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Global impact

New campaign showcases how CMU alumni are putting their stamp on the world

By Marcie Otteman Grawburg, ’87, executive director of alumni relations, and Sherry Knight, ’86, associate vice president of university communications

Tyler Wallner joined the ranks of CMU alumni just days ago and had a job with Henry Schein Dental waiting for him in California. The offer to be a field sales consultant had come already last summer, following an internship.

A passionate Chippewa, he recently described what he called the “grit” of CMU students and alumni competing against peers nationwide. We excel, he said, because CMU academics are top-notch, our faculty and staff support us, and because we work smarter and harder.

Tyler knows, because the other interns at Henry Schein came from “bigger name” universities. He’d had a moment of intimidation, before remembering the coaching of faculty member Ken Cherry, who’d told his students they could out-think and out-work anyone.

Tyler embodies CMU’s new “Put your stamp on the world” marketing campaign.

It’s a theme that reflects a life goal for incoming and current students. It’s what CMU faculty and staff do every day. And, whether you graduated this month or 10, 25 or 50 years ago, it’s also what you do, in ways large and small.

The campaign captures our spirit and our soul. It is marked by our iconic action C, placed in a hexagon that symbolically joins us all together. It celebrates all of us, the lifeblood of a major university distinguished by a remarkable sense of community.

If you live in Michigan, you’ve probably seen one of our billboards, TV commercials, digital ads, or even a maroon and gold, big action C public transportation bus in southeast Michigan, Grand Rapids or Flint.

We hope you’re loving it and helping to spread the word about the many ways in which tens of thousands of CMU alumni, students, faculty and staff are putting their own stamp on the world.

We hear stories daily of alumni making a difference, usually focused not on their own glory, but on the next person they will help. You’ll read about a few of them in this issue, including Dr. Sarah Roberts, who is providing much-needed health care for Alaska’s underserved, and Bryan Burnstein, who is putting the skills he learned at CMU to work for world-renowned Cirque du Soleil, helping performers remain strong and healthy.

Other alumni are putting their stamp on the world more literally. They are grads from the May 2014 class – the first to receive the gift of a full-sized CMU flag at commencement from President George E. Ross, who encouraged them to fly their colors proudly. We talked with some from that class who are doing just that; you can read their stories in this issue.

At CMU, we believe all of our students, all of our faculty and staff, and all of our alumni have important stories … stamps they put on the world every single day.

Fire Up, Chips.
CMU dance and cheer teams have impressive national showing

The CMU dance and cheer teams excelled on the national stage during their 2015 seasons.

CMU’s dancers placed sixth at the National Dance Alliance Collegiate National Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida, and the Chippewa cheerleaders posted a pair of outstanding finishes at the Universal Cheerleaders Association College Nationals in Orlando.

“There are women who have worked extremely hard to get the program to this place,” says dance team coach Amy Bunting. “I’m grateful for the investment that every member has put in over the past 15 years and before that to get this program to where it is. This team did an exceptional job of utilizing their talent and their teamwork.”

CMU finished ahead of several big-name schools, including Florida State and South Carolina.

“We’re very proud to put Central in the ranks of these schools,” Bunting says.

CMU was ninth in the all-girl division and 15th in the co-ed division at the Cheerleading College Nationals in January. It marked the first time CMU placed in both divisions.

“Just making the finals is an accomplishment,” coach Nicky Van says. “To have two teams that are competing against the country’s best and making the finals was an achievement in and of itself. I am ridiculously proud.”

Conference helps build successful women leaders in Michigan

The Michigan Women’s Commission brought its 2015 “Young Women Strong Leaders” conference to CMU this spring. More than 140 college students from across the state converged on the Bovee University Center to hear speakers presenting on topics ranging from personal branding and social change to entrepreneurial innovation and leadership.

The conference is designed to provide skill development and mentoring opportunities to prepare students for success in their professional lives.

Melanie Brown, deputy director for communications and external affairs for the State of Michigan Department of Talent and Economic Development, was the keynote speaker, and First Lady Elizabeth Ross delivered the opening remarks.

‘Duke of Juke’ marks 30 years of broadcasting on WCMU

Robert Barclay, known as the “Duke of Juke,” proudly marked the 30th anniversary broadcast of his iconic weekly WCMU radio program “The Juke Joint” on April 5. Since 1985, Barclay has volunteered to spin the best of the best and the lesser-known tunes from the artists whose blues helped shape today’s music across all genres.

The show airs 8-11 p.m. Sundays on WCMU. You can listen online at wcmu.org and find archives of the program at wcmu.org/radio/theJukeJoint.

If Barclay’s name sounds familiar, it’s because he also spent more than 30 years as a CMU photographer.
CMU appoints dean of College of Medicine

Dr. George Kikano’s extensive background as a family medicine physician, an educator and leader will serve him well as the new dean of the CMU College of Medicine, Provost Michael Gealt says.

Prior to joining CMED, Kikano was the founding director of the Weatherhead Institute for Family Medicine and Community Health at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and was the medical director for Home Care Services with University Hospitals in Cleveland. He was a professor of family medicine at CWRU and continues to practice as a physician.

“From the start of our conversations, Dr. Kikano talked about the CMU College of Medicine’s mission to provide quality health care in underserved areas, and he was able to tie his experiences and the initiatives he has led to that mission,” Gealt says. “He has been hands-on in research, family medicine, teaching and as an administrator.”

Kikano takes over the nation’s 137th medical school as it prepares to admit its third class and finalize its third- and fourth-year curriculum, which includes clinical training in Saginaw and at medical facilities across central and northern Michigan.

“You have something good going on here at CMU,” says Kikano, who earned his medical degree in 1986 from American University in Lebanon.

‘Shark’ delivers entrepreneurial advice to CMU

“Shark Tank” investor and successful entrepreneur Daymond John provided expert insight and business advice to a packed crowd in Finch Fieldhouse in March as part of the CMU Speaker Series.

The founder and CEO of FUBU and star of ABC’s popular reality investment show “Shark Tank” spoke about how to “Get into the Goal-setting Mindset” and shared his success story and roadmap for succeeding in business and in life.
I want that job!

Central grads are taking on stellar roles in their post-CMU careers.

Ever dreamed of starring on Broadway, owning a vintage 1950s hotel along historic Route 66, training the unbelievable performers in Cirque du Soleil or saving lives on the Alaskan frontier?

Yes, well, those are real jobs held by real CMU grads who are using their Central Michigan University education to help them succeed in their unusual careers across the country and beyond.

Each has a story to tell about reaching a unique place and working to secure a dream job thanks to the place where it began: Mount Pleasant.
Northern exposure

CMU doc brings health care to the underserved in Alaska

BY BETSY MINER-SWARTZ, ’86

Dr. Sarah Roberts and her husband, Aaron, say they “live Alaska” every day.
Sarah Roberts pretty much does it all as a family physician, and she cares for people in one of the most unforgiving and breathtakingly beautiful places in America – Alaska.

There’s an urgent demand for healthcare there, and the state’s rugged landscape and limited infrastructure makes it difficult to reach residents.

“People get on little planes and boats and fly to us – they actually have to fly to see a doctor,” says Roberts, who lives and works in Homer, a remote town of about 5,000 where roads are sparse and need is plenty.

Roberts’ path to the land of glaciers, oil rigs and world-class fishing came by way of Mount Pleasant, where she earned her bachelor of science degree in 2004 before heading off to Michigan State University for her M.D. Her choice of residency pointed her in several directions before eventually taking her to the northwest extremity of North America in 2008.

Roberts has been practicing medicine “Northern Exposure”-style ever since.

“Homer is known as the end of the road,” she says. “It’s home to the singer Jewel, the Kichers (stars of the Discovery Channel series ‘Alaska: The Last Frontier’) and the biggest halibut in the world.”

