

# NMU nursing research to receive funding

## Crouch wills estate to Northern Michigan University



**P**hoebe Taisey Crouch said she never let fear get in the way of doing what she thought she needed to do. When opportunity knocked, Crouch answered. And when a knock didn't come when she was hoping for one, Crouch simply did the knocking herself.

Looking back on her more than 30-year nursing career, she said, "One of my greatest pleasures in life was helping to build the NMU nursing program." So the decision to will her estate to Northern seems fitting for this spunky, 81-year-old former nursing professional.

She began her career in 1942 when she enrolled in the diploma program at Mary Fletcher Hospital School of Nursing in Burlington, Vt. Just ten days after graduation, Crouch accepted the assistant night supervisor position at Mary Fletcher.

Crouch advanced to day shift nursing supervisor for three obstetrics floors, instructor for the hospital's School of Nursing, recruiter for the school, and teacher of the parenting and prenatal classes.

Following the death of her father and brother in the late 1950s, Crouch packed herself and her mother off to Boston, where she completed a bachelor of science in nursing. She then returned to Mary Fletcher and served as a nursing instructor until 1964.

Crouch came to Marquette in 1965 when she took an instructor's position at St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing. One of her first students at St. Luke's was **Elmer Moisio '71 BSN**—the first man to graduate from the program.

"Phoebe always made me feel

comfortable," said Moisio, an NMU nursing professor from 1980-88 and 2000-01, and nursing department head from 1988-1999. "And as one of the two men in that program, it was great to know an instructor who made us feel comfortable."

Realizing that if she was to stay in the now fast-changing nursing education field she would need a master's degree, Crouch enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Colorado at Denver in 1968.

While completing her degree, Crouch worked at Denver General Hospital as an instructor for prenatal and parenting classes of Spanish-speaking mothers and families, which she taught using an interpreter.

"The pay was terrible," she recalled. "We called Friday and Saturday 'K&G nights,' knife and gunshot wound nights. Sirens were going all night."

While in Denver, Crouch heard that Northern was planning to begin a baccalaureate-level nursing program. She sent a letter to the NMU administration addressed, "To Whom

## Campaign nears completion

On June 30, 2003, Northern's first-ever comprehensive fundraising effort, *This Decisive Season: The Campaign for Northern Michigan University*, will come to an end.

What are examples of accomplishments during *This Decisive Season*?

- More than 85 new scholarships endowed.
- Major gifts to support student programs such as the Student Leader Fellowship, Honors, and International Student Programs.
- Major gifts contributed to the construction of the Seaborg Science Complex, Berry Events Center, Izzo Mariucci Academic Center, and soon-to-be completed Reynolds Concert Hall.
- A \$1 million endowment for the NMU Art Museum.
- New endowments to develop the Stratford Studies Program, create a permanently funded lecture series, and support creative music department projects.

It May Concern.” The letter worked its way to Margaret Rettig, nursing department head, who phoned Crouch and asked, “When can you get here?”

Crouch arrived back in Marquette a few months later, becoming the first faculty member of the new bachelor’s program.

Although a severe snowstorm in 1972 caused Crouch and her husband Max to leave Marquette once more—this time for the warmer climate of Max’s native state of Oklahoma—she said it didn’t take them long to realize they preferred their life in the U.P.

“We were back a year later, and I was back to work at NMU.”

In 1980, Crouch took over from Rettig as department head, a position she held until her retirement in 1983.

Crouch now resides in Dover, N.H.

To honor Crouch at her retirement, Northern faculty, former and current students, and friends helped to create the Phoebe Crouch Faculty Research Fund, an endowment that has supported research endeavors of nursing faculty for two decades. It is to this endowment that Crouch has designated her estate gift.

Kerri Schuiling, head of the School of Nursing, said Crouch’s gift allows those who continue to build the program to do research in the field to which Crouch dedicated her life. “Through this gift, Phoebe continues to motivate Northern nursing faculty and students to continually raise the educational standard—just as she did during her career.”

—Cindy Paavola ’84 BS

## A gift of four pizzas

The NMU Development Fund challenges Northern alumni and friends to consider donating the cost of four pizzas. What can a “gift of four pizzas” contribute to a student’s NMU experience?

“For NMU alumni or friends who typically spend about \$25 on a family pizza outing to decide to forego four pizza dates for just one month will definitely help the university reach its goal of supporting programs important to Northern students,” said Virginia Zinser, interim executive director of the NMU Development Fund.

Here’s what four pizzas can do for NMU:

- Contribute to the fund for students who encounter emergency financial situations.
- Help an NMU academic department purchase or replace laboratory equipment.
- Grow the NMU lecture series endowment.
- Fund a Homecoming or Winterfest activity.
- Sponsor a student’s travel to a conference in his or her field of study.

