

The background of the cover is a photograph of a man in a dark suit and tie standing on a modern staircase with wooden railings. The building has large windows and a bright, airy atmosphere. The title 'Northern HORIZONS' is written in a large, stylized font at the top. Below it, the subtitle 'THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS' and 'MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY' are printed. The issue date 'FALL 2004' is in the top right corner. The name 'Leslie E. Wong' and a short bio are at the bottom right.

Northern HORIZONS

FALL 2004

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Leslie E. Wong

The new face of leadership
at Northern Michigan University.

Fall 2004 ■ Vol. 94, No. 1

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Do you remember the first time you had one of those 'aha' moments? A moment when a concept or an idea that for so long had seemed impossible to grasp suddenly clicked and was as clear and real to you as if it had always been inside you? It's a moment most of your professors here at Northern and elsewhere would probably cite as being one of their main reasons for getting into, and staying in, the teaching profession.

These moments don't necessarily occur in a classroom, and they don't necessarily occur in an instant. One of my biggest 'aha' moments took several years to come to fruition. When I finished my undergraduate degree in English, I was overwhelmed at the thought of the thousands of pages of literature I had read over the course of the previous four years. I had always felt a sense of wonder at professors who seemed to be able to glean so much meaning out of a few lines of Shakespeare—or any other author for that matter. But I also didn't understand why they would bother.

I didn't fully grasp what I was supposed to do with all of this information. So I did what most graduates do—I got a job and didn't think about it anymore.

Somewhere in between understanding the difference between an essential and a non-essential clause, writing my senior thesis, and my second year as a full-fledged adult complete with a 40-hour-a-week job, I began to wonder if I had missed something essential.

I had been exposed to complex ideas, new concepts, and alternate perspectives, but I hadn't really taken the time to explore them in a meaningful way. I had been a surface learner.

The sense that I had missed something crucial stayed with me. Eventually it had enough of an impact on me that I decided to continue my education. If nothing else, I would have the opportunity to explore an alternate way of life than the one I had started. This time, I came away with much more than I had expected.

I learned that, for me, one of the most effective ways to better understand complex ideas is to view them from as many different perspectives as possible, and that often it is more important to focus on how various people find meaning than it is to bring people to a single, definitive answer. A closed perspective allows no room for growth.

It's easy to forget what it was like to be in a classroom, the books you read, and the notes you took. But the excitement of exploring new ideas or seeing old ideas in a new way is something that I hope, to some degree, stays with everyone who passes through the halls of NMU. It is something I hope has translated onto the pages that follow.

—KW



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In his inaugural fall convocation address, Les Wong described himself as a person who is reflective, thoughtful, respectful, inquisitive, and sometimes even edgy. We'll tell you a little more about Northern Michigan University's new leader—from his family and academic background to his professional history and his philosophy about teaching, learning, and leadership.

8 Navigating tough times

Over the last two years, Northern has confronted reduced state funding head on by reorganizing its administrative structure, reallocating funds, streamlining operating procedures, cutting a few of its programs, and laying off some of its employees. As the State of Michigan enters its next fiscal year, many university administrators are asking, "Is there light at the end of the tunnel?"

12 Ethics education: Who should be responsible for educating the next generation of leaders?

Every day, government, business, community, and family leaders make decisions that impact the lives of those around them. Recent government and corporate scandals have some wondering whether or not American ethics and morality are in an irrecoverable tailspin. We asked several NMU professors to give us their perspective on the state of ethics in America today and share their approach to teaching ethics in the classroom.

ON THE COVER AND ON THIS PAGE

Northern Michigan University's thirteenth president, Leslie E. "Les" Wong. Cover photograph by Andy Gregg '93 BFA. Table of contents photograph by Bill Sampson.

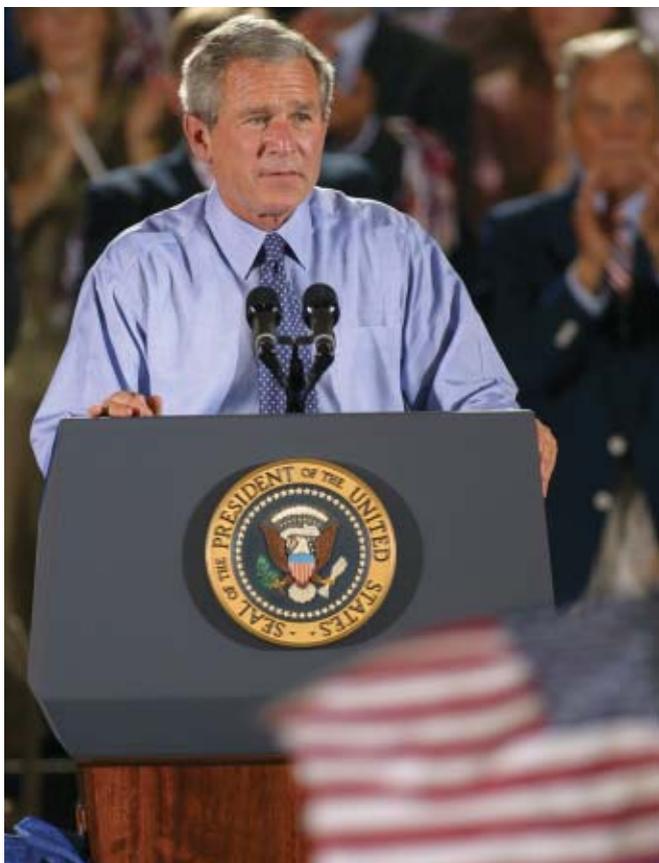
Bush rally sets Superior Dome attendance record

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.



Bill Sampson

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.

A New Chapter

A CONVERSATION WITH LES AND PHYLLIS WONG

By KAREN WALLINGFORD '02 MA

RIGHT AWAY YOU KNOW THAT LES WONG LIKES HIS LITERATURE. He often talks about his life and family in terms of stories. He's an avid reader and has been since he was a child. When asked to name a few of his favorite authors, the list is exhaustive and includes novelists, playwrights, poets, activists, and philosophers. He names thinkers such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Edwin O'Connor, Edward Said, and Wallace Stegner. He said he's intrigued by everything written and spoken by the Dali Lama and can get lost in anything written by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

All of these authors resonate the themes of self worth, change, and overcoming challenges—themes that, in one way or another, are deeply significant to Wong. He has a personal goal of reading one novel every month, and despite his busy professional schedule, it's clear that this is not a goal he takes lightly.

