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The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences provides outstanding graduate and undergraduate academic programs that develop the knowledge and skills necessary for living and working in our diverse and changing world.

CHSBS goes international

The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences at Central Michigan University might call Mount Pleasant home, but our students and faculty members continue to extend their scholarship and research to regions throughout the world.

This international outreach provides critical learning experiences to prepare our students to live and work in an increasingly global society. It also enables our faculty members to expand their research on global issues and provide valuable information to their fields of study, as well as assisting countless individuals and communities in need.

This newsletter highlights some of the many exciting international projects taking place within CHSBS.

Promoting peace in Northern Ireland

“A declaration of peace does not mean the war is over,” says CMU sociology professor Harry Mika.

For the past 10 years, Mika has been helping former combatants in Northern Ireland work together to build and sustain peace in their communities.

“In the immediate aftermath of conflict, there are often significant policing problems in local areas,” said Mika. “Many political prisoners return home, youth crime increases, as does the intolerance for youth, and the peace process is usually limited to a political and media event, with few serious efforts to build peace or regenerate communities.”

Continued on page 2
In the years following the devastating genocide that killed hundreds of thousands of Rwandans in 1994, the country’s schools have become the cornerstone of efforts to build a free and open society.

CMU’s Beth Samuelson, an assistant professor of English, will spend the next two years analyzing Rwanda’s educational reforms in secondary schools to determine whether those efforts are contributing to or interfering with the country’s progress towards peaceful coexistence.

Samuelson was awarded a 2006 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, which provides a $55,000 grant for release time from teaching and other expenses related to her research.

“My work in South Africa will involve monitoring and evaluating a very significant private investment in the reintegration of many thousands of former combatants across all of the political fault lines,” said Mika. “It is an area of critical need, and it will be very challenging. I expect my involvement there will last for years.”

Mika has received numerous grants and fellowships to fund his work over the years, including a CMU Research Professor Award (1997-98), a grant from the American Sociological Association (2000), a New Century Scholar Award from the William J. Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (2003-04), and two grants from The Atlantic Philanthropies (2002-03; 2005-06). The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences has also provided financial support.

Harry Mika has taught in the Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work Department at CMU since 1985. During his tenure in Northern Ireland, he has held numerous appointments at Queens University of Belfast, including an honorary professorship in the School of Law awarded last year.
Samuelson will study narratives that she helped collect five years ago from secondary students, parents and teachers in Rwanda. She also will spend three to six weeks in Rwanda this summer to collect new narratives.

Her fondness for this region began when she spent three years in neighboring Congo during high school.

“Those years had a permanent impact on my outlook and choice of profession,” she said. “I enjoy spending time in Rwanda because I can again experience how it feels to be a participant in a very different culture and learn to see the world through the eyes of Africans.”

In addition, she will work with a team from Facing History and Ourselves, a non-profit organization that helps teachers develop social studies curriculum. She also will be a Research Fellow with the Human Rights Center at the University of California at Berkeley.

Beth Samuelson has taught in the Department of English Language and Literature at CMU since 2004.

The following is a list of some of the international activities that CHSBS faculty members are involved with this summer.

- **Mensah Adinkrah** (SASW) is conducting research on homicide and witchcraft in Ghana.
- **Renee Babcock** (Psychology) is visiting several places in Europe to discuss international issues in aging and to lay the groundwork for possible faculty and/or student exchanges.
- **Sergio Chavez** (SASW) is leading an archaeological excavation project in Bolivia.
- **Randall Doyle** (History) is conducting research in Australia for his next book on Australian politics.
- **Doina Harsanyi** (History) is conducting research in Paris about French exiles during the French Revolution.
- **Tim Hartshorne** (Psychology) is studying adolescent development in children with CHARGE syndrome in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Great Britain and the United States.
- **Sterling Johnson** (Political Science) is writing a bio-political analysis of the experiences and issues of African impoverishment, with assistance from the United States International University in Nairobi, NGO workers in Sudan and Kenya, and two physicians.
- **Susan Knight** (Foreign Language) is conducting a study abroad site visit in Costa Rica.
- **Kris Kulawik** (Foreign Language) is leading a three-week study abroad course in the Dominican Republic.
- **Gil Musolf** (SASW) is conducting research about suicide during the early industrial period in England.
- **John Wright** (Philosophy) is a visiting professor at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.
- **Stephanie Young** (English) is conducting research in Santiago, Chile for a book about women’s writing, testimonial literature and questions of justice in post-dictatorship nation-states.

**CHSBS faculty lead international projects**

Rwanda is located in central Africa, east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is the most densely populated country in Africa with more than 8.6 million citizens.

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Beth Samuelson

“Schools are widely recognized as crucial to society-building, but tensions surrounding schooling intensifies when social order crumbles.”

- Beth Samuelson
  Assistant Professor of English

Summer 2006 • underDiscussion • 3
Representatives from Central Michigan University and Egypt’s October 6 University have signed a memorandum of understanding that expands CMU’s global outreach and solidifies a commitment to develop collaborative programs between the universities.

The signing ceremony took place March 29. The agreement lays the groundwork for CMU and O6U to develop programs and exchange students and faculty.

The relationship between the universities began when CMU delegates Terry Rawls, interim vice president and executive director of Off-Campus Programs, E. Gary Shapiro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Del Ringquist, political science professor, visited O6U in 2005. A group from O6U returned the gesture, visiting CMU during a trip to North America.

