

CAPS NEWS

Communication and Performance Studies Newsletter

August 2016

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Ganzert

Dr. Charles Ford Ganzert, Jr., 63 was born in Richmond, Virginia. He was a graduate of J.R. Tucker High School and Virginia Polytech (B.A., 1975). In 1988 and 1992, he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio University.

Ganzert first came to NMU in January 1993 and became a professor in broadcasting and mass communication, as well as the faculty adviser for the student radio station, WUPX, FM. Chuck dedicated more than a third of his life to teaching at NMU. On Wednesday, March 31, 2016, two days after giving a presentation at a national convention in Seattle, Dr. Ganzert suffered a massive stroke and passed away with his wife by his side. Before his passing, Dr. Ganzert left a tremendous impact on everyone around him.

"If there was one thing I would say about Chuck," said Department Head James Cantrill, "he was always about the students."

"He was Northern Michigan University's first and probably most successful coordinator for the academic service learning program, where he got students out into the field as part of their classes."

With Dr. Ganzert's guidance, many of those students went on to win competitions at the regional and national level. Dr. Ganzert was well accomplished himself.

He received Adviser Of The Year in 2002, he received an Excellence in Teaching Award from Northern in 2008, and in 2014 he received a very prestigious, Michigan Campus Compact Faculty Community Service Learning Award.

Dr. Ganzert was also due to receive a Distinguished Faculty Award from NMU, which was presented posthumously to his wife, NMY Social Work professor, Pish Cianciolo. His efforts and educational prowess extended past NMU, and even the country.

"In 2004, he worked with the Mongolian government and Mongolian National Radio to bring them into the digital age. He was over in Mongolia doing that," said Cantrill.

Dr. Ganzert was actively involved with the Hiawatha Music Festival, Radio-X, and a litany of other organizations. He played a large role in the MacIntosh and audio labs on campus. Cantrill added that a short-term plan is in place, but a long-term plan is going to take some time to ensure that Dr. Ganzert's legacy lives on.

"What we should do, is we should revel in a life well-lived and think of the music that I'm certain is with Chuck now."



Dr. Charles (Chuck) Ganzert



In This Issue

- Saying Goodbye
- Faculty's Creative Works
- Outstanding Graduates
- PRSSA News
- Faculty and Student Group Work
- Theatre News
- Dedication to Chuck Ganzert

Saying Goodbye To Too Many Good People...

This last academic year has found us saying goodbye to too many good people within our department; and with them go their years of experience, knowledge and the fortitude to try and change things here at Northern for the better. In such a short time we have seen them do so many things to try and strengthen relationships not only within our own department and on campus, but across nations and countries worldwide from Mongolia to India to Africa to Brazil and other places in between. It is with great sadness that we see these men move on to “new worlds” beyond and that we wish them and their families peace, happiness and fulfillment in their future endeavors and in life in general. Goodbye, Chuck, Shawn and Ansley. You each will be greatly missed.



Shawn Davis



Ansley Valentine





Changes in store for Forest Roberts Theatre

The director of theatre at NMU's Forest Roberts Theatre, **Ansley Valentine**, recently announced his intentions to leave the university to pursue opportunities in professional acting, directing and youth theater programming.

Valentine has led the efforts at Forest Robert's Theatre for six years and has worked to grow the number of theater majors, revitalize programs and curriculum and provide greater connections to the public schools in the U.P. through programs such as student matinees and our children's theater tours to communities underserved by the arts.

"I appreciate the opportunities the Forest Roberts Theatre position has afforded me and I trust I have left it in a better state than I found it," said Valentine. "I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and exploring artistic opportunities."

According to Jim Cantrill, department head for the Department of Communication and Performance Studies, "the theater program will build upon the amazing progress Professor Valentine initiated when he came to Northern. It's unusual for a faculty member to move on to bigger and better things when she or he was just about to receive tenure and promotion at NMU. But Ansley is no ordinary professional and we wish him the best of fortune as he takes the next leap in an already impressive career."

Best of luck, Ansley, in your future endeavors.



Faculty Creative Works & Awards

Awards:

Ganzert, Charles (2016) Received the NMU Distinguished Faculty Award.

Isaacson, Thomas (Fall 2015) Received the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) Hall of Fame Award for faculty advisers.

Shevy, Mark (2016). "Strong Missions: God Shows Up" was chosen as an official selection for the International Christian Film Festival

Thompson, Jessica and undergraduate student Jose Aburto from Cicero, Ill., won the Top Paper in Environmental Communication Award at the National Communication Association Conference in Las Vegas, NV. They were recognized for their research titled, *Ecosystem-What? Public Understanding and Trust in Conservation Science and Ecosystem Services*.

Journal Publications:

Cantrill, James (2016). "On Seeing Places for what they *Are*, and not what we *Want* them to be." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*.

Davis, Shawn and Mullen, K. (2015). Place and proximity: A spatial analysis of visitors' place attachment at Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska, *The George Wright Forum*, 32(2), 151 – 164.

Potter, Sara (November, 2015). Contributor—Breslin, P. Re: College Speaking Resources [Activity Posts]. Retrieved from www.collegepublicspeakingresources.wordpress.com.

Allegreti, A., **Thompson, Jessica**, Laituri, M. (2015). Engagement and accountability in transdisciplinary space: Principles for facilitating a reflective adaptive process in complex teams. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*, 11(2), 23-43.
<http://journal.km4dev.org/index.php/km4dj/article/viewFile/252/359>

Book/Text Chapters:

Cantrill, James (2016). "Victims 'in' and Protectors 'of' Appalachia: The *Topoi of Missing Mountains*." In Derek Ross (Ed.), *Hot Topics: Common Topics in Environmental Rhetoric*, in press. (co-author Josh Ewalt)

Cantrill, James (2016). "Social Science Approaches to Environment, Media, and Communication." In Robert Cox and Anders Hansen (Eds.), *Handbook of Environmental Communication*.

Cantrill, James (2016). "Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility: Rio Tinto." In Tracy Lee Clarke & Tarla Rai Peterson (Eds.), *Environmental Conflict Management*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, in press.

