Political leaders discussed the state’s stretched budget and the role of higher education in Michigan’s economic future during the Griffin Policy Forum in November. Seated from left to right are House Minority Leader Craig DeRoche, Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, forum moderator and host of WKAR’s “Off the Record” Tim Skubick, Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, and Senate Minority Leader Mark Schauer.

State's top legislators visit CMU for Griffin Policy Forum

A crowd of more than 700 students, faculty and citizens had the unique opportunity to observe Michigan’s top legislators debate issues affecting the state’s future during Central Michigan University’s Griffin Policy Forum Nov. 6 in Warriner Hall’s Plachta Auditorium.

The semiannual public forum, “Now What? Managing the Budget Crisis While Promoting a Positive Future for the State of Michigan,” brought together the top four ranking political leaders in the state Senate and House of Representatives.

The panelists included Speaker Andy Dillon of the Michigan House of Representatives, Minority Leader Craig DeRoche of the Michigan House of Representatives, Majority Leader Mike Bishop of the Michigan Senate and Minority Leader Mark Schauer of the Michigan Senate.

Tim Skubick, host of WKAR’s “Off the Record,” moderated the forum.

The political leaders discussed options for managing the state’s stretched budget, allocating funding for higher education and preparing Michigan’s workforce to compete in a global economy.

They also disclosed their gubernatorial aspirations, with all but Bishop ruling out a bid for the governor’s race in 2010.

DeRoche, a 1991 CMU graduate, says he always looks forward to returning to his alma mater, adding that the forum is an excellent way to bring CMU students, the community and political leaders together to discuss key issues for our state.

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Check out our programs at www.grad.cmich.edu
Religion program hosts sacred music concert

The Central Michigan University religion program treated students and faculty members to an evening of culture, music and spiritual artistry during an event billed “Awe and Wonder: Sacred Music from Two Worlds” on Feb. 8.

The concert showcased both Indian sitar and African-American spiritual music. The performers included CMU senior and religion major Chris Freeman of Iron Mountain and philosophy and religion faculty members H. Talat Halman and Donald Matthews.

“With this event we are venturing into a new realm in order to show the way religion connects with music and the arts,” said Guy Newland, chairperson of the philosophy and religion department at CMU. “It’s a great opportunity to learn about both culture and music, but it’s also fun and entertaining.”

The evening began with Matthews’ one-man narrative of York, the slave owned by explorer William Clark. York made significant contributions to the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but his efforts are widely unknown.

Matthews sang several spirituals, including “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen,” to help describe the hardships faced by York and other slaves.

The event concluded with a blend of world music featuring a sitar performance by Freeman. He was accompanied by Halman, who sang Turkish spirituals and played a saz, and five other musicians playing instruments such as tabla drums, a guitar and a violin.

“It was such a thrill to integrate and synthesize these related and yet also disparate musical styles, particularly that we had fused Indian, African, Turkish and Euro-American musical frameworks together into one sound,” Halman said. “I am grateful and excited that the CMU religion program decided to offer this event as a way for people to access religion through music and that we covered so many musical bases.”

The sitar is a many-stringed, long-necked instrument that occupies a prominent position in Indian classical music. The saz is a plucked string instrument popular in Turkey, Iran and other Eastern Mediterranean countries. Freeman, a locally known artist, has released six compact discs of his own original scores. For more information, visit www.cffmusic.com.

Griffin forum continued

“We want to give people a chance to get a deeper understanding of what matters to them,” DeRoche said. “I hope we also can draw on our visions for better days in Michigan, so that we can all come together and move this state in a different direction.”

The Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government was established in 1999 through private donations to CMU. It provides continuing support to fund the salary and associated costs of a government and public policy expert who serves as a faculty member in CMU’s political science department.

The Griffin program seeks to build interest and increase engagement in politics among young adults, faculty and the general public. The endowment honors former U.S. senator Robert Griffin and his wife, Marjorie Griffin, both distinguished CMU alumni.

This was the first forum organized under the direction of Gary Peters, who began his term as CMU’s Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government in August.

For more information about the forums, visit www.chsbs.cmich.edu/griffin.
**Message from the Dean**

I am glad to be back in the college after a year as interim provost. I want to publicly thank and express my gratitude to associate dean Pamela Gates who did a wonderful job leading the college as the interim dean during my absence. I would also like to thank history professor Mitchell Hall for his service and contributions as interim associate dean.

As provost, I appreciated learning about the wonderful programs and activities taking place in all of the colleges at CMU. While I took pride in the accomplishments of students, faculty and staff throughout the university, I took great pride in the accomplishments in my home college, the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. I am pleased to share some of these accomplishments with others, and one way to do so is through our newsletter.

The college’s primary goals are to help prepare students for a successful life after they graduate and to facilitate opportunities for students and faculty to add to the pool of knowledge represented by the disciplines within the college. The college is home to dedicated and accomplished faculty members whose efforts are instrumental to helping us achieve our primary goals.

Among the ways we help our students is to provide learning opportunities outside of the classroom. One way that we do this is to encourage our students to study abroad and to provide scholarships to support these efforts. Likewise, through the generous support of donors, the college is able to offer unique learning experiences such as forums presented by our Griffin Chair. We will soon offer students additional learning opportunities through the newly established Ballenger-Browne Capitol Internship Endowment and Denison visiting professorship in Native American Studies.

