

centralight

central michigan university alumni magazine
fall 2010

Hail Chippewas

Homecoming
2010



on the cover

Drum major Dave Bechard, leading the Marching Chippewas for the second year this fall, poses on "the rock," inspired by the 1972 photo of drum major David Mumma, '73, below. The marching band circles the rock after home football games, playing the fight song in victory or the alma mater following a loss.

COVER PHOTO BY
ROBERT BARCLAY



features

5

Homecoming 2010

Meet your grand marshal, and get geared up to visit campus.

8

A bold new future

Get acquainted with President George Ross and his goals for CMU.

12

Following the leader

Learn from alumnus and Mount Pleasant Mayor Jim Holton.

14

Learning to lead

Meet students who are learning to lead their colleagues and communities.

18

Beginning and ending with ROTC

Get to know Col. Elaine Edwards, the highest-ranking female officer to graduate from the CMU ROTC program.

20

The next big thing

Get inspiration from entrepreneur Mike Sappington, who finds business opportunities in trends.



26

departments

2 CMU Today

Learn how students used fashion to raise awareness of social issues; celebrate an alumnus' bike racing win; and more.

24 Up Close With ...

Journalist Pete Engardio

28 Sports

Celebrate softball coach Margo Jonker's 1,000th win and the baseball team's MAC championship; learn who will be inducted into the CMU Athletic Hall of Fame.

30 Giving

Get an update on the Events Center, and meet a supporter of the College of Medicine.

32 Connections

Your alumni association source.

36 Alumni News

39 In Memory

40 I Am Central



Executive Editor and Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Mary Lu Yardley, '90 MSA '92

Editor

Barbara Sutherland Chovanec

Photographers

Robert Barclay
Peggy Brisbane

Graphic Designer

Amy Gouin

Writers

Sarah Chuby, '03
Dan Digmann
Don Helinski, '96
Deana Monahan, '93
Scott Rex

Communications committee

Jeffrey L. Benjamin, '86
Kevin Campbell, '74 MA '76
Kevin H. Richman, '93

Interim Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations

Ted Tolcher, '77

Associate Vice President for University Communications

Renée Walker, '00

For advertising information

Call Cindy Jacobs, '93
800-358-6903

stay connected

Send change of address information to:

Alumni Relations
Carlin Alumni House
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Phone: 800-358-6903

Fax: 989-774-7159

E-mail: alumni@cmich.edu

Web: cmualum.com



Centralight is published four times each year by the Central Michigan University Office of Alumni Relations. It is printed by Quad/Graphics, Midland, Mich., and entered at the Midland Post Office under nonprofit mailing. CMU (an AA/EQ institution) strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo). CMU provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in the activities, programs and services announced in this publication. Individuals with disabilities requiring an accommodation to participate in a program should call the event sponsor.

UComm 8390-25,250 (8/10)



Stephanie Galli

CMU Ceramics Society

Stephanie Galli was a reserved, laid-back person who never saw herself as a leader. Then she took a pottery course, decided to major in art and became president of the CMU Ceramics Society – all within a few months.

“I never really was someone to take the initiative before this, but ceramics is my passion, and it’s easy for me to get the group excited,” she says. “I just came out of nowhere and decided to take on this group, and it’s been a really great experience for me.”

Galli wants to be an art teacher or professor some day so she can continue to share the joy of ceramics with others.

Advice she lives by: “Listen to everyone and take into consideration different opinions. You don’t want to be a leader who is controlling.” •

Cindy Goren

Teaching assistantships

This summer, chemistry graduate student Cindy Goren led a group of undergraduate researchers who were working to perfect the process of turning waste vegetable oil into biodiesel fuel. And throughout the past two years at CMU, she has been a teaching assistant for a half-dozen chemistry courses.

It’s all great experience for Goren, who is returning to teaching after a 15-year break to raise her children. She previously taught high school math and now is earning her master’s degree in chemistry with an emphasis on community college education.

As a teaching assistant, Goren oversees the labs, assists students with technique and proper procedure, grades papers, and serves as a mentor.

