



2017-18 CENTRAL MICHIGAN ATHLETICS ANNUAL REPORT

18

PROGRAMS

475

STUDENT-ATHLETES

3

CONFERENCE
CHAMPIONSHIPS

5

POSTSEASON
APPEARANCES

61

ALL-CONFERENCE
SELECTIONS

2

ALL-AMERICANS

39

STRAIGHT SEMESTERS
ABOVE 3.0

129

ACADEMIC ALL-
CONFERENCE PICKS

8

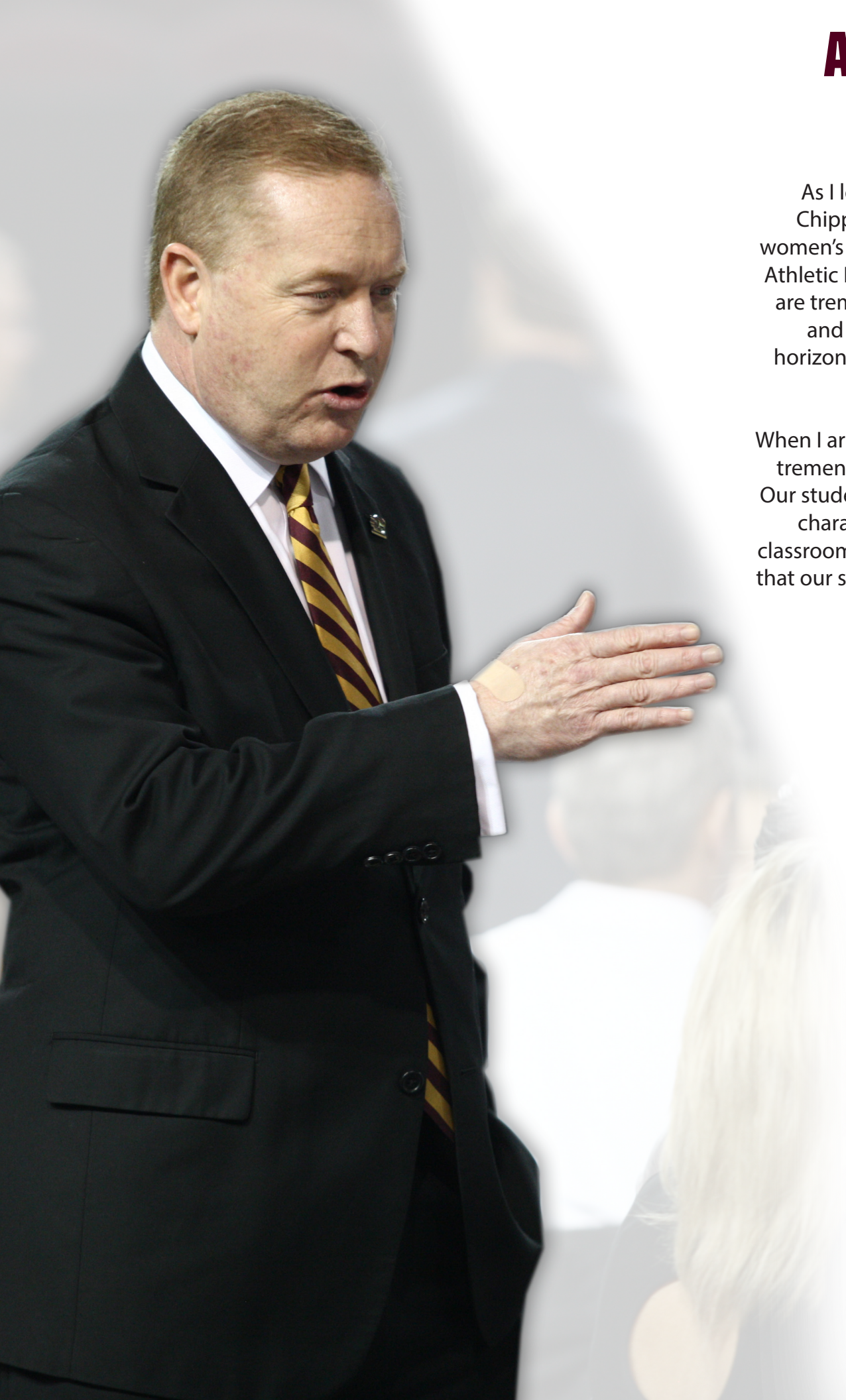
PROGRAMS WITH A
1000 APR

5,000

COMMUNITY
SERVICES HOURS



ONE CMU



A MESSAGE FROM ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MICHAEL ALFORD

As I look back at the year, I am impressed by the number of outstanding Chippewa performances we saw in 2017-18. From a Sweet 16 run by our women's basketball program to a record setting campaign by our Chippewa Athletic Fund members, we have witnessed excellence in the making. There are tremendous opportunities available to our CMU Athletics Department, and I am excited about the future. With many impactful projects on the horizon, we recognize that none would be possible without the support of our generous donors and university partners.

When I arrived on the CMU campus a year ago, I immediately recognized the tremendous pride our community has in the Chippewa Athletics program. Our student-athletes represent the university with poise, respect and strong character. The Chippewas receive national acclaim for their efforts in the classroom and as competitors. As a department, our first priority is to ensure that our student-athletes have a safe, first-class experience. Our new mission statement describes our plan to reach these goals.

Thank you for your support, and Fire Up Chips!

CMU ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

Central Michigan Athletics will provide an authentic environment where student-athletes can thrive academically and athletically. The welfare of our student-athletes will be the focus of every decision made through teamwork, respect and open communication.

