Leaders in research
CMU faculty, students continue fight against brain diseases

Senior Rachel Miller, a neuroscience major from Farmington Hills, psychology professor Justin Oh-Lee, and senior Laura Tackett, a school psychology major from Shelby Township, conduct research that could lead to new treatments for people with Parkinson’s disease.
CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see http://www.cmich.edu/aaeo).

**Under Discussion**

Volume 10, Number 1, Spring 2007

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**Thinking about grad school?**

Check out our programs at [www.grad.cmich.edu](http://www.grad.cmich.edu)

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*Under Discussion* is available online at [www.chsbs.cmich.edu/newsletter.htm](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/newsletter.htm).
Message from the dean

It is with tremendous pride that I invite you to read about several notable accomplishments achieved by our students and faculty in the pages to follow.

The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences encompasses a diverse and successful group of academic departments and programs. Although their research interests may differ, our students and faculty share a dedication to excellence and a passion for learning.

Our nationally-acclaimed neuroscientists continue to work side-by-side with their students to test potential new treatments for debilitating brain diseases such as Huntington’s, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s.

Through a partnership with Cerise Nutraceuticals, CMU faculty and students are studying whether antioxidants in tart cherries and omega-3 essential fatty acids from emu and fish oils can be used to treat neurodegenerative diseases. (See full article on page 4.)

Likewise, our students are eager to make active learning an important part of their CMU experience.

- Students in the Introduction to Museum Work course last fall developed a new museum exhibit – the first in 13 years – that highlights many of the hidden treasures housed in CMU’s Museum of Cultural and Natural History. (Page 11)
- Political science graduate student Timothy Burger completed a competitive internship program at the White House. (Page 5)
- Graduate students in the English department’s Composition and Communication program are completing historical editing projects to transcribe and describe letters and journals that belonged to their ancestors. (Page 6)

Finally, I am excited to announce that our efforts to establish an endowed lecture series to promote integrity and ethics in politics have been successful during the first phase of our fundraising campaign. To date more than $500,000 has been pledged to establish the Philip A. Hart and William G. Milliken Endowed Speaker Series for Integrity in Politics. I welcome you to join us in this important endeavor.

Shapiro appointed to interim provost

Associate dean Pamela Gates named interim dean

President Michael Rao appointed Gary Shapiro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, to serve as CMU’s interim executive vice president/provost while the university conducts a national search to replace outgoing provost Tom Storch, who left the university in January.

"With his long history and working knowledge of CMU combined with his commitment to high academic standards, integrity, work ethic, and administrative experience, I’m confident that Gary Shapiro will do a very good job during the interim period as provost," said Rao.

Shapiro has been a sociology professor since 1978 and an administrator at CMU since 1989. He has served as director of institutional research, assistant vice provost of institutional research and planning, and associate dean of arts and sciences. Shapiro also was interim registrar in 1994-95 and was appointed CHSBS dean in July 1997.

CHSBS associate dean Pamela Gates was named interim dean, and history professor Mitchell Hall was named interim associate dean.

Gates is an English professor and has taught at CMU since 1987. She was appointed CHSBS associate dean in 2001. Her teaching and research areas focus on English education and literature for children and young adults. She has co-authored two books, more than a dozen articles, and currently is working with Jane Briggs Hart to write her biography.

Hall joined the history department in 1989. He has served as the executive editor of Peace and Change and has published four books. His research deals primarily with the Vietnam War era, and he regularly teaches courses on United States history since World War II, the Vietnam War, and the history of the rock and roll era.
Research offers new hope in fighting brain diseases

CMU researchers will study the powerful antioxidants in tart cherries and omega-3 essential fatty acids from emu and fish oils with a goal of finding treatments for people with common neurological diseases.

Students and faculty in CMU’s Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience Center have teamed up with northern Michigan-based Cerise Nutraceuticals to research opportunities to treat people with Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s diseases.

CMU researchers and Cerise Nutraceutical’s president Raymond M. Pleva announced the two-part research project in November.

Instrumental in sparking research that identified the first antioxidant in cherries, Pleva has inspired scientific interest that has identified 17 antioxidant compounds in cherries. Expanded research has linked the antioxidants to anti-inflammatory effects against joint and muscle pain, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The project is being funded by Cerise through $25,000 grants awarded to two CMU research teams.

Testing new Parkinson’s treatments

One part of the project combines novel proprietary controlled delivery of a cherry-based compound developed by Cerise with an alternative treatment method for Parkinson’s disease developed by Justin D. Oh-Lee, an associate professor of psychology and director of CMU’s Applied Experimental Psychology Program.

Oh-Lee and his colleagues are looking for ways to deliver natural biological compounds, such as those found in Cerise products, to reduce side effects of Parkinson’s disease, such as dyskinesia, a frequent complication that can cause a severe loss of muscle control affecting a person’s ability to perform even simple tasks of daily living. Spasms can cause uncontrolled muscle contractions that are extremely painful and may lead to serious injury.

“If the therapeutic benefits of the Cerise compound are demonstrated, the results of the study will form the basis for additional clinical development and enable licensing of the technology by Cerise for further human trials,” said Oh-Lee. “This study is thus highly significant, as it will have immediate implications to improve the quality of life for Parkinson’s patients.”

Reducing memory deficits in Huntington’s and Alzheimer’s

Another group of CMU researchers, led by Gary Dunbar, professor of psychology and director of the Neuroscience Program and the Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience Center at CMU, will be testing the efficacy of this product in reducing memory deficits associated with Huntington’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease.

“We are pleased to be able to provide our services to Cerise to help them evaluate whether their product protects against memory deficits,” said Dunbar. “There is a growing body of evidence indicating that omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants may reduce neurodegenerative processes, which makes the Cerise product an attractive candidate for treating neurodegenerative disorders.