We proudly claim thousands of distinguished alumni, including FBI agent Andrew Arena, retired attorney Pat Hackett and neuroscientist Deborah Shear, whose accomplishments are highlighted in this newsletter.

As a graduate, student, faculty member, friend or generous donor of the college, I hope that you share my pride and enthusiasm for being a part of this academic community.

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**History department hosts international conference on genocide and violence**

Scholars from three continents converged on Central Michigan University’s Mount Pleasant campus last August to explore whether genocide and violence have decreased worldwide over time.

The conference, “Violence and Genocide in Latin American History,” was sponsored by CMU’s Center for Transnational and Comparative History and Erasmus University in the Netherlands. Additional support was provided by the state of Michigan, CMU and the National Research Council of the Netherlands.

The conference was the first of a series of four conferences that will provide an arena for analysis of the long-term history of world violence. Scholars from across the globe will share these findings in a number of publications and ultimately a book. The remaining conferences, to take place over the next three years, will focus on Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. The sites for those conferences have yet to be set.

“We were gratified to be able to host many distinguished scholars from leading universities in Europe, Latin America, and the United States, and to leave them with a positive view of this university and community,” Johnson said.

The conference participants learned that violence in Central and South America has largely been declining, and that examples of political violence in the twentieth century are not necessarily unusual when compared to violence throughout previous centuries, Johnson said.

Other participants included scholars from the University of Buenos Aires and Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Argentina; Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University and Oxford University in England; the University of Hannover in Germany; McGill University in Canada; Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla in Mexico; the University of Arizona; Columbia University; and the University of Oregon.

CMU’s Center for Transnational and Comparative History has master’s and doctorate level exchanges with Erasmus, the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena in Germany and Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla in Mexico.

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participants of the “Violence and Genocide in Latin American History” conference, including several faculty members from Central Michigan University, discuss research during the two-day event hosted on CMU’s campus last August.
Central Michigan University’s Museum of Cultural and Natural History has expanded its outreach to local students by placing four educational displays in Ganiard Elementary School in Mt. Pleasant.

The displays showcase 18 birds – including ducks, owls, woodpeckers, hawks, and cardinals – a frog, a butterfly, and a fish.

Staff and students from the museum developed displays to correspond to learning benchmarks for students in all grade levels. The CMU students also created teacher manuals to accompany the displays.

“This is a novel program that benefits people at all levels, from school children and their teachers to CMU students and the community, and to us,” said Kirsten Nicholson, a CMU biology professor and the museum’s curator of natural history. “It brings new resources to students and teachers . . . it’s fun and dynamic, and it gives us a new opportunity to share the museum’s resources with local students.”

Third-grade Ganiard teacher Sandy Jansen says the displays have been a big hit with students, parents, and teachers.

“The displays make learning about nature more meaningful, fun and exciting for the students. We’ve had entire classes sit in front of the displays for lessons. They’re wonderful resources to provide our students with a vivid, three-dimensional view of nature and wildlife,” Jansen said.

The project is very timely, said CMU senior and biology major Daedre Craig of Mount Pleasant, who helped set up the displays.

“Everyone knows that rising gas prices are preventing schools from going on as many field trips,” said Craig. “The ‘Birds in the Schools’ program is working around that inconvenience. This is exactly what the community needs.”

The displays will stay at Ganiard through the remainder of the school year, so that teachers at each grade level can use them over time. Leaders of the project hope to bring the program to more schools in the Mount Pleasant area if they can secure additional resources.

“It’s been a fabulous experience, and we’re very excited to be able to pilot this program,” Jansen said. “We want our students to gain an appreciation for wildlife and perhaps catch the ‘spark’ to learn more about nature. We may have future conservationists and zoologists in our classrooms!”

To learn more about the nature displays or to help expand this outreach program through a financial contribution to the CMU Museum of Cultural and Natural History, call 989-774-3829 or visit www.museum.cmich.edu.
Snapshots from abroad

Each year, dozens of students from the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures spend a semester studying abroad. They return to the U.S. describing these experiences as priceless and life-altering, and many vow to return for second, third or more trips abroad.

On the following pages, three students share their stories and photographs from their once in a lifetime experiences.

The FLLC department and the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences offer numerous scholarships to assist students with the costs of studying abroad. Many of these scholarships were established by CMU alumni and faculty members who believe that studying abroad is an essential component of pursuing a degree in higher education.

Although the number of scholarships available continues to increase, the number of students applying for these scholarships each year far exceeds the amount of funding available.

If you would like to learn more about the study abroad scholarships offered through CHSBS and its departments, or ways to support these scholarships, please call 989-774-3341 or visit www.chsbs.cmich.edu.

