

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE

DEC. 16, 2021 || MOUNT PLEASANT, MI



After the death of their father, freshman and her RA brother support each other from

Fall 2021 enrollment numbers released

By Tess Ware
Associate Editor

On Tuesday, President Bob Davies sent an email to the university community.

communications Heather Smith said this is not the final number as enrollment may change throughout the semester.

Davies cited COVID-19

A LOOK BACK AT THE
BIGGEST STORIES OF 2021

YEAR IN REVIEW



Two faculty, one staff member return to work after 22-week investigation

Staff Reports

A five-month investigation into three people tied to the university's journalism program has seemingly come to an end, but many questions remain. Central Michigan University has ended the paid-academic leave and reinstated Department of Journalism fixed-term faculty members Steve Coon and Jim Wojcik and Central Michigan Life adviser Dave Clark. Coon were placed on leave in March following an investigation by the university. A few days later, Wojcik was also

from their duties and instructed them to have no contact with any CMU students, faculty or staff," President Bob Davies said in a March 26 press release. "We also are investigating a report involving a member of the staff who may have had knowledge of the situation. The university hired Matthew Schneider, a former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, of Homigman, LLP to lead the independent investigation. John Veilleux, vice president for University Communications, said the investigation is not complete yet. "Based on the information we've seen so far, we've made the decision to reinstate the individuals," said Veilleux. "The investigation is wrapping up and the report will be forthcoming at that time." The investigation is wrapping up and the report will be forthcoming at that time. The investigation is wrapping up and the report will be forthcoming at that time. The investigation is wrapping up and the report will be forthcoming at that time.



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TUESDAY, DEC. 28
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8:00PM
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SAWYER BROWN & LONESTAR
THURSDAY, DEC. 30
8:00PM
\$33, \$45, \$56 & \$62



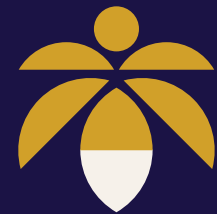
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Addy Wachter | Staff Photographer

Student Involvement Center gives out free tacos during the "TACO About Finals" event in the Bovee University Center Rotunda. Students were able to eat tacos and talk with friends to release some stress.

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2022

NEW YEARS EVE

\$20

Uptown

PUB CRAWL

4 BARS = 1 COVER

YEAR IN REVIEW

A LOOK BACK AT THE
BIGGEST NEWS AND
SPORTS STORIES OF 2021

Just like the rest of the world, during 2021 Central Michigan University was focused on by masks and vaccines. COVID-19 framed the campus atmosphere for the whole year. CMU went through budget cuts, investigations and layoffs.

While dealing with the ongoing struggles of the year that never seemed to end, students continued to protest what they believed to have been an “unjust firing” and cafeteria food that met no one’s expectations.

Over the year, student-athletes claimed three Mid-American Conference titles.

As 2021 comes to an end, here’s a look back at some of the year’s biggest stories *Central Michigan Life* covered on campus and across the country.

JANUARY

- CMU faculty members and state officials discussed and reacted to the riot at the United States Capitol Building during Congress’ Electoral College Count on Jan. 6. David Jesuit, chair of the Department of Political Science at Central Michigan University, said the violence during the riots did not surprise him.
- Eight members of the CMU Marching Band performed in a virtual marching band showcase with 1,500 other performers. The performance premiered at halftime of the College Football Playoff national championship game on Jan. 11.
- Mount Pleasant Vice Mayor Amy Perschbacher removed a personal Facebook post after sparking criticism among users. The post

was an image of a “Thin Blue Line Flag” being peeled back to reveal a black swastika in front of a white circle on a red background. Perschbacher said the post was provided without context and has since apologized.

- Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, discussed mental health advocacy during Central Michigan University’s Martin Luther King Jr. week. As the keynote speaker for the Multicultural Academic Student Services’ MLK week, Fulton talked about keeping herself happy in wake of her son’s death, helping other families who were victims of gun violence and her hopes on Jan. 20.
- Central Michigan University Police Department officer Joshua Chapman hosted weekly

video game tournaments and participated in challenges as part of his student engagement efforts. For Chapman, the tournaments are an opportunity to create a safe, respectful space with some friendly competition.

- Miykael Norfleet was sentenced Jan. 27 in Isabella County Trial Court to a minimum of 31 years in prison for the April 2020 murder of Raven Tre-Von Edelen at his residence in Campus Habitat apartments. Norfleet, 22, of Chicago, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, armed robbery and assault with a weapon. He also will pay \$2,900 in restitution and \$198 in court fees.

FEBRUARY

- Mount Pleasant restaurants reopened indoor dining services for the first time since Nov. 18 the previous year. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services restaurants were able to serve indoors at 25 percent capacity.
- Over the month of February, CMU celebrated Black History month with various organizations and fraternities at CMU with 11 different events, mostly online, designed to educate students about and celebrate black history in America.
- Academic Senate extended approval of the use of HyFlex modality for all classes regardless of class requirements through Spring 2022 to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The School of Music continued its tradition of showcasing student and faculty-made jazz music in concert. This year the concert was live-streamed for free through the School of Music.

- Hip-hop artist Rakim spoke to the School of Music and College of Business over a virtual seminar. Rakim spoke at length about his history with music and how he became successful in life by following his passion.
- Central Michigan District Health Department hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on campus in Finch Fieldhouse on Feb. 17 and 18. CMU medical students and volunteers ran the event and administered vaccine doses to students and other Mount Pleasant locals.
- Special Olympics Michigan, headquartered in Mount Pleasant, hosted its annual Polar Plunge fundraising event on Feb. 23. Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually and featured submitted videos and photos of participants plunging themselves in ice cold water with the goal to raise \$500,000 for special needs athletes. They exceeded that goal and raised \$675,000.

MARCH

- CMU’s Dow Science Building was evacuated because of a “chemical incident”. A hazardous chemical was found in a storage facility on the first floor of Dow Hall causing a building-wide evacuation; the building was later deemed safe for entry.
- President Bob Davies delivered the annual State of University address virtually, Davies discussed the future of COVID-19 guideline changes over the course of the pandemic. Davies also announced future goals to accommodate pandemic changes.
- Sharon Heath and Regina Beauboef were named to CMU’s Board of Trustees by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on March 5.



Drew Travis | Staff Photographer

An aerial view of Franklin Street as MainStage gets underway, Aug. 29.

