

# Centralight

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY | ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER 2018

The  
*giving*  
season

Alumni of all means are fired up to support CMU

## + FEATURES

### On the cover



CMU's iconic administration building, Warriner Hall, looks cozy and inviting with a dusting of snow and warm lights emanating from within.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE/STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Your GOLDEN Opportunity

The **MEMORIES** and **FRIENDS** you share with your alma mater didn't end with graduation. Continue to make new ones!

Become a **Gold Member** of the CMU Alumni Association today!

[cmich.edu/alumni](http://cmich.edu/alumni)



Keep the old, and bring the **GOLD!**



## CHIPPEWAS LEAVE THEIR MARK ON CMU AND BEYOND

We love celebrating the generosity of our alumni



Marcie Otteman Grawburg, '87, Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Robert O. Davies joined us Sept. 1 as CMU's 15th president, and he quickly got to work. Dr. Davies has been everywhere, meeting students, faculty and staff, and we're excited to have him leading our university into the new year!

With this winter edition of Centralight, we're proud to introduce Dr. Davies – and all of you – to some generous fellow Chippewas.

The theme of this issue always centers around giving. And you can guarantee where good people are doing good things, there's usually a Chippewa in the mix.

You'll read about a couple who wanted to leave a lasting legacy in their estate for students, ensuring they will make a difference for CMU long into the future.

You'll meet an alumna who wanted to support future teachers, and a recent grad who directly benefited from her generosity. She's now teaching a new generation of students.

And you'll hear from professor Nina Nash-Robertson's family. In dealing with their tragic loss, they made certain her name would forever be associated with CMU's choral program.

We'll also introduce you to CMU alumni who are leading nonprofits, making a difference every day with the work they do for people and communities across Michigan and beyond.

I'm often asked what I like best about my job, and it's always the same answer: hearing the stories of alumni just like you — how your time at CMU changed your life and inspired you to help others.

There's an adage that helps me clarify the work we do: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." Thanks to all of you for giving me the best gift every day!

Forever maroon and gold,

*Marcie*



## + CALENDAR

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	MAY
15 CMU Women's Basketball at Vanderbilt, Nashville, Tennessee	19 CMU Night at the Detroit Pistons, Detroit	8 Naples Sunset Cruise, Naples, Florida	14 The Villages Golf Outing, The Villages, Florida	5 Commencement, Mount Pleasant campus
20 CMU Night at the Carolina Hurricanes, Raleigh, North Carolina		22 CMU Night at the Detroit Red Wings, Detroit	16 Detroit Tigers spring training, Lakeland, Florida	

This is a small sampling of the many alumni events. Please visit [alumni.cmich.edu](http://alumni.cmich.edu) for a comprehensive list.

CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities (see [cmich.edu/ocrie](http://cmich.edu/ocrie)). UComm 9794 - 2017

## Connecting with the president

**Engage with Bob Davies, CMU's new leader, across your favorite social media platforms**

Immersing himself in the Central Michigan University community is a priority for President Bob Davies. In addition to building relationships in person, he's doing it with social media.

Davies has new accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to connect with prospective and current students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and university partners and friends.

Follow Davies on Facebook (facebook.com/cmich prez) and @cmich prez on Twitter and Instagram as he shares highlights of his time as CMU's 15th president. •



President Bob Davies poses for a selfie with a CMU student.



A five-year, \$1.5 million grant will fuel DNA research at CMU.

## Targeting power source of diseases

**\$1.5 million grant fuels CMU research into zapping energy from damaged DNA in Parkinson's, cancer, more**

CMU chemistry and biochemistry faculty member Linlin Zhao is zeroing in on diseases such as Parkinson's and cancer by focusing on the fuel of human cells.

Mitochondria are in the cells of every complex organism and produce about 90 percent of the chemical energy cells need to survive. What's special about the "powerhouse of the cell" is they have their own genetic material, or DNA. But when their DNA gets damaged through internal or environmental causes, the results are linked to cancers, neurological disorders and some hereditary diseases.

Zhao and student researchers in the College of Science and Engineering are using a new five-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to determine how the damaged mitochondrial DNA breaks down.

The grant's timing is superb because of the new biochemistry cellular and molecular biology graduate degree program, Zhao said.

The program provides research-based training in biological, biochemical and biomedical sciences.

The first class of students — about 20 — started in the fall, and Zhao said a number of them will be a part of his research group.

"They will be tackling the frontier of mitochondrial biology and biochemistry research," he said.

Zhao said he is proud CMU won the grant, competing against highly rated doctoral universities from around the country.

"The fact that we won the grant speaks to the quality of our research and the caliber of students we have at CMU," he said. •

## Take a stroll on Central Avenue

**Main route for campus walkers and cyclists has a new name and focus**

A campus gem once hidden in plain sight has a new identity. The main north-south walking and cycling path through campus is now Central Avenue, a tangible sign of CMU's nod to pedestrians.

It's part of the university's multiyear Campus Identity Plan, created in 2014 with input from more than 1,000 students, faculty, staff and community members. Central Avenue stretches north and south more than 1.2 miles, with at least 20 campus facilities lining the route.

Starting at Bellows Street on the north, the path runs southward along the Franklin Street sidewalk to Park Library — which pedestrians can walk through or cyclists can bike around — then straight south to the new pedestrian gateway arch at Broomfield Road.

South of Broomfield, Central Avenue passes the John G. Kulhavi Events Center, Rose Center and Ryan Hall, the Student Activity Center, and the Indoor Athletic Complex on the way to the south end of Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

Sweeney, Thorpe, Fabiano and Celani residence halls are also on Central Avenue. •



New signs enhance pedestrian friendliness along Central Avenue.

## 'Irresistible culture of inclusion'

**CMU's new VP/chief diversity officer has big plans for campus, community**



A.T. Miller has spent decades promoting diversity and inclusion in higher education, and now, as CMU's vice president and chief diversity officer, he plans to help the university leverage the power of its diverse faculty, staff and students.

"Just as a chief financial officer makes sure that budget operations and controls work well in all units of a university, the same is true for equity and inclusion in all units for a chief diversity officer," Miller said.

Many departments already have initiatives in place, including some that have found success. Miller said his role is to strengthen, expand and build on those programs while collaborating on new strategies.

This includes collecting and sharing data, so each unit can set goals and measure success. He will hire both a diversity data analyst and a communications specialist. He also has been sending CMU representatives to national conferences to bring back best practices and spark innovation.

Miller hopes to "cultivate an irresistible culture of inclusion, where we constantly seek to learn more from others."

"Diversity, inclusion and equity are central to the recruitment, retention and development of talented individuals," Miller said. "We can help to drive the production of knowledge, promote academic excellence and inspire innovation." •



## Senior academic officers update

Provost Michael Gealt has announced several leadership appointments:



**Marcy Taylor** has been reappointed interim associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Taylor previously served in that role from 2016-18. She began as interim dean of the college following the retirement of Pamela Gates in January and continued until the appointment of Richard Rothaus.



**Jennifer Evanuiik** has been appointed executive director of the Office of International Affairs. Evanuiik will guide international efforts at CMU including international student and scholar services, study abroad, strategic planning for internationalization, development of international policies, and coordination of campuswide initiatives and activities.



**Megan Goodwin** has been appointed interim associate dean of the College of Education and Human Services. Goodwin previously served as acting associate dean of the college.