Inclusive
Graduate
Notable
Innovative
Traditions
Empower

CMU ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC SUGGES



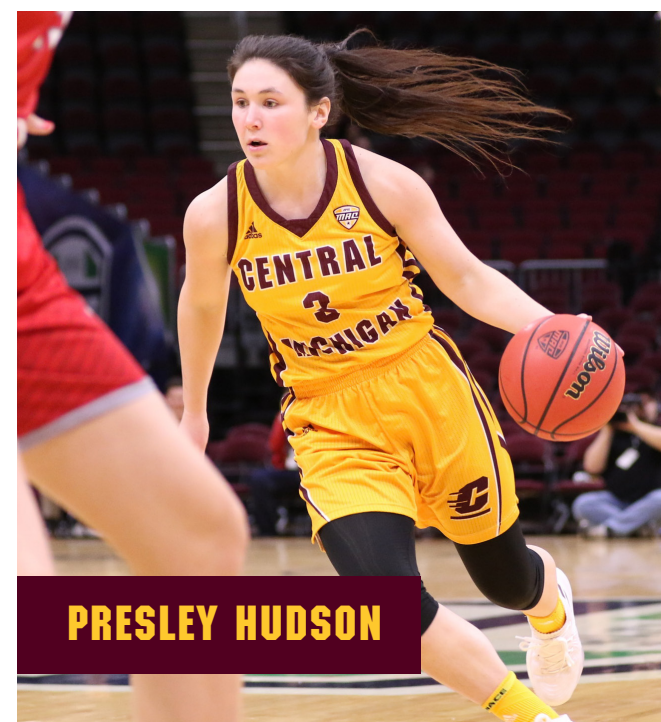
2018 MAC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS



SUE GUEVARA



TINARA MOORE



PRESLEY HUDSON



2018 NCAA TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND
CMU 95, at Ohio State 78



**2018 MAC REGULAR
SEASON CHAMPIONS**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Sweet Success in Historic 2017-18 Season

- Made a magical run to the NCAA Tournament Sweet 16, defeating LSU (78-69) and Ohio State (95-78) in Columbus in the first two rounds, joining Buffalo as just the second and third MAC teams ever to advance that far. CMU dropped its regional semifinal game to Oregon.
- Central Michigan finished 20th in the final USA Today women's basketball Top 25 Coaches Poll, the first time CMU had been ranked in the national poll.
- Won back-to-back MAC Regular Season Championships for just the second time in program history.
- Won the MAC Tournament title for the first time since 2013. Reyna Frost was named the tournament MVP with Tinara Moore and Micaela Kelly selected to the all-tournament team.
- Sue Guevara was named the MAC Coach of the Year and the Kay Yow National Coach of the Year.
- Tinara Moore was named MAC Player of the Year, MAC Defensive Player of the Year and First Team All-MAC. She was also named an AP All-American.
- Presley Hudson earned first team All-MAC honors, Reyna Frost was named to the second team, and Micaela Kelly was selected to the all-freshmen team.
- Four members of the team were named to the Academic All-MAC Team (Cassie Breen, Reyna Frost, Presley Hudson and Aleah Swary). The team had a GPA of 3.350.

ATHLETIC SUCCESSES

FOOTBALL

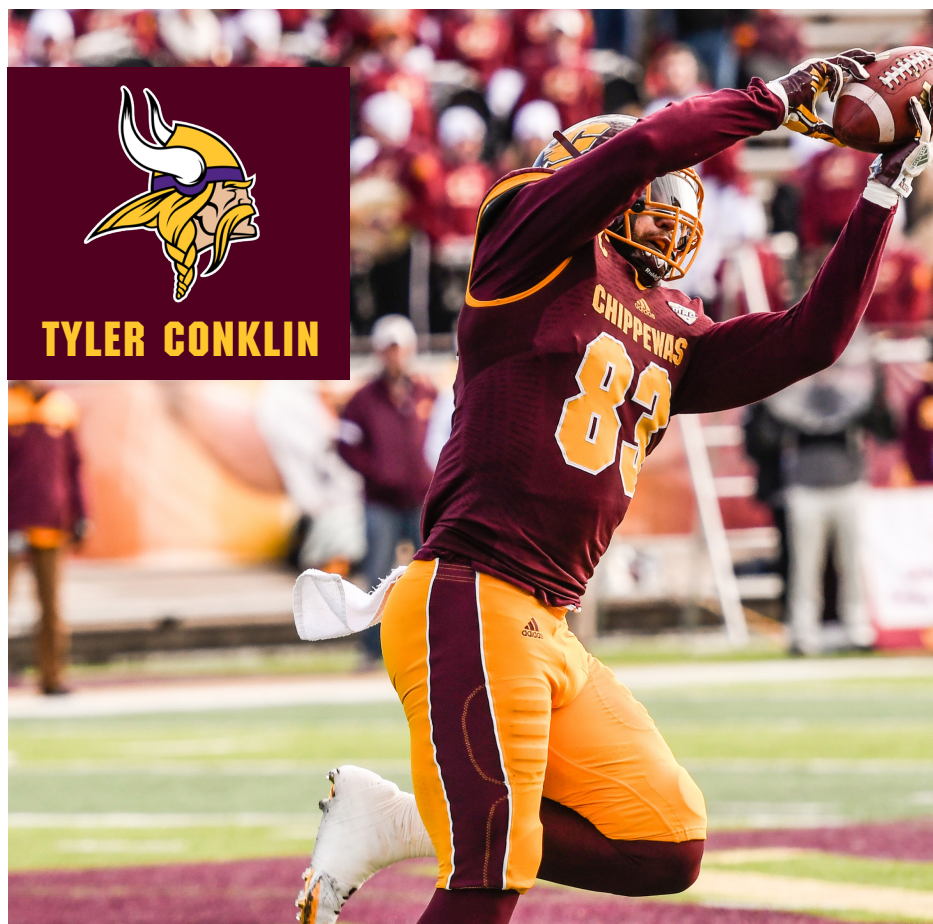
Sustained Success

- Central Michigan football finished the regular season with a five-game winning streak, including marquee victories at Western Michigan and Northern Illinois. The Chippewas finished 6-2 in Mid-American Conference play, the second-best mark in the league.
- CMU took part in its fourth-straight bowl game, playing Wyoming in the Idaho Potato Bowl in Boise, Idaho. The program has played in nine bowl games in the past 12 years.
- The Chippewas captured the Cannon Trophy with a come-from-behind victory at Western Michigan, 35-28. CMU rallied from a 28-14 deficit, scoring three fourth-quarter touchdowns, capped by a Shane Morris to Corey Willis 77-yard touchdown pass play with 2:37 remaining.
- Victories over WMU and Eastern Michigan gave CMU the Michigan MAC Trophy.
- CMU beat a Power 5 opponent for the third time in four seasons with a 45-27 win at Kansas. The program beat Purdue in 2014 and Oklahoma State in 2016.
- Tyler Conklin was selected by the Minnesota Vikings with the 20th pick in the fifth round of the NFL Draft.
- Amari Coleman and Joe Ostman earned First Team All-MAC honors. It was the second consecutive season that Coleman was named to the first team. Ostman was named to the second team a year ago and to the third team in 2014.