- CMU announced that student employees have all become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine during the temporary upcoming on-campus vaccine clinic.
- *Central Michigan Life* was named the Michigan Press Association's Division 2 College Newspaper of the Year 2020 and Best Online Newspaper during a virtual ceremony.
- CMU women's basketball defeated Bowling Green 77-72 and claimed the 2021 Mid-American Conference Tournament Championship and clinched automatic birth to the NCAA Tournament. The Chippewas would fall to Iowa 87-72 in the opening round.
- CMU appointed external counsel Matthew Schneider to lead an investigation into CMU's journalism department employees in relation to claims made against T.J. Bucholz of Vanguard Public Affairs.

APRIL

- *Central Michigan Life* was named "Best All-Around College Newspaper" by the Society of Professional Journalists during its regional Mark of Excellence Awards.
- On April 16, students protested what they believed to have been the unjust firing of Honors Program Assistant Director Judy Idema. Idema received a letter saying her position had

been eliminated on March 31.

- Men's basketball coach Keno Davis was fired after nine seasons. He finished the 2020-21 season with a 7-16 record and an overall record of 142-143.
- With the 21st overall pick in the 2021 WNBA Draft, the Connecticut Sun selected CMU's Mi-caela Kelly. She became the second Chippewa drafted into the WNBA.
- Two CMU students were shot during a party at Deerfield Apartments on April 23. Kenneth Wayne Thomas Jr., 21, a Navy veteran who recently returned after two years of service, was charged with two counts of assault with intent to commit murder.
- Junior pitcher Jordan Patty threw CMU's first perfect game in program history. The Midland native struck out 11 batters in seven innings in a 14-0 win over Miami (Ohio).

MAY

- Tik Tok and Instagram comedian Jalen Robinson shared how he has used comedy to cope with the loss of his childhood best friend. Robinson has 1.3 million followers on Tik Tok under the profile @jrobdarcel.
- Chief Diversity Officer Shawna Patterson-Stephens discussed her excitement and goals for her position, which began June 1.

- CMU baseball defeated Toledo to claim the 2021 MAC Championship. It was the program's second-straight conference title and 15 overall.

JUNE

- CMU baseball partook in the 2021 NCAA Regional Tournament in South Bend, Indiana. The Chippewas dropped the opening contest to Notre Dame 10-0, defeated Michigan 8-2 and Connecticut 14-9 before being eliminated by the Fighting Irish 14-2.
- Michigan State Police were called to Union Township on June 28 for a reported sexual assault/homicide. Isaiah Gardenhire was arrested the following Tuesday in Flint after turning himself in. Gardenhire was accused of sexually assaulting his girlfriend and fatally stabbing her daughter. He was also accused of holding a man and a woman captive in their home, sexually assaulting the woman and stealing their vehicle. Gardenhire was held on 12 counts and was arraigned in the 76th court. However, his arraignment could not be completed due to his lack of cooperation.
- Provost Mary Schutten announced 24 academic programs determined to be "marquee." These programs were chosen during the process of academic program prioritization that started the previous January. Schutten

announced that there were three categories of programs: "marquee" programs will receive the most funding and marketing, middle programs "have the potential to become marquee," and "watchlist" programs would receive the least funding and marketing. Schutten did not announce which programs were on the middle and watch lists, stating that they were not yet complete.

JULY

- Communications announced the "Get Vaccinated, Win Prizes" incentive program. Students who were vaccinated could enter a drawing that would continue throughout the semester. Four drawings took place throughout the fall semester. Each drawing had one winner who received a full semester of tuition money, another 100 students received \$75 Visa gift cards.
- CMU once again hosted the annual Special Olympics Summer Games. This was the first Special Olympics held after the 2020 games were cancelled due to COVID-19. Athletes and parents expressed excitement about the return of the games and reflected on how they felt about the previous year being cancelled.

AUGUST

- Academic Senate executive board met for an emergency meeting to discuss passing a resolution to call for a mandate requiring students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated in order to come to campus. The resolution, which passed 52-2 with seven who did not vote, was a call to university leadership to mandate the vaccine; no official policy was passed.
- An in-person MainStage event kicked off the 2021 academic year while CMU students returned back-to-school for mostly in-person classes.

SEPTEMBER

- Study Abroad earned the Institute of International Education's 2020 Seal of Excellence. Over five years, the program has received 40 percent more student participation.
- CMU Food provider Chartwells addressed student and parent complaints involving food shortages and supply chain issues. Amanda Armstrong, Chartwells Central Division Senior Director of Marketing, said the company was paying close attention to supply shortages and that students could rely on them for a variety of "convenient, healthy and delicious" food.
- CMU partnered with Mid Michigan College to expand its degree options and offer a complete undergraduate Bachelor of Science in nursing education. The new partnership would allow students to earn the Registered Nurse and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree within one program. The program saves students time and money by creating a course outline that results in a degree at the end of four to five years.
- CMU announced that Richard Rothaus, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, had been appointed as interim Provost after the current provost, Mary Schutten, announced that she would be stepping down. Rothaus will take over starting Jan. 1, 2022. College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Associate Dean Marcy Taylor will be the new



Aurora Rae | Photo Editor

From left to right, Renia Sturdivant, Jazmyn Cabil, and Sierra Walker cheer on the Central Michigan University football team during their first home game, Sept. 11, at Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

interim dean.

- Field Hockey pulled the biggest upset of the Catherine Ostrich era. Kaitlyn Bowker's goal sealed the Chippewas 1-0 victory over No. 23 Kent State.

- The Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission met on Sept. 23 in Warriner Hall to discuss the state of the ongoing redistricting process with the region. The commission's stop at CMU was part of an ongoing, university-exclusive tour to net a wider audience and differing opinions on its proposed maps.

OCTOBER

- After 24 years working for the city of Mount Pleasant, City Manager Nancy Ridley announced her retirement. Ridley was involved in two fundamental efforts during her time as city manager: the West Broadway Revitalization Project and the purchase of the Mount Pleasant Center property.

- *CM Life* sent a Freedom of Information Act request to the university's General Counsel Office asking for a copy of CMU's contract with Chartwells. It was delivered with all financial information redacted, even though other universities sent *CM Life* intact contracts.

- CMU's Vice President for Advancement Heidi Tracy announced she is stepping down from her position after less than two years. President Davies appointed both Jennifer Cotter, executive director of advancement and campaign, and Marcie Otteman, executive director of alumni relations and development strategies, to co-lead advancement and alumni engagement efforts.

- CMU Campus Dining and Chartwells announced a change in hours for two on-campus eateries and gave additional Flex Dollars to students with meal plans. Campus Dining sent a statement to students explaining their current state of labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and dining hall closures.

- After spending seven months and more than \$500,000 on an investigation into three journalism staff members based on allegations, CMU had characterized the allegations as unfounded. The three staff members returned to work in August, the week before school started.