**Dave Patton** will continue in his appointment as acting associate dean of the College of Science and Engineering. •

# IT'S PERSONAL



From million-dollar endowments to meaningful scholarship funds, Fire Up For Excellence gifts are fueled by alumni passion

BY TERRI FINCH HAMILTON, '83

A 91-year-old world traveler is sending future teachers on foreign adventures.

A beloved choral music director leaves a legacy beyond her imagination.

A retired special education teacher encourages future teachers to carry on her compassion.

A young Flint alum starts a scholarship at a CMU site that nurtured his dreams.

These Fire Up For Excellence gifts come in all sizes.

Where can you chip in? >

*Fire Up*  
for Excellence  
The Campaign for Central Michigan University

## Retired teacher helps education students travel the world

Suzanne Baber dreamed of world travel, but she was nearly 80 when she packed for her first trip to Paris. Two trips to Italy followed, then Ireland and London.

She doesn't want today's education students to wait that long.

So, Baber, '48, established the Suzanne Baber Endowed Scholarship for Teacher Education Study Abroad. Now, students with financial need from CMU's teacher education program will study in the far-off countries she loves.

Baber, now 91, can't wait to hear their stories.

"You get involved in history when you travel, you learn about other people," Baber said from her home in Lake Orion. "You realize that other people speak different languages and come from different cultures, but they're just like you, really."

That's great knowledge for a new teacher to have, she said.

"Teachers need to know that every child has a story."

Baber's name is on the scholarship, but it wouldn't be possible without her late husband, Raymond, whom everybody called Bud.

"This isn't my money," she said. "It's our money."

Baber has given to CMU for 35 consecutive years, donating to scholarships, public broadcasting, the library, the Biological Station on Beaver Island and more. An education classroom and a room in the Park Library are named after her.

She loves hearing from students who received her scholarships. Two years ago, she met two.

"That was wonderful," Baber said. "One of them brought me chocolate chip cookies she baked. And she kept sending me cookies. Every once in a while, I'd get a package from her."

That was Kayley Crawford, '18, now a kindergarten teacher at Highlands Elementary School in Immokalee, Florida. For three years, she was a recipient of a scholarship Baber and her husband established for education students.

"Suzanne did so much for me, a simple box of cookies in the mail was the least I could do," Crawford said.

Her scholarships went toward tuition, which freed up money for amazing experiences she couldn't otherwise afford, Crawford said, including an eight-week student teaching trip that led to her current job.

She also traveled to Maine and the Florida Everglades for service trips through the Alternative Breaks program.

"At CMU, I felt like we all looked out for each other, and one way alumni can continue to look out for students is by giving to scholarships like Suzanne did," Crawford said. "She's amazing."

Baber washed dishes at an elementary school to help pay for her own college tuition. She taught high school English in Waterford Township, then became a high school counselor.

She'd still travel if she could, she said, but at her age, she'd need a younger companion.

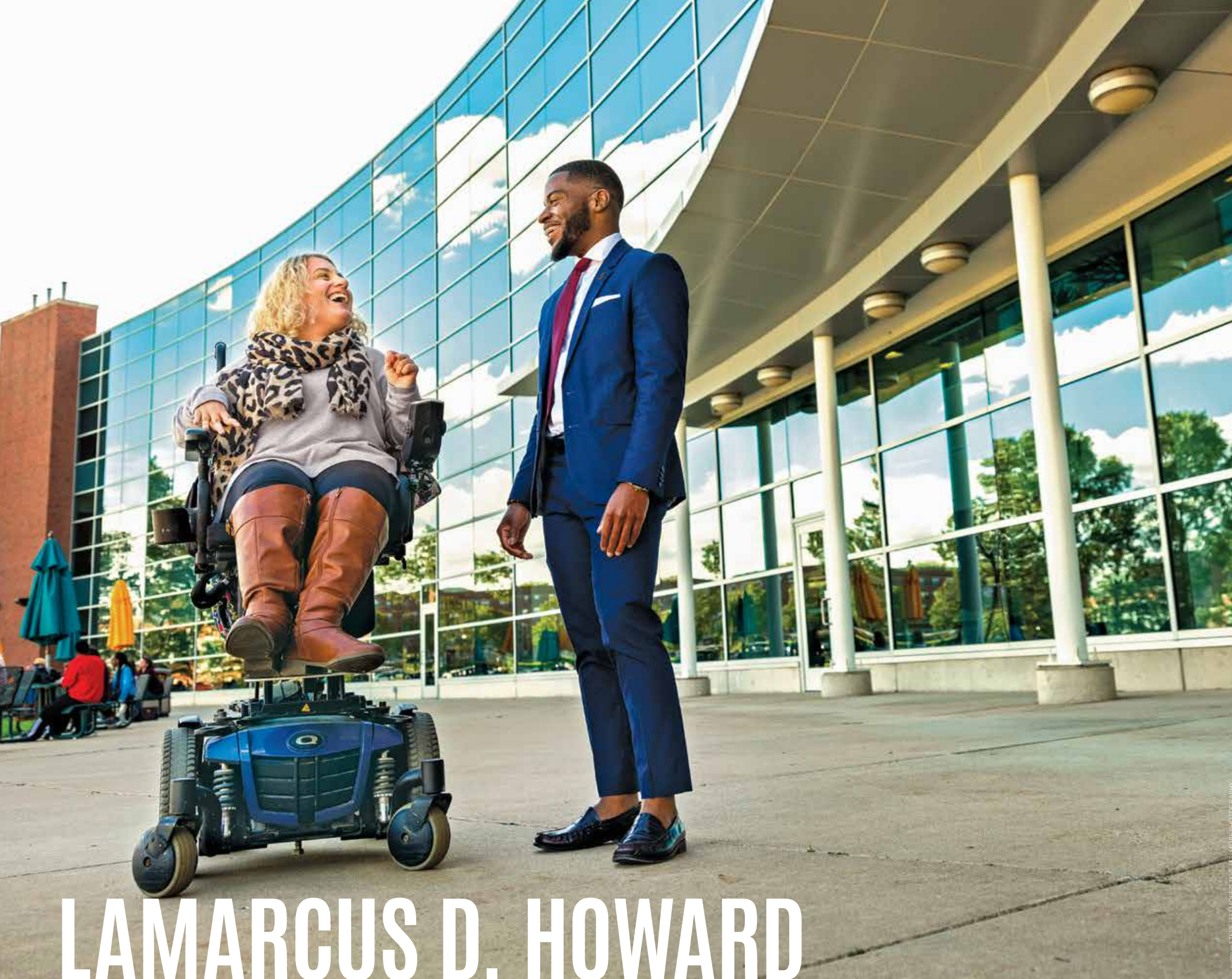
Meanwhile, she's happy to launch someone else's travel adventures.

"If you can afford to give, and you want to do it, it's important," Baber said. "I think sometimes it's just a matter of being reminded." >



PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE/STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY

# SUZANNE BABER



# LAMARCUS D. HOWARD

## Paying it forward

LaMarcus D. Howard made his first trip to CMU in seventh grade, riding a charter bus from Flint as part of a college readiness program.

As he neared graduation a few years later, college still seemed like a distant possibility.

"I wasn't the most academically prepared," said Howard, '09, M.A. '12.

But his desire to attend Central was fierce.

"After visiting every year on that charter bus," he said, "it felt like a family."