“It is a pleasure and honor for me to visit CMU and meet such respectable colleagues and professors,” said Mohammad Ismail Hamed, president of O6U. “I have signed a memorandum of understanding between O6U and CMU, and we will work with sincerity and good intent for the benefits of our students, faculty and our countries.”

Rawls, Shapiro, and CMU Executive Vice President and Provost Thomas Storch welcomed the O6U delegation to CMU’s campus.

“We hope this will lead to a long-lasting and deep relationship between our universities,” Shapiro said.
Dignitaries from **Central Michigan University** and **October 6 University** sign a memorandum of understanding to develop collaborative programs between the universities. **Seated, left to right:** Osama M. Zaki, O6U Board of Trustees vice chairman for economic and managerial affairs, Mohammis Ismail Hamed, president of O6U, **Thomas Storch**, CMU’s executive vice president and provost, and **E. Gary Shapiro**, dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences. **Standing, left to right:** Talaat Rihan, O6U vice president of post-graduate studies and research, and **Terry Rawls**, interim vice president and executive director of CMU’s Off-Campus Programs.

Faculty members from CMU’s history department enjoy the view at Sleeping Bear Dunes in June during a conference with delegates from several foreign universities. The group discussed plans to form the Consortium for Transnational and Comparative History.

**Back row, left to right:** Roberto Vélez Pliego (University of Puebla), David Rutherford (CMU), Patricia Barton (Strathclyde University), Jürgen Hendrich (Friedrich Schiller University), Jörg Nagler (Friedrich Schiller University), Robert von Friedenburg (Erasmus University), David Macleod (CMU), Tim O’Neil (CMU), and David La Franca (University of Puebla). **Front row, left to right:** Paula van der Houwen (Erasmus University), Jim Schmiechen (CMU), Maria Grever (Erasmus University), Steve Scherer (CMU), Kathy Donohue (CMU), and Annegien Prins, (Erasmus University).

**Dongkan Huang** (foreground), a freshman from Beijing, China, and **Eun Young Lee** (background), an exchange student from Kyonggi University in South Korea, take notes during a summer language class offered by CMU’s **English Language Institute**.
Many of you may have read Thomas L. Friedman’s book, “The World is Flat.” The major point in this book is that the world has changed. As a result of the dispersion of information technology across the world, Americans can now communicate with people from around the globe.

Although the United States still remains the dominant economy in the world, competition and collaboration with peoples from many different cultures and languages is now something that affects all of us. Ready or not, we all live in a global world. Whether you work for an international organization, vacation abroad, have lost your job to international outsourcing, enjoy music from different countries, or just shop at Wal-Mart, you are part of the internationalization of America.

People from other counties recognize the importance of internationalization and the dominance of the United States. In my visits to various foreign universities I have met with many students who are studying English, learning about American culture, and who show a great curiosity about America. To be competitive and to operate successfully in this environment, our students must also have a world view.

Faculty and students in the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences at CMU have been leaders in international studies, not only in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, but in each of the departments that make up the college. This newsletter documents some of the efforts by students and faculty engaged in international activities.

While I am supportive of all our international efforts, I am most excited about the opportunities for our students to study abroad. In almost all cases, the students who study abroad come home with a better understanding of the countries they visited, a better understanding of the United States, and a better understanding of themselves and the opportunities available to them after they leave CMU.

I would like all of our students who have a desire to study abroad to have the opportunity to do so. Each year the college uses some of its undesignated gifts from alumni and friends to help support students who wish to study abroad. If you share my enthusiasm about the importance of studying abroad, I encourage you to consider making a gift to support scholarships for students who wish to study abroad. You may contact our development office at (989) 774-3354 or CHSBS@cmich.edu or indicate that your gift is for “study abroad” when you mail in the envelope in the center of this newsletter.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the many exciting international activities taking place in the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Sincerely,

E. Gary Shapiro
Lone cadet finishes
**ROTC Raider Crucible**

As the lone female cadet participating in the Military Science Department’s **Raider Crucible**, East Jordan junior **Jacqueline Brun** felt an added pressure to make a strong showing.

By the end of the grueling two-day competition, Brun had earned a lifetime of bragging rights: she was the only cadet to successfully complete all of the challenges.

During the Crucible, cadets had to complete a land navigation course, physical fitness challenges, weapons proficiency, and first aid tests, and chemical training. The final competition was a 12-mile road march that the cadets had to complete in three hours while carrying a 35-pound ruck-sack on their backs.

“It feels great to have finished, but I’m not sure I understand the magnitude of it yet,” said Brun. “To me, the Crucible was comprised of things that I was taught at basic training, so I thought of it as something I should be able to do as a soldier in general. I hope this helps more female cadets realize that they can become raiders, too, and maybe they’ll participate next year.”

Brun faced her most difficult challenges during the land navigation course and the final mile of the road march.

“It was frustrating to search for a metal pole in the middle of the woods when it was pitch black, but I managed to find four of the five checkpoints, which was one more than we were required to locate,” she said.

“During the road march, it started to rain heavily soon after I passed the sixth mile mark and didn’t let up until about the ninth mile. After that I was soaked to the bone, and my gear seemed to weigh an extra 20 pounds. As I approached the last mile, my feet were on fire, my hip was throbbing, my ruck was rubbing a hole in my back, and I was miserably water-logged. It took all my motivation to keep up my pace and ignore the discomfort.”

Her favorite moments of the challenge were successfully completing the land navigation course, seeing the van at the end of the 12-mile march and realizing that she was about to earn her black beret and become a raider.

