The Moore Holler

From the Creaking Chair
By Pete Orlik

Welcome to this Spring edition of The Moore Holler. Right at the outset, let me invite all of our alums to the 33rd annual BCA Awards Banquet. The date is Friday, April 21 at The Embers with a 6:00 p.m. start. A $20 ticket includes a delicious buffet plus an enjoyable evening with today’s best BCA students and some of tomorrow’s best media professionals. Contact the BCA office to reserve your seat. Guest speaker this year is Scott Meier, Flint/Saginaw regional vice president and general manager for Citadel Broadcasting. Scott will be focusing on “Electronic Journalism Ethics in a Consolidating Media World.”

In addition to the banquet, a number of other department activities are launching to close out the semester as this is being written. On Saturday, March 25, our Student Broadcast Executive Council (SBEC) is mounting its 4th annual Career Fair featuring several broadcast and other media companies who come to Mt. Pleasant to dialogue with our students. Several of our alums represent their companies and it is always gratifying to see them return to campus in such successful capacities.

This year’s Central Michigan International Film Festival then takes place from March 30 through April 9 and features almost thirty works from all over the world. Sponsored by BCA’s Film Society, this event exhibits films in the new Park Library Auditorium as well as the Broadway Theater in downtown Mt. Pleasant and the Celebration Cinema multiplex on Pickard Street. The festival also includes a production competition with screenings of winning entrants. If you like innovative cinema without the expensive price tag, this festival is a great bargain. Tickets are only $4 or $20 for a book of ten.

Later, on June 9, CMU hosts its annual Alumni Awards Banquet. BCA is honored to again have an alum who will be recognized at this dinner.

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Snippets
From your BCA Alumni Advisory Board—Jeff Kimble, Chairman

I would like to thank an outstanding Alumni Advisory Board member who served for many years but has decided not to seek a new term – Ms. Kathy Banfield-Shaw. Kathy is one of the founding members of the Advisory Board. Her wisdom, time and talent helped form and guide the BCA department to the educational stalwart we know today. The board thanks her for the many years of dedicated service and wishes her the very best in her future endeavors. These include her continuing contribution to the BCA Constituent Alumni Chap-

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Breaking Chair (continued from page 1)

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Jeff Dengate, Web Content Developer for the National Basketball Association and 2000 graduate, will receive the CMU Outstanding Young Alumni Award. This marks the fifth year out of the past six in which a BCAer was recognized at this event. Tickets are available from the Development and Alumni Office.

Clearly, this past year has been a positive one for BCA. We are exploring a number of avenues for improving the fiscal health of the department and have enjoyed great support from our alums in this endeavor. Last October, Kevin and Liz Campbell set up the George and Eva Mae Campbell Educational Equipment Endowment in honor of Kevin’s parents. The interest from this permanent fund will be used to help BCA purchase hardware and software upgrades for our physical plant --- a constant need. The more deposits made to this account, the greater will be the principal and therefore, the more interest available to help maintain our facilities. We welcome any and all contributions to this innovative endowment through which donations are put to perpetual use on behalf of BCA students. (The account number is CMU 49068). Our faculty also stepped up in the fundraising effort. In this year’s Campus Advancement Campaign, BCA won the award for “Highest Participation by a Department of Fewer Than 25 Employees” in contributions to the university. We received a plaque (that has to be returned) and I got a university lunch (which doesn’t).