After he graduated from high school, Howard attended a six-week summer course at CMU, designed to jump-start his college career. The program was run by CMU's Multicultural Academic Student Services. The three college-level accelerated classes were tough.

"It was my blessing in disguise," he said. "It taught me study skills, how to manage my time. That's where my love for Multicultural Academic Student Services started."

Now, he's paying it forward.

Howard has started the LaMarcus D. Howard Scholarship to be awarded through Multicultural Academic Student Services. As a CMU student, Howard received a \$500 scholarship each year for three years through that office.

He worked with the office during all four years on campus. Later, as a graduate student, he oversaw Men About Change, the office's mentoring program that builds leadership skills and offers academic guidance to young men.

"I'm not even close to being rich, so I can't do an endowment — yet," said Howard, who is now associate director of disability services at Eastern Michigan University. "But I can give a thousand dollars a year." He's asked his friends and family to donate toward the scholarship and invites alumni to chip in, too.

"Having a scholarship in my name has always been a goal of mine, and now it's a dream come true," he said.

He likes to imagine the future student who receives the scholarship.

"Maybe it will be a student from Flint who, like me, took a chance on CMU and will have one of the best experiences of their life," he said.

Meanwhile, he's working toward his next goal.

"I remember being on campus and saying, 'LaMarcus, once you become big-time, you're gonna have a building named after you at CMU.'"

He needs to save for a while, he said, "but I will make that happen." >

LaMarcus Howard talks with graduate student Isabella Bullock at Eastern Michigan University. Bullock is a grad student and assistant in Howard's department's Disability Resource Center.



PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE/  
STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE

# NINA NASH-ROBERTSON

At top, 1-year-old Riley pauses to look at a photo of her grandmother Nina Nash-Roberson during a dedication ceremony naming the choir hall after her. The longtime director of choral activities and professor emeritus died earlier this year. Above, students sing a tribute to her.

## 'She'd be so honored'

When Nina Nash-Robertson died last January, hundreds of touching tributes flooded in about CMU's beloved director of choral activities.

Her husband, John Robertson, recalls some touching feedback Nina received before she died.

"One of her students told her, 'You give your heart to everyone,'" he said. "That perfectly summarizes her."

Nash-Robertson had recently retired, after 35 years of teaching, conducting, encouraging and celebrating her love of music. As students, former students, family, friends and colleagues grieved, many made memorial contributions toward a scholarship her family planned in her honor.

John and their daughter, Jenny Robertson, '08, added their own money and established the Nina Nash-Robertson Endowed Scholarship for Choral Studies and the Nina Nash-Robertson Endowed Choir Fund for Choral and Vocal Studies.

The scholarship will be awarded to exemplary choral studies students who show great promise as future choral educators. The fund will go toward expenses, from touring to outreach and recruitment.

In addition, CMU's choral rehearsal room was dedicated in Nash-Robertson's honor.

She loved taking her students to perform abroad, traveling to China, Slovakia, France, Italy, the Czech Republic and her native Ireland. John said she would be thrilled to know there's money to pay for that travel.

"Every overseas tour she did, she had to raise money to do it," he said. "So many students had trouble finding the money. Some of her students had never left Michigan. It was so important to her that they see a bigger world."

Jenny said she and her father wanted to do something Nina would have been excited about and proud of.

"I have so many memories of my mom organizing fundraisers for choir trips overseas and staying up until 1 in the morning writing letters of recommendation for student scholarships," Jenny said.

"She would be so happy that we're continuing her legacy. It helps us, as well. We're still grieving."

The Robertsons encourage donations to support Nina's legacy.

"It's a way for people to honor Nina's memory and thank her," John said. "She'd say, 'Aw c'mon,' about naming the choir room after her," he said with a laugh, "but she'd be so honored, too."

Jenny and her 1-year-old daughter, Riley, traveled from New York to attend the choir room's September dedication.

"So many students walked in that room and got to sing and laugh and make music with my mom," Jenny said. "It means so much to have her name on it."

Riley only got to know her Nana for five months, Jenny said.

"She doesn't understand it now," she said, "but ..." She had to pause. "Someday she'll walk in that room, and she'll be able to understand what a gift her grandmother left." >

## The growth of development

BY TERRI FINCH HAMILTON, '83

When Bill Odykirk started as CMU's first executive director of development in 1969, he had a pretty spare setup.

"I had nothing," Odykirk, '59, recalled. "My office was a closet in the old Smith Hall. There were no windows."

He didn't even have a phone.

Not the best situation for a guy who's a bit claustrophobic.

"So, I went to the university motor pool and found an old stick shift Ford nobody else wanted to drive," he recalled. "My wife painted a Pabst Blue Ribbon case light blue, so I'd have a filing cabinet. I put it in the car and went on the road."

If Odykirk hasn't personally asked you for money, it's probably just because he couldn't find you.

He's gone to his friends — and there are a lot of them — local businesses, huge corporations, foundations, even members of the CMU Board of Trustees.

Odykirk spent five years as head of development, raising funds so doggedly he even made calls on Christmas.

He kicked off CMU's first capital campaign in 1972, for \$1.5 million.

"People had no idea what a capital campaign was," he said. "Including me."

Today, CMU has a campaign that's going to raise \$100 million. "Each college on campus has its own development person," he said.

They even have their own phones.

"All this growth on campus couldn't have happened without philanthropy," Odykirk said.

"I'm so proud of what CMU is and what the development fund has become.

"You have this big animal, and you have to feed it," he said. "The alumni need us, and we need them." •

Bill Odykirk, '59 (left), and Terry Carey, '47, were the original members of CMU's development staff back in 1969.







# DIANE THOMAS

## 'Teaching them was an honor'

Diane Thomas knew her special education students often felt left out.

So, she made a spot for everybody.

One of her kids was in charge of the buzzers for the quiz bowl team, carefully packing them up and transporting them to and from each match.

Another lugged the marching band director's ladder out onto the football field at every game.

No kid ate lunch alone. Not on her watch.

"That would be the pits," the retired teacher said.

"I worked very hard not to have a stigma attached to special ed kids. I tried to find a place for every student I had."

Now others are following her compassionate lead.

Last summer, Thomas, '79, and her husband, Doug, arranged for a trust now worth \$500,000 to establish the Thomas Family

Endowed Scholarship in Special Education to support undergraduate special education majors.

"I want to help students who can't afford to go to college to be able to go," Thomas said.

She had no plans for college herself but tagged along on a CMU visit with her best friend.

"I fell in love with the campus," she said. "I told my dad, 'I want to go to college. I think I want to be a teacher.' That one decision completely changed my life."

Thomas went on to a rewarding career teaching special education, from kindergarten through high school, including 24 years at Arlington High School south of her home in Findlay, Ohio.

She made it a kinder, louder place.

Thomas encouraged her students to join "The Loud Crowd," a group of students who attended sports events and cheered.

"You didn't have to be smart. You just showed up wearing your 'Loud Crowd' T-shirt to scream, cheer and yell — which is what they were good at," she said with a laugh.

She misses those kids. Many still show up at her door to say hi.

Now Thomas mentors student teachers at Bowling Green State University.

"I love it," she said. "I can impart some of the tricks from my bag."

Ask Thomas about what her teaching career has meant, and she takes a deep breath.

"I can't do it with a dry eye," she said. And she can't.

