

Investing in students

Scholarships at Northern Michigan University

Since the start of *This Decisive Season: The Campaign for Northern Michigan University*, 85 new scholarships have been endowed. Northern's scholarships are worth more than \$400,000 annually to NMU students and have an overall investment value of more than \$5 million to the university. Here is a sampling of scholarships created during *This Decisive Season*.

The Alumni Leaders Scholarship Fund for Entrepreneurs

In 2002, the corporate gifts committee of the NMU Development Fund set a goal to endow a fund that will provide scholarship awards to students of any major with financial need who express a desire to one day own their own business or seek to be a leader in business.

"The members of the committee felt that part of our success in business was due to our experience and education at Northern," said **Mike Nelsen '63 BA**, a retired Amoco Oil Company executive and Development Fund trustee and committee member. "We wanted to create a scholarship to assist NMU students in obtaining their degrees and give them a chance at the same kind of business success we've enjoyed."

Collision Repair and Auto Refinisher's Endowed Scholarship

Established by the NMU collision repair technology program in honor of Weldon Hart and Michael Libick. The scholarship will be awarded to a student in the collision repair technology program who is in his or her first to third semester and has at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average.

The J. Donovan Jackson Memorial Endowment

Established in memory of former NMU dean of continuing education J. Donovan Jackson by his family, friends, and former colleagues. This endowment will provide annual scholarships to Northern hockey players for spring or summer session classes. It will also provide annual support to the

music department for the purchase of musical arrangements or other needed items for Northern's pep band.

(Raymond) Johnson '33 LC, '56 BS to honor Johnson's love of teaching. The scholarship will be awarded to a student with a 3.00 grade point average who is majoring in elementary education and is scheduled for student teaching.

The International Student Fund

Northern received a \$100,000 campaign gift from an anonymous donor couple for the purpose of establishing an International Student Fund in May 2002. The fund will provide both scholarship assistance and emergency grants to Northern's international students.

"Many of the international students who come to school in the United States are able to come because their family, home village, or extended family has made an investment in them to get an American education," said John Weting, director of NMU's International Affairs Office. "But sometimes something happens, and the family can no longer support the expense of their child's international education, so this endowment will help those international students who are serious about completing their NMU degree but for whatever reason can no longer afford to do so."

The Jilbert Dairy Scholarship

Established by Jilbert Dairy, the scholarship will be awarded over a four-year period to a self-identified student from an Upper Peninsula family in the agriculture business or a profession relating to agriculture.

The Luella R. Johnson Education Scholarship

Established in memory of **Luella R.**

The Sten Taube/John Hughes Earth Science Award

Retired geography professors **Sten Taube '61 BS** and John Hughes of Marquette taught a combined 56 years at Northern. Additionally three of Taube's four children and all four of Hughes' children as well as his wife received NMU degrees.

When it came to giving back to NMU, Taube and Hughes knew just where they wanted their gift to go—the recently resurrected earth science program within the geography department.

The Taube/Hughes Earth Science Award will be presented annually to a student majoring in earth science or secondary education/earth science. The award will go to the applicant with the highest grade point average in one of the earth science majors or to the student with the highest overall grade point average in the event of a tie. The minimum GPA to qualify is 3.30.

The Roy Lawrence Memorial Scholarship

Established by the family and friends of Roy Lawrence. The scholarship will be awarded to U.P. high school graduates who are majoring in nursing and demonstrate financial need.

The Jim Melka and Knute Wolf Memorial Scholarship

Established by employees of Frei Chevrolet in memory of Jim Melka, a parts man, and Knute Wolfe, an automotive technician, both employees of Frei Chevrolet. The scholarship award will be given to students in NMU's automotive services program.

The Reinhart Foods, Inc., Scholarship

Established by Reinhart Foods, these annual awards will be presented to two full-time students with a minimum 3.00 grade point average who are majoring in any culinary arts or hospitality management program or are student employees of Northern's dining services department.

The Stabile/Day's Inn/Comfort Suites/Hudson's Classic Grill Scholarship

Established by Frank and Linda Stabile, owners of two Marquette area hotels and developers of Westwood of Marquette, and by Jim and Lisa Stabile. This annual scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior majoring or minoring in hospitality management. The scholarship recipients may also be considered for a paid hotel or restaurant management internship with one of the Westwood of Marquette properties.

Note: There are two types of scholarships at Northern, endowed and annual. An endowed scholarship requires a gift of \$10,000 from which the general interest is used to fund the scholarship award. An annual scholarship is one where the entire balance is available for awards.

A welcome investment

Sentiments from an NMU scholarship recipient

Michael Simpson '02 BS wrote to NMU's annual fund director, **Barbara Burri '92 BS**, last fall to tell her how much his scholarship meant to him. We've excerpted portions of Simpson's letter to highlight one of the many ways scholarship dollars help students achieve their academic goals.

I wanted to send you a letter expressing my gratitude for being awarded the Rutherford/Lewis Graduate Scholarship. My academic life didn't start out very promising. I originally went to Alma College in 1988 fresh out of high school with the status of Army scholar/athlete of the year, an All-State status in basketball, and an ego to match. After two years of playing basketball, partying, and chasing girls, I was dismissed for poor scholarship. Having a wise set of parents, they told me since I didn't value my education I could enjoy the benefits of working in the real world. (I didn't think they were so wise at the time.)

Having been raised on a farm, I was taught the value of a strong work ethic, so I was never without a decent job. I started out working various jobs until I found a job working at a sporting goods store, where I worked my way up to assistant manager. I was being moved around to various stores in Michigan and working 16 hours a day until it finally became too much, as they told me I would be transferred out of state. This started me thinking about how nice it would have been to graduate seven years previously and been working in a field that was more to my liking.

I eventually landed a job working at a large RV dealership selling campers and making a good living, but I was not happy. After four years of battling between money and my serenity, I decided to listen to what I was taught by my mother and father. My parents were both lucky to graduate from high school. My father's dad passed away when he was fifteen and left him and my uncle to take care of the family farm. Because of the hardships of my parent's time, they wanted me to have the opportunities they never had. As a cocky, 18-year-old kid, I didn't realize how important education was—for more reasons than simply drawing a better paycheck.

This brings me back to why I'm writing. Having completed my bachelor's degree over the summer where I took 25 credits, the joy of that accomplishment was almost as much as the headaches of studying 12-16 hours a day all summer in 90 degree heat. If I hadn't known what it was like working 16 hours a day at something that wasn't enjoyable for all those years, I wouldn't have had the discipline to finish something that was. By your gracious scholarship to me, which allows me to complete a master's degree, it feels like a huge burden has been lifted off my shoulders.

I can assure you that the opportunity you have afforded me will be put to very good use. You see, it wasn't just me you gave this scholarship to, it was to all the hard-working farmers and Simpson family members who never received the opportunity. I intend to someday pay it back to others in some way because I know how much it has meant to me.

—Michael J. Simpson