BCA students continue to excel in the awards department as well. In addition to the many folks who won honors in this year’s Michigan Association of Broadcasters competition (listed elsewhere in The Holler), there were several other significant distinctions. Among these, were Eileen Le-Tarte’s first place win for Best Technical Production in the Collegiate Broadcasters Inc. national competition. Meanwhile, Ryan Raiche earned an Award of Distinction in the Communicator Awards Competition for his news piece on neo-Nazi groups and their potential plans to organize on the CMU campus. There were more than 3,000 student and professional entries in this contest and only 15% are so recognized. Several other students have entered a number of national competitions for which judging is still taking place. On the convention circuit, Jessica Pondell was selected as a National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) convention intern and worked that Las Vegas exposition in January. Finally, the programming of WMHW-FM has been enhanced with news and sports feeds from the Michigan Radio Network. These services are now downlinked to the station through the generosity of adjunct professor Ed Christian. Ed is CEO of Saga Communications which operates 100 radio and television stations and three state networks. He is also a frequent lecturer on campus where his expertise is proving of huge value to our students. We are very grateful to have Ed and our other distinguished adjunct professor, Larry Patrick, as part of our faculty. In addition to his media brokerage business and radio group, Larry is currently serving as CEO of the PAX television network.

We hope to be able to announce other new initiatives and advancements by the time the next Moore Holler hits your computer screen or mailbox. In the meantime, please keep in touch with BCA, join us at the April 21 Banquet if you can, and come back to campus whenever you are able.
Faculty Notes

Rick Sykes and News Central 34 were featured in a story in Governmentvideo.com. The story appeared in the production section and focused on Sykes’s use of industry professionals to improve the newscast.


Patty Williamson was a group member presenting “Creating Space: Opening the Dialogue About Gendered Leadership” at the Women’s Studies Gender Research Exhibit held on campus in October.

Kevin Corbett presented “And Now for Something Completely Obsessive/Compulsive: The Impossible Dream in the films of Terry Gilliam” at the Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference in St Louis, MO.

Heather Polinsky, Kevin Corbett and Patty Williamson presented “Grading and Assessing Non-Traditional Coursework: How to Manage Hands-On Classroom Activities and Projects” at the Lily North Teaching Conference in Traverse City.

Mark Poindexter was quoted in The Saginaw News regarding the live debate on NBC’s The West Wing.

Will Anderson presented “Living and Dying by the Numbers: Playing The Student Evaluation Game Part One: Deconstructing the Status Quo” at the National Communication Association Convention in Boston.

Patty Williamson’s article “From Aura to Iridescence: Benjamin and Boorstin Theorize PostModern Mediated Culture” was in the October Journal of Evolutionary Psychology.

Rick Sykes’s presentation at the Conference on Teaching in Nontraditional Formats, “Creating a Multi-Layered Case Study for the Nontraditional Student,” was video taped for use by off-campus instructors.

Patty Williamson presented “Meet the New Boss.....Same as the Old Boss: The Glass Ceiling Effect on Reality TV” at the Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Mark Poindexter published “Reading the Signs while Cruising Mulholland Drive” in the October Journal of Evolutionary Psychology.

Pete Orlik was a judge in the Research and Scholarly Paper Competition for the Broadcast Education Association’s Writing Division.


For the Broadcast Education Association, Kevin Corbett served as a judge for the Gender Issues Division Paper Competition and the Documentary Division Faculty Production Competition.

Pete Orlik was the prime source for a Midland Daily News article about TBS multiple airing of the movie “Christmas Story.”

Mark Poindexter presented “Batman Begins: the Good, the Bad and the Conspiratorial” at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mark Poindexter took a group of students on a field trip to Paris over Spring break in conjunction with BCA 290: French Film and Other Media. They visited the Cinémathèque Française, the Radio France Museum, and other sites.

In December, Rob Craig, Jerry Henderso, and Pete Orlik all received CMU service awards for their longevity at the university. Rob was honored for 25 years, Jerry for 30 years, and Pete for 35 years.
**COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

MHTV kicked off the Spring 2006 season on Monday, February 13, 2006 with a promotional event complete with prize drawings. The Spring schedule began with two brand-new shows, *Little Bird*, a supernatural “dramedy” produced by Jamie Maurer and Mike Radtke and *A-OK*, a sketch comedy show featuring a hodgepodge of short-form punch lines and long-form comedic narratives. David Seger and Mike Radtke are responsible for this zany adventure.

Graduate Assistant Dan Empson and undergraduate Sports Producers Jason Dizik and Nate Blair were back, covering the CMU Men’s Basketball game of the week and other Spring sports. Graduate Assistants J.R. Curtis and Ken Ochalek continued as producers of the entertainment magazine program *Central View*.