"My husband and I don't have kids," she said, "so my students were our kids."

She and Doug provided pajamas for students in need, paid for band camp, bought graduation caps and gowns, and sometimes even gave them beds.

"I can't teach a kid who doesn't have a bed," she said.

"Teaching them was an honor," she said through her tears. "Now our great wish is to pass that on, to keep it going through students who will become new teachers."

While she and Doug have been fortunate to create a substantial endowment, "It doesn't matter how much you give," Thomas said. "Don't be scared off if you can't donate thousands. What's important is your passion to give." •

CMU may be

**behind you** but it's

**never far away**



Order your CMU  
**license plate**  
today!  
[cmich.edu/alumni](http://cmich.edu/alumni)

# A **FORCE** for *change*

## CMU alumni lead nonprofit organizations around the globe

BY CYNTHIA J. DRAKE, M.A. '08

CMU students and alumni are known for their roll-up-their-sleeves work ethic and big hearts. Those characteristics have led many to jobs at nonprofit organizations where they're a force for positive change around the globe.

Whether they found their chosen career through the university's nonprofit and public administration programs or took a slightly different path, these leaders are making a difference and loving it.

### **BLYTHE MORAN, '80**

*Executive director, American Cancer Society  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan*

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** "For me, the most gratifying experience has to be hearing the personal stories from individuals whose lives we've impacted — the woman who says without us, she would not have had a ride to treatment; the father who told me he's alive today because of the research that led to the discovery of a drug that saved his life. Our impact is global, but it's also so personal."

#### **WHAT LED YOU TO NONPROFIT WORK?**

"My passion for helping others and my love of public health led me to work for the American Cancer Society."

#### **WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST GRATIFYING IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?**

"I'm so proud to work for the American Cancer Society. Nearly everyone has someone they know and love who has faced cancer, and at more than 100 years old, the American Cancer Society is that organization you think of with regard to cancer."

"When this job opened up, it was a no-brainer to be part of the No. 1 organization fighting cancer. To be honest, I had no idea how much we really do. For instance, did you know that the society is second only to the U.S. government in investment in cancer research? Currently, we're funding more than \$410 million in cancer research."

#### **WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CMU EQUIPPED YOU FOR THIS ROLE?**

"I went to CMU specifically for the School of Public Health, which helped prepare me for this role. I remember several professors who sparked my passion for public health. The university gave me several opportunities to get hands-on leadership experience both on campus and in the community. In addition to this, I joined the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority that not only provided a wonderful network of friends, but it also introduced me to the world of philanthropy and the opportunity to make an impact. I'm very proud of the fact that Zeta Tau Alpha has partnered with the American Cancer Society to be the National Survivor Ambassador of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer." >



PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE/  
STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY

## JIM HUGHES, '79

Executive director, CATCH  
Detroit

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** "Ask yourself what you are most passionate about. Surround yourself with people who share your passion and can direct you toward a career that allows your work to be your passion. Also, know that what you are passionate about today may be different five, 10, 20 years from now."

### WHAT LED YOU TO NONPROFIT WORK?

"On the way to pursuing my dream of being a sportswriter at a major daily newspaper, I made what turned out to be a fortuitous career change. I left the newspaper field and ventured into public relations work at Henry Ford Health System, and I was assigned to help promote the launch of Sparky Anderson's new charity. If you would have asked me in high school or college what my career goals were, I'm sure working for a nonprofit would not have been on the short list. I can tell you, however, it was one of the very best decisions — or more accurately, opportunities — in my life."

### WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST GRATIFYING IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

"Because the dollars we direct to Children's and Henry Ford hospitals are used to provide items and services where there is no other immediate source of funding, there's great satisfaction in knowing that our organization is filling a gap for those adversely impacted by a lack of financial resources."

"Equally gratifying is working alongside a truly dedicated and passionate volunteer board of trustees, who give so freely of their time and resources to advance the mission of CATCH (Caring Athletes Team for Children's & Henry Ford Hospitals). A majority of our board members are so dedicated they have served several terms, and in 31 years since our founding by Sparky in 1987, we have only had three board chairs. Because of their support and leadership, we have provided \$7.5 million to the two hospitals and have grown our board-designated endowment fund to more than \$10 million."

### WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CMU EQUIPPED YOU FOR THIS ROLE?

"I sincerely believe that my journalism degree and experience working at CM Life was instrumental in preparing for me for this particular job, simply because so much of what I do involves communicating and telling stories. Whether it be in meetings and conversations with prospective donors and sponsors, writing about the charity, our fundraising activities and the mission, how CATCH funds make an impact for the beneficiaries, or promoting CATCH through local and social media, communication is the key." >



PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE/STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY

## NANCY BROWN, '85

Chief executive officer, American Heart Association  
Dallas, Texas

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** "As CEO, I frequently ask myself: 'What difference am I going to make? How am I going to help?' And when I talk with leaders in our organization, I often mention the difference between asking 'What am I doing?' and 'What am I solving?' It's a subtle but very important difference in how we approach our work. If we're not creating solutions, we're not achieving our mission."

### WHAT LED YOU TO NONPROFIT WORK?

"From a young age, my parents instilled in me a commitment to volunteer service. They lived by the philosophy that living a meaningful life means using your time, talent and resources to help others. My years at CMU reinforced this philosophy and the importance of volunteering not only as a way to make a difference in the community, but also as a way to become a better version of ourselves."

### WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST GRATIFYING IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

"For me, and for our 3,500-plus staff and 40 million volunteers and supporters, the most gratifying part of working for the American Heart Association is that every day we're helping save and improve people's lives. Each of us has been impacted by cardiovascular disease and stroke, either personally or in the lives of our friends and family. Despite many decades of progress, cardiovascular disease and stroke are still the No. 1 and 2 killers worldwide, so our work is far from over."

### WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CMU EQUIPPED YOU FOR THIS ROLE?

"My time and experience at CMU gave me the foundation I needed to pursue new opportunities with confidence after graduation. It wasn't only what I learned in my classes, but also connecting with others outside of class and learning from their unique perspectives. It's easy to gravitate to a worldview that mirrors our own experiences. CMU opened my eyes to the larger human story and diversity of thought. These experiences molded who I was as a student — and shaped who I would become as a leader." >



## ROBERT COLLIER, M.P.A. '94

President/CEO, Council of Michigan  
Foundations, Grand Haven

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** "I'm very optimistic that the millennial generation and Generation Z are going to be involved. Clearly, we have to work to make sure they understand their involvement is meaningful and is important to their communities and to Michigan, to the country and the globe. Part of it is we have to recognize the talents they bring to the table. They want to see things get better for their communities."

### WHAT LED YOU TO NONPROFIT WORK?

"I started off as a volunteer early on in my life, growing up in rural Connecticut and

getting involved with the 4-H program. As a teenager, I decided to go to apply for VISTA. For my parents and my family, volunteering was part of our life. I think I realized that the nonprofit sector can be not only personally rewarding, but it can play such a strategic role in building strong communities."

### WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST GRATIFYING IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

One of the most gratifying achievements was being able to develop a youth philanthropy program, Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. The Youth Project engages high school students in philanthropy in such a way that every community foundation now has a youth advisory committee, and if you're going to do anything with youth

and for youth, you have to work with that committee. Our evaluation shows that it leads to them being more involved in their communities as adults.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE CURRENT CMU STUDENTS LOOKING TO MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD?

