The family of former CMU President Harold Abel establishes lecture series to study the history of dictatorship, democracy and genocide.
Under Discussion
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Homecoming 2009!
Mark your calendars! CHSBS will host its annual Homecoming reception on Saturday, October 10, 2009.
Visit our website for updates on this and other college news and events.
chsbs.cmich.edu

Under Discussion is published twice each year by the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences for alumni, friends, faculty, staff and the CMU community. CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see http://www.cmich.edu/aaeo).
Message from the Dean

I almost hate to pick up the newspaper each morning for fear of discovering new stories about how change is affecting our communities. Even the newspaper I read each morning has changed. If you read The Detroit Free Press, as I do, you know papers now are only being delivered three times a week.

There have been massive changes in our economy over the past year. The automobile industry—which the state of Michigan depended upon for so many years—has experienced life-altering changes for its workers and for the entire state. The state faces budget deficits not only for this year and the next, but also for the foreseeable future.

Central Michigan University and all of the state universities also face uncertain futures. As a state institution, CMU receives a significant budget contribution from the state each year, however, the percentage of our budget that we receive from the state has declined dramatically from about 70 percent in the early 1990s to 22 percent in 2008-09.

In addition, CMU is experiencing significant administration changes. As you know, President Michael Rao is leaving the university in July after nine years at CMU. Kathy Wilbur, the vice president for governmental relations and public affairs, has been appointed interim president. Provost Julia Wallace and Mike Leto, the vice president of development and alumni relations, also will be leaving the university this summer.

While change is threatening to some, it is something to which all of us must learn to adapt. The purpose of the university is to prepare students not only for when they immediately leave the university, but also for a lifetime of learning and navigating our world. This is what we do in CHSBS.

The newly established Dr. Harold Abel Endowed Lecture Series in the Study of Dictatorship, Democracy and Genocide (described on page 4) will help our students shape their moral values so that they are prepared to adapt to a world of change.

Likewise, our students who study abroad have opportunities to learn about and observe the ways that people with different national and cultural priorities interact with their families and in their communities. Our students who attend the Model United Nations conferences must learn to negotiate and propose ideas on behalf of a country or region often unlike their own.

Even during these difficult financial times, I’m very proud to learn about the community outreach activities completed by our students. Many of these activities also include a strong learning opportunity in their fields of study. I invite you to take a few moments to read about their experiences in the pages to follow.

The university is facing a difficult financial future, but providing an excellent educational environment for our students will continue to be our top priority. While we recognize that many of you also face an uncertain financial future, we remain appreciative of all levels of giving to the university and thank you for your support.

Development Message

One of the greatest aspects of my position as director of development for the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences is that I have the opportunity to meet with our alumni, faculty, staff and friends to thank them for their financial contributions to the college.

We all know that our state and the entire country are facing severe budget shortfalls in the midst of a struggling economy. As a result, the values of the university’s endowments—including those that fund student scholarships—have declined.

I am proud that even during these difficult circumstances, many of our donors have continued to support the college at past giving levels. If you are considering making a gift to the college, I encourage you to join us in our efforts to maintain or grow the value of our scholarships so that our students continue to have these resources available to them.

I also enjoy meeting with alumni and friends of the college to hear about their experiences at CMU and to provide updates on all of the wonderful activities taking place in our classrooms, research laboratories and beyond.

As I plan my activities for the next year, I am hoping to meet with as many alumni and friends of CMU as possible. I would be happy to treat you to lunch, dinner or a cup of coffee at your convenience.

I will be calling upon many of you over the next several months to see if we can schedule a visit. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at (989) 774-3341 or Lesa.Smith@cmich.edu if you would like to schedule a visit. I’m also happy to host you on campus if you plan to travel through Mt. Pleasant this summer.
A new $100,000 endowment in memory of former Central Michigan University President Harold Abel will help establish a lecture series focusing on the history of dictatorship, democracy and genocide.

The Dr. Harold Abel Endowed Lecture Series in the Study of Dictatorship, Democracy and Genocide will bring distinguished scholars to campus to discuss the past, present and future of worldwide genocide. The series will focus on the impact of historical events, including World War II, the Holocaust and mass murders in Rwanda, Cambodia, and Darfur.

The gift from the Abel family will honor and memorialize Abel’s 44-year career as an educator, which included a 10-year stint as president of CMU from 1975 to 1985. He passed away in 2002.

New opportunities for global lessons

“Students benefit immensely from having close access to leading scholars in their fields. In addition to gaining a greater understanding of topics in the history of dictatorships, democracy and genocide, our students will observe how leading scholars conceptualize, interpret and conduct research on these topics,” says Tim Hall, history professor and department chairman.

Lesa Smith, director of development for the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, says that in addition to the scholarly benefits the Abel lecture series will offer to students and the entire university community, it also will bring a new distinction to the university.

“The series will signal to the country and the world that CMU is committed to a continued recognition of the importance of understanding the issues of genocide and dictatorship and how these issues affect worldwide democracy,” she said.

An enduring legacy

History professor Eric Johnson worked with Abel during his CMU presidency and says this lecture series is a fitting tribute to his commitment to CMU.

“Harold Abel was an enormously curious and creative person as well as one of CMU’s most distinguished and enterprising presidents. He cared deeply about knowledge that matters and cared deeply about making his university a better known institution on a world-wide basis. He would enjoy seeing this speaker series develop as it will certainly enhance CMU’s reputation in Michigan and more broadly throughout the country and the world,” Johnson said.

