Students seek opportunities beyond the classroom

College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences
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).

Under Discussion is available online at www.chsbs.cmich.edu/newsletter.htm.

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Message from the Dean

As dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, I take great pride in helping our faculty promote the college’s mission of preparing students for life after they leave the university. This may include employment or graduate school or the general responsibilities as involved citizens in their communities. I believe that the best preparation involves both learning in the classroom and the application of knowledge in real-life settings.

This newsletter highlights a number of the ways that our students applied their learning in projects beyond the classroom, many of which included international settings. These activities reflect two of the college’s primary objectives: applying skills and knowledge and building international experiences.

One of the satisfying parts of my job is to foster internationalization in the college by encouraging international students to attend CMU and promoting international experiences for our students. During a trip to Korea earlier this year, I was able to promote both of these goals and also meet with some of our international graduates.

This summer, I also traveled to the University of Strathclyde with Tim Hall, chair of the history department. Our trip helped to strengthen our ties with that university as we continue to build our joint master of arts and Ph.D. program with them. Our newsletter highlights the experiences of one student who recently returned to CMU after a year of studying abroad at Strathclyde.

I am also proud to report that our Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures is again teaching introductory Chinese courses and has begun offering an introductory Arabic course. These courses help our students learn more about the language and customs of two important regions in the global marketplace.

We could not meet the college’s educational objectives without the hard work of our dedicated faculty members. Many of their accomplishments are highlighted in the pages to follow. I am very proud of their commitment to CMU and to their students.

Finally, I would not fulfill my role as dean if I did not ask you to be generous in supporting the college through financial gifts. If you would like to learn more about the many ways you can support the student opportunities described in this newsletter, please contact Lesa Smith, the college’s development director, at 989-774-3341 or Lesa.Smith@cmich.edu.

Dean Shapiro visits MPA grads in Korea

E. Gary Shapiro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Eugene Roh, professor of marketing and hospitality services administration, traveled to Korea in June to strengthen Central Michigan University’s partnerships with Korean universities and to encourage more Korean citizens to study at CMU.

During this visit, they met with three of CMU’s esteemed graduates from the master’s of public administration program.

Seong Soo Hyun, Ph.D. (MPA ’01) is the Chief of Staff of the Finance and Economy Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. This is equivalent to being the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Treasury Department. He studied at CMU for two years and says it was an exceptional experience. He fondly recalls Mount Pleasant’s clean air and beautiful summer sky.

Jong-Sul Bang (MPA ’02) is the executive director of the urban development division of the metropolitan city of Incheon, Korea. He is responsible for billions of dollars of Korean government economic zone projects. During the two years that he attended CMU, he says he most enjoyed the kind, local people, the safe community, and the many affordable golf courses. After learning to play golf in the Mount Pleasant region, he proudly reports that he left CMU with a golf handicap of only eight and still earned all “A’s” in his master’s courses.

Bang knows at least a dozen Korean government officers who received degrees from CMU. He would like to start an alumni chapter in Korea and is actively encouraging others to study at CMU.

In-Ho Ahn (MPA ’05) is a director of urban development for the metropolitan city of Incheon, Korea. He and his family lived in Mount Pleasant for two years while he attended CMU. He reports that it was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn English and experience American culture.

Upon returning to Korea, his children missed Mount Pleasant and their friends and teachers at Vowles Elementary School very much. He says his educational experience at CMU was outstanding and he is delighted to encourage others to study at CMU.
This summer I was fortunate to participate in an international and interdisciplinary research effort in northern Bolivia among the indigenous Aymara people in the Lake Titicaca region. The project is co-directed by my advisor and mentor, Dr. Sergio Chavez, a faculty member from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work at Central Michigan University.

Every day in Bolivia was an ethnographic experience, far beyond our archaeological field work. The friendships that I made put meaning into the archaeology, both as a way of understanding the past in its own right and by helping to restore and legitimize the cultural heritage of the indigenous people who live there today.

To prepare for the trip, I completed extensive literature reviews and attended weekly meetings with Dr. Chavez and two additional CMU students who participated in the summer field study. Our preparation included watching videos, practicing Spanish, learning native customs, and completing intensive cardiovascular exercise to stave off the effects of altitude sickness.

Arriving in Bolivia

The landscape in Bolivia was like something from a dream. Everything I had seen previously paled in comparison. Upon stepping off the plane in El Alto, we were greeted by snow-capped mountains scraping the sunrise. The three-hour drive to our destination in Copacabana was magnificent. We drove down hillsides on narrow roads with sweeping curves into the Lake Titicaca region.

I arrived in Bolivia ready to open myself to the culture and people. I certainly was nervous, but it quickly began to feel like home. I have never met people so welcoming, courteous and friendly all while being protective of their culture and their families.

One local custom follows an old tradition where each person stands up after a meal to thank by name each individual who joined in that meal. At first it seemed a bit silly and unnecessarily time consuming, but then you realize how incredibly respectful it is. It requires patience, being genuine, and remembering the names of everyone seated with you.

Participating in this tradition, whether at gatherings of a few people for lunch or an
entire village in a fiesta, was important to my understanding of the way respect is expressed in the society.

Uncovering ancient tombs
Dr. Sergio Chavez has led an interdisciplinary research project in the Lake Titicaca Basin of Bolivia since 1992. Over the years, well-known specialists in the fields of archaeology, botany, zoology, ethnohistory, geology, ethnography and human biology have participated in the project. Local citizens have been hired and trained to participate in most processes of the field and laboratory research. In addition, students from CMU and other universities participate in various aspects of the research through field study programs.

Our current excavation site, Cundisa, is in the heart of the town of Copacabana, which rests on a peninsula extending into Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. Our home and laboratory are located right at the water’s edge, so we walked home to the most spectacular sunsets each day.

While I cannot discuss the specific findings because of the rights of the data to the Bolivian state, I can say that we look to have found the largest collection of Tiwanaku-era burials ever in Bolivia. The tombs and artifacts are estimated to be 1,000 years old and many have striking, finely-crafted, complete pottery. The finds are incredible, and more are uncovered daily.

Building diplomacy efforts
The Cundisa site was in jeopardy for the majority of the time we worked there. Citizens from more than 30 communities in the local province were at odds over how the site should be used.

Some wanted to use the space for a farmer’s market, a construction project that would have leveled the site. Others viewed the site as an important link to preserving and legitimizing the cultural heritage of the region’s indigenous people.

This debate continued over television, radio and in public demonstration for a month before we began and then continuously while we excavated the site.

We spent days engaging in careful conversation, building alliances and educating the local communities about their past and our archaeology efforts. We searched for alternative locations for the farmer’s market and communicated with all the “movers and shakers” in local politics.

These efforts resulted in earning a majority of local support for our project. In addition, we received extensive local, national, and international press coverage of our work and the conflict over the site. This led to statements of support from the national government and President Evo Morales, Bolivia’s first indigenous president.