"One thing is to keep in mind that one out of every 10 Michiganders works in the nonprofit sector. We have a lot of baby boomers who are retiring, and we need young leaders. Consider the nonprofit sector, whether you're interested in the environment, health education, infrastructure ... there are lots of opportunities to have a meaningful and rewarding career by being involved in the nonprofit sector."

*Rob Collier retired from CMF on Nov. 1 after serving as president since 1999. >*



**JERRI HAMACHEK, '87**  
*Marketing and public relations manager, Moody Gardens Galveston, Texas*

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** "Pay attention to what speaks to your heart."

**WHAT LED YOU TO NONPROFIT WORK?**  
 "It's interesting, the path I've gone on, because even though my major was journalism, I took an internship at a radio station, and it kind of opened up the idea of advertising to me. In one of my classes, we had to do a research paper on a media outlet. Other students focused on high-profile outlets like USA Today. I chose the Flint Voice, published by Michael Moore. He had a house that he ran his newspaper out of in Flint. It was not by any means

impressive; it was gritty. But being from the Flint area, it kind of opened up big ideas to me about exploring what's true to your heart."

**WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST GRATIFYING IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?**  
 Moody Gardens is a nonprofit organization attraction with giant pyramids housing an aquarium and rainforest. "It offers a perfect balance between my love of animals and nature and the coast. I love that I work at a place that every day I can see people create memories, having unique experiences and educating them on why conservation is important."

"During Hurricane Ike in 2008, on the coast we saw 14-foot storm surges. We have Lake Victoria Cichlids that are extinct and live only in captivity in Moody Gardens. Our

animal husbandry manager put on his dive suit when he saw water going into the rainforest — they were stacked up and some of them were already under water. The pressure of the water could have closed him in there. He came back with the eye of the storm coming in, clinging to trees. He basically risked his life to check on the animals, because he just cares that deeply. We have some really special people."

**WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CMU EQUIPPED YOU FOR THIS ROLE?**  
 "Before I went to CMU, I knew that's where I wanted to go. I kind of felt like that was going to be the place where I would grow, not only as a place to learn, but as a place for me to grow personally. The social and learning experience is important. It helps you get a feel for where you want to be." >

**ISAIAH OLIVER, '07**  
*President and CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Flint*

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** "I hope people ask, 'Where did he come from? How did he get here? Where can we find more kids like that?' so I can say, 'I'm just a kid from Flint. There are thousands of intelligent, amazing, driven, talented kids in Flint.'"

**WHAT LED YOU TO NONPROFIT WORK?**  
 "I was born and raised in Flint, a community that is well-known for its philanthropic resources. But it wasn't until I was hired by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint as vice president of community impact that I truly understood the power of philanthropy and the significant impact that nonprofit organizations make in Flint and Genesee County."

"I have a unique philanthropic perspective that focuses on relationships and people. My preference is an inclusive approach to the work that listens to and works with the

people of the community in order to develop a true partnership. Leading an organization that is focused on social good feels good."

**WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND MOST GRATIFYING IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE?**  
 "Several projects, including: Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation, a \$850,000, five-year grant. We're expecting hundreds of participants for 'A Day of Racial Healing' at 12 sites across the city. This summer, CFGF funded six playgrounds, a tennis court and two basketball court builds across the city of Flint."

"One year ago, Bruno Mars donated \$1 million to support Flint children and families, and more than \$500,000 has been awarded from that fund. CFGF launched the Flint Promise program alongside 12 local organizations focused on providing access to postsecondary education to Flint high school graduates who live in the city of Flint."

"We opened the doors of the 36,000-square-foot, \$16 million demonstration school, Educare Flint, modeled on providing the best

quality early childhood education in the country. We launched the PRIDE Fund, focused on raising resources to support the LGBTQ population in Genesee County."

"And we opened the doors to the Flint Fresh Food Hub, a 14,530-square-foot aggregation space on Flint's south side. Locally grown produce will be aggregated and distributed from the Hub, which means expanded food options for residents and businesses within Flint city limits to buy locally grown vegetables."

**WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CMU EQUIPPED YOU FOR THIS ROLE?**  
 "I'm a kid from the north side of Flint. Life in Mount Pleasant was a culture shock and made me question everything I'd ever known and reaffirm my personal truths. I found my true self because of this newfound exposure to life outside of my comfort zone. That experience opened a new inquisitive 'must know why' instinct in me. This drives my work in the nonprofit sector." •





CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# Gateway

Students pass under the new archway on their way to a convocation ceremony just before the start of the fall semester. The arch is on the south end of campus leading to the athletic complex.

PHOTO BY STEVE JESSMORE/STEVE JESSMORE PHOTOGRAPHY



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## ALUMNI AWARDS

# *celebrate leaders*

Recognition honors six whose time, talent and treasure support CMU

BY JEFF JOHNSTON, '91

There's a mentor to first-generation college students, a couple who spread Central Michigan University culture into Chicago, a former CMU trustee, and a political mover and shaker in Lansing and D.C.

And there's a Centralis Gold Award winner who's just beginning her leadership journey.

They are the winners of CMU's annual Alumni Awards, and the university Alumni Association recognized them this fall with a ceremony and dinner.

Alumni Award winners distinguish themselves by contributing significant time, talent or financial resources to help advance and bring recognition to CMU.

"Our Alumni Award recipients are a great example of what it means to be a CMU Chippewa," said Marcie Otteman Grawburg, executive director of alumni relations. "They set the bar high for all of us."

### MEET THIS YEAR'S HONOREES:

**HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD:** René and Stan Shingles

Stan and René Shingles give their time not only in Mount Pleasant, but also to the university's Chicago office. They open their home to Chicago-area students for a Labor Day picnic and mentor them through their time at CMU.

René is a program director, faculty member and internship coordinator for athletic training in The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions. Stan is assistant vice president of University Recreation. They've worked at CMU for more than 25 years.

"The Shingles represent everything that CMU stands for," said Natilie Williams, '14. "They embody the family culture while leading on campus with their hearts, intelligent minds, funny personalities and welcoming spirits." >





**DICK ENBERG ALUMNI COMMITMENT AWARD:**  
Sarah Opperman, '81

From 2009-16, Sarah Opperman served on CMU's Board of Trustees, holding the chair position twice.

She joined The Dow Chemical Co.'s public affairs office right after graduation and served the company for more than 28 years before retiring as vice president of government affairs and public policy.

Her honors over the years include CMU's Centennial Year Award in 1992, Dow's Genesis Award for People Excellence in 2000 and induction into CMU's Journalism Hall of Fame in 2006.

Opperman has donated to CMU projects including development of the College of Medicine's Student Resource Library, the Opperman Public Relations Internship Endowment, Park Library and the Leadership Institute that now bears her name.

In addition to serving as a trustee, she has given her time to the CMU Advancement Board, National Campaign Steering Committee, Women's Connection Advisory Board, CMU Research Corp. Board of Directors and the Journalism Department Advisory Board. >



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD:**  
Bob Schellhas, '88

Bob Schellhas knows his way around Washington, D.C., and Lansing.

He is a former chief of staff to Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), deputy chief of staff to former House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), communications director and senior legislative assistant to former House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Michigan), and special assistant to former Rep. Bill Schuette (R-Michigan).