Although she is proud of her individual accomplishments, she values most the camaraderie and teamwork that go along with participating in the ROTC program.

“Your classmates become your best friends, your strength, and most importantly your motivation,” she said. “I’ve learned that if I don’t have the strength to do something for myself, I need to do it for my fellow soldiers.”

The Crucible is modeled after the U.S. Army’s Expert Infantryman’s Badge (EIB). CMU’s Military Science Department hosted the challenge on April 21 and 22 at Camp Grayling.

**Jacqueline Brun** will graduate from Central Michigan University with a major in recreation, parks, and leisure and a minor in military science. Her goal is to commission as an officer in the medical or aviation branch of the U.S. Army.

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**DB Central receives grant**

DB Central, part of CMU’s psychology department, recently received a grant to operate Michigan’s only consultation services for children and young adults who are deafblind.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Special Education Services, will provide annual funding of $264,888 through September 2008.

DB Central provides free training and consultation services to families and schools with deafblind children from birth to 26 years old.

“Deafblind is not a common diagnosis, and it would be unlikely that most school districts have that service on hand, so we go in and help them,” said **Tim Hartshorne**, psychology professor and grant holder for DB Central.

The grant also funds a two-day family retreat in September, recreational activities such as skiing at Challenge Mountain in Petoskey, and seminars on various topics for parents and professionals.

Currently in Michigan, there are 270 deafblind children and young adults on the census.

“Having the combination of blindness and deafness multiplies the difficulty the person has when coping with the world,” said Hartshorne. “Having one disability may seem relatively easy compared to living with two.”

DB Central is just one aspect of the psychology department’s efforts to provide services to children with disabilities.

Psychology professors **Carl Johnson** and **Sharon Bradley-Johnson** recently received a $250,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Education to open a lending library for children with vision, hearing, motor, and severe cognitive impairments. The Central Assessment Lending Library opened in January.
CMU senior Tashana Taylor spent the spring semester taking classes at Tandem Bielefeld, a language school in Bielefeld, Germany.

When I was a junior in high school, I spent a year as an exchange student in Witten, Germany. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I lived with a host family who is now like my second family, I learned to speak German, and I met people who became my close friends, most of whom I remain in contact with today.

That year abroad was a life-changing experience. Not only did I learn about Germany, but I also learned a great deal about myself. I came back as a more understanding and knowledgeable student. My time abroad also inspired me to major in German at CMU.

This past spring I was fortunate enough to participate in another foreign exchange program. I traveled with seven other CMU students to study German language and culture in Bielefeld, Germany. We lived with host families and attended classes together daily.

The experience surpassed my expectations. My teachers were kind and helpful, the other students I traveled with have become my good friends, and my host family was an unbelievably perfect match for me.

The highlight of my semester abroad was traveling to cities such as London, Dublin, Dresden, Amsterdam, and Prague during our vacations. I valued the opportunity to experience other cultures, even if only for a short time.

I’ve been back in the United States since early May, and I often find myself missing Germany. I miss the simple things like walking with friends through the city after class, playing with Emil, the family dog, talking to my host mom about politics and religion and my host brother about his girl problems, and eating my host mom’s food!

Many people are afraid to study abroad, because leaving the United States means leaving your comfort zone. Going into a foreign land where people speak a language you’ve only learned in a classroom setting isn’t easy.

I was nervous when I began my trip. There were people who didn’t believe I would be successful studying abroad, and my goal was to prove them wrong. That was the wrong attitude to have, because it simply made me feel tense and worried.

Those feelings, however, were short lived. By being myself and applying all that I had previously learned, I was able to improve my German language skills and learn about Germany’s history and culture.

I only have one German class left to take at CMU before I finish my major. Although I have had my ups and downs with learning German, I am proud that I’ve almost accomplished my goal.
After I graduate from CMU next May, I plan to attend law school with an emphasis on studying international law. With my strong background in German language and customs, I might consider practicing as an attorney in Europe someday.

I am at a different stage in my life now than when I studied abroad during high school. Although I grew tremendously as a person then, I have grown in different ways during my recent semester in Germany. I look at situations from different viewpoints, I make it a habit to put my preconceptions about people aside in order to get to know them, and I’ve learned that through hard work and determination I can accomplish any goal I put my mind to.

For those individuals who believed in me from the beginning, I appreciate it. Thanks to my experience studying in Germany last semester, I can truly say that I am ready to take on the world after I graduate from Central!

Tashana Taylor is a senior from Benton Harbor. She will graduate from CMU in May of 2007 with a double major in German and Political Science, with a concentration in International Relations and Comparative Politics.

CHSBS leads efforts in study abroad

The College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences is proud to lead CMU’s efforts to encourage more students to study abroad. During the 2005-06 academic year, 160 students with majors in departments from CHSBS studied abroad.

CHSBS provided $7,000 from undesignated gifts from alumni and friends to assist foreign language students with the costs of studying abroad last year. The college also offers several annual scholarships for foreign study.

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Total CMU                | 252                          |
Percent CHSBS of Total   | 63.49%                        |
College Events

Griffin forum draws large crowds for affirmative action debate

A crowd of more than 400 people filled CMU’s Park Library Auditorium and two additional screening rooms on March 29 to hear panelists debate one of the most contentious statewide ballot initiatives in recent history: a proposal to amend the state constitution to end affirmative action programs.

The Griffin Policy Forum, “Affirmative Action/Racial Preferences: Should They Be Banned?,” brought together four panelists who made a case for and against what will be Proposal 06-2 on the Nov. 7 general election ballot.

