

President's Report to the Board of Trustees



September 20, 2012

Good afternoon.

Thank you, Chairman Kottamasu.

A week ago we celebrated Central Michigan University's 120th birthday. We marked the very day — September 13th — that 31 students first enrolled at Central Michigan Normal School and Business Institute ...

in a new building in downtown Mt. Pleasant ...

when electricity was relatively new ...

and CMU's acquisition of ... one typewriter ... was big news.

During the State of the University speech last Thursday, I asked whether it is a privilege to attend CMU. It's a bold, challenging question. Based on feedback, comments and conversations since then, I'm happy to report the consensus is YES. Yes, it IS a privilege to attend CMU. And it's good to reflect on that.

It is a privilege to be part of CMU's remarkable history and top-caliber academic programs. It is a privilege to have faculty, students, and staff working closely together, woven in mission to prepare for outstanding careers and contributions to the greater community.

During today's Board of Trustees meeting, each of us plays a role in shaping the future of our university and generations of students to come.

Today, we will address issues such as gender equity in sports, CMU's latest independent audit, and the university's 2012-2013 goals among other items.

We will hear more about enrollment management planning — one part of a three-legged stool that will guide our future. The other legs are:

- facilities management master plan, which will unfold thoroughly across campus this fall, and
- strategic planning, which recently has been endorsed by the Council of Deans and earlier this week was the topic of a report accepted by the Academic Senate.

Through strategic planning, facilities master planning, and enrollment management planning, we will guide CMU's future — as a campus, together. We will shape the future, smartly, deliberately, and with vision, combining the strengths of yesterday and today with the emerging strongholds of tomorrow.

During today's board meeting, we also will address several academic space needs across campus. In the past seven years alone, CMU has invested more than \$114 million in academic space projects that touch every college.

As a growing, vibrant university, responsive to the needs of its students, community, and even to the needs of the nation, will have ongoing and evolving space needs. That's what makes our facilities master planning effort so essential.

Before we begin our meeting, I have few campus highlights to share with you:

First: CMU will receive almost \$1.8 million in state tuition restraint dollars. This is the largest allocation of any university, because we once again had the lowest tuition increase in the state. In the coming weeks, we will determine the best use of these one-time funds.

Second: This evening and tomorrow, we will celebrate the grand opening of the College of Medicine building. All of us, no matter our college or service unit, should be proud of this endeavor. Starting a medical school is a vast undertaking, and we're just months away from welcoming our first class.

Third: Starting next month, the Registrar's office and Global Campus will launch phase 1 of an online degree audit. This effort will improve the academic advising process. It will allow students — as well as advising faculty and staff — to monitor progress easily toward meeting general education and degree requirements.

Finally, I would like to recognize Provost Shapiro. Dr. Shapiro, an institution within our institution, has announced that he will conclude his time in this leadership role next summer. Gary, for 35 years, you have served CMU tirelessly and with integrity. You have helped shaped the university as it is today, and we thank you for your contributions.

I would now like to recognize a few additional members of our university community.

With us today is Assistant Professor Ben Tigner, whose documentary about the Clare Purple Gang premiered this summer during four showings for a total of 1,500 people. Plans are under way for Detroit and Mount Pleasant premieres this fall. Detroit and Oakland County media publicized the Clare premiere and for five days after the event, "PurpleOrganizedCrimelnASmallTown" on Facebook generated 30,000 unique visitors a day. Congratulations, Ben, on this creative success.

Next, I would like to recognize Rick Schudiske (Shoe-DIS-key), Assistant General Manager/Director of Television at CMU Public Broadcasting. Rick was recently honored by the Michigan Association of Public Broadcasters with the Pioneer Award, presented annually to one professional. The Pioneer Award recognizes significant long-term contributions to the broadcasting industry. Rick, congratulations on your award and thank you for all you have done for the broadcast industry and for CMU in the past 34 years you have been at the university.

It is also my pleasure to recognize two active and involved CMU students: Breana Boyer and Sara Frederick.

We develop leaders at Central Michigan University. From the moment that Sara and Breana stepped foot on campus back in the fall of 2008 as participants of the Leadership Safari program, everything was brand new.

But during their time on campus, they both jumped in to transform their lives and to build their lasting legacy here at CMU.

Breana invested herself right away through Greek life, Special Olympics, the Student Council for Exceptional Children, the Leadership Institute, as a Campus Ambassador, and of course, Leadership Safari.

Sara made connections through On The Fly Productions, Alternative Breaks and the Volunteer Center, the Leadership Institute, Greek Life, as a Campus Ambassador, and as a guide and a staff assistant for the Leadership Safari program.

Sara and Breana are two critical elements of this very popular program and have helped to shape and define the overall experience for both the 230 student volunteer staff and the 1,750 incoming students that annually participate in the program. Although their time at CMU will soon be coming to an end, the impact that Sara and Breana have made on the Safari program will continue on.

Please join me in recognizing both of these outstanding students for their contributions to campus life at CMU.

And to close my report, I would like to share with you a brief video about this year's Leadership Safari. As some would say... "This is the good stuff."

Video plays

Chair Kottamasu, this concludes my report.