After years of rule by white, wealthy governments that were oppressive of indigenous majority groups, it is understandable that many are suspicious of any actions that prevent them from using land for economic gain. It is only through the efforts of skilled anthropologists and strong, long-term indigenous contacts that an anthropological site such as Cundisa can be protected from new development.

Reflecting on my journey
Working at Cundisa was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. Many of the local citizens working at the site had been working on the research and excavation project for years. Dr. Chavez refers to the site leaders as “Ph.D.s without degrees” because of their experience, meticulous attention to detail, leadership qualities and scientific thinking. Working with people who had never set foot in a university, but who lived and breathed archaeology was a refreshing experience. They pushed me to learn more and work harder, and I will forever consider them good friends.

Laughter was contagious at the site and jokes about artifacts and workers spread rapidly from trench to trench. With these friendships I was able to ask the ethnographic questions that interested me and was often moved to tears by the answers I received.

What I took away from this experience is a new and exciting knowledge of archaeology, how an archaeological project is run, and the conflicts that so often arise. I learned the importance of making contacts with local people, solidifying friendships, and making an effort to understand and appreciate the host culture while excavating in their lands.

Renée Pascouau will graduate from CMU in 2010 with a double-major in anthropology and pre-medicine.

Renée Pascouau (black hat, center) at the Cundisa site with some of the project’s local employees. Immediately surrounding Pascouau are (from L to R): Stanislava R. Chavez, CMU archaeologist Dr. Sergio J. Chavez, and CMU anthropology students Thomas Kroll (back) and Rebecca Turner.
Grad student earns degrees through partnership with Scotland university

When graduate student Elizabeth Koprowski received a 65 on one of the first essays she submitted during her time as a student at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, she started to panic.

“Thankfully, one of my Scottish friends explained to me that at Strathclyde, the grades are given on a 100 point scale, but a 70 is the equivalent of an A,” said Koprowski. “My score of 65 was actually very good, whew!”

Koprowski spent one year studying in Glasgow, Scotland, through a partnership between the University of Strathclyde and Central Michigan University. The collaborative program offers students at both universities an opportunity to pursue a joint master of arts and Ph.D. degree in transnational history by completing course work at both universities.

The master of arts program courses serve as the main course work phase for the Ph.D. program. Students must complete the requirements for the joint master’s degree to be admitted to the Ph.D. program.

“The structure and style of lessons between the two universities had some differences, but not many. In general, Strathclyde classes met far less often than at CMU—sometimes only once every other week—but that meant students were expected to be far more self-motivated at completing course work,” Koprowski said.

She arrived in Scotland in September of 2007 and returned to the U.S. in June, earning a master’s degree from CMU and a diploma from the University of Strathclyde. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in history from CMU.

“Studying abroad has been the most valuable part of my education. It has given me confidence, independence and a new perspective on the world. It also can be a humbling experience because you discover that you still have so much to learn,” she said.

Koprowski believes it is particularly important for history students to study abroad because it gives them a chance to live the history.

“I always tell my students that it’s one thing to read about the murder of David Rizzio, advisor to Mary, Queen of Scots, but it’s an entirely different experience to visit Holyrood Castle and see the blood-stain on the floor.

“Likewise, studying abroad allows history students to learn about U.S. history from a different prospective. It’s a chance to learn about our place in the global community, including the conceptions and misconceptions that other cultures have towards our country,” she said.

While in Scotland, Koprowski had classes on Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday afternoons. She also worked at a local shop selling soap and bath ballistics. On days off, she often took a train to Edinburgh to do research at the National Library or spent time with friends in Glasgow.

Koprowski embraced opportunities to participate in the cultural experiences available to her. She lived in university housing on campus with five other girls—a mixture of foreign and national students.

“We were located near the center of the city and close to many notable sites, including shopping centers, the world’s tallest cinema, clubs, pubs, museums and parks.

“...and we had our own bedrooms with shared living and bathroom. I spent a lot of time cooking meals, watching movies and playing games with my flatmates,” she said.

On weekends and during holidays, Koprowski traveled around Scotland to visit places such as Loch Ness, St. Andrews, the North Sea and the Scotland Highlands.

“The Isle of Skye was one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever seen, and driving on single-track dirt roads between narrow mountain passes and along wind-swept cliffs is something I will never forget,” said Koprowski.

“I think my favorite place in Scotland was the tiny town of Aberfoyle, where I snapped pictures in a ruined church-yard and climbed a faerie-hill. It was everything I expected Scotland to be—tiny cottages, mountains towering over the landscape, and that peculiar magic that seems to surround the British Isles.”

Elizabeth Koprowski received a bachelor’s degree from CMU in 2006 with a double-major in instrumental music and world literature and a minor in history. After graduate school, she hopes to teach medieval studies or work in international education.
CMU student navigates cloud forest in Peru

For most Central Michigan University students, clearing a path through a dense cloud forest with a machete isn’t part of their typical homework assignments. But that’s exactly how Armada senior Keith Miller spent part of his summer last year while conducting field research near San Ramon, Peru.

Miller joined Charles Hastings, an associate professor of anthropology at CMU, on an archaeological assignment in Peru for 17 days during the summer of 2007.

“To reach some of the archeological sites, we had to trek through a dense forest with only Dr. Hastings’ bearings and our machetes,” said Miller. “It was pretty amazing to cut our own path and experience the rugged natural habitat of a cloud forest.”

Miller, who will graduate from CMU in 2010 with a major in biology: natural resources and a minor in anthropology, said it’s essential to have field work experience in his areas of study.

“The cloud forest—named for its low-level cloud cover—is one of the most diverse habitats for both flora and fauna, and there is still much unknown about it,” said Miller. “Its environment provides a unique location to conduct research on wildlife, especially for a researcher travelling from the less-exotic Central Michigan area.”

When they weren’t clearing paths with machetes, the CMU researchers still found travel to be a challenge in the mountainous region.

“Travel is at the mercy of the landscape. Most of the roads follow the river valleys, so if the river curves back and forth, so does the road. Likewise, the mountain roads cross back and forth frequently to overcome the steep inclines. The distance between two destinations may look short on a map, but it often takes hours to travel that span,” Miller said.

Upon reaching the sites, Miller searched for pottery shards or other man-made objects. He took meticulous notes and photographed each artifact that he discovered.

“It’s exciting to see how capable the Inca civilization was at surviving in these areas of dense forest and high elevations—places where people choose not to live today,” Miller said.

To prepare for the trip, Miller exercised regularly and spent weeks studying Spanish language books and seeking out online Spanish lessons. He also had to get several vaccinations and complete a series of malaria medications.

Keith Miller plans to pursue a master’s degree in wildlife biology with the goal of becoming a wildlife biologist.
A group of Central Michigan University students gained real-world experience as global ambassadors by stepping out of the classroom and into the United Nations headquarters in New York in March.