Brown, K., & **Isaacson, Thomas** (expected 2016). Sport as public relations. In A. C. Billings (Ed.), *Defining Sport Communication*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Refereed Chapters in Books: McGreavy, B., Druschke, C.G., Sprain, L., **Thompson, Jessica**, & Lindenfeld, L. (in press). Praxis-based environmental communication training: Innovative activities for problem solving, T. Milstein, M. Pileggi, and E. Morgan (Eds.), *Environmental Communication Pedagogy & Practice*. Routledge.

Conference Papers & Presentations:

Cantrill, James (2016). "Heading Off Forestry Management Conflict: Lessons from the Field of Environmental Communication." Presentation to the Michigan Society of American Foresters, Houghton, MI.

Cantrill, James (2016). "Blended-Landscape Communities and Forested Habitats: Accounting for Perceptions Within and Beyond the Urban Fringe." Paper presented at the Pathways Conference, Nanyuki, Kenya.

Davis, Shawn (January 2016): Climbers for Bat Conservation: A Novel Partnership. Pathways: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife Conference, Nanyuki, Kenya.

Davis, Shawn (September 2015): Communicating Strategically. Human Dimensions Foundations of Natural Resource Conservation, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, (Invited presenter). Communicating for Behavior Change (podcast), Human Dimensions Foundations of Natural Resource Conservation, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, (Invited presenter).

Thompson, Jessica: (November 2015) Collective Communication Competence: Science of Team Science in Action. 24th National Science Foundation EPSCoR Conference, Portsmouth, NH. (Invited plenary/keynote); Facilitating Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Teams. National Communication Association Annual Conference, Small Group Division, (Invited panelist).

Faculty Creative Works & Awards

Conference Papers & Presentations (continued):

Shevy, Mark (2015). Organized and submitted a proposal for a symposium of international scholars using diverse methods in psychology of music and multimedia for the International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition.

Shevy, Mark (2015) Submitted a paper consisting of a collaboration with University of Wisconsin professors on the perception of nondiatonic music.

Truckey, Paul (2015). Presenter *Science on Tap – Mental Disorders in Shakespeare*, Ore Dock Brewery, Marquette, MI

Lee, P-L., & **Xie, Shuang** (December 2015). Refereed Conference Presentations—*From imagination to reality, from reality to imagination: The ideological criticism of China Mainlanders' travel journals on Taiwan*. Paper presented at the 2nd Cross-Straight Conference on Speech Communication. Sponsored by Guangxi Art Institute, Xiamen University, and Shih Hsin University, Nanning, China.

Xie, Shuang (December 2015). Paper reviewer, *International Journal on Media Management*.

Externally-Funded Projects as Co-PI or Collaborator and Grant Work

Brady, Dwight (2016) . Academic Service Learning Action Grant—\$275 towards BC 300 Advanced Multimedia Journalism class.

Brady, Dwight : (2015) . Created two PSAs for the city of Marquette to help NMU students remember to recycle.

Brady, Dwight : (2015). “The History of the Hill” This is a video produced as a service learning project for the U.P. Luge Association about Lucy Hill.

Davis, Shawn (2014-2015). Climbers and Bat Conservation : A Novel Partnership for Conservation. Global Challenges Research Team School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University. Coauthored with Robert Schorr and Bernadette Kuhn.

Potter, Sara (Fall 2015) . Service Learning Project Literacy for a Lifetime. Service learning project in her small group process that lead to \$2,100 worth of books being donated to Marquette Area Public School system. Students also participated in a service-based reading program with each of the schools K-2 grade classrooms.

Potter, Sara (2015). Received the NPC Conference Grant

Thompson, Jessica (2010-2015). Exploring the cost-effectiveness of restored marshes as filters of runoff pollution in a world of rising seas. NOAA-NERRS Science Collaborative, \$330,000.

Thompson, Jessica (2010-2015). Does community-based rangeland ecosystem management increase coupled systems' resilience to climate change in Mongolia? National Science Foundation, \$1,500,000.

New Courses:

Thompson, Jessica (2015-2016). Development of *PR 432 – Environmental Campaigns* and *SP 320 – New Media Literacy*

Theatrical—Acting:

Russell, Shelley (Summer 2016). Acting as Brady Skewis' mother in *Butterflies are Free* for Lake Superior Theater.

Theatrical—Costume Design:

Theatrical—Directing:

Russell, Shelley (Winter 2016). Directed and designed costumes for *The Secret Garden* and spent a month at Converse College, designing costumes for their production of *Urinetown*.

Truckey, Paul (Fall 2015) Directed *Into the Woods*, Panowski Black Box Theatre .

Theatrical—Scenic Design and Lighting:

Theatrical—Miscellaneous

Truckey, Paul (2016). Is writing a new musical; Received an offer to go to Finland for an opera in 2017.

2015-2016 Outstanding Graduating CAPS Seniors

- ◆ **Broadcasting (Media Production and New Technology and multimedia Journalism):** Dan Zini
- ◆ **Public Relations:** Katie Bultman & Emma Finkbeiner
- ◆ **Theatre and Entertainment Arts:** Ryan White
- ◆ **Communication Studies:** Amer Monsoor



From left to right: Amer Monsoor (CAPS student); Sara Potter (CAPS instructor) and Melissa Orzechowski (CAPS student)

Theatre Awards

- ◆ **Outstanding Freshman** -- Regan McKay
- ◆ **Outstanding Sophomore** -- Lily K. Howder and Hannah Cormier
- ◆ **Outstanding Junior** -- Laura Thompson
- ◆ **Outstanding Senior** -- Taylor Kulju and Abby Schneck
- ◆ **Outstanding Graduating Senior** -- Ryan White

Other Theatre Awards

- ◆ **Outstanding Newcomer** -- Lilith Kontos
- ◆ **Highest GPA** -- Jill Vermeulen 4.0 and Regan McKay 4.0
- ◆ **The Ben Filipowicz FRT Service and Participation Award** -- Nathan Morgan
- ◆ **Costume Service Award** -- Cecelia Holt

Scholarship Recipients and Other Awards

- ◆ **Hannah Wiegand**, a multimedia journalism major, was presented with one of several \$1,000 Michigan Press Association scholarships in Grand Rapids in January. \$1,000 Scholarships are awarded to 11 college and university students each year. To date, more than \$256,000 has been awarded to students interested in pursuing careers in community journalism.