This season also marked the beginning of MHTV’s extended schedule. Thanks to a new state-of-the-art automated playback system, MHTV airs in a block from 6PM to 9PM Monday through Thursday, then again from 10PM to 1AM. Faculty Advisor Dr. Kevin Corbett observes that “The new schedule allows more people a chance to see these award-winning shows.”

Moore Media Records, the BCA Department’s newest co-curricular, continues to grow. The student-operated record label signed the band Philo, that joined MMR artists Stranger Than Fiction and Mike Schuette as affiliated musicians. MMR also resurrected an old WMHW show, *Live from Studio A*, which features MMR artists and other local talent performing live from Moore Hall every other Thursday on Modern Rock 91.5. In an effort to generate funds, MMR sells headphones and minidisks to students. We also offer a production service through which bands can record a high-quality demo in our studio at a very affordable price. Finally, a major Spring concert was held, in conjunction with Modern Rock 91.5.

Moore Media Records has a very talented executive staff who are anxious to help solo artists and bands with their recording needs. If you would like to know more about Moore Media Records or would like to arrange for a demo recording, email us at mooremediarecords@hotmail.com.

This has been a great year for News Central 34 in terms of our industry partnerships. Petoskey senior Ryan Raiche became our first weekend reporter intern in January under our partnership with 9 & 10 News in Cadillac, Michigan. Ryan spent the beginning of the internship going through a “Reporter Boot Camp” and then began reporting for the station in February. As the only internship of its kind in the state, it’s been an exciting experience for Ryan and News Central. We are all very proud of him.

We are also strengthening our relationship with WNEM-TV in Saginaw. We have purchased a new satellite receiver, which allows us to get local stories of interest from WNEM via satellite downlink. Even as we continue to develop our existing industry partnerships, we have not overlooked the opportunity to connect with other industry professionals as well. Our goal continues to be to provide our students with a newsroom experience that can’t be found anywhere else in the state.

In terms of the newscast itself, we have been doing some retooling. We have added some new camera shot plots, which have helped us get our news anchors out from behind the desk in delivering some of their

(cocurricular continued on page 5)
The Large Group category for the second consecutive year. Winners of awards include “Makenna Paige,” a nationally acclaimed radio drama produced by Eileen LeTarte, and “SportsZone Thursday,” with host John Mullin and panelists Jason Dzik, Drew Wilkinson, Dan Empson, Michael Stark and Kirkland Crawford. Also receiving awards were “Central Beat,” Greg Angel (sports) and Brad Eichkorn (Public Service Announcement).

As we wandered around the office, the desk of the Station Manager was covered in a mountain of pop cans from all the midnight oil-burning, and was also stacked chest high with paperwork in preparation for the station’s annual Relay for Life campaign for the American Cancer Society. This included the first ever “Whose Line? A Night of Improv,” a fundraiser that helped raise money for the cause. Flyers filled the room and anyone who sets foot into the office could tell that work was being done... at least that’s what we told department office manager Joan McDonald.

We pushed hard to find bands for our annual Battle of the Bands and participants in our Bowl-a-thon, the bread and butter of our Relay for Life campaign. Last year, over half of our money for the campaign was raised at Battle of the Bands and the promotion team has worked hard on doing even better this year.

We are having a great Spring and we look forward to an even better Fall.