The fish might be abundant, but there aren’t enough doctors to meet the state’s needs. During her residency in Anchorage and rural rotations in Bethel, Roberts flew in little planes from village to village to treat the state’s sick and injured residents.

“We may have been the only doctor to fly in, in over a month,” she says. “Small villages in Alaska are staffed with health aids. They are high-school graduates with some training, and they do ‘cookbook medicine.’”

Roberts gravitated toward family medicine because she loves doing everything. She gets her fill at South Peninsula Hospital in Homer, a critical access hospital, which is a medical center that caters to the medically underserved.

“I do deliveries and C-sections. I also take care of people in the hospital and do ER shifts and clinic. There are no dull days,” she says.

When she’s not easing pain, bringing new life into the world and saving lives, Sarah is busy taking in Alaska with husband, Aaron, an electrical engineer in the oil industry, and their 1-year-old son, Elijah.

“Winters are long and dark, but summers are truly amazing,” she says. “We fish in the bay, boat and kayak all summer. We have a huge garden, and I ride my horse on the beach. We go bear viewing and – really – we got married on a glacier.

“We live Alaska every day.”

Roberts received CMU’s Leader Advancement Scholarship as a senior at Rockford High School. The program recognizes 40 young leaders and awards them $8,000 scholarships. Once she arrived on campus, her time was filled with clubs and homecoming and trips to CMU’s biological station on Beaver Island.

She says her days as a Chippewa were essential to her development as a leader.

“I draw on that every single day as I care for people,” she says. “Now I’m trying to put my stamp on family medicine in Alaska.”
CMU alum tackles ‘the Mount Everest of male roles’

As musical theater jobs go, few are more unique and challenging than playing Jean Valjean, the protagonist in the Broadway smash “Les Miserables.”

“It’s kind of the Mount Everest of male roles,” says Nathaniel Hackmann, ’04, M.A. ’06 “It’s got every challenge you can think of. You have to sing high and soft; you have to sing low and loud. You have to sing high and loud, you have to sing low and soft. And you have to be able to lift a cart and lift people over your head. It’s incredibly physically demanding as well as vocally demanding.”

Hackmann has been with the show since it returned to Broadway in New York City in March 2014. His contract enables him to stay with “Les Mis” as long as it’s open, unless he decides to leave.

“It’s just about the most secure job one can hope for in the Broadway world.”

Hackmann performs several roles in the production, including serving as the understudy for the iconic Jean Valjean, a man struggling to lead a normal life after serving a lengthy prison sentence for stealing bread to feed his sister’s starving children.

“It’s a three-hour show with nonstop singing, so learning to pace yourself is definitely a big challenge,” Hackmann says. “But there isn’t a more gratifying role either.”

Originally from Arizona, Hackmann was studying voice under Dr. Eric Tucker at Northern Arizona University when Tucker left to join the CMU School of Music faculty. Hackmann and three other students followed Tucker to Mount Pleasant.

“There’s a reason I followed him all the way to Michigan,” Hackmann says. “He taught me about character. He showed me what it meant to be a hard worker.

“There’s no doubt that everything I am and everything I do is owed in some way to the things I learned from Eric Tucker.”

Tucker is equally complimentary about Hackmann.

“He’s brilliant, he’s exceptionally talented, and he’s one of the most disciplined people I know,” Tucker says.

Hackmann has to be to play Jean Valjean. He’s onstage nearly every minute of the three-hour show.

“One of the reasons the show is so demanding is because it’s very rare we have everyone on from the original cast all at once,” he says. “Someone is injured or sick or has vacation days, so we hardly ever do the same show twice, as far as the lineup is concerned.”

And after the final curtain, he gets to go home to his wife, Nicole Begue Hackmann, and their little boy, Alexander – something that’s pretty rare for a musical theater performer.

“This is the first time I’ve been in one place since I graduated,” Hackmann says.
Traveling on Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles is like driving more than 2,000 miles through a living postcard of neon signs, mom-and-pop diners and quirky roadside attractions.

It is not, for all the encroaching pressures of our fast-paced world, the domain of chain restaurants and super-mega-everything-but-the-kitchen-sink retailers.

It was in that place Kevin and Nancy Mueller, both 1984 graduates, found themselves in 2011 – after they both were laid off from their corporate jobs.

"Like a lot of people my age – middle management, lower-level executives – they decide they don’t need you or your office,” says Kevin. “That was when the door was open for us to think outside the box. I guess a little bit of the entrepreneurial side was coming out of me.”

After being downsized, Kevin says he went on a soul-searching trip, and his thoughts wandered to the independent businesses along Route 66, where his family had traveled just a few years prior.

Kevin presented the idea that they sell their house in Brighton and buy the Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico. A 12-room motel, the Blue Swallow first opened on Route 66 in 1939. Gorgeous desert sunsets compete with the motel’s kitschy electric sign that still proudly proclaims: “100% refrigerated air.”

“I didn’t say what I wanted to say,” Nancy says. “That was the first bit of enthusiasm I had heard in his voice in weeks.”

Route 66 and its anti-corporate vibe turned out to be an ideal solution to mark the end of their rat race affair.

“It kind of gets under your skin a bit,” says Kevin. “It’s the open road stretches where you’re reminded of what it was like to drive on a two-lane highway. You just don’t see that along the interstate, where everything is the same, and every off-ramp has the same hotels and the same restaurants, and you forget which town you’re in because everything looks the same. Route 66 is the anti-that.

“It’s all about an America that’s not homogenous. It’s what makes this for us very rewarding. We’re not only preserving a property that’s historic … we’re also preserving a way of life.”

Kevin says the motel’s design invites travelers to sit out and chat with one another, and several have stayed connected with the Muellers and have written about the Blue Swallow’s welcoming and peaceful vibe.

“We try to create this atmosphere almost of stepping back in time to a different time when you engaged your fellow travelers,” he says. “You didn’t travel 900 miles in one day in air conditioned comfort. You maybe did 200 miles sweating your butt off.”

The couple, now along with their son Cameron and his wife, Jessica, treat guests to nights under the stars roasting marshmallows before the travelers bunk down in rooms outfitted with rotary phones and pink stucco walls.

In the morning, they wake up refreshed, ready for whatever lies ahead on the stretch known as the Mother Road.
Getting THEIR kicks

BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE, M.A. '08
to perform

Conditioned

BY ROBIN MINER-SWARTZ
CMU grad Bryan Burnstein, ’02, is kind of a big deal. He’s paid to keep hundreds of the world’s top athletes in peak condition as the head of performance science for Cirque du Soleil, a massive, global brand that wows thousands of fans nightly.

Cirque du Soleil shows are a dramatic mix of circus arts and street entertainment that require performers to possess tremendous strength and flexibility. The company’s roster of 19 shows plays in more than 270 cities around the world. Las Vegas, where Burnstein is based, is home to eight resident Cirque shows.

“I pinch myself some days,” Burnstein says. “In our industry, there aren’t a lot of places you can go that will allow you to develop this much professionally and challenge you every day, yet still have an amazing work-life balance.”

After graduation, the Detroit-area native spent four seasons as the head athletic trainer and strength and conditioning coach for the Saginaw Spirit hockey team.

“I loved that world, loved the sport,” Burnstein says. “What I didn’t love was, at that level, you have to be good at everything but it’s hard to be great at anything. I didn’t feel like I was developing that much.”

He started looking for jobs. A trip to Las Vegas and an interview for a job he didn’t get turned into an opportunity to meet with Cirque. “I flew in on a Friday, and they offered me the job the next day.”

Cirque du Soleil’s amazing athletes benefit from a Chippewa’s training

Burnstein and his wife, Brooke, also a graduate of CMU’s athletic training program, headed west.

“When I was first hired, my role was split between athletic training and strength and conditioning,” Burnstein says. “I had to quickly learn how to provide medical care and coverage for all of our Vegas shows. They’d never had that type of integration before.”

