

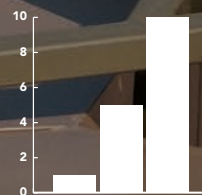
GIVING BACK IN A BIG WAY

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT



GIVING BACK

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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DONOR HONOR ROLL

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2017-2018



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MISSION

The mission of the Colorado Mesa University Foundation is to strengthen educational opportunities at Colorado Mesa University through the generation and distribution of all gift assets. The foundation serves as the depository for all charitable gifts and acts in a fiduciary capacity as exclusive agent for donor activity.

It took 55 years for the CMU Foundation to reach the major milestone of awarding \$1 million in scholarships in one year. That was a year ago. This year, that number rose dramatically to more than \$1.5 million.

That's a remarkable number. But what it represents is even more remarkable. It represents a vibrant and growing network of CMU supporters. It's a network of alumni, faculty, staff, members of the various communities we serve and simply people who think CMU provides value for the dollars they contribute.

We at CMU like to think that donors are investing. Investing not just in the students who are the recipients of scholarships, but in the future of the community, the region and the country. One can find CMU grads contributing in ways large and small all across the United States. Many of them

would not be doing what they are without the help of CMU donors.

There are other significant numbers that help tell the story of the CMU Foundation. Our endowment grew by more than 13 percent last year, from \$24.6 million to \$27.7 million.

That, in many ways, is the most important number. When that money is managed wisely, as I'm proud to say it is, it will continue to grow, as will the number of scholarships it provides.

Creating an endowment is the most lasting gift one can make.

You can read the stories in this annual report of a couple of Coloradans who feel a CMU endowment is a good investment of their money. Mitch Copeland, whose family has a long history of involvement with CMU, believes providing money for scholarships is one of the best ways one can give back to an institution that has



been good to him and his family. Legendary CMU Professor Bruce Bauerle, who retired last year after nearly 45 years, is another who wanted to do something for the school that did so much for him.

Those are just two examples. There are many, many more and we are thankful to all of them.

CMU would not be what it is today without your help.

Sincerely,

Tim Foster, President
Colorado Mesa University

AN INSIDE LOOK

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RETIRED CMU PROFESSOR GIVES BACK IN A BIG WAY

The 8-foot sculpture of a praying mantis on the CMU Wubben Hall and Science Center is more than just another piece of art. It is both anatomically and proportionately correct, which was important to the person who commissioned a CMU graduate to create it.

The praying mantis is CMU Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences Bruce Bauerle's gift to CMU, which he hopes will be the spark that makes the campus unique. Bauerle, who retired last year, readily concedes that CMU already is a campus with facilities that rival those of just about any university. It is a campus full of handsome buildings, both new and old. He just wants to take it to the next level.

"We have a beautiful campus, now we need to make it a unique campus. Now we need something that makes our campus different from others." The praying mantis is the beginning of that process.

What's more, the \$25,000 he spent on the sculpture was matched and an endowment bearing the Bauerle name was created.

"I wanted something that said the biology building was the biology building," Bauerle said. "We have a great department."

The praying mantis was not his original idea. What he had in mind initially was a giant spider. He abandoned that, though, when "some people told me that students might not go inside the building with a big spider on it."

Thus the praying mantis.

"I wanted to leave a gift to the school," he said. "Teaching here has been such a good job for me. They've given me a lot of freedom to teach the way I want and grade the way I want."

Bauerle said CMU has been good to him — from the day he began teaching in 1972, when CMU was still a junior college. Teaching at CMU gave him the opportunity to live the way he wanted.

One thing he wanted was to travel. He's been a guest lecturer on scores of cruises around the world, in addition to other destinations on his own.

When he retired last year he felt indebted to CMU. "I wanted to leave a gift to the school," he said. "Teaching here has been such a good job for me. They've given me a lot of freedom to teach the way I want and grade the way I want."

"This was the only college job in Colorado when I graduated," he said. "I was lucky to get it."

Bauerle knew he wanted to be in the West after he earned his doctorate. Most of his graduate studies concentrated on plants and animals of the western United States.

He was only 26 when he began teaching, "not much older than my students." He likes to say he had an "ornery streak," but the culture of the school then, and still today, was a match for the Bauerle teaching method.

Bauerle's expertise was in the biological sciences. But he had a passion for the outdoors and survival and saw a connection between the two.

"It's just always been kind of a hobby of mine." He's anything but a doomsday prophet, but he does have a half a year's worth of supplies in his house and is keenly aware of the troubled world we live in.



Bruce Bauerle, CMU Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences, and Scott Shaffer, artist of Lucille and Bauerle's former student, at the plaque unveiling.