Johnson says it’s essential that students learn more about genocide, dictatorships and democracy because history has shown that freedom, tolerance, humanity and kindness cannot be taken for granted.

“Democracy as well as humanity in general are fragile and must be understood and worked at in order to succeed and continue. If societies turn a blind eye to genocide, as so many did in the past and in some cases are still doing today, this always helps the perpetrators and often dooms the victims,” he said.

An enduring legacy

In establishing an endowment to honor Abel’s commitment to scholarship at CMU, his family wanted to find a way to reach students directly.

“This speaker series continues President Abel’s service as an educator,” says Iris Abel, Harold’s widow. “He believed in education as a lifelong endeavor to understand and improve the lives of others. Genocide is not a historical anomaly but an ongoing horror which can be ended only by the glare of public attention.”

The inaugural Abel lecture will take place at CMU during the 2009-2010 academic year.

School psychology doctoral student Kasee Stratton is on a mission to learn more about the effects of stress and chronic pain on individuals with a rare genetic disorder.

CHARGE Syndrome occurs in an estimated one in 10,000 births. It involves a large number of physical anomalies present at birth, including heart defects and deaf-blindness.

“Children with CHARGE commonly exhibit behavior tantrums or explosions that appear to be unexplainable,” said Stratton. “With the idea that all behavior serves as a form of communication, I’m conducting research to learn more about the stressful experiences and chronic pain that these individuals encounter. I believe that this will help us to better understand their behavior and potentially find ways to avoid such outbursts.”

Stratton has traveled throughout the U.S., Canada and Australia to interview high-functioning young adults with CHARGE about their education, family relationships, friendships and employment experiences to learn more about their behavioral reactions to stress and pain.

“Stress inducers for individuals with CHARGE include difficulty concentrating due to multi-sensory impairments, limited communication, difficulty creating and sustaining friendships, bullying, a lack of acceptance because of their physical appearances, and obsessive-compulsive disorders,” said Stratton.

“Individuals with CHARGE also must endure multiple invasive and painful medical procedures beginning early in life, including heart surgery and choanal atresia surgery to open bone or tissue blockage in the nasal passages. Pain also occurs from cranial nerve anomalies resulting in jaw discomfort and migraines.”

Stratton’s research shows a lack of appropriate pain management for individuals with CHARGE, often because many have very poor or limited communication abilities.

“Many behavioral explosions are likely the result of intense stress or pain. By teaching family members and medical professionals to recognize non-vocal cues of stress or pain in people with CHARGE, we can assist them in providing appropriate treatment and pain management,” she said.

“Individuals with CHARGE may express self-injurious behaviors, alter body movements or adjust their eating and sleeping patterns when in stress or pain. Parents need to understand their child’s behavior on good days so that they can recognize these changes on bad days or when pain is intense.”

**International recognition**

Stratton has received numerous awards and scholarships and has presented her research at several international conferences, including the 2008 Australasian CHARGE Conference in New Zealand last October. Psychology professor Tim Hartshorne, director of the CHARGE research laboratory at CMU, also attended the conference and says Stratton made a big impression on the audience.

“Most conference attendees are parents of children with CHARGE, and they are eager to learn everything they can to help them raise their children. The professionals in attendance too are eager to add to their understanding and enrich their approaches to working with these children,” he said.

Hartshorne will join Stratton in Denmark in October to present research at a special symposium organized around Stratton’s research.

“The challenging behavior of children with CHARGE is a huge problem for parents and professionals. It interferes with learning and friendships and threatens the health and safety of themselves and those around them. Any new information that can shed light on this problem is very much welcome. Stratton’s research is cutting edge,” he said.

Stratton received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from CMU in 2006. She will receive her PhD in School Psychology in 2012. To learn more about the CHARGE research laboratory at CMU, visit chsbs.cmich.edu/Timothy_Hartshorne.
CMU students Joe Kane and Juliana Sartor hosted a poetry workshop for seniors at the Isabella County Commission on Aging as a class assignment for associate professor Robert Fanning’s advanced poetry course.
Poetry workshop sparks memories of home

After receiving instructions to describe their childhood kitchens, the aspiring poets got to work on developing their creative pieces. Some tapped pens and pencils against the tables, while others rested their chins on their hands, concentrating on the words they’d scribbled onto the pages before them.

While this is a scene common in many classrooms in Central Michigan University’s Anspach Hall, this poetry workshop was held at the Isabella County Commission on Aging in March for volunteers in the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs.

CMU students Joe Kane and Juliana Sartor led the workshop as part of a class assignment for associate professor Robert Fanning’s advanced poetry course.

“It is vital for my student writers to engage with the surrounding community as a way to expand their experience as citizens and writers and to integrate their education with service,” said Fanning. “My students will learn as much—or far more—from a stranger’s life-lessons than from any book or lecture. And, in turn, they have a chance to share what they’re learning with others in the community.”

Finding the poet within

Sartor began the workshop by reminding the seniors that poems do not have to rhyme. She encouraged them to make a sketch of their kitchens and then write descriptions of all of the images, smells and sounds that they could remember.

“Poetry is a great vessel for bringing recognition to our memories and experiences, no matter how trivial they may seem,” said Sartor. “I could feel a sense of pride from each participant as they shared their poems as if to say ‘Here I am! This is me!’ They’ve all led rich lives, and each poem outlined a unique experience, yet all of us were able to connect and relate to these stories.”

Kane says it’s exciting to help others tap into their creative energy, especially those who might not realize that they can write poetry.