MAC BOWL APPEARANCES Since 2006

1. Northern Illinois	10
2. CENTRAL MICHIGAN	9
Ohio	9
4. Toledo	7
5. Western Michigan	6
Bowling Green	6



ATHLETIC SUCCESSES



WON THE CANNON TROPHY
CMU 35, at Western Michigan 28



COREY WILLIS



JOE OSTMAN

ATHLETIC SUCCESSES

GYMNASTICS

A Record 16 Championships

- Central Michigan won its 16th MAC Championships title and its eighth conference regular season crown. CMU hosted the conference championship meet and dominated, scoring a 197.025, the third-best score in program history.
- Individual MAC titles were earned by Katy Clements in the balance beam (9.950), sophomore Sydney Williams in the vault (9.850), and junior Gianna Plaksa in the all-around (39.350).
- Katy Clements was named a second team All-American on balance beam. She is the second All-American in program history.
- Denelle Pedrick tied for first on floor exercise at the NCAA Regional Championships to punch her ticket to the NCAA Championships for the second-consecutive year.
- CMU qualified for the NCAA Regional for the 10th-straight season, the longest streak in MAC history.



MAC REGULAR SEASON & TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS



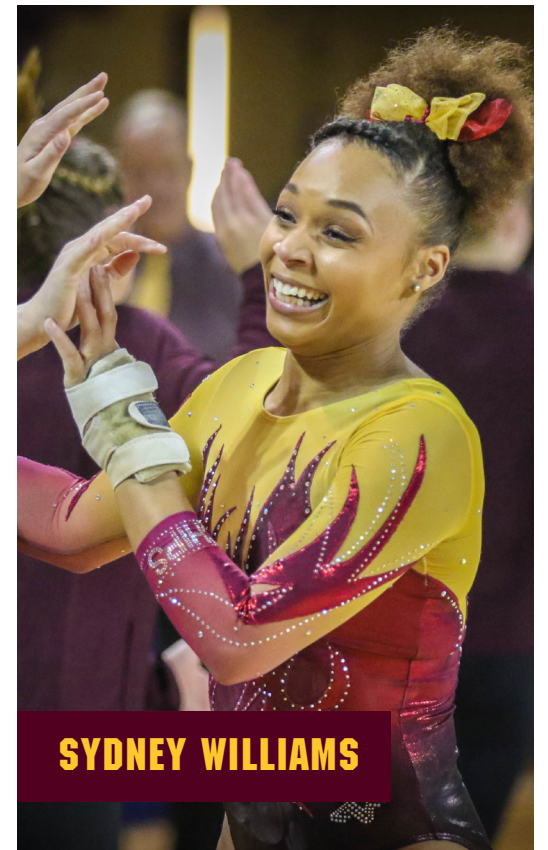
KATY CLEMENTS



DENELLE PEDRICK



GIANNA PLAKSA



SYDNEY WILLIAMS



SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

LACROSSE

The Beginning of Great Things

- In just its third season of existence, the lacrosse program won the Southern Conference regular season title. CMU finished the year 11-7 overall and 4-1 in conference action.
- Eight members of the program earned All-Southern Conference honors, including first-team selections Natalie Karlen, Jocelyne Lemay and Shannon Doyle.
- Fourteen members of the team were named to the Academic All-Southern Conference squad.
- The team has an overall grade-point average of 3.422.



JOCELYNE LEMAY



SHANNON DOYLE



NATALIE KARLEN

ATHLETIC SUCCESSES

SPORT PROGRAMS

- Men's basketball finished the season strong by winning five of its last seven games. CMU hosted a MAC Tournament first round game for the first time in program history and beat Bowling Green to advance to Cleveland. The Chippewas qualified for the postseason for the third time in four seasons and won a pair of road games in the CIT. Early in the season, CMU won the final Great Alaska Shootout.
- The wrestling program qualified seven wrestlers to the NCAA Championships. Matt Stencel was the top performer at the Mid-American Conference Championships, winning the heavyweight title.
- Central Michigan volleyball made great strides in head coach Mike Gawlik's second season. The program qualified for the MAC Tournament for the first time since 2012 with a late-season surge, winning five of its final seven matches. Jordan Bueter earned First Team All-MAC honors for the second-consecutive year.



MEN'S BASKETBALL - GREAT ALASKA SHOOTOUT CHAMPIONS



MATT STENCEL - MAC CHAMPION

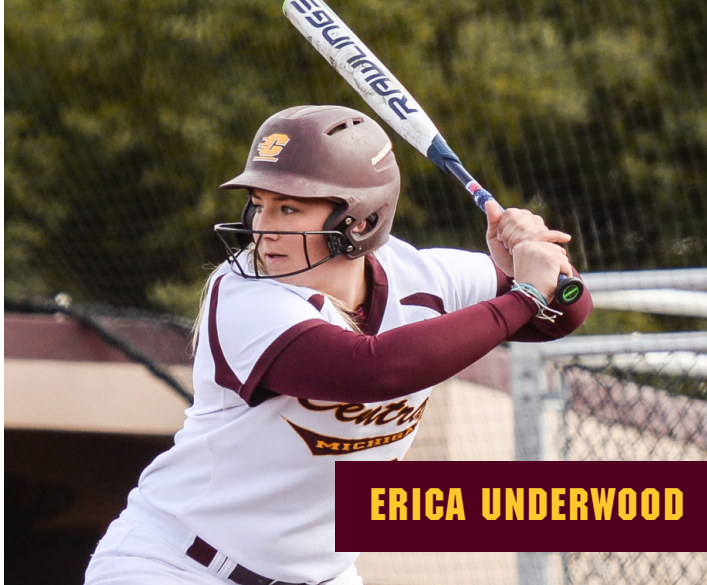


VOLLEYBALL
First MAC Tournament
Appearance since 2012

ATHLETICS SUCCESES



LEXI PELAFAS



ERICA UNDERWOOD



MAISON KALINA

SPORT PROGRAMS

- Lexi Pelafas became the Chippewas' all-time leading scorer with 33 career goals. She also earned First Team All-MAC honors for the second-straight season. Pelafas led the league in goals (13), shots (94), shots per game (5.22), points (28) and points per game (1.56).
- Softball's Erika Underwood and Maison Kalina were named First Team All-MAC. Underwood was also named to the NFCA All-Region Second Team.
- The track & field program took a big step forward. Both Chippewa squads finished fourth at the MAC Outdoor Championships, and their respective point totals were the highest by CMU squads in several years. Shane Moffo won MAC titles indoors and outdoors in the hurdles, while Gabriella Beauvais placed first in the women's 400-meter run outdoors. Indoors, the 4x400-meter women's relay team captured a conference title. Erin Howard and Connor Covert both won the Field Athlete Freshman of the Year award at the outdoor championships.