Adam Orange
Major: German, Secondary Education
Minor: English as a Second Language
Hometown: Midland, Mich.
Graduation: December 2009

Destination
Germany: Bielefeld University, Spring 2005; University of Stuttgart, 2006-07

Lodging
Host family in Bielefeld; dormitory at Stuttgart

A typical day in Germany
School began every morning at 8 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m. I studied history, intercultural communication, grammar, literature and applied geography. I took advantage of libraries and bookstores to read more in German and often spent endless hours roaming through the city or hopping into the subway to explore the many areas of Stuttgart. On the weekends I traveled with classmates, joined a local tennis club and made sure to interact with native speakers. I simply immersed myself within new situations with no reservations.

Benefits of studying abroad
Because of globalization and the idea of a ‘smaller world,’ it’s tremendously beneficial to move beyond your comfort zone to learn about another culture and language while at the same time developing bicultural relationships that help break down barriers of ignorance. In addition, studying the German language in Germany enabled me to apply it to everyday situations that aren’t easily replicated in a classroom setting.

Scholarships
CMU’s Office of International Education; Federation of German-American Clubs

Post-graduation plans
I plan to teach German at a U.S. high school or at one of the U.S. Army bases in Germany.

Lindsay Blackmore and her brother visit a castle in France.

Niki James poses in front of the Obelisk of Buenos Aires.
Lindsay Blackmore

Major: French, Secondary Education
Minor: Physical Ed. and Leadership
Hometown: Rockford, Mich.
Graduation: Spring 2009

Destination
France: Angers, Fall 2007

Lodging
Host family

A typical day in France
I had breakfast with my host family and then spent most of the day in classes. I took courses in conversational French, written and spoken French, interpreting the French language, grammar, history of French art, and French civilization. In the evenings, I shared two- to three-hour dinners with my host family where we would talk in French and enjoy the meal. On weekends or days off from school, my host family took me to theatre productions, taught me how to cook, and traveled with me to tour castles and surrounding cities.

Benefits of studying abroad
Studying abroad changed my outlook on life here in the United States and placed me in a situation where I had to adapt to a different way of living. I met wonderful people, traveled to several other countries, and saw many sights that even my parents have never experienced. I also returned fluent in French and very excited to share my experiences with my future students. I am more confident in my speaking abilities, and I am more confident in myself because I know what I have accomplished through studying abroad.

Scholarships
Edana DuGuay Scholarship; Gilles Labrie Scholarship; FLLC Department; Office of International Education

Post-graduation plans
I will teach French at a U.S. high school, but I would also like to return to France for a year to teach English as a Second Language to French students to expand my cultural experience in the country.

Julie (Niki) James

Major: Spanish
Minor: Bilingual, Bicultural Education
Graduation: Fall 2009

Destination
Argentina: La Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Fall 2007

Lodging
Host family

A typical day in Argentina
Our class schedules varied each day. I completed courses in political science of Latin America, prehistoric anthropology of South America, Spanish grammar, and Spanish American literature. All of the courses were taught in Spanish and my classmates were all native Argentine students. After class, I’d often meet friends for café con leche y medialunas (coffee with milk and flakey pastries). My evenings and weekends were spent doing homework or going out with friends to explore the city’s cultural offerings.

Benefits of studying abroad
This was an experience of a lifetime. There are few opportunities outside of higher education where you can visit a foreign country for an extended period of time at an affordable price. Studying abroad is an advantage in any career, but especially when studying a foreign language. I learned more in my semester abroad than in many semesters of classes in the United States, not to mention the fluidity acquired in my speaking skills. I genuinely believe that studying abroad is a priceless experience!

Scholarships
Elizabeth Etnire Scholarship; FLLC Department; Office of International Education; Honors Program

Post-graduation plans
I plan to teach Spanish in a secondary school for a few years before attending graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in Spanish linguistics.
Student Spotlight

ROTC cadet featured as hero in war on terror

CMU Army Cadet and Warren senior **Clarence Ketterer** was selected by the U.S. Department of Defense to be featured on “Heroes in the War on Terror,” a program that highlights military men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the global war on terror.

Ketterer received a Bronze Star with Valor in October 2005 for saving numerous lives when he came to the aid of Iraqi soldiers who had been attacked by a suicide bomber and were then the target of an ambush.

He organized a defensive position to fight back while helping to evacuate injured soldiers from the kill zone, lifting them into an ambulance he led in and out of the battlefield. Ketterer also was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal for his efforts.

“From his role as a Staff Sergeant, Cadet Ketterer is a great trainer, the best we have in our program,” said Army Maj. **Gregg Mays**, chairman of CMU’s department of military science. “His experience has made him more savvy than most of our other cadets, and he alone is impacting all of the others in our program. Through their interactions with him, he is teaching them about what it is like to be deployed.”

Ketterer will graduate from CMU in August with a double major in sociology and history. He will become a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps for at least three years and also plans to pursue a master’s degree in hospital administration.

Recent graduate wins CMU diversity award

December political science graduate **Gloria Owens**, MPA ’07, of Detroit received CMU’s President’s Diversity Excellence Award in recognition of her efforts to advance diversity on- and off-campus.

In addition to serving on the university’s diversity and multicultural board, various planning committees and panel discussions, Owens organized a reception for incoming graduate students. She also was a keynote speaker for one of CMU’s “Speak Up Speak Out” forums and has advocated diversity within curricula and on-campus organizations.