“The seniors who attended the workshop have many rich experiences to draw from, and it was fascinating to hear those stories articulated creatively,” said Kane. “Writing is a great way to rediscover forgotten parts of one’sself, and the seniors seemed to enjoy reflecting on the memories that the writing exercise unearthed.”

Senior Evalee Coburn said she enjoyed the poetry workshop because it gave her a chance to express herself and share stories about her past, including the financial hardships, primitive kitchen stoves and challenges of preparing food for large families that many of the seniors described.

“As my best friend used to say, we were all poor, but we didn’t know we were poor. It was just our way of life,” Coburn proudly explained.

Giving back

Fanning and his students hosted two poetry workshops at the ICCOA during the spring semester. He hopes to offer additional workshops in the future.

“What has been most enjoyable about this project is meeting and writing beside these wonderful seniors, who themselves are going out into the community as volunteers in Isabella County and doing wonderful work,” said Fanning. “I’ve been deeply moved and enriched by the astounding and beautiful life-stories these seniors share with us, as have my students.”

The ICCOA Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs are volunteer programs for low-income adults age 60 and older. The participants volunteer 20 hours per week at schools and daycare centers and with homebound adults throughout Isabella, Gratiot and Clare Counties. They also attend monthly in-service sessions, such as the poetry workshop hosted by CMU.

Kane received a bachelor’s degree in creative writing from CMU in May. Sartor will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2010.

---Marie Phillips

KITCHEN
Laughter of mother
The smell of her
Bread and stew.

The table all full
of kids and parents.
Everyone waits for
Prayer at dinner and
then Dad begins.

The food is passed
and everyone is blessed
by all. Thank God
for parents! There were
fourteen of us in all.

--Don Carroll

GRANDMA’S KITCHEN
As you walk through the door
the sweet smell would knock you
to the floor.
The bread would be rising,
a delight, a smell to adore.
The pantry would smell
of fresh cookies and doughnuts.
All for the grandkids to enjoy.
The memories of Grandma’s kitchen
were memories to adore.
Until the call came, Grandma’s kitchen
no more.
We all stood there—in the kitchen
as Grandma was rolled
out the door.
Never to return to Grandma’s kitchen
no more.

--Don Carroll

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When philosophy faculty member Darci Doll learned that one of her students planned to spend spring break doing community outreach projects in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., she wanted to find a way to share his enthusiasm for helping others with the rest of the students in her Moral Problems classes. Together, they collected more than $800 in school supplies and 275 jars of peanut butter and jelly for senior Grant Newman to share with low-income students and the homeless.

“I was inspired to lead this trip because of my passion for social justice, especially in situations of thriving hunger, homelessness, and educational injustice,” said Newman. “I realized that my own inaction towards these problems was a direct contribution to their existence.”

Newman organized the week-long trip through his church, His House Christian Fellowship, and recruited several additional CMU students to travel with him.

While in Maryland, they collected yard waste, built park benches near a tent city, and volunteered at a food bank in some of the community’s most impoverished neighborhoods.

They also assisted a Baltimore church with hosting a talent show in a neighboring high school as a way to encourage the students to visit the new community youth center.

They divided the school supplies donated by Doll’s philosophy students into canvas bags and distributed the bags to all of the students who attended the talent show. They gave the remaining supplies to the school’s teachers.

**Breaking bread**

For the PB&J outreach project, the students loaded up their backpacks with peanut butter, jelly and bread and hopped a train to Washington D.C. They spent the day sharing sandwiches and conversations with local homeless individuals.

“**Breaking bread**

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**Practicing responsible citizenship**

Doll says she was grateful for the opportunity to give her students a hands-on lesson in public service and plans to engage her students in similar projects in the future.

“My students were able to make tangible connections between what they’re learning about ethics and how it applies to the real world. This connection between the practical and the theoretical creates possibilities of increased engagement with our topics and also helps the students exercise and cultivate habits that are advantageous to themselves and the people around them,” she added.

Newman agrees that being responsible citizens can have a positive effect on all parties involved.

“I wanted to spend my spring break helping others because I realized that sharing blessings and kindness with others encourages them to do the same for the next person,” he said. “Sure, I could have spent spring break relaxing and refreshing my own mind and body, but I found it substantially more refreshing to initiate positive change in the lives of others who are less fortunate than me.”
The start of a new semester brings both excitement and challenges as teachers prepare lesson plans for their new students. For teachers and staff working with summer migrant programs, those plans often encompass unique circumstances.

Spanish education major Brian Olovson has spent the past two summers working for migrant programs in Grand Haven and Muskegon. He says the challenge of teaching students with varying levels of English language proficiency also offers an exceptional sense of accomplishment. "Many of the migrant students come with little knowledge of the English language, and it is amazing to see how excited they are to learn and how quickly they progress. I live for the moments when you see the light bulb go on in the students’ minds," he said.

Olovson has worked with English Second Language students from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and the United States in grades pre-kindergarten to 11. He has facilitated conversation groups, administered language placement tests, and translated assignments.

"The majority of the students speak Spanish with varying levels of English, and most of the staff speak Spanish as a second language. However, we try to communicate in English as much as possible," said Olovson.

"We plan fun, hands-on activities to give the students opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge through presentations and skits rather than standardized tests. We also take field trips to a local nature center and museum in order to show the students how the classroom lessons could be applied to real-life situations."