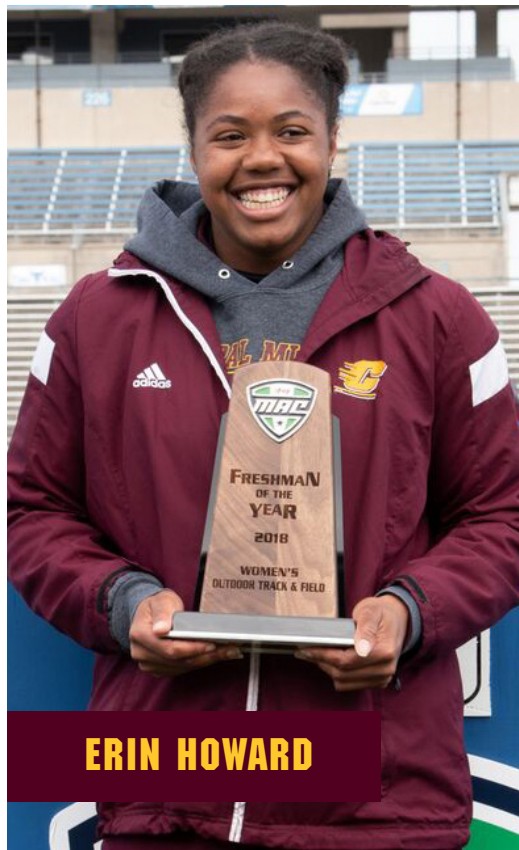
CONNOR COVERT



SHANE MOFFO



GABRIELLA BEAUVAIS



ERIN HOWARD



GRADUATES

29 December Graduates

Joe Austin	Samantha Maher
Carter Ballinger	Braxton Markle
Emily Barber	Kelly McNeely
Tanner Beachnau	Connor Moynihan
Michaela Bundy	Joe Ostman
Mark Chapman	J.P. Quinn
Tyler Conklin	Kathia Sanchez
Eric Cooper	Trevor Thomas
Zach Crouch	Casey Voisin
Derek Edwards	Olivia Wagner
Robert Greenman	
Jahray Hayes	
Colin Heffernan	
Courtney Hiltibran	
Gary Jones	
Chris Kantzavelos	
Rachael Knapp	
Kristen Knutson	
Donald Kyre	

61 May Graduates

Harriet Aburn	Alec Esparza	Rebekah Petty
Taylor Aguillon	Malik Fountain	Jerome Roberson
Janae Alexander	Alexandra Gonda	Hunter Rollins
Lily Amadio	Jasmine Harris	Addie Schumacher
David Basirico	Brittney Horan	Lauren Sherry
Maggie Baumert	Luke Idoni	Mitch Stanitzek
Savannah Beetcher	Cole Israelson	Armond Staten
Cassandra Breen	Valerie Johnson	William Sullivan
Carly Brengosz	Natalie Johnson	Aleah Swary
Christian Brucki	Katherine Kasper	Meghan Sweeney
Jordan Bueter	Taylor Lewallen	Samuel Wagner
Courtney Campbell	Addison Marshall	Amanda Walsh
Paige Carey	John McCarty II	Kyla Walton
Jonathan Carson	Luke Meyer	Taylor Weaver
Katy Clements	Tinara Moore	McKenzie Wieber
Amani Corley	Dennis Nalor	Miranda Wiczorek
Amber Crouse	Kyle Noonan	Corey Willis
Hannah Davis	Zach Oakley	Kristen Wolfe
Berkley Edwards	Megan O'Neil	Mike Zenk
Chantel Edwards	Malik Peacock	
Jordan Ellingwood	Jeffrey Perry	



152

Chippewas covering the university's 18 varsity sports were honored during the 26th Annual Ferrantino Foundation Academic Excellence Banquet at McGuirk Arena inside the Kulhavi Events Center. The event was attended by CMU student-athletes and their family members along with university administrators, faculty, staff and board members. All were there to celebrate the wide-ranging academic successes of student-athletes who carry a grade point average of 3.5 or better.

Pat Podoll Outstanding Academic Achievement awards (top senior GPA) went to McKenzie Wieber, women's track and field; and John McCarty, men's basketball; while Ja'Corey Lipsey, men's track and field, captured the inaugural Academic Achievement Award, given to the individual who has seen great improvement during their time at CMU.



MCKENZIE WIEBER



JOHN MCCARTY



JA'COREY LIPSEY

ACADEMIC
SUCCESS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

39

The spring 2018 semester marked the 39th consecutive semester of an athletics department GPA of 3.0 or better.

3.20

Our student-athletes' cumulative grade point average currently stands at 3.20.

135

135 of our student-athletes currently maintain a cumulative 3.50 grade point average or better.

984

CMU recorded its best single-season all-sport academic progress rate (APR) in 2017-18.

8

Eight programs had a perfect single-year APR of 1,000, ranking each of them at the top of the conference.

12

Twelve programs had a single-year APR of 980 or better, the most in one year in CMU history.



McKenzie Wieber Women's Track & Field Boyden Award Winner

The Bill Boyden award annually recognizes a senior student-athlete who combines outstanding athletic performance with exemplary leadership qualities on campus and in the community. Wieber earned her bachelor's of science degree in psychology in May and aspires to earn her master's in school counseling. She is currently a member of the CMU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Cassie Breen (Women's Basketball) Joe Ostman (Football) Dick Enberg Scholar-Athlete of the Year Winners

Seniors Cassie Breen (women's basketball) and Joe Ostman (football) were named the Dick Enberg Scholar-Athletes of the Year. Breen was a psychology major who carried a 3.62 grade point average, while Ostman majored in marketing with a 3.66 GPA.