“It’s always exciting to be recognized for your talents, but as a true advocate for diversity it was my pleasure to participate and be a voice for minority students,” said Owens, who plans to work with student affairs at the university level.

Posters examine social injustice

A poster exhibit featuring works by students in Central Michigan University’s ANT/SOC 101: Social Justice in a Global Society course were on display in December in the Charles V. Park Library Extended Study Hours area.

Each of the posters summarized the students’ semester-long assignment of researching a social injustice and taking action to address it. The topics included human trafficking, poverty, global warming and child soldiers.

The course, taught by **Tara Hefferan**, is part of the new Global Justice minor offered through the sociology, anthropology and social work department.
Neuroscience student places second in national poster competition

Psychology senior Matt Bombard of Commerce Township was awarded second place in a national neuroscience poster competition for his research on genetically engineered stem cells during the Society for Neuroscience Conference in San Diego in November.

The competition, sponsored by the German Graduate Schools of Neuroscience and the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, included 92 posters from undergraduate students across the country.

The top five finalists were selected by judges based on each poster’s methodological approach, degree of difficulty, verifiability of data, contribution to new knowledge, layout, design and the student’s ability to answer questions.

“It was truly shocking to do so well in this prestigious competition. This award has formed connections and communication with other researchers that will only foster further research success here at CMU,” Bombard said.

Following graduation, Bombard plans to pursue a master’s degree in neuroscience at CMU, followed by medical school to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon.

MPA student selected for prestigious Carter Center internship

Graduate student Kebenzikato Adjeya, Pawubadi is completing an internship with the Democracy Program at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

When graduate student Kebenzikato Adjeya, Pawubadi (Jay) moved to the United States in 2001, he couldn’t exchange simple greetings in English. Now he is completing an internship with the prestigious Carter Center in Atlanta.

The Carter Center, which aims to advance human rights and alleviate unnecessary human suffering, was founded by former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

“I chose the Carter Center because they are doing an outstanding job in democracy and health programs in the West African regions where I am from,” said Jay, who will graduate from CMU in July with a Master of Public Administration degree.

The TV is an amazing tool to learn English,” he said.

After graduating from CMU, Jay plans to continue working in the United States for an international nonprofit organization and hopes to eventually secure a job with the Department of State.

Jay has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public and international law from the University of Benin (now called University of Lome) in Togo. He taught at an international institute in Lome and worked in the media before coming to the U.S.

A native speaker of French, Jay worked tirelessly to learn English with the goal of enrolling in an American graduate program. He achieved that goal in 2006 and enrolled in CMU’s off-campus program in Atlanta.

“My enrollment in CMU’s MPA program opened the door to a whole new world: the American society and a new teaching style that gives you not only academic training but also real life experience,” said Jay. “The latter aspect of the training is an amenity of the U.S. educational system that I value the most. I am really happy that I went back to school.”
Gisela Moffit receives national award

Retired foreign language professor Gisela Moffit has received national recognition for her efforts in teaching German. She was presented with the Certificate of Merit award from the American Association of Teachers of German and the Goethe-Institut New York during the AATG’s annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas in November.

The award, presented annually since 1978, recognizes educators for outstanding achievement in furthering the teaching of German in schools in the United States. To be eligible for the award, recipients must be nominated by their state AATG chapter or by AATG members.

“It is a great honor to be chosen for this national award,” Moffit said. “I was delighted.”

Her many accomplishments at CMU include founding the German Club, hosting monthly German film nights, creating a German newspaper written and produced by students and sent to high school teachers throughout the state, and establishing a study abroad program in her hometown of Bielefeld.

“As a teacher she held high expectations for her students, but was always there helping them to succeed, including inventing mnemonic devices for grammar rules that she had students sing to themes from German composers,” said Sue Knight, a CMU Spanish professor and chair of the foreign languages, literatures and cultures department.

“Outside of class she took students to see plays, visit museums, and attend festivals, and she invited them to her home to learn German Christmas carols and prepare German recipes,” Knight said.

Other honors include the Barbara Ort-Smith Award for Lifetime Achievement—the Michigan Foreign Language Association’s highest award—and the Best Article of the Year (1998) by die Unterrichtspraxis for “Oya? – O ja! Ein Plädoyer für Jugendliteratur,” which focused on teaching young adult literature in the German classroom. She has presented at more than 40 state and national workshops over the past 10 years.

Moffit began teaching German at CMU in 1975 and retired last August after more than 30 years of service.

Seaton’s plays explore life of Sally Hemings

Playwright and librettist Sandra Seaton, a retired Central Michigan University creative writing instructor, attended performances of her creative works at four colleges this winter.

The University of Colorado Denver and Skidmore College hosted performances of “Sally,” a one-woman drama in which an aged Sally Hemings recalls her life with Thomas Jefferson, on Jan. 30 and Feb. 2, respectively. Actress Mizan Nunes played the role of Sally, and Robert Graham Small directed the play.

Seaton’s song cycle, “From the Diary of Sally Hemings,” was performed at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music Feb. 17 and Case Western Reserve University Feb. 20. She collaborated with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom to create the song cycle, which explores Hemings’ alleged relationship with Thomas Jefferson.

CMU’s president and vice president then review the nominations. Staff members are limited to receiving the award only once during their career at CMU.