He also held senior roles in statewide and congressional campaigns in Florida, Iowa, Michigan and New Mexico. A principal at Washington Council Ernst & Young, Schellhas monitors, strategizes and advocates for corporate and trade association clients on issues before Congress and the executive branch.

Since being successfully treated for a benign brain tumor several years ago, he has donated to glioblastoma research at CMU.

Schellhas stays involved at CMU by donating to The Washington Experience, a D.C.-based program dedicated to cultivating public-spirited scholars, rigorous understanding and improvement of the human condition. This program allows students to live in Washington, D.C., for a semester to explore career options and network with those who work in government. >



**ALUMNI SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD:** Isaiah Oliver, '07

As president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Isaiah Oliver is passionate about making CMU and Flint better.

Oliver continues to find ways to give his time to CMU programs. He has been keynote speaker at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. brunch and a mentor for CMU Pathways to Academic Student Success, which helps low-income and first-generation college students.

Oliver has promoted stronger academics, brotherhood and community service and demonstrates civic engagement consistent with CMU's mission to promote meaningful lives and responsible citizenship.

Read more about his work on Page 23. >



**FUTURE ALUMNI LEADER AWARD:** Mackenzie Flynn, '18

Mackenzie Flynn graduated from CMU in May 2018 with a 3.94 GPA.

As a senior student leader in the annual Phonathon, she interviewed and hired more than 200 students over a year and a half, leading to the best fundraising year in nearly a decade.

She was active in the CMU Honors Program as a Centralis Gold Award recipient, and she volunteered at a residential facility in Costa Rica helping victims of human trafficking.

Flynn chaired the CMU College Republicans and represented the organization nationally. She also was a leader in the Michigan Federation of College Republicans. •







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Photos by Ashley Corey, '15 and Scott Stockel, '16

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## STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

All donations to Central Michigan University's Student Emergency Fund were matched up to \$50,000 in 2017 by an anonymous donor.

Life is full of twists and turns – events that can threaten a student's college education. At CMU, our Student Emergency Fund is there when our Chippewas need a boost, often allowing them to stay in school through difficult circumstances.

[donate.cmich.edu](http://donate.cmich.edu)

**+** The Student Emergency Fund allowed Candy Boakyewaa to realize her dream of achieving a college degree. Due to insufficient financial aid, she was in danger of being dropped from her classes in her senior year. With support from donors, Candy earned her degree in integrative public relations with a minor in public affairs.

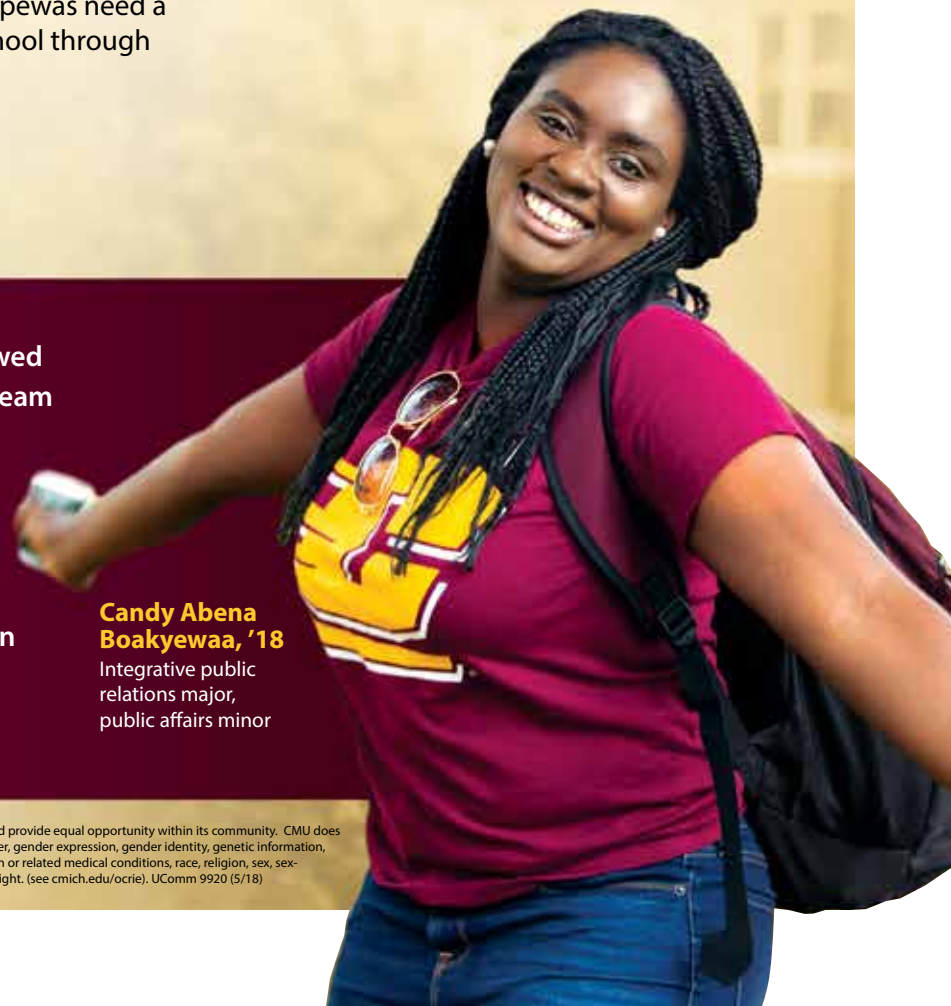
**Candy Abena Boakyewaa, '18**  
Integrative public relations major, public affairs minor

**+** **\$500,000+**  
Total awarded to CMU students in five years

**+** **504**  
Students awarded SEF dollars in the past five years

**+** **\$102,500**  
Dollars raised in 2016-17

**+** **2,849**  
Donors in 2016-17



CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity and provide equal opportunity within its community. CMU does not discriminate against persons based on age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, marital status, national origin, political persuasion, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race, religion, sex, sex-based stereotypes, sexual orientation, transgender status, veteran status, or weight. (see cmich.edu/ocrie). UComm 9920 (5/18)

# ALUMNI NEWS

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Bret Hyble, '82, M.A. '86  
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Dexter

Kandra (Kerridge) Robbins, '90  
Portland

Darryl Shelton, '85  
Grand Rapids

Amy (Rousseau) Uebbing, '86  
Rochester

Matthew Uhl, '00  
Grandville

Bradley Wahr, '03  
Mount Pleasant



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Alumnus filmmaker tells story of refugee food truck entrepreneur

Like his other projects, documentary filmmaker Thomas Morgan's newest film shines a light on subjects whose stories have gone relatively unnoticed.

"Soufra," which debuted in late 2017, is the story of Mariam Shaar, a refugee in Lebanon who battled monumental odds to start the first refugee food truck. Proceeds from a companion cookbook ([soufracookbook.com](http://soufracookbook.com)) will help build a school in the refugee camp.

"This film was one that I had to make," says Morgan, who graduated from CMU in 1990. "Mariam was such an underdog, but yet she was willing, against all odds, to take on the system for the benefit of so many others. I am always a sucker for the underdog story and this was surely that. I am humbled to be the one who got to share it with the world."

Morgan's previous films include "Storied Streets," about homelessness in America, and "Waiting for Mamu," which raised more than \$1.4 million to build a permanent home for its subject, Pushpa Basnet and the children she raises. Their parents are imprisoned in Nepal. Morgan's projects have the backing of actress Susan Sarandon, who was executive producer for "Soufra."