“No matter what the outcome of our tests reveal, our work with Cerise will provide an avenue for students in my lab to engage in important applied research and will further our understanding of these devastating, mind-robbing diseases, giving us new insights in our search for finding effective treatments.”

- Dr. Gary Dunbar
Psychology Professor

Brain researchers turn to cherries

“No matter what the outcome of our tests reveal, our work with Cerise will provide an avenue for students in my lab to engage in important applied research and will further our understanding of these devastating, mind-robbing diseases, giving us new insights in our search for finding effective treatments.”

- Dr. Gary Dunbar
Psychology Professor

Senior Laura Tackett and psychology professor Justin Oh-Lee conduct research in one of CMU’s neuroscience laboratories
CMU student spends semester at White House

When a White House staffer called Timothy Burger’s house last summer, his wife first thought it was a prank call. Thankfully, she stayed on the line long enough to learn that Timothy had been selected to interview for an internship at the White House.

After completing three phone interviews, Burger received word that he had been accepted into the highly competitive White House Internship Program.

“I felt incredibly honored that they had accepted me,” said Burger. “Working at the White House has always been a dream of mine. Washington, D.C. is my Emerald City.”

White House personnel select 100 interns each fall, spring and summer. Burger, who will graduate from CMU with a master’s degree in political science in 2008, had worried that his age and career path might be a disadvantage during the selection process.

“I wasn’t sure if they would take an application from a 36-year-old with a bachelor’s degree in engineering management very seriously,” said Burger.

Burger’s internship began September 5 and ended December 15. He worked in the Office of Presidential Messages, where he helped produce one-page messages from the President for groups and organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries. He also helped produce religious holiday messages for Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan and Kwanza among others.

“The absolute awe that I felt the first time I entered the White House remained throughout the three months of my internship,” said Burger.

“It is the most humbling feeling to enter a building where so much of our country’s history has been centered. The decisions made in that building for the past 206 years, both good and bad, have shaped our country. Knowing that in some very small way I added to that history still makes my hair stand on end.”

Burger’s most memorable moment came during the intern photo day with President Bush and Vice President Cheney. Having already prepared a question in case the opportunity ever presented itself, Burger’s hand shot up first when President Bush offered to answer questions from the interns.

“President Bush motioned to me first and all eyes turned to look. My face felt flushed and everything moved in slow motion,” said Burger. “I could have been speaking in another language for all I knew. Apparently I wasn’t because when I finished speaking he thanked me and responded to my comment for the next ten minutes. I missed the first couple of minutes because of the ringing in my head and the fog of disbelief over having spoken to arguably the most powerful man on the planet.”

Another memorable experience was participating in a September 11 ceremony on the South Lawn.

“The Cabinet members stood in the front row directly in front of me. Then Vice President Cheney, Mrs. Cheney and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher walked out and led the group in a moment of silence. It was very moving, and I was honored to be a part of it,” said Burger.

Now that he has fulfilled his dream of working in the White House, Burger hopes to share what he’s learned with others through teaching at a community college and inspiring his future students to serve the country in some capacity.

“I feel tremendous satisfaction in serving this country,” said Burger. “I was honored to serve in the Marines under President Reagan and President Bush 41, and through my public service activities I can continue to serve the country in a different but equally satisfying manner.”

Burger also hopes that other students will pursue internships to help develop and strengthen their career aspirations.

“Classroom learning supplies you with the basic language and tools needed to survive in any career, but an internship is an excellent way to immerse yourself into a job and learn more about an organization. The contacts you make and the things you learn are invaluable.” •

Graduate student Timothy Burger fulfilled a lifelong dream of working in the White House when he received one of only 100 internships assigned last fall.
Window to the past
Graduate students bring new life to family artifacts

The great Alaskan adventure

Montague graduate student Curtis Burdette never met his great-great-grandfather Nathaniel T. Wile, but a special research project at CMU led him to first-hand accounts of Wile's gold-seeking adventures in Alaska more than 100 years ago.

Wile was a 42-year-old farmer from Indiana when he left behind his wife and seven children to travel with five others from rural Carroll County to Alaska during the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898.

Burdette has uncovered more than 100 pages worth of letters, dozens of photographs, the journals where Wile tracked his expenses, and other documents related to the trip. Several museums have copies of the letters, but the family maintains the originals.

Burdette is now transcribing and editing Wile's manuscripts to create one large volume that will preserve, organize and explain the social and historical context of various elements of the trip.

“The letters home to his wife and family often seemed like journal entries because he recorded his adventures and personal thoughts as he traveled,” said Burdette. “He describes the train ride from Chicago to Seattle, the steamship ride to Alaska, and his inland travels across Alaska to reach the area where other prospectors had found gold.”

Wile wrote several letters each week and often described the men he met or traveled with. His wife and children also sent letters to keep him updated on events in Carroll County including a court case, a visiting preacher and a local wedding.

“Nathaniel was a very passionate man,” said Burdette. “His letters describe the beauty of the Alaskan frontier and how much he enjoys the adventure. He seems to romanticize the potential for riches and downplays the hardships.”

Through his research, Burdette also has reviewed many books, articles and persuasive advertisements that were used to entice gold seekers to Alaska.

“Officials from the U.S. and Canada tried to warn prospectors of the harsh conditions in Alaska, but this was during the era of yellow journalism, so many disregarded these warnings,” said Burdette.

“Wile’s enthusiasm in the letters suggests that his enjoyment of Alaska was genuine. Despite spending six months and nearly $600 without finding gold, Wile experienced one of the greatest adventures of his life: a trek through the last American pioneer land.”