“Feelings on this issue are running high, and nearly everyone has an opinion on it,” said Bill Ballenger, CMU’s Robert P. and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government, who organized the forum. “The big question is how and why did this issue get on the ballot, and why do polls show there is such support for it?”

The panelists were William B. Allen, a professor of political science at Michigan State University and a former member and chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Jennifer Gratz, director of the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative and a plaintiff in a 1997 lawsuit brought against the University of Michigan in federal court; Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union; and Reginald Turner, a member of the State Board of Education and an attorney with the firm Clark Hill PLC.

Gratz and Allen support the ballot initiative, while Moss and Turner oppose it. Ballenger served as the moderator.

The proposal asks Michigan voters whether they want to “amend the state constitution to ban Affirmative Action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes.”

CMU’s Griffin program seeks to build interest and increase engagement in politics among young adults, faculty and the general public.

CMU extends Ballenger’s term

Political science students can look forward to another year under the leadership of media-savvy political pundit Bill Ballenger.

Ballenger, the editor and publisher of Inside Michigan Politics, has accepted CMU’s offer to serve one additional year as the Robert P. and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government.

“I am delighted that Bill has agreed to extend his term as chair,” said E. Gary Shapiro, dean of the college. “He has been a tremendous positive influence on our students and has helped us to increase enrollment in the Griffin seminars.

As chairman, Ballenger teaches two political science seminars and organizes two public forums each year. He also invites prominent business and political leaders to speak in his classes and travels with his students to the Capitol each semester to meet with elected officials.

Ballenger began his term in the fall of 2003. He is a former state representative, state 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.
Panels depict human suffering of war

More than 60 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by atomic bombs, the images and accounts of the events are no less painful.

In an effort to promote peace and tolerance, photographs and artwork with Japanese and English captions detailing the atomic bombings at the end of World War II were displayed in CMU's Charles V. Park Library for seven weeks last winter.

The images are part of a 40-panel collection titled “The A-Bomb and Humanity” that were presented to CMU president Michael Rao in Japan last year. They came from the Iwate Consumers Cooperative, which sends members to Mount Pleasant each summer to take courses at CMU’s English Language Institute.

“Peace continues to be an important element to be achieved among humans; we share the goal of achieving peace and civil discourse throughout the world,” said university outreach liaison Monica Rao.

“As difficult as the images are, they are important reminders of the destruction.”

The panels were produced by Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors dedicated to the elimination of nuclear weapons and prevention of a nuclear war.

CHSBS faculty host ‘peace night’

CHSBS faculty members hosted two presentations in conjunction with the peace panels display in an event billed “CMU Peace Night: History and Literature of Japan.”

History faculty member Randall Doyle gave a lecture titled “The Road to Hiroshima: The Unending Debate in America and Japan.”

“I think it’s important that students understand the dangers of modern warfare, especially the use of nuclear weapons,” said Doyle. “What are the lessons we can learn from Hiroshima?”

English faculty members Susan Stan, Susan C. Griffith and Janice Hartwick-Dressel presented “Ain’t Gonna Study War No More: Children’s Books that Promote Peace.” They discussed children’s books that invite children to think about peace, justice and the world community.

“These books help promote peace and understanding in several ways beyond showing the horrors of war,” said Stan. “They also look at the roots of war, including cultural misunderstanding.”

Sea of Flames

A bright flash
And explosion at the same time
I could not see an inch ahead
Is it smoke or dust?
It all happened in a moment
Hiroshima was engulfed in a sea of flames
Those who got burns were fleeting here and there, crying in pain
“Help!”
With screams, a wave of people come rushing toward me.
CHSBS faculty receive awards and recognition

CHSBS faculty honored at book recognition event

Weinstock receives Provost’s Award

English professor Jeffrey Weinstock has received CMU’s most prestigious award for outstanding research and creative activity.

Weinstock won the 2006 Provost’s Award, which honors the accomplishments of junior faculty members. He received $1,200 for professional development and will have his name listed on a permanent plaque that hangs in Park Library.

He specializes in 19th-century American literature and culture with a particular interest in ghosts. He recently wrote “Scare Tactics,” a book manuscript focused on supernatural fiction written by women beginning in the 19th century. In total, he has published four books, 13 book chapters, 17 journal articles and seven book reviews. He also has made 32 conference presentations.

Each year a 12-person committee chaired by the associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies selects two recipients for both the Provost’s Award and the President’s Award, which honors senior faculty members. Weinstock received his award during CMU’s Faculty Excellence Exhibition in March.

Steffel named ‘excellent’ teacher

English professor Susan Steffel won CMU’s top teaching award, the Excellence in Teaching Award.

The winners were announced at the Faculty Excellence Exhibition in March, and the faculty members were honored at commencement ceremonies in May.

Steffel was honored for her superior teaching methods, effectiveness in conveying subject matter, and respect and care she shows for her current and former students.

One of her nominators said, “There is no better teacher than the one who enables her students and starts them on a path of continuing education and lifelong learning; this is precisely what she does for her students.”

Another said, “She was very effective in conveying the subject matter. She used varied approaches during class to keep us interested, and her enthusiasm for the material was contagious.”

A committee of nine faculty members and five students selected the winners based on student evaluation scores and letters from CMU alumni, faculty and staff.

CHSBS faculty honored at book recognition event

CMU honored faculty and staff who had written, edited, translated or illustrated books published during the previous year at the second annual Book Recognition Event on April 6.