There's nothing he relishes more than a demanding, solo trip into the wilderness. He watched the recent solar eclipse in Yellowstone National Park. But instead of checking into one of the park's many lodging facilities, he loaded his gear into his sea kayak. He paddled it four miles through one lake, a couple miles up a river, drug it another couple miles up some rapids and then paddled another four or five miles through a second lake. By himself.

It seemed only natural to turn his outdoor skills into a class. His survival course at CMU was not easy. Students who took it often found themselves in uncomfortable situations.

It required rock-climbing in Unaweep Canyon. There was an overnight camping trip with tents and an overnight camping trip with no tents. Students had to create their own shelter from whatever they could find. They had to start a fire with one match. They had to bake bread over a campfire.

Then there was the snow-camping trip on Grand Mesa. Students had to make snow caves and spend a night in them. It was difficult for Bauerle, too. He recalled nights with hardly any sleep because he checked on his students in their snow caves throughout the night. "That took some time, when there are 80 students," he said.

None of those ordeals deterred students. The wait list was always long.

Now, he said, it's time to help students in other ways. Creating the endowment is his way of giving back to the institution that he was proud to be a part of for more than four decades. His endowment is one way to help. But he also has advice for new students.



Bruce Bauerle celebrating the installation of Lucille on top of Wubben Hall and Science Center, home of the Biology Department where Bauerle taught since 1972.

"I almost let my mental block about chemistry stop me from becoming a biologist," he said. "I have seen many students who run into problems with college algebra. Some nursing students run into a wall with anatomy and physiology, and some students are terrified of standing up and giving a speech. Others run into the problem of having too little money or too many demands at home. I think I would tell a starting student to understand that there are going to be some tough problems and moments coming up in the next few years, but don't let them sway you from your dreams. Speed bumps in life are there for everyone, and they can anticipate encountering some. They shouldn't let adversity alter their long-term plans. Be tough. Be strong. Get through it. Get the degree you want, no matter how long it takes. In the long run, it will be worth it." ♦





IN TIMES OF UNEXPECTED HARDSHIP THERE IS HELP

Elizabeth Watts had a problem.

It was last January and the CMU senior from Gypsum had just learned that her aunt had been in a terrible automobile accident.

Her aunt was in a coma, and if she survived she would be hospitalized for weeks, followed by many more weeks in rehab.

"She had a daughter who mom ended up taking and I was doing a lot driving back and forth to Gypsum and Denver taking care of things," she said. "I was having a hard time focusing."

One might call Elizabeth an over-achiever. She's only 20 and will graduate in December with degrees in political science and english literature and, to date, has a 4.0 GPA.

Grad school will follow, though she doesn't yet know where. And after that she plans on a career in the non-profit world.

But last winter and spring she had doubts about any of that happening.

She was spending \$60 a week on gas just to help take care of her family and she didn't know if she'd be able to pay rent, nor did she know how she would find the time to study, since she also had to work part-time on campus.

Political Science Assistant Professor Bill Flanik, PhD, told her about a fund at the CMU Foundation to help students with unexpected hardships.

She checked into it and ultimately proposed a plan that would allow her to not work for the rest of the semester — giving her time to study, take care of her family and pay the rent. She applied for and received \$870.

"The hardship fund can often make the difference for a student who has experienced an unexpected set back," said Foundation CEO and CMU Vice President of Development Liz Meyer.

But, she added, there must be donors willing to fund it.

One of those consistent donors is Home Loan State Bank.

Making an annual contribution to the hardship fund is just one of many gifts Home Loan State Bank gives to CMU every year.

But Home Loan State Bank President Craig Springer said it's an important one. When he was approached about an annual gift to the hardship fund, and heard the stories about how it often meant the difference between a student staying in school or dropping out, it didn't take him long to say yes.

"We are longstanding supporters of CMU," he said. "CMU is an important economic driver in the community and we are always happy to support the university's endeavors."

Elizabeth Watts is just one of many students who are grateful for these funds. ♦

Photo: Elizabeth Watts, a CMU senior and recipient of a Hardship Grant.

GIVING BACK IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

An endowment at CMU can come in many shapes and sizes and can support any number of academic causes.

In the case of the endowment begun by Grand Junction physician Mitch Copeland it was very much a family affair.

The Copeland Family Endowment didn't begin life as such. It is an outgrowth of the Western Colorado Sports Medicine Foundation begun by Dr. Copeland in 2004, which was created to provide financial aid to CMU athletes. But after a couple of years, Copeland concluded that raising money for collegiate sports was difficult. There were simply too many organizations raising money and sports didn't seem to be a high priority for donors.

So the Sports Medicine Foundation lay dormant for a few years.

But Dr. Copeland didn't lose his passion for sports medicine or his drive to support student-athletes.

"I really admired and wanted to support the concept of the academic athlete," he said. "Someone who does community service. I get tired of hearing about these athletes who behave poorly... So much good comes out of the concept of the student-athlete who does well and excels. Athletics can give you really good tools for later life — goal-setting, teamwork, fitness for life."

