

WCMU Public Media forum features Vietnam War activists

CMU alums return to share their memories

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich., January 25, 2018 — A special forum titled Student Activism: Then and Now will focus on the role activists played during the Vietnam War at Central Michigan University.

The program will feature nine CMU alumni who participated in anti-war demonstrations in the 60s and 70s. At the peak of unrest, students occupied Central Hall, which housed CMU's Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, and renamed it Freedom Hall.

The CMU alums participating in the forum, sponsored by WCMU Public Media, include:

- Denny Adams, then editor of *Central Michigan Life*
- David Aikens, activist
- Jon Childs, editor of *Efil*, an alternative student paper
- Cathy Courtney, activist and movement organizer
- Janice Fialka, activist
- Mary Irvine, activist and musician
- Rick Kedzierski, then student-body president
- Matt Mertz, activist
- Ron Williams, then editor of *Mountain Rush*, an alternative student paper and currently executive director of Free Speech TV

Moderating the discussion will be Amy Robinson, WCMU Public Radio news director.

The forum will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 31, in the Bovee University Center Auditorium on CMU's Campus. The event is open to the public and admission is free. A reception to allow for meeting the panelists and exploring displays of photos and memorabilia will follow the formal presentation.

This event marks the end of an eight-month community engagement project conducted by WCMU Public Media to complement "The Vietnam War," which aired on public television in fall of 2017. The project consisted of a Vietnam Vet Speakers Series; a Vietnam Era Listen/Dance Party at the Commission on Aging Activity Center in Mt. Pleasant; television shorts featuring veterans or their family members reading letters sent home from the war; radio features; and a "Letters Home" exhibit featuring letters and photos from Vietnam soldiers. The exhibit will be on permanent display at the Military Heritage Museum in Grass Lake MI.

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Editor's note: Reporters are invited to attend.

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