Women's Basketball Dick Enberg Team Leadership Award Winner

The program received the Dick Enberg Team Award based on its commitment to academics and community service. The Chippewas' off-court accomplishments were impressive. Among them is their Hoops for Hunger and Pack the Pantry efforts, their Diaper Dandy Game, participation in the likes of Special Olympics and March is Reading Month, and their drive to collect bottled water for Flint residents.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

CMU student-athletes serve more than 5,000 volunteer hours on campus and in the community during the academic year. They worked at various events throughout the year including:

- Michigan Indian Family Olympics
- CRDL Summer Reading Program
- Leadership Safari
- CCN Mobile Food Pantry
- Community Cancer Services
- Backpack Stuffing for Florida
- Local Elementary Schools
- Humane Society
- United Way
- Isabella Community Soup Kitchen
- Isabella County Commission on Aging
- Trunk or Treat
- SCIT After-school program
- Mobile Food Pantry at Sacred Heart Parish
- Special Olympics
- PEAK After-School Program
- Community Compassion Network
- Green Acres Assisted Living
- National Women in Sports Day



COMMISSION ON AGING



HOOPS FOR HUNGER



MICHIGAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

NEW INITIATIVES

GRADUATE ASSISTANT DIVERSITY PROGRAM



The Central Michigan Athletics Department Diversity Graduate Assistantship program was launched to increase the diversity of job candidates in athletics administration. Each year, this program selects two participants from a national pool of applicants to pursue their graduate degree while devoting 25 hours per week for up to four semesters working with CMU Athletics. The first participant selected for 2018 is Jewel Cotton, a former Central Michigan student-athlete with the women's basketball program. She was selected from a national pool of candidates based on her desire to have a career in college athletics. Her primary areas of interests are sport administration, student-athlete services, compliance, and athletics communication/marketing. Softball standout from the University of Maine, Kristen Niland, joined Jewel in the program in the fall of 2018.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Fire Up Program:

This leadership program is taught through part of our First Year Experience seminar and is aimed at our freshmen student-athletes. On five different during the fall term, our student-athletes will learn leadership skills and philosophies from various head coaches and campus partners. We believe it is important for our freshmen student-athletes to see that each coach has a different leadership style. We also ask each head coach who presents to incorporate one of our departmental core values into their leadership discussion as we try to indoctrinate our freshmen into the culture of CMU Athletics.

Igniting Leaders:

Coaches and staff identify one or two student-athletes from their program who they view as their next leaders. The leadership programming for the emerging leaders is focused on "activating leaders." Programming centers on helping these students understand how to become leaders through both a variety of speakers and experiential leadership. One key component is the student-athletes return to their teammates with information and lessons. This group will meet approximately seven times per year.

Director's Table:

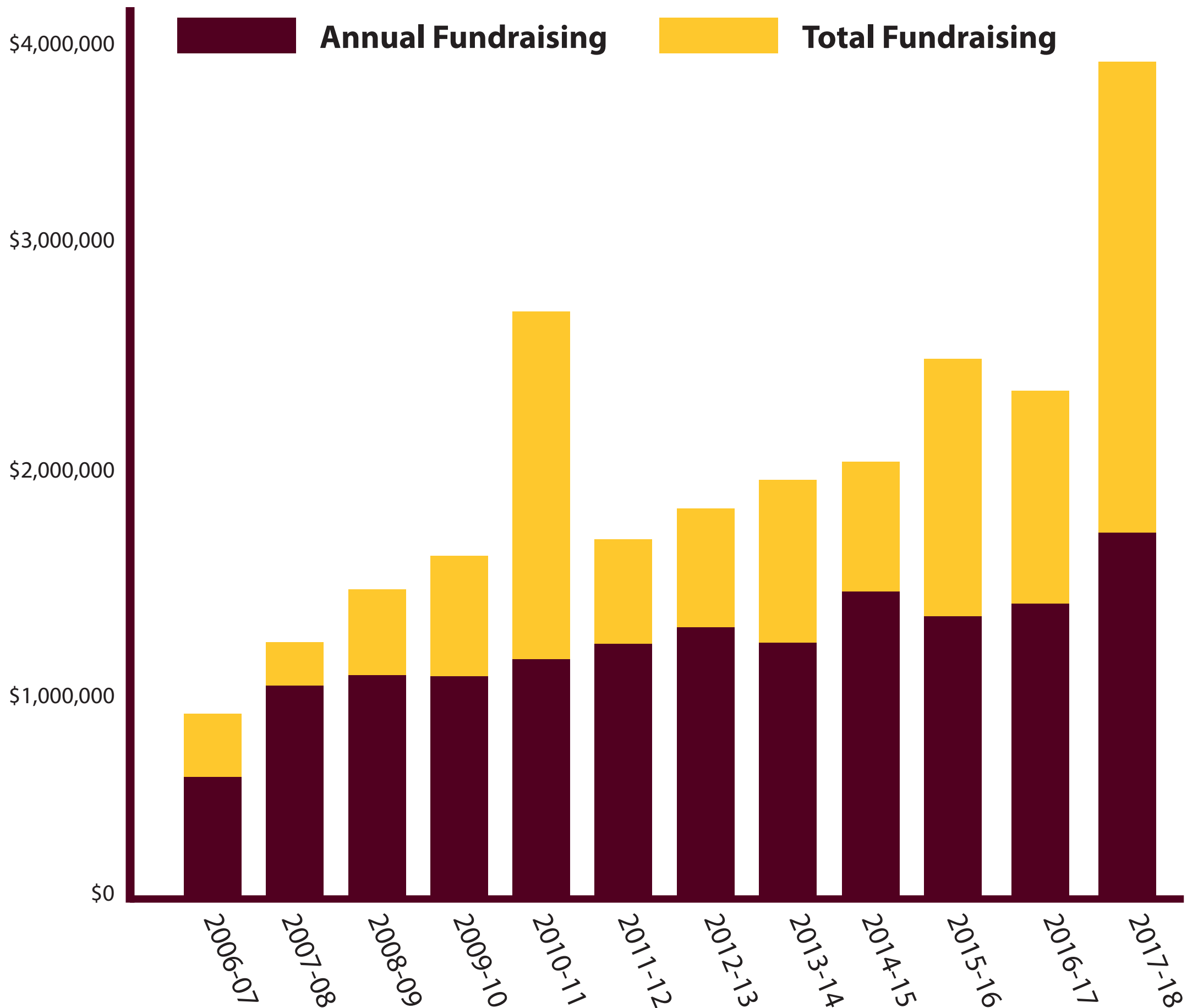
Coaches and staff identify student-athletes on their team who have leadership roles and the group meets with Director of Athletics Michael Alford roughly seven times per year. This elite leadership group learns how to lead both on and off the playing surface through leadership lessons and experiences with various successful business alumni.