Eighteen CMU students attended the National Model United Nations Conference, the culmination of preparations completed in two Model U.N. courses taught by political science professor and Model U.N. course adviser David Jesuit.

At the beginning of the class, students from each participating university are assigned a country to research, represent and adopt the position of that country on various issues. This year, 16 CMU students represented the Republic of Kazakhstan, while two others acted on behalf of the United Kingdom.

“These students were truly assuming the role of a diplomat, down to the fact that they were sitting in the Great Hall of the General Assembly in the same seats that the ambassadors use,” said Jesuit. “By adopting the role of another country, it gives students great experience with international relations and allows them to view important issues through a new perspective.”

Tracy Biskup, who graduated from CMU in May with a bachelor’s degree in political science, was one of two delegates who represented the United Kingdom on the Model U.N. Security Council. She spent months preparing for the conference by writing speeches and creating fact sheets and reports about the U.K.’s government, economy, military, and involvement in the U.N.

“You spend so much time studying and working on these topics that the simulation becomes real,” said Biskup. “Our discussion on climate change and global security created a lot of frustration and dissention among the delegates because Russia and the United States did not want to discuss this topic and were very cautious about how the resolutions were drafted.”

Biskup also experienced a sense of the power that the U.K. holds on the world stage.

“Representing the U.K. gives you a feeling of authority because the Security Council cannot pass any resolution without your approval. You become an important person for others to seek out,” she said.
For Michael Cutino, who served as head delegate of the Kazakhstan committee, the experience served as a real-life exercise in diplomacy when the delegates met with a U.N. dignitary from Kazakhstan.

“Our delegation was fortunate enough to visit the Kazakhstani Mission to the U.N. where we were briefed by Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the U.N.,” said Cutino, who graduated from CMU in May with a bachelor’s degree in political science.

“It was an informative session, and we were able to ask questions to further clarify and support our research. To meet and speak with an actual diplomat who works everyday within the organization we are attempting to simulate was an incredible experience for our entire delegation,” he said.

Although Cutino admits that many of the students had little knowledge of Kazakhstan at the beginning of the semester, they developed a strong feeling of national pride for the world’s ninth largest country during their rigorous preparations for the conference.

“Kazakhstan has become a model for religious toleration, nuclear disarmament and avoiding violent conflicts. The nation currently has no known enemies, and its leaders work diligently to facilitate cooperation and bridge the cultural gap between the East and the West. This gave us a wide range of possibilities for working with other delegates during the model U.N. conference,” Cutino said.

Jesuit observes a sense of pride in his students each semester as they move from completing classroom work to actually applying their skills in such an authentic and prestigious setting.

“By preparing for and participating in the Model U.N. conferences, my students gain valuable experience in public speaking, debate, critical thinking and dispute-resolution skills. The discussions and resolutions that they work through with the other delegates are unpredictable, challenging and rewarding all at once. The students feel a tremendous amount of satisfaction from applying their knowledge and experiences in a practical and meaningful format,” Jesuit said.

More than 4,000 college students from around the world served as U.N. delegates during the two conferences hosted by the National Model United Nations in 2008. For more information about the NMUN and the annual conference, visit http://www.nmun.org.

To assist students with the costs of attending National Model United Nations conferences, the Department of Political Science has created a fund for faculty, staff, alumni and friends of CMU to make financial contributions to support the program.

The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences also provides annual support to Model U.N. through gifts donated to the college.

If you are interested in making a gift to support CMU’s Model U.N. program and the students who participate in the Model U.N. courses, please contact Lesa Smith, CHSBS director of development, at 989-774-3354 or Lesa.Smith@cmich.edu.
Looking for a unique way to learn about world cultures? Stop by the Central Michigan University Museum of Cultural and Natural History to view the newest exhibition, “Beyond Barbie: Dolls, Dress and Culture in Global Perspective.”

The exhibition, open through January 2009, features more than 100 dolls from more than 60 countries. Many of the dolls are dressed in costumes representing national traditions, holidays, social identity, and local occupations, including a fisherman and a lace maker. In addition, several character dolls illustrating traditional folktales also are on display.

“The exhibition illustrates the diverse ways humans have of expressing their personalities, joys, labors and traditions through something we all share in common, clothing,” said Bill Pretzer, museum director and associate professor of history. “These objects are exquisite examples of local textile traditions and each doll maker’s individual artistry. Some are true representations of regional or national folk cultures and traditions, while others, made for the tourist trade, are less authentic but still symbolize their cultures.”

The exhibition was created from the collection of more than 350 dolls assembled by former CMU faculty member Barbara Bissot. Bissot taught at CMU from 1962 to 1992, first as a fourth grade teacher at the university lab school and then as a professor of elementary education. Her brother, Father Robert Bissot, donated the collection to the CMU Museum of Cultural and Natural History following her death in 2007.

Bissot’s passion for collecting dolls began while teaching at a U.S. military school in Germany in 1956, and she added to her collection nearly every year through her international travels. She made a point to seek out dolls crafted by local artisans to ensure their ethnic accuracy and representation of their countries and local cultures. She often used them as teaching tools in her classes.

CMU’s museum studies students helped design the exhibition through every step of the process, including setting up a children’s educational activity room and a “book nook” affectionately called “The Doll House.”

“I had the most fun interviewing international students about the dolls from their home countries,” said Hastings senior Jena Johnson. “It was really amazing to see how they could pick out the symbolism and importance of small details in the dolls’ wardrobe and accessories.”

In September, the museum received a grant from the Kellogg Youth Fund to create a partnership between the museum, local elementary schools and the Veterans Memorial Library in Mount Pleasant.

Area teachers and museum educators will create investigative tools for students to use during field trips to the doll exhibition. The students will use maps, online resources and digital cameras, along with interviews and research, to uncover the origins of the dolls and create oral histories. A portion of the exhibit also will be displayed at Veterans Memorial Library this fall.

“I am most excited about the collaborative nature of this educational program grant,” said Pretzer. “We’re partnering with local schools and the public library to create a program that will be accessible to students in different grades and in different ways.”

Admission to the Museum of Cultural and Natural History is free and open to the public. Hours are Mondays through Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. The museum is located in CMU’s Rowe Hall, which is on the corner of Bellows Street and East Campus Drive.

If you are unable to visit the museum, you can view photos of the dolls and learn more about each one by visiting the museum’s Web site, www.museum.cmich.edu.
Many people consider it a great honor to sit in the presence of the Dalai Lama to hear his teachings. For Central Michigan University religion professor Guy Newland, this honor was magnified both professionally and personally when the Tibetan Buddhist Learning Center asked him to write a book that would serve as a suggested text for participants preparing for the Dalai Lama’s July visit to the United States.

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, hosted a six-day teaching at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn., July 10-15.