Faculty recognized at the event included (from left) Carol McGinnis, Frank Boles, Mitchell Hall (HST), John Robertson (HST), Claudia Douglass, Larry Tifft (SASW), John Palen, Guy Meiss, Alice Tait, Katherine Rosier (SASW), Randall Doyle (HST), David Kinney (SASW) and Ari Berk (ENG).
CHSBS dean E. Gary Shapiro made a surprise visit to philosophy and religion professor William Reader’s classroom in April to present him with the second annual CHSBS Excellence in Teaching Award.

“The committee selected Bill Reader as the winner because of his expertise in his field and his teaching skills, which are strong not only as reflected by high SOS scores, but also by the high expectations he has of his students,” said Shapiro.

Reader, who began teaching at CMU in 1976, teaches Biblical classes on the Old Testament and New Testament and has taught World Religions, Classical Greek, the History of Religion, Biblical Hebrew, Advanced Composition, and Near Eastern and Mediterranean World history. He is considered an authority on the Greek language from ancient to modern times.

“It is important to show students that there are multiple ways to view the world,” said Reader. “I try to whet their interest with books and stories about how the languages and cultures of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Jews, and Christians have affected our present day concepts and institutions.”

The CHSBS award recognizes faculty who go above and beyond what is expected in creating learning experiences for students. Winners are selected by a committee of representatives from each department and receive $500 for professional development.

Neuroscience professor Gary Dunbar (far right) received CMU’s 2006 Faculty Distinguished Service Award.

Dunbar named ‘distinguished’ scholar

CMU has recognized psychology professor Gary Dunbar for his outstanding service to CMU and the field of neuroscience by awarding him with the 2006 Faculty Distinguished Service Award.

Dunbar, who also serves as the John G. Kulhavi Endowed Professor in Neuroscience, has helped build CMU’s neuroscience program from just two neuroscience-related courses to a strong undergraduate, interdisciplinary neuroscience major.

Dunbar and his colleagues are researching neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington’s, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s in CMU’s state-of-the-art BRAIN Center, located in the Health Professions Building.

The award selection committee considers the impact, quality and amount of service performed, internal and external recognition for that service, as well as the long-term value of the service to the organization for which it was performed.

The provost-appointed committee selects up to two members of the university faculty to receive the award. Nominations are solicited and may be submitted by faculty, staff or students.

Women’s Studies names new director

Tara Saathoff-Wells, assistant professor of human development and family studies, has accepted the position of director of the Women’s Studies Program for 2006 through 2009.

Saathoff-Wells began teaching at CMU in 2000. Her courses have included Lifespan Development, Infant Development, Family Development in Early and Middle Adulthood, Family in Cultural Perspective, and Work and Family: Conflict, Management, and Integration.

Dunbar receives CHSBS teaching award

Neuroscience professor Gary Dunbar (far right) received CMU’s 2006 Faculty Distinguished Service Award.

Professor William Reader (left) accepts the CHSBS Excellence in Teaching award from CHSBS dean E. Gary Shapiro in April.

CMU has recognized psychology professor Gary Dunbar for his outstanding service to CMU and the field of neuroscience by awarding him with the 2006 Faculty Distinguished Service Award.

Dunbar, who also serves as the John G. Kulhavi Endowed Professor in Neuroscience, has helped build CMU’s neuroscience program from just two neuroscience-related courses to a strong undergraduate, interdisciplinary neuroscience major.

Dunbar and his colleagues are researching neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington’s, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s in CMU’s state-of-the-art BRAIN Center, located in the Health Professions Building.

The award selection committee considers the impact, quality and amount of service performed, internal and external recognition for that service, as well as the long-term value of the service to the organization for which it was performed.

The provost-appointed committee selects up to two members of the university faculty to receive the award. Nominations are solicited and may be submitted by faculty, staff or students.

Women’s Studies names new director

Tara Saathoff-Wells, assistant professor of human development and family studies, has accepted the position of director of the Women’s Studies Program for 2006 through 2009.

Saathoff-Wells began teaching at CMU in 2000. Her courses have included Lifespan Development, Infant Development, Family Development in Early and Middle Adulthood, Family in Cultural Perspective, and Work and Family: Conflict, Management, and Integration.
Exploring the otherworldly

There’s no course at CMU called “Goblins 101,” but if there were, English professor Ari Berk would teach it. Berk is the author of the 2004 book “Goblins!,” in which he offers a humorous folkloric explanation for the botch-ups and frustrations of everyday life.

The book is filled with photos, paintings, and descriptions of goblins and their duties, such as Malecha, the “notorious milk curdler,” and Aggat, the culprit who drops “small, nearly invisible pebbles inside mortal shoes.”

“I created a catalog of annoyances — the kinds of things that drive people crazy — and I gave them all names and made them into characters,” said Berk, who refers to his book as “absurd but absolutely true.”

“I’ve tried to provide a humorous way for people to negotiate with or laugh at the apparent randomness of daily events,” he said.

“There is a long folkloric tradition of people negotiating with the otherworldly in this way — tales of ghosts, spirits, and goblins — and what are these but particular kinds of conversations between people and the seemingly inexplicable?”

“Goblins!” was illustrated by acclaimed fantasy artist Brian Froud. Berk and Froud have also published two other books, “Lady Cottington’s Pressed Fairy Letters” and “The Runes of Elfland.”

“I’ve always preferred wonder stories. I think they’re the most real, because they show us the intricacies and essential aspects of humanity, society and our emotions played out large,” said Berk.