The recipients are recognized for exhibiting the university’s four core characteristics of staff excellence: knowledge, follow-through, care and availability.

Abbey, along with 15 other recipients, was honored during an award ceremony in the University Center Rotunda Sept. 6. Each recipient received an honorary plaque and a complementary 2007-08 university parking pass.
**Bernie Meltzer remembered for work ethic, contributions to field of sociology**

Longtime sociology professor passed away in January at age 91

**Retired sociology professor Bernie Meltzer passed away on January 29 at age 91 following a brief illness.**

**Bernard N. Meltzer**, professor emeritus of sociology at Central Michigan University, died January 29 following a brief illness. He was 91. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ida.

Meltzer served as a faculty member and chair of the sociology, anthropology and social work department for 30 years. He retired from CMU in 1987, but he remained active in his scholarship and spent hours in his Anspach Hall office until his recent illness.

"Prior to coming to CMU, I was well aware of Bernie’s significant contributions to symbolic interaction, an important area of study and thought within sociology," said **Harry Mika**, a CMU sociology professor who was hired during Meltzer’s tenure as chair of the department.

"Some of the very best in this field have come through CMU, and in many respects, Bernie was their titular head. Despite his significant reputation, however, Bernie was very modest and unassuming. He had very little time or patience for any attention or praise directed his way, but he was always anxious to engage with colleagues in discussion or debate about sociology or social justice concerns," Mika said.


"Bernie inspired others through a work ethic that brought him to his CMU office every day until the final weeks of his life. On both professional and personal levels, and above all else, Bernie was a caring, nurturing and kind person. He was a dear friend of mine," Mika said.

In addition to his wife and son, Meltzer is survived by his daughter, Iris Meltzer; daughter-in-law, Cathy Malkin; and granddaughter, Moira Meltzer-Cohen.

Memorial contributions in honor of Dr. Meltzer can be designated to the **Bernard N. Meltzer Scholarship** in care of the Carlin Alumni House, Mount Pleasant, Mich. 48859.

The scholarship provides a stipend to the graduate student who writes the best master’s thesis in sociology.
Faculty Publications

Book explores African-Americans in Congress

The role that African-Americans have played in Congress is explored in a documentary history co-authored by assistant professor of history Stephen Jones.

Jones, along with Eric Freedman of Michigan State University, published “African Americans in Congress: A Documentary History,” the first of its kind to comprehensively explore the African-American political experience and history of African-American legislators in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The first section of the book is a chronologically arranged history of the development of African-American empowerment, from before the Declaration of Independence until contemporary times. The second section comprises thematically structured chapters that explore various issues that have confronted or involved African-American members of Congress.

More than 120 primary documents and narratives about each document help to tell the story of the struggles of past and current African-American legislators. Issues and events covered in the book include the debate over slavery, the civil rights movement and political empowerment, and the struggle for economic justice, among others.


The book was published in October 2007 by Congressional Quarterly Press in Washington, D.C.

Anthology examines writings of Ben Jonson

Associate professor of English Kristen McDermott has shed new light on the works of 17th-century writer Ben Jonson in a new anthology that she edited entitled “Masques of Difference: Four Court Masques by Ben Jonson.”

The book presents an annotated version of four 17th-century entertainment texts written by Jonson for the court of James I, including two texts that have not previously been anthologized for student readers.

The stories reflect the confidence and anxieties of the English aristocracy of that period. The royal court is presented as moral and just while groups such as Africans, Irish, witches and Gypsies are portrayed as chaotic and exotic.

The book was published by Manchester University Press in December 2007, as part of its acclaimed Student Revels Editions Series.

McDermott teaches courses in Shakespeare, English drama, film studies, and English literature before 1800.

Handbook receives national award

A book co-edited by sociology professor Larry Tifft was one of only 25 sociology titles to be named “Outstanding Academic Book” for 2007 by Choice magazine.


“The diverse essays not only explore the various methods of responding nonviolently to harms by persons, groups, global corporations, and nation-states, but also examine the dimensions of restorative justice in relation to criminology, victimology, traumatology, and feminist studies,” said Tifft, who is an authority on radical criminology and restorative justice.

“These essays also contain prescriptions for how communities might restructure their family, school, and workplace activities according to restorative justice,” he said.

Book analyzes ‘Rocky Horror’

English department faculty member Jeffrey Weinstock describes his newest book quite simply: “A cult film analyzed.”

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” is the first book-length scholarly analysis of the world’s most famous cult film, said Weinstock, an associate professor of American literature and culture.

Within just a few years, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” grew from an oddball musical to a celebrated cinematic experience of midnight features and outrageous audience participation.

Weinstock’s analysis tells the story of the film from initial reception to eventual cult status. The book was published by Wallflower Press in October 2007.

Weinstock is an authority on popular culture, American literature and literary criticism.
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).
New endowment assists future political leaders
Program honors former political science instructors Bill Ballenger and Bill Browne

Two political leaders who have influenced hundreds of former Central Michigan University political science students will continue to assist future students through an endowment in their names.