“I spent about four hours a day sitting 25 feet from the Dalai Lama,” said Newland. “Some Western scholars who hear the Dalai Lama speak about kindness and seeking happiness come to consider him a kindly but goofy—and maybe even shallow—person.

“This is a serious misjudgment. He is one of the very best scholars of Buddhism in the world and has ongoing dialogues with some of the world’s best scientists about the nature of the mind and the nature of reality. At the same time, he is a compassionate and skillful teacher.”

Newland’s book, Introduction to Emptiness: As Taught in Tsong-kha-pa’s Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path, is an introduction to the central teaching of Mahayana Buddhism. Newland also served as editor of Tsong-kha-pa’s Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment, the primary text that the Dalai Lama taught from during his visit to the U.S.

“During the 1990s, the Tibetan Buddhist Learning Center sponsored and organized scholars from many universities to translate the Great Treatise, which is considered the first and most important major book written by the founder of the Dalai Lama’s school of Tibetan Buddhism,” Newland said.

Once it was confirmed that the Dalai Lama would come to the U.S., the TBLC asked Newland to write a book that would explain the complex philosophical sections of Tsong-kha-pa’s book in clear language that people without a scholarly background could understand.

More than 4,000 people attended the teachings at Lehigh University. Each day began with monks or nuns chanting in a different language, including Tibetan, English, Sanskrit, Pali, Chinese and Vietnamese. Then, the Dalai Lama and his translator would take the stage to teach from a section of Tsong-kha-pa’s book.

“After sitting so close to the Dalai Lama for so long, I found myself immensely impressed with him,” said Newland. “I had seen him, met him and conversed with him in the past and yet somehow failed to tune in fully to his incredible presence. He is the most charismatic person I have ever met.”

During the teachings, the Dalai Lama said that while religion can bring much benefit to people, it also can be a source of needless misery when there is dogmatic intolerance between faiths.

“The Dalai Lama stressed that the good heart, a heart of kindness, can be developed through any of the world’s major religions,” said Newland. “And given the psychological and social disruption associated with conversion, it is best to find the resources within your own tradition for becoming the best person you can be.

“By the end of the six days, as the Dalai Lama asked all of us to join him in his commitment to working for the welfare of all living beings; thousands of people were in tears.”

Newland will continue his work with the TBLC by using the sound recordings from the teachings at Lehigh University to transcribe and edit them into a new book.

“Because the Dalai Lama’s teachings at Lehigh represented a new and creative re-reading of the Great Treatise, I am excited and honored to have this opportunity to make the substance of this event available to everyone,” Newland said.

Newland has been a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at CMU since 1988. He currently serves as department chair. His research interests focus on Buddhist philosophy.

The Dalai Lama is considered the spiritual and political leader of Tibetan Buddhists. He has lived in exile in northern India since China’s 1959 occupation of Tibet.
Steffel named Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year

English professor Susan Steffel is one of three state educators to be named a Presidents Council, State Universities in Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.

An expert on young adult and secondary English education, Steffel is noted for her superior teaching methods, effectiveness in conveying subject matter, and the respect and care she shows for her students.

She was honored during a May 14 awards ceremony in Lansing where she received a plaque and $3,000 cash award.

Each of Michigan’s 15 public universities nominated one faculty member who has demonstrated a special commitment to undergraduate education and has had an exceptional impact on student learning. A committee of five university provosts selected the recipients. Steffel joins faculty from Northern Michigan University and Grand Valley State University in receiving this year’s award.

“Steffel has been a professor at CMU since 1991 and has taught courses in freshman composition, literary analysis, teaching literature and composition in the secondary school, current issues in English, reading and writing for teachers, reading guidance for adolescents, problems in the teaching of English, and young adult literature.

“Susan is one of the most influential educators in the state of Michigan,” said CMU provost Julia Wallace. “She is a well-respected educator who demonstrates genuine concern for students and their learning and works diligently to engage students in the learning process and develop in them a sense of professionalism. She truly believes in life-long learning and committing oneself to high professional standards.”

Her professional responsibilities include her work as a mentor for English educators, president of the Michigan Conference on English Education, a state representative for the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, and former president of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English.

CHSBS faculty receive top research awards

Sociology professor Brigitte Bechtold and Solomon Getahun, assistant professor of African history, are 2008 recipients of Central Michigan University’s most prestigious research awards.

Bechtold received the President’s Award, which recognizes the career achievements of senior faculty members.

She is an expert on minimum wage and infanticide. Her work and long list of professional publications span many disciplines in the areas of econometrics, qualitative and statistical analysis, social policy, gender wage gaps, fertility, and others. She joined CMU in 1982 and spent 15 years in the economics department before joining the department of sociology, anthropology and social work in 1997.

Getahun received the Provost’s award, which honors the accomplishments of junior faculty members.

He is an expert in African history and has sparked interest worldwide through his research on African migrations to the U.S., Ethiopian culture, customs and urban development, and Ethiopian and African immigrant and refugee communities in the U.S.

Each award recipient receives $1,200 for professional development and will be given release time from teaching responsibilities to focus on research.
Weinstock receives CHSBS teaching award

Jeffrey Weinstock, an associate professor of American literature and culture, was selected to receive the 2007-08 College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences’ Excellence in Teaching Award, which recognizes a faculty member who goes above and beyond what is expected in creating exceptional learning opportunities for students.

“I’m absolutely thrilled and very grateful to my colleagues and students for the honor,” said Weinstock. “It’s very gratifying to have one’s efforts recognized and appreciated.”

A committee, composed of representatives from each department in the college, selected Weinstock as this year’s winner based on his expertise in the field of American literature and culture, the outstanding organization and preparation of his courses, and the inspiration that he bestows upon his students.

Weinstock has taught 18 different undergraduate and graduate levels courses in American literature and theory. His students and fellow faculty members acknowledged him as, “an inspirational teacher and mentor” who “encourages his students to push themselves to be better.”

“Dr. Weinstock was one of several outstanding faculty nominations received by the Excellence in Teaching Committee,” said Pamela Gates, associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. “After careful review, however, the committee agreed that the accolades received from students and faculty about Dr. Weinstock’s commitment to teaching and learning merited this award recognition.”

Weinstock, an authority on popular culture, American literature and literary criticism, is the author of numerous books, including The Rocky Horror Picture Show (see pages 16-17).

He also is editor of several academic collections, including Spectral America: Phantoms and the National Imagination and Nothing That Is: Millennial Cinema and the Blair Witch Controversies. His work has been published in journals such as American Literature, Studies in American Fiction, and Pedagogy.

CHSBS faculty honored for distinguished service

Faculty members Roger Hatch and Jim Jones received Central Michigan University’s 2008 Faculty Distinguished Service Award, which honors faculty with a record of sustained service to the university and/or profession.