Assistant Professor David Pierce and Abby Schneck



Mansoor Selected NMU Student Commencement Speaker

Amer Mansoor of Bloomfield Hills was the student speaker at Northern Michigan University's spring commencement on Saturday, April 30. He completed both NMU's pre-med program and the requirements for a bachelor's degree in communication studies. Mansoor graduated summa cum laude, a distinction for those who have achieved a 3.8-4.0 grade point average. He also received the outstanding male graduating senior award from the NMU Board of Trustees and was named outstanding graduate of the communication studies program.

"Being a Muslim American up here in Marquette, I realized that giving a commencement speech would allow me to express how accepting and loving the community of Northern has been to my religion and culture," Mansoor said. His speech focused "on some of the important life lessons that we all can take away from Northern. These include encouraging diversity, seeking out opportunities and exploring passion for what you do in life." He also discussed "challenges that face us in our career paths," but he concluded with a note on the bright future ahead of the students and shared a small blessing from his culture.

Mansoor was an undergraduate researcher at the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center, a collaboration of NMU and UP Health System-Marquette. He also spent each summer doing research closer to home at the Karmanos Cancer Institute and at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital.

During his time at NMU, Mansoor was involved with the Pre-Med Club and ASNMU, the student government organization. He served as a news anchor for the "Public Eye News" televised production. He also recognized a need and established the Muslim Student Association to build unity among fellow students and to raise awareness and dispel misconceptions of Islam.

"I have felt extremely welcomed in this amazing community and have been given the opportunity to strive in whatever talents I have wanted to pursue," he said. "I am grateful for meeting many lifelong friends in my classes and in the dorms. The thing I am going to miss the most about NMU are the faculty members who show true passion and devotion for their work. I believe that Northern offers a special focus on each student and allows us to shine in what we want. I feel ready for the challenges ahead thanks to my education at NMU."

Mansoor applied to 30 undergraduate programs that offered guaranteed acceptance into medical school after completion of the pre-med program. He settled on NMU, which offers MedStart in partnership with Wayne State University School of Medicine. Mansoor said NMU appealed to him because of its close-knit campus community, supportive faculty, undergraduate research opportunities and distance from his hometown. He will begin medical school at WSU this fall.

For more information, visit www.nmu.edu/commencement.

Prepared by Kristi Evans

News Director

Graduating Senior Maximizes NMU Experience



There are many stellar students at Northern Michigan University, but perhaps few have climbed as high or extracted as much from their educational experience as Melissa Orzechowski of Grandville. Her long list of achievements and activities is exhausting to read, much less execute. Orzechowski graduated in May with a triple major and was selected as outstanding graduating senior by two of those departments. She also received the 2016 award for outstanding student of any class standing from the NMU Board of Trustees.

The Presidential Scholars competition for academically talented high school seniors is what brought Orzechowski to NMU. She emerged with a full-ride Harden Scholarship and a great appreciation for the campus and nearby outdoor recreation opportunities.

“It was such a blessing to get that funding,” she said. “It allowed me to do so much because I didn’t have the financial pressure of student debt. I was able to take more credits every semester and to get involved in research, student organizations, volunteering and study abroad. I likely would have come to Northern even if I hadn’t won a scholarship, but that really made a difference in freeing up time for me to get involved and pursue other opportunities.”

Orzechowski completed majors in environmental studies and sustainability, English writing and communication studies, with a Spanish minor. She participated in the NMU Honors Program, Student Leader Fellowship Program and Superior Edge. She coordinated the campus Volunteer Center and received the Michigan Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award, which goes to select students nominated by university presidents for addressing the root causes of social issues.

She also engaged in undergraduate research as a Freshman Fellow and through the Anna and Rich Lundin Summer Research Fellowship.

“My Freshman Fellow research was with Alan Rebertus from biology on chaga, a burnt-looking fungus that grows on birch trees,” said Orzechowski. “Indigenous populations around the world use it for its medicinal properties and there’s a large concentration in the U.P.”

“The Lundin fellowship was amazing as well. I’ve been an active rock climber since my first weekend at NMU, so I spent the summer writing a novella that revolved around rock climbing and the environment. I also went to Red River Gorge in Kentucky (pictured on left at the bottom), the setting of the book. It was one of the more challenging projects in my time at Northern. I knew how to do scientific and social sciences research, but I had no idea how to approach a huge writing project. I learned a lot about the process and it’s still a work in progress.”

Fueled by her goals of helping people and the environment, Orzechowski helped to establish the Northern Climate Network and organize the People’s Climate March in Marquette. She interned at the Land Trust Alliance in the nation’s capital through the Washington Center and played a leadership role in No Impact Week, designed to address overconsumption. Orzechowski volunteered at the NMU Hoop House, led environmental education events for children and contributed to Marquette’s climbing community. She is an avid rock and ice climber, mountain biker and cross-country skier.

Orzechowski plans to solidify her Spanish over the coming year and travel and volunteer in Central America before working as an au pair in Spain, where she had previously spent time on a study abroad program. She’s then I’m thinking of getting a doctorate in English literature. I’m not necessarily set on a single career. I might do environmental therapy or work for an environmental nonprofit for a few years, but I know I would enjoy being a college professor. I love analyzing literature. Orzechowski said she is grateful that Northern offered abundant opportunities for her to excel and challenge herself, whether it be in academics, research, community service or outdoor activities.



Prepared by Kristi Evans

NMU News Director

Pathways Kenya 2016



Shawn Davis



James Cantrill

Pathways is the premier scientific meeting and training for academic and government researchers, students, agency scientists, land managers, NGO representatives, and other individuals who are interested in the human dimensions of fish and wildlife management issues. Their theme this year was Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife Management. People from around the world were invited in January to Nanyuki, Kenya Africa, to participate in this unique event, including our very own James Cantrill, department head, and Shawn Davis, CAPS instructor.

Pathways is ultimately part of the Center for Collaborative Conservancy (CCC) based out of Colorado State University. The CCC bridges the activities and interests of Colorado State University with people who do collaborative conservation in communities and local landscapes across Colorado, the American West and around the world.

CCC Goals

1. **Connect**—bring diverse people together to discuss, study, and act on critical collaborative conservation and livelihood issues.
2. **Learn**—co-learn with current and future practitioners, scientists and other stakeholders about the theory and practice of collaborative conservation.
3. **Discover** — create new knowledge that integrates local /indigenous knowledge with trans-disciplinary scientific knowledge to better understand and support action in collaborative conservation.
4. **Share** — train skills and exchange tools and ideas with practitioners, researchers, students and other stakeholders who work on local collaborative conservation initiatives around the world.
5. **Act** — support and enable collaborative action linking conservation and livelihoods on the ground.