NOVEMBER

- With three second-quarter touchdowns from Kalil Pimpleton, Central Michigan secured a victory against rival Western Michigan at Waldo Stadium with a final score of 42-30.

This win was the university's first win over the Broncos since 2017.

- President Bob Davies sent out an email to the campus community releasing the enrollment information for fall 2021. According to the statistics given at the time, there were 11,441 undergraduate and 3,980 graduate students enrolled at CMU. These numbers were noticeably less than in previous years. Davies cited competition and COVID-19 as reasons for the recent decline in enrollment; however, CMU has been seeing a decline in enrollment over the past 10 years.

- Mount Pleasant City Commission held its first meeting under new city manager Aaron Desentz. After welcoming Desentz, the commission discussed the updated contract with R.I.S.E. Advocacy, Inc. for mental health services assistance.

- Alumnus and Navy Commander, Desmond Walker, was selected for the "Career Achievement in Government Award" during the 2022 Black Engineer of the Year Award STEM conference. The event recognizes and celebrates the hard work and success of those that haven't received recognition for their outstanding achievements.

- Mount Pleasant Mayor Will Joseph accepted a new position as village manager of Paw Paw, Michigan. Joseph's last day with the City of Mount Pleasant was Nov. 26.

- CMU made its debut in the America's Thanksgiving Parade as a part of its \$375,000 three-year partnership with The Parade Company.

DECEMBER

- The four brothers, and only members, of the Phi Beta Sigma worked to keep their organization together and serve the community.

- Football announced they will be participating in the Barstool Arizona Bowl on Dec. 31. Academic Senators and other CMU community members shared their disdain.

- Following the Oxford High School shooting, a co-ed business fraternity sold stickers to raise money for families of the shot students.

- Two CMU students win on the Campus Sustainability Student Leadership Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for their work promoting sustainability at the university.

- Commencement is scheduled for Dec. 18, with 1,319 slated to receive degrees and certificates.

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Since 2004, Jodi Stuber, the executive director and equine specialist at Hopewell Ranch, has used horses to hold therapy sessions for people who have depression, anxiety, trauma and physical disabilities.

The therapy farm is located at 6410 Leider Rd. in Weidman. The ranch has 15 horses, 18 rabbits, 20 chickens, six ducks, seven goats, two dogs and a cat. Stuber also has mental health practitioners on staff.

Stuber has worked with Central Michigan University in the past to create the registered student organization Students Help at Hopewell. The RSO became inactive after the COVID-19 pandemic began, but Stuber said she would like to see it start again. Stuber also wants to hold events at the ranch for students during stressful exam weeks so they can hold the rabbits, pet goats and do other activities.

The ranch holds a veteran's program called Project Solomon. Stuber is co-authoring a book under the same title, which will be released May 21, 2022.

Central Michigan Life spoke with Stuber about Hopewell Ranch and her experiences of helping her community, while coping with her own struggles along the way.

What services does Hopewell Ranch Offer?

Stuber: We do equine assisted therapy, but we partner with all the animals here. We have a veteran's program called Project Solomon. We have a summer program called Unbridled Potential for children aged 8-15, which is designed to help children build relationships and emotional regulation. They have a mentor that's human and a four-legged buddy, which is one of our horses.

How has Hopewell Ranch supported students in the past?

The equestrian team came out for a tour. We've hosted socials before. We've actually had students do fundraisers out here. In the past we had a fun run called Bubba Jack's Donkey Dash put on by a running club from CMU and the money raised went to us. I'm open to more relationships with Central. If students choose us and want to help us, that's lovely. If they just need us, we're here.

The day that young man shot and killed his parents, (Students Help at Hopewell) were here and asked if they could stay the whole day. Not only was Hopewell safe for them physically, it was also safe for them mentally and emotionally to process what happened.

What are the benefits of what you do for visitors?

A lot of the times visitors see themselves mirrored in the horse that we partner them with. That is profound when you see emotion happening in the horse and you say, 'does this remind you of anyone?' And they say, 'well yeah it reminds me of me.' We had a session with a veteran and his horse kept jogging around him. I asked, 'what's happening?' and he said, 'she's jittery; she's really nervous.' I asked, 'well, how are you?' and he said, 'well, I'm jittery; I'm really nervous.' The horse actually picks up on the cues from the human and becomes like a barometer for what's going on.

What are some physical benefits of riding a horse?

It helps with focus; it helps to calm and it helps to balance breathing. Horses are prey animals, so the fact they even allow us on their backs is nothing short of miraculous in my mind. I'm always telling clients to look where they want to go because the horse can feel your head turning, and they're going to understand those little nuances of movement.

Q&A



Jodi Stuber

Hopewell Ranch is a therapy farm where Jodi Stuber, the director and equine specialist, works with mental health practitioners to hold therapy sessions for people who have depression, anxiety, trauma or physical disabilities, all through building relationships with horses.

Patrick Bouman ■ Staff Reporter

How does Hopewell Ranch help veterans?

A lot of our veterans have come from traumatic pasts, so before they enter the military, there's something there. They're trying to either escape from it or they feel like that's their best option, so they go into the military. The horses just naturally know who needs them. We might have an idea of what trauma somebody's dealt with, but I'll let the horses be the barometer when we go into the pasture.

How do you think Hopewell Ranch's impact can be measured in the community?

I've gotten beautiful feedback from a lot of people, and this story really measures impact to me: I was having a very rough day and things were not going well for me and I had to leave. I just needed to clear my head. My phone rang and I answered it; it was a veteran. He said, 'I just needed to call you today to tell you thank you, because if you weren't there doing Project Solomon, I wouldn't be here on the other end of this line.' That's pretty impactful and I don't take it for granted at all, because all I'm doing is holding space for people.

What inspired you to start Hopewell Ranch?

In January 2003, my husband, Ty, and I found out we were pregnant. Sadly, I developed Toxemia. I spent 17 days between two hospitals. On June 1, the nurse came in and couldn't find a heartbeat. The next day I gave birth to her and, of course, she's not alive, but she's perfect. She looked a lot like our daughter.

I've been through some pretty hard lows, but that was definitely the lowest point of my life. I told Ty we needed to name her, and I said we should name her Hope, and immediately the Lord spoke to me and said that hope will rise again. I was discharged from the hospital and articles about horses and healing kept coming across my path. I went into a Tractor Supply and there was a book on the shelf called Hope Rising.

Has running the ranch helped you with your own personal struggles?

I dealt with depression and anxiety for a long time, but I think when you start living for others, that kind of stuff gets pushed to the back. I love my life. I haven't always, but I really do right now. I'm so grateful for what God has done for me. I used to scream at God, 'Why am I alive?' I was suicidal. I got through it, and here I am helping others.