The William S. Ballenger III and Dr. William P. Browne Capitol Internship Program Endowment will benefit political science students interested in seeking internships within all branches of the state and federal government. The endowment will provide students with a stipend for transportation and other expenses related to the internship activities.

“Many students in the seminars that I taught showed interest in internship opportunities in Lansing, but did not know how to go about applying for and securing one,” Ballenger said. “It was hit-or-miss as to whether they would even be able to obtain a position, and I realized that there was nothing established at CMU to encourage and offer guidance and financial support to these students. It is my hope that this endowment will be an organized process of applying for and gaining opportunities to work in Michigan government.”

Ballenger, editor of “Inside Michigan Politics,” served as the Robert and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government at CMU from 2003-07. He is a former state representative and senator, director of the State Department of Licensing and Regulation, and a former state racing commissioner. He also served as deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in President Gerald R. Ford’s administration.

Browne taught political science at CMU for more than 30 years until he passed away in 2005 after a 12-year battle with chronic myelogenous leukemia. He was instrumental in establishing the master of public administration program and in placing political science students in internships throughout the country.

The Ballenger-Browne endowment was designed to support and enhance the internship placement efforts that Browne helped to establish.

Known as “Bill” by their students, Ballenger and Browne each had their own unique teaching styles, but focused on influencing and inspiring students.

CMU senior Andrew Leavitt said he left Ballenger’s political science seminar with a deep admiration for state government and a passion to work in politics.

“Bill was very relaxed and approachable,” said Leavitt, a political science major and Swartz Creek native. “He is so close to the state government scene and kept us well informed. I now want to stay in Michigan and make an impact in my state’s government.”

Jon Smalley, a 1985 CMU graduate, said Browne guided students toward a career path and spent as much time as was needed to work with them on their goals.

“I was fortunate to have Bill Browne show me what was possible,” said Smalley, owner of Lansing lobbying firm Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates. “It is my belief that without his influence, I would never have ended up in the position I now hold.”

The endowment was established through private gifts from family and friends, including Ballenger and Bill Browne’s wife, Linda. The endowment will continue to increase its support for internship stipends as future gifts are received through ongoing fundraising efforts by the college.

To request information about making a tax-deductible gift to support the William S. Ballenger III and Dr. William P. Browne Capitol Internship, please contact Lesa Smith, the college’s director of development, at lesa.smith@cmich.edu or 989.774.3354.
Family endowment supports Native American studies
Denison gift will fund visiting scholars, benefit entire community

A $500,000 endowment in honor of late Central Michigan University alumni Rollie and Olga Denison will help to enhance the university’s Native American studies program.

The gift, from their children Spencer Denison, Daniel Denison and Diane Dahmke, was presented to the CMU Board of Trustees on Dec. 6. The funds will be used to support an endowed professorship in the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

“We hope that this will be a catalyst for both the local Saginaw Chippewa community and the university community to get involved,” said Dan Denison. “Native American studies should be an area of interest, research and excellence at CMU so as to attract more Native American students and to ensure that all students graduate knowing more about the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe than just that it’s the name of the football team. This contribution also is a way to honor and preserve some of our parents’ legacy, and for us it’s a way to stay connected.”

Each year the endowment will bring in a scholar from another institution to teach courses and participate in related activities in order to strengthen core offerings in Native American studies at CMU.

“The visiting professor’s ideas are intended to inform, inspire and challenge our understanding of Native American issues,” said Mike Leto, vice president of development and alumni relations at CMU. “It’s a unique program with the potential to establish CMU as a thought leader in this area.”

Additionally, the endowment will provide for further understanding of the historical experiences, cultural traditions, innovations and political status of Indian people in the United States and Canada. Courses will discuss Native American ways of living, understanding the world, organizing societies, and the impact of invasion and colonization on American Indians.

“The Denisons were long time friends and supporters of both CMU and the individual members and culture of the local Tribe,” Leto said. “This endowment is a way to bring both of these passions into an endowment that will benefit students and our entire community.”

In order to create greater awareness for the need for endowed faculty, the university also announced that the CMU Faculty Endowment Matching Program will match the income from the family’s gift dollar for dollar.

“The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan recognizes the Denison’s gift to CMU in honor of their parents, and it is with great respect that Rollie and Olga Denison are remembered for their contributions to the community,” said Joseph V. Sowmick, public relations director for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

“This endowment fund will not only strengthen cultural awareness, but also will lend support to the Native American Studies offered at CMU. The Tribe is supportive of the Denison’s generous gift that will benefit not only CMU but the community as a whole,” Sowmick said.

The Denisons were greatly involved with CMU, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the City of Mount Pleasant, the Mid-Michigan Art Reach program and many other community groups.

In addition to their endowed professorship, the Denison family has an established scholarship fund with CMU’s College of Business Administration. Also known for their love of Native art, the Denisons collected hundreds of tribal pieces that were donated to CMU’s Clarke Historical Library.
~ 1950s ~

Barbara (Subia) Burgoyne (Soc. Sci. ’51) lives in Texas and spends summers in Mexico. She volunteers at a hospital and police station.

~ 1960s ~

Annlee (Beckstrom) Boonstra (Soc. Sci.’65; MA ’69) retired from Mona Shores Schools and has spent the past 19 years in south Texas. She and her husband, William, have traveled extensively, visiting all 50 states, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Canada and Mexico.