In summary it is the vision of CCC to create the “new conservationist” who is passionate about using collaboration to bring together different voices and views, and who can incorporate both local and scientific knowledge into seeking solutions to today’s complex environmental problems. The CCC builds a collaborative conservation community of practice among fellows and their project partners through regular trainings, in-person meetings, and online exchanges.

NMU Gets Good PR

Brian Price
Tom Isaacson
Emma
Finkbeiner



Tom Isaacson
Katie Bultman



NMU's 2015-2016 PRSSA Chapter

Seventeen students and one faculty adviser had an amazing time networking, building their portfolios and learning from PR professionals across the nation at the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) National Conference held in Atlanta the weekend of November 6-9. As Katie Bultman stated, "I have an amazing group at NMU and I am proud to serve as their Chapter president."

Members of the current chapter earned the Star Chapter Award. In addition, the weekend ended with a nice surprise, as faculty adviser, Tom Isaacson earned the PRSSA Hall of Fame Award at the closing ceremony. "We are all so thankful for his hard work and dedication to this organization," said Bultman.

In terms of the awards, received, Isaacson says the two awards share a distinctive feature, "Both are a reflection of our recent student work and success. The Star Chapter Award shows that our PRSSA chapter at NMU is active, involved and providing significant added value to our students, while at the same time allowing NMU to be recognized along with much larger universities from around the country."

PRSSA is an organization with more than 10,000 members nationwide, and during Isaacson's time as faculty adviser, an NMU student has sat on the 10-person elected National Committee every year. Isaacson knows a little something about this because he served on the National Committee when he was an undergraduate at NMU.

Given the level of involvement by NMU students in PRSSA, Isaacson views his award as having his name on a team award. "An important reason I won, and a reason I'm honored by the award, is that the nomination was initiated and developed by our current PRSSA chapter president Katie Bultman. Katie is a student that embodies everything we value in an NMU student. She stands out in the classroom, and through her extracurricular involvement and her ability has been recognized at a national level. During the summer 2015, Katie was an intern at Fleishman/Hillard, a worldwide PR agency with more than 2,500 employees. Katie was one of only eight interns selected from a nationwide search to work at the agency's Dallas office."

Even though Isaacson is the only faculty member devoted full-time to the public relations major in the Department of Communication and Performance Studies, he proudly points out that NMU's program more than holds its own when compared to much larger universities. "At NMU, we have an impressive level of involvement and success compared to the number of students in our major. Past students' success helps contribute to future students' success. This year at the national conference in Atlanta, our current students were able to network with recent alumnus Brian Price, who is now working for Edelman PR in Chicago. Brian presented at a young professionals panel that had more than 200 students in attendance. Our program is known and recognized within PRSSA and PRSA."

Finkbeiner Elected PRSSA National President

By Molly Egelkraut

Emma Finkbeiner, a 2016 graduate of the Communication and Performance Studies department was elected 2016-2017 national president of the Public Relations Student Society of America at the national convention this past fall.

"I'm thrilled to serve PRSSA as a national president and lead the society in another successful year," Finkbeiner said. "I've gained so much personal and professional development from this organization, and I felt that continuing my service as the national president was the best way I could give back. It's going to be a year of change as we update our website and review our resources, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Finkbeiner joined the NMU Chapter of PRSSA in September 2014 and served as head of the chapter's public relations campaign for the Hometown Taste-Off the same semester. She became the chapter president for the 2014-2015 school year. From the beginning of her PRSSA career, Finkbeiner began writing for the society's national publications, and I sincerely believe I wouldn't have come this far without their confidence in my abilities."

Finkbeiner is the second NMU student to serve as PRSSA national president in recent years. Negaunee native Brian Price was elected to the post for 2013-2014.

"NMU continues its string of having students on PRSSA's National Committee every year since 2012," said Isaacson, a professor in NMU's Communication and Performance Studies Department. "That's an impressive achievement, considering we have between 50-70 majors and PRSSA is a 10,000-plus member organization. Our students are doing a lot to enhance NMU's reputation and that of our PR program as well."



Emma Finkbeiner



NMU Gets Good PR from PR Faculty

Public relations is a profession devoted to providing a positive image for a client. In the case of NMU public relations professors Tom Isaacson and Jes Thompson, they are reflecting a very positive image of Northern on a national stage.

Associate professor Jes Thompson represented NMU as a keynote speaker during the opening session of the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR Division's (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) national conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Jes Thompson also contributes to the public relations major, but her main expertise is in environmental communication. Her background and current role as the principal investigator in a National Science Foundation, Climate Change Education Partnership project made her a natural fit for the theme of this year's conference, *Collaboration: Advancing the Role of Science in the Service of Society*.

Thompson says being selected as a keynote speaker means that the National Science Founda-

tion is recognizing the challenge of collaboration in multi-disciplinary teams. "I've been studying complex teams since my dissertation fifteen years ago, and I've been invited to several NSF meetings, but this was my first time as an invited keynote speaker. This invitation and ultimately, the recognition that communication and collaboration matters when solving scientific problems, will help me as I continue my work and build my network here at Northern. It will also help as teams across the country work to improve their productivity by reflecting on the process and how they're communicating and collaborating."

Thompson followed the welcoming remarks from the New Hampshire Governor, Maggie Hassan and was immediately preceded by Mr. Alan Alda, actor (*M*A*S*H*, *The West Wing*) and founder of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science.

She addressed an audience made up of vice presidents of research and lead investigators on multi-million dollar interdisciplinary projects like wind energy in Iowa and nanotechnology in Arkansas.



Dr. Thompson delivers her address at the National Science Foundation's 24th Annual EPSCoR Conference.

Two weeks after her keynote address at the NSF conference in New Hampshire, Thompson was off again presenting at the National Communication Association convention in Las Vegas, Nevada where she and undergraduate student Jose Aburto from Cicero, Ill., won the Top Paper in Environmental Communication Award at the National Communication Association Conference in Las Vegas. They were recognized for their research titled, *Ecosystem-What? Public Understanding and Trust in Conservation Science and Ecosystem Services*. Aburto also gave a formal presentation highlighting the results of the paper on Nov. 19. He is a participant in the McNair Scholars Program and is pursuing a public relations major and sustainability minor. Thompson teaches courses in public relations and communication studies.

