



Bill Sampson

Bush rally sets Superior Dome attendance record

President George W. Bush delivered a speech to about 11,000 people during his visit to Marquette July 13, setting a new attendance record for the Northern Michigan University Superior Dome. The facility has a seating capacity of 8,000 and was able to accommodate the remaining visitors, who stood on the floor in front of the stage.

President Bush was introduced by Detroit Lions Coach **Steve Mariucci '77 BS, '83 MAE**.

The president was originally slated to speak at Lakeview Arena, but heavy demand for tickets among Upper Peninsula residents caused Bush's campaign organizers to move the event to a larger venue. They contracted with NMU for use of the Superior Dome. No university or public funds supported the event.

Bush's visit to Marquette was the first by a sitting president since William Howard Taft in 1911.

NMU ranked among best in the Midwest

Northern Michigan University is one of the best public universities in the Midwest, according to the 2005 college rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report*. NMU is ranked 13th in the "top tier" among master's-level public institutions. The Midwest region is composed of 12 states that span from the Dakotas in the west to Ohio in the east and as far south as Missouri.

"It is exciting to see Northern in the top tier of these competitive rankings," said NMU President Les Wong, who assumed the university's top post in July. "The university has gained national recognition through its university-wide notebook com-

puter program, which creates a more connected learning community. But it has always enjoyed a reputation for personalized attention and effective teaching. This high-tech, high-touch combination is what convinced me to come to Northern and it is obvious the *U.S. News & World Report* radar has picked up on these strengths as well."

NMU shares the 13th ranking among Midwest public universities with Southwest Missouri State and Western Illinois. The magazine ranked NMU 55th among all Midwest institutions—public or private—in the master's category. Schools that fall within this designa-

tion offer a comprehensive range of undergraduate and master's degree programs and typically recruit students from their own state or surrounding states.

U.S. News & World Report collected data from more than 1,400 accredited four-year colleges related to "15 indicators of academic excellence." These measures include peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, class sizes, academic credentials of incoming freshmen, financial resources, and alumni giving. For the regional rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* compared 572 schools in four geographic areas.

Three receive NMU faculty award

The NMU Distinguished Faculty Awards honor full-time faculty—including department heads—who have made significant contributions to the university and their professional areas. The recipients of the 2004 Distinguished Faculty Awards were recognized at spring commencement.



GARY BRUNSWICK '81 AS, '84 BS is a professor of marketing and the director of business affairs for the Walker L. Cisler College of Business. He was previously honored for his service in the classroom with the 1997 Outstanding Teaching Award for the College of Business and the 1995 Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty Award. Brunswick is responsible for a variety of administrative activities including course scheduling, budgeting, developing and implementing technology initiatives, developing recruiting and marketing strategies for the college, hiring adjuncts, and coordinating the study-abroad program.

He joined the NMU faculty in 1991. Brunswick previously served as an instructor and research assistant while completing his doctorate at Arizona State University in Tempe. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Marquette University and bachelor's and associate degrees in business administration from NMU.



DONALD DREISBACH is in his 35th year with the philosophy department and has spent much of that time as the department's representative to the Academic Senate. He created the interdisciplinary minor in religious studies and serves as its adviser. Dreisbach also was a key member of the committee that designed the Honors Program and is a member of the board that oversees the program.

He previously taught philosophy at Northwestern Evening Division. Dreisbach also served two years as an English instructor for the Peace Corps at the University of Tabriz in Iran. He earned his doctorate in philosophy from Northwestern University and his bachelor's in humanities and science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



TERESA HUNT '85 MA has augmented her teaching responsibilities with a variety of administrative duties. In her 16 years on the NMU English faculty, she has served as director of composition, which involved supervising teaching assistants; interim co-head of the English Department; director of graduate studies in English; and supervisor of the university-wide writing proficiency exam.

Hunt also served as Northern's accreditation coordinator in 2002-03. She helped with Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) activities that enabled NMU to secure reaccreditation through 2010. Based on her contributions, she was invited to represent AQIP and assist other schools in completing the "vital focus" elements necessary to join AQIP. Hunt holds a doctorate in rhetoric and technical communication from Michigan Tech, a master of arts in English from NMU, and a bachelor's degree in English from Western Washington University.