Since his arrival to CMU in 1976, Hatch, a professor in the philosophy and religion department, has served on more than 100 committees. His service on the Academic Senate for 13 years included one year as chair and six years on the senate executive board.

Hatch has held a number of leadership roles within the faculty association and served on several committees dedicated to education, honors and curriculum, including the position of department chair for 13 years.

During his 20 years at CMU, Jones, a professor in the foreign languages, literatures and cultures department, has served as director of the office of gay and lesbian programs, chair of the Academic Senate and chair of his department. He also served 11 years on the Academic Senate and 10 years as the adviser for Delta Phi Alpha, a German honor society.

Jones is an advocate and a voice for diversity on CMU’s campus and is regularly sought out as a speaker in the area of gay and lesbian issues.
Cotter receives Staff Excellence Award

Patti Cotter, administrative secretary for the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, received Central Michigan University’s 2008 Staff Excellence Award.

She has worked at CMU since January of 1988, holding positions in the Student Employment Office and the Admissions Office before joining the FLLC department in September 1999. She has served as event coordinator of the department’s annual Foreign Language Day since 2006.

Co-workers, supervisors and administrators nominate individuals within their divisions who exhibit the university’s four core characteristics of staff excellence: knowledge, follow-through, care and availability.

Cotter and 18 other staff excellence award recipients received an engraved plaque and a 2008-09 university parking pass with senior officer designation. Staff members can receive the award only once during their careers at CMU.

Hartshorne elected to Higher Learning Commission board

Psychology professor Tim Hartshorne will play a significant role in higher education accreditation as a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools’ Higher Learning Commission board of trustees.

Hartshorne’s four-year term began Sept. 1. As a member of the board of trustees, he will be involved in policy matters related to accreditation, with priorities including public information and disclosure, process evaluation, assessment of student learning, and relations with the U.S. Department of Education.

As one of six regional institutional accreditors in the U.S., the HLC works to assure the quality of educational opportunities at degree-granting educational institutions in the North Central region, which consists of 19 states.

Faculty receive research excellence awards

Three CHSBS faculty members received awards from Central Michigan University’s Research Excellence Fund grant program, which provides awards for proposals submitted by CMU faculty members. Two factors used in the judging process require that the projects will continue to financially sustain themselves and that the projects impact Michigan.

Psychology professor Susan Jacob received a two-year grant for $95,133 to begin the Center for Research, Training and Consultation on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning Youth Issues.

One goal of the center is to gather information and continue research on resiliency and other GLBTQ youth issues, providing teachers that information for training and education. The faculty team also hopes to study connections between higher education and “fostering positive attitudes toward diversity in sexual orientation and gender expression.”

Also receiving a research excellence award were Mary Senter and Jean Toner from the sociology, anthropology and social work department. They received a $40,000 grant for their project, “Engaging Central Michigan in Regional Issues.”

The goal of the project is to develop an understanding of regional stakeholders and issues and then identify and leverage CMU resources to provide better support to mid-Michigan in this time of economic challenge.

Associate Dean Gates trains at Ft. Knox

Associate dean Pamela Gates participated in the annual Leader’s Training Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky from June 22 to 26.

The LTC program is designed to give students an introduction to military experience and is reserved for students who have not previously attended ROTC classes. Educators and administrators are invited to observe and participate in some of the activities that the students experience as part of the month-long program.

During her visit, Gates completed combat water survival training, zodiac training, rappelling and wall-climbing. She also had an opportunity to meet and interact with military science professors from other universities as well as Major General W. Montague Winfield, commanding general of the United States Army Cadet Command.

“It was a terrific learning experience; and given that there were 90 educators from all over the country participating, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn about what other institutions are doing to support their students,” said Gates.

The goal of the project is to develop an understanding of regional stakeholders and issues and then identify and leverage CMU resources to provide better support to mid-Michigan in this time of economic challenge.

Associate dean Pamela Gates and Major General W. Montague Winfield.
Mika receives Fulbright grant to visit Colombia

Sociology professor Harry Mika received a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant for peace and conflict resolution to visit Colombia on several occasions during the 2008-09 academic year.

He will deliver lectures and present short courses at three universities in Bogota and three other regional universities. He’ll also attend numerous meetings with victim groups, former combatant groups, human rights non-government organizations, and government commissions.

In addition, several of his publications will be translated into Spanish and distributed in Colombia as part of the grant.

Mika specializes in applied research and service related to community-based justice, community peacebuilding, and community regeneration.

Oh-Lee receives PRIF award

Psychology professor Justin Oh-Lee received a $7,500 award to write a grant proposal to study the effects of levodopa, a common drug used to treat Parkinson’s disease.

The award was given through Central Michigan University’s President’s Research Investment Fund, which encourages full-time regular faculty and staff to seek out external funding for research projects or to participate in grant writing to seek that funding.

Patients taking levodopa demonstrate decreased motor responses over time. Experiments with rats and alternative drug treatments hope to uncover safer medications to manage Parkinson’s.

The PRIF was implemented in 2001 by CMU President Michael Rao.

CHSBS welcomes new department chairs

The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences is welcoming two new department chairs for the 2008-09 academic year.

Angela Haddad was named chair for the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. She began teaching at Central Michigan University in 1989. Her research interests include Cuban and Cuban Identity and race and ethnic inequality in higher education.

Lt. Col. Aaron Kalloch joins the faculty at CMU as chair of the Department of Military Science and Leadership. He spent the past five years holding leadership positions in the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He has served twice in Operation Iraqi Freedom and holds degrees from the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Naval Postgraduate School.

The faculty and staff of CHSBS would like to thank outgoing chairs Mary Senter (SASW) and Maj. Gregg Mays (MSL) for their notable service to their respective departments.

Longtime professor Ihor Kamenetsky passes away

Ihor Kamenetsky, professor emeritus of political science, passed away on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at Central Michigan Community Hospital.

Dr. Kamenetsky was a faculty member in the political science department from 1957 to 1995. He taught courses in American government, international relations, international development, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

“Professor Kamenetsky was a dedicated educator who was committed to adding to the knowledge of the political, social, economic, cultural and historical forces that were impacting and continue to impact Eastern Europe and Central Asia,” said political science professor Delbert Ringquist.

“He was keenly aware and concerned about the use of violence by governments upon their citizens and by terrorists against ordinary citizens. He looked to international law and organizations for multilateral solutions to problems rather than the use of unilateral force by powerful countries,” Ringquist said.

Kamenetsky was born in western Ukraine and fled with his parents and siblings during World War II.

After first studying history at the University of Graz in Austria, he earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Williams College and completed his master’s and doctoral studies in political science at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

Kamenetsky is survived by his wife, Christa, who served as a faculty member in the English department from 1963 to 1997, and his son and daughter-in-law, Andrey and Dana Kamenetsky.
Congratulations to the faculty and emeriti faculty from the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences who authored, co-authored, edited, co-edited, illustrated or translated books in 2007.