The research addressed in their paper was part of a larger project funded by the NOAA-NERRS Science Collaborative partnership with the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Fairhope, Ala. After the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council was created and charged with administering a large portion of the \$13.7 billion in penalties for ecosystem restoration research and implementation programs. Conservation

organizations along the coast quickly drafted proposals for a piece of the funding. In December 2014, the State of Alabama submitted five proposed restoration projects with an estimated total cost of \$54.2 million.

Many of the projects use the language of ecosystem science, restoration and services to promote efforts to restore the ecosystem and economy of the Gulf Coast region. As this phraseology becomes more pervasive in the region, Thompson and Aburto replicated a national Nature Conservancy survey on a regional scale. They investigated what the public knows and believes about one of the key concepts—ecosystem services—and identified who they trust to inform them about ecosystem services. This study confirmed previous evidence that the public trusts scientists, but they don't understand the language of science.

Prepared By:

Kristi Evans

News Director



NMU student Jose Aburto presents the award-winning paper he and Dr. Thompson authored at the National Communication Association Conference in Las Vegas.

2016 International Christian Film Festival!

Dr. Mark Shevy, CAPS professor, produced a short documentary for Strong Missions in Costa Rica which was officially selected for the 2016 International Christian Film Festival! Thanks to Carolyn Tobin and Dave Beegle for their contributions to this project! If you're interested in finding out about the good things that Strong Missions is doing, here's the video:

<https://vimeo.com/133715334>



Class Raises Funds for Children's Books



Prepared By:

Cassidy Hinshaw

Student Writer

Four Marquette elementary schools received free books, thanks to the fundraising efforts of Northern Michigan University students enrolled in a “small group process” (SP 120) class taught by Sara Potter last fall. They collected \$1,400, which was divided among Superior Hills, Sandy Knoll, Graveraet and North Star Academy schools. After forming the organization Students for Literacy for a Lifetime, the 25 enrolled in the class began fundraising on campus and in the Marquette community.

“There were four groups and all were tasked with completing their own fundraiser,” said Potter. “Each one was different and each group raised an average of \$350.” The idea to raise money for books came from a kindergarten teacher Potter knows personally who was discussing how badly she needed new materials for her classroom, but didn’t have either grant money or out-of-pocket cash to cover the cost of new books.

“We started to talk about the different themes and projects they were doing and the push by the state for earlier and earlier reading,” Potter said. “This had me think about my topic and project for this year’s small group process class. Each year the groups choose a campus or community problem to solve. This gave my class a better opportunity to not only research and plan out a solution, but to ac-

tively work to execute it and to see the benefit all the way through to the end.”

A contact within each of the four schools put together a list of books and themes they wanted to see or had a particular need for. The students were given a budget of \$500 to work with and used the catalogs from Usborne and Kane Miller Books to put together the final list of what was purchased. The Usborne company has a grant/donation 50 percent matching program for books purchased through it. Potter completed her educational consultant certificate through the company so the project would qualify for matching funds.

Potter saw this as a valuable project for her students. “Often students hate group work. They report that they aren’t connected personally to the projects and that there’s little incentive for everyone to do their fair share of work. They go through the motions because they want a good grade, but often don’t do it because there’s a bigger ‘moral to the story,’” Potter said. “This offered them an opportunity to become extrinsically and intrinsically connected to each other and the community. They got to connect to their campus and use their knowledge and skills in the classroom to the benefit of their work outside of campus; hitting maximum retention and transfer.”

Bridges and Fences

By the late: Dr. Charles Ganzert

For students at Northern Michigan University interested in electronic media, the good news is that Eric Smith (pictured at right), director of broadcasting and AV Services, is a builder of bridges, not fences. For them, this means that he and his WNMU Public Radio and Television staff have fashioned cooperative relationships with departments across campus that benefit programs and people. And the hallmark of these efforts has been opportunities for hands-on, project-oriented learning that reinforces course lectures and academic content.

One such relationship is with the Communication and Performance Studies Department (CAPS), where media production & new technology, public relations, and multimedia journalism majors regularly find an entry point into the professional community. They are able to fulfill required Internship credits by working as production crew members for *Public Eye News*, *Ask the Doctors*, *Ask the Lawyers*, *Media Meet*, *High School Bowl*, and sports and public affairs coverage.

Public Eye News (PEN) is a daily newscast managed by students, where people can experience all the elements of news production, from scriptwriting to directing. These opportunities enable media majors to polish their craft, but student volunteers of any major or year of study can also gain experience with how the electronic media operates. In an age where anyone can make a cell phone video, PEN underscores the significance of media literacy and emphasizes professional skills and codes of behavior.

Eric Smith and the Public Radio and Television staff have been instrumental in creating faculty-student-staff collaborations that are more than just dead-end class assignments. Rather, they result in opportunities for students to share their work with friends, family, and the community at large.

In *Media and Politics*, for instance, a course taught cooperatively in both Political Science and CAPS that focuses on the interdependent relationship between the media, candidates, and voters, students regularly create a series of recorded interview segments, called *Poli-Sci on the Fly*, about significant issues during each election cycle.

Audio production students have created an on-going series of music and interview shows for WNMU FM featuring local, national, and visiting international performers. In doing so, they have become eligible for openings in production work at Public Radio 90. During the 2015 fall semester, audio students have been working with a collection of Story Corps oral history recordings gathered in Marquette to create a series of on-air segments about local culture and history.

Dwight Brady's *Sports and Special Events Programming* class utilizes NMU's professional remote broadcast system to train students in the production of football, basketball and hockey games. These crews have not only worked with Wildcat sports, but also with Olympic speed skaters, boxers, and Greco-Roman wrestlers, covering competitions hosted by the Olympic Training Center. As a result, their work in this area has received multiple Michigan Associate of Broadcasters (MAB) student production awards. According to Brady, "Having the WNMU-TV facilities and staff accessible to our students is a tremendous asset for our majors."

Mikenzie Frost, a 2015 graduate, says, "Multimedia Journalism at NMU is very different compared to other, large schools. Here, students are able to get hands-on experience their freshman year, which is a huge advantage when it comes time to apply for internships and real world jobs." Frost asserts that her project-oriented experiences at Northern facilitated her successful internship application at the Voice of America and her current job with commercial television in Montana.