"I make it a priority. I fit it in," he said.

Northern Michigan University's new president is a devoted husband and father, a self-described learning junkie, an alpine backpacker, and a fly fisherman. He has led numerous technology initiatives, pioneered diversity programs, and written in a variety of disciplines ranging from health, medicine, and psychology to history and Asian American studies. Wong, who took over as NMU's top administrator on July 1, has found Northern to be a thriving, well-run university. He believes that an NMU education is a gateway for anyone from anywhere to achieve world success, and he's prepared to spread that message throughout the state, across the nation, and around the globe.



The American Dream

Wong's story begins on the West Coast but has roots that extend east to China and south to Mexico. He was born in Englewood, California, and raised just across the bay from San Francisco in Oakland. His father, Wallace Wong, was born in Canton, China, and raised in Hong Kong until the age of 8, when he immigrated to the United States with his mother. Because immigration laws in 1929 permitted parents to bring only one child across the Pacific per trip, Wong's grandmother went back to China to get another family member. As far as anyone knows, she never returned to the United States.

Wong's father was then raised by an Irish family in Southern California, which is where he met his wife, Beatrice Rubio.

Beatrice came into the United States from Chihuahua, Mexico, when she was a young girl. Chihuahua borders New Mexico to the north and Texas to the northeast and is the largest state in Mexico. Its people have been described as stubborn, courageous, tenacious, and faithful.

The spirit of the Chihuahuan people comes out in Beatrice's competitive nature, a trait Wong said he shares with his mother. In the majority of ways, though, he feels he's more like his father, whom he characterizes as steady, hard working, goal oriented, respectful of people, and very social.

Wong describes his father's career as one of the great Horatio Alger "rags to riches" stories. Alger, who lived from 1832-1899, wrote more than 100 novels for boys with titles such as *Strive and Succeed* and *Struggling Upward*. His heroes are young boys who are born into poverty but achieve success through

hard work, courage, determination, and honesty.

Wallace Wong's first job was as a janitor working for the National Dollar Store. He got the job from the company's founder and close family friend, Joe Shoong. Over the course of his career, Wallace eventually rose to be the company's CEO.

The National Dollar Store was bought out after Wallace's death, but during his tenure as CEO, Wong said, "It was the largest owned and operated Chinese American business in America."

Wong is the third of four siblings. His younger brother Curtis passed away at age 49. His older brother Roger and sister Jerry still live in California. In talking about his upbringing, Wong said it was "as close to the American dream in the Eisenhower years as you could expect. Very middle class. Very solid. My parents wanted us to be good students. They wanted us to stay out of trouble."

Although both of his parents are now deceased, Wong often refers to them as if they were still living.

"I don't think about their deaths," he said. "I actually think they are still with me. I think my father is immensely proud now that I'm the president of a great university."

Wong's parents taught him to speak his mind, but they also instilled in him a deep respect for family. This is one of the many shared core values that attracted Wong to his wife Phyllis.

High School Sweethearts

Les and Phyllis met in high school when they were 16. At first they were friends, but it wasn't long before they began dating. They were together through their senior year but decided to go their separate ways in college—

he to Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, and she to the Drexel Institute of Technology (now Drexel University) in Philadelphia. They kept in touch, and the connection they established in high school eventually proved stronger than the 2,500 miles that separated them in college.

"I recognized that there was a lot of resonance in the way that we believed about the world and about each other," Wong said.

At the end of Wong's junior year of college, they decided to get married. They exchanged vows the week after Wong graduated. The couple celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary this past spring. They have three sons: Isaac, 29, Nathan, 25, and Brian, 22.

Isaac, who is a mathematician and programmer by trade, is also an antiquities scholar. Nathan is a flutist, a marathon runner, and a world traveler. He teaches and performs in the San Francisco and Oakland Bay areas. Brian graduated from Seattle University with a degree in physics and is a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He is currently stationed in Seoul, Korea. Most of his work is with Special Forces. He also plays the piano and enjoys building cars.

After Les and Phyllis were married, Phyllis transferred to The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, where she received a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with an emphasis in literature and history. She then went on to earn a master's degree in American history and American literature from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

Like her husband, she is an avid reader, but unlike him she said she's not as disciplined about reading every day. Phyllis describes herself as more the "can't-put-a-book-down-once-I-

open-it" type. She enjoys a variety of authors such as Richard Wright and Naguib Mahfouz, but has a particular interest in literature written for children. She cites C.S. Lewis, Holling C. Holling, Madeleine L'Engle, and Ursula LeGuin as among her favorite children's authors.

Her interest in reading is complemented by a love of the outdoors, floral design, and horticulture. These interests developed when her children were growing up. Gardening, she said, gave her a way to be alone with herself and her thoughts.

She has done more with her green thumb, however, than just enhance the beauty of her own backyard. She helped develop a land trust in Washington, and in North Dakota, she was co-president of a garden club.

Professionally, Phyllis has taught in both physical and virtual classrooms. Prior to moving to Marquette, she was the director of online learning at Valley City State University in North Dakota.

Challenging Expectations

While a career as an educator and academic administrator seem like natural extensions of Wong's psyche, that wasn't always the case. In high school, he was better known for his performance on the baseball field than in the classroom. When it came time to think about life after high school, Wong's guidance counselor told him that college would be a waste of his parents' money. He encouraged Wong to consider a vocational career that would capitalize on his physical abilities rather than pursue a career that would rely on his creative and intellectual capacity.

"He said, 'You know, Les, some people are made for college, some aren't. You're not.'"

His counselor was clearly wrong. Wong's passion for education was ignited at Gonzaga University where, for the first time, he was treated like he had a brain that he was supposed to use. Two professors from Gonzaga really stand out in his mind.

"Father Dave Leigh taught me the importance of thinking clearly about complex ideas. John Firkins taught me to love calculus," he said.

Wong graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1972. His curiosity about the human condition led him to pursue a master's degree in experimental psychology at Eastern Washington University in Cheney. It was during this time that he said he blossomed intellectually.