The 2006 academic year brought several changes in the capabilities of the Moore Media Digital Design (M2D2) team. Beginning in early September, members discussed plans to revamp the current website to make it even more user-friendly to both incoming and current students. This design took a few months to complete but was finished in time to compete for the NBS National Competition and the Webby Awards. The current design is more cohesive with Central Michigan University website guidelines and more user-friendly/interactive. In addition to the new design, new developments over the last year include streaming, job postings, department accolades and more frequent updates on department news as it becomes available. Interest in other activities such as membership and multimedia workshops has increased dramatically over the last year due to increased promotion. Art Director Brian Lucas, who has been an invaluable asset to the organization, recently was awarded a scholarship to a private arts college in Detroit. His input as a designer and teacher surely will be missed.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

NBS/AERho

NBS/AERho members have been working hard all semester, and it doesn’t look like our efforts will be letting up anytime soon. We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the Region 2 Regional Convention in November, 2006. This is a massive undertaking. We must make this convention as appealing as possible, as we are an extremely long distance away from any other schools in our region, and need to give them incentive to make the trip! We plan to make this an amazing convention, full of workshops, seminars, demonstrations, (and fun, of course)! Students do not need to be NBS members to attend, but there will be a small registration fee.

The National Convention took place in Washington D.C. in mid-March. DC may not be as glamorous as Miami or Los Angeles, but the convention line-up was impressive. As always, we had a great time when traveling as a chapter. Some of our members, including Erica Bednarski and Pat Brown, won convention grants, which paid for a portion of their stay in Washington. Jennie Sholar won the AERHO grant. When we attend Nationals, it is always our goal, through our enthusiasm and body of work, to show schools across the country what CMU broadcasting is all about.

Lastly, we are “transitioning power” to our new E-Board because eight of the current eleven members are graduating in May 2006. Our main goals continue to be involvement in community service, recruiting and retaining new members, becoming an official Model Chapter, and, of course, hosting a successful Region 2 Convention.

For more information on NBS/AERho, visit the national site at www.nbs-aerho.org, or our local website, www.bca.cmich.edu/NBS.

Film Society

Spring of 2006 marks the fourth time the Film Society has been one of the major organizers of the Central Michigan International Film Festival. The Film Festival is an eleven day event featuring 30 movies from Belarus, Canada, China, The Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Palestine, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Dozens of Film Society volunteers signed up for the approximately 100 work slots required to put on the festival and also participated in selection of films and the judging of short subjects. Among the shorts selected by Michigan filmmakers for screening at the festival were The Adventure Golf Guy by Keith Jefferies, Exit by Alexander Dennis, Just What I Needed by Tim Marklevitz and A Story About Jim by Adam Drankhan.

Our goal is to improve the quality and quantity of the offerings each year. We hope we were successful in 2006. We now look forward to planning the 5th International Film Festival for 2007.

For ongoing information about the festival, go to: http://www.cmfilmfestival.com

RTNDA

We can’t think of a better way to start off the semester than travel-
Campbell Educational Equipment Endowment Fund

On Homecoming weekend, Kevin and Liz Campbell surprised BCA Chair Pete Orlik with wonderful news.

In memory of Kevin’s parents, the Campbells generously originated The George and Eva May Campbell Educational Equipment Endowment Fund.

This fund, once fully endowed, will assist the BCA department in meeting its equipment needs.

If you wish to contribute to this effort, contact Jody Patton at 989 774-1698.

Snippets (continued from page 1)

ter by serving as its president.

While Kathy is leaving the Board, I would like to welcome her replacement, Julie Brinks. Julie is currently the General Manager of TV 7 & 4, headquartered in Traverse City. We look forward to Julie’s active participation this Spring and beyond – Welcome Aboard!

Congratulations are in order to all BCA students who participated in the MAB awards. CMU took 9 of 19 awards for television and swept the large group in the radio division. There were also many second places and honorable mentions achieved. I cannot stress enough the importance of these competitions. They are the “measuring stick” that consistently compares the CMU BCA department to other colleges in Michigan. The continuing excellence, year after year, is proof positive that CMU is the place to study the broadcast discipline in Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region.

I invite all alumni to Mount Pleasant for the BCA Awards Banquet on Friday night, April 21st at The Embers. I have attended the last three banquets and I am always proud of the effort and talent I see coming out of the BCA program. For the second year in a row the BCA Alumni Constituent Chapter will be giving an award to this year’s Outstanding Freshman as part of the Awards program. The Constituent Chapter feels that it is very important to recognize, encourage and reward talent as early as possible. The competition for the award is fierce as many talented freshman enter CMU with advanced skills they learned in high school. For tickets and additional information about the awards banquet, please contact Ms. Joan McDonald in the BCA office 989 774-3851 or via email at mcdon1lk@cmich.edu.