Eric Smith has not only contributed to the educational experiences of students at NMU, but he has also become a significant partner in undergraduate recruitment as well. Several times a year, he hosts meetings in the Public Broadcast Studios with parents and prospective students. There, he and the Communication & Performance Studies faculty discuss the unique character of the cooperative broadcast educational experience to be found at Northern Michigan University, which represents a bridge between academic life and the professional world. As a result of all these things, the folks at Northern were pleased, though not surprised, to learn that Eric Smith's hard work and creative thinking were recognized at the state level when he received a 2014 M.A.B. Professional Pioneer Award, which he richly deserved.





Dave Bett

The late Chuck Ganzert, former CAPS Professor and his advanced audio class (BC 473A) recorded a Hiawatha Festival-style songwriting workshop for WNMU FM in the fall semester.

The folks in the session included Dave Bett, Kerry Yost, and Dan Truckey with Jane Cislucyis as host. It was a nice session for everyone.



Pictured above are Jane Cislucyis (left)
and Kerry Yost (right)



Pictured above are students from the class along
with Chuck Ganzert, the professor. From left to
right are: William Bentgen, Chuck Ganzert, Sabrina
Pietila, Brendan Lamb and Jonathan Modic.

NMU Students Producing “Boxed In” to air on Public Access TV

Rep. Dave Maturen, R-Vicksburg, was interviewed Tuesday by a crew from Northern Michigan University filming a documentary on recent decisions by the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

NMU multimedia journalism professor Dr. Dwight Brady and three students traveled to Lansing to film footage for “Boxed In,” a documentary about the “dark store” assessing theory the tribunal has used in recent years when determining the assessed value of big box retail stores. “I thought this would be a great project to get my students involved with the community,” Brady said. “It’s a compelling subject that has a lot of people talking.”

In the interview, Rep. Maturen discussed House Bill 5578, legislation he introduced that requires the Michigan Tax Tribunal to determine the “highest and best use” of the property that is the subject of the appeal and ensure the comparable properties have the same use.

“The Michigan Tax Tribunal should not be using old, vacant structures with deed restrictions as comparable properties for new retail stores,” said Rep. Maturen, who is the only real estate appraiser in the Legislature. “Requiring the tribunal to look at ‘highest and best use’ ensures that they’re following the same solid appraisal principles every appraiser uses. “My legislation makes sure the Tax Tribunal is using comparables that truly are comparable – not just for big box stores, but for all properties.”

The students also filmed footage of testimony on HB 5578 during Wednesday’s meeting of the House Committee on Tax Policy, where the bill is under consideration. Brady expects the documentary to air on WNMU in the Marquette area.



*This project is partially funded through a service learning grant.

NMU Alumni Offer Encouragement to Theater Students

Prepared by: Kristi Evans, News Director



Angelina Fiordellisi and Nikki Nanos recently returned to NMU, where they met as students, to share their respective journeys in the New York and Los Angeles entertainment industries. They participated in an *Inside the Actors Studio*-style public forum, visited NMU theater experience classes and held individual feedback sessions with students who presented audition monologues.

"I've always wanted to return to my alma mater and encourage students to follow their dreams," said Nanos during her visit. "I shot Angelina an email and asked, 'How would you like to go to Northern?' Both of us know from experience that the students are at a point of trying to find themselves and grow as actors. We wanted to share what we've learned as a way to help them through that process. The message I've emphasized is that they shouldn't try to be perfect because no one is. They should strive for excellence instead; that allows room for you to expand your vision and continue to grow and evolve as artists."

Fiordellisi said, "I remember how confused and unsure of ourselves we were at that age, so it's exciting to have this opportunity to help build the students' confidence and develop their skills. People helped me by believing in my talent. I'm trying to instill in them that they should make bold choices without fear of failure. If all my years in American theater can somehow enlighten them or shortcut some of the pain, then I've fulfilled my new sense of purpose of giving back."

Fiordellisi attended NMU before completing her degree elsewhere. She is the artistic director of Cherry Lane Theatre, New York's longest continuously running Off-Broadway theatre, and founded its Obie Award-winning Mentor Project. The project engages leading dramatists in one-on-one mentoring relationships with emerging playwrights for a theater season, culminating in a showcase production. Fiordellisi also has numerous acting credits on stage and screen.

Nanos graduated magna cum laude from NMU in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in speech/drama. She later earned a master of fine arts degree in acting from the California Institute of the Arts. The film industry was her dream career. She worked behind the scenes, primarily as a production coordinator. Now Nanos applies her acting skills to her

current position with CenterStage Speaking in Dallas, Texas. She is a keynote/motivational speaker and coaches others on public speaking and stage presence.

When Nanos attended Cal Arts, a number of celebrities stopped by to share their perspectives and advice with students. She said it impacted her greatly and later inspired her to bring an element of that, on a smaller scale, to NMU with Fiordellisi. Northern students appreciated their commitment.

Shane O'Connor, who starred in the NMU production of *The Santaland Diaries* in December, was among the students who received constructive feedback on their audition monologues during individual sessions with the duo.

"I found it very helpful," said O'Connor after his session. "They brought up some good points and I learned some things about the logistics of resumes. It's important to put the newest information first so a director sees what you've done most recently. I didn't find it intimidating to act in front of them because they have connections to NMU and came here for the purpose of helping students, so it was like getting advice from a friend. It was also refreshing to know that they have experience in the industry, not just on an educational level, but based on their current work and knowledge of what's happening now in the entertainment business."

"It's great to be back and feel the energy of the place, yet also experience the peace and solace that I associate with Marquette," said Nanos. "It's a different universe."



2015 Recipients of the Region III ATHE Awards

Founded in 1986, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) is a non-profit professional organization representing college and university theatre departments and administrators, faculty, graduate students, and theatre practitioners. ATHE's mission is to support and advance the study and practice of theatre and performance in higher education. Toward that mission, they grant the annual ATHE Prize for Teaching Innovation to an individual in each KCACTF region who has demonstrated their ability to discover new pathways for student success in the field of theatre.

In 2015 they recognized Shelby Newport, from the University of Michigan - Flint, as the 2015 Region III winner of the ATHE Prize for Innovative Teaching; and Timmy Grams, from Northern Michigan University, as the 2015 Region III winner of the ATHE Prize for innovative work by a graduate student.