Wong was more than a decade into his career before he even considered getting a doctorate. His first job was as a psychology instructor at Pierce College in Tacoma, a community college of around 13,000 students. He enjoyed teaching and had no ambitions beyond a master's degree until his passion for ideas and his gift for finding creative solutions caught the attention of faculty members at Washington State University.

After giving a series of lectures there, faculty members were surprised to learn that Wong did not have a doctorate. They asked him if he'd be interested in getting one. And so he pursued his doctorate at Washington State while teaching at Pierce. He completed his doctorate in 1986. Once again, opportunity sought him out.

"I was perfectly happy at the community college level," Wong said. "And then one of my former students from Pierce who went on to Evergreen recommended me to give a lecture. After that, they asked me if I was interested in a job."

He started at Evergreen in 1988 as a member of the faculty, but took on responsibilities as an academic dean in 1990. Wong's move from the university's faculty to its administration surprised many of his colleagues. Some felt it was a waste of his creative potential. Others suggested he had sold out. But Wong doesn't see it that way.

"I'd like to think I'm bringing a teacher's mind to the leadership of the academy. Someone who is grounded in academics is not going to forget the purpose of the university, which is to teach and to learn," he said.

Wong was recruited by the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, where he was provost and academic vice president from 1996-1999. He served as interim president of USC for the first six months of 1997. His move to Valley City State University in 1999, he said, was a combination of recruitment and personal choice. He served as vice president for academic affairs at VCSU until June 2004.

Wong has always been intrigued by the question of how technology can or cannot influence teaching and learning. Helping a university to answer that question was one of the main reasons why he and Phyllis chose to move north to VCSU. It is also among the reasons they chose Northern.

"When I did my research on NMU, I looked at faculty talent, student talent, location, and technology. Everything added up," he said.

Settling In

Wong plans to spend the next year or two settling into his role as president and getting to know Northern. But don't think for a moment that he's filed away his lecture notes. In all of his years as a university administrator,



As Les and Phyllis Wong settle into the president's residence, they'll doubtless be giving the house a few personal touches. Phyllis has a penchant for collecting abandoned bird's nests and likes to display them around her house. Les, who collects antique measuring instruments such as scales and measuring tapes, may put some of his treasures on display as well. Photographs by Andy Gregg '93 BFA.

he has remained active in the classroom. He sees teaching as an integral component to his success as a university president.

"The best way to understand the heartbeat of an institution is to be in the classroom," he said. "As an administrator, I think there's a danger in thinking we know something about the student experience when we really don't. I want to keep teaching so that I understand the student culture. It will keep me grounded."

Along with his experience as an educator, Wong brings a distinctive professional perspective to the leadership of NMU. It's a perspective that was inspired by his father, who Wong said was one of a dying breed of CEOs.

"My father knew that an organization ran from the ground up,"

said Wong. "He said that everybody's role is critical. He had enormous respect for secretaries, facilities people, everyone. And I think I have that same trait—enormous respect for all levels of employees."

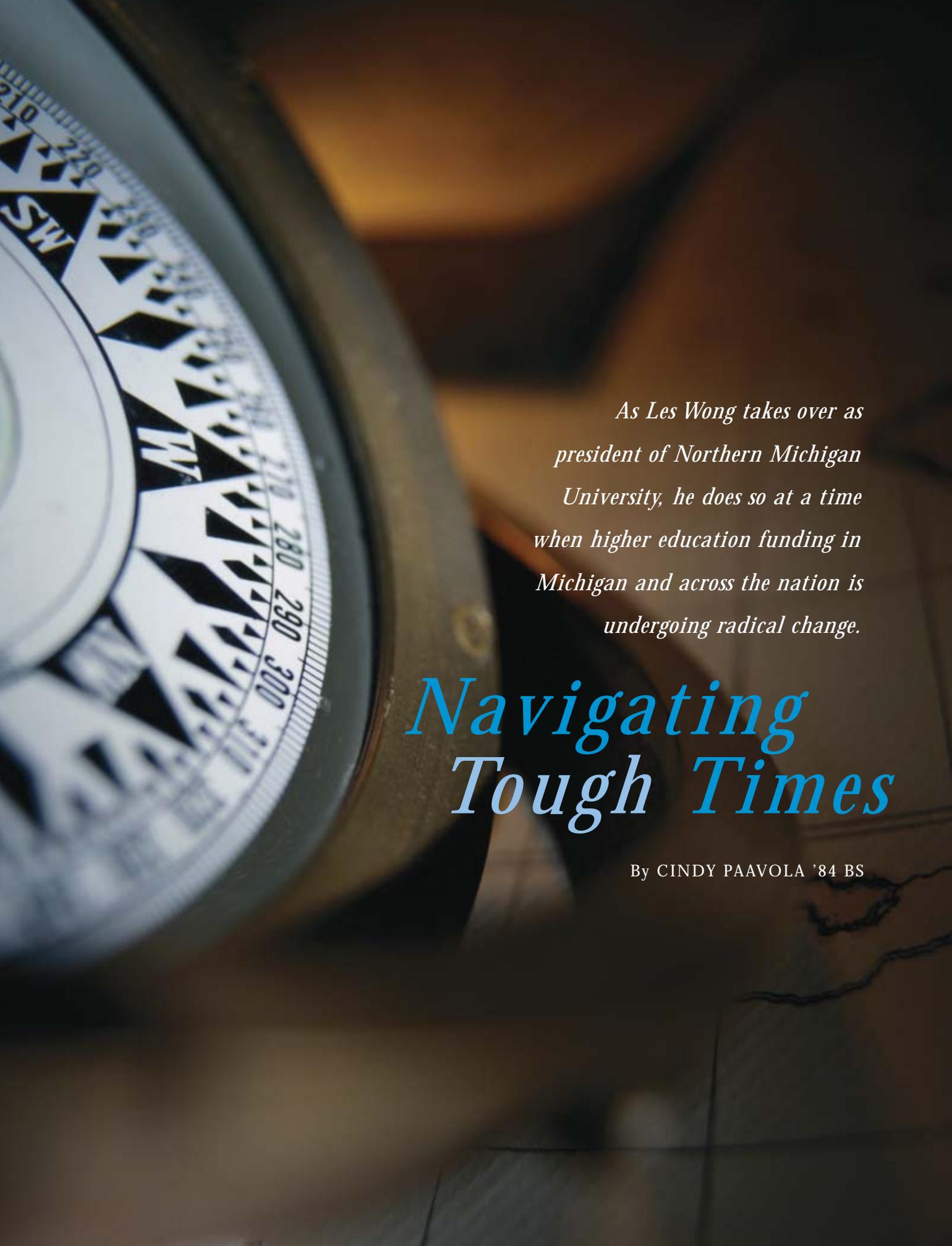
It's too soon to talk about Wong's vision for the university and, according to the new president, somewhat inappropriate. He believes that a vision isn't something that is held by a top administrator and imposed onto the members of an organization. He said that good visionaries are able to synthesize many visions and dreams that exist within an organization.