Burdette began his transcription project in ENG 638: Seminar in Textual Analysis and Editing. He is completing several new chapters this semester to fulfill his thesis requirements to receive a master’s degree in composition and communication from CMU in May. After graduation, he plans to develop his project into a book-length work and have it published.

Letters from a lost love

When she was a child, DeWitt graduate student Heather Tracy loved listening to her great-grandmother share stories about her romance with baseball legend Ted Williams. Now with the help of old letters and a scrapbook, Tracy is learning more about her great-grandmother’s mysterious past.

“My great-grandmother, Peggy Ware, left her children to have a life of her own, so my grandmother and mother grew up without her in their lives,” said Tracy. “During Peggy’s final years, they were able to reconcile their relationship, but it is still valuable for us to know what her life was like away from our family.”

The letters were written to Ware by Williams and his daughter, Bobby Jo, between 1954 and 1960. Tracy also is studying a scrapbook that Ware filled with newspaper articles about Williams and ticket stubs from the many baseball games she attended.

Her goal in undertaking this historical editing project is to preserve and authenticate the letters and provide a relevant geographical and social context for the letters and the relationship between Ware and Williams. This project also will fulfill Tracy’s thesis requirements to receive a master’s degree in composition and communication from CMU this summer.

“Peggy’s relationship with Ted began in March of 1954 while she was living in Chicago,” said Tracy. “I believe that they remained close for about four years, because she has ticket stubs from his games up until September of 1958.”

Curtis Burdette displays some of the letters, photographs and books that his great-great-grandfather kept as mementos of his trek to Alaska in search of gold.
Nearly two years ago, CMU students created a project that they now claim has helped to spur the creation of the new Michigan Promise Scholarship touted by Governor Jennifer Granholm and for good reason. The Governor and key legislators acknowledge the important role played by these undergraduates in implementing the new award.

In Griffin Endowed Chair Bill Ballenger’s spring 2005 political science seminar, the students created a compromise they believed encompassed the best aspects of the Merit Award and Granholm’s proposed changes - without costing more money. This new plan would convert the current $2,500 Merit Award program into what will become the $4,000 Michigan Promise. They then presented their plan before members of the State Senate on June 8, 2005, at the Capitol in Lansing.

“Initially, I would have never imagined that our plan would make it out of the classroom as anything more than a semester assignment,” said St. Joseph senior Heather Chiarello, a student involved in the project. “But after we were asked to testify in front of a joint committee in Lansing, the possibility of making some kind of impact became real.”

“There is no question that Bill Ballenger’s students at CMU were the catalyst needed to encourage the Legislature and Governor to add more dollars to the Michigan Merit Award,” said former state Senator Mike Goschka (R-Brant), former chairman of the Senate’s higher education spending panel.

Without these students coming before the Legislature to present their proposal, there simply would have been no increase in the program. Clearly, this is grassroots representative government in its purest form; the students presented a bona fide plan, and elected leaders responded by incorporating parts of it into the new award that was ultimately adopted.”

The whole of the students’ proposal has not made it into law - at least not yet. Still, in the tradition of political give-and-take, the core principles of the students’ agenda were encompassed by the new statute, including increasing the amount of the award and rewarding students who do well on the state-administered ACT exam by giving them half the money before they begin college.

“The CMU students can take satisfaction in having highlighted the need for some front-loading of the scholarship monies,” said Liz Boyd, Governor Granholm’s press secretary.

The Michigan Promise scholarship, signed into law by Governor Granholm on Dec. 21, 2006, provides up to $4,000 to high school graduates for successfully completing two years of postsecondary education beginning with the high school graduating class of 2007.”
Winners selected for 2006 Student Paper Competition

The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences is proud to recognize the winners of the 2006 Student Paper Competition. Each graduate student receives $750 and each undergraduate student receives $500 from donations from faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college.

The winners are selected by a committee of CHSBS faculty members. Students may submit essays, theoretical papers, creative works, research papers or reviews of research completed for 300 level and above classes during the previous year.

Graduate Students

Dan Forbes
“The First Reconstruction of the Republican Party: Michigan and the Election of 1876”
Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Green

Katherine Metropoulos
“Entre el principe azul y la realidad: Analisis del sujeto femenino en las novelas de Zoe Valdes y Cristina Garcia”
Faculty Sponsor: Krzysztof Kulawik

Amanda Papke
“Anna of Denmark and the Court Masque”
Faculty Sponsor: James Daybell

Undergraduate Students

Kevin Alt
“A Cheap Loaf of Warm White Bread: A Study in the Industrialization of the Nineteenth Century British Bakehouse”
Faculty Sponsor: James Schmiechen

William Kiesgen
“Toto, We’re Stuck in Kansas: The Pros and Cons of Scientific Realism”
Faculty Sponsor: John Wright

Jonathan Pohl
“A Catholic School and a Public School: The Case of St. Mary’s in Westphalia, Michigan, and its Changing Relationship with the State of Michigan, 1936-1961”
Faculty Sponsor: Timothy O’Neil

Matt Smith
“A Critique of Searle’s Solution to the Mind-Body Problem”
Faculty Sponsor: Gary Fuller

ROTC cadets show off strength at Ranger Challenge

Several ROTC cadets marched away with two top honors at the Ranger Challenge at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in October.

CMU’s five-person team placed first in the Army physical fitness test and the 10 km forced march while carrying a rucksack and equipment weighing about 35 pounds. Overall in the competition, the team came in fourth out of fourteen.

The cadets who made up the team included: Mark May, a senior from Warren; Trystyn Seaman, a senior from Wixom; Aaron Roehrig, a senior from Newaygo; Mike Allen, a junior from North Branch; Jacqueline Brun, a junior from East Jordan; and Ben Boettcher, a junior from Mount Pleasant.