Judge David Martin Bradfield (Pol. Sci ’68; MA ’70) retired in 2006 after being elected four times and giving 20 years of service on the bench to the people of the city of Detroit. He and his wife, Karen, ’68, continue to be politically active and involved in his real estate practice, Compensation Services P.C. They have three adult children, John, Joseph, and Elina.

~ 1970s ~

Timothy J. Burke (Pol. Sci. ’78) is the director of the Office of Travel and Transportation Services for the Federal Acquisition Service, the procurement arm of the U.S. General Services Administration.

James A. Carolan (Govt. Admin. ’76) is one of the first 200 financial professionals to obtain the industry’s newest designation of Certified Wealth Strategist. He is vice president trust and estate adviser for Comerica Bank.

Michael J. Fraser (Bus.’77; MPA ’79) is the director of public works for Salina, Kan.

Robert Gaskill (Eng. ’72; MA ’74, ’82) is the new superintendent of the Cabrillo Unified School District in Half Moon Bay, Calif.

Darryl B. Goncharoff (Eng. ’72) taught in public schools in Detroit, Dearborn Heights and Walled Lake. He retired from Walled Lake Schools and teaches English at Schoolcraft College.

Donald W. Kolvisto (Pol. Sci. ’71) is the director of the state Department of Agriculture. Previously, he served three terms with the Michigan House of Representatives and 12 years with the state Senate.

Kay E. Neal (Speech & Eng. ’75) was promoted to full professor in the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Richard J. Pauly (Soc. Sci. ’72; MA Edu. Admin. ’76) retired from the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port School District after 35 years of service. He spent 18 years as a teacher and 17 years as a junior high and elementary school principal and also was the athletic director or assistant athletic director for 29 years.

~ 1980s ~

Audrey J. Forbush (Pol. Sci. & Eng. ’84) joined the law firm of Plunkett Cooney as a shareholder in the Flint office. She focuses primarily on municipal liability and has particular expertise in police matters. She serves as legal adviser to the Law Enforcement Action Forum, an organization consisting of select law enforcement executives throughout Michigan.

Steve North (Psych. ’80) was named the new senior pastor for Jenison Christian Church in Feb. 2008.

Dave Shane (MA Hist. ’89) is sports editor for The Bay City Times.

~ 1990s ~

Leslie Allen Bayles (Eng. ’90; MA ’91) has joined the international law firm Bryan Cave LLP as an associate in the firm’s Chicago office. She focuses her practice in the areas of creditors’ rights, bankruptcy, corporate reorganization, and insolvency law.


Paula McLain’s (Eng. ’91; MA ’93) debut novel, “Ticket to Ride,” was published in Jan. 2008.

Thomas Olver (Pol. Sci. ’98) was installed as the director of the College Fraternity Editors Association at the annual conference in May. He is director of communications at Beta Theta Pi Fraternity and editor of The Beta Theta Pi.

~ 2000s ~

Jonathan Bourgault (Hist. & Eng. ’04) teaches English at Ithaca High School and has published a science fiction novel, “The Eye of God.”

Nicole Culver (Spanish ’02) lives in Tempe, Ariz. and is a translator and interpreter for the Scottsdale Unified School District. She is training to compete in the Ironman Coeur d’Alene in June 2008. The one-day competition consists of 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of biking and 26.2 miles of running.

Lt. David J. Pritchard (MPA ’01) was promoted to captain of the Chesterfield County Police Department in Virginia.

Jonathan Seyferth (Pol. Sci. ’02) is the district representative for U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra’s Muskegon office. He was named the Muskegon Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of the Year in February.
Central Michigan University alumna Deborah Shear understands the meaning of perseverance. For 15 years, CMU became her home away from home while she completed a bachelor’s degree in 1996, master’s degree in 1999, and Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 2007.

Now she is searching for ways to improve the quality of life for troops injured in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

She recently accepted a prestigious research position at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where she studies ways to treat and prevent traumatic brain injury with an emphasis on brain injuries sustained in combat situations.

“It’s been a long haul and a lot of work... but I just got the job of my dreams,” Shear said. “To do this kind of research at this time in our country is a tremendous honor and a privilege. And to do it at Walter Reed in our nation’s capital is just off the charts.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 50,000 people die each year in the United States from a traumatic brain injury. Most brain injuries occur as a result of automobile accidents, falls, violence, and more recently from injuries sustained in war.

“It’s one of the most serious injuries on the battlefield,” Shear said. “There has been an increase in the attention given to these types of injuries due to the war in Iraq.”

Shear is researching brain injury using a model that mimics a bullet or piece of shrapnel twisting into the brain at different angles. She is studying ways of protecting the brain from injury, as well as treatment strategies aimed at repairing the injured brain.

As a student at CMU, Shear had extraordinary success. During her first year as a graduate student, she co-authored two scientific papers and a book chapter with CMU psychology professor Gary Dunbar. She received a three-year National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship—the first one ever awarded at CMU. She also worked full time during her doctoral studies as a research scientist at the Field Neuroscience Institute in Saginaw.