"I need to listen and learn what those dreams and visions are," he said. So instead of talking about missions and visions, Wong has asked the university community to

think about a number of questions, which he hopes will spark active discussions over the next year.

"How will we think about and use technology to create a more enriched learning environment? How might we use or engage interdisciplinary studies to help students understand how interconnected the world is? How will we bring young people into performing undergraduate research to teach them how to create ideas and solutions?"

In talking with Wong, you get the sense that he and the NMU community are about to embark on a great adventure together. The outline for this adventure is visible but barely perceptible, and the destination is not yet known. But the journey is already showing signs of great promise. ■



As Les Wong takes over as president of Northern Michigan University, he does so at a time when higher education funding in Michigan and across the nation is undergoing radical change.

Navigating Tough Times

By CINDY PAAVOLA '84 BS

W

With state budgets running deeply in the red, legislators across the country have been forced to wield hefty knives. In Michigan, most state-supported programs have felt the pain of budget cuts, but the slice to higher education funding has been particularly deep. Over the past two years, Michigan's 15 public universities lost \$240 million in state appropriation funding. Northern's share was a \$7.5 million reduction.

And the outlook for fiscal year 2005? Michigan's economy is seeing some improvement but the recovery continues to be stubbornly slow. A revenue estimating conference in May projected a \$250 to \$300 million deficit for the fiscal year that ends September 30 and as much as another \$1 billion shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year.

That news leaves university presidents, students, and their parents trying to navigate what appears to be waterways fraught with icebergs.

"We used to say public universities were state-supported institutions, but now we refer to being state assisted," said Mike Roy, who returned from the interim president position to vice president of finance and administration when Wong came on board July 1. "Today, it is like universities are carefully maneuvering around ice flows, hoping that each decision we make doesn't cause us to crash into an unseen iceberg that could seriously damage our ship."

He points out that in the 1970s, state appropriations made up 75 percent of the public universities' general fund budgets and tuition and fees the other 25 per-

cent. In 2004, state dollars and tuition and fees each contributed 49 percent to Northern's general fund budget. External funding, such as private gifts and grants, made up the remaining two percent.

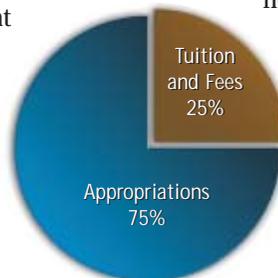
Roy, one of Northern's money managers for the past 26 years, said that the current state of higher education funding is "the worst I've ever experienced."

Cutting costs, redefining priorities

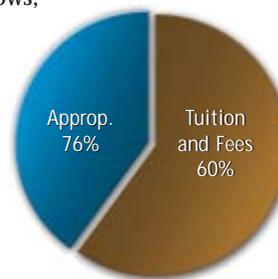
Even before the drastic state funding reductions of the past two years, Northern had been reorganizing and reallocating. Since 1991, NMU has reduced its university divisions from eight to three, its vice presidents from five to two, its colleges from five to three, and merged numerous academic and administrative departments. Since March 2003, the campus community has identified and begun implementation of nearly \$12 million in budget reductions, elimination, and cost-avoidance measures. By the end of the next fiscal year, 135 positions are scheduled to have been eliminated and 70 people laid off or retired.

According to Roy, the budget situation has forced the university to look at every department, program, and function and ask: How do our spending decisions reflect the goals of the university's mission and vision?

How do they advance Northern and NMU students? Roy said nothing was spared from this review, but areas determined by the campus to have the highest impact on the student experience were protected from major reductions. These included course availability, class size, financial aid, and student jobs.



1972-73



2003-04

As one of the largest notebook computer universities in the world, technology has turned out to be a beacon of light in these dark economic times for Northern. It has allowed NMU to change the way it performs university business, resulting in significant savings over the past two years. For example, grades and payment reminders are no longer mailed to students but are delivered electronically for an estimated cost savings of \$20,000 in postage each year.

“We’ve looked everywhere to see if how we were doing things matched the priorities of the university, which are to offer quality academic and student programming with individual attention in a high-tech learning environment,” said Roy. “Making the amount of changes we’ve made in the amount

of time we’ve had to make them has been painful, but if there is a silver lining to this experience, it is that Northern is today a much more efficient and more focused university than it was two years ago.”

Climbing costs

Last year, Michigan’s public university students faced an average tuition and fees increase of 10 percent. Northern’s increase of nine percent was the third lowest increase in terms of both dollars and percent, and it bumped NMU from the fourth most affordable university in the state to second.

“Northern has proven itself to be fiscally responsible. In fact, NMU’s increase in cost per student has remained below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase for 11 consecutive years,” said Roy. “I remind people that we’ve accom-

plished that position while still being the only public university in Michigan to provide every full-time student with a notebook computer, software, and technology support as part of tuition and fees,” he said.

The reduction of state funding is the main factor driving tuition and fee increases across the state, but there are other factors impacting Northern’s costs that the university has little control over, such as rising health care and insurance costs, increasing utility costs, and state mandated programs.

Critical crossroads

Though the recovery picture for Michigan’s economy is murky at best, one thing is crystal clear: Northern is at a critical crossroads.

NMU’s challenge has become one of how to maintain quality when funding is going down but

2003-2004 Tuition and Fees at Michigan’s Fifteen Public Universities



“We’ve cut. We’ve reorganized. We’ve developed new ways to carry out university business. But now the staff and resources have been stretched about as far as they can. Without taking immediate measures to address our growth, we will fail in our commitment to provide a learning environment of small class size and personalized attention we are known for.”

enrollment is going up. Last year, Northern’s enrollment broke the 9,000-student mark for the first time since 1981. This upcoming year, NMU expects to set a school record of nearly 9,700 students.