“You’re the instructor, basically, for the lab,” she says. “You’re under the watch of the professor, but you have that freedom of having your own space.”

The best leaders: “Have a level of confidence in themselves and their abilities and are not afraid to speak out and step up.” •



Justin Mack

Beta Theta Pi fraternity Lunch Buddies program

Justin Mack made a quick rise to the top of his fraternity – joining Beta Theta Pi as a freshman and getting elected president as a sophomore. This fall he serves as public relations chairman and historian.

“Leading the fraternity has been one of the defining parts of my life,” he says.

The 50-member group last year won CMU’s Chapter of Excellence Award for the third consecutive year. The group consistently has high grades, and the men support various community and national charities.

“We raise funds and volunteer as much as possible for causes that we really care about,” says Mack, who is an integrative public relations major.

Mack also coordinates the Lunch Buddies program that matches CMU students with at-risk third- and fourth-graders to spend lunchtimes and recesses together.

“I can really see the positive effect we’re having on the students,” he says.

Influencing others: “I’ve had a lot of great mentors in my life, so it’s great to be a part of change in someone else’s life.” •



Michael W. Menefee, MSA '95, of Arlington, Texas, received a Morgan Keegan 2009 Top Advisor Award for increasing client assets and doubling revenue between 2007 and 2009. He is a vice president in Morgan Keegan's Private Client Group and specializes in individual wealth management and retirement planning. He also was recognized by Texas Monthly magazine as a 2009 Five Star Best in Client Satisfaction Wealth Manager.

Jill Ouellette, MA '96, received a Faculty Excellence Award from Northwood University, Midland, Mich., where she is an associate professor.

Aaron Klein Haight, '97, earned her doctorate in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University in April 2010.

Kristy S. LeVasseur, '98, was named director of communications for the Midland Area Chamber of Commerce, Midland, Mich.

2000s

Steve Latour, '04, was elected president of the Fraternity Communications Association, which represents all of the U.S. fraternity and sorority communication professionals and magazine editors. He works as director of chapter development for Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity Inc.

Lily M. Elsaidi, '06, earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Rita Sitto, '07, joined Stratacomm, a strategic communications firm based in Troy, Mich., as an account executive.

Send us your news

We want to include your news in Centralight. Write to us about recent job promotions, awards, marriages, births and other noteworthy accomplishments or changes. Be sure to include your graduation year and contact information.

Send your information:

E-mail: alumni@cmich.edu

Fax: 989-774-1098

Mail: Centralight, University Communications, West Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant MI 48859.



Alumni take the stage

CMU Summer Theatre alumni returned to campus June 26 to deliver a special fundraising performance of "Almost, Maine," a collection of nine witty, whimsical vignettes of love and loss.

Seventeen alumni participated in the performance, which benefitted the CMU Summer Theatre program. Shown here, Larry Joe Campbell (center), '92, comedian and actor who gained fame through the long running sitcom "According to Jim," hams it up during rehearsal with Dean Lemont, '91, an actor, writer and director based in Los Angeles. •

Author gets advice from students

Retired teacher and author Anna Unkovich, '70 MA '82, got valuable advice and marketing proposals from CMU sales students last spring.

Marketing and hospitality services administration students in professor Mike Garver's sales class take on a large marketing project every spring semester. In 2010 they joined with Unkovich, who sought advice on how to best advertise her book, "Chicken Soup for the Soul in the Classroom," a collection of lesson plans and activities for teachers based on personal stories.

Garver's undergraduate students met with Unkovich, who traveled from her home in California, at the beginning of the spring semester and tailored the semester-long project to her needs. Students presented their marketing suggestions and advertising research in May.

Unkovich says she's grateful for the recommendations Garver's class gave her.

"It's great to come back to the place that helped me start my career and get advice on how to navigate my new one," she says. "CMU is a special place. It always has been." •



¡Que bueno!

Susan Knight, '65, received the Teacher of the Year Award for the university level presented by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and she accepted the award in Guadalajara, Mexico, in July. She is chairwoman of the Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures Department at CMU. •