How does your faith inform the way you run this organization?

My faith informs all my decisions, from bringing in a new animal, affording something, fundraisers, building pastures and spaces for animals and what we need to do for our humans. It's just making sure that everybody can feel safe, whether that's physically, emotionally or spiritually. I am not here to judge people or assign my values to others. I'm just here to love them and to care for them the best way I can. It's very sad when people use faith as a weapon as opposed to what it is meant for, which is to love people.

Can you talk about one of your memorable experiences with a horse?

One of our horses comes out of a very abused and neglectful past. Mercy's story is pretty incredible. I had just found out that a friend of mine had passed away. I was really grieving, but I had to pull it together for a session. Mercy kept coming up to me. She put her muzzle in my face, she put her head on my shoulder and then she put her muzzle against my heart. I lost it; I was crying. I was like, 'you're not supposed to be here with me; I'm not the client.' She was picking up on my sorrow and she wanted to comfort me.

What is your favorite part of the ranch?

As a whole, it's a testament to God and his faithfulness, so I can't say any one thing. All of it is so precious and sacred in its own way because it's a place for healing.

Look Who's Graduating!



Congrats from your family & friends!

Jordan J. Bell



Jordan, as you graduate, we just want you to know how proud we are of your hard work and your perseverance. But, most of all, we're proud of the kind and compassionate man you're becoming. Love Always! Mom, Dad, Jaimie, and ALL your family

Scott Thomas Gregor



Chase your dreams. Never stop trying. Never stop learning. Live life to the fullest and give it nothing but your best. Also, Happy Birthday to you. Love, Mom & Dad

Abigail Faith Schreiner



You worked hard and persevered. You Did It. Congratulations, Abby, on your degree. We love you and are always in your corner.

Love Mom, Dad, Emily and Andrew



David Matthew Downing

David we are so incredibly proud of you son and pray God's blessings on your journey ahead. Fire up! 🔥

Love,
Mom and Dad

Jacob Thomas Jones

Jake, Congratulations on your well-deserved success! Your hard work and dedication have certainly paid off. We are so proud of you and wish you all the best as you pursue your Master's Degree.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Nick





Morgan Taylor Whitehead

Morgan,

We are SO incredibly proud of you, Baby Girl! You set your goals and worked hard to achieve every single one. We're happy to see your time at CMU end on a "Good Note". Now it's time to start on the path toward the future you've dreamed of. Remember to reach for the stars and always Fire Up, Chip!

Love, Dad & Jill, Mom, Tyler, Kailani and Ellie



Ashley Barton



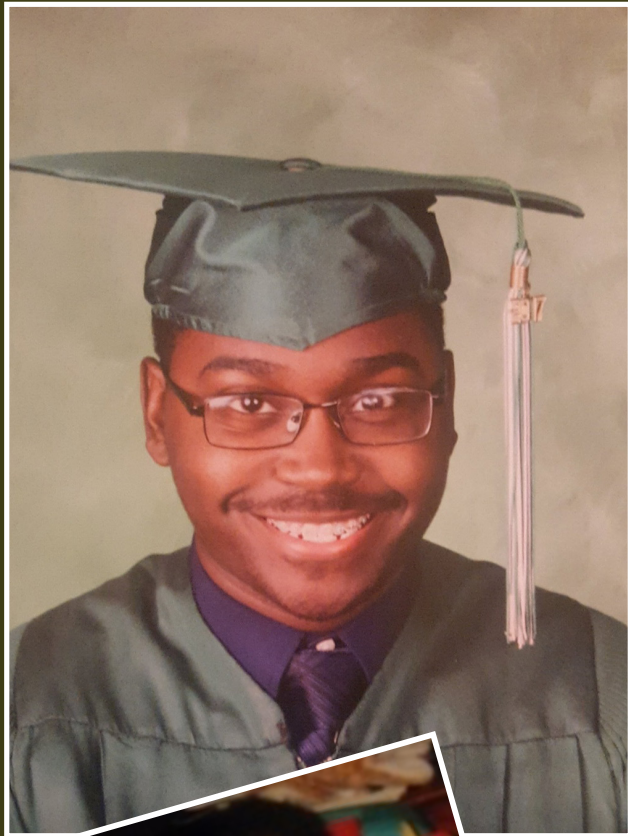
Ashley,

I am so proud of you, and your dad definitely was, too. May you find the career of your dreams as you move forward into this next phase of your life, but more importantly, may you find happiness in everything you do. I love you so much,

Mom



Daniel Pettway Square



Daniel,
I am so proud of you! You set your sights on your dream and now you're living it. You never wavered and kept pushing to this day! You are an inspiration and great role model for those coming behind you. I love you so very much!! You are truly a shining star!

Love Mom!!



Look Who's Graduating!

Congrats from your family & friends!

Alex Mecklenburg



Alex, we are so proud of you! You have worked very hard over the years to reach your goals. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments at CMU!

We love you!



Ashley Nicole Piotrowski

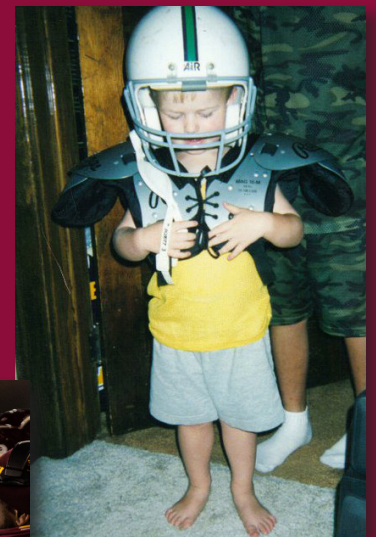


Congratulations Ashley! You have a bright and fantastic journey ahead of you - enjoy the ride! We wish you a lifetime of dreams coming true, memories to cherish and many amazing experiences!
We love you,

Mom, Dad and Charlie

Robert Thomas Stuart

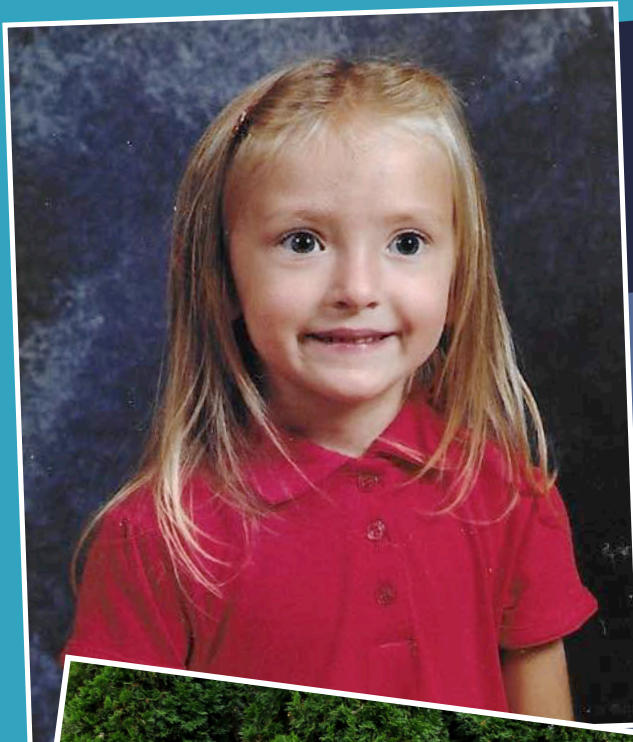
You make my heart smile! I am so proud to be your mom!
Congratulations on all your hard work, Bobby!
Keep it up and FIRE UP #71!
I love you!