The Ranger Challenge is the only varsity sport in ROTC. It consists of competitions between five- and nine-person teams such as day and night land navigation, an Army physical fitness test, weapons assembly, an obstacle course, litter carry, Humvee pull, one rope bridge crossing and a 10 km forced march.

Two nine-person teams also competed in the event for CMU. Overall, this was the school’s best performance in recent history.
CHSBS graduates receive awards for thesis and dissertation projects

Five CHSBS graduates have received awards recognizing their dedication and perseverance in completing their capstone projects.

The Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Award, established by the College of Graduate Studies in 1984, recognizes excellent scholarly activity by CMU graduate students who have completed a thesis, dissertation or Plan B paper.

Each year, up to eight awards are presented to students nominated by faculty members or department chairs. This year’s recipients include:

- **Nicholas Dey** of Saginaw for his thesis, “The Effects of Oral Administration of the Substituted Pyrimidine KP544 in a Transgenic Mouse Model of Huntington’s Disease.”

  Dey researched the effects of the drug KP544 as a possible treatment for Huntington’s Disease. By comparing the performance of mice treated with the drug to a group of untreated mice, Dey found that the treatment delayed the onset and decreased the severity of Huntington’s Disease-like symptoms.

  Dey, who was advised by psychology professor Gary Dunbar, earned a master’s degree in applied experimental psychology in August of 2006. His thesis was CMU’s nominee for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award.

- **Kirsten Gobeski** of Cedar Falls, Iowa, for her thesis, “Why Retirees Work: Differential Prediction of Types of Bridge Employment,” which examines environmental characteristics and self-reported attitudes of retirees in relation to post-retirement employment, also known as bridge employment.

  Her research found that retirees’ attitudes and situational factors can be used to differentiate between retired individuals who work in their previous career field, work in a different field, or do not work at all after retiring. Portions of the research were presented at the national conference of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology last year.

  Gobeski, who earned her master’s degree in industrial/organizational psychology in May of 2006, was advised by psychology professor Terry Beehr.

- **Koichi Kato** of Tokyo, Japan, for his dissertation, “Controlled versus Automatic Processes in Retrieval-Induced Forgetting,” which investigates why individuals forget.

  During his research, Kato examined a situation in which individuals forgot information after recalling related information. He investigated whether this type of forgetting is automatic, meaning that forgetting is a natural consequence of activating a part of the brain, or controlled, during which individuals intentionally suppress the competing information. He concluded that the phenomenon is based on controlled processes and that individuals have the ability to suppress information that is competing with what they are trying to remember.

  Kato, who received his doctoral degree in applied experimental psychology in December, was advised by psychology professor Hajime Otani.

- **Joel Lewis** of Mount Pleasant for his dissertation, “Youth Against Fascism: The Construction of Communist Youth Identity in Britain and the United States.”

  His work uses the Young Communist Leagues in Britain and the U.S. as case studies to trace the origins and development of western communism and address how young people in these cultures understand communism and the propaganda techniques used to attract them.

  Lewis, who received a joint doctoral degree in comparative modern European history from CMU and the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, in December, was advised by history professor James A. Schmiechen.

- **Katherine Metropoulos** of Saginaw for her Plan B paper, “Entre el príncipe azul y la realidad: Análisis del sujeto femenino en las novelas de Zoé Valdés y Cristina García” (English translation: “Between Prince Charming and Reality: An Analysis of the Female Subjects in the Novels of Zoe Valdes and Cristina Garcia”).

  Using poststructuralist feminist theory as a theoretical framework, Metropoulos analyzed the narrative structures and female protagonists in four novels written by authors Valdes and Garcia, finding “feminine identity” in the narratives to be multiple, changing and open to different interpretations.

  Metropoulos, who earned her master’s degree in Spanish in May of 2006, was advised by Krzysztof Kulawik, an associate professor of Spanish.
CMU hires new museum curators

The **Museum of Cultural and Natural History** at Central Michigan University is under new leadership. Two curators were hired last summer to take over operations of the museum located in Rowe Hall.

**Bill Pretzer** is the new museum director and curator of history, and **Kirsten Nicholson** is the curator of natural history. Pretzer and Nicholson oversee the museum’s operations, including exhibitions, educational programs and management of the collections.

Along with serving as museum director and curator, Pretzer is director of the Museum Studies interdisciplinary minor and is an associate professor of history in the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Nicholson is an assistant professor of biology in the College of Science and Technology.

Before coming to CMU, Pretzer was a curator and educational administrator at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn for 21 years. Prior to that, he gained experience at Winterthur Museum in Delaware and the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. He received his bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and his master’s and doctorate in history from Northern Illinois University.

“My goal is to establish the museum as an active resource for the study of cultural and natural history; a center for the study of material culture and an advocate for informal, experiential learning,” said Pretzer. “I believe museums and similar organizations are immensely important as learning institutions, as community centers and as cultural resources.”

Since arriving in August, Pretzer’s priorities have been to reassess the museum’s policies, procedures and programs, begin the revision of educational materials provided to local schools, and install a new student-developed exhibition (see adjacent article). He and Nicholson also are reassessing the Museum Studies offerings and organization.

A native of Mount Juliet, Tenn., Nicholson earned a bachelor’s degree in science in 1991 at the University of Memphis and a master’s degree in science in 1995 at Auburn University in Alabama. She earned her doctorate in biology in 2001 at the University of Miami and continued her research as a postdoctoral student at Washington University in St. Louis.

Her museum-related experience includes stints as a mammal technician at the University of Memphis, assistant curator of herpetology at Auburn University’s Museum of Natural History and assistant curator for the herpetology collection at the University of Miami.