The demand for strength and conditioning training for Cirque’s performers was growing quickly. While each show has its own core group of physical therapists, athletic trainers and coaches working with the artists, there wasn’t a set of standards for all the Vegas shows. Burnstein began focusing on the integration of strength and conditioning, Pilates, nutrition and psychology and, over seven-plus years, worked himself into the newly created position of head of performance science for Cirque du Soleil.

Brooke and Bryan met during freshman orientation in the first year of CMU’s Leadership Advancement Program. He credits CMU with developing his self-confidence.

“Central helped me grow as a person. Not just to be a good student, but to focus on all of the other areas important to being successful – having a sense of community, service, participation in recreation, in campus life,” he says. “And I had awesome instructors who made sure when I graduated I was ready to enter the workforce. They had great connections within the industry I wanted to be in, which opens doors to first jobs.”
By Elizabeth Ross

As the nation came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights March, I was compelled to write this article in honor of my late father, Robert Gardner, my mom, Mary Gardner, and the other two property owners whose land the marchers rested on during their journey from Selma to Montgomery.

The events and instances I shared are based on my personal experience and stories shared with me by my parents.

I remember the “white” and “colored” signs.

When my mother took us shopping in Montgomery, I vividly remember passing the “white” food counter on the main floor of H.L. Green’s Department Store to go downstairs to get a sandwich at the “colored” food counter for my brother. As a young teenager, that did not seem right or fair to me. I could not and did not eat food from the “colored” food counter.

History unfolding

I remember like it was yesterday, my mother along with her sister and friends studying on our front porch to take “the test” in order to exercise their right to vote. They were all educated and teachers in the county.

I watched the massacre of March 7, 1965, broadcast on television as “Bloody Sunday.” For a 13-year-old, it was a scary scene.

Standing his ground

Daddy told the men they would let the marchers camp. The organizers told my parents that we would be protected by the troops.

When the organizers got to Lowndes County, they stopped at the Canaan Hill Primitive Baptist Church where the members were having a meeting and asked for directions to our home. The following Monday, the men came to the house and told my father who they were and that they wanted permission for the marchers to camp on our property. My father told the men to let him think about it and to come back. Daddy and Mama talked about it and decided that they would let the marchers camp. The organizers told my parents that we would be protected by the troops.

A few days before the march, the troops began securing my daddy’s property by walking the 140-plus acres. They turned over rocks, cow droppings and dirt mounds looking for anything that posed a threat.

On Tuesday, March 23, when I left home for school, my parents told me that the marchers would be camping on the property that night and would probably be there when I returned.

Winston Pringle, our neighbor, would meet me at the bus stop to identify me and bring me home.
A sea of people
When the bus approached my stop, I saw a sea of people, military men, guardsmen, tents, trucks and cars up and down the main road and in our driveway.
Winston met me as I got off the bus and identified me as the daughter of Robert and Mary Gardner. He, along with guardsmen, escorted me home.
As I walked toward the house, I saw guardsmen in the yard, at the front door and in the backyard. They were around the perimeter of the property and they were inside the house – they were everywhere.
Some of the marchers were standing in the yard, others were sitting on the porch, and some were using the bathroom.
The ground was wet – it had rained earlier in the day. Daddy and other farmers in the community donated hay to cover the wet ground. There were two tents, trucks with food and many porta-potties.
Among the marchers was a one-legged white man who had walked all the way from Selma. He had worn out his shoe. My uncle took him to Montgomery and bought him a pair of shoes.
One of the guards came inside to make a call to the Attorney General’s Office in Washington, D.C., to report progress.
During that time, we had a three-party telephone line that we shared with two white families. While the guard was talking to the Attorney General, the telephone went dead. In a matter of minutes, the phone line was back on and the two white families’ phone lines were temporarily cut off until the marchers left the following morning.
My parents had been given the phone number directly to the Attorney General’s Office to call at any time if needed.

Settling in for the night
Around 9 p.m., our neighbors began to go home. At 10 p.m., no one was permitted to come down Caffey Road unless they lived in the area.
After the singing, praying and speaking, it was time to bed down – everyone except the troops. When the troops changed guard, they rested in the barn on bales of hay.
The marchers were up early the next morning, and I was off to school. On the afternoon of March 24, the marchers reached the city of St. Jude, a complex on the outskirts of Montgomery.
When I saw the movie “Selma,” it brought back memories. I remembered being afraid for my parents, not so much myself and my siblings, but for my parents. Tension was high.
For the next six months or more, helicopters were constantly flying over the house and property. FBI agents were seen parked up and down the road on which we lived.

Tensions continued
One day, a guard in a helicopter spotted our neighbor, Holmes, whose property adjoined with ours. The guardsman saw Holmes with a rifle that had a telescope on it pointing toward our house. The guard took a picture, landed and asked Holmes what was he doing. Holmes denied any wrongdoing.
The guard told Holmes if anything should happen to Robert or his family, he would be the first one they would get.
Many people lost their lives while fighting for the right to vote, for respect and for human dignity. It saddens me to hear and read about the low voter turnouts during elections today.

Reflecting on history
As we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voters Right March, I celebrated and honored my parents and all the other negroes, whites, Latinos and Asians who stood up and took a stand against discrimination, oppression and intimidation. In the words of Dr. King, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

There is still much more to do in regard to equality for all races. While the old “Jim Crow” days are gone, discrimination and inequality are still prevalent in our society.
I am hopeful that one day the dream of Dr. King will come true – that young black children and young white, yellow, red or brown children will be viewed as Americans and treated equally and respected as individuals contributing to this great country we all call home.
It’s the best-looking rear end on the road.

A friendly reminder that CMU always is behind you.

Order your CMU license plate today.

cmich.edu/alumni
Where can a CMU education take you?
Follow the flags.
Beginning in May 2014, Central Michigan University graduates started their new lives with their diploma and the gift of a full-sized maroon and gold CMU flag from President George E. Ross.

More than just a souvenir of campus, the flags are a way for alumni to display their CMU pride, wherever life leads them.

A year later, these flags represent some compelling stories.

One alum has taken his flag around the world as he teaches in the Middle East, letting it soar in front of the pyramids of Egypt and on a sunset beach in Thailand.

Another uses her flag as a landmark for the nonprofit she founded to help foster children find comfort and dignity by selecting clothes and toys to call their own.

A group of middle-school teachers in Florida use their flags to inspire struggling students to reach for the stars.

One flag in Chicago stands for a young man’s courageous journey to be himself.

Four flag-flying alumni share how these banners symbolize their Chippewa pride – and much more.

BY TERRI FINCH HAMILTON, ’83
Global campus

Andrew Dickerson might win the prize for the best-traveled flag. He took his CMU flag with him when he moved to the Middle Eastern country of Bahrain in August 2014 to teach high school, joining three other CMU alumni teaching there. Actually, he took two CMU flags: the one he received at graduation and the one his parents bought him his freshman year to hang in his room. One hangs in Dickerson’s apartment, the other in his classroom at the Modern Knowledge School, where he teaches ancient and modern history to ninth and 10th graders. When he travels, Dickerson takes his flag and snaps a photo. He’s proudly stood in front of the pyramids of Egypt and on a sunset beach in Thailand, clutching his CMU flag. “It shows how far a Central degree can take you,” Dickerson says. “It can take you anywhere. I’m halfway around the world with three other Chips.” His pride is well founded, he says. “Central’s education program is really respected,” Dickerson says. “Not just in the U.S., but around the world.” His CMU education prepared him for the rigors of teaching, he says, from the long hours to the need to teach students in a variety of ways, to meet their different styles of learning. CMU also prepared him for life halfway around the world, he says. “At Central, I had friends from Asia and the Middle East and all over the world,” Dickerson says. “So I wasn’t too afraid to go to a different country. Because I had already met people from all over the world who were good, nice people.”