**English Language and Literature**


**History**


**Philosophy and Religion**


**Psychology**


**Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work**


Psychology professor pens fiction novel

Psychology professor **Larissa Niec** has written her first fiction novel. *Shorn* is a psychological fantasy set in an alternate world.

Niec says the book examines the malleable nature of truth and the consequences of social oppression on individual resilience.

“As a clinical psychologist and a professor of psychology, I’m often reminded that the truths we’re given as children continue to shape our self- and world-views, even if we’ve consciously rejected those ideas as adults,” she said.

The novel, published by Mercury Retrograde Press, became available in bookstores October 1.

**Reader wins Greek translation award**

Religion professor **Bill Reader’s** translation of modern Greek poetry, *Battered Guitars: The Poetry and Prose of Kostas Karyotakis*, was chosen as-up for the 2008 Helenic Foundation for Culture Translation Prize. The translations were judged by top scholars in the field of Greek translation.

The winning translations were recognized during the annual Sebald Lecture on literary translation September 29 in London. The competition was organized by the United Kingdom’s Society of Authors, a nonprofit organization that administers prizes for published translations from Arabic, Dutch, French, Italian, German, Greek (modern), Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

**English professor writes book for police officers**

English professor **Elizabeth Brockman** has published a new book that defines the role that written communication plays for law enforcement officers. *The Blue Guide: Written Communication for Leaders in Law Enforcement* published by Pearson Education challenges traditional ideas about writing in the field of law enforcement.

“Police officers have long understood written communication as “copspeak,” bureaucratic paper shuffling or a matter of mere correctness, but I take a different approach in this book,” said Brockman. “Instead, I argue that good writing is a leadership tool with the power to build self-image, enhance public relations, promote policies and procedures, and increase departmental morale. In other words, police officers can be more effective leaders if they are good writers.”

**English professor releases four books**

English professor **Jeffrey Weinstock** is the author of an impressive four books to be published this fall and winter.

They are: *Taking South Park Seriously* (SUNY Press, Sept. 4); *Scare Tactics: Supernatural Fiction By American Women* (Fordham University Press, Sept. 15); *Reading Rocky Horror: The Rocky Horror Picture Show and Popular Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, Nov. 25); and *Approaches to Teaching Poe’s Prose and Poetry* (Modern Language Association of America, Jan. 31).

**New Arabic, Chinese courses on fall schedule**

Central Michigan University has responded to the increasing global market by offering two new courses this fall for those interested in gaining valuable knowledge about Arabic and Chinese languages and cultures.

The introductory Arabic and Chinese classes focus on the foundations of verbal communication and culture.

**Susan Knight**, chairwoman of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, believes these new courses are a great opportunity for those who would like to gain a competitive edge and increase their marketability while broadening their knowledge of other countries and cultures.

“We live in a global society and more than ever need to strive for cross-cultural understanding, which implies dispelling stereotypes, cultural misconceptions and ethnocentric views – goals well worth pursuing in this fragile world in which we live,” said Knight. “One of the best ways to do this is through the study of other world languages and cultures.”

**Ghada Sharaf Eldin Ibrahim**, a native of Egypt, is teaching the introductory Arabic course. **Lily Kalantar**, a native of China, is teaching introduction to Chinese.

“I am very proud that our college is able to offer these important language and culture classes as another opportunity to prepare our students to succeed in a global society,” said **E. Gary Shapiro**, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

In addition to the new courses, the FLLC department is offering an introductory Japanese course for the first time since 2006. **Maiko Bronson**, a native of Japan, will teach this course as a temporary replacement for CMU School of Health Sciences professor **Roger Hammer**, who has been teaching Japanese courses at CMU for many years.
New lecture series honors Bill Bulger

As guests found their seats prior to the inaugural lecture sponsored by the William T. Bulger History Endowment, the smile on the retired professor’s face said it all.

Bulger, a Central Michigan University professor emeritus of history, beamed as history department chair Tim Hall welcomed guests and described the numerous contributions Bulger has made to the department over the years.

“Every time I meet one of Bill’s former students, they remember him fondly as a great teacher who made history come alive, especially by telling interesting stories about the people who made history,” said Hall.

“Bill had a talent for engaging students in learning about the past, and he took a personal interest in their lives.”

Bulger taught history at CMU from 1957 to 1992. The idea for the lecture series began when Bulger’s longtime friends John and Audrey Cumming and former student Dr. William Anderson, ’62, made lead gifts to establish the Bulger endowment in 2004.

“It is so important to honor great teachers and scholars, and each lecture will extend Dr. Bulger’s legacy of inspiring students with a lifelong interest in history,” said Anderson who is director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Library.

“I was fortunate to study at CMU while there was a cadre of outstanding teachers and scholars. Dr. Bulger was a very engaging teacher, and his wonderful personality and sense of humor drew students to him. It was impossible not to absorb some of his great enthusiasm for history,” Anderson said.

Upon learning that an endowment would be named after him, Bulger was asked to establish the criteria for how the money would be spent. He chose to share his love of storytelling by establishing an annual lecture series that focuses on the field of American biography.

After receiving additional generous contributions from Bulger and other CMU faculty members, alumni, and friends, the history department invited Dr. Edward F. Countryman, a University Distinguished Professor at Southern Methodist University, to present the inaugural lecture, “Getting to Know General Washington,” on March 10.

“These lectureships provide an opportunity for us to bring to campus leading scholars who can provide both students and faculty with fresh insight on familiar figures and topics and enrich the intellectual environment of the department and the entire university community,” Hall said.

CMU professor emeritus of history Dennis Thavenet says a lecture series named for Bulger is a fitting tribute to the many contributions he made to his colleagues and students over the years.

“Bill had much to offer because he was a fine scholar as well as an engaging teacher,” said Thavenet. “Bill could quote speeches, letters and anecdotes that brought his lectures to life. I can’t think of a colleague who read more widely or had a better command of the sources on which history is based.”

To request information about making a gift to the Bulger lecture series, please contact Lesa Smith, CHSBS director of development, at 989-774-3341 or Lesa.Smith@cmich.edu.
Professor Eric Kadler inspired thousands of CMU students to love foreign languages and cultures.

Now after his life, his work continues.

Professor Kadler’s legacy lives on through the Eric H. Kadler Award for Study Abroad. Through his generosity, each year students are able to study abroad to deepen their appreciation of other cultures and languages.

Include CMU in your will or estate plan so that you, too, will be able to share your special interests with CMU students.

For more information
Ted Tolcher, Director of Planned and Major Gifts
(800) 358-6903
tolch1e@cmich.edu

CMU is an AA/EEO institution (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo).
CMU to honor Judge Mester’s career and service

When it comes to school pride, it’s difficult to find anyone more enthusiastic about Central Michigan University than Judge Fred M. Mester, ’59.