“I’m thrilled about my position here with CMU,” said Nicholson. “This is a fantastic opportunity to combine my research and museum experience and interests. I’m excited to be a part of the development of the museum.”

Nicholson has concentrated on revising the zoology collections database, overseeing conservation projects, revamping the pest-management system, involving undergraduates in research utilizing museum specimens, and developing an experiential learning program involving animal displays in local schools.

Established at CMU in 1970, the Museum of Cultural and Natural History serves the university by providing teaching and research opportunities for students, faculty and staff; creating educational materials and experiences for school children; and offering a cultural resource for the general public, local residents and visitors to the university.
Museum opens first new exhibit in 13 years

A rare reptile called a Tuatara from islands near New Zealand, a poster from 1917 on the effects of alcohol, a drum made by a member of a Pigmy tribe in the Congo and a CMU beanie are all part of the Museum of Cultural and Natural History’s first new exhibit in 13 years.

The museum’s new exhibit, “CMU’s Best Kept Secret – Bicycles, Beanies and Birds . . . Oh My,” was designed by students in the Introduction to Museum Work course last fall. This exhibit, which will run through May 7, is in the museum’s temporary exhibit gallery, adjacent to the main exhibit, which illustrates how Michigan’s animal and human inhabitants have formed the modern Michigan landscape.

For the new exhibit, students chose objects from the more than 50,000 artifacts in CMU’s collections, most of which have never been on public display.

“Creating this exhibit was an excellent opportunity to prepare for the challenges of working in a museum or art gallery,” said Hesperia senior Jessie Hombrook, who will graduate from CMU with a fine arts degree in May. “The experience was labor-intensive and challenged our organizational and communication skills, but we enjoyed the challenge and felt as if we established a museum ‘family’ throughout the semester.”

In addition to selecting the artifacts, Hombrook and her classmates held fundraisers, designed posters, cleaned vitrines, painted pedestals and created descriptive labels for each of the displays.

Grand Rapids senior Kit Anderson says she is passionate about preserving history so that future generations can have insight into her world and learn about previous generations. She was happy to participate in nearly every facet of creating the new exhibit.

“During months of planning and hard work, we relied on contributions from every individual in the class to complete this extensive project,” said Anderson. “This was a good opportunity to learn what will be expected of us if we work in museums in the future.”

Hombrook’s favorite display in the exhibit describes the evolution of campus life at CMU, including the traditional ‘donning of the beanie’ to signify freshman status and the ‘End of the World’ parties.

“One object that I chose for this display is a poster that describes the dangers of alcohol abuse. It was utilized during Prohibition to discourage drinking and to illustrate the physical and moral peril that occurs when one ‘indulges’ in alcohol,” she said.

Anderson, who will graduate in May of 2008 with a major in visual art education K-12 and a minor in art history and museum studies, said her favorite artifact is the CMU beanie.

“It is a reminder of the CMU students who walked this campus and studied in the stacks before us. It is a tangible representation of the history, tradition and spirit of CMU.”

The museum is open Mondays through Fridays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. The museum is located in CMU’s Rowe Hall, which is on the corner of Bellows Street and East Campus Drive.
Pérez to head Midwest organization

CMU associate professor of political science Orlando Pérez has been elected president of the Midwest Association of Latin American Studies, an organization that fosters an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to education and research on Latin America.

Throughout his one-year term as president, Pérez will provide leadership for the organization by planning the next annual meeting, heading the group’s advisory council, working to update and improve the organization’s Web page, and maintaining the organization’s finances.

“Being elected president is an honor and a way for me to give back to the profession,” said Pérez.

“My primary goals are to continue the growth of the organization, particularly by incorporating more students; modernizing the communications to use more e-mail and online platforms; improving the Web page; and working with the vice president to hold a successful annual meeting next fall.”

The Midwest Association of Latin American Studies, the oldest regional Latin American studies association in the U.S., organizes national and international annual conferences that address the myriad of themes reflected in the diverse interests of the membership. It includes the participation of social and natural scientists, artists, and humanists from all disciplines at its meetings and in its publications.

The organization also grants several awards each year to recognize outstanding student and faculty research papers presented at the annual conference.

Pérez specializes in Latin American politics, U.S.-Latin American relations, civil-military relations, and the politics of developing nations.

He is editor of Post-Invasion Panama: The Challenges of Democratization in the New World Order. His publications focus on the processes of democratization in Central America, the impact of U.S. intervention in Panama, and political economy and drug trafficking in Latin America.

Steffel receives MCTE teaching award

English professor Susan Steffel was honored at the Michigan Council of Teachers of English annual fall conference in October by receiving the 2006 Charles Carpenter Fries Award for teaching and professional excellence.

The award recognizes teachers of English language arts who are excellent teachers, have long and faithful service to the profession and have demonstrated distinguished leadership in their profession at local, state and national levels.

“It is especially meaningful to receive this award from my peers,” said Steffel. “I credit the MCTE, more than any other organization, with my remaining in the profession. Over the course of 30 years, MCTE has provided me with the opportunities, knowledge, and support it takes to meet the challenges of the profession and to grow individually.”

Steffel began her teaching career at Maple Valley High School in Vermontville, Mich., as a high school and middle school English teacher. After 18 years at Maple Valley she joined the faculty of CMU in 1991.

She served on the MCTE Executive Committee from 1996 to 2005, including a term as president in 2003-2004. She has been honored numerous times at CMU, receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award twice and the inaugural CHSBS Teaching Excellence Award in 2005.

The Fries award, first given in 1967, memorializes Fries, a University of Michigan Professor and early president of MCTE.
Eke awarded NEH grant to teach African literature

English professor Maureen N. Eke will once again teach high school teachers from across the country about the creative works of African literature thanks to a $119,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Eke has received the award four times and will use the grant to host a three-week seminar focused on African literature for a select group of high school teachers.