“The number one reason why I’m here at Walter Reed today is the education and experience that I received at Central Michigan University,” Shear said. “It is professors like Dr. Gary Dunbar who believe in their students and inspire them to make a difference in this world that make CMU a great university.” •
Central Michigan University alumnus Andrew Arena says he’s enjoyed waking up and going to work every day for the past 20 years even though his work has placed him in some of the most dangerous places in America.

Arena is the Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Detroit Field Office. His prior assignments with the FBI have included investigating organized crime in New York, leading a violent street gang task force in Los Angeles, and supervising the violent crimes and major offenders squad in Cleveland. Since 2001, he’s been involved in counterterrorism and counter-intelligence efforts. He was promoted to the top position at the Detroit office in December 2006.

“I don’t think of it as a job . . . and a lot of that is because I feel like I’m doing the right thing,” said Arena, who returned to campus February 12 for the first time in more than 20 years to share information about his success in the FBI with CMU students.

“One of my reasons for wanting to come back to CMU was the effect that this university had on me. My instructors were the people who really helped shape me and pushed me to do the best that I could,” he said.

Arena described one such “push” that came from retired history professors Bill Bulger and Dennis Thavenet.

“During my senior year, Bill Bulger encouraged me to apply for the Dennis Thavenet scholarship, so that I could study abroad at Cambridge University for a semester. The history department was hosting an essay competition that Saturday morning at 10 a.m. to select the recipients of the award, and he wanted me to attend.”

But when Saturday morning arrived, Arena decided not to participate in the essay competition.

“At about 11:30, there was a knock on my door, and it was Bill Bulger and Dennis Thavenet . . . and they dragged me to Anspach Hall and made me write the essay,” he said.

While visiting campus, Arena met with CMU students and hosted a public lecture entitled “Counter Terrorism: What are the Implications for Civil Liberties?” During the presentation, he stressed that Americans do not have to give up their Constitutional rights to protect the homeland or to feel safe.

He also encouraged CMU students to consider a career with the FBI. As the organization continues to expand and as many agents reach the mandatory retirement age of 57, the FBI will be hiring hundreds of employees to fill positions in intelligence, financial, investigative and clerical divisions, to name a few.

“Everybody has a preconceived notion of what the FBI is all about, and it’s usually based on something that they read in a newspaper or saw in a movie or television program where the Bureau is portrayed as a ‘super’ law enforcement agency,” Arena said.

He also noted that while the structure and focus of the FBI has changed significantly throughout its 100-year history, he hopes to see even more improvements in the future.

“When I hear concerns about the FBI, I always say, come work for us. If you want to change the organization, change it from within. Bring your skills, bring your culture, and bring your view of the world into the organization.”

Arena received a bachelor’s degree in history and political science from CMU in 1985. He received a juris doctorate from the University of Detroit School of Law and joined the FBI in 1988.
81-year-old railroad lawyer receives CMU degree

When Patrick Hackett began taking classes at Central Michigan University in 1943, he never expected it would take more than 60 years to earn his bachelor’s degree, but World War II had other plans for him.

His education was interrupted when he served in the U.S. Navy’s South Pacific Theatre during World War II. He returned to CMU in 1946 and 1947, but then decided to attend law school before receiving his bachelor’s degree, which was not required at that time.

“I went to law school without getting my bachelor’s degree, and I have wanted to get one ever since,” said Hackett, 81. “I just have always felt that there was a gap in my resume without a bachelor’s degree, and coming from a long line of CMU grads, it is something that I knew I had to get.”

In December, Hackett proudly donned his cap and gown and marched in Central Michigan University’s 5 p.m. commencement ceremony where he received a bachelor of science degree in community development with a concentration in public administration. CMU accepted credits from courses he had completed at CMU and during law school in order to grant the degree through the university’s off-campus programs.

After receiving his juris doctorate degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1950, Hackett went on to serve as general attorney for Conrail and the Penn Central Transportation Company and assistant general attorney for the New York Central Railroad. His distinguished legal career of 49 years also included work as a railroad legal adviser, trial lawyer and public educator.

Hackett’s trial and appellate work covered a broad range of issues critical to railroads, including: railroad crossing accidents and regulation, employee injury and death cases, labor relations, and interstate commerce. He also authored the Michigan Railroad Code of 1993. Hackett was inducted into the Michigan Transportation Hall of Honor in 2006.

Hackett and his wife Barbara, a former U.S. District Judge who was appointed by Ronald Reagan, have seven daughters and reside in Brighton, Mich.

“We give him so much credit for going after what he believes in. This is something that he always wanted, and he went after it,” said Hon. Carol Hackett Garagiola, one of Hackett’s daughters and chief judge of the Livingston County Circuit Court. “He made education a priority in our family. It was something that he felt was very important. Even though he was a very accomplished man he missed having his bachelor’s degree.”

Hackett’s mother received a teaching certificate from CMU in 1905 and four of his nine siblings and many nieces and nephews also have received CMU degrees.

Hackett’s service to CMU includes serving on the Vision of Excellence campaign advisory board for the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences from 2003 to 2006.
Alumni Information Form
Help us learn more about our graduates. Please send news of your accomplishments.

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