Erica DeeAnn Fitzhenry

Congratulations Erica, we are all so proud of you and everything you have accomplished! We cannot wait to see what else you will do. We love you!

Mom, Dad, Amy and Jon



Look Who's Graduating!



Congrats from your family & friends!

Nia Alyse Ross - Shumate



We are so proud of you and your accomplishments. We look forward to your next season... YOU PLANNED...YOU SUCCEEDED - YOU'RE UNDENIABLE ♥♥
Love,
Mommie & Nydia ♥

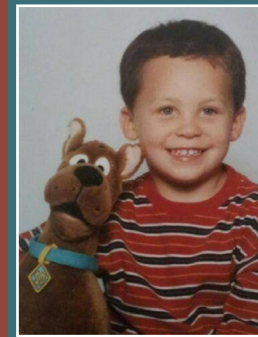
Alyssa Bella Vargo



Congratulations Alyssa!
You did it! I am so proud of you and your accomplishments at CMU. Your dedication and hard work paid off. I know with everything you've learned you are going to be successful.

Love you so much!
Mom

Tristan Samuel Banks



Congratulations!
We are so proud of all your accomplishments. We can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Love Mom & Clint, Dad & Christy, Juel & Matt

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Brianna Leigh Woodby



Congratulations Brianna!

Your entire family is so proud of you and your accomplishments. We are as excited as you are to see what the future holds for you.

We love you so much!
Mom and Dad

Brooke Elizabeth Warder



Congratulations beautiful little girl on your graduation from college! We are so proud of you!
We love you!
Love Dad, Mom & Josh

C'kret JaNae Stokes



Congratulations C'kret
We are so proud of your accomplishments at CMU. We know that these four years have been very challenging, but you trusted and believed in God. He has got you through and will continue to get you through the path that He has set for you. And we are so proud of you and we love you. Mom, Jerome, Kermiz'a ,Porsha, Jasmine and Demantre'

Aren Wallace



Congratulations Aren!

We are so proud of you!
We love you more!!

Love, Mom and Dad

Andrew Joseph Tiffany



We are proud of your accomplishment! Remember your roots to harness your power to your passion. Honor your calling. Everybody has one.

Trust your heart and success will come to you.

Love Mom, Dad & JohnAlex

Sydney Ann Holland



Sydney,

Congratulations on an impressive accomplishment!

Love,
Dad, Heather and Teddy

Kaley Denise Moore



Kaley,
You did it! You have worked so hard for this moment and we are so proud of you. Grandma is definitely smiling down today. Congratulations! We love you!
Love,
Dad, Mom and Abby



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Divine Joy Mathes



She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. Proverbs 31:25
We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds. They used to say the sky is the limit; don't let the world limit you!

Love your b.f.f
Mom and the rest of the gang



Josey M. Kuzniewski

I am so proud of you and so sad that I cannot be with you for graduation. You will do great today and will do wonderful things every day after today...I am certain of it.

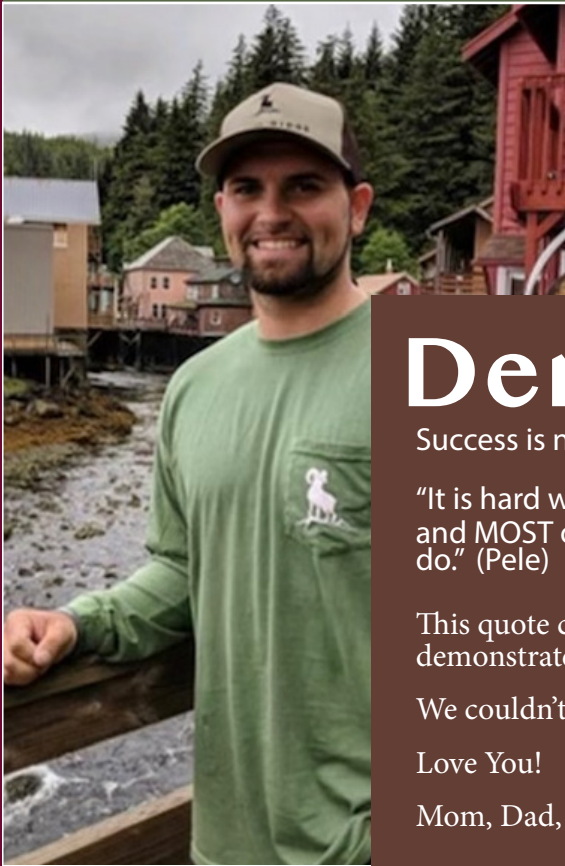
Love you most, Mom



Amalia Eileen Kalergis

Amalia -
Your sincere efforts, hard work, and sleepless nights have paid off, congratulations on graduating summa cum laude! You are a beautifully kind, smart and inspiring young woman; may all your dreams come true.

Love Mom, Dad & Madalyn



Derek LaBean

Success is no accident.

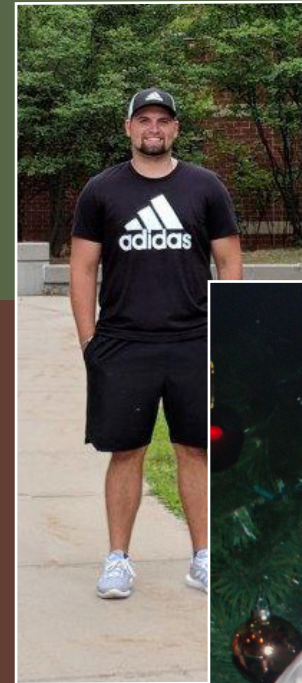
"It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and MOST of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." (Pele)

This quote could not be more true to what you have demonstrated, and the person you are.

We couldn't be more proud of you!

Love You!

