

President's Report to the NMU Board of Trustees
Dr. Fritz Erickson
Friday, June 17, 2016

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

Summer at NMU

- Northern's first summer session began May 16 and the second session begins June 27.
- Second week of freshmen orientation; sessions through July 7.
 - Typically welcome about 200 prospective students and 200-300 family members each session.
 - I enjoy doing the welcome and getting to meet these future Wildcats.
- Summer youth programs – wide variety. This year includes camps in folk music, skilled trades, cyber security, Isle Royale, U.P. history and culture, the environment and sustainability, STEAM programs through the Seaborg Center's long-standing Summer College for Kids, 25 camps in 11 sports, and daily recreational camps.
- On campus this summer: At DeVos Art Museum – 9th Annual “North of the 45th” exhibit, featuring regional artists. At Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center – “Made in Da U.P.” exhibit, which highlights a variety of products created and exported by U.P. companies.

Bookstore Transition

- Bookstore is closed this week to complete the transition to become Barnes and Nobles at NMU – reopens Monday (June 20).
- Barnes & Noble College has partnered with 22 Michigan colleges and universities and operates 748 campus stores nationwide.
- Happy to report that all of the former Northern Bookstore employees who wanted to continue to work at the bookstore or at Northern have found positions.
- Going with a national chain is enabling Northern to keep a bookstore on campus; without this type of transition the NMU Bookstore would have been closed and the campus without a bookstore on site.

Recent Northern Accolades

- Northern's MPA program was named most affordable in the nation, according to gradshooohub.com. Last year, the MPA program was ranked 11th best in the U.S. by another rating agency.
- Invent@NMU was invited to participate in a panel presentation delivered to high-ranking dignitaries from China at the “Michigan's Leading Innovation Programs” in May. Invent was 1 of 5 programs selected by the MEDC for the event.
- Dining Services worker Megan Pryor of Marquette placed second among nominees for the Midwest Student Employee of the Year Award presented by the National Association of College and University Food Services. The Midwest Region represents 114 higher education institutions in nine states.
- Also representing our outstanding food service area, Graham Broderson, a Dining Services staff member, won the bronze award at the Midwest Culinary Challenge, also sponsored by NACUFS. Congratulations to Megan and Graham.
- Adam Kall, a math and computer science major, earned an internship with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. He will be the only intern helping to maintain the digital security of the NASA servers.

- Gavin Leach, vice president of finance and administration, was recently appointed as one of 27 members statewide – and the only U.P. representative – on the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission created by Gov. Rick Snyder. The commission will develop a comprehensive, long-term vision that guides strategic infrastructure planning, investment and prioritization in Michigan.

Wildcat Athletics Update

- It's been a great year for Wildcat Athletics. So good, Northern had best finish in the Learfield Directors' Cup national Division II rankings with 70th (of more than 300 institutions) since 2003-04.
- Northern's golf team finished eighth at the NCAA Central/Midwest Regional Championships and fell just three strokes short of qualifying for the NCAA Championships. The women's team wrapped up its inaugural season with 10th at the GLIAC Championships.
- For the second-straight season, Samantha Johnson earned first team All-America status in the discus throw at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. She was sixth in a field of 21.
 - She was second member of track and field team to earn All-America honors this season, along with Jasmine Williams who was 11th in the weight throw at the national indoor meet.
- Student-athletes are doing well in the classroom. Skier Adam Martin became an Academic All-American, the 20th Wildcat in history to earn this status and the 1st since 1985.
 - 13 Wildcats earned spots on the 2016 Spring GLIAC All-Academic Excellence and All-Academic Teams.
- Olympic Training Site athletes and alumni athletes doing well.
 - **Rio bound** –
 - Alumni weightlifter Sarah Robles, making a 2nd trip to Olympic Games
 - Alumni freestyle wrestler Randi Miller, also making her 2nd trip to the Olympics, and 2 others (Helen Maroulis, Adeline Gray); and 2 other alumni freestylers (Whitney Condor, Erin Clodgo) who are alternates with the chance to go
 - 2 alumni Greco-Roman wrestlers (Ben Provisor, Andy Bisek, Robby Smith)
 - **Titles** –
 - Uli Manzanilla earned silver at the USA Weightlifting National Championships
 - Weightlifter Mason Groehler finished 4th overall and earned a bronze medal in the snatch competition at the Pan American Junior Championships.
 - 13 NMU-OTS Greco-Roman wrestlers in championship matches at the 2016 University Nationals and five won titles and will compete at the World University Championships in Turkey in October.
 - **Working toward the Winter Olympic Games:** Men's Nordic skier Ian Torchia was nominated for the 2016-17 U.S. Cross Country Ski Team by U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association. Ian had an outstanding season, including both U.S. and NCAA national titles. He is the 18th Wildcat skier to race for the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team, the more recent being Lindsey Weier and Lindsay Williams in 2007.
- Recent NMU graduate Marcus Tucker, a receiver on the Wildcat football team, made the NFL Pittsburgh Steelers' 90-man roster. Center Kyle Steuk was also invited to the Green Bay Packers' rookie mini-camp.

- Wildcat athletes are busy this summer:
 - Swimmer Arnold Herrera won six medals for Costa Rica at the 2016 Central American Championship
 - Swimmer Renars Bundzis is vying for a spot on the Latvian Olympic Team that will compete in Rio
 - Ine Mylle, a jump specialist with the Northern track and field team, will compete at the Belgian Championships
 - Golfer Martin Eliasson was fourth at the Finspang Open in Sweden, finishing higher than some of the Swedish and European tour players.

- NMU Sports Hall of Fame class of 2016 will be inducted during Homecoming on Sept. 23
 - Inductees has representatives from football, women's Nordic skiing, ski jumping, swimming and diving, men's track and field, and includes the 1967 football team that went 9-0 and included quarterback Lloyd Carr and five All-Americans.

- If you haven't already, check out the new athletic department Front Row mobil app, giving Wildcat fans instant access to score updates, statistics and recaps for all 16 Wildcat teams.