Growth is good, points out Roy, because it provides the university with additional revenue and it lessens NMU’s political vulnerability during the appropriation funding process. However, decreasing state dollars means having to serve more students with fewer resources.

“We’ve cut. We’ve reorganized. We’ve developed new ways to carry out university business. But now the staff and resources have been stretched about as far as they can go. Without taking immediate measures to address our growth, we will fail in our commitment to provide a learning environment of small class size and personal attention we are known for,” said Roy.

A new captain on board

As Wong became Northern’s new leader, Roy’s message to him was this: Continued rough waters ahead, but the ship is still on course.

“Great things are happening at NMU,” Roy said. “Despite the stress of the budget situation, our students are experiencing phenome-

nal learning, our faculty members are doing what they most love to do—teach—and our university has continued to excel. We cannot lose sight of those facts. All of our decisions now must ensure that what is great about Northern Michigan University today is what is great about the university decades from now, so that we can continue to fulfill our mission of successfully serving the students of the Upper Peninsula, Michigan, and the Midwest.”

Wong is impressed with Northern’s practical and resourceful budget planning and management.

“What I’ve seen so far is that NMU is an efficiently run university and that its approach to the current budget situation has been not only reasonable but frequently innovative,” he said. “This is good because, as a university, we have much to do other than continuously spending time on developing cost-cutting options. Obviously, being fiscally responsible is vital—and it appears NMU has been so for many years—but I hope soon we will be able to once again concentrate our energies less on the budget and more on elevating Northern to its next level of achievement.” ■



Advocating for higher education

Last fall, Northern created an advocacy program made up of alumni, donors, parents, and friends who want to support NMU specifically, and Michigan higher education in general. The group’s members write letters, call, or meet with their state policy makers to discuss the impact of their own college education or that of their children’s.

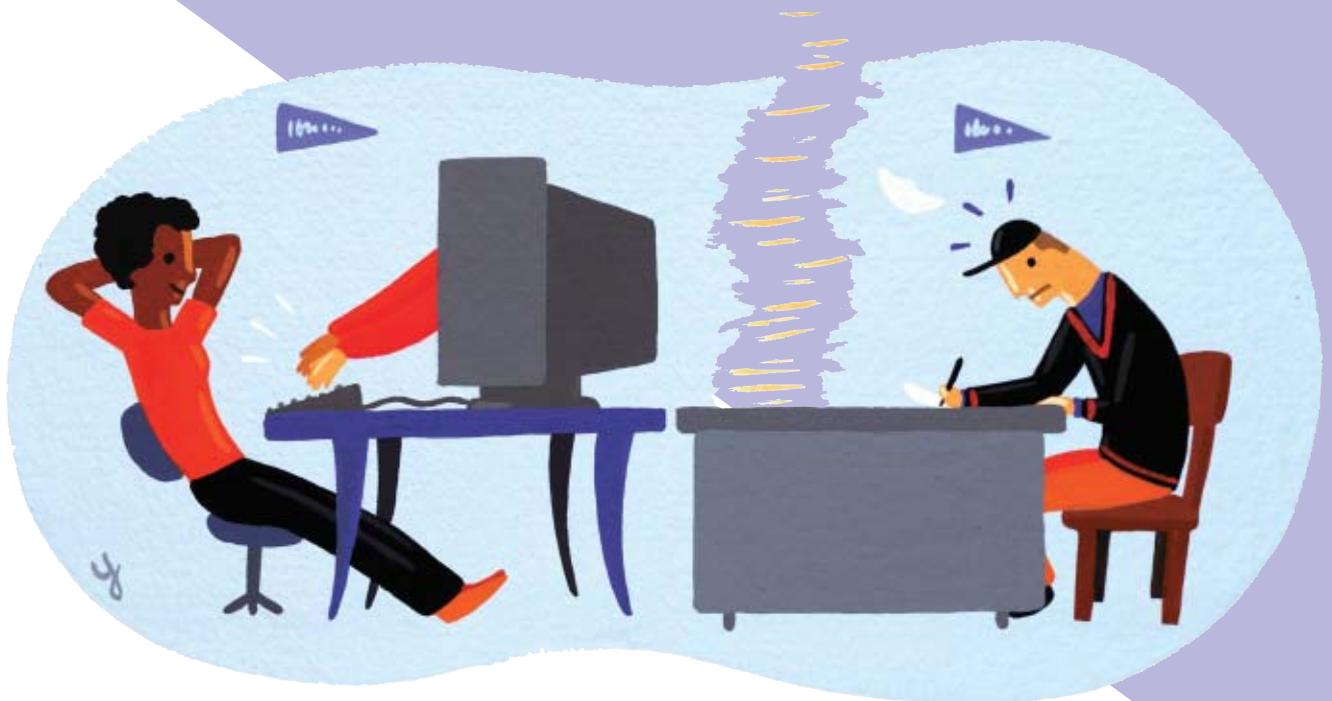
“The challenges facing our state legislators are tough ones, but this group’s goal is to make sure Michigan’s decision makers do not forget that supporting higher education is supporting the future of our state,” said Mike Roy. “I am grateful to those who have become partners with Northern in this effort.”

To learn more about Northern Michigan University’s advocacy program, contact the Office of the President at 906-227-2242 or NMUPres@nmu.edu.

ETHICS EDUCATION

Who should be responsible for educating the next generation of leaders?

By MIRIAM MOELLER '00 BA, '02 MA
and KAREN WALLINGFORD '02 MA



WE CAN ALL RELATE TO THE FEELING. It's after midnight during the last week of classes. Your final, seven-page research paper is due at 8 a.m., and you're staring at a blank computer screen. What do you do? Stay up all night and write the paper? Ask for an extension? Or do you download a ready-made research paper off the Internet and get busy counting sheep?

According to NMU political science professor Steve Nelson, the latter option seems to be a growing choice of students. Nelson has noticed an increased need to talk to his students about the misappropriation of materials, especially those from electronic sources.

"It seems to be that there isn't as much of a line between what seems appropriate and what doesn't," Nelson said. "Sharing drafts and papers is only a mouse click away."

NMU dean of students **Ed Niemi '79 BS, '83 MAE** said that while there has been a slight decrease in violations of the student code, incidents of plagiarism have increased.

"I think the Internet has given students more opportunities to take advantage," he said.