“This grant is a great accomplishment for CMU; it gives us national presence,” said Eke. “It also is a great recruiting tool as teachers come from across the country to spend time at CMU, and several of them have recommended CMU to their students.”

The seminar will focus on the works of three African writers: Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyink and Ama Ata Aidoo in relation to the African narratives of Polish and British writer Joseph Conrad and American writer Barbara Kingsolver. The seminar also will include visits to the Detroit Institute of Art and the African-American museum also in Detroit.

“Our main goal is to work with teachers to help them explore various ways in which they can use literature to teach about Africa in their classes,” Eke said. “We hope that it will enrich their understanding and approaches to teaching about Africa and enhance their students’ understanding of the cultures and history of the continent.”

More information on the “Writing Africa” seminar can be found at www.chsbs.cmich.edu/writing_africa.

CHSBS bids farewell to respected colleagues

The faculty and staff in the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences extend their condolences to the family and friends of three retired faculty members who passed away recently.


Joseph “Joe” Lawrence, 78, of Mt. Pleasant passed away on January 30 at his home with his family by his side. He was an associate professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work for almost 25 years before retiring in December of 1994.

Leonard Lieberman, 81, passed away on February 6 from bypass surgery recovery complications. He was a professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work for more than 40 years.

Chinquee receives literacy award

For 30 years, the Pushcart Prize has published hundreds of distinguished storytellers, poets, and essayists. CMU English professor Kim Chinquee is honored to have her work featured in the 2007 release.

Chinquee has been nominated in the Pushcart series five years in a row. This year her story “Formation,” which was published in Noon magazine, was nominated twice and received the Pushcart Prize. The short story is about a group of women in the United States Air Force.

“I was in the Air Force for eight years, and this story draws upon some of those experiences,” Chinquee said.

The “Pushcart Prize – Best of the Small Presses,” includes the year’s best short stories, poems and essays originally published by small presses and literary magazines.

More than 100 of Chinquee’s short stories have been published in magazines and journals. She continues to work on two novels, Tell Me a Lie and Sink Tester.

“Winning this prize brings me closer to my goals,” Chinquee said.

Chinquee graduated from the University of Illinois with a master’s degree in creative writing. To read some of her stories, visit www.kimchinquee.blogspot.com.
Think you’ve mastered the art of driving safely while dialing a cell phone or switching radio stations? Psychology professor Richard Backs has a test that might prove you wrong.

Backs is conducting research that could help car companies develop better technology to minimize driver attention failures and design dashboard devices that require less attention to operate.

Unlike most scientists who focus strictly on performance while researching driver safety, Backs and his students at CMU are using brain wave patterns and heart activity to study drivers’ attention while behind the wheel. This series of physiological tests of driver responses are being conducted using a desktop driver simulator provided by the General Motors Corporation.

“We are simulating how people use their attention while driving to better understand distractions such as navigation systems, cell phones and other portable wireless devices,” Backs said. “In normal situations, our driving performance is not affected by these distractions. We may think we are driving safely, but physiological measures show that our attention is actually focused on these other devices. Through our research, we hope to learn how to minimize distractions from these types of devices.”

**Evaluating senior drivers**

In addition to his work with General Motors, Backs is seeking funding to expand his research and establish a driving center at CMU. The center will be a collaboration between the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions.

Backs will operate the center with Nick Cassavaugh, a research scientist and psychology department faculty member. A key focus of their research will be on how driver attention changes as people age, focusing on adults 65 years of age and older.

“As the population of Michigan ages the number of individuals experiencing adverse health conditions associated with aging will increase,” said Backs. “There is an obvious need for these individuals to have their driving ability evaluated following a life-changing health event such as a stroke. However, physicians and family members also may want to have driving evaluations for older adults who might be experiencing mild to moderate dementia.”

In addition to evaluating older drivers, Backs and Cassavaugh will research adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other diagnosed attention disorders to learn how these conditions affect their attention while driving and help to develop remediation for them.

Backs and Cassavaugh also will develop an attention test to assess functions such as visual scanning, flexibility of attention, and sustained attention to diagnose specific attention deficits.

Backs has received a grant worth $214,000 from the CMU Vision 2010 initiative to cover most of the operating expenses for the center for two years. He is seeking additional funding to purchase special equipment, such as a driving simulator and eye tracking devices, and to support the costs for undergraduate and graduate students’ clinical experiences and research.

“There are so many things that we can do with this research,” said Backs. “Not only do we want to understand how we use our attention as we drive, we also want to develop programs to educate people on how to better distribute their attention while driving.”
Book leads to architectural tour of Saugatuck

The Lake Michigan port village of Saugatuck is making a name for itself among the likes of Tokyo, New York City and Palm Springs, Fla., thanks in part to a book written by CMU history professor James Schmiechen.


As the tour’s guide, Schmiechen will be able to share his knowledge and passion of the Lake Michigan port villages’ unique architectural history with others.

“I am very elated and excited to be able to serve as the tour guide for the Society of Architectural Historians four-day tour in October 2007,” said Schmiechen, who also is chairperson of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum. “The tour will visit and study many buildings in the Saugatuck, Douglas and Pier Cove area designed by famous American architects and artists, such as Florence Hunn, Tomas Tallmadge, George Maher and George Helmuth.”

At first glance, Saugatuck may not appear to have much in common with the other cities chosen for tours, but according to the Society of Architectural Historians, these sites were chosen because they each have exceptional architectural value and interest.

“A lot of the area’s early character has been preserved, so the villages do not look like suburban-mall-type environments,” Schmiechen said. “The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society uses my book as part of a war to save the historic landscape and townscape from indiscriminate and tasteless development. It is an effort to try to get people to build new structures which complement, not compete, with the traditional environment.”