He teaches an American curriculum to students from Bahrain, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Asia. “I’m bringing my students the same thing they’re bringing me,” he says. “They can connect to someone from a different culture, just like I’m doing with them. They can see a real American. Not like the Americans they see when they watch ‘Jersey Shore.’ They see we’re not all crazy partiers. We’re not all right-wing or all left-wing. We’re just people. Like them.” “That’s what drew me to teaching in the first place,” he says. “The chance to connect to my students on a personal level. When they ask me about the flag, I tell them it’s where I went to school. That’s pretty cool.”

Comfots of home

Zach Mackowiak happily hung his CMU flag in his Chicago apartment. His education at Central helped him achieve his dream of working in Chicago. Plus, it matched his furniture. “I’m a grown-up now,” he says with a laugh. “I have a color scheme.” Mackowiak works on the 66th floor of a downtown Chicago skyscraper for Edelman, the world’s largest public relations firm. He says other CMU alumni working there helped pave the way for him. Mackowiak is a digital intern on Edelman’s paid media team, working on content distribution, Facebook advertising, media partnerships and social media for several large national brands. “I’m learning something new every day,” he says. “I love seeing something about a national brand on social media and knowing I had a part in it. Or seeing an ad I placed on Google pop up.” He’s always dreamed of working in Chicago and admits he’s now a bit of a pest about it. “I’m so obnoxious on social media,” Mackowiak says, laughing. “I’m posting a picture every day of the view, of the sunset, of the lake. My friends say, ‘Oh no, not another picture.’” An added bonus: his twin brother, Kyle, also a CMU alum, lives down the street as he hunts for a job in sport management. When Mackowiak goes home to his studio apartment at the end of the day, he loves seeing his CMU flag on the wall. “Central is where I called home for four and a half years,” he says. “I know this sounds melodramatic, but Central saved my life. I spent my first two years there as a closeted gay man. I was depressed. But people there gave me the courage to be myself.” Mackowiak came out the summer before his junior year. He got involved in CMU’s Office of LGBTQ Services, where he says director Shannon Jolliff supported him and taught him about social justice, diversity and inclusion. He also could go confidently toward his new career, he says, because of what he learned from Dr. Elina Erzikova, assistant professor of public relations – “my mom away from home,” he calls her. “I can’t say enough good things about how CMU helped me become the person I am,” he says. “I couldn’t be more proud to hang that flag in my apartment, forever.”
Inspiring students

If you’re at Immokalee Middle School in southwest Florida and you ask for the teacher with the CMU flag, you’d think the answer would be easy.

It isn’t.
Which one of the seven classrooms do you want?

That’s right – there are seven first-year teachers at Immokalee who proudly display the CMU flags they received at commencement.

They belong to Alessandra Callender, Kelly Trotter, twins Samantha and Ashley Adams, Jake Simmons, Jacob Burtch, and Ashley Simon. And more than 20 other CMU alumni teach throughout the southwest Florida school district.

The well-trained teachers from CMU are a big hit in Florida, says Callender, who teaches eighth grade pre-algebra.

One of her students was labeled as a particularly low achiever, based on a standardized test. Callender tutored the student after school and paired him with the highest achieving students in class for extra help.

“The last test he took, he got a 96 percent,” she says proudly. “I called him up to my desk to tell him the good news and he said, ‘Ninety-six percent? What did I miss? I thought I got a hundred.’” She laughs.

“Not just my garage.”

Helping youngsters in foster care is bittersweet, she says.

“It just breaks your heart to think about it. When they’re taken from their homes, they often have just minutes to gather what they can. They show up at their foster homes with whatever they were able to grab at that moment.”

When they arrive at her garage, she says, they’re still in a bit of shock.

Hansen-Watson tells the story of a teen boy who acted tough and aloof as he selected clothing. Then she saw him in the back of the car, hugging a stuffed animal he chose.

“That really tugged at my heart,” she says.

The experience has moved her so much, she and her husband, Mark Watson, became licensed as foster parents and now have three foster teens living in their home.

When she gets calls from people for directions to her house, she offers a landmark.

“I say, ‘It’s the house with the CMU flag,’” Hansen-Watson says. “I’m proud of the people at CMU. As soon as word got out about what I was doing, I had student volunteers every Sunday, right from the get-go. Everybody there comes together.”

Fostering community

Holly Hansen-Watson knew she’d hang her CMU flag on the front of her Mount Pleasant house. That flag was hard won.

Hansen-Watson, 41, chipped away at her degree for 10 years, working on her entrepreneurship major two or three classes a semester while she raised her daughter, Sarah, and worked full time in campus dining.

Her plan was to one day open her own gourmet popcorn store. But things don’t always go according to plan.

One day she responded to a volunteer opportunity to drive area foster kids to Midland for classes that teach them life skills.

“I started connecting with them,” she says. “We sang along to the car radio. We talked about how their day was going.”

As she researched the needs of foster children, she discovered Foster Closet of Michigan, a nonprofit that provides clothing, toys and furniture to children in foster care. But there was no chapter in Isabella County, so Hansen-Watson started one in her garage.

Donors deliver items to her house, where volunteers sort and clean them. She hopes fundraising efforts will help her move the operation to its own location soon.

“These kids deserve to go to a real place,” she says. “Not just my garage.”

Want to fly your own flag?

Order one online at cmich.ify/CMUflag and let your maroon-and-gold pride wave.

19
Celebrating Life
The 26th annual Celebrating Life Pow Wow, presented by the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and the CMU Native American Programs office, filled McGuirk Arena for two days this spring. The celebration of culture featured many drum and dance contests as well as vendors selling handmade goods. Pow wows were originally hosted in the spring to celebrate new life, and today they mark the beginning of a season of dancing, as Native Americans travel the nation to showcase their heritage.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE, '81

Charles Belisle is a tribal citizen of the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. He currently resides in Lawtons, New York.
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10

YOUNG ALUMNI ARE PUTTING THEIR STAMP ON THE WORLD IN DIVERSE AND SIGNIFICANT WAYS

TERRI FINCH HAMILTON, ’83
**ALL FIRED UP**

Now in its second year, the 10 Within 10 program recognizes young alumni who bring honor to Central Michigan University through their work in their career or community.

This year’s slate of Chippewas is making a difference in business, science, the arts, journalism, education, health and community development.

And they carry their Central pride wherever they go.

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**LORRON JAMES**

M.S.A. ’08

**Age:** 32

**Location:** Detroit

**Career:** Vice president of James Group International, a supply-chain management firm, and president of two of the company’s subsidiaries

Lorron joined his family business, James Group International, in 2007, shifting into a business development role and reaching customers outside of the automotive industry. The business grew from $23 million to $110 million. Today, Lorron is vice president of business affairs. He also has served as president of the Intermediate Council at the Detroit Athletic Club and is on the Michigan High School/College Athlete of the Year Selection Committee. Lorron is a part of Riviere XXVIII, an extension of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, and also serves on the DMC Children’s Hospital Leaders for Kids board.

**What is the best resource young people have to contribute to the world?**

“Their youth! It’s up to young people to refine the rules as the world changes.”

**What motivates you?**

“I consider myself a spiritual person, so pleasing God is probably the No. 1 thing. My mother motivates me to go above and beyond to keep our family together. My father motivates me to carry on his professional legacy of over 44 years.”

**What is your proudest achievement so far?**

“When Detroit emerged from bankruptcy and control returned back to the mayor and city council, Gov. Snyder appointed three people to serve on a financial review commission to approve all city contracts over $750K and to oversee how Detroit spends its money for the next several years. I was honored when I got the call to serve on that board.”

**What is the best piece of advice you have received?**

“Overprepare, then go with the flow.”

**Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?**

“Because CMU has made great efforts to stay connected with me. That’s a quality of a good friend!”
Megan Dodson

'10 (meteorology major)
Age: 29
Location: Warsaw, Indiana
Career: Meteorologist, National Weather Service

Megan is a weather forecaster for the National Weather Service. She has been influential in the development of the Great Lakes Current Incident Database, which helps the public and emergency responders become aware of the most dangerous times and places to be in the water. In recognition of her exemplary partnership efforts, the Michigan Sea Grant awarded Megan the 2014 Van Snider Award.

What is the best resource young people have to contribute?

“Coming out of college and applying all they have learned, combined with the energy and focus that comes with starting a career, can be a great resource.”

What motivates you?

“Nothing makes me work harder than knowing someone will be positively impacted by my work.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Working to develop the Great Lakes Current Incident Database. In recent years, the data has been used to place rescue equipment on beaches across the Great Lakes, develop messaging to reach high-risk groups and improve forecast methods at the National Weather Service. It’s been really rewarding to see something I worked so hard on be used to do things that will end up saving lives.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“My mom always said to us, “You can be anything you want to be – don’t let anyone stop you.””

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“I want to be an encouragement to students at CMU. Students in the classes ahead of me were always a great inspiration, a great source of encouragement and motivation for me.”

Mike Schuette

'05 (hospitality major)
Age: 32
Location: Chicago
Career: Vice president, Leumi Investment Services

Mike has been recognized by JPMorgan Chase's CEO Jamie Dimon as a Presidents Club Recipient (Top 25 bankers out of 23,000+) four times. In addition to sitting on the board of Central States SER, a workforce development and education organization, he also started his own nonprofit called Three Gentlemen which aims to inspire Chicago men to live a life full of passion, character, integrity, chivalry and philanthropy. And he helped launch the Schuette Family Scholarship at CMU.

What is the best resource young people can contribute?

“The best resource our younger generation has is a different perspective than the generation prior.”

What motivates you?

“I am motivated by success. Success to me is challenging myself to be an expert at my role within the firm. It’s determining what I need to do to reach the goals I have set for myself and work as hard as I need to until they are completed and accomplished.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“My proudest achievement so far professionally is being a four-time Presidents Club Private Banker with JPMorgan Chase.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“The ability to build solid relationships and doing the right thing for my clients are the most important aspects of being successful in business.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“Our support not only helps students financially, but also gives them the ability to network themselves to an internship, a client or, better yet, a full-time job that they may never have known about.”
KATIE TRAVIS

'10 (music major)

Age: 28
Location: New York City
Career: Actor

Katie is cast as Christine Daaé in the national production of “The Phantom of the Opera,” which is touring now. She is also a recent winner of the Lys Symonette award for her performance at the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition. Katie has spent time teaching music in Ghana at the Beacon House School, an orphanage for children in Accra.

What is the best resource young people can contribute?

“Optimism. Hope that things can change or somehow be improved by what they have to offer to their field.”

What motivates you?

“My colleagues, my teachers, my family, the way the light shines through trees, Dunkin’ Donuts, sunflowers, memorizing people’s hands, noticing silly quirks about people, the possibility of love, the possibility of anything really.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Playing Christine Daaé every day, sometimes twice a day. One hundred fifty shows in and still learning.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“One of my directors says something along the lines of: ‘I let go of the past, I forgive myself, and I recognize that not all things hold the same weight.’”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“In my field of work it’s especially important because this is a field that requires you to take some major risks and move to whatever theater scene you hope to be a part of. It’s important to stay connected to help each other find voice, acting, dance teachers, to help each other find temp jobs, to have friends to wait at auditions with at 5 a.m.”

LESTER BOOKER JR.

‘08 (broadcast and cinematic arts major), M.S.A. ’10

Age: 29
Location: Detroit
Career: Production manager, Buick, at Jack Morton Worldwide

Lester has been active in promoting cultural and diversity programs for both CMU and the state of Michigan. He’s an accomplished professional sports and philanthropic administrator with experience in community development, public relations, event planning and cultural programming. Lester has accomplished much in his work with CMU, the Pistons and, most recently, with PCGC Campbell Marketing and Communications.

What is the best resource young people have to contribute?

“Young people have the opportunity to create social change through technology – social media, blogging and other forms of digital communications.”

What motivates you?

“I lean on this quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: ‘The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.’”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Among others, directing the basketball court renovation grand opening ceremony at Highland Park High School, while working with the Detroit Pistons.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“The advice I treasure most comes from something I observed and didn’t require words. I patterned my work ethic after my father, who taught me the value of hard work, consistency, sacrifice and persistence.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“As a proud alumnus, I make it my duty to return to Mount Pleasant at least twice per year – homecoming and Martin Luther King Jr. Day – allowing me the opportunity to interact with students who are carrying on the legacy of these signature CMU events.”
Michael Love

'08 (entrepreneurship)

Age: 34

Location: Mount Pleasant

Career: Owner, Allstate Insurance agencies in Mount Pleasant and Midland

Michael opened his own Allstate Insurance Agency in Mount Pleasant four years after graduating and has since grown his company into the largest Allstate agency north of the Lansing/Flint area. Michael was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as a member of the Michigan Foster Care Review Board, and he is also involved with other nonprofit organizations.

What is the best resource young people have to contribute to the world?

“Ambition and perseverance – this is why we are able to overcome obstacles and make meaningful contributions to society.”

What motivates you?

“Competition and a strive to succeed in life.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“My success in business and the beautiful family I have been blessed with – I have been married to my wife, Megan, for eight years, and we have a beautiful 4-year-old daughter, Lila.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“The best advice I received in college was to cherish every moment during your tenure at CMU. You will get out of your schooling as much as you contribute.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“Staying connected and providing support to CMU is essential to ensure that future generations of students will be able to enjoy the same opportunities that you have been offered.”

Erik Nilsson

'06 (journalism major)

Age: 32

Location: Beijing

Career: Assistant director of China Daily’s Life department

After interning with the China Daily, Erik was offered a full-time position with the paper. He is now one of the most senior foreign staff members and was recently promoted to the assistant director of the feature department. He has also published more than two dozen books about China and has started his own nonprofit organization.

What is the best resource young people have to contribute to the world?

“Education helps young people improve their lives, but it can also inspire them to improve others’ lives, to advance our human condition.”

What motivates you?

“Justice. A fairer world. The vision of a just world has animated my life, from journalism to my involvement with nonprofits, be they Oxfam and the United Nations or the smaller group I’ve started and have been delighted to see expand.

“As a journalist, I’ve worked to report on not only the most vulnerable communities but also on innovative solutions to the inequalities they struggle against.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“Aside from becoming a dad, providing electricity, computers, libraries, clothes, food and medicine for at least 10,000 children. And writing incredible stories, especially those from Sichuan’s quake zone, that wouldn’t otherwise be told. I hope they make the world better.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“Be careful when you mount an ostrich or a yak. Yaks buck. There are reasons ostriches were never domesticated.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“CMU has given me every opportunity I’ve grasped. My experience has inspired me to invest in others’ education.”
Kasee Stratton

‘06 (psychology major), M.A. ‘10, Ph.D. ‘12

Age: 30

Location: Starkville, Mississippi

Career: Assistant professor of school psychology, Mississippi State University; director, Bulldog CHARGE Syndrome Research Lab

Kasee is a leader in CHARGE Syndrome research and advocacy. Much of her work focuses on identifying pain in children who are unable to communicate. She has been published four times since 2010 and continues to present at both national and international conferences.

What is the best resource young people have to contribute to the world?

“Young people bring drive, excitement and open minds to everything they do. I believe these characteristics are producing a generation of millennials who know what they want, who are willing to work hard, and who are challenging dated and controversial topics to contribute to a more welcoming world for everyone.”

What motivates you?