Our chapter website, http://bcaalumni.org, is being overhauled to better serve its constituents. Keep visiting to experience our progression.

And finally – to this years’ graduating seniors: You are embarking on an incredible journey known as your professional career. For the next 45+ years - unless you hit the lottery - you will climb the ladder of career success. You may have many ups with hopefully very few downs. We wish you the very best throughout your journey, and please don’t forget where you took your first steps.

Be proud, participate and stay active as a BCA Alum.
Where are They Now?

Pete Bowers (75) is currently Station Manager and Radio Broadcasting Instructor at WBFH (Bloomfield Hills High School). His students won eleven awards in seven categories at the John Drury High School Radio Awards competition in Naperville, Illinois and Pete was named Best Radio Station Advisor.

Jay Campbell (82) sells broadcasting marketing sponsorships and develops onsite player sponsorships for the Tampa Bay Buccaneer Radio Network.

Michael Allen Blank (83) has entered Michigan State University as a graduate student.

Dan Boss (84) is the TV 9&10 News Traverse City Bureau Coordinator and host of “Hook and Hunting” - - - an outdoor show.

Ann Nau (90) married Jeff Hatfield at the Dearborn Henry Ford Museum in October. Congratulations!

Scott Wickersham (95) is the new co-anchor for Channel 9 Eyewitness News Daybreak in Asheville, North Carolina.

Rich Spicer (96) is the program director of “Thunder Country”, which is heard on 100.7 FM, 94.1 FM and AM 960 in northern Michigan. Rich is married and has two children, Andrew and Kalina.

Jason Dinklemann (MA 99) is the Web Manager for the Offices of The Registrar at the University of Wisconsin. In December, he and his wife Maria, welcomed a new baby girl, Lauren Marilyn, to their family.

Bob Garcia (00) is the new Assistant Director of Admissions at Central Michigan University.

Don Rottenbusher (BA 02/MA 04) is at Mackinac Media and served as production assistant on the documentary “The SuperFight: Marciano vs Ali” which was released in December 2005.

Christopher Kinch (02) is working at the BBC New York as a Production Associate/Field Producer for “Moving Up” and “What Not To Wear”, both on TLC.

Melanie Fox (02) recently began her new job as the Morning Show Executive Producer at WVLT in Knoxville, TN.

Allison Wasilewski (04) is working at Carrot Top Distribution in Chicago. Need a record marketed? Call Allison.

Geoff Cole (05) left Mount Pleasant in May for Montana where he is working at New Media Broadcasters (KOJM-AM, KPQX-FM and KRYK-FM) as a DJ.

Kelly Charlesworth (05) is working as a sales assistant at Eagle TV sales in Troy, Michigan.

Angela Peterson (05) is the traffic reporter/anchor for the morning show at WNET TV 5 in Saginaw.

Paula Caruso (05) landed an anchor position at WFQX TV Fox 33 in Cadillac right after she graduated in December.

Jenny Carlson (05) is a reporter for TV 7&4’s Gaylord, Michigan news bureau.
Greetings BCA Alums, especially those of you from the past five years! Even though we don’t have an official date and CMU Homecoming is several months away, we’re now in the early planning stages for the 7th Annual WMHW-FM Alumni Takeover.

If you have never been a part of what has become a Homecoming tradition, just talk to someone who has and you’ll want to join Alums from WMHW’s 30-plus year history as we gather to re-create shows that were part of our college experience. As in previous years, shifts will begin at 6 am Friday of Homecoming Weekend and run through Saturday at 5 pm. Don’t worry if you can’t run a board anymore or don’t have the music you may want to use. Just let me know in advance and we’ll track down people and tunes for you.

