

**President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees**  
**Dr. Fritz Erickson**  
**Friday, Dec. 11, 2015**

Since the NMU Board of Trustees last met in September, here are some of the accomplishments and activities at Northern Michigan University.

**University actions**

- Hired Jessica Cruz as chief diversity and inclusion officer. Begins in February.
- Black Student Union Bus Trip (Oct. 18-22)

**Honors and Accomplishments**

- NMU named a Military Friendly Institution by Victory Media for 7<sup>th</sup> straight year
  - Designation honors the top 15% of colleges/universities and trade schools nationwide that doing the most to embrace military students.
- English professor Kia Jane Richmond received the Charles Carpenter Fries Award from the Michigan Council of Teachers of English.
- Assistant professor Tom Isaacson and the NMU chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America received awards at the national PRSSA conference. Dr. Isaacson received the PRSSA Hall of Fame Award and the NMU students earned the Star Chapter Award. A delegation of 15 students accompanied Dr. Isaacson to the conference.
- Biology professor Alec Lindsey and his students provided the first-ever scientific documentation of the extremely rare “Omura’s [Oh-MIR-a] whale” living in the wild off the coast of Madagascar. The results of the research done by a team of conservation biologists around the world, including Dr. Lindsey, just published findings in the *Royal Society Open Science Journal* in October, which received world-wide media attention. The DNA testing for the confirmation of the whale species was done by Northern students and Dr. Lindsey on the NMU campus.

**Fall Wildcat Athletics did well**

- Cross country team ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in NCAA Division II; finished 9<sup>th</sup> at NCAA Champ.
- Men’s golf ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division II Midwest; No. 19 in the nation
- Volleyball team closed season at 21-10; advanced to GLIAC quarterfinals
- Football team went 5-6 with four losses by a field goal or less (if they won those, 9-2)
- Soccer closed year going 7-3 in final month and half.
- New men’s swimming and diving and women’s golf teams off to good starts
- Hockey is currently 5-5-6 – crazy amount of OT so far
  - Went to Alabama-Huntsville series for alumni event
- Men’s and women’s basketball getting started; Men held own for ½ of MSU game
- In process of completing contract with new women’s lacrosse coach, announce soon