“Children with CHARGE and their families truly motivate every part of my work. CHARGE is the leading cause of congenital deaf-blindness and presents with multiple anomalies and medical complexities.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“The day I passed the most grueling test of my life to become a licensed psychologist is still my proudest moment.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“The best piece of advice I have received, as an adult, would be to travel. Travel enriches you as a person and resonates into your work, family and values.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“CMU became my home for nearly 10 years and molded me into the person I am today. This is why staying connected to CMU is important – it’s a home base.”

Kevin Butcher

‘05 (health fitness in preventive and rehabilitative programs), D.P.T. ‘08

Age: 32

Location: St. Joseph

Career: Director of physical therapy services, Southwest Michigan Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine; area director, Integrity Rehab Group

Kevin was promoted to the Midwest area director of Integrity Rehab Group/Southwest Michigan Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in 2011. His clinic received the IRG Clinical Excellence Award in 2011 and 2013 and the IRG Outcomes Utilization Award in 2011.

What is the best resource young people have to contribute?

“We are full of untapped potential, and our drive to be successful in the world is the biggest way we can contribute in the work force.”

What motivates you?

“Many of my patients have a difficult road ahead, from a rotator cuff repair to a total knee replacement, but to see their attitude and desire to improve motivates me to come to work driven for success and to improve my skills.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?

“My daughter, Kya (5), and son, Kane (3), easily make me more proud than anything else. They inspire me each day and simply leave me awestruck.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?

“The best piece of advice I have received came from a book my father gave me, “I Am Third,” by Gale Sayers and Al Silverman: “The Lord is first, my family is second, and I am third.” These are principles I try to follow.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?

“I created many bonds with my brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha, and CMU is a perfect connecting point through events like homecoming.”
Michael Zeig
'08 (political science)
Age: 28
Location: East Lansing
Career: University planning coordinator, Michigan State University

Mike is completing his Ph.D. in higher education at Michigan State University while maintaining his position as MSU’s planning coordinator. Mike is the author of four publications and has received numerous awards in the past five years. Additionally, he continues to give the gift of his time to his alma mater and his fraternity through various boards and roles.

What is the best resource young people can contribute?
“We’re not always as bound by the past and are not afraid to consider alternative ways of approaching problems.”

What motivates you?
“I went into education because I believe in its transformational power. I’m motivated to help make a difference for students.”

What is your proudest achievement so far?
“I’m particularly proud of the work I was able to complete in my roles at MSU and Virginia Commonwealth University while completing my Ph.D. It was interesting to see policies and issues I worked on ultimately receive approval from the board of trustees.”

What is the best piece of advice you have received?
“If you only do everything in your job description, you’ll be doing that same job for a long time.”

Why is it important for you to stay connected to CMU?
“Some of my most fulfilling experiences have been through my work with the CMU Young Alumni Board, Honors Program Alumni Board and alumni activities with my fraternity. I benefitted greatly from alumni mentors as a student, so it’s always been important for me to give back to those organizations that have done so much for me.”

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Few saw it coming.

Few, that is, outside the Central Michigan men’s basketball inner circle. And maybe that would even be a stretch.

Regardless of the expectations, what the Chippewas accomplished in 2014-15 was extraordinary and astonishing to even the most optimistic fan.

The Chippewas were picked to finish 11th in the 12-team Mid-American Conference and instead went 23-9, capturing the league’s regular-season title and receiving a bid to the NIT.

CMU won more games in ’14-15 than it had in the previous two years combined, and it marked the first time since 2003 the Chippewas have won the MAC title, appeared in the league tournament title game and earned a postseason bid.

Even basketball junkies were taken by surprise at the Chippewas’ sudden rise.

“I think a lot of people asked how we were able to make such a dramatic turnaround,” says coach Keno Davis, who was named the MAC Coach of the Year. “It was a three-year process of hard work from our administration, from our coaching staff, from our student-athletes to keep developing even though you might not have seen the results from game to game. We were seeing the improvement of a team and of a program.”

The cornerstone player, Chris Fowler, came in Davis’ first recruiting class three years ago. From the minute the 6-foot-1 guard from Southfield set foot on campus, it was clear he was something special.

Fowler was named a team captain as a freshman and has blossomed into one of the best players in the MAC, finishing runner-up in the league’s player of the year voting last season.

“Chris really symbolizes what this program is about … hard work, determination and a great attitude,” says Davis, who signed a five-year contract extension at the end of this season. “He has been a great influence on his teammates, his coaches and the university community. Chris is a great representative of the school and of the men’s basketball program.”

The Chippewas will return all five starters in 2015-16 and, after what they accomplished this year, are fully aware of the expectations.

Davis embraces it, just as he did the challenge of rebuilding the program three years ago with a vision for what it has become.

“I think we not only believe we’re moving in the right direction, but that we can be competitive, and we can compete for championships in the foreseeable future,” he says. “We’ve got the foundation built that we can have success each year.”

BY ANDY SNEDDON
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IN HONOR OF
THE ALUMNI AND STUDENTS OF CENTRAL STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE WHO SERVED IN THE WORLD WAR AND IN MEMORY OF HER SONS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
As the nation marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, graduate students have designed and installed an exhibit at Bohannon Schoolhouse and Gerald L. Poor Museum commemorating Central’s role in the conflict.

Students chose themes for eight displays. Among them: What life was like on the warfront, people from CMU who died during the war, and a display about the young men and women who were nurses.

There are two key reasons for the exhibit, says Jay Martin, director of CMU’s Museum Studies program.

“The primary thing we do is provide real-world training in our labs, so we educate students,” he says. “And World War I today is poorly remembered. Universities like Central Michigan were mobilized to win the war. That’s a story we’re going to tell.”

The Museum Studies course the students are taking for this project is taught by Keith Gill, former curator of transportation at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Also included in the exhibit: A plaque acknowledging CMU’s role in WWI. It had been tucked away on campus for years.

“This is a symbol of forgotten history,” Martin says. “Now we have a place for it.”

The exhibit opened in April and will be on display all summer.

The one-room schoolhouse at the corner of West Campus Drive and Preston Street is open periodically, usually on the second Saturday of each month through the summer. It’s closed in the winter and for all university holidays. Admission is free. To make an appointment for group tours or to ensure the museum is open, call (989) 774-3829.
CMU lost a dear friend, and the country lost a great man and true statesman.

Distinguished CMU alumnus and former U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin passed away on April 16 in Traverse City. He was 91.

Griffin served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate for 22 years and on the Michigan Supreme Court for eight years.

Griffin was born in Detroit to a blue-collar family. He graduated from Dearborn's Fordson High School and became the first person in his family to attend college. He began his studies at CMU in 1941, but his education was interrupted in 1943 by World War II. He earned two battle stars while serving with the 71st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in the European Theater. He returned to CMU in 1946, served as senior class president in 1947 and graduated in '47 with a bachelor of science degree.

Griffin earned his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1950 and later was awarded 11 honorary degrees, including a doctor of law degree from CMU.

"When I think of Bob Griffin, words come to mind like gentleness, kindness, compassion, integrity, intelligence, dedication, leadership, modesty and courage," CMU President George E. Ross said in a statement. "He and Marjorie embody all that is CMU. By living a life as a public servant, Bob's presence will not disappear with him. He has made an indelible impression on CMU and the world."

In 1999, the Griffin Endowed Chair was established to "make CMU a leader in advancing the involvement of young people in American government."

In addition to his government service, Sen. Griffin gave a great deal of time to his alma mater. He served on the Clarke Historical Library Board of Governors (2003-07) and served as the national chair for the CMU annual fund (1983-84).