The Takeover is a fundraiser for the Broadcast and Cinematic Arts Constituent Alumni Chapter and we’re asking for a minimum 30-dollar donation for two-hour shifts. All money raised goes to support a variety of Chapter activities in support of BCA students and alumni. And, BTW, thanks so much to those of you who’ve been so generous in the past. The shifts can be anything you like, music or talk, but most have featured a wide range of music and the latest news on Homecoming happenings.

Each year has built on the success of previous years, and thanks to the support of Dr. Pete Orlik, the entire BCA Department and of course, participating alums, we’ve been able to really spotlight BCA and the university as a whole.

We are again scheduling two live remotes Saturday morning, beginning around 8 am from the Alumni Breakfast and the Homecoming Parade, then moving on to the Alumni Village at Rose Ponds for our now infamous two-hour remote at 11 am just before the Chips kick off their annual Homecoming game.

Once again this year the two-hour live remote from the Alumni Village will feature Cardboard Boat Races, LOTS of food, alumni, conversations, as well as interviews with CMU dignitaries, deans and other officials.

We can ALWAYS use your help, especially for the remotes. Even if you’re not “signed up,” but will be in Mount Pleasant for Homecoming, drop by and participate.

As I said, planning is just beginning, and many details are still unknown, so for the latest information and a current schedule check out www.bcaalumni.org or contact me by way of www.wmhwtakeover@bcaalumni.org

Bill Thompson (78)
Takeover Coordinator
BCA Alumni Advisory Board 2005-2006

Jeff Kimble, Chair
PanAmSat

Tim Hygh, Vice Chair
Michigan Talk Network

Karl Bastian
Greenlight Marketing

Jon Bengtson
WEYI-TV 25, Saginaw, MI

Robin Lin Duvall
Freelance Editor/TV Producer

Mike Feltz
Yahoo!

Phil Hendrix
WLNS, TV 6, Lansing, MI

Brett Holey
NBC Nightly News

Tim Jackson
PanAmSat

Jamie Jendrzejewski
Detroit Public Television

Steve Serkaian
Serkaian Communications, Inc.

Kathy (Banfield) Shaw
Perennial Productions

Lauren Stanton
WZZM-13, Grand Rapids

Lisa Tanis
Quixtar, Inc.

Bill Thompson
Michigan Radio Network

Scott Wallace
Summit Training Source, Inc.

BCA Department Donors

Thanks to your generous donations, the BCA department continues to grow. We are ever grateful for your kindness. The department has been able to purchase much needed video and audio equipment and software with your gifts.

A very special thank you to those who have helped us since our last newsletter.

M/M John Anderlie
M/M Jon Bengtson
Christopher Bolla
Kelly (Cameron) Bowers
Carrie Ann Brickner

Gary Brower
Nemeth Burwell
M/M Kevin Campbell
Ed Christian
Betsey Bernell Clay
Robert Davis
Lisa Drummond
Robin Lin Duvall
Dean Engel
Connie J Foss
Frank J Freeburn
Gary Gage
Garry Grasinski
Greater Media Detroit
Steve Griffes
Tim Jackson
Ed Kaltz
Kristine Kelly
M/M William Latka
M/M Dan Lomas
Sue Ann Martin
M/M Tim McCormack
Joan & Larry McDonald

Karen McPhee
M/M Brian Minbiole
Dan Nelson
Darcy Orlik
Pete & Chris Orlik
Amy Ripepi
Craig Scott
Carol (Kraminski)
Stinson
Bill Thompson
Scott Schwarz
James Sobczak
M/M Tim Waller

Constituent Chapter News

Kathy Banfield Shaw

Dear BCA Alums,

If you haven't already surfed to the website www.bcaalumni.org, please take a few minutes and do that. Webmaster Jeff Kimble is working hard to keep it updated with Bill Thompson's Homecoming Takeover information (past, present and future) and any other BCA information that is of interest to our peers.