Mester, who has presided as judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan in Oakland County since 1982, will retire from the bench later this year. He has remained dedicated to his alma mater throughout his career, making efforts to connect with CMU graduates who work in Oakland County and offering job seeking assistance to students he meets at CMU events.

To honor his years of service to both the judiciary and CMU, the college is hosting a celebration dinner November 20 at the Oakland Hills Country Club.

“It is with deep gratitude to Judge Mester that we host this celebration dinner in his honor,” said E. Gary Shapiro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. "We consider it our privilege to have the opportunity to thank Judge Mester for his legacy of support for CMU.”

Mester’s love for CMU will soon impact even more students through an endowment named in his honor. The Honorable Fred M. and Lynne M. Mester Family Endowment at CMU will provide scholarships for students enrolled in the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

“Scholarships can make the difference in whether a student attends college and also whether the student remains in college. They act not only as financial aids but also as opportunities for students to excel. We are very honored to establish a scholarship in recognition of the Mester family,” said Lesa Smith, director of development for the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Mester reflects fondly on his years at CMU, especially his term as student body president and his participation in the ROTC program.

“I always felt like part of a community or a family at CMU, and this family didn’t end after graduation. It’s been a lifetime relationship,” he said.

In addition to his many professional responsibilities, Mester is active in numerous community organizations. He is president and founder of the Pontiac Alumni Foundation, whose mission is certainty of opportunity for all children of Pontiac. He also founded the program Reading to Reduce Recidivism, which aims to improve the literacy of criminal offenders, and is chairman of both the Community Corrections Board of Oakland County and the William Booth Legal Aide Clinic.

“In my 26 years of serving on the bench, I’ve witnessed many crisis situations where I have to make judgment about the people before me. To criticize society without trying to improve on it is something that I cannot accept.

“Each one of us has something to offer to another. If we live our lives to the fullest, we make our own world—whether it’s our family, our neighborhood or our community—a better place in which others can excel and be successful,” Mester said.

Mester graduated from CMU in 1959 with a major in social science and was commissioned through the ROTC to the U.S. Army where he served as captain. He graduated from Wayne State University School of Law in 1967 and has served as an adjunct professor for Oakland University, Madonna University and Oakland Community College.

He also received an honorary doctorate degree from CMU in 1995. His commitment to the university includes serving as chairman of the CHSBS capital campaign committee, past president of the CMU Alumni Association, past member of the President’s Detroit area advisory board, and member of the Lem Tucker Steering Committee.

Some of his many honors include receiving the Champion of Justice Award, one of the State Bar of Michigan’s most prestigious awards; the Oakland County Quality People Quality County Award; CMU’s Centennial Award for outstanding graduates; the Earl W. Kinter Award, one of the Federal Bar Association’s most prestigious awards; and the Oakland County Bar Association’s Professional Award.

Mester met his wife, Lynne, ’59, while they were students at CMU. They have been married for 48 years and raised three children, David, Karen and Kathy, recently deceased, and have two grandchildren.

To make reservations to attend the celebration dinner honoring Judge Fred M. Mester, call (989) 774-3341 or e-mail CHSBS@cmich.edu.
Alum postpones grad school to serve in Iraq

Central Michigan University alumnus Chad Fox, ’05, was starting his freshman year when the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001. Like many Americans, he was profoundly affected by the news and viewed the attacks as a call to action.

“I knew that I wanted to stay at CMU and pursue a bachelor’s degree, but I also wanted to find a way to serve my country,” said Fox.

He found his answer in CMU’s Army Reserve Officer Training Program and began taking classes the following semester. He graduated from CMU in 2005 with a major in political science and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Michigan National Guard.

“The ROTC program is a wonderful learning experience,” said Fox. “Nothing can really prepare you for war, but the ROTC program helps to lay the groundwork. I also met great people through the program. Mount Pleasant and the Central Michigan community were very supportive of us.”

After completing his required Officer Basic Course that fall, Fox decided to return to CMU in January of 2006 to pursue a Master’s of Public Administration degree. After one semester, he was called to duty to serve in Iraq.

“I joined the ROTC after the 9/11 attacks, so serving my country in a war zone really brought everything full circle for me. I think most of us had initial concerns upon learning we would serve a year-long tour in Iraq—mostly because of our fear of the unknown—but serving my country was a positive experience, and I felt a sense of pride at the end of each day,” Fox said.

Fox was deployed through the Michigan National Guard and spent July through September training at Fort McCoy, Wisc. He and his unit arrived at LSA Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, on Oct. 1, 2006.

“The base was relatively safe, but it was mortared nearly every day for the first seven or eight months after we arrived,” Fox said.

“It’s common for insurgents to pay local citizens to shoot mortars at American bases, so it’s worth their time to come back every day. The U.S. forces have been successful in stopping many of these attacks based on intelligence they receive about when and where some of these attacks may occur.”

As Detachment Commander, Fox was responsible for supporting an 80-person Multifunctional Medical Battalion which provided command and control for level I and II medical care within the Iraqi Theater of Operations.

On a typical day, Fox would wake at 3 or 3:30 a.m. and complete physical training from 4 to 6 a.m. He spent most of his 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. work day writing reports, attending meetings and managing all of the administrative, logistic and training responsibilities for his unit.

Their daily uniform was the Army Combat Uniform unless the threat level was elevated or when they were under attack, which required them to wear helmets, body armor, gloves and eye protection.

“My ROTC instructors and officers provided me with wonderful mentoring experiences. Once you begin your service as a junior officer, you really start to draw from the knowledge and experiences that they shared with you,” Fox said.

After a year of service in Iraq, Fox has returned to CMU to finish his master’s degree. He plans to pursue a career in local government and hopes to one day serve as a city manager.

“The CMU ROTC program was my first introduction to the military, and it also turned out to be my first networking opportunity for the future,” said Fox. “I still keep in contact with many of the friends that I made at CMU, including one ROTC peer that served in the same unit with me in Iraq. I look forward to continuing my service to both my country and my community.”

Fox received The Army Commendation Medal upon completion of his service. He was recognized for “maintain(ing) accountability of all unit property and equipment valued at over $8 million dollars and ensur(ing) the safety, discipline, and accountability of over 80 soldiers.”

First Lieutenant Chad M. Fox (second from left) and two other soldiers received the Combat Action Badge in January of 2007 after a mortar attack hit near their position. L to R: Staff Sergeant Steve Lischalk, 1LT Fox, Major General Ronald Silverman (Commanding General), Staff Sergeant Ken Cool, and Lieutenant Colonel Darlene McCurdy (Battalion Commander).
~ 1950s ~

Clare Hart (Eng. ‘51) retired after thirty-two years of teaching. He is a member of the Mayflower Society and Sons of the American Revolution and has spent 20 years doing volunteer work with the local food pantry. He and his wife, Anna, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1, 2008.