“Because these stories include fantastic elements, such as monsters, enchantment and quests, they create what I call ‘intimate distance,’ a chance to associate with and learn from something that appears to not be about you or your world but, of course, is about you all along. At the end of such tales, we turn out of the story and see ourselves.”

Berk has traveled to Europe, the British Isles, Nova Scotia and the American Southwest in search of storied landscapes.

“My travels are integral to my writing. I can’t emphasize enough how important it is for me to stand in the ancient places of the world, to learn as much as I can about their past, and then to imagine what other stories might still be present in those landscapes,” said Berk.

“Ruins, monuments, old forests and other hallowed sites show us vividly and memorably that we are not alone in time or space. Other people have walked our paths before us, and we are still part of those stories that began so long ago.”

Berk believes that myth and folklore should not be studied merely as nursery tales or historical artifacts, but as living narratives, and he hopes he can help his readers and students find ways to place themselves in the context of those stories.

“Because of the ways in which myths enlarge aspects of the human condition and dramatize conflicts, whether interpersonal, psychological or intercultural, they have a lot to say about what it means to be human,” said Berk. “In other words, we are the stories we tell about ourselves, and our world is the way it is because of how we tell ourselves about it.”

Ari Berk received his bachelor’s degree from Humboldt State University and his master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. All of his programs were interdisciplinary, with a focus on literature, anthropology, history and cultures where myth and folklore are central.

His research interests include folklore belief and custom in rural Britain, Celtic mythology, and Native American literature and ethnography. He sits on the Mythic Imagination Institute’s Board of Directors.
Students, former students, faculty and staff gathered at CMU in February to pay tribute to their colleague, mentor and friend Robert “Robin” Hough.

Hough, an associate professor of religion, died January 13 of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

During the memorial service, family and friends shared stories about Robin’s love of seafood, social activism and African-American music.

Religion professor William Reader recalled driving through a terrible snowstorm so Robin could treat him to a wild boar dinner served at a restaurant in Cadillac. He also described watching Robin retrieve giant lobsters from a tank at a fish market in Boston.

“He cooked them in the biggest pot I’ve ever seen used on a kitchen stove,” said Reader. “To eat these creatures you needed safe-crackers’ tools, but that was no issue for Robin. He wanted us to eat lobster. Seafood was important to him.”

Religion professor Merlyn Mowrey described his deep admiration for African-American music and how it altered his view of the world around him.

“He became suspicious of what counted as ‘common knowledge’ and interested in anyone with an alternative to the ‘prevailing wisdom’ of the day. From their points of view he developed his critique of culture, and by trying to identify with their experiences, he expanded his sense of himself in unexpected and creative directions,” said Mowrey.

Former student Kristen Ulmanis, ’05, admired his teaching style and his ability to take students on a cultural journey through the books, photographs and music he shared with them.

“Robin tirelessly played us song after song, showering us with details as to where each song was recorded, who wrote it, and who produced it, as well as anecdotes surrounding the song,” said Ulmanis. “All of this, you understand, without the use of a single lecture note. He would approach the chalkboard and cover it with names, dates, song titles and performers without ever returning to the podium. I hadn’t witnessed anything like it before nor have I since.”

Hough began teaching at CMU in 1983. He was an expert on race and religion in America and had special interests in goddess-oriented religions, Afro-Caribbean religion, world mythology and feminism. He also was an expert on African American music and had accumulated one of the world’s best collections of blues and gospel recordings from the period of 1920 to 1940.

CHSBS Development News

Endowments provide promise without end

What is an endowment, and why is it so important to Central Michigan University?

An endowment is simply the time-honored method of allocating certain gifts, be they current or future gifts, to an investment portfolio. The endowed fund is invested to earn income each year, and as the principal grows, so does the income available to award. Thus, an endowment is a promise without end.

The minimum amount necessary to establish a new endowment at CMU is $25,000. This amount can be paid all at once or in payments (typically three to five years). Once the fund reaches $25,000, it will payout to purpose. Until $25,000 is reached, the interest gained is reinvested in the fund.

Many times, donors also choose to provide a “current-use” gift while their endowment is building. For example, a donor paying a $25,000 pledge over five years ($5,000 per year) would also supply the $1,200 in current-use money to start making an annual award, therefore seeing the immediate impact of the gift.

When it comes to planning for the future, philanthropy and smart financial strategies can go hand in hand. CMU offers a wide variety of planned giving options that help assure the future of CMU while adding to the security of a donor’s portfolio. Expert estate planning can help to increase the return on current investments, allow for income tax and estate tax deductions, or provide for children and other beneficiaries while making a gift to CMU.

If you’re interested in learning more about endowments and giving options at CMU, please contact Alison Miller, director of development for the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, at 989-774-3354, or you may e-mail her at mille1as@cmich.edu.
Mildred (Pawlowski) Kladzyk (Soc. Studies, ’41) is a volunteer at Schoolcraft College in the Learning Assistance Center and at the Canton Public Library.

The Honorable Fred M. Mester (Soc. Sci., ’59) received the Oakland County Republican Party’s 23rd annual Salute to Justice Lifetime Achievement Award in April. Mester has been a circuit judge since 1982.

Karen Elizabeth Bush (Eng. & Hist., ’62) is a self-employed professional writer. She also teaches at Davenport University and Wayne State University.

Carol (Shetenhelm) Luce Duddles (Reading Spec., ’63) participated in a special five-year program called the Koopman Experimental Program at CMU during World War II. She then taught in country schools for seven years. After having two daughters, she returned to CMU to complete her teaching degree and then spent 20 years as a reading and an elementary school teacher.

