

Walter P. Nickell Memorial Fund

Museum of Cultural and Natural History

Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2021

Background: Dr. Walter P. Nickell was a noted Michigan naturalist, ornithologist, and teacher who served as a faculty member at the Cranbrook Institute of Science for 33 years. Known affectionately as the “Birdman of Cranbrook,” he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by CMU in 1964. CMU’s Museum of Cultural and Natural History is honored to hold several bird and bird nest specimens collected by Dr. Nickell.

The Walter P. Nickell Memorial Fund was established by the family of Dr. Nickell to provide scholarships to students pursuing a career in museum natural history work. Student interests or majors are not restricted and all are encouraged to apply, although preference is given to Museum Studies minors. Scholarships are granted to students of good academic standing that are in financial need, and are assisting with projects within the Museum of Cultural and Natural History. Award amounts will be dependent upon the amount of available funding and the number of awards granted.

Section I (Please PRINT)

Last name	First name	Middle Initial
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Home street address	City	State	Zip code
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Phone number(s)	Cmich e-mail	Campus ID #
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Personal email address

Academic major(s)	Cumulative GPA	Expected year of CMU graduation
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Check all that apply. Other scholarship funds to which I have applied include:

- My Major department (name): _____
- ORGS Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Grant or Undergraduate Summer Scholars Programs
- ORGS Graduate Student Research & Creative endeavors Grant to support master's or specialist's student research

Section II – Personal essay (Please TYPE)

Please include a one to two page essay describing educational goals, professional or career aspirations, and how the scholarship would be of benefit and why you are deserving of this award.

Section III – Transcripts

Academic excellence is an important criterion for this award. Please provide a copy of your current ‘Unofficial Transcript’ from Centrallink, listing past coursework and cumulative GPA. The recipient(s) of this award will have a record of academic excellence as demonstrated by a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4 point scale.

Section IV – Letters of Recommendation

Please provide two letters of support/recommendation; at least one should be from a CMU faculty member. These letters may be included with the application or submitted separately. **If included with the application, they should be sealed by the letter writer and considered confidential between the writer and the awarding committee.**

Selection Criteria for the Award

Recipients are selected by Committee upon the recommendation of the Director of the Museum of Cultural and Natural History.

Preference will be given to applicants who have submitted all application materials on time and meet the following criteria:

- 1) Personal essay is well written and composed and in alignment with the goals of the award;
- 2) Record of academic excellence as demonstrated by GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- 3) Two strong and compelling letters of support/recommendation;
- 4) Are an enrolled student.

I hereby attest to the accuracy of the information supplied on this application and authorize CMU to release information concerning this application and/or an unofficial transcript of my academic record to representatives of the award selection committee.

Signature of applicant

Date

Please submit application before **Friday, March 5, 2021**

Please email as pdf, mail, or hand deliver your complete packet to: gamic1ae@cmich.edu, Museum of Cultural and Natural History, Central Michigan University, c/o Alexandra Gamicchia, 103 Rowe Hall, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, 48859. For further information, please contact Alexandra Gamicchia at (989) 774-3176.