Schmiechen’s book uses text, photographs and illustrations to feature Saugatuck-Douglas area buildings and tell the story of the transformation of Lake Michigan port villages from logging towns to cultural hot-spots for artists and writers.

“The industrialization and urbanization of Chicago in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries led to many people using Lake Michigan port villages, like Saugatuck, as places to have fun and get back in touch with nature, God and the arts,” Schmiechen said.

Saugatuck has been selected as one of Gov. Granholm’s “Cool Cities,” and the U.S. Government named it a “Preserve America City.” The Society of Architectural Historians promotes the preservation and study of architecture all over the world, and its study tours provide travel and learning opportunities for its members.

Dog Tales founder receives CMU volunteer award

Philosophy and religion department executive secretary Betty Lewis was honored recently for her service to the community.

The CMU Volunteer Center named Lewis as one of the first recipients of its new Volunteers are Central recognition program, which celebrates the contributions of volunteers from across campus.

Lewis is founder and coordinator of Dog Tales Inc., an organization dedicated to improving children’s literacy skills by using certified therapy dogs as mentors. The program is the first of its kind in Michigan.

“Children read books one-on-one to certified therapy dogs,” said Lewis. “The dogs establish an instant rapport with the children and are not judgmental, which allows a child who normally cannot read aloud in front of a group to feel more comfortable.”

Dog tales is in its fifth year. Volunteers have organized reading programs at several libraries and schools in the Central Michigan region. Most programs last four weeks.

“Dogs are fun, so the children do not see our program as an extension of school or school tutoring,” said Lewis. “The dogs do not laugh, make faces or correct the children. They accept the way they read. Our program is more about improving a child’s self-esteem to jump-start their progress in reading. We want them to leave our program believing they can read.”

The CMU Volunteers are Central program honors up to three students, one faculty or staff member, and one department or organization per month.
Gifts from alumni and friends of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences are bringing Taylor freshman Amanda N. Draft a step closer to a career as a fiction writer. Draft is the recipient of the 2006-2007 CHSBS Alumni Fund Award, which provides a renewable $1,000 scholarship to incoming freshman students who plan to major in one of the college’s academic departments. Draft, who graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 2006, will major in English and women’s studies. She aspires to become a writer with a focus on fiction.

“I feel very fortunate to have received the CHSBS Alumni Fund Award,” said Draft. “This scholarship, along with other monetary awards I received, helped to pay for almost all of my expenses this year. That allowed me to focus on going to school without worrying about how to pay for books and tuition.”

The CHSBS Alumni Fund Award was established in 2004. Applicants must have a minimum 3.4 high school grade point average and an ACT score of 25 or higher. The award is renewable for one year.

Assistant professor of political science David Jesuit is proud that his students were selected to participate in the American Model United Nations conference in Chicago for the past two years, but he believes it’s time to raise the bar.

“My students would love to attend the National Model UN conference where sessions are held at the UN headquarters in New York City,” said Jesuit. “Unfortunately, cost is a prohibitive factor because that program costs nearly three times as much as smaller Model UN conferences.”

Model UN is a simulation of debates in UN institutions, including the General Assembly, Security Council and International Court of Justice. Students prepare for the conference by learning about the economic, social, and political interests of the countries they represent and drafting proposals to improve or protect those issues. During the conference they participate in committee meetings with other delegates – following UN protocol – to decide which proposals to accept.

“We need to promote active learning and increase awareness about international problems here at CMU. The Model UN accomplishes both,” said Jesuit, who is the faculty advisor for CMU’s Society of the Model United Nations. He also teaches a course each semester to help students prepare for a Model UN conference.

“By participating in Model UN, my students gain a greater appreciation of the complex problems confronting the world today. They move beyond solutions that focus solely on what the U.S. is saying or doing and develop an international perspective. They also hone leadership skills as they seek to foster consensus among students representing the member states of the UN,” said Jesuit.

CMU students represented the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Iceland at the American Model UN in November. South Lyon senior Daniel Ramalia, who led the Korean delegation, says being a part of Model UN is more than just learning facts about the country you represent.

“We learned the interpersonal skills needed to succeed in diplomacy. A successful representative is able to step into a group, sometimes of up to 150 people, and not only participate in a discussion but lead it. Those are the types of learning experiences that you cannot simulate in classrooms.”

During the past year, Jesuit has appealed to CMU’s alumni and friends to help students raise money to attend Model UN conferences. Their contributions are used to pay for transportation, lodging and conference registration. Students pay for their own meals and personal expenses.

“I continue to be amazed at the personal growth I see in students as a result of the intense Model UN simulation,” said Jesuit. “I’ve learned that the quiet student in the corner might be our best leader. Our students just need opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.”

If you are interested in making a gift to support the CMU Model UN program, please contact the CHSBS Development Office at CHSBS@cmich.edu or 989-774-1788.
CMU celebrates successful campaign

CMU celebrated the successful conclusion of its history-making New Vision of Excellence Campaign with a reception and community lunch in September.

The five-year campaign – the first since CMU’s founding more than 110 years ago – far exceeded the initial campaign goal of $50 million by raising $78 million.

Gifts from alumni, faculty, staff and friends of CMU, including many from the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, provided funding in four critically important areas targeted by the campaign: student scholarships, faculty and program endowments, enhanced campus environment, and ongoing and special programs.

“Central Michigan University sincerely appreciates the many generous donations made during this campaign,” said President Michael Rao. “CMU increasingly holds distinction as one of Michigan’s most vibrant public universities, thanks in no small part to our growing legacy of donor support and endowment.”
~ 1930s ~
I have so many wonderful memories of Central from the 1930s and the 1950s. Plus, my mother, aunt, mother-in-law and father-in-law all graduated from there many years ago. Central has and always will mean so much to me and others.