However, Niemi also feels that as students adjust to advances in technology, instances of plagiarism will fall. He believes that most students who plagiarize either don't realize it or don't know how to credit their source.

When looked at from a broader perspective, then, should student plagiarism be considered a minor offense—something that will pass either with knowledge or with time? Or, could this behavior be symptomatic of a larger, more insidious problem?

The Josephson Institute on Ethics has conducted a survey of American high school students every two years since 1992. The results of

their "2002 Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth" show that of the 12,000 high school students polled, those who admitted they cheated on an exam at least once in the past year jumped from 61 percent in 1992 to 74 percent in 2002. The number who said they stole something from a store within the past 12 months rose from 31 to 38 percent, and the percentage who said they lied to their parents or teachers also increased.

Student cynicism is also on the rise. From 2000 to 2002 the number of high school students who agreed with the statement, "A person has to lie or cheat sometimes in order to succeed," jumped from 34 to 43 percent.

Michael Josephson, president of the Institute said, "The evidence is that a willingness to cheat has become the norm and that parents, teachers, coaches, and even religious educators have not been able to stem the tide. The scary thing is that so many kids are entering the workforce to become corporate executives, politicians, airplane mechanics, and nuclear inspectors with the dispositions and skills of cheaters and thieves."

In the wake of government and corporate scandals such as those at Enron, Global Crossing, Tyco, and Worldcom, universities are increasingly being called upon to take the lead in educating the next generation of business, community, and family leaders in ethical decision making.

Taking a major role in providing a solid ethical education has long been a cornerstone at Northern Michigan University. According to the NMU mission statement, Northern students "will study ethics, humanitarian values, and cultural awareness..." and indeed, if you look through the university's *Undergraduate Bulletin*, incorporating ethics education in the classroom appears to be an important component in virtually all academic programs. But how should universities go about laying the ethical groundwork for the next generation? We asked several NMU professors to weigh in on the issue. Although they may not agree that America is on the fast track to moral and ethical decay, each has some interesting insights on the state of ethics in America today and their approach to ethics education.

Business professor Robert Miller teaches human behavior and organization in the legal and political environment. All of the texts he uses have an ethical component woven into them. While his goal is to teach ethics to his students before they go out into the business world, he said this is problematic because he believes "a common ethical denominator" is missing in American society today.

He said that in the past, Americans had a more coherent ethical and moral perspective that was rooted primarily in Christian values, but that gradually, this foundation has eroded to the point of virtual collapse.

“A primary part of the process of educating future managers has consisted of attempting to persuade them to strive for higher standards and to see applying those standards as mutually beneficial to them, their organization, and society.”

Starting in the late 60s and strengthening through the 70s, 80s, and 90s, the view that any ethical perspective is as good as any other was promulgated, Miller explained. He has observed that many of his students believe that the appropriate basis for determining whether something is good or bad is how they feel. Based on this perspective, students have argued to Miller that it is unacceptable for him to tell them what is right or wrong.

“There is no role for an intellectual examination of ethics in this formulation,” he said. “Ethics and morality are treated as simply personal choices for which little or no responsibility is felt. Right and wrong are sold to students based upon ‘what works.’ It is more difficult for students, and others in our society, to distinguish between successful spin and true concern for employees, customers, or the environment. Students today are living in a world where no standards have been considered worthy of societal support.”

Miller recalled a conversation he had with one of his colleague’s daughters, who asked why her parents were still together when all of her friends’ parents were divorced.

“It’s to the point where it seems abnormal to have a long-term relationship,” he said. “Ethics and

morality have become oddities, and we use the excuse that we don’t know any better.”

Miller believes his students should know better, so he tries to present them with a more complete ethical perspective. He teaches them about personal responsibility and asks them to consider the long-term consequences of their actions. He encourages his students to build an ethical belief system based on the common tenets of integrity, respect, and caring for each other.

“The world presents us with conflicts and, a lot of times, people choose options with more rewards. Sometimes that’s the road that is seen as requiring cheating or lying. The basic idea of responsibility is that every time you have a choice, you also have a responsibility.

“A primary part of the process of educating future managers has consisted of attempting to persuade them to strive for higher standards and to see applying those standards as mutually beneficial to them, their organization, and society,” he said.

But Miller also feels there is a downside to teaching ethics. He said universities are often criticized for not placing enough emphasis on teaching ethical behavior.

“Teachers can only teach ethics and responsibility, but how students apply that in the real world, teachers can’t control,” he said.

Philosophy professor David Cooper teaches applied ethics, social and political philosophy, and the philosophy of psychology. He said that changes in students’ ethical behavior seem to be tied to economic issues and national events such as the attacks on the World

Trade Center and the Pentagon, business and government scandals, and the war in Iraq.

Cooper said that today’s students grow up with a fear about their futures that he didn’t have when he was their age. When he was a student, Cooper and his peers knew they would be more successful than their parents. This is no longer the case.

“Today, students face the fact that there isn’t a safety net out there, and that scares them,” he said.

In order to face the challenges of an increasingly complex world, Cooper said most students are looking for a vision or a role model when they come to college—someone who will help guide them through the maze. Finding an appropriate role model, however, can be complicated and confusing. Whether in business, politics, or through reality shows, students see the scoundrel portrayed as someone who is successful and admired, and this confuses students’ moral and ethical code.

Cooper uses Quentin Tarantino’s *Kill Bill* movies to illustrate his point.

“On one level, the movies are campish and amusing,” he said. “But what is the overall effect of showing all that carnage and murder in an amoral fashion?” Cooper asked. “The murderers become the heroes. There are really no good guys to root for.”

The reason we can show movies like these today when we couldn’t 30 years ago, he said, is because the moral sensitivity of the movie-going public has been lowered.

“Students don’t seem to be aware that there are different levels of moral sensitivity, and that these kinds of movies are making fun of those who are the most morally developed,” he explained. “In reality, the reaction of audiences to killing does matter, and

yet many people have become desensitized. This leads to the easy way we shrug off 'collateral damage' when it is reported in the news."

Over the course of five years, Cooper conducted a moral development test at the beginning and end of each semester to help his students understand their own level of morality. Based on their answers, students were able to identify whether their morality emphasized one of three perspectives: the egocentric, someone concerned only with him or herself; the ethnocentric, someone who gives most weight to the views of his or her community; or the universal post-conventional, someone who acknowledges the views of all people, even those who differ greatly from him or herself.