Mom, Dad, Darren and DJ



Angela Solanus Gorski

To our baby,

Know that wherever you go in life, our love and pride will follow. Congratulations on your graduation, YOU DID IT!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Jane and Amanda



Haylee Lupinetti

To my amazing daughter, Haylee, You were a joyous, adventurous, fun and loving child that grew into a spirited, brilliant, responsible and kind adult. Congratulations on all of your achievements! Being your mom has truly been the biggest blessing of my life. You are my world.



Look Who's Graduating!

Congrats from your family & friends!



Natori Latease Savage



Congratulations Tori,

We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Keep believing in your dreams, We can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Brittany Nicole Zabinski

Brittany, congratulations on your Graduation !! What a journey you had at CMU! We are very proud of you and the young adult you have become. Your future has only begun, and we only wish you the best in all of your endeavors, "Live Life with NO regrets!"

Love you always and forever!
Mom, Dad, Justin and Ashley!

FIRE UP!!



Dylan Lackaye

Words cannot express how proud of you we are. We have loved watching you grow into the amazing man you have become. Always follow your heart and dreams. Congratulations!

We love you,
Mom & Steve, Dad & Cat, Noah,
Mary, Eddie and Lucky



Janay Mykale Stuckey

Janay, there will never be two parents that are MORE proud of ALL you have accomplished in 3 1/2 years! We thank God for who you are and who you are...everyday. May these next years bring joy, opportunities and clarity for your journey. Janay Mykale Stuckey you are loved and cherished and the BEST big sister and daughter we could have prayed for...Jeremiah 29:11. With much love, Dad, Mom & Morgan and your ENTIRE Stuckey, Long, and McGehee Family.



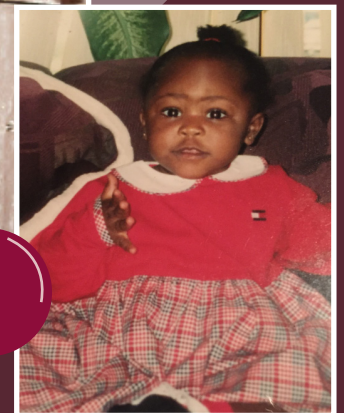
Kourtney Ny'Ree Siller



Kourtney,

Congratulations! We're so proud of you. You have proven with hard work, dedication and perseverance...YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS!
We love you!

Mom & Dad

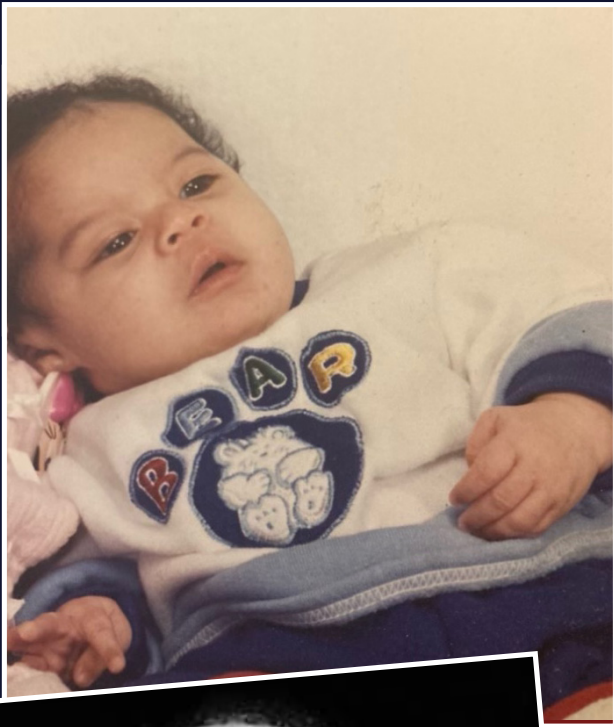


Chance Antonio Tinsley

Congratulations Chance

We are so incredibly proud of the man you have become. As you continue to forge your path in life; embrace opportunity, stay caring and compassionate. And always know your family believes in you.

Love you Poo
Luv Mommy





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Thanksgiving parade partnership costs \$375,000

By Zipporah Abarca
Staff Reporter

Central Michigan University made its debut in the America's Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit last month. It was the beginning of a \$375,000 three-year partnership that includes the cost of the float and the university's participation.

The goal of the university's involvement is to increase the visibility of CMU's brand according to CMU Executive Director of Communications Heather Smith. The university is able to fund this partnership through its \$1.3 million communications marketing budget.

The CMU float is 100 feet long and 25 feet tall and was accompanied by 32 students, faculty, staff and alumni chosen by the university. The float depicted a diverse selection of degree programs offered at the university on Nov. 25.

The Thanksgiving Parade serves as a "platform to advertise the university and allows CMU to get more involved in the community," Smith said.

The university's involvement in the parade is a part of a three-year partnership with The Parade

Company – a Detroit-based non-profit founded in 1982 for the purpose of staging and promoting the Thanksgiving Parade.

There are 52,000 alumni who reside in the Detroit area, including Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties. In 2019, about 30 percent of on-campus students were from southeast Michigan.

"The parade is a highly-visible platform to share CMU's 'We Do' brand in a unique way and provides the opportunity to bolster CMU's presence as a regional and national higher education destination," Smith said.

The parade also served as an opportunity to engage with alumni. Alumni Relations arranged a separate "parade watching" event the morning of Thanksgiving in CMU's Detroit office. Tickets for the event were \$75 per adult and \$60 per child under the age of 12. More than 140 people registered for the event.

"In its first year, our participation gathered millions of impressions online and through social media, as well as extensive media coverage throughout Michigan and the country," Smith said.



Courtesy Photo | Central Michigan University
Central Michigan University debuts float in America's Thanksgiving Parade on Nov. 25 in Detroit.

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As I say goodbye to CMU, I'm thankful for the 'Life'

I didn't get the full "college experience" at Central Michigan University – yet, I had the time of my life.

Transferring to Central Michigan University in January 2020 would lead me to one of the most challenging but best decisions I've ever made.

One of the key factors in deciding to come to CMU happened outside of the Towers Residential Complex with complete strangers.

When visiting campus, my car got stuck in the parking lot. Around 10 friendly faces banded together to push my car out.

One crucial thing I learned about CMU students on that day – we make it work.

The statement rings true today as I watch my fellow students earn a higher education through a global pandemic.

There are plenty of students who feel cut short of the so-called "college experience" due to restrictions and protocols.

Before coming here, I had so many things



Jamie Rewerts
Engagement Editor

to look forward to – football tailgates, all-nighters in the library, or downtown bar crawls.

Those items on my bucket list either never happened or were limited. I had two months of normalcy; then it was gone.