Tim Grams (left) and David Pierce (right)

First All African American Theater Production

By: Rachel Jenks

"To my knowledge, I don't think the Forest Roberts Theatre has ever done any kind of play with an all African American cast," Ansley Valentine, director of "The Colored Museum," said. "The Colored Museum" is an acclaimed play written by George C. Wolfe in 1987. The play consists of 11 different "exhibits" (scenes) that take a satirical approach to various stereotypes and issues pertaining to the African American community.

"It is a museum, so each one of [the scenes] is meant to be like a museum exhibit. Some of it's funny—a lot of it's funny—some of it's serious, and some of it is just strange or weird or unconventional," Valentine said. "When you go to a museum, you're supposed to see different kinds of art-work, and it's the same kind of thing." Nathan Morgan, one of the actors in the production, said what he liked about the show was how humor made it universal.

"Even though there are references specifically to black culture, even if you don't get any of those references or fail to see any of the deeper meaning, you'll still laugh and think it's hilarious," Morgan said. "Obviously, that's not what we want. We want people to really look into the show and understand it and to get something out of it. But even if you get nothing else out of it, it's still really funny."

"I think it's interesting because it's not your typical Black History Month play," Valentine said. "When you see that type of program, it's like, 'well here's Dr. Martin Luther King and here's Harriet Tubman,' and this play is not that at all. It really is a satire, and it really looks at all the stereotypes or tropes that we have about African Americans or African American culture."



The nine-person cast was the first all black cast for any production held at NMU. With the help of the Black Student Union (BSU), "The Colored Museum" was able to recruit students for the roles. For some of the actors, it was their first time on stage. Morgan said he believes the message the play gave was a large part in drawing the actors to it.

"I think there's a draw to be a part of something that has cultural significance and impact," Morgan said. "It's a great way for me to look at my culture in my own light and for me as an actor to experience it and take the message out of the show."

At a school that has a small African American population, it's important that the students are able to have open discussions about their lives and culture. "I think it's really nice having something for the black students so they'll feel, 'Oh this is telling my story or showcasing something about my culture,' that they're actually inspired to come out and get involved," Valentine said.

Alumni News

- ⇒ Recent theatre and entertainment arts graduate **James Vincent** booked a national chili commercial. Check out his commercial at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoxHil1Zw0k&sns=em>
- ⇒ **Joshua Ewalt** '08 communication studies (pictured below)—Joshua was recently chosen for the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. This award is given to an NMU alumnus/alumna under 36 years of age who has shown endeavors in professional, civic, business, political or similar activities, that set the candidate clearly apart from his/her peers and has shown service and/or honor to NMU through their endeavors.



For Joshua his nomination came wholeheartedly from Kristen Lucas, Ph.D. (CAPS '95), his academic advisor for his MA ('10) program and associate professor at the University of Louisville College of Business.

According to Kristen, "Josh has achieved incredible professional successes, both as a researcher and as a teacher. To begin, Josh has published nine peer-reviewed articles and has been the recipient of multiple awards for research at the departmental and university levels, including the Othmer Fellowship, Dean's Fellowship, and an honorable mention for the Folsom Distinguished Thesis Award. And he has been recognized with several top paper awards at regional and national conferences."

"What truly sets Josh apart from his peers are the weighty research projects that have import for civic engagement. He studies the rhetoric of space and place, which is to say he is concerned about how humans imbue physical locations with personal and political meanings—and how those meanings impact the pursuit of justice broadly construed...In many of his studies he addresses questions of who and how different voices get heard/silenced as space is constructed, occupied, altered, and traversed."

"Furthermore, Josh has demonstrated excellence as a university teacher. In his classes, he embraces the complexity of thorny issues, immerses students in deep and scholarly theories/texts/ideas, and sets a high-bar for performance and engagement. For instance, Josh frames his Small Group Communications class around deliberative democracy and emphasizes to students the importance of what they are learning for improving their capacity for citizenship."

"When Josh is not working on research or in the classroom, he finds other ways to demonstrate his civic commitment. He has volunteered to guest lecture in a local high school government class, providing communication coaching for a civic engagement project; he has been a moderator at the UNL Public Policy Center, facilitating citizens' public dialogue on municipal concerns; and he has been a volunteer fundraiser and grant writer for HearNebraska, a nonprofit organization that supports local musicians, artists, and other creatives in the community."

Based on Kristen's nomination, "Josh is a terrific human being. He is eternally humble and unassuming." In fact, "Joshua Ewalt represents the very best of the values embedded in the NMU culture: Hard-work, humility, and a strong connection to community. He already has made a huge mark on this world and will continue to make all of us in the Wildcat family proud to call him one of our own."

- ⇒ **Nicholaus LaFave** (pictured here on right) who graduated in '01 with a BS in media production and new technology is now representing his alma mater recruiting new students. Pictured here he is spending time with CAPS Professor, Dr. Dwight Brady (pictured here on left), at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters annual awards ceremony in Lansing!



Alumni News

⇒ Paquet Completes Helly Hansen Internship

Northern Michigan University 2015 public relations graduate Jordan Paquet recently completed a digital marketing internship with Helly Hansen, a European outdoor sportswear company based in Oslo, Norway.

Paquet's duties focused on managing social media channels to respond to consumer messages and to generate new posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest. He also served as a project manager for one of the company's global initiatives: the HH Demo Team. Consumers applied to test a featured product for free and had two weeks to complete the test and write a review on the company's website. Paquet created content to be released on all networks for the products, selected the winners from among the applicants, sent products from the warehouse to their homes and served as their contact during their time on the demo team.

"This experience has helped me grow personally, but also professionally," said Paquet. "The people I interacted with daily wanted to see me succeed, so they were offering me the chance to be involved in projects other interns hadn't had the chance to be in. After experiencing this internship, I know what I want to do with my career and that alone is invaluable. I have the education from NMU, the experience through internships—both domestic and international—and now I can apply for careers feeling confident that I am qualified for whatever comes my way."

Social media played a major role in Paquet discovering the opportunity. While still at NMU, he joined a Facebook group established for Americans who live in Norway. The page was designed for immigration and lifestyle questions and for planning networking events.

