

# Research@CMU

Promoting Scholarship and Creative Work Throughout the University

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## News from the Hedge

**Thoughts on Internal Funding Opportunities.** In the last three years CMU has hired a significant number of bright new faculty members who any university would be proud to claim. The following remarks are addressed to those of you just starting your scholarship at CMU. Compared to many places, CMU has some really excellent support programs to get projects started. We have had a gratifyingly strong response this year to the Early Career (EC), New Research Initiative (NRI) and Creative and Scholarly Support competitions (CSS), awards introduced by Dr. Davison two years ago. Mystifyingly, other funds such as the Type A (\$4,500) and the Type B (\$7,500) FRCE research funds have gone very largely untapped so far this year; the guidelines for applying for these funds are on the ORSP homepage (<http://www.orsp.cmich.edu/research/>). Several opportunities for application remain this Spring, so I strongly urge you to consider applying for one of these grants.

**The Value of "Doing Nothing".** In his classic book *The Limits of Science*, Peter Medawar makes a short catalog of the work various science folks do, including "synthesis" and "tidying up", activities that also apply to many academic fields. I've been thinking more and more of the value such endeavors to campuses like CMU, which might be seen as "emerging research universities". Such places have significant physical resources in some areas but not in others and have substantial teaching expectations to balance with research aspirations. One amazing resource we all share is the Park Library and its electronic warehouses of information. I would like to suggest that there is much good research in the sciences, social sciences and other fields that has been neglected because changing fads have moved funding on to new fields, leaving a rich lode of data yet to be mined. I believe that application of careful analysis and thought to data already in the published literature can yield significant new insights and conclusions of importance to a wide range of fields. Colleagues in the humanities might reply: "Of course, what do you think we have been doing since the Renaissance?" Hence, with little or no external support and no need to do new experimentation, one can make meaningful contributions in very many fields by data mining what is already available – hence the "do nothing" subtitle. Naturally, a great deal of hard work, careful thought and innovative analysis will be necessary to accomplish something worthwhile in such an undertaking, just as it is with research that entails doing experiments and making observations of new phenomena. I am inclined to think that the right sort of "do nothing" scholarship will also suggest more fruitful experimental approaches than some of the paths currently being followed. The key to this approach, as with most seminal work, is to start with a good question — and maybe a small pot of internal funding.

Jim Hageman

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, February 13**

**Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors Grant Applications Due by 5pm**  
Deliver to Foust 251

**Monday, February 13**

**Undergraduate Summer Scholars Applications Due by 5pm**  
Deliver to Foust 251

**Wednesday, February 15**

**FRCE Applications Due for February 29th meeting by 5pm**  
Deliver to Foust 251

**Monday, February 27**

**19th Annual SRCEE**  
On-line Applications Due  
(see flyer below on Page 3)

**Office of Research and Sponsored Programs**

ORSP@cmich.edu

251 Foust Hall  
Central Michigan University  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859



# The Child Development and Learning Laboratory: A CMU/Community Collaboration for Educational Innovation

**The Child Development and Learning Laboratory** has been a part of the Central Michigan University community for over 40 years and serves a vital role within the Department of Human Environmental Studies and College of Education and Human Services. **Cheryl Priest**, Ed.D. is a CMU faculty member and the faculty director of the CDLL. **Margaret Desormes**, M.A. is the lab director of the CDLL.

Inspired by the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy, the CDLL's faculty, staff and students support preschool children as they learn, grow, and develop as citizens of our campus, community, state, country and world. The university, through the college and department, provides a state-of-the-art facility within the EHS Building, as well as salaries and benefits for most CDLL employees who mentor CMU students completing their major/minor coursework. While many children attend the CDLL through a tuition program, most people do not realize that more than one-half of the seventy-two children attend for free due to grant funding from multiple locations. Thirty-two children who live below poverty and/or who have special needs attend through a partnership with EightCAP, Inc. Head Start. Another twelve children who live near poverty or who have multiple risk factors attend at no cost to their families through Michigan's Great Start Readiness Program. The CDLL, which serves breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack, also receives funding from the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The CDLL partners with children's families and the greater community to create an innovative setting where children pose questions, engage in dialogue with each other and with adults, investigate, modify thoughts, create, explore and propose ideas and solutions. This constructivist model of teaching and learning includes regular field trips and dialogue with the campus

community. Students participate in visits to Veits Woods, the greenhouse, the Museum of Natural History, Mt. Pleasant's Farmers Market and much more. Faculty, students, families and community members also visit the CDLL to work with the children and share their experiences with music, cooking, Native American arts, gardening, drama, dance, and animals, just to name a few. CDLL faculty and staff actively engage with the campus and broader community for partnership-building and to help program families build their own connections toward positive community involvement. For more information about the CDLL and to see examples of children's daily experiences, visit [www.cmich.edu/cdll](http://www.cmich.edu/cdll).

Both Priest and Desormes earned their undergraduate and master degrees within the College of Education and Human Services. Each came back to CMU to serve as lead teachers within the CDLL prior to earning their advanced degrees and moving on to various leadership roles. Dr. Priest and Ms. Desormes teach early childhood development and learning courses within the HEV Department and serve on department and other university committees. They enjoy the fact that they can partner together to engage daily with children and families, as well as with CMU students, faculty and staff. Because of the state and national recognition of the CDLL, they also experience regular dialogue with high school students and early childhood professionals who travel to CMU to tour the CDLL. Each has worked at CMU and within the HEV Department for more than 10 years.



Margaret Desormes,  
CDLL Laboratory Director

## Post-Award Tip

Do you want to better track your grant budget? Install SAP onto your computer. With SAP, you can view information related to your processed grant expenses and remaining funds. Go to <http://www.controller.cmich.edu/FIS/Forms/SAPRequest.asp> to sign up today!

**Once SAP is installed, you can view your externally funded budget by:**

- Logging into SAP
  - Double clicking on "FMRA Grant Report"
  - Clicking on "Inception to Date (Grants)"
  - Clicking on "Grant After 11/1/05 (WBS)"
  - Double clicking on "Grant Summary Report"
  - Entering your grant or contract's number (this is the number with the alpha character in front of it) into the Grant box
  - Finally, on the upper left portion of the screen clicking on the button that looks like a clock with a green check mark (the execute button)
- CONGRATULATION!! You should now be able to view your grant budget!

Please remember that if you would like training as to how SAP can best help you manage your grants, call Grant Accounting at extension 3707... they provide excellent services including group and one-to-one trainings. You can also learn more about SAP in Grant Accounting's "Principal Investigator (PI) Packet Alphanumeric Grant Numbers/WBS Elements." Simply go to the following link to access the packet: [http://www.cmich.edu/Documents/Office\\_of\\_the\\_Controller/Forms/ProjDirTraingWBSonly.pdf](http://www.cmich.edu/Documents/Office_of_the_Controller/Forms/ProjDirTraingWBSonly.pdf)

19<sup>th</sup> Annual



**Celebrating Bright Ideas!**

**SRCEE is**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

1:00-4:00 p.m. ~ Finch Field House

*Apply online is now open at*

<http://141.209.15.190>

*The online application closes*

*Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. EST*