I returned in August 2020, as a junior who only knew how to get to one building for one reason – Moore Hall for *Central Michigan Life*.

There, I got to know the most talented and kind-hearted people I've ever met. The feeling of being surrounded by those who fully support and believe in me was like no

other. It was a true joy to walk into that office – even on the wildness of production day.

These people built my confidence, passions, and who I am as I leave. The impact that advisers, editors, and our audience had on me is everlasting.

Who was there to see this growth? The people I went home to every night. Not everyone is lucky when living with randomness – I was. These four random girls became my best friends in the course of nine months.

Brooke, Meg, Anne and Anna – thank you for not only being a girl's best friend, but for being a key part to my journey. You made a simple college town light up.

As I write my way out, I want to encourage students to think of not what was missed, but what was had.

We have all grown. COVID-19 pushed us to our limits and we continue to persevere.

As far as my future goes, you can catch me as a social media producer for MLive in

Grand Rapids. An opportunity that would have never presented itself without *CM Life*.

To our readers, it has been an honor to be your engagement editor for the past two years. Here, I got to promote content from all different talents. Reporters, photographers, graphic designers, podcasters and everything in between, they have all trusted me to put their work before your eyes, and I couldn't be more grateful.

So yes, maybe I did miss out on a few things. Maybe without the pandemic the experience would've matched the expectations. Maybe this column would have a different message.

Regardless of the maybes, I did my part to make it work and I am proud of the person I am leaving CMU.

Please, continue to grow, discover and learn.

Most of all, continue to read *CM Life*.

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EDITORIAL

CHILL OUT

This pandemic is not over – use this break to focus on your well-being. Thank you for your support!

It's time for a break – and we deserve it. We hoped for some return to normalcy this semester after the COVID-19 pandemic destroyed the morale of the campus and Mount Pleasant community last year. In many ways, we experienced that.

Students and faculty returned to in-person classes. We met regularly with our student organizations. We could dine-in at local restaurants.

You could see spirits were higher than they've been in many months as you walked around campus. Nonetheless, we are still far from pre-March 2020 "normal."

More than 20 percent of CMU students are still unvaccinated. Outside Mount Pleasant, the virus situation is even worse. Michigan recently surpassed 25,000 COVID-19 related deaths. The state remains a national pandemic hotspot. With the Omicron variant on the rise, the future is unpredictable.

Unpredictable – but not hopeless.

Hopefully, next year will mean the return of Program Board concerts and football games with huge attendance. Maybe we'll be able to shed our masks and see each other's faces in academic buildings and at campus events.

For now, it's important to take these next three weeks to rest and reflect on all the wins from this semester while focusing on your well-being.

The holidays are a great time to spend time with friends and family. Be sure you take stock of where you're at and look at where you want to be 12 months from now when we do this all over again.

As you enjoy your holiday festivities, understand the importance of taking care of your mental health. Just because you can't see it or touch it doesn't mean that there aren't issues that could be bothering you. If you need help, talk to a friend or family member. Make sure to schedule some "downtime" during your break instead of trying to fill every moment with activities. Catch up on your sleep!

Focus on all those things this holiday break. It may be music, art, writing, working out or talking to a sibling, friend, parent, or mentor. Come back next semester ready to learn, grow and succeed.

The holidays are also a time to show gratitude.

We at *CM Life* are thankful for you. Not just your readership and advertising support, but also your feedback and your story ideas.

It is truly inspiring to see so many students, faculty and community members use their voices this semester to inspire change – from issues with campus dining to university transparency. The campus community has gone through a lot of changes in the past few years – you can bet *CM Life* will be here to cover whatever comes next.

When you're back in Mount Pleasant next semester, remember we're here to help. Send news tips, guest columns and letters to the editor to editor@cm-life.com.

We look forward to telling your stories next year!

Happy holidays from *Central Michigan Life*.

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All letters to the editor or guest columns must include a name, address, affiliation (if any) and phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed, except under extraordinary circumstances. *CM Life* reserves the right to edit all letters and columns for style, length, libel, redundancy, clarity, civility and accuracy. Letters should be no more than 450 words in length. Longer guest columns may be submitted but must remain under 750 words. Published versions may be shorter than the original submission. *CM Life* reserves the right to print any original content as a letter or guest column. Please allow up to five days for a staff response, which will include an expected date of publication. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Central Michigan Life, the independent voice of Central Michigan University, is edited and published by students of Central Michigan University every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper's online edition, cm-life.com, contains all of the material published in print, and is updated on an as-needed basis.

Central Michigan Life serves the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities, and is under the jurisdiction of the independent Student Media Board of Directors. Dave Clark serves as Director of Student Media at CMU and is the adviser to the newspaper. Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of Central Michigan University. *Central Michigan Life* is a member of the Associated Press, the Michigan Press Association, the Michigan Collegiate Press Association, the Associated Collegiate Press, College Newspaper Business & Advertising Managers Association, the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Michigan Home Builders Association, Mount Pleasant Housing Association and the Mount Pleasant Downtown Business Association. The newspaper's online provider is SN Works.

Central Michigan Life is distributed throughout the campus and at numerous locations throughout Mount Pleasant. Non-university subscriptions are \$75 per academic year. Back copies are available at 50 cents per copy, or \$1 if mailed. Photocopies of stories are 25 cents each. Digital copies of photographs published in *Central Michigan Life* are available upon request at specified costs.

Central Michigan Life's editorial and business offices are located at 436 Moore Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, telephone (989) 774-3493 or 774-LIFE.

Through all of life's ups and downs, I didn't give up

In September 2016, I arrived at the fourth floor of Moore Hall for a *Central Michigan Life* open house as a nervous freshman. The Sports Desk was looking to add three new people. Fortunately, I was one of three that applied.

It's now December 2021. My time as a college student is finally over.

I made it.

This wasn't easy.

I nearly dropped out in October 2019. One day I had a severe breakdown. I knew that the people who cared about me most would understand.

I went through what I thought the conversation would look like in my mind. My friends, parents and brother would support me to an extent.

Then I thought about talking to my Grandpa Vosburg, who was battling an aggressive form of non-hodgkins lymphoma. He became so weak that he couldn't press down on a gas pedal.



Mitch Vosburg
—
Sports Editor

I thought about looking him in the eye and telling him "I'm giving up because this is too hard." I couldn't do it.

It was going to be an uphill battle, but I was going to write again to make him proud.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

As sports shutdown, I thought it was game over. Then one of my childhood idols, the Rated R Superstar Edge, did the unthinkable.

Seeing Edge forced to retire because of neck issues in 2011 broke my heart. Edge made his shocking return in the 2020 Royal Rumble.

The emotion on his face as Minute Maid Park erupted in celebration is permanently burned into my brain.