Cooper said that almost all of his students believed that they should have a moral conscience that emphasizes universal values and that about 90 percent of them had moved in that direction by the end of the semester. However, a few stayed at the same level, and a couple actually moved back one level. This was not because those students became less moral or ethical over the course of the semester, but because they were confused about how complex morality has become in the modern world. Much of that confu-

sion, Cooper believes, can be traced to how the popular media presents moral complexity.

"Students naively think they are not influenced by advertising and the general propaganda that comes out," Cooper said, "but I do believe they buy into a lot of what they see on TV, including bad things."

Cooper pointed out that while many news reporting agencies say that they strive for neutrality, this becomes increasingly difficult as larger chunks of the media are bought by a few, big investors.

"Ideology is not supposed to drive news channels, and yet more and more it does. Popular opinion is easily manipulated when ideological types control the popular media."

He said that the way to address this at the student level is to teach critical thinking skills so that students can evaluate multiple points of view and identify dishonesty and bias even in cases where the source claims to be neutral.

"At the college level, students need to move beyond what has to do with the self," Cooper said.

"Helping develop a universal conscience is one of the goals of teaching at the college level."

Nelson, who teaches research methods, public policy, and law classes, said that while he believes that the family should be the primary place where children learn about ethics, he understands that there are many cases where the family doesn't teach ethics and the children are left adrift.

"Some of the problems of society are traceable to kids who don't have a sense of what is right or wrong," Nelson said. "What do we do as a society against that? Higher education should be one

place, not the only place, where students are exposed to ethics."

He said teaching ethics in the classroom can be problematic because there are so many different perspectives on ethical behavior. For example, his son doesn't think it's wrong to download music from the Internet. Nelson disagrees although he admitted to having taped songs that were played on the radio when he was a kid. He wonders what the difference is.

Ethics, he said, must be taught on a continuum.

In his classes, Nelson tries to focus on ethical questions without giving answers so that his students can decide on their own personal, ethical belief system. He reminds students in some cases not to get personal but to focus on the policy or the law. However, he also cautions that in public policy and social welfare policy in particular, it's easy to get caught up in ideological questions and ignore the human element.

"In public policy, you have to remind students that policies impact people."

Nelson points out that even though instances of plagiarism are on the rise, there are a lot of students doing extraordinary things at NMU—from the many students who participate in the Washington Internship program to one student who went to Africa to help people who have AIDS. All of these students, he said, are doing something to help someone else. This is the message Nelson delivers to his students. He teaches them that law is a helping profession and that success should be measured by good deeds.

"Get out there and help people," he said. "That is what will make you stand out." ■

"Ideology is not supposed to drive news channels, and yet more and more it does. Popular opinion is easily manipulated when ideological types control the popular media."

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

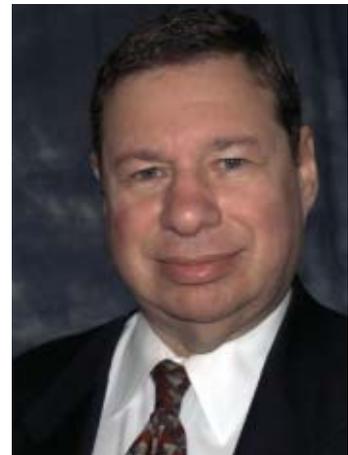
Awesome work, awesome people

When I graduated from Northern Michigan University and got involved in the Alumni Association, I was in awe of what went on and how it all got done. This included helping to plan and organize various activities including homecoming and local alumni gatherings. The Alumni Association has come a long way since 1969, and it is all because of alumni who take leadership roles and work together.

Jennifer Giangrass '03 BS, for example, did a great job putting together a Hockey Night Across the Country party in Chicago in February. **Paul Roberts** '56 BS is a tireless volunteer, who is out there actively promoting Northern to prospective students. **Jack Mauro** '65 BS is re-energizing the Alumni 'N' Club for former letter winners,

and **Mike Harris** '78 BS is a strong advocate and fundraiser for the Wildcat hockey program. These are just a few examples of alumni who are making a difference for NMU.

But alumni aren't just taking leadership roles on behalf of the university. Locally and around the globe, alumni are at the forefront of efforts to better their communities and the lives of others. **Steve Klinkner** '78 BS participates in a program that brings dental care to people who live in Third World countries; **Krista Jensen** '95 BS donates her time to lead a nursing home volunteer group in Royal Oak, Michigan; and **Tom Knauss** '54 BS worked diligently to make sure Marquette's Veterans Park became a reality. Again, I am in awe of how NMU alumni are making things happen.



Every one of us makes a difference in one way or another. If you would like information on how you can be a leader for NMU alumni in your area, call the Alumni Association at 1-877-GRAD-NMU or e-mail us at alumni@nmu.edu.

Barry Axelrod '69 BA,
President NMU Alumni Association

ALUMNI FAST FACT...

Snapshot: Who Belongs to the NMU Alumni Association

Total Addressable Alumni: 40,011	By Gender Male: 52%
Total Members: 3,024	Female: 48%
Annual Members: 2,499	By Graduation Decade
Lifetime Members: 525	1920s: .2%
By Affiliation	1930s: .9%
Alumni: 94%	1940s: 2.3%
Non-alumni: 6%	1950s: 5.1%
By Location	1960s: 15.7%
Michigan: 60%	1970s: 27.5%
Out-of-state: 39.6%	1980s: 21.4%
International: .4%	1990s: 14.5%
	2000s: 7.1%
	Unknown: 5.3%

Upcoming Alumni and Marquette Area Events

DATE	EVENT
Oct. 15-16	Homecoming 2004
Dec. 18	NMU Commencement
Dec. 22	Minneapolis Area Alumni Reception in Conjunction with Dodge Holiday Classic Hockey Tournament
2005	
Jan. 21	Chicago Area Alumni Reception
Feb. 18	U.P. 200 Sled Dog Race, Marquette

For more information on any of the above events, contact the NMU Alumni Association at 1-877-GRAD-NMU or alumni@nmu.edu.