~ 1960s ~

John Kulhavi (Psych. ’65), received the 2008 Central Michigan University Distinguished Alumni Award. Kulhavi is senior vice president of investments for Merrill Lynch in Farmington Hills and ranks in the top 1 percent of the firm’s financial advisers. He is vice chairman of the CMU Board of Trustees and chairman of the Campaign for the CMU Events Center.

Bruce O. Knight (BS Ed. Soc. Sci. ’65; MA Ed. Admin. ’69) recently retired from the Parkway School District in Maryland Heights, Missouri, after serving 33 years as a principal.

Howard Wells (Psych. ’69; MA ’71) retired from the VA Medical Center’s Department of Psychiatry Mental Health in 2001. His wife, Barbara, ’71, is a practicing speech pathologist. Their daughter, Dawn, is a vocal performance doctoral student and teaches part time at the University of Alabama.

~ 1970s ~

Jeffrey D. Brasie (Hist. ’70; MA Public Affairs/Jrn. ’76) was appointed chief executive officer of the Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester, Ind. The 32 acre complex serves more than 350 residents who are independent or require assisted living or healthcare/rehabilitation, or Alzheimer/dementia care. He also teaches graduate courses at Northern Kentucky University.

Don Emrich (MA Soc. ’72) is retired and enjoying life. He is sorry to hear of Dr. Bernie Meltzer’s passing (in the spring 2008 newsletter) and remembers him as a “great guy.” Don would like to hear from other sociology majors, especially graduate students, from the early 1970s.

Timothy Gay (BS Ed. Hist. ’76) teaches U.S. history, civics and reading at a small school district in Bowie, Ariz. He also coaches junior high basketball and baseball. Previously, he taught in Weslaco, Texas, in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley.

Susan (Jarabek) Miller (BS Ed. Eng. & Psych. ’75; MA Counseling ’81) retired in 2000 after 25 years as a teacher and counselor at Harrison and Ovid-Elsie schools. She is a substitute teacher at her son’s middle school in Fort Wayne, Ind. Her father, Henry Jarabek, ’49, retired in 1986 after 37 years of teaching and lives in Charlotte. Her sister, Beth Jarabek-Moravek, ’87, works in marketing and lives in New Castle, Colorado.

Ronald G. Schneider (BS Ed. Hist. ’78; MA Ed. Admin. ’84) is superintendent of Crossroads Charter Academy in Big Rapids. He has been married to his wife, Peggy, for 30 years. They have two children, Emily, ’03, and Mason.

Ronald L. Scott (BS Ed. Hist. ’73) taught history and geography at Lapeer Community Schools for four years (1973-77), and then left teaching to begin a career with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. He retired from MetLife in May of 2007 after 30 years of service. He and his wife, Mary (Marshall) Scott (BS Ed. Eng. ’73), enjoy spending time with their two grandchildren and their cottage in Northern Indiana. Mary retired in May of 2007 after 24 years with National City Bank.

David Swartout (BS Ed. Eng. ’70) retired from Lumen Christi High School after serving 38 years with the district. Most recently he was assistant principal for academics. He previously taught computer science, English and literature courses and served as chairman of the computer science and English departments.

~ 1980s ~

An article written by Saginaw News writer Dean Bohn (Eng. & Jrn. ’88) won first place in the breaking news category from the Michigan Associated Press Editorial Association in May.

Tim Hardy (Hist. ’81) is a senior project manager at Sunoco, Inc. in New York and also a captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has extensive experience in homeland security, specifically defense support to civil authorities (DSCA).

Joel Reeves (BS Ed. Eng. ’85; MA Hum. ’01) is the author of the fantasy novel Of Quills and Kings, which was published by Leucrota Press in July of 2008. He teaches English and journalism at Mancelona High School.

~ 1990s ~

Jennifer Haberling (Psych. ’91; MA Hum. ’05) was named Michigan’s 2008-09 Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent Mike Flanagan on May 22. She teaches English at the Baldwin Street Middle School in Hudsonville.

Jennifer Harbour (Hist. ’94) completed a Ph.D. in African American and women’s history from the University of Iowa in May. Her research specialties include 19th century social history, race, and gender. She is a visiting assistant professor at Drake University in Des Moines and has two small children, Grace and Will.
Gregory R. Kish (Psych. ’98) recently became an associate at the Traverse City office of Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge. He practices business law, employment law, real estate law and estate planning.

~ 2000s ~

Heather L. Chiarello (Pol. Sci. ’07) is the new program assistant for the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Science in Washington D.C. The National Academies of Science is a private, nonprofit institution that provides independent, objective advice on issues involving science, technology and medicine.

Jon Keesecker (Phil. ’03) is a senior organizer with the Take Back the Tap campaign at Food & Water Watch. He works with grassroots community groups across the U.S. to prevent the privatization of public water resources. Previously, he worked as a community organizer on water issues with Sweetwater Alliance in Michigan and Massachusetts Community Water Watch.

U.S. Marine Major Sean Quinlan (Soc. Sci. ’01) received a Bronze Star with V for valor for his service in Iraq. He served as a commanding officer in Rawah, Iraq, in 2006 when the city was considered one of the most dangerous regions in the country.

Melissa Valken (Health Fit. & ROTC ’08) received the George C. Marshall Army ROTC Award, which is given to the top 267 Army ROTC cadets in the nation. The award recipients were invited to attend the prestigious George C. Marshall Seminar held in April at the Virginia Military Institute. During the seminar, cadets attended roundtable discussions with experts in national security issues and met with senior Army, government and civilian officials.

To submit your alumni update, send an e-mail to CHBSBS@cmich.edu or complete the form on the back page. •

Three inducted into ROTC Hall of Fame

Two retired military officers and a longtime department secretary were honored with induction into the Central Michigan University ROTC Hall of Fame during the annual Military Ball Feb. 16 at the Soaring Eagle Inn in Mount Pleasant.

After graduating from CMU, John R. Ghere, ’58, served with the 11th Air Assault Division, where he helped to design helicopter weapons systems and air cavalry tactics. He also was a key contributor to developing helicopter door gunner training and helicopter aerial rocket training for the Michigan National Guard at Camp Grayling.

Throughout his 36 years of military service, he achieved the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 23 OLC and the Army Commendation Medal. In 2006 he was inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame.

Alton R. Westrick, ’58, served in the Army intelligence division for more than 20 years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal and numerous Vietnam specific medals. After retiring from the military, he worked 10 years as an international security specialist and 12 years as a foreign ownership control and influence specialist.

The ROTC Hall of Fame was established in 1997 to recognize former cadets, former cadre and civilians who have served the Chippewa Battalion and who have made a significant contribution to the United States Army, CMU ROTC, and American society at large.

Candidates are generally eligible for induction 10 years after their departure from the Chippewa Battalion. •
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.