LEADERSHIP

REVENUE SUGGES

RECORD FUNDRAISING



FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

50 15 100

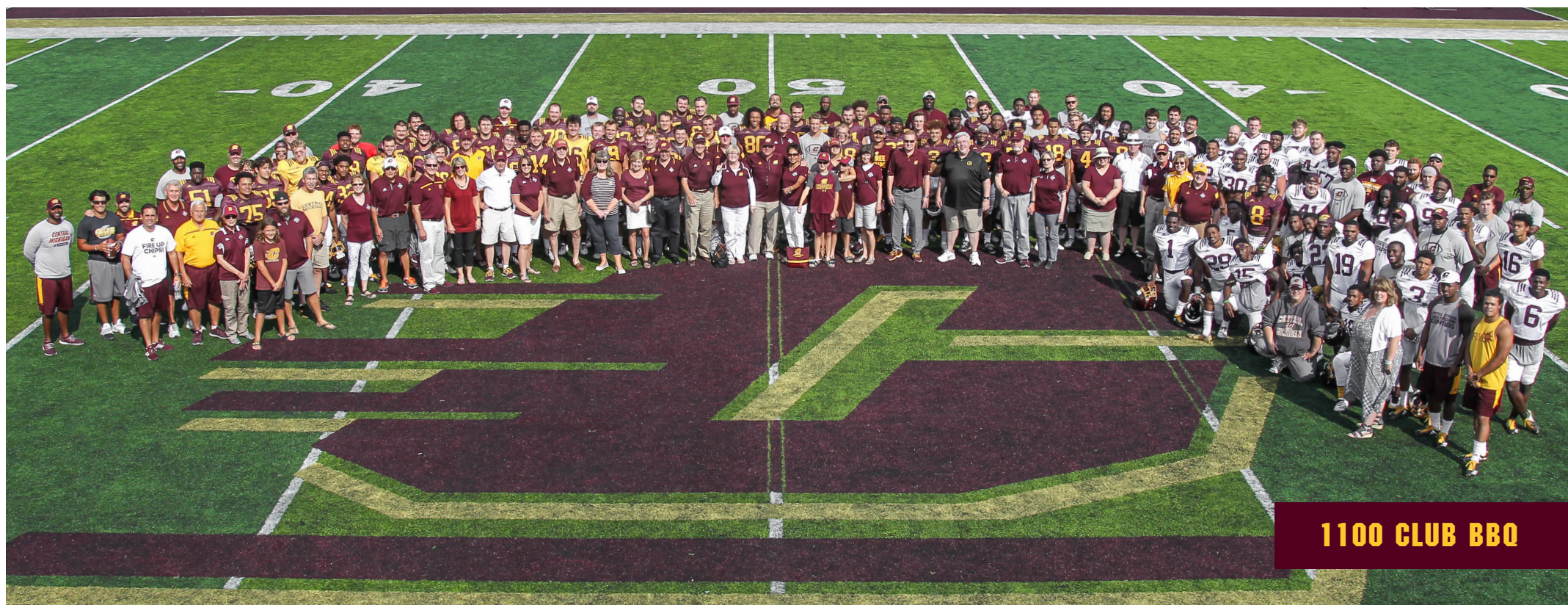
CMU saw a 50% increase in total fundraising over its previous record.

CMU had a 15% increase in Chippewa Athletic Fund membership.

The Athletic Department had 100% participation in the Annual University Campaign, the top mark at CMU.

8

CMU had eight leadership commitments (\$100,000 and above) during 2017-18, including a one-time gift of \$1,000,000.



1100 CLUB BBQ

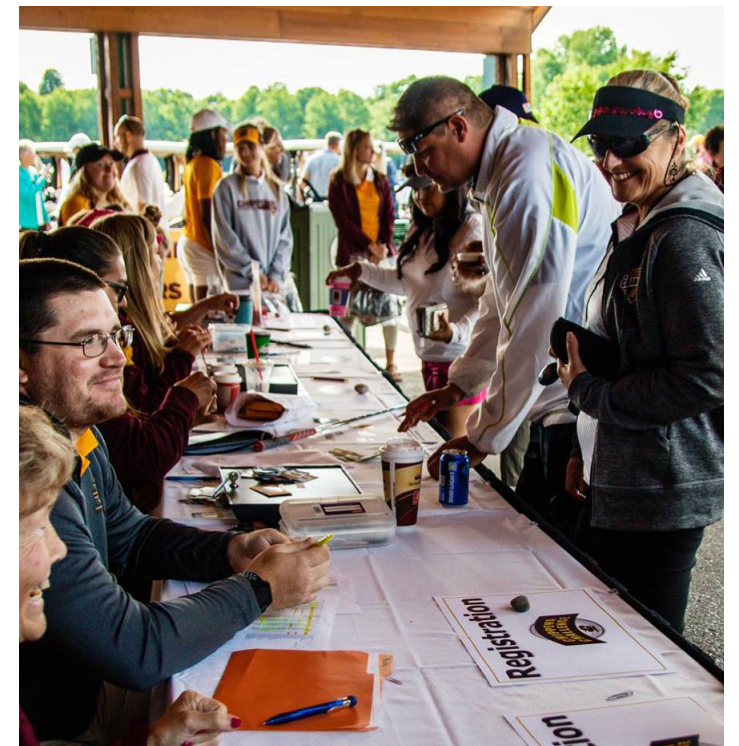
REVENUE SUCCESS

REVENUE SUGGES



FIRE UP FOR EXCELLENCE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Central Michigan University revealed its \$100 million capital campaign this past spring and athletics has played a major role in the campaign. During the kickoff event, Ron Zyzelewski announced his \$1 million donation to the campaign toward the Chippewa Champions Alumni Center. Antonio Brown also made an appearance to show his support for the campaign.