After re-watching his match months later, I had a moment or realization: If Edge can reclaim his passion, what's my excuse?

I would get that opportunity one night in October.

A night of bar hopping turned into a 10-minute conversation with then *CM Life* sports editor Austin Chastain. I took the first step to rebuilding my shattered confidence. For the first time in two years, I once again called *Central Michigan Life* home.

Within my first month back I had the cover story of a print edition and took photos for CMU's game against Northern Illinois all within a 12-hour stretch.

Since then, I've worked to become Sports Editor. I've than the privilege to usher in the next generation of sports reporters. Not only have I reclaimed my confidence, but my friends get to see me pursue my passion. Austin has not only become one of my roommates (in an apartment that never has a dull moment), but one of my best friends.

Most of all, I didn't give up.

This process wasn't just me.

First, thank you to everyone who bullied me for my speech impediment, body size, or big personality. All I ever needed was a friend. Instead, you put a chip on my shoulder.

Thank you to everyone that never lost faith in me. I am so glad that this past year is something that we can all be proud of.

To my good friends Dony Sowles and Zack Boyer: you both live vicariously through me. Thank you for always believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I love you and miss you both.

Finally, thank you to the incredible people at *Central Michigan Life*. You gave me a place that made me feel like I was doing something right, because I've never felt so alive. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

This isn't goodbye, it's just see you later. *CM Life* for life.

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I found my way to *CM Life*, now I'm saying goodbye

At 19 years old, I was desperate to leave community college and my parent's house to start my life at Central Michigan University. Now, at 23, I am desperate to be done with college.

I never want to do another homework assignment again.

As I go into my last week of college ever. I'm experiencing a mix of excitement, overwhelming stress and sadness.

Looking back at my time at CMU, I think about the indecision I felt when deciding what I wanted to do with my life. For a long time, I didn't know if I would be able to attend college. As someone with a learning disorder, the long, stifling days spent jumping between six different subjects was the worst possible environment for me. I barely passed high school, only succeeding in classes where I was able to express myself like choir and writing.

In college, I had the freedom to control my



Tess Ware
—
Associate Editor

schedule and the subjects I learned about. Since I transferred to CMU in 2018, I have made the dean's list every semester.

As a kid, I loved reading fiction and writing short stories, but K-12 ruined my love of writing for a long time. It wasn't until high school when I took a creative writing class that I realized writing had to be a part of my life.

In college, I went through phases. I wanted to write fiction, then magazine features. Eventually, I found my way to *Central Michigan Life*.

I fell in love with journalism. For the first time, I felt right.

I'm confident that this is what I am meant to do.

I would not have found this confidence or self-esteem without *CM Life*.

I'm one of the lucky graduates who is leaving CMU with a job and a plan, all thanks to my experience and connections at *CM Life* (look for my work as the business reporter for the *Petoskey News-Review* in January).

Even with that security, the idea of leaving college and being on my own is terrifying. College was adulthood with a safety net.

Now, the net is coming off.

I'll be taking over my phone payment, rent, car insurance, health insurance and all the other expenses that come with being on my own. (At least I still have my parent's Netflix login.)

Even though I'm terrified, I think I can do it. I survived high school. I survived college, even though I never thought I could.

CM Life has given me the experience I need

to go into the journalism world and succeed. Struggling through my education with a learning disorder taught me hard-headedness and determination.

CM Life gave me a community of people who support me and celebrate my wins – people who accept my scattered brain and help me on the days I struggle to get out of the fog.

I am incredibly proud of the work I have done at *CM Life* and grateful for the opportunity to provide a service to the CMU and Mount Pleasant communities.

CM Life defined my college experience. As I prepare to leave, I can't help but think of myself as a *CM Life* alum first and a CMU alum second.

I will always be connected to *CM Life*. I plan on being a loyal reader and an active alum.

So on Dec. 17 I'll be leaving the paper I love, but not really.

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SAC Building Hours

SAC Pool/Sauna Hours

Week 1: December 20-23 Monday-Thursday 12pm-6pm	Week 1: December 20-23 Monday-Thursday 12-2pm / 3-6pm
Week 2: December 27-30 Monday-Thursday 4pm-8pm	Week 2: December 27-30 Monday-Thursday 4pm-7:30pm
Week 3: January 3-8 Monday-Saturday 12pm-6pm	Week 3: January 3-8 Monday-Saturday 12-2pm / 3-6pm

-Fitness Center -Basketball -Racquetball... And so much more!

Presented by



“WE INSPIRE ENGAGEMENT”

BRINGING YOU THE BEST IN LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



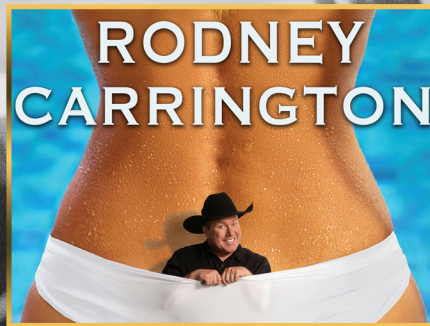
THE BEACH BOYS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 8:00PM
\$35, \$49, \$63 & \$69



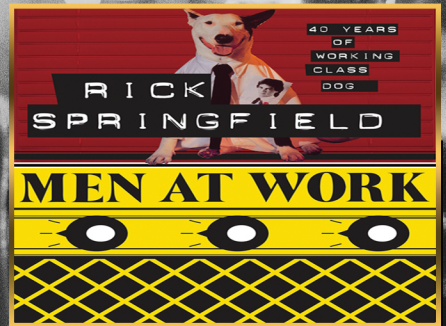
JONATHAN ANTOINE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 8:00PM
\$25, \$38, \$44 & \$50



RODNEY CARRINGTON

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 | 8:00PM
\$32, \$44, \$55 & \$61



RICK SPRINGFIELD & MEN AT WORK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 8:00PM
\$44, \$54, \$72 & \$78



MIKE EPPS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29 | 8:00PM
\$35, \$49, \$63 & \$69



SAWYER BROWN & LONESTAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30 | 8:00PM
\$33, \$45, \$56 & \$62



NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 9:00PM
TICKETS START AT \$60



AIR SUPPLY WITH ORLEANS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 | 8:00PM
\$33, \$45, \$55 & \$62

Complete show lineup available at SoaringEagleCasino.com

Visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort box office, purchase two or more tickets (*prior to day of show) to any show with cash or credit and receive **\$20 in Premium Play** on the day of show.

Get your tickets at **Soaring Eagle Casino** or **Saganing Eagles Landing Casino Box Offices**, ETIX.COM or call 1.800.513.ETIX.

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