Copeland took the money from the Sports Medicine Foundation, along with other gifts from family members, and created an endowment at the CMU Foundation.

Foundation CEO Liz Meyer said endowments are the key to the college's ability to grant scholarships. "They are the lifeblood of what we do," she said.

Dr. Copeland and the rest of the Copeland family have a long and rich history with CMU.

Mitch's father became CMU's medical director in the early 1980s and eventually passed that job on to his son. Copeland's mother is also a past Foundation Board president.



Mitch Copeland, DO, examines CMU student-athlete Blake Brockett.

Dr. Copeland attended CMU for a semester, his son-in-law is there now and five of the six children in his blended family have attended.

He sees the Copeland endowment as a way to help an institution that he has come to love and as a vehicle for his family to give back to CMU.

What's more, it's an opportunity to teach younger family members the importance of giving. He relishes telling the story about his 13-year-old niece, who overheard family members talking about the endowment one evening. "She said she wanted to give \$20 of her birthday money," he said.

"I really admired and wanted to support the concept of the academic athlete. Someone who does community service."

"It's important to our family to develop the culture of giving back," he said. "Education is important to us. Sports medicine is important to us."

The endowment targets three types of students for scholarships.

First is anyone who is majoring in a healthcare field. Second is a student-athlete. And third is a student working on a good project at the Monfort Family Human Performance Center.

Dr. Copeland and his family decide each year which of those efforts they want to fund and the university picks the student.

"Having a student come up and give you a hug and say, 'Thanks doc,' that's our thrill of victory," he said. ♦



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The 2016–17 Fiscal Year saw significant donations given through the Colorado Mesa University Foundation. These investments provide scholarships and fund perpetual endowments, campus expansion and support programs.

Last year, the Foundation reached the milestone of awarding \$1 million in scholarships in one year. Now just one year later that number rose to more than \$1.5 million. That remarkable increase could not have been attained without the loyal support from continual donors, as well as new donors. As the university continues to grow it is even more critical for the Foundation to be able to provide assistance to a growing number of students through donor contributions. CMU donor gifts are continuing to make an increasing impact on students' lives.



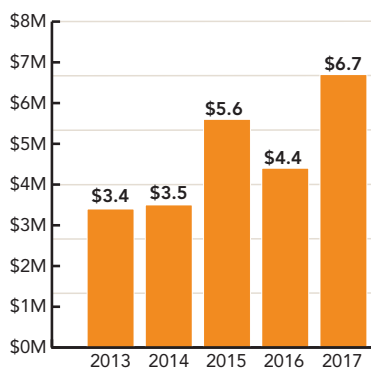
Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Gifts received	\$6,745,468
Number of donors	4,252
Scholarship dollars awarded	\$1,518,224
Endowment value	\$27,697,727

100%
of your gift supports students.
No fees are taken from contributions.