The documentary "Soufra" chronicles the creation of the first refugee food truck.



Filmmaker Thomas Morgan, '90, on the set of his documentary "Soufra."

## Daniels gave a shoutout to horse he worked with on 'Godless'

"Godless" star and Michigan native Jeff Daniels won the Emmy for best supporting actor in a limited series or a television movie at the 2018 Emmy Awards this fall.

In addition to his family and the people he worked with, Daniels, who received an honorary degree from CMU in 2000, thanked Netflix for "letting artists be artists." He also gave a shoutout to the people who helped him ride a horse.

"Little tip for you young actors — when they call and say, 'Can you ride a horse?,' don't lie," Daniels said. "You will find on day one that you're in the Kentucky Derby."

The actor also thanked the actual horse. "I'd also finally like to thank my horse, Apollo. He was Jeff Bridges' horse on 'True Grit,' and I felt he was making unfair comparisons. Three times he threw me off. The third and last time I broke my wrist," he said, adding that it's now healed.

— From *The Hollywood Reporter*

## Standout class joins CMU sports hall of fame

Another outstanding class of Chippewa athletes has joined the Central Michigan University Marcy Weston Hall of Fame:



Bethany (Couturier) Cole, gymnastics, '03, MSA '15: Couturier, a native of Grand Rapids, won Mid-American Conference championships on balance beam in 2002 and 2003 and earned All-MAC honors four times. Couturier helped lead the Chippewas to NCAA Regional berths four times and to victories in the MAC Championships in 1999, 2000 and 2003. Her career-best scores in the all-around, uneven bars and balance beam still rank among the top 10 in program history.



Jake Flynn, men's track and field/cross country, '05: Flynn, a native of Benzonia, placed 35th in the NCAA Cross Country Championships in 2002, earning All-America honors and helping lead the Chippewas to a ninth-place finish, the best in program history. Flynn earned All-MAC honors four times in his career, including three appearances on the first team.



Amy (Hudson) Clark, softball, '08: Hudson, a native of Everett, Washington, hit .356 in her standout career, helping to lead the Chippewas to Mid-American Conference West Division titles in 2005 and 2008. Hudson's .414 batting average in 2006 remains the best in program history, and her career average ranks fourth among all Chippewas.



Red Keith, football, '08: Keith, a linebacker from Franklin, Georgia, was the linchpin of Central Michigan defenses, helping lead the Chippewas to Mid-American Conference championships in 2006 and 2007. A four-year starter, Keith led the Chippewas in tackles in each of his seasons and remains second in program history with 474 tackles. In 2007, when he was CMU's most valuable player, he made a MAC-leading 148 stops, which stands as the third highest single-season total for a Chippewa.



Wynn Michalak, wrestling, '08, M.A. '16: Michalak, a native of Caro, finished runner-up at the NCAA Championships in 2008 to earn All-America honors for the third time in his career at CMU. Michalak was a four-time Mid-American Conference champion, a three-time MAC Wrestler of the Year and was named the MAC Freshman Wrestler of the Year in the 2005 when he became the first freshman in program history to earn All-America honors.



Tristen Perlberg, men's track and field/cross country, '05: Perlberg, a Bay City native, was instrumental in the Chippewas' track and field and cross country success from 2000-05. He earned All-America honors by placing 31st at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in 2002, earned First Team All-MAC cross country honors in three consecutive seasons, culminating with the individual conference title in 2004, and was a three-time NCAA All-Region honoree.

The 1987 softball team: One of the most successful teams — regardless of sport — in CMU's history, the '87 squad, coached by Margo Jonker, finished fifth in the Women's College World Series and won a fifth Mid-American Conference championship in a six-year span, finishing 37-14. Jonker was named MAC Coach of the Year and earned regional and national coach-of-the-year honors as well. The Chippewas went 5-0 that season against teams ranked in the top 20 and then dramatically knocked off Northwestern in a best-of-three NCAA Regional to earn a berth in the Women's College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.



## 5K race honors Chippewa sisters

As students and then proud alumnae, Christie Barber Galvin, '94, and Kellie Barber, '97, M.A. '04, advocated and cheered for CMU, encouraging others to attend the school they loved so much.

In 2008, Christie was diagnosed with colon cancer; Kellie was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012. Christie died in 2014, while Kellie was undergoing chemotherapy. As a tribute to her sister, Kellie began organizing a 5K race in Christie's memory. But Kellie died while planning the event.

The run, now in honor of both sisters, lives on. The Sweaty Yeti Run is a family friendly event held each July in East Jordan, in northern Michigan. It benefits a scholarship fund with priority given to a student who wishes to attend CMU.

Learn more about the race at [www.sweatyyetirun.com](http://www.sweatyyetirun.com).

# ALUMNI NEWS

## CMU Journalism Hall of Fame welcomes 2018 class

Started in 1959 by Gilbert Maienknecht, CMU's journalism department has nurtured and prepared more than 2,000 students to uphold the highest standards in professions that shape how the world is viewed.

The CMU Journalism Hall of Fame was created to honor outstanding work by alumni and faculty. Inclusion in the hall is open to alumni and faculty who have made a difference in the world, have remained true to the ethics and expectations modeled at CMU, and who have shown outstanding dedication to the communities they serve.

A ceremony was held Nov. 3 to welcome the 2018 inductees:



**John Barnes, '81**, former statewide journalism projects editor for MLive Media Group and former metro editor of The Grand Rapids Press.



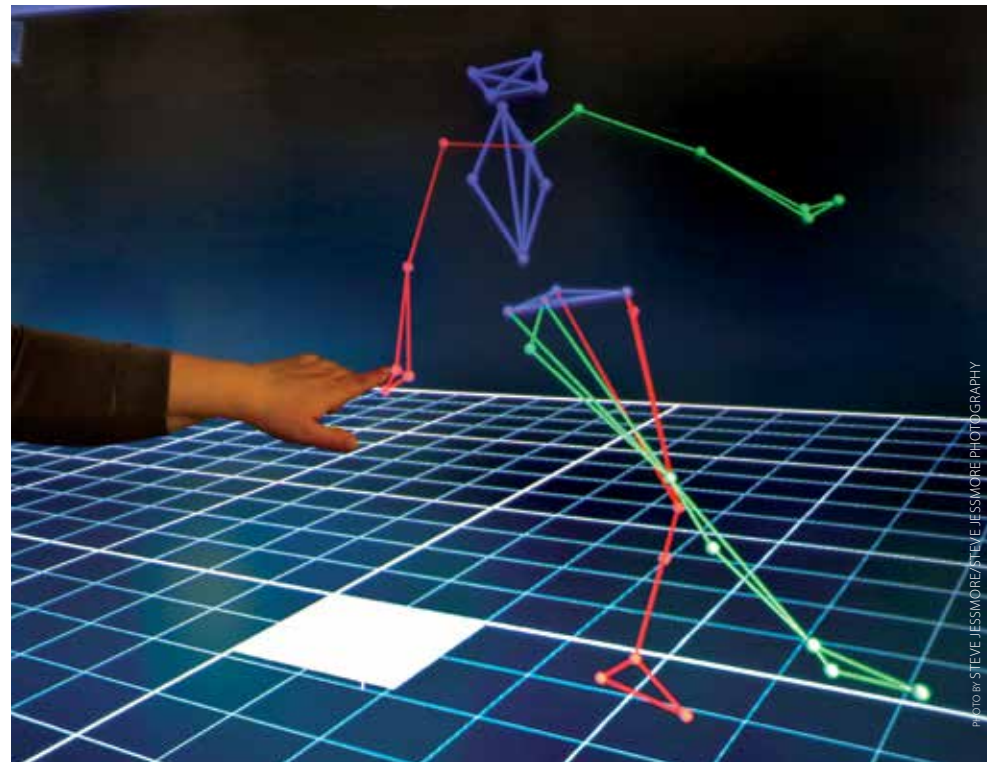
**John K. Hartman**, CMU journalism department emeritus professor and author of "The USA Today Way."