One of his more challenging experiences was working with a group of Mixtecan students who spoke their indigenous language at home and Spanish as a second language. "For the most part, we could understand each other by speaking in Spanish. However, the few times that we did experience a miscommunication, we relied on hand motions and acting out words to communicate," he said.

Another unique challenge is that most of the students have a low socioeconomic status. "I often provide my students with basic supplies, such as pencils and paper, to ensure that they have the materials necessary to participate. I also have to consider that many of the students do not have access to technology at home, and some have never used a computer," he said.

Olovson hopes that by helping English language learners overcome language and cultural barriers, he also will help them to be successful in other educational experiences.

"Schools must take a greater responsibility to ensure equity in educational opportunity. Many of these students struggle or are labeled at-risk because they lack the English academic language skills necessary for school subjects," he said.

Olovson believes that foreign languages play a key role in preparing all students to participate in a global society. He also credits his students with being some of his greatest teachers. "They’ve taught me to value and appreciate what I have. Most of my students come from impoverished communities, face extreme hardships in their journeys to the United States, and frequently must move around the country with their families to find work. Yet despite such circumstances, they never complain and are always eager to learn," he said.

"I hope to carry that perspective and motivation with me as I continue my own educational journey."

Olovson will graduate from CMU in 2010 with a major in Spanish education and a minor in bilingual/bicultural education. Supported in part by the Elizabeth Etnire scholarship awarded to future Spanish teachers, he also spent a semester abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2007, where he taught middle and high school students.
CMU establishes sociology honor society

Sociology faculty members inducted nine students to the newly established Central Michigan University chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society, in March.

Sociology professor Jeffrey Chin from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, the site of AKD’s national office, gave the keynote address during the induction ceremony.

To be selected for membership, students must be a declared sociology major of junior or higher class standing and must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and rank in the top 35 percent of their class.

History students take ‘Grand Tour’ of Italy

Eleven history students will join history faculty members Doina Harsanyi and Greg Smith on a “Grand Tour” through Italy and France this summer. The group will begin their three-week journey in Rome and travel north to Paris through Florence and Nîmes.

The course, “The Culture of Renaissance Italy: The Grand Tour,” aims to study and recreate the “Grand Tour,” an extended European travel itinerary that was considered the obligatory capstone of a liberal education in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Rivalry Run

ROTC cadets from Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University participated in the first football exchange run October 17 - 18 before the highly anticipated Central-Western football game.

The Bronco Battalion carried the game ball 62 miles from their stadium and handed it off to members of the Chippewa Battalion at Fifth/Third Ballpark in Grand Rapids. The CMU students then ran the football 85 miles through the night and into Kelly Shorts Stadium in time for kickoff.
Psi Chi receives national award

The Central Michigan University chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, received designation as one of 32 “Model Chapters” among more than 1,000 chapters in the U.S. and Canada.

This award continues to enhance the CMU chapter’s national reputation for excellence. The chapter also was awarded the Outstanding Chapter in the Midwest Region for 2007-08 and the National Website Award for 2008.

MPA students receive fellowships

Three graduate students in the Master of Public Administration program have been awarded prestigious fellowships for the summer and fall semesters.

• Elliott Nelson received the Michigan Local Government Management Association Fellowship. He is completing his 12-week internship in Caro, Mich. this summer.

• Michelle Jackson was awarded a position on the Maryland Governor’s Policy Fellow program starting in September.

• Phyllis E. Russell received the International City/County Management Association Fellowship. She will begin her internship this fall in Dubuque, Iowa, and Lancaster, Wisc.

Political science students attend Model UN

A group of 14 political science students represented the Holy See on the General Assembly at the National Model United Nations conference in New York City in April. During the trip, the students visited the Holy See’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations and met with Reverend Philip J. Bené, a diplomatic attaché for the Holy See.

The Holy See is the episcopal jurisdiction of Pope Benedict XVI and serves as the central government of the Roman Catholic Church.

Two students also represented Italy on the Additional Security Council. All 16 students prepared for the conference while enrolled in Model U.N. courses taught by political science professor David Jesuit.

Artist hosts Chinese brush painting demonstration

Artist Louise Chan hosted a demonstration on traditional Chinese painting for students in foreign language department faculty member Lily Kalantar’s Elementary Chinese II course.

She explained the techniques and equipment used to create Chinese brush paintings, where artists paint with continuous brushstrokes of various lengths and widths and strive for creating harmony in their artwork.

Chan’s brushes are made of round bamboo handles with animal hair on the ends. She mixed water with a small glob of black ink to paint two bamboo stalks—one dominant and one in the background—blowing in the wind. She explained how a single “lonely” stalk or two stalks of equal size would disrupt the harmony of the painting.

Chan created different shades of black and gray by increasing and decreasing the amount of water in the ink mixture. She finished the painting by adding white ink to depict a snowy scene. One lucky student who correctly answered a question about Chan’s painting went home with the artwork.
Two recipients of the university’s most prestigious awards for outstanding research and creative activity are faculty members from the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The President’s Award recognizes the career achievements of senior faculty members, while the Provost’s Award honors the accomplishments of junior faculty members.

President’s Award: Tim Hartshorne
Psychology faculty member Tim Hartshorne is an international leader in research on CHARGE syndrome, which is the leading cause of congenital deaf-blindness. His work has been featured in numerous publications, and his presentations around the world have created awareness among the medical, psychological and educational communities about the complications of CHARGE. Hartshorne also is a past recipient of the Excellence in Teaching and Faculty Distinguished Service awards from CMU, making him only the second person to receive all three awards.