Patrick Jacques (Hist., ’69; MA Sec. Ed., ’73) has set an Alpena High School record, having directed plays there for the past 36 years. He also appears frequently on the Alpena Civic Theatre Stage himself.

For the third consecutive year, Barron’s financial magazine named CMU Board of Trustees chairman John G. Kulhavi (Psych., ’65) among the Top 100 Financial Advisers in the country. Kulhavi, who was listed 47th in the nation, is senior vice president for Merrill Lynch in Farmington Hills.

June C. Mabarak (Psych. & Rec., ’65) retired after teaching in the Detroit Public Schools for 38 years, primarily as a preschool teacher. She is now focusing on her art.

Karen (Grigg) Martinez (Soc. Sci., ’68; MA Humanities, ’90) retired from Ashley Community Schools in 2004 after 35 years of teaching social studies.

Andrew Pasakarnis (Hist., ’68) and his wife, Janet, manage a residential program where individuals stay in a therapeutic farm community to seek solutions for mental health issues.

Errol Putman (Hist., ’67; MA, ’71) teaches education courses at the State University of New York at Geneseo. He will soon be on sabbatical and then plans to teach one more year before considering retirement, possibly back in Michigan.

Lorraine Hoppe Reuther (Eng., ’68) teaches at Wuhan University of Technology in the Peoples Republic of China. She and her husband, Bob, are spending one year in this Hubei Province city of 8.5 million people. Reuther is teaching oral English and American literature to English majors.

Michael Abelson (MA Clin. Psych., ’75) is president of Abelson & Company, a firm he founded in 1986 that specializes in using research, objective tools, and stretching staff capabilities to improve organizational and staff effectiveness, efficiency and profitability. He also is a faculty member in the management department at Texas A&M University.

Lee E. Downing (Eng., ’72; MA Rec. & Park Admin., ’74) has written “A Forgotten Horseman: A Son’s Weekend Memoir.” The book is about a summer weekend the author spent as a 10-year-old boy helping his father, an American saddle-horse trainer, at a horse show. His father and fellow black horsemen rode and trained American Saddlebred horses for wealthy, white horse owners in the 1950s.

Downing is a former high school English teacher, college instructor and college administrator. After receiving a liver transplant in 1988, he became involved in transplantation education. He works for...
He will be one of the headline performers at the Michigan Story Festival in Mount Pleasant on October 20.

Michael G. Knapp (Hist., ’78) is a Middle East analyst at the U.S. Army National Ground Intelligence Center in Charelottesville, Va. He also hosts lectures and publishes articles on Islamic extremism. He has completed graduate studies in Strategic Intelligence at the Joint Military Intelligence College in Washington D.C. (1987-1990) and in Middle East Studies at the University of Virginia (1998-2006).

Andy Arena (Hist. & Pol. Sci., ’85) is head of the Crime Division of the FBI in New York City.

Judy Coffey (Psych., ’88) received the 2005 Spirit of Community award from the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce, and she was elected to the Cadillac Area Public Schools Board of Education for a six-year term. She is a parish assistant at the United Methodist Church of Cadillac.

Elizabeth Foster (Hist, ’88) moved to Tennessee two years ago and lives in a log cabin that borders the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She is employed by Books-a-Million.

Joseph G. Jarret (MPA, ’83) is the chief legal counsel for Polk County in Florida. He recently lectured on behalf of the Florida Governor’s Hurricane Conference and The Public Risk Management Association and published “Crisis Communications” in the Public Management Journal.

Brenton Kemmer (Hist. ’88; MA, ’94) recently finished his eighth book. His last five books were published by Heritage Books, Inc. The last two are part of a series of historical novels about the French and Indian War.

Michael Puffpaff (Hist. & Jrn., ’88; MA Hist., ’04) was named 2005 Teacher of the Year by the American Legion Department of Michigan. He also published “Maiden Michigan,” a collection of narratives and poetry in 2004.

Phillip Durocher (Hist. ’78; MA, ’84) teaches history, civics/economics and global issues in grades 9, 10 and 11 at Mount Pleasant’s Sacred Heart Academy. For 12 years, he served as an adjunct instructor at Mid Michigan Community College, teaching western civilization and U.S. History. He has received three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, two from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, and one from the Council on Teaching Economics.


~ 1980s ~

CMU Alumni Awards

Joseph Steinmetz (Psych., ’77; MA Exp. Psych., ’79) received CMU’s Distinguished Alumni Award, which is presented in recognition of remarkable professional success and the positive reflection made on the reputation of all graduates of CMU.

Steinmetz recently was named dean of liberal arts and sciences at the University of Kansas. He also was elected as a fellow in the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

Previously, he taught experimental psychology, neuroscience and cognitive science at Indiana University for almost 20 years. He served as the psychology department’s chairman from 1995 to 2005.

Steinmetz was among 16 alumni and friends of CMU who were honored during the June 9 event.

Dr. Joseph Steinmetz, ’77, ’79
Melanie (Nemcik) Scott (MA Hist., ’84) earned a master’s degree in library science from Texas Woman’s University. She currently is director of libraries for DRI and manages two libraries, one in Reno and one in Las Vegas.

~ 1990s ~


Carrie Collins (Pol. Sci., ’99) earned a master’s degree in public administration and accepted the position of community advocacy director for the American Heart Association in South Dakota.