I taught school for 35 years, and I loved all of the children so much. I even received wonderful accolades from our government at my retirement. I felt blessed by being able to be a part of so many lives – I had almost perfect attendance. I still see several of my former students: my dentist, my favorite store owner, several of my church members, etc.

My only son, John Winters, graduated from Central in 1968. His father and my husband, George Winters, died following a serious accident in January of 1968. I was afraid that John Jr. would quit and not graduate, but he did graduate and we went on, with many prayers.

Sincerely yours,
Helen (Peters) Winter-Cole
Teaching Certificate, ‘39
B.S. Social Science, ‘59

~ 1950s ~
The Honorable Fred M. Mester (Soc. Sci. ‘59) was awarded the Michigan State Bar Champion of Justice Award in recognition of his significant contributions to the community outside of the legal profession and his meritorious efforts to resolve widespread problems affecting the Pontiac community and its youth.

He also received an award from the Women’s Bar Association for his outstanding leadership within the legal community and his commitment to the furtherance of diversity both in the community and in the legal profession. The WBA recognized Mester during their 24th Annual Holiday Party and Benefit in December.

The Honorable Fred M. Mester accepts an award from the Women’s Bar Association.

~ 1960s ~
Hans Andrews (Commerce/Bus. Admin./ROTC ‘60) has written Awards and Recognition for Exceptional Teachers, which encourages schools and community colleges to develop teacher recognition programs.

Mark S. Gaylord, (Psych. ’68) is a Fulbright scholar at Chinese University of Hong Kong for the 2006-07 academic year. He teaches in the School of Law and assists the director of the Hong Kong-America Center with fundraising and programming. The center promotes understanding between Hong Kong and southern China and the U.S. through educational and cultural exchanges.

Karen (Bohnhoff) Minnis (Hist. ’66) was one of 10 women selected from the two Presbyteries. During the trip, they observed projects that are improving educational opportunities for the general public in northeastern Brazil.

~ 1970s ~

Larry Crandall (BS Ed.: Pol. Sci. ’70) is retiring after 36 years with Dowagiac Union Schools, where he was superintendent for the past seven years.

Nancy Casey Fulton (Eng. ’71; MA ’73) received first prize for her poem, “A Long Dying,” in the annual poetry contest conducted by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. It was published in the December edition of NewsLine/Insights. She is the spiritual care coordinator at Hospice of Central Michigan in Mount Pleasant.

Dennis E. Hensley (MA Eng. ’73) served as a guest lecturer at Oxford University for one week in January of 2006. He is an English professor at Taylor University Fort Wayne, where he serves as director of the professional writing major. His 47th book, Jack London’s Martin Eden: The Annotated Edition, was released by Taylor University in August of 2006.

Linda E. Homeyer (Pol. Sci. ’70) was promoted from associate professor to professor at Texas State University-San Marcos.

Maxine Klumpp Kent (Psych. ’72; MA Ed. Admin. ’84) was highlighted in the Michigan American Council on Education Network newsletter for her service to higher education in Michigan. She is associate vice president of human resources at CMU.

Diane (Williamson) Lentz (Soc. Sci. ’71; MA Library Sci. ’72) retired from Sandusky Community Schools after 33 years of teaching elementary and middle school and finishing her career in the high school media center.

William C. “Kit” Moran (Hist. ’77) was named principal at Dexter High School in July.
Timothy A. Gates (Psych. ’99; MS ’02) received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine on June 11, 2006. He also received the Medical Literary Achievement Award at a ceremony held on June 9, 2006. The award is given to a member of the graduating class who demonstrates excellence in investigational medical writing and presentation.

Gates also has a bachelor’s degree in astrophysics from Michigan State University. He is the son of Pamela Gates, interim dean of CMU’s College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. He is specializing in neurosurgery and is completing his internship and residency program at Garden City Hospital, Garden City, Mich.

Joseph A. Liebner (Soc./ROTC ’98) commands Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, in Idar-Oberstein, Germany.

Rachel (Zimmerman) Nagy (Soc. ’97) and her husband, Matthew, announce the birth of their daughter, Natalie Elizabeth, born Feb. 24, 2006. She joins her sister, Madison.


Phil Schultz Jr. (Soc.: Criminal Justice, ’03, received a promotion to shift supervisor at the Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center in July 2006.

Marie Wright Tolliver (Soc. ’76) was elected the 27th national president of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs Inc. She is author of The Triumphs and Tribulations of a Leader: The History of My Life.

Carl Stempel (Soc./Pol. Sci. ’78) is an associate professor of sociology at California State University East Bay. He earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Oregon.

Andrew Arena (Hist. & Pol. Sci., ’85) was named head of the FBI agency in Michigan, where he oversees approximately 240 agents across the state. He began his role as special agent in charge of the Detroit office in February. He joined the FBI in 1988 and served as special agent in charge of the criminal division in New York for the past three years.


Tom Henry (Jrn./Pol. Sci. ’81), an environmental reporter for the Blade in Toledo, received the inaugural Great Lakers Award in the media category from the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. Ohio Governor Bob Taft and New York Governor George Pataki received awards in the public official category.

Henry also was one of three recipients of the Vermont Law School Environmental Law Media Fellowship. He has received two first-place awards for environmental writing from the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists, and he was named the state’s top environmental writer by the Ohio Environmental Council in 2004.

Former Michigan Governor William G. Milliken (pictured, right) joined other dignitaries, family and friends in honoring Senator Griffin during the ceremony.
## Alumni Information Form

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

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News


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