 42.


Jared T. Snyder, '00, East Lansing, Mich., died Sept. 5, 2015, age 38.


Mayola H. (Hills) Smith, M.S.A. '05, Baton Rouge, La., died Sept. 4, 2015, age 73.


Faculty

Karel Topinka, Ludington, died July 28, 2015, age 96.

Staff

Leona M. Buchel, Farwell, Mich., died Sept. 1, 2015, age 85.

Marjorie Farmer, Mount Pleasant, Mich., died Aug. 8, 2015, age 84.


Jim P. Wilson, Mount Pleasant, Mich., died Aug. 4, 2015, age 76.
Do you remember?

Sculpture contest

For decades, snow sculpture contests among various groups were a mainstay of student life at Central.

The theme of the third annual contest, in 1962, was “Central’s Fantasy Land.”

The competition was open to all campus organizations, and groups were allowed to build one sculpture each during a three-day stretch in early March – if there was snow.

Three faculty members and two photographers judged the contest that year. The winner of CMU’s traveling trophy: A massive dragon built on the Warriner Mall by Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The spirited winter contest lasted on campus through the early 1990s.

PHOTO AND INFORMATION COURTESY OF CLARKE HISTORICAL LIBRARY
John Genette, ’76, and Andrea Dickey Genette, ’78, support communication and fine arts students.

Central Michigan University offered many opportunities to create and participate in original theatrical productions. This prepared the couple to pursue graduate school and establish their talent agency and entrepreneurial careers.

The Genettes are establishing an endowed award for students in the College of Communication and Fine Arts or who plan to pursue a career in theater.

“My years at CMU were formative and still resonate,” John said. “There’s no better feeling than giving back and making an experience I was grateful for available to a new generation.”

Give today for the future

Like John and Andrea, you too can help students gain new opportunities. To learn more about this and additional ways to give back to Central Michigan University and the next generation of students, contact:

Ted Tolcher, Associate Vice President
Development and External Relations
989-774-1441
ted.tolcher@cmich.edu

giftplanning.cmich.edu
Join us this holiday season by making a tax-deductible, year-end gift in support of more than 450 CMU student-athletes.

To make your gift or for more information, visit chippewafund.com or call 989-774-6680.