Provost’s Award: Moataz Fattah
Political Science faculty member Moataz Fattah is a leading analyst in Middle Eastern politics and Islamic studies. His research focuses on the relationship between Islam, democracy and democratization, as well as the difference in economic philosophy between Islamic and Western countries. His book, Democratic Values in Muslim World, was deemed one of the best academic publications in 2006 and has been widely adopted by professors and universities throughout the world.

Joyce Baugh receives CHSBS Excellence in Teaching Award
Political science professor Joyce Baugh received the 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The award recognizes a faculty member who goes above and beyond what is expected in creating exceptional learning opportunities for students. CHSBS dean E. Gary Shapiro and associate dean Pamela Gates surprised Baugh with the award April 22 during one of her classes.

“I was absolutely speechless and deeply moved by the award presentation,” said Baugh. “I joked with my students that they never see me speechless, but this was a different story. It definitely took me a few minutes to regain my composure to teach the day’s lessons.”

A committee of faculty representatives from each department within the college, with Gates serving as chair, chooses the winner. The committee solicits nominations from CHSBS faculty, staff, students and alumni. The individuals who nominated Baugh were clear in their admiration for her teaching style.

“Dr. Baugh deserves to be named the CHSBS teacher of the year, because for me, and for so many students at CMU, she has been the teacher of a lifetime,” wrote one individual.

Another compared a semester with Baugh to training for a marathon.

“You might think that you are at the top of your game and could not possibly go any farther, but Dr. Baugh acts as a motivational power force throughout the semester. She dares you to take learning to new heights and ask questions along the way.”

Baugh says it is rewarding to watch her students become excited about learning.

“The ‘light bulb’ moments and the looks on their faces when they understand a concept that they’ve had difficulty with are priceless. I also appreciate working with first-generation college students and teaching them that they can be successful even if they don’t come from families where higher education has been the norm.”

Baugh joined the political science faculty in 1988. She teaches courses on constitutional law, civil liberties, judicial process, American government, and the Civil Rights Movement.
Berk receives NCTE notable book award

A book written by English professor Ari Berk was named a “Notable Children’s Book in the Language Arts” by the National Council of Teachers of English.

“The Secret History of Giants” was one of only 30 titles selected by the NCTE’s seven-member national committee of the Children’s Literature Assembly for this exclusive annual list. The book was one of only five titles selected for the fantasy/folklore category.

The books must focus on language, include unique uses of language or style, and/or encourage the readers to respond or participate.

Kreth named to NCTE committee

English professor Melinda Kreth was appointed to serve as a member of the Technical and Scientific Communications Committee for the National Council of Teachers of English. Her three-year term began in November.

The committee is responsible for increasing awareness and qualifications among the 60,000 members of NCTE for teaching technical and scientific communication.

Bechtold receives MSA award

Sociology professor Brigitte Bechtold was awarded the “Charles Horton Cooley Award for Distinguished Scholarship” by the Michigan Sociological Association during its annual meeting in October. This is the most prestigious award given by the MSA.

Retiring CHSBS Faculty

Congratulations and best wishes to the following faculty members who retired from Central Michigan University in May. On behalf of the faculty, students and staff of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, we thank you for your service to CMU.

Ronnie Apter
Department: English Language and Literature
Years at CMU: 1986 – 2009

Classes Taught: Advanced Composition; Fantasy and Science Fiction; Introduction to Literature; Introduction to Literary Analysis; 20th Century British and American Poetry; and Masterpieces of European Literature

Retirement Plans: My plans include completing more opera translations, traveling, reading, photography and sewing.

Will miss: The interaction with students in the classroom—usually invigorating, sometimes surprising. The idealism of students is always inspiring.

Peter Koper
Department: English Language and Literature
Years at CMU: 1972 – 2009

Classes Taught: Freshman Composition; Introductory Surveys; Classics in Translation; World Literature; and Rhetoric and Composition (graduate)

Retirement Plans: We will stay in Mount Pleasant and continue with much of our life, with different proportions: no grading of freshman themes and more reading, writing, grandchildren, travel, fishing and cross-country skiing. I have two papers to write this summer and will continue with a larger project on Sacagawea and Narcissa Whitman.

Will miss: The conversations on campus, both with students and colleagues.

Martha Logsdon
Department: Political Science
Years at CMU: 1971 – 2009

Classes Taught: Political Systems of Southeast Asia; Introduction to Political Science; The Civil Rights Movement; Introduction to American Government; and Women and Politics

Other Titles: Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences; Director of Women’s Studies; Interim Affirmative Action Officer

Retirement Plans: I hope to be more active in politics, learn another Asian language, read and travel.

Favorite teaching moments: When a student has a sudden insight into an issue or understands some key concept. Some students are changed forever by what they learn.
Neanderthal humans had no toothpaste. No dental floss or fluoride rinse, either. Still, Rachel Caspari will attest to the quality of Neanderthals’ dental work, which provided her keen insight into the lives of humans who lived nearly 120,000 years ago.

“If you look at fossil humans, you’ll see that they had beautiful teeth,” says Caspari, an anthropology faculty member and expert in human evolution and physical anthropology. “Because they are highly mineralized, teeth essentially are fossils before you die and are godsend to anyone interested in studying the past.”

In a recent project, Caspari sampled 768 humans from over a 3-million-year period. She analyzed wear patterns on teeth to categorize their ages.

Early humans’ teeth were healthy – dental disease wasn’t problematic until the sugar trade – but they wore down more quickly because of the food people ate. Hence, the more worn the teeth, the longer the person had lived.

