

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

**CMU internship honors political leaders, takes students to the Capitol**

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Together, two political leaders with ties to Central Michigan University will have yet another lasting effect on CMU political science students, this time sending them to the ultimate learning platform: the state Capitol.

"The William S. Ballenger III and Dr. William P. Browne Capitol Internship Program Endowment," recently created for political science majors and students in CMU's College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences, is expected to begin next fall.

The 15-week internships will offer students first-hand interaction with current public policy issues in state and federal government and opportunities to learn how policy is molded through public opinion, political leadership, interest group advocacy, legislative and executive branch processes, and media coverage.

Ballenger, CMU's former Robert and Marjorie Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government, and Browne, who taught political science at CMU for more than 30 years, both had significant impact on their students.

Known as "Bill" by their students, Ballenger and Browne each had their own unique teaching styles, but focused on influencing and inspiring students.

CMU senior Andrew Leavitt said he left Ballenger's political science seminar with a deep admiration for state government and a passion to work in politics.

"Bill was very relaxed and approachable," said Leavitt, a political science major and Swartz Creek native. "He is so close to the state government scene and kept us well informed. I now want to stay in Michigan and make an impact in my state's government."

Jon Smalley, a 1985 CMU graduate, said Browne guided students toward a career path and spent as much time as was needed to work with them on their goals.

"I was fortunate to have Bill Browne show me what was possible," said Smalley, owner of Lansing lobbying firm Muchmore Harrington Smalley & Associates. "It is my belief that without his influence, I would never have ended up in the position I now hold."

Students awarded the internships will receive a stipend for transportation and other expenses. To learn more about the program, contact Lesa Smith at 989-774-3354 or [lesa.smith@cmich.edu](mailto:lesa.smith@cmich.edu).