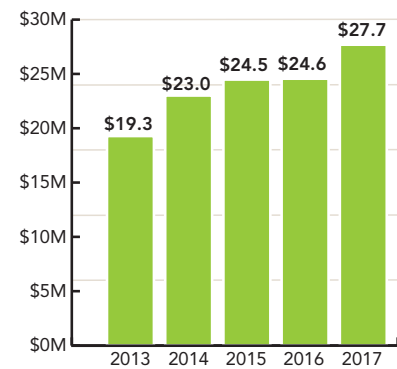
Gifts Received

In Millions of Dollars



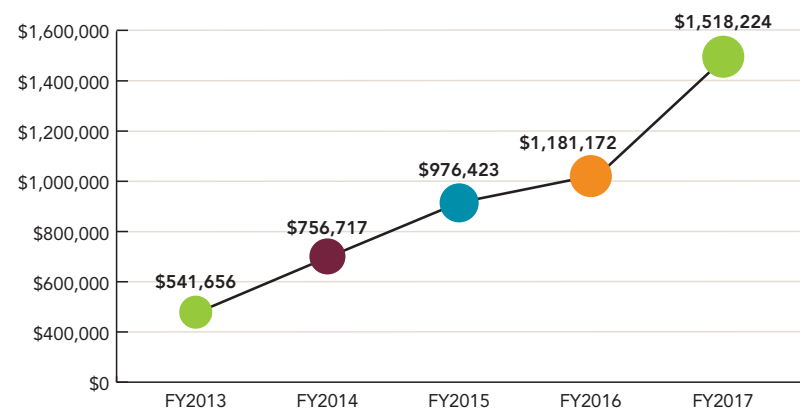
Endowment Value

In Millions of Dollars

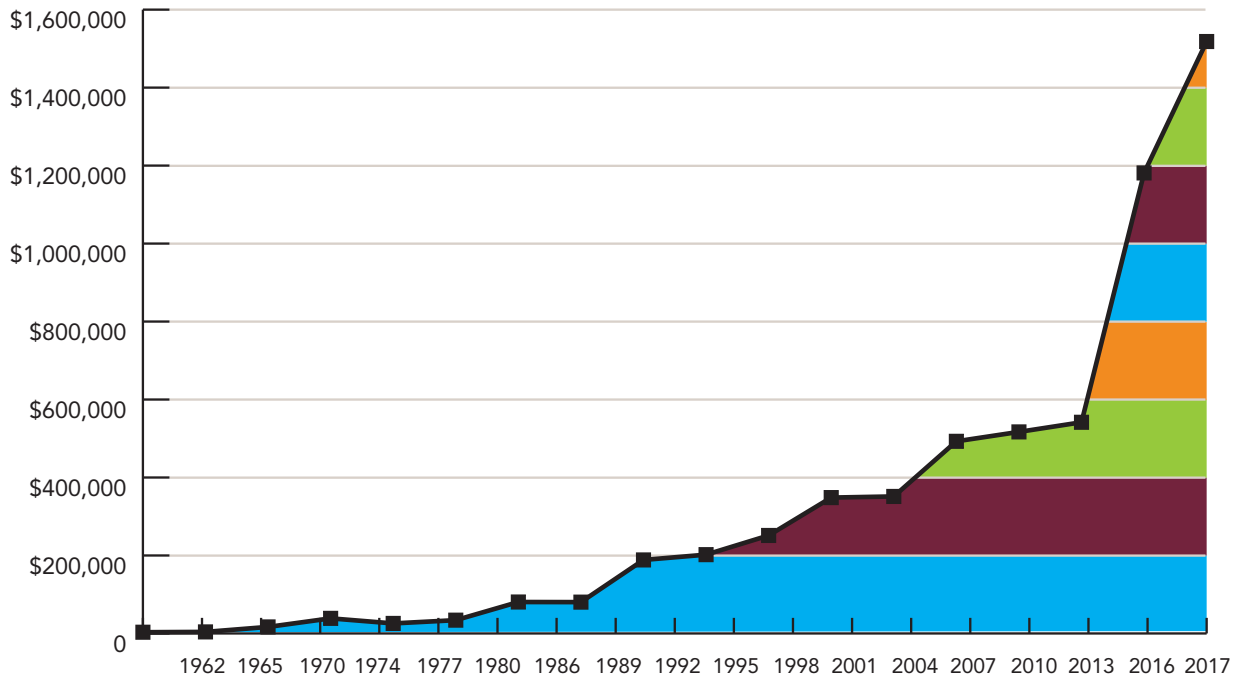


8
Number of new endowments established this year

Scholarship Dollars Awarded



Scholarships Awarded by Year



220
Number of named endowments

28%
Increase in scholarship dollars awarded

\$4.9M
The amount spent to support CMU's mission

13%
Growth in endowment

54%
Increase in total contributions

\$13.5M
Amount of scholarships awarded since 1962

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Thank you to our donors for their dedication to supporting student success at Colorado Mesa University. The following donors made gifts of \$1,000 or more to the CMU Foundation between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. We also greatly appreciate the 4,000+ donors who are not listed but made a significant impact on the educational experience of all CMU students.



Top: Scholarship recipients met their benefactors at the CMU Foundation Donors and Scholars event on September 15, 2016.
Bottom row: The groundbreaking ceremony for the Engineering building was held September 16, 2016. Students from the New Emerson Elementary School also joined in the celebration by performing experiments for the crowd.

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\$100,000 and above

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Left: On November 16, 2016 a reception was held celebrating the donation of 1,372 baseball related books by Larry Gerlach. **Right:** The Colorado Mesa University Foundation celebrated its first Day of Giving on April 10, 2017, a 24-hour event designed to celebrate the 92nd anniversary of the founding of Colorado Mesa University. "Old Jimmy," a 1942 General Motors truck that has been part of the CMU family since 1947, was on display.



Above left: Cullen Ester, Nickalaus Clemmer, Jay Shearrow and Lauren Heaton competed in the Elevator Pitch Competition at Entrepreneurship Day, April 3, 2017. **Above right:** Ron Allred, keynote speaker of Entrepreneurship Day, and Robert Bray.

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 Old Town 4-H Club
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OUR STUDENTS' SUCCESS IS YOUR GAIN


LOOK HOW YOUR INVESTMENT PERFORMED IN FISCAL YEAR 2017:

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- Over \$1.5 million in scholarships awarded to 626 students

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The unveiling of the plaque for Lucille, an 8-foot praying mantis sculpture installed on the top of Wubben Hall and Science Center. Lucille was commissioned and gifted to CMU by CMU Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences Bruce Baurele.