He is survived by Marjorie, his wife of 67 years, four children, 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Sen. Robert P. Griffin, distinguished alum, dies at 91

Marjorie and the late Sen. Robert P. Griffin

Ranny Riecker, former Republican National Committeewoman and a member for 18 years of the CMU Board of Trustees, launched the effort to establish the Griffin Endowed Chair in honor of her friend Sen. Robert P. Griffin.

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Marjorie and the late Sen. Robert P. Griffin

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Historic feat for women’s basketball alum
Crystal Bradford, ’15, made history on April 16 when she became the first player in Central Michigan history to be drafted by a Women’s National Basketball Association team.

Bradford, a 6-foot senior from Detroit, was chosen as the seventh overall pick by the Los Angeles Sparks. She is just the third player from a Mid-American Conference school in the 19-year history of the league to be drafted. She is the MAC’s highest-ever draft choice.

Bradford, the all-time leading scorer and rebounder in CMU women’s basketball history, began training camp with the Sparks in mid-May, shortly after graduating with a degree in sport studies.

Sport management grads share wisdom at CMU SMAC conference
Earlier this year, the Sport Management Association hosted its fifth annual conference. The CMU SMAC featured 16 sports professionals presenting to more than 140 students on topics such as industry trends, personal experiences and tips for working in the field.

Several CMU alumni presented at this year’s conference, including Mickey York (’92), Rob Egan (’91), Brandon Fricke (’12) and Marie Tuite (’75).

CMU is the only university in Michigan with accredited undergraduate and graduate curriculums in sport management. For more information, visit cmusmac.com. Mark your calendars for the sixth annual CMU SMAC, planned for Feb. 26-27, 2016.

Delbert “Del” Ringquist first came to CMU more than 50 years ago as a student, graduating in 1965. After earning his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Oklahoma, Del and his wife, Barb, returned to Mount Pleasant in 1971, when Del began teaching in the political science department.

Although Ringquist’s academic training was primarily in comparative politics, he taught nearly every course the department of political science and public administration has offered in his 44 years at CMU.

He also was an architect of CMU’s Global Campus programs and led what was then known as the College of Extended Learning to national prominence in his six-plus years as dean.

He and Barb are going to enjoy more time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchild at Canadian Lakes. And Del will continue to teach sections of intro to American government as emeritus professor.

Joan Schmidt, director of residence life, will retire from CMU on June 30. Schmidt, ’75, M.A. ’78, began her career on campus in 1988 as manager of university apartments. She was honored in 2013 as CMU’s Woman of the Year.

In her position as registrar, Karen Hutsler, M.A. ’92, has in some way had an impact on the academic careers of every student on campus. She started at CMU in 1988 as assistant registrar/records. In 1996, she was appointed registrar. She will retire from CMU on June 30.

Popular political science professor to retire
Delbert “Del” Ringquist first came to CMU more than 50 years ago as a student, graduating in 1965. After earning his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Oklahoma, Del and his wife, Barb, returned to Mount Pleasant in 1971, when Del began teaching in the political science department.

Although Ringquist’s academic training was primarily in comparative politics, he taught nearly every course the department of political science and public administration has offered in his 44 years at CMU.

He also was an architect of CMU’s Global Campus programs and led what was then known as the College of Extended Learning to national prominence in his six-plus years as dean.

He and Barb are going to enjoy more time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchild at Canadian Lakes. And Del will continue to teach sections of intro to American government as emeritus professor.
**Alumni News**

**Young Alumni board**

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**Young Alumni regional fellows**

**California**
San Francisco Bay
Courtney Duvendack
court.duvendack@gmail.com

**Michigan**
Holland
Briana Hartline
bhartline@sentinel.com

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

Metro Detroit
Whitney Robinson ’03
whitney.robinson@morganstanley.com

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

Southwest Michigan
Michelle Rush, ’07
michellerush@gmail.com

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

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

Texas
Austin
Dan Rathke ’07
rathk1dj@gmail.com

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Tyler Presley, ’12
tyler.presley@betaethetapi.org

**Alumni board**

**President**
Jan (Keegan) Hagland, ’77
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queenella143@aol.com

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Ryan A. Lewins-Bliss, ’02, M.A. ’04
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Milford
dnowak-baker@fpfc.net