Caspari conducted her research in Europe, China, and Australia and found “a five-fold increase in the number of adults with longer life spans,” in the modern humans of the Upper Paleolithic, a period that began about 30,000 years ago.

Changes in the adult lifespan, particularly in women, had a significant effect on early modern human society, including population expansion, the advent of arts and culture, and grandparents strengthening the family structure.

“It is probable that this increase in the number of older people had a major impact, giving modern humans the competitive edge that ensured their evolutionary success,” said Caspari. “The role of older women would have been especially valuable.”

Caspari notes that women who live longer have more children, and post-menopause they contribute to the reproductive success of their offspring, providing economic and social support for their children and grandchildren. Older people also allow more information to accumulate and transfer between generations, and grandparents survive to educate and contribute to extended families.

“The role of grandmothers was likely less important for Neanderthals,” said Caspari. “Only recently, with Upper Paleolithic humans, have there been a large number of grandmothers, which may have sparked the cultural and demographic changes that characterize modern humans.”
Central Michigan University celebrated National Library Week with its fifth annual Book Recognition Event April 16. The ceremony honored all CMU faculty, staff and emeriti who authored, co-authored, edited, co-edited, illustrated or translated books published during 2008.

More than half of those recognized were faculty members from the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.


In his new book, *Following Isabella: Travels in Colorado Then and Now*, emeritus professor of English Robert Root explores the landscape of Colorado’s Front Range by following in the footsteps of nineteenth-century English author and world traveler Isabella Bird.

Root retraces Bird’s three-month journey through Colorado in 1873, which was documented in her book *A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains*. He interweaves an overview of Bird’s life and work with regional history and his own travel narrative.

Like Bird, Root experiences his most fulfilling moments while exploring the mountains, including climbing Longs Peak and living alone in famed editor William Allen White’s cabin.

The 320-page book, published by University of Oklahoma Press, was released in May.

Root retired from Central Michigan University in 2004 and now teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Ashland University. His other recently published books include *Landscapes with Figures: The Nonfiction of Place* and *The Nonfictionist’s Guide: On Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction.*
That’s a wrap

About five years ago, Schock approached Primeau with the idea of featuring Martin and his poetry performances in a documentary.

“I knew that Ron would be central to the interlocutory duties required in the film: he knew which questions to ask and of whom. No Ron, no film. It was just that simple.

“It’s been my observation over almost 40 years that Ron Primeau is able to bring out the best that people have to share. I’ve seen this in a classroom as one of his students, and I’ve seen it on the road as we’re talking with each other and with our interview subjects,” Schock said.

Primeau and Schock hosted the film’s premiere Jan. 16 at the University of Dayton, where Martin served as a poet-in-residence and English professor for more than 30 years. The film also has been screened at Kent State University and CMU’s Troy Center. They hope that the documentary will serve as an important resource for individuals who want to learn more about Martin, Dunbar or the Black Arts Movement.

“The story of Martin’s life and the creative process in his work are more understandable as we see everything coming together over time,” said Primeau. “We appreciate the hard work and patience involved in what he makes to seem effortless.”

The CMU connection

Schock was a graduate student in CMU’s journalism program and a producer for WCMU-FM when he first met Martin in the early 1970s. Martin was a visiting professor at CMU.

After Schock’s professor, Ron Primeau, introduced him to Martin’s poetry, he began attending and recording Martin’s readings and hosted several interviews with him.

“Even then I could see the intersection clearly that what Herb had to offer should reach a larger audience. His own work was stunningly good, but he also was a personable ambassador for the poetic arts,” Schock said.

After completing graduate school, Schock worked as a reporter, radio producer and college professor, including teaching in the English department and the School of Broadcast and Cinematic Arts at CMU. He now operates the Web site delayedjustice.com and produces documentaries to bring new attention to unsolved murders in Michigan.

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The film was funded by a grant from The Ohio Humanities Council and received support from The University of Dayton and Central Michigan University. For more information, about the film, visit jumpbackhoney.com.

English professor, alum create documentary

English professor Ron Primeau can now add filmmaking to his credentials. Primeau teamed up with Central Michigan University alumnus David B. Schock, MA ’73, to create a documentary about Herbert Woodward Martin, who is widely known for his performances of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s dialect poetry.

The 90-minute documentary, Jump Back, Honey: The Poetry and Performance of Herbert Woodward Martin, includes interviews with Martin as well as videos of his performances spanning more than 30 years. Primeau is the associate producer and interlocutor for the film. Schock is the producer, director of photography, writer and editor.

“Heart-Martin is a magnetic presence. People who generally do not enjoy poetry readings still love the way he brings material to life,” said Primeau, who also is the author of Martin’s biography, Herbert Woodward Martin and the African American Tradition in Poetry (2004).

He says that although creating a documentary and writing a biography share many similarities, he had to be careful not to over-prepare and risk sounding like he was reading from a script.

“I want audiences to hear the sounds and rhythms of Herb Martin’s amazing voice,” said Primeau. “I knew that if I could be a good listener and let the story unfold in its organic wholeness, then our interviews would open up the poetry and performances for even greater enjoyment for the viewers.”

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Salute to Judge Mester

Family, friends and colleagues of The Honorable Fred M. Mester, ’59, gathered in Farmington Hills in November to celebrate his 26 years as judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in Oakland County. Mester stepped down from the bench in December.