We are working on several projects. The first is a professional mentor/BCA student linkage that would team a professional with a student. I think we've asked this before, and forgive me if I have and then promptly lost the list, but...if you'd be interested in being a mentor to a student please email me directly and I'll get that list to Dr. Orlik who will work with the faculty to pair a student with a professional. You can email me at ksbanf@aol.com. We promise to give you the student's name and contact information for you to make the initial link. We will not give the student the information. It will be up to you to initiate the contact. I'd like you to keep us updated as to how it works. You can use our website to post that information. Jeff Kimble will make that part easy for you. (Right Jeff?)

The next project, is one that's been sitting on a back burner for awhile. It's an idea from one of our alums, Liz Wright and involves hosting a 24 or 48-hour Film Challenge to engage film and video alumni in a BCA event, the way the annual radio takeover during Homecoming engages radio alumni. I have the preliminary ideas and will have it posted on the website, also. We need help organizing it. Please read it over and contact us with your feedback.

We meet again Saturday, April 22 at 1 pm in Moore 211. It is the day after the Annual Awards Banquet. Sleep in and meet us to help plan our next projects.

We appreciate your feedback. Keep it coming!!
Al Painter  —  BCA says goodbye

When Al Painter said he was from Clawson, Mich., he said it with pride; pride mixed with a dash of amusement.

The man from Clawson used both that sense of pride and that sense of humor to set the tone for a little radio station that had a big impact, according to many broadcasters who worked with him and for him more than three decades ago. When word of Painter’s death on Feb. 3, 2006, at the age of 52, reached alumni of CMU’s Broadcast and Cinematic Arts Department, they responded with an outpouring of praise and memories.

“Without question, Al Painter was a remarkable individual and an inspiration to all of us who worked alongside him at ‘MHW more than 30 years ago,” said Paul Boscarino, general manager of the Clear Channel stations in Grand Rapids.

“I never got a sense that he ever felt he had a handicap and that life offered challenges that he met daily,” said Jon Bengston of WEYI and WBSF-TV, based in Clio. “His humor and outlook on life provided hours of great conversation. To those who knew him, our lives have been enriched forever.”

Painter came to CMU in 1971, when BCA still was part of the Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts. Moore Hall was new, with fabulous radio studios built for the department’s WCMU-FM.

Then the university integrated WCMU-FM with its television station, leaving the radio studios at 180 Moore Hall for something vaguely defined as an on-air laboratory. It ran with a feeble 10 watts, a monaural signal and the call letters WMHF-AM.

The campus also had an independent, student-run commercial carrier-current AM station, WCHP. It was in the basement of Ronan Hall, and it was where the hot disc jockeys hung out. The “laboratory” on the other side of campus had a different mission, whatever that was.

As far as Al Painter was concerned, that mission was to put him on the air. After all, it was radio; should it matter that he couldn’t see?

“For me, blindness was never a handicap,” Painter told the Centralight alumni magazine in 1981. “It was an inconvenience.”

WMHF was, and is, an integral part of BCA. But in the early days, the handful of faculty members were spread very thin so seldom wandered into Control Room B, the on-air studio. Students set the tone for the station, and Painter, a natural leader, set the tone for the students.

“Unless someone told you, a listener never knew that Al was blind,” said Gary Wise, who went on to a career with the Voice of America. “I realized that as a freshman I had a lot to learn, and that Al was one of the people who could teach me.”

In early 1974, he became the station’s program director. The high standards he set for himself became the high standards of the radio station; standards that have echoed ever since.

“He was a great natural communicator, and a great natural leader,” said Todd Overbeek, who now is the program director of the Eagle Radio Stations in L’Anse. “Above all, he was thoroughly committed to his radio station and the students who worked there.”

Painter ran his own control board, cued up the vinyl records by touch, and kept track of the tape cartridges containing music and announcements with Braille labels.

“Al compensated for his loss of vision with one Heck of a great memory, which is why it was possible for him to work with UPI copy just by having someone read it to him,” said Tom Moore, now a news anchor at Cleveland’s WTAM and other stations. “He just took notes on his Braille writer.”