**Fred Heumann, '80**, sportscaster for WLNS-TV Lansing and former sports reporter at WXYZ-TV and WDIV-TV in Detroit.



**Sheila Reinecke, '83**, major account executive for MLive Media Group and national account director for Advance Newspapers. •



## Research for the real world

CMU's Motion Analysis Center helps one alum test her invention's effectiveness



Central Michigan University alum Sara Moylan knew she had created an amazing product — but she couldn't prove it. Now, research conducted at CMU's Motion Analysis Center produced the data she needs to market her masterpiece.

After struggling to find a way to comfortably exercise during pregnancy, Moylan, '02, developed a fully adjustable bra she called the Shefit Ultimate Sports Bra. She had invested years developing her product and believed it could outperform major brand names, but she wanted evidence.

"Shefit is a new player in this market," Moylan said. "We believed we had the most innovative design and the best technology. We believed we had the best product. But from a marketing perspective, we not only wanted to say it, we wanted to show it."

Moylan, an entrepreneur based in Hudsonville, Michigan, asked researchers at the Central Michigan University Research Corp. for help.

CMURC is a nonprofit SmartZone established in partnership with CMU, the community of Mount Pleasant and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. CMURC's business accelerator, on the south side of campus, provides support programs for entrepreneurs as they develop ideas, launch new companies and build their businesses. CMURC has two more Michigan locations in Bay City and Saginaw.

The CMURC team connected Moylan with researchers at the Motion Analysis Center to develop and run a study.

In all the high-impact activities, the data showed Shefit's product reduced breast movement more effectively than its brand-name competitors. •

## Honors for Chippewas



Former Rochester High School teacher Ray H. Lawson, '40, (age 99) was celebrated for his educational leadership when the school's lower collaboration space, media center and mall area were named in his honor. Those areas are now the Ray Lawson Learning Commons. Lawson taught English and was a senior class sponsor at Rochester High School from 1946 to 2004.



Clyde Sheets, '87, was named director of comparative arts at Interlochen Arts Academy. Comparative arts was created seven years ago so students could pursue more than one art form at Interlochen. At the heart of this major is a belief in the fundamental educational importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative work.



James Murray, '92, has been named executive director of the Arab American and Chaldean Council, a nonprofit human service organization serving southeast Michigan. He will execute the vision and expand the mission of the council, plan current and new strategic initiatives with the CEO and board, supervise directors and staff, oversee fundraising, and seek new funding to support the council's programs. Prior to joining the council, Murray was president of AT&T in Michigan. He is currently the chair of the board for Equality Michigan. •

## Chippewa serves as Spartan chief of staff



Michigan State University Interim President John Engler has selected Michael Zeig, director of planning for MSU's Office of Planning and Budgets, to serve as his chief of staff in the president's office.

Zeig, '08, is responsible for supporting the president in advancing the

mission and interests of the university and implementing the president's vision, initiatives and objectives. Zeig also supervises the president's office staff and oversees administrative functions.

Prior to joining MSU, Zeig worked at CMU and in the Granholm administration in the education policy and external affairs divisions. He also taught legal issues in higher education as an adjunct professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at CMU. Zeig is a past president of CMU's Young Alumni Board. •



Heather Jensen, '92, M.A. '00, gets the attention of her students at Hillside Elementary in Harrison. Her classroom is filled with literature, as she actively engages her students through books.

## Michigan Elementary English Teacher of the Year is a proud Chippewa

The Michigan Council of Teachers of English named Heather Jensen 2018's Elementary English Teacher of the Year.

Jensen, '92, M.A. '00, has taught fifth grade at Hillside Elementary in Harrison for 25 years.

"This award confirms that I am doing the right thing for my students, and it motivates me to continue to strive to serve them in the best possible way," Jensen told the Morning Sun.

Andrea Andera, Hillside Elementary's principal, said Jensen uses literacy to support children in all areas of their education.

"We are absolutely proud of Heather," Andera told the Morning Sun.

Jensen said her goal is to find the perfect book to turn her students into readers.

"I use books to connect my students to the world outside of Harrison," she told the newspaper. "I believe books build empathy and guide us to be better humans." •



## + DO YOU REMEMBER?

# Classic concerts

College and concerts — a classic combination. And CMU has hosted a wide range of acts through the years, many brought to campus by the student-run CMU Program Board. Here's a partial list of the greats who've stepped into the spotlight to rock Finch and Rose:

- » Dave Brubeck, 1960
- » Louis Armstrong, 1966
- » Stevie Wonder, 1969
- » Buffy Sainte-Marie, 1969
- » Chuck Berry, 1974
- » The Spinners, 1976
- » Bob Seger, 1976
- » Kiss, 1976
- » Peter Frampton, 1976
- » Molly Hatchet, 1980
- » Ozzy Osbourne, 1983
- » The Romantics and the Tubes, 1983
- » Night Ranger, 1985
- » CeCe Peniston, 1992
- » Tori Amos, 1998
- » Busta Rhymes, 1999
- » Bush and Moby, 2000
- » Nickelback and Saliva, 2001
- » Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds, 2004
- » Vanessa Carlton, 2005
- » T-Pain, 2007
- » Kesha, 2011
- » Uncle Kracker, 2016
- » DNCE, 2017



Finding ways to *pay it forward*



Dr. Gregory W. Housner's gift to CMU also helps his parents.



Dr. Gregory W. Housner

Dr. Gregory W. Housner was looking for a way to support Central Michigan University and repay his parents for their generosity throughout his educational experience. He discovered establishing a charitable gift annuity with the university.

Housner, who now is in practice with Dearborn Orthopedics & Sports, designated his gift to CMU Athletics. In return, his parents receive a quarterly check directly from CMU.

"The gift has a dual purpose: it fulfilled my need to give, but also the annuity gives back to my parents," Housner says. "They paid the institution while I attended, now the institution pays them."

Housner's parents paid his tuition while he attended CMU to pursue his career as an orthopedic surgeon. This enabled him to focus on his education as well as play baseball and football.

### Give today for the future

Like Dr. Housner, you too can help the university and receive income for life through a charitable gift annuity. To learn more about this and additional ways you can give to Central Michigan University, contact:

#### Ted Tolcher

Senior Philanthropic Advisor, National Director of Planned Giving, Advancement  
Central Michigan University, Carlin Alumni House, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

989-774-1441 • ted.tolcher@cmich.edu

[giftplanning.cmich.edu](http://giftplanning.cmich.edu)



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- The men's basketball program enters this season after a strong finish last year, winning five of its last seven games including a program-best two postseason wins.

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