Cadets from the Central Michigan University ROTC program presented the colors during the celebration dinner hosted by the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Judge Mester (pictured, center) is a proud alumnus and supporter of the CMU ROTC program and is a member of the university’s ROTC Hall of Fame.

The invited guests honored the Mester family by making gifts to The Honorable Fred M. and Lynne M. Mester Family Endowment, which will provide scholarships for CHSBS students.

CMU grad honors parents, helps students study abroad

Central Michigan University alumnae Esther Moreno-Kulhavi is turning her passion for travel into an opportunity to help CMU students.

She recently established the Reverend Alberto and Trinidad Moreno Family Annual Award, which will provide a stipend for Spanish language students to study abroad in Latin America, Central America or Mexico. The award is named in honor of Moreno-Kulhavi’s parents, whom she credits with inspiring her and her five older siblings to attend college and become life-long learners.

“I grew up in Mount Pleasant and watched Central grow from a normal school to a large university,” said Moreno-Kulhavi, who received a teaching degree from CMU in 1965 with a major in Spanish and a minor in French. “My parents took us to musical performances and cultural events on campus. I remember sitting in the Warriner Hall auditorium as a child and thinking what an amazing place it was. We always felt lucky to live in a college town and have access to these programs.”

While Moreno-Kulhavi never had the opportunity to study abroad during college, she was thrilled that both of her daughters were able to study in Spain.

“They gained so much confidence and returned with a feeling that they could do anything after navigating a foreign country and immersing themselves in a foreign language,” she said.

She hopes that the Moreno annual award will give more students the extra financial boost they need to participate in similar life-altering study abroad experiences.

“It’s important for American students to learn that people from other nations and cultures may have different ways of doing things, but that different is not bad. You also learn so much about yourself while in a foreign country. These are the experiences that you can sit on your porch and think about when you’re 90,” she said.

Moreno-Kulhavi recently retired from Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills after teaching Spanish and French for 23 years. She describes her vibrant, 92-year-old mother as a life-long learner. Her father passed away 40 years ago.

“My parents were both an inspiration throughout my life. My mother is still alert and enthusiastic about learning new things. She especially enjoys hearing about my travels. I remember my father as a great reader. We always had National Geographic and Life in our home. I loved looking at them and thinking that some day I would travel to those places,” Moreno-Kulhavi said.

“In an era when women weren’t expected to pursue degrees in higher education, my parents introduced us to arts and cultural activities and encouraged us to attend college. Five of us graduated from CMU, so the university remains a special place for our family. I’m honored to create an award that recognizes my parents’ commitment to our success and also provides support to current CMU students.”

Applicants to the Moreno annual award must be Spanish majors and have a 2.5 overall GPA. Hispanic students are encouraged to apply. For more information about the award or about making a gift to support a scholarship within the college, contact Lesa Smith at (989) 774-3341 or Lesa.Smith@cmich.edu.

Esther Moreno-Kulhavi, ’65, established the Moreno Family Annual Award in honor of her mother, Trinidad (pictured), and her father, the late Alberto Moreno.

Photo courtesy of Guys and Dolls Photography

CMU grad honors parents, helps students study abroad

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Alumni Announcements

1950s & 1960s

Barbara Whitaker Palin (Eng. ’58) is the author of a new book, Living on the Edge, which was published by Xlibris Corporation in October 2008.

Alstyn R. Peters (Hist. ’55) taught science for 10 years in Michigan before beginning a career in cement and concrete as a technical service representative. He retired in 2001 after 35 years. He and his wife love to travel and enjoy being with family and friends.

S. Dean Roberts (ROTC ’55) was honored by the Rotary Club of Toledo for his 35 years of membership and service within the community. Dean is the chairman of Disability Services for the Rotary Club. In addition, his sons Craig and Jeff Roberts—also longtime members of the Rotary Club—presented him with the Paul Harris Fellow, an award given to supporters of humanitarian, educational and cultural programs internationally. His sons presented the award in honor and memory of their late mother, Mary Kay Roberts. Dean is a retired chairman of the Toledo-based Commerce Paper Company.

Kellogg Community College staff held a dedication ceremony on March 26 to name a building in memory of Steven R. Severin (BS Ed. Eng. ’68; MA ’70), who taught sociology and education courses at KCC for 30 years. Severin passed away September 19, 2008 after a brief illness.

1970s

Geoffrey P. Kramer (Psych. ’75, MA ’77) was the lead writer on a revision of Introduction to Clinical Psychology, a handbook for upper level undergraduate or lower level graduate classes. He is a psychology professor at West Shore Community College.

Margie (Clark) Duncan (BS Ed. Hist. ’72) is an associate broker with Century 21 Town & Country in Birmingham, Mich. She taught U.S. history for more than 20 years and earned a master's degree from Oakland University in 1977.

Kimberly Jarvis (Pol. Sci. ’79) is the new park superintendent for Kensington Metropark in Milford. She has been a metropark employee for 24 years.

Douglas A. Voight (BS Ed. Pol. Sci. ’74) retired May 31, 2008, from Chrysler Corporation’s National Parts Distribution Center in Marysville, Mich. He plans to spend time traveling and notes that his youngest daughter is completing her last year in CMU’s teacher education program.

1980s

Thomas S. Gilbert (Pol. Sci. ’82) was awarded the internationally recognized Certificate of Advanced Addiction Counselor (CAAC) from the Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals in October of 2008. A retired district court judge, Gilbert is the owner of TouchStone Professional Services in Traverse City, which provides chemical dependency treatment and recovery services to individuals and organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada. He also is a frequent speaker throughout the country on topics of addiction, treatment, recovery and advocacy.