"Helly Hansen's internship supervisor posted the opportunity on that particular page because they were looking for a native English speaker to assist with copy-righting and editing of global materials," he wrote via email. "I was already interested in international relations before I applied, but after seeing the description and the daily tasks I would be doing, I knew it was the right fit. This brand attracts many fields, the largest being sailing and skiing, so we need to reach a wide range of consumers with our messaging. The critical thinking that goes into each message and the understanding of other cultures when developing messages interested me the most."

After sending his cover letter and resumé to the supervisor, Paquet participated in a Skype interview. He received a message the next day informing him that he had been hired and boarded a flight three weeks after graduating with a degree in public relations.

Paquet found another perfect fit besides Helly Hansen. His new wife, Kathrine, is from the Haugesund area of Norway. The couple lives in Bergen, where Paquet said he hopes to start a career in advertising or digital media.

At NMU, Paquet was president of the Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and served the national PRSSA organization as vice president of member services. He also held leadership positions with Northern Arts and Entertainment and Mortar Board. Paquet was a recipient of the Michigan Campus Compact Heart & Soul Award, which recognizes students for community service.

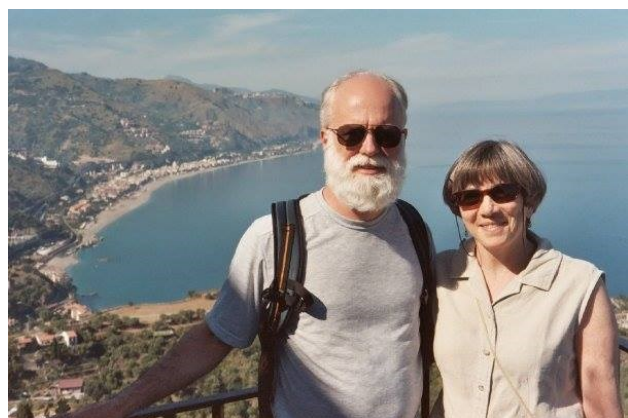
Prepared By
Kristi Evans
News Director

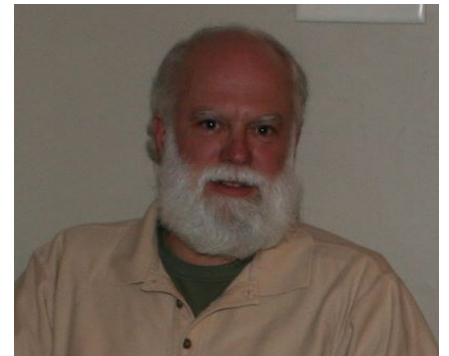
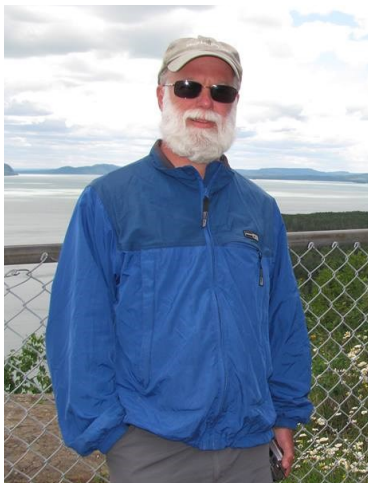
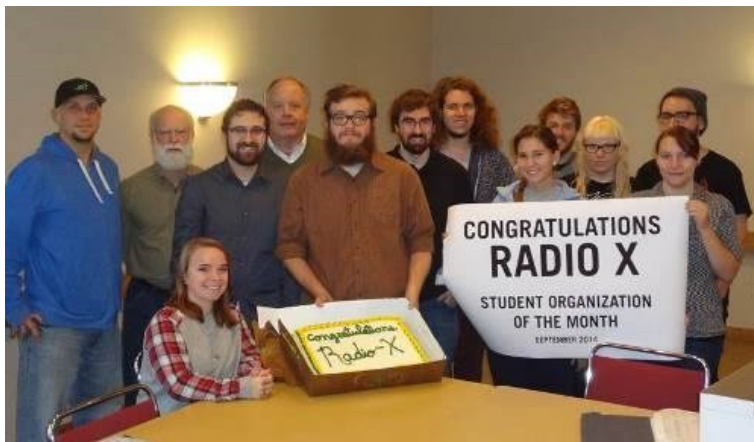


Jordan Paquet

'15 BS Public Relations

In Remembrance of Dr. Ganzert...





Northern Michigan University
Communication and Performance
Studies
1401 Presque Isle Ave.
Thomas Fine Arts
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-227-2045
Fax: 906-227-2071
E-mail: caps@nmu.edu

We're on the web

www.nmu.edu/CAPS

CAPS—OUR MISSION

Our Mission: The disciplines represented in the Communication and Performance Studies (CAPS) Department share a focus upon understanding how messages are used to manage relationships with others in contexts ranging from "one-to-one" to "one-to-many" using personal, public and mass-mediated channels of communication. Although the goals for different majors may flow from specific arenas and methods of social interaction or performance, graduates of CAPS programs share a fundamental appreciation for what it means to live in a symbolic world, to engage in life-long learning, and acquire a suite of skills that can be transferred to a wide array of career options. Thus, students majoring in CAPS learn to critically examine the role communication plays in daily life, to embrace the multicultural foundations for human discourse, to work in teams as well as independently regarding the application of communication concepts to practical situations, and to use what they have learned in the practice of civic engagement.



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**



CAPS Opportunities: Notwithstanding existential threats, CAPS is poised to fearlessly confront the future in various ways. We have taken a key role in the development of NMU's multi-media assistance center, have begun to fully integrate our new Macintosh learning space into the curriculum, will be proposing an innovative on-line and face-to-face graduate program in Conservation Leadership and Environmental Communication in the fall, are further entwining our curricular ties to Northern's WNMU affiliates (public radio and television), and have made a major push toward the internationalization of our majors through recent initiatives in South Korea and Brazil. As a department we look forward to these opportunities and challenges. We look forward to continually growing our department and the various majors in it.

However, with the advent of a great presence in the new General Education curriculum, and even granting a quadrupling of summer-session web-based offerings in recent years, we will not be able to grow without more instructional personnel on hand. And, of course, since CAPS is a technology-intense department, keeping up-to-date is an ever pressing puzzle.

If you are a CAPS alumnus or even a current student and want to help out and see our department grow, prosper and reach new heights, feel free to give us your opinions and feedback. If monetary assistance is more your thing, then feel free to give today by visiting the alumni foundation site at:

nmu.edu/foundation/give