Painter didn’t have the bass-baritone, voice-of-doom pipes of so many announcers of his day. His voice actually was somewhat high and a little ragged around the edges. It wasn’t the voice of God: it was the voice of a bowling buddy, likeable, dependable and trustworthy.

But he had a steely determination that WMHF-AM and its student broadcasters would matter.

“He instilled in me, and, I suspect, in many of the rest of us, the work ethic and dedication necessary to build successful careers and radio operations,” Overbeek said. “Missing a shift, even an inconsequential newscast on Sunday morning on a 10-watt monaural college radio station, was a betrayal of your colleagues and your listeners.”

When Painter graduated, there weren’t any takers for his skills as a broadcaster for several years. Finally, after a string of jobs, including selling vacuum cleaners and Fuller Brushes door-to-door, he landed a paying radio gig at WATT, a 1,000-watt AM station in Cadillac.

But even then, radio was changing. Eventually, Painter made his way to Renton, Wash. He was diabetic, suffered from ulcers and developed heart problems. Still, he appeared by telephone multiple times during the annual Alumni Takeovers of WMHF, staged during CMU’s homecoming.

“It was wonderful having Al back on our airwaves during the last several takeovers,” said Dr. Pete Orlik, chairman of the BCA department. “His spirit really does live on at WMHF-FM.”

Painter’s ashes were sprinkled in Lake Morton, Wash., according to his widow, Cindy Painter.

“We have very good friends who own a house by the lake,” Cindy said. “He loved to go there and listen to the birds. He has many recordings of them.”

He also is survived by their daughter, Yvonne.

The 1981 Centralight article quoted Painter as saying, “I have a feeling Al Taylor (the on-air name he adopted at CMU) will die when this job ends.”

He was wrong. His spirit of excellence lives on in a whole generation of CMU-educated broadcasters, writers and academics who knew him.

“Every now and then,” Bengston said, “I just remember the ‘tap, tap’ of Al’s cane echoing down the corridors of Moore Hall.”

-- Mark Ranzenberger ’82
Awards

The Communicator Awards

Ryan Raiche won an Award of Distinction for his TV piece on Neo-Nazi’s

College Broadcasters Inc
Eileen LeTarte, Winner Best Technical Production, Tales of a Red Headed Reporter.
Central Beat, Nominated Best Feature, WMHW
Welcome Back Toddler, Nominated Best Comedy, MHTV

Highlights — In Television, CMU won 9 of 19 awards, including 4 of 7 first-place awards.
In Radio, CMU swept the Large Group Category

Radio Winners:
Sportscast/Play by Play: Honorable Mention - Gregory Angel
Promotional Announcement: 2nd Place - Eileen Letarte, Dan Empson, Amy Carlson, Ryan Schulling, Scott Lightfoot, Lucus Keppel, Katie Sattler, Sarah Brinks
Large Group:
2nd Place - John Mullin, Dan Empson, Jason Dziko, Kirkland Crawford, Drew Wilkinson, Michael Stark
Honorable - Josh Phillips, Eileen LeTarte, Lucus Keppel, Erik Walz, Brad Eichkorn, Catherine Kolod, Hilary Marin, Nikki Wencel, Ryan Schulling, Bradley Williams, Kristin Kelly.

Television Winners:
Newscast: Honorable Mention - Ronald Love
Sportscast/Play by Play: 1st Place - Dan Empson, Kevin Crouse, Pat Woloszyk,
2nd Place - Dan Empson, Jason Dziko, Nate Blair
1st Place - Ken Ochalek, JR Curtis
Talk Show:
1st Place - Aaron Jones
Public Service Announcement: Honorable - Delbert Shoopman
News Feature/Magazine Program: 1st Place - Gregory Angel, Steve Roberts, Jason Nagy
2nd Place - Dave Seger, Scott Lightfoot, Nick Scimeca
1st Place - Tom Kaufman, Dave Seger, Drew Wilkinson, Ken Ochalek, JR Curtis
Large Group:

Jessica Pondell was awarded a convention internship with the National Association of Television Programming Executives to serve at their annual meeting in Las Vegas.