**Directors**
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Darcy Orlik, ’92, M.S.A. ’95
Mount Pleasant

Ceresco

Darryl Shelton, ’85
Grand Rapids

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

Robert VanDeventer, ’74
Saginaw

Thomas L. Worobec ’93
Dearborn Heights

**In Memory**

**Dorothy (Binhammer) Wenzel,** ’34, Coloma, died Dec. 3, 2014, age 102.

**Beverly I. Milner,** ’35, Midland, died March 2, 2015, age 103.

**Alfreda Swanson,** ’40, Cadillac, died Jan. 12, 2015, age 96.

**Elizabeth (Knight) Bowden,** ’41, Kingsley, died March 23, 2015, age 93.

**Mary E. (Barkman) Kenaga,** ’41, Pontiac, died March 26, age 95.

**Alma M. (Moeller) Jenkins,** ’42, Harrisonburg, Va., died March 3, 2015, age 93.

**Mary D. (Dulum) Sowton,** ’42, Petoskey, died March 19, 2015, age 95.

**Frank J. Force,** ’43, Durham, S.C., died Feb. 21, 2015, age 95.

**Jennie E. Master,** ’43, Jackson, died Feb. 1, 2015, age 94.


**Robert P. Griffin,** ’47, Traverse City, died April 16, 2015, age 91.

**Joanne M. Dziuba,** ’48, Flint, died Feb. 11, 2015, age 91.

**Donald W. Nelson,** ’48, Petoskey, died Jan. 12, 2015, age 93.


**Helen (Andersen) Sonnega,** ’48, Muskegon, died March 15, 2015, age 88.

**Bernice A. (Williams) Tulk,** ’49, Gaylord, died Jan. 20, 2015, age 88.

**Mildred (Fisher) Gallert,** ’49, Grand Rapids, died March 23, 2015, age 88.

**Dorothy H. (Louthan) Owen,** ’49, Marquette, died Feb. 2, 2015, age 94.

**Russell J. Raymond,** ’49, Midland, died Jan 26, 2015, age 89.

**Marcia L. (Linn) Johengen,** ’51, Mount Pleasant, died Jan. 29, 2015, age 87.

**Larry E. Madison,** ’51, Standish, died April 10, 2015, age 89.

**Lois A. (Roth) Oren,** ’51, Jackson, died Feb. 16, 2015, age 87.

**Glen S. Schroeder,** ’52, Pontiac, died Feb. 17, 2015.

**Donald R. Aiken,** ’53, Auburn, Ind., died March 1, 2015, age 83.

**Robert L. Bonnell,** ’54, Muskegon, died Feb. 24, 2015, age 89.


**L.D. Foster,** ’54, Montague, died Feb. 16, 2015, age 84.

**Maxine Anne (Mathews) Gleason,** ’54, Sault Ste. Marie, died April 15, 2015, age 82.

**John D. Schaefer,** ’54, Decatur, Ala., died April 7, 2015, age 82.

**Melvin J. VanOchten,** ’57, Saginaw, died Jan. 19, 2015, age 86.

**Virginia R. (Starr) Zimmerman,** ’58, Akron, Ohio, died April 2, 2015, age 79.

**Chester J. Darnton,** M.A. ’59, Alpena, died April 1, 2015, age 97.

**Edwin D. Phillips,** ’59, Murphysboro, Ill., died April 4, 2015, age 79.

**William J. Novak,** ’60, Sanford, died Feb. 24, 2015, age 81.

**William D. Schultz,** ’60, Bay City, died March 2, 2015, age 84.

**Kenneth O. Wolven,** M.A. ’65, Clarkston, died March 20, 2015, age 76.


**Jack J. Pappas,** ’61, Sykesville, Md., died April 1, 2015, age 75.

**Wanda L. (Miller) Wilson,** ’61, Bath, died March 11, 2015, age 76.

**Richard Kruse,** ’62, MBA ’69, L’Anse, died March 2, 2015, age 80.


**Robert D. Fitzgerald,** ’63, M.A. ’72, Freeeland, died April 2, 2015, age 81.

**Dee M. Pommerenke,** ’63, Austin, Texas, died Feb. 17, 2015, age 73.

**Dwight Chisholm,** M.A. ’64, Saginaw, died Feb. 7, 2015, age 80.

**Zariba Kaduma (Michael Stanton),** ’64, Detroit, died Dec. 25, 2014, age 72.

Alumni News

Jacqueline Klein, died March 14, 2015, age 64.
Jon F. Earle, ’72, Cheboygan, age 65.
Jeffrey A. Case, died Jan. 11, 2015, age 62.
Veda I. Massey, age 88.
James V. Hartwell, ’67, Champaign, Ill., died March 22, 2015, age 70.
Douglas A. Sowle, M.A. ’67, Breckenridge, died Jan. 18, 2015, age 71.
Connie J. (Hall) Cron, M.A. ’73, Bellville, Ohio, died Feb. 15, 2015, age 73.
Pamela M. (Klug) Rice, age 71.
Sandra S. (Sill) Richter, ’70, Owosso, died Jan. 16, 2015, age 65.
Larry R. Link, ’71, M.A. ’80, Tawas City, died March 8, 2015, age 65.
Jon F. Earle, ’72, Cheboygan, died March 14, 2015, age 64.
Jacqueline Klein, ’72, M.A. ’84, Saginaw, died March 8, 2015, age 65.
John Tedrow, M.A. ’73, Bellville, died Feb. 7, 2015, age 66.
William C. Walker, Ed.S. ’73, Ludington, died April 8, 2015, age 92.
William R. Zirblis, M.A. ’73, Royal Oak, died March 10, 2015, age 88.
Veda I. Massey, ’74, Boyne Falls, died Jan. 11, 2015, age 62.
Jeffrey A. Case, ’75, M.A. ’78, Lake Worth, Fla., died March 11, 2015, age 62.
Sally J. Countryman, ’75, Flint, died Feb. 23, 2015, age 68.
Theodore D. DeWitt, ’75, Clermont, Fla., died Feb. 25, 2015, age 63.
Dale D. Hill, M.A. ’75, Fenton, died March 1, 2015, age 84.
Charles J. Searock, M.A. ’75, Oklahoma City, died March 3, 2015, age 78.
Martha J. (Hopper) Anderson, M.A. ’76, Harrison, died March 18, 2015, age 83.
John R. Meyer, M.A. ’76, Columbus, Ohio, died Feb. 11, 2015, age 93.
Bernard W. Newcomb, ’76, Syracuse, N.Y., died Jan. 17, 2015, age 64.
Catherine L. (Jenkins) Abate, ’77, died Feb. 16, 2015, age 60.
James L. Campbell, ’77, Mount Pleasant, died Jan. 19, 2015, age 73.
Darwin Lynn Gonnerman, M.A. ’77, New Braunfels, Texas, died Feb. 7, 2015, age 68.
Alan L. Raab, ’77, Whitehall, died Jan. 5, 2015, age 60.
Charles E. Cieslinski, ’78, Marine City, died March 25, 2015, age 58.
Paula (Evett) Shirley, M.A. ’78, Mount Pleasant, died Jan. 25, 2015, age 72.
Joseph E. Jaworski, M.S. ’79, Spring Arbor, died Jan. 1, 2015, age 65.
Melinda S. (Colling) Sutherland, ’79, Unionville, died March 17, 2015, age 57.
Iain K. Todd, ’81, Brookings, Ore., died Jan. 16, 2015, age 60.
Rupert D. Lanzador, M.A. ’82, Columbus, Ohio, died Jan. 28, 2015, age 69.
Charles G. Leon, M.A. ’82, Plain, Ohio, died Feb. 15, 2015, age 73.
Catherine A. (Bennett) Rader, M.A. ’82, Columbus, Ohio, died March 8, 2015, age 88.
Joseph T. Timmons, ’82, Mount Pleasant, died Feb. 14, 2015, age 89.
Cassandra F. Darnell, ’84, St. Ignace, died Jan. 16, 2015, age 60.
Dawn L. (Ross) Gallup, ’84, Bronson, died March 4, 2015, age 52.
Clark L. Ketchum, ’85, M.A. ’87, died Feb. 24, 2015, age 76.
Adam A. Kazmierowski, ’89, Cheboygan, died Feb. 5, 2015, age 49.
Virginia G. (Graverette) Pigeon, M.A. ’90, Mount Pleasant, died Feb. 17, age 85.
Bonnie J. (Sommer) Warren, ’93, Frankfort, died March 19, 2015, age 73.
James E. Kellogg, ’93, Midland, died Jan. 26, 2015, age 44.
Kerr L. (Sahr) Michalowski, MBA ’94, Midland, died March 19, 2015, age 56.
Dustin R. Preston, ’94, DeWitt, died Feb. 21, 2015, age 43.
Carlene M. (Cournyer) Allen, M.A. ’00, Frederic, died March 11, 2015, age 49.
Jeffrey M. Grover, M.A. ’00, Millis, Mass., died March 17, 2015, age 44.
Stephanie A. Urbanawiz, ’13, Muskegon, died Feb. 28, age 29.

Faculty

Carla A. Scheel Jr., West Branch, died Feb. 23, 2014, age 90.
Michael Shields, Clinton, died Nov. 29, 2014, age 69.

Staff

Rita Bailey, Mount Pleasant, died Feb. 10, 2015, age 89.
Rita Deni, Mount Pleasant, died Jan. 11, 2015, age 82.
Patricia Grace, Mount Pleasant, died Jan. 18, 2015, age 72.
Sarah Grove, Mount Pleasant, died March 29, 2015, age 80.
Anthony Kuna, Alma, died Jan. 23, 2015, age 91.
Pamela Jean Rowland, Mount Pleasant, died March 16, 2015, age 55.

William “Bill” Theunissen, ’47, Mount Pleasant, died April 17, 2015, age 89. Bill served 38 years at CMU as a professor, coach and Dean of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and also Education, Health and Human Services. A member of the CMU Athletic Hall of Fame, Theunissen Baseball Stadium is named in his honor.
Some points of pride to help you brag about your alma mater:

CMU ranks 14th in the country for the number of Native American students earning baccalaureate degrees and No. 15 for the number of African-American students earning graduate and professional degrees. (Source: Issues in Higher Education)

CMU has been a leader in teacher education programs since it was founded in 1892. Central has the most teacher education alumni working in Michigan. (Source: College of Education and Human Services)

CMU’s College of Business Administration’s new department of entrepreneurship is the only such department at any university in Michigan. (Source: Isabella Bank Institute of Entrepreneurship)

CMU offers the only intergenerational partnership program, Bridges Together, in Michigan. This program works to enhance relationships and dispel stereotypes among children, adults older than 55 and educators through an academic and social collaboration. (Source: Bridges Together)
Debra sees the value of a formal education. The 1975 alumna is establishing a scholarship through her estate for students from her hometown of Tawas who attend CMU for their bachelor’s degree.

“A college degree tells the world that you have worked hard to succeed, and that translates into success in whatever career path one pursues,” said Debra, a former national bank examiner at the U.S. Treasury Department.

“I took a lot with me when I left CMU in 1975,” she said. “Through my scholarship, hopefully I’ll be able to give back more than I took.”

**Give today for the future**

Like Debra, you, too, can help students in an incredibly special way. To learn more about this and additional ways to give back to Central Michigan University and the next generation of students, contact: **Ted Tolcher**, Associate Vice President, Development and External Relations

989-774-1441
ted.tolcher@cmich.edu

[Gift planning](https://giftplanning.cmich.edu)
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