Heather Douglas (Hist., ’99) received her J.D. and is licensed to practice law in the state and federal courts of Massachusetts. She works as in-house counsel for American Tower Corporation. She continues to pursue her fitness goals by training for and running the 2005 Boston Marathon and the 2004 Detroit Free Press/Flagstar Bank Marathon.

Catherine Dunkle (MA Hist., ’98) is an assistant professor of history and program coordinator for social studies education at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

Kimberly E. Hunter (Psych., ’96; MS Gen. Psych., ’98; MA Clin. Psych., ’01; PsyD, ’04) is an assistant professor of psychology and a clinical child psychologist at the Medical University of Ohio in Toledo.

Kristen L. Hunter (Eng., ’99) is an associate attorney at Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn in Detroit. She received her J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 2003. She was a law clerk to Judge Cornelia J. Kennedy, U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, in 2003 and to Judge Paul D. Borman, U.S. District Court, in 2004.

Christine Myers (MA Hist., CMU/Strathclyde, ’97) teaches U.S. history at Bowling Green State University. She specializes in women’s history and has also taught courses on early American and the 20th century U.S.

Kate A. Pohjola (Pol. Sci., ’93) earned the Martin P. Luthy Memorial Award, which recognizes the top 10 Jaycees chapter presidents in the state of Michigan. In April 2005, Kate was appointed director of the Lapeer District Library.

Kenneth J. Sanney (Hist. & Pol. Sci., ’98) graduated in 2002 with a Master of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Vanderbilt Law School. He currently practices law in Nashville and Franklin, Tennessee, and teaches at Belmont University.


Reverend James V. Smith (Hist. & Rel., ’90) is a pastor at Hyde Park Alliance Church near the University of Chicago. He also teaches courses in church history at Loyola and North Park universities. He received his Ph.D. in theology from Loyola University of Chicago in 2003. He is working on a book about 5th century Palestinian monasticism for the Catholic University of America Press.

Daniel Stowe (Hist. & Soc. Sci., ’96) teaches at Northport and spends part of his day as a section leader (i.e., assistant principal).

Kidada Williams (Hist., ’96; MA, ’98) is finishing a year of teaching at the University of Oregon. She is planning to move back to Michigan where she has accepted a tenure-track teaching position at Wayne State University.

~ Emeriti Faculty ~

Professors Peter and Mary Obuchowski haven’t let retirement slow their pursuit of scholarship. Peter’s book “Emerson and Science” was published recently, while Mary is completing her book, “Field o’ My Dreams: The Poetry of Gene Stratton-Porter.”

Peter’s book describes how Ralph Waldo Emerson’s lifelong interest in science influenced his thought.

The book is an extensive revision of Peter’s 1969 doctoral dissertation completed at the University of Michigan.

Mary’s book will contain several unpublished poems written by author Gene Stratton-Porter, who is one of Indiana’s most famous female authors.

Funded by a grant, Mary traveled to California to meet Stratton-Porter’s grandson, who allowed her to have copies of his grandmother’s papers. Among them, she found the unpublished poems.

Mary has spent a lifetime studying Midwestern literature. Her book will be published by Kent State University Press in the next few months.

Both Peter and Mary retired from CMU’s English department, where Peter taught from 1969 to 2000 and Mary taught from 1971 to 2005.

We are sad to report that Dr. Eric Kadler, former professor and chairman of the foreign language department at Central Michigan University, passed away on July 20, 2006.

A memorial service was held in Mount Pleasant on July 23. Dr. Kadler is survived by his second wife, Joan Bradshaw Kadler, whom he married in 2001.
CMU grad honors father with scholarship

When foreign language professor Gilles Labrie retires next year, his son, John Labrie, ’89, has found a fitting tribute to mark his father’s 38 years at CMU.

He recently established the Gilles Labrie Scholarship, which will provide scholarships to CMU students majoring in French. Students can use the scholarship to assist with tuition costs or to study abroad.

“I wanted to give my father a retirement gift that would commemorate his many years of dedicated work while also helping young people, which has been a major focus of his life,” said John.

Labrie’s father was surprised and proud to learn about his son’s plans.

“I had no idea John was developing a scholarship in my name,” said Gilles. “Needless to say, I am very pleased. Scholarships are important because they recognize the efforts and accomplishments of students, and they provide financial support at a time when education is becoming increasingly expensive.”

Most French language students spend at least one semester studying in France or Quebec, something that both John and his father believe is critical for developing foreign language skills.

“Immersion provides insight into the culture of a country and necessitates the use of the foreign language in a way that facilitates rapid and higher level learning,” said John. “I hope this scholarship will make it easier for students to pursue international study while at CMU.”

When John attended Central, he spent one summer studying at the University of Cambridge in England, funded in part by a scholarship.

“It was a fabulous experience that really opened my eyes to the world,” said John. “I met people who still have an impact on my life and traveled extensively throughout England and Wales. The experience helped me become more focused and driven academically, but the most important aspect was getting to know people from around the world.”

Students applying for the Labrie Scholarship must have a signed French major and maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average. The first scholarship will be awarded next spring.

Named Scholarships

CMU donors have established a variety of scholarships to honor parents, spouses, children and faculty members.

These scholarships create a lasting tribute to family and friends and provide a permanent source of funding to assist students with the costs of pursuing a university degree.

To see a list of all scholarships offered by the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, visit www.chsbs.cmich.edu/chsbs/scholarships.htm.
 Alumni Information Form
Help us learn more about our alumni. Please send us news of your accomplishments.

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

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