

NMU enrollment hits 9,000

Northern Michigan University's final fall enrollment hit 9,000 for the first time since 1981.

This represents a gain of 423 students, or 4.9 percent, over fall 2001. Credit hours have also increased to 114,000 this semester, up more than 5,000 credit hours, or 4.6 percent, over last year.

"This has been a long recovery from the closure of K.I. Sawyer (Air Force Base) and its devastating impact on enrollment, but we have completely overcome those losses," said Paul Duby, associate vice president for institutional research.

Duby added that Northern is "on track" to reach its future enrollment goal.

"It will not be easy, but the range of 10,400 by 2005 is attainable with an all-out effort from the university community," he said.

Olson Library receives excellence award

NMU's Lydia Olson Library was selected as a runner-up for the state's top library award.

The Library of Michigan Foundation awarded the 2002 State Librarian's Excellence Award to the Genesee District Library. Fremont District Library and Olson Library were awarded citations of excellence as the runners-up.

The selection panel praised the library staff and cited its unique role in the implementation and ongoing support of Northern's technology initiative. "The library and its librarians assumed the leadership in a new initiative, which certainly is not a traditional library function," according to the selection committee's nomination review.

A new accreditation model

NMU officially accepted into AQIP program

Northern Michigan University has received notification from the Higher Learning Commission of its acceptance into the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) and has received an extension of its accreditation until 2009-10.

The notification officially moves Northern from the traditional Higher Learning Commission (formerly North Central Association) model of accreditation to the AQIP program, a subdivision of HLC. Accreditation, as with the previous NCA accreditation, remains in effect as long as NMU remains active in the organization and demonstrates commitment to quality improvement. AQIP differs from the HLC model in its focus on "continuous quality improvement."

"Its focus is not on a small committee documenting what we've done in the past 10 years but rather on broad-based consensus on what we plan to do in the future," said

Leonard Heldreth, associate provost for academic affairs and NMU's AQIP coordinator.

"You work on projects on a three-year cycle, not 10 years, which makes more sense for today's constantly changing society," he added.

Northern has already completed two phases of the AQIP accreditation process—a campus-wide online survey of faculty and staff last September, and a "campus conversation day" in November, which was attended by more than 500 NMU faculty and staff members and generated more than 79 "provocative proposals" for improvement.

Of the 79 proposals created at the campus conversation, five to eight will be selected by NMU and presented to AQIP and other schools for criticism and response in February. From these, three will be selected as NMU's "quality improvement projects" to be worked on over the next three years.

Hot off the NMU Press

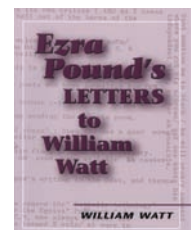
Ezra Pound fans and literature enthusiasts can now experience what it would be like to hold a letter from the poet in their hands courtesy of a book recently published by the NMU Press.

Ezra Pound's Letters to William Watt is a collection of personal correspondence written by Pound from 1956-58 while he was institutionalized in St. Elizabeth's Hospital insane asylum. While other volumes of Pound's letters are published in facsimile, this book appears to be

the first to print his letters in their entirety and in their original form—complete with Pound's idiosyncratic spelling

and punctuation and his hand-written corrections and notes between the lines and in the margins.

The second book published recently by the NMU Press is *Poems Sacred and Profane*, a collection of Watt's own poetry.



Committee formed at Northern to recommend cost-saving measures

In response to a recently-approved executive order that trims \$1.3 million from Northern's state appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003, which ends June 30; the possibility of additional executive orders between now and September; and dim appropriations prospects for the next fiscal year, NMU established a Budget Alternatives Committee on campus.

The BAC is charged with recommending budget reductions, cost avoidance opportunities, operational savings, and identifying additional revenue that total \$8.5 million for Fiscal Year 2004 and \$4.25 million for Fiscal Year 2005. The committee will deliver its recommendations to President Judi Bailey by March 1.

The Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees heard a presentation on preliminary budget-cutting recommendations as part of its Dec. 12-13 meeting.

"We outlined our tentative plan for absorbing the impact of the executive order so that we can achieve a balanced budget," said Mike Roy,

NMU vice president for finance and administration. "It involves eliminating one and a half positions that are vacant, decreasing the designated appropriations to university-supported programs, and reducing the central budget and divisional budgets."

Personnel savings through the two positions and the existing Severance Incentive Plan will amount to \$348,000. Roy said administrators are proposing a 2.5 percent across-the-board reduction in appropriations designated specifically for such operations as the Superior Dome, the U.S. Olympic Education Center, and Northern Initiatives. The combined reduction will be about \$44,000.

Central budget reductions—in funds for capital equipment replacement and learning technologies—will amount to \$400,000. Divisional budgets will also be adjusted downward by a total of \$100,000, in proportion to their percentage of the base budget, as follows: academic affairs, \$72,800; finance and administration, \$21,600; and the presi-

dent's division, \$5,600.

Roy added that some of the adverse financial impact of the executive order will be offset by increased tuition revenue from enrollment growth that exceeded projections. The additional tuition and fee revenue will account for \$407,000 of the reduction.

The recommendations were presented to the board for information and discussion purposes. However, as the NMU board reconvened for the second day of its meeting, members learned that a supplemental appropriation bill passed in Lansing. The bill, which has since been signed by the governor, restored 0.5 percent in one-time funding to higher education—\$260,000 to NMU.

Gavin Leach, associate vice president for finance and planning, said NMU will adjust its budget-cutting proposals based on the supplemental development. A revised budget, including final cost-saving proposals, will be presented to the board for approval at its February meeting.

Have you been to campus lately?

If not, your next visit to NMU might come sooner than you think. If you'd like to see the latest pictures of campus, Northern's Web site now offers a virtual campus tour in an effort to showcase NMU facilities and the campus environment for those outside the Marquette area.

The tour features building photos and information. There are also 360-degree panoramas of some facilities that allow users to rotate the camera angle and zoom in or out.

Daric Christian, NMU associate professor of art and design, developed the tour. It is available at www.nmu.edu/tour.



College updates

College of Arts and Sciences

Woodcock study involves NMU faculty, students

A three-year study on the survival, habitat use, and fall movements of the American woodcock in Upper Michigan recently received a \$201,000 grant.

NMU biology professor John Bruggink is the principal investigator for the Michigan study. His work will represent part of a regional effort, with parallel studies in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The research will help determine the influence of hunting on the woodcock, a migratory game bird. Bruggink said the bird's population has declined by 1.6 percent per year since 1968.

The research will involve attaching transmitters to woodcocks in areas that are open to woodcock hunting and areas that are closed to it. The birds will be monitored throughout the fall, and the causes of any deaths will be determined when possible.

In addition to a biology graduate assistantship the grant helped to fund, several NMU undergraduate students are participating in the project by taking a field experience course.

The study was made possible by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Webless Migratory Game Bird research program, and NMU.



American woodcock

Chemistry professor spends 10 months at Johns Hopkins

During her 10-month sabbatical at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, NMU chemistry professor Suzanne Williams was exposed to the process of getting new pharmaceuticals to the market. She also became familiar with state-of-the-art instruments that will allow her to design experiments for NMU students and her own research projects.

To set up her sabbatical, Williams contacted the head of a laboratory investigating potential drug candidates for HIV. Based in the biology department at Johns Hopkins, this lab has a contract with a pharmaceutical company.

"HIV virus proteins mutate often and change form, so they are always looking for new drugs that will trigger the right response," she said. "I used thermodynamics to study drug binding to virus proteins. In order for a drug and protein to interact effectively, they need favorable energy. The principles of energy flow dictate the success of a drug."

Williams used a calorimeter to measure heat exchanges. NMU had recently obtained two of these instruments, so Williams was eager to gain some hands-on expertise in their function and capabilities—expertise she could share with students and colleagues.