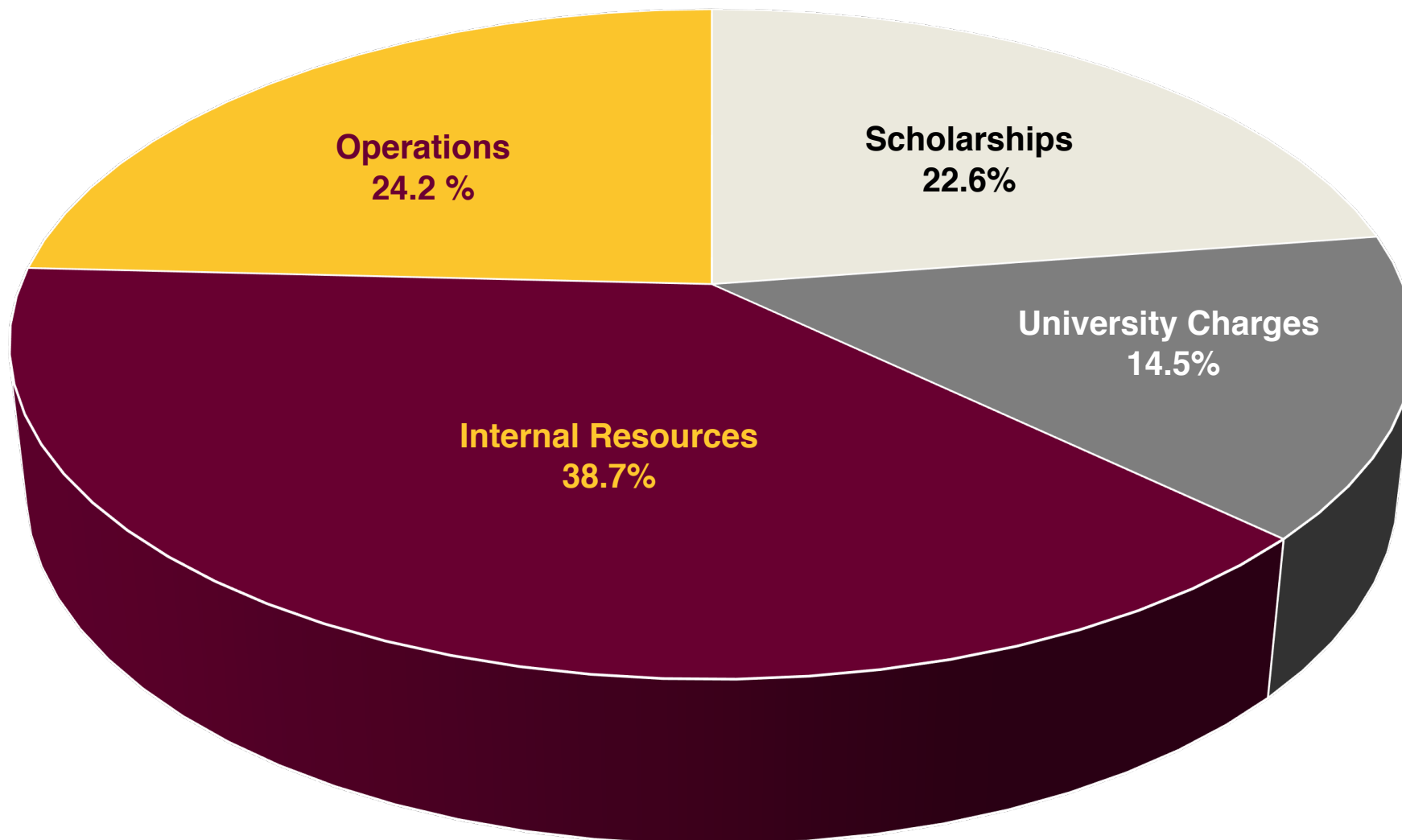


CHIPPEWA CHALLENGE GOLF OUTING

CMU hosted the ninth-annual Chippewa Challenge in June, with 440 golfers participating and generating \$155,000 in overall revenue.

ATHLETICS BUDGET OVERVIEW

2017-18 BUDGET - \$29,998,555 MILLION



IMPORTANT FINANCIAL FACTS

- Central Michigan Athletics finished the 2017-18 year with a balanced budget for the third-consecutive year.
- The Athletics Department returns to the university 37 percent of its overall budget. This includes student-athlete scholarships, university debt service and overhead.
- Student-athletes on partial scholarships or walk-ons generate an additional \$5.5 million in tuition, room and board and book revenue for the university.
- Athletics generates \$7.3 million in revenue, primarily in the areas of fundraising, sponsorships, game guarantees, ticket sales and rights agreements. This accounts for 24.3 percent of its total budget.
- Athletics utilizes many services on campus, keeping almost \$1.1 million at CMU. Key areas include Facilities Management, Classic Fare Catering, Telecommunications Services/OIT, Residence Life, Police/Parking Services, University Events and University Press/Printing Services.

CHAMPIONSHIP FACILITIES

Ensuring that our student-athletes have the top facilities in the Mid-American Conference and in comparison to its peers across the country is a priority for our athletic department. Multiple projects have launched over the past year that will bring our facilities among the best for nearly all our programs.