Jan E. Hughes (MA Linguistics ’85) has worked for the federal government for 20 years, including the last five with the National Park Service in Seattle, where she is an administrative technician for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. She lives on Whidbey Island in the Puget Sound.

Martha Sue Johnson (Psych. ’85) has worked in sales for 21 years, including radio, newspaper, television and pharmaceutical sales. She won awards for outstanding sales performance in pharmaceutical sales and newspaper advertising sales.


1990s

Marvin Bolthouse (BS Ed. Hist. ’90), a social studies teacher at Orchard View High School, received the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ 2009 Michigan Teacher of the Year Award in Citizenship Education. Each year, his students conduct interviews and write biographies of veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Cami Pendell (Pol. Sci. ’95) is the new Manager of State Government Affairs for BL Government Affairs, L.L.C., a joint venture between law firm Butzel Long and lobbying and governmental strategies firm Michigan Legislative Consultants. Previously, Pendell served as Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and was Manager of State Government Affairs and Legislative Analysis for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Ron Riekki (Rel. ’96) is the author of U.P., a coming-of-age story set in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The book was published by Ghost Road Press in 2008. He also is under contract to write A Portrait of the Artist as a Boogey Man (due 2010), I Hate It Here (due 2011), and Hunger and the Ass (due 2012). Riekki is a professor at Auburn University where he teaches composition and world literature.

Risa (Fulk) Scully (Anthro. & Soc: Criminal Justice ’93) was promoted to chief assistant prosecutor for Isabella County by prosecutor Larry Burdick in April. She obtained her juris doctorate at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1997.

Tricia (LaCross) Weaver (Soc. ’98) is the admissions coordinator at Life Care Center of the Willows in Valparaiso. She and her husband, Patrick, have two children, Emma and Jack.
2000s

**Kristin Abraham** (Creative Writing '03) gave a poetry reading at the Quad City Arts Center in Rock Island, Ill. April 4 as part of National Poetry Month celebrations. She is the author of two chapbooks: *Little Red Riding Hood Missed the Bus* (Subito Press, 2008) and *Orange Reminds You of Listening* (Elixir Press, 2006). She is an assistant professor of English at Ashford University in Iowa.

**Corissa Barton** (ROTC '04) was promoted to the rank of captain in the Michigan Army National Guard, where she is a public-affairs officer with the 177th Military Police Brigade in Taylor. She has been a member of the Michigan National Guard for seven years and served one year in Iraq. She also works full time as the state deputy public affairs officer for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Lansing.

**Blossom Hill** (Pol. Sci. '07) was recently hired as the diversity coordinator for Isabella County. She also is pursuing a master’s degree in public administration from CMU.

**Katie Houston** (BS Ed. Hist. & Spanish, '07) is a Peace Corps volunteer. She has been living, working and coaching baseball in a small town in Honduras for more than a year.

**Daniel Nikolits** (Anthro. & German '07) was selected to participate in the 2009-2010 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, a prestigious year-long study- and work-abroad fellowship in Germany. He was one of 75 participants chosen from 500 applicants. The program includes two months of intensive German language training, four months of classroom instruction at a German university, and a five-month internship in the participant’s field of choice.

**Joshua Spencer** (Hist. '05; MPA '08) was named manager of the Michigan’s Cool Cities Main Street Program in Scottville in February.

**Heather Wolf** (BS Ed. Soc. Studies & Hist. '00; MA Hist. '07) received the Michigan Social Studies Teacher of the Year award from the Michigan Council for the Social Studies. She is a teacher at Shepherd High School.

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**Alums host campus workshop**

Successful CHSBS alumni Les Johnson (*pictured, left*) and Janet Opalewski (*pictured, right*) visited campus April 15 to meet with English and political science students to discuss job opportunities in human resources and government.

Johnson recently retired as director of food distribution from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and currently operates a consulting business, Les Johnson and Associates. He graduated from CMU in 1972 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and completed his MBA through the University of Chicago in 1998.

Opalewski is a human resources manager for Fabri-Kal Corporation in Kalamazoo. She graduated from CMU in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in English.

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**ROTC Hall of Fame**

The Department of Military Science and Leadership inducted two new members into the CMU ROTC Hall of Fame during the annual military ball Feb. 21. Nominations are based on leadership and service in the Army and also in business, education, law, government, volunteer or charity work.

**Lawrence George Clayton,** ’58, served in the Army Intelligence Community and retired with the rank of Colonel after 30 years of service, including tours in Germany and Vietnam. While working for the Defense Intelligence Agency, Clayton participated in the Iranian Hostage Rescue Mission and Desert Storm.

**Theodore Hummel,** ’58, MA ’78, enlisted in the Signal Corps and completed tours in Turkey, Germany and Vietnam. He served on the Pentagon’s Army General Staff and retired with the rank of colonel. Following his military career, Hummel worked in real estate, was a leader in Boy Scouts of America, held a position in local government and completed 21 marathons, including the Boston Marathon.
Alumni Information Form

Help us learn more about our graduates. Please send us news of your accomplishments.

Name
First                      Middle                    Last    Maiden

Address
Street     City   State  Zip

Telephone (        ) E-mail

Degree/Major Year

News

Please return form to: Newsletter Editor, 106 Anspach Hall, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859 or e-mail your updates to CHSBS@cmich.edu. Visit our alumni Web site at www.chsbs.cmich.edu/chsbs/alumni.htm.