"While I was at Hopkins, progress was made toward a new drug," Williams said. "A molecule was designed that, in theory, would work as a drug against an HIV protein."

Scientists in Tokyo then synthesized the drug molecule and sent it back to Johns Hopkins to test its



Suzanne Williams

interaction with the viral protein.

"It was a great experience," Williams said. "I plan to share as much as I can with my students because they love examples of the practical applications of what they are learning in the classroom."

NMU Center for Economic Education revitalized

Northern Michigan University has revitalized its Center for Economic Education in the hope of preparing Upper Peninsula youth to become effective participants in the global economy. As a member of a state-wide delivery network coordinated by the Michigan Council on Economic Education, the NMU center will develop and implement courses, workshops, and materials for K-12 students.

"We are going to help teachers introduce economics into the curriculum by incorporating the vocabulary into activities they are already completing in the classroom," said Tawni Ferrarini, NMU economics professor and center director. "Economics dominates every aspect of our lives. It's not just part of politics, business, or commerce. It's also strategic thinking through life in terms of the costs and benefits of anything we do."

In October, Ferrarini received the Outstanding Rookie Award from

the National Association of Economic Education. Two months earlier, she assumed the role of center director.

NMU first established a center for economic education in the early '80s. Ferrarini said the revitalized version will enhance Northern's presence in and impact on the Upper Peninsula.

College of Professional Studies

Clinical laboratory sciences program reaccredited

Clinical laboratory sciences at Northern Michigan University has been reaccredited at the bachelor's and master's level for seven years—the longest term available. A site visit report submitted to the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences failed to identify a single deficiency, concern, or suggestion for improvement.

NMU is one of only a few schools in the country to offer both associate and bachelor's degrees in CLS. In 1997, it was singled out by the national publication, *Laboratory Medicine*, for setting a standard that enables students to climb the "perfect career ladder."

"The real selling point for our program is that all of the credits students earn in the first two years are directly applicable to the four-year degree because we only have to articulate within this one institution," said Lucille Contois, CLS director.

An added strength is Northern's affiliation with the world-renowned Mayo Clinic. Both Mayo and Marquette General Health Systems support the baccalaureate program.

Affiliations for the associate degree include several Upper Peninsula hospitals and one medical facility in Duluth. Contois said the department enrolls about 100 students.

Sociology and social work department offers new minor

The sociology and social work department at Northern Michigan University began offering a 22-credit gerontology minor this semester.

According to Patricia Cianciolo, associate professor in the sociology and social work department, many schools are developing gerontology programs due in large part to the growing numbers of older adults in our society.

In addition to the job opportunities in the area, Cianciolo said that a gerontology minor can help dispel myths and stereotypes about aging and the elderly.

Advanced law enforcement diploma now available

The NMU criminal justice department began offering an advanced law enforcement diploma this semester. This adds a credential for those who successfully complete the existing in-service training available to certified police officers and other law enforcement personnel.

Participants will earn a diploma after accumulating 16 credit hours.

College of Technology and Applied Sciences

HVACR program keeping pace with rapidly changing field

NMU students in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration program are learning about the impact of technology on the field.

"HVACR today isn't what it was when their parents might have gone into the profession," said Eugene Stenberg, professor in the technology and occupational sciences department. "Every day there is something new."

In order to keep current, students preparing to graduate from the HVACR program have been attending seminars put on by Temperature Systems, Inc., of Green Bay. The seminars deal with everything from modifications of current products to the handling of products just hitting the market.

"When I started in this field at 19, I learned what I didn't already know by doing my job every day," Stenberg said. "It isn't like that anymore. It's all computer controlled now. Those who know how to work with the new technology are going to succeed."

College of Business

Business professor receives national honor

NMU business professor Carol A. Johnson has been named the 2002 National Business Education Association Teacher of the Year.



Carol Johnson

The committee praised Johnson for being instrumental in replacing the NMU office administration bachelor's degree program with an office systems program.