Soccer locker room project:

- 1,300 square feet with a team lounge
- A/V, nutrition area and updated displays
- New visiting team and officials locker rooms

Gymnastics locker room project:

- 1,600 square feet with a team lounge
- Improved heating and cooling system
- A/V, nutrition area and updated displays

Kelly/Shorts Stadium club level project:

- New carpet in club lounge and hallway
- New paint, branding and Imaging
- New blinds in club lounge
- Athletic suite upgrades

Field hockey project:

- New turf installed
- Improved watering system and sidelines

New soccer and field hockey offices

New branding for the indoor turf bay and football tunnel

Updated indoor recruiting path in the IAC hallway



GYMNASTICS LOCKER ROOM



SOCCER LOCKER ROOM



DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS SUITE



FIELD HOCKEY FIELD



SOCCER & FIELD HOCKEY OFFICES



IAC TURF BAY



FOOTBALL TUNNEL

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT





CHIPPEWA CHAMPIONS ALUMNI CENTER

The Chippewa Champions Alumni Center at Central Michigan University will become the new home of the university's Welcome and Alumni Centers, athletics training programs and CMU football. The new facility will create a welcoming and inspiring environment for students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff. The Chippewa Champions Alumni Center will provide modern and flexible spaces for alumni affairs and CMU athletic and football operations. The facility includes:

- Alumni Center with flexible areas to support university advancements, networking and social events
- Athletic training laboratories supporting the College of Medicine, the College of Health Professions and Sports Management programs with modern:
 - Sports Medicine Laboratory
 - Strength and Conditioning Laboratory
 - Nutrition and Fueling Station
 - Hydrotherapy Center
- CMU football team facilities
 - Team meeting and education centers
 - Home and visiting team locker rooms
 - Coaching and staff offices
- Flexible academic and event forums to support students, alumni, university programs, and premium game-day activities
- New premium hospitality spaces to include:
 - Loge boxes
 - Field Level Club
 - Patio Club

The new Chippewa Champions Alumni Center will transform the Kelly/Shorts Stadium north end zone into a modern, multi-functional facility supporting our CMU community – past, present and future!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

CMU ATHLETICS AND SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE PARTNERSHIP

CMU Athletics and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe are proud partners and remain committed to growing our relationship through continued education, engagement and collaboration.

During 2017-18, CMU Athletics, CMU Native American Programs and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe held quarterly planning meetings and hosted a total of 29 engagement and educational opportunities for tribal members and CMU student-athletes, coaches and staff.

Some of the events include:

- Michigan Indian Family Olympics hosted at CMU
- Student-athlete visits to the SCIT after school recreation programs
- SCIT history and Native American mascot presentation to all incoming student-athletes
- Traditions Day Tailgate and Drum Ceremony
- Trunk or Treat
- Hoops for Hunger
- CMU Pow Wow
- North American Indigenous Summer Enrichment Camp



CHIPPEWA GREAT CREATES EVERLASTING LEGACY

The Central Michigan University family mourned the loss of one of its own this year — Dick Enberg, who discovered a passion and immense talent for broadcasting while a student at CMU in the 1950s.

Enberg, a native of rural Armada, Michigan, was encouraged to pursue a degree after meeting then-CMU President Charles Anspach. Enberg's future was launched with a scholarship and soon supplemented with a job as a janitor for the college radio station.

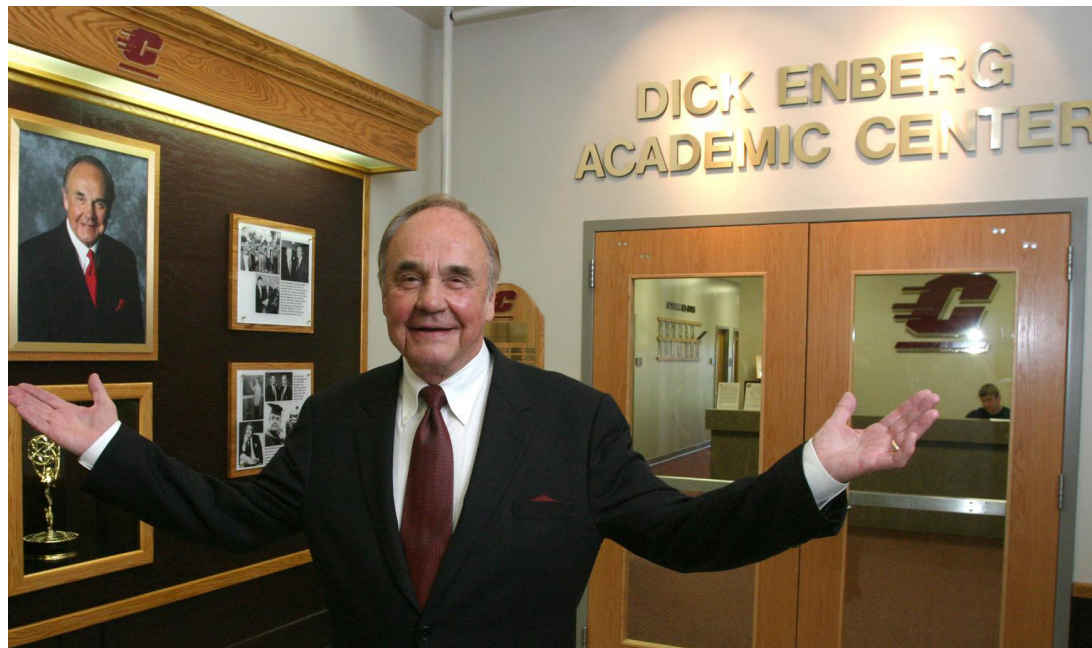
It wasn't long before he ended up on the air, with the voice that would become legendary across the sports world, in baseball, football, tennis and more.

Enberg returned to Michigan to visit CMU many times through the years, including a much-celebrated trip in November 2016. He shared insider broadcasting tips and experiences with students, inspired athletes and directed the band on the football field during the visit. Enberg was emotional when presented with a varsity letter jacket during that game.

Enberg's love for Central included its student-athletes and its Athletics Department. A bronze bust of Enberg, with his famous thumbs-up, greets visitors in the Anson Family Atrium of the John G. Kulhavi Events Center.

"Nobody carried their love for Central Michigan as far and wide as Dick Enberg," said Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Michael Alford. "It's amazing how often he worked in his ties to CMU while on a national or international broadcast. He was an amazingly kind, thoughtful and welcoming man.

"He made a matching gift at my opening press conference at CMU, and we spoke often," said Alford, who joined CMU in July, 2017. "I'm so fortunate to have been able to spend time with Dick, introduce him to my family and understand what an important role CMU played in his life."



REMEMBERING DICK ENBERG



Central Michigan University Athletics
Rose 100
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
CMUChippewas.com