2004 Alumni Association Award winners

Troy Huggett '92 BS, Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Troy is the owner of and trainer at Huggett Fitness Pros in Battle Creek, Mich. He has worked in the fitness industry for 17 years and specializes in weight loss, sports conditioning, medical fitness training, and senior fitness conditioning. He received a master's degree in physical education from Emporia State. Troy is a published author, certified trainer, exercise specialist, and a licensed emergency medical technician. He has volunteered as the fitness director at Burnham Brook Senior Center and with the Michigan Special Olympics medical staff. A lifetime member of the NMU Alumni Association, Troy has also served as a host for a number of Northern alumni events in the Battle Creek area.

Steven Mitchell '67 BS, Distinguished Alumni Award

Steve is chairman of Mitchell Research and Communications, Inc., a company he founded in 1985. His political consulting, public relations counseling, and marketing research career spans more than 25 years. Steve is a recognized speaker on trends in politics and polling. He has served on the staffs of United States senators and state legislators. He is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, past director of Common Ground Sanctuary, and a volunteer for the Jewish Community Council, Jewish Resettlement Center, and Jewish Association for Residential Care.

Bobby Glenn Brown '87 BS, Alumni Service Award

A graduate of NMU's theatre program, Bobby has worked tirelessly on behalf of the program. After receiving a master of fine arts in musical theatre from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Bobby returned to Marquette. Since 1990, he has donated his time and resources to the NMU program and assists students with theater productions. He has served as president of the First Nighters Club, the booster club for the Forest Roberts Theatre. Bobby has performed in numerous shows across the country and on the FRT stage. He is a past member and officer of various area art boards. He has also directed five of the annual Christmas productions of *Scrooge*, now called *Ebenezer*, and produced children's theater workshops and performances at the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum.

LOST ALUMNI

We know they're out there. Can you help us locate the following people?

Clay Leek '68 MA
Susan Black '74 BS
Thomas Nicolini '75 BS
Lawrence Ellerman '80 BS
Lynda Mason '81 BS
Judith Fuller '82 BSW
Gregory Boles '86 Dipl.
Nina White '90 BS
Mary Younker '90 BS
Patrick Moore '93 BFA
Scott Tarnowski '94 BS
Melani Chonko '96 BS
Terry Jones '97 BS
David Magno '98 BS

If you can help us, please drop us a note at alumni@nmu.edu or call us toll free at 1-877-GRAD NMU.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We'd like to thank the following people who have recently joined as lifetime members of the NMU Alumni Association.

James Orwin '67 BS
Victor Ceru '71 BS
Gary Hoensheid '73 BS
Richard '73 BS and Glenys Hull
Juanita (Barber) Spallina '73 BSN
Don '75 BS '83 MBA and Ann
(Bedard) Dames '77 BS
Jacquelyn (Redd) Ingram '75 BS
Mark Lovell '77 BS
Shaun '79 BS and Debra
(Fisher) Clark '81 BS
Steven LaBrenz '89 BS
David Lover '92
Eric Bolduc '94 BS
Terri (Laitinen) Fawkes '95 BS

To learn about the benefits of membership, visit our Web site at www.nmu.edu/alumni, e-mail us at alumni@nmu.edu, or call us toll free at 1-877-GRAD NMU.

Marketing scholarship established

Professor names award in honor of grandparents

Gary Brunswick '81 AS, '84 BS, NMU professor of marketing and director of business affairs for the Walker L. Cisler College of Business, remembers receiving "care packages" from his paternal grandparents when he was a Northern student.

"Those boxes were filled mostly with food and would come usually via someone traveling to Marquette from Iron County," said Brunswick. "I paid for my entire college education by myself, so some extra food really meant a lot to me. It was one of their many little ways of offering support so that I could get my college education."

Recently Brunswick and his wife, **Kimberly '87 BS**, established the Andrew and Theresa Brunswick Scholarship in his grandparents' honor. Recipients of the award must be marketing majors with a 3.0 grade point average or higher. First preference will be given to students from the Upper Peninsula.

"Marketing is the sixth or seventh most popular major at NMU each year," Brunswick said. "This scholarship will fill a need on campus to provide academic recognition and financial assistance to students studying that field. It also provides support to students from the U.P., something that is important to my family. Kim and I feel lucky we were able to attend Northern and we feel it is time for us to give back to the university."

In addition to his Northern degrees, Brunswick went on to

receive his master's degree from Marquette University and his doctorate from Arizona State University. All of his degrees are in business administration. He returned to NMU to teach in 1991. In 1995 he was selected to receive the Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty Award, and in 1997 he received the Outstanding Teaching Award. This past spring, he was announced as one of Northern's three 2004 Distinguished Faculty Award winners.

Kimberly is an educational school consultant for Co-nect, a professional development company. Her bachelor's degree is in elementary education. Following graduation, she taught in Iron River for a year; Manitowoc, Wis., for 10 years; and was a literacy specialist at Gwinn for a year.

Brunswick said that his grandparents had a profound influence on his life, teaching him the importance of hard work, honesty, integrity, and perseverance.

Andrew and Theresa Brunswick lived nearly three-quarters of a century in Iron County before their deaths in the late 1990s. Andrew worked most of his life in the underground mines, although he began his working career in U.P. lumber camps. During his retirement, he took on the duties as caretaker of the Stambaugh Township Dumps and



Theresa and Andrew Brunswick, 1947.

worked with the U.S. Forest Service during its summer program.

In addition to her homemaking responsibilities, Theresa held positions at the local food market, laundry, and gift shop.

The couple had three children: Robert (deceased), George, and Beverly.

"During their lives, my grandparents were always helping other people, and this was one of the many things I learned from them—to help others. I think they would be proud to know that their name is on a scholarship that will help students pursue their dream of a college education," said Brunswick.

For further information about NMU's scholarship program, contact the NMU Development Fund Office at 906-227-2627, www.nmu.edu/development, or via e-mail at devfund@nmu.edu.

—Cindy Paavola, '84 BS

Political science professor remembered with scholarship

A memorial fund has been established in honor of Miodrag "Bata" Georgevich, a long-time political science professor and NMU administrator who died in late July.

During his tenure from 1958 until 1986, Georgevich taught international relations and political science, was head of the political science department, served as NMU's first alpine ski coach, founded the Young Republicans and Young Democrats student organizations, and helped to establish Northern's study abroad program.

He was born in Yugoslavia and earned degrees in his native country, France, and the United States. He served as a 2nd lieutenant in the Yugoslav Royal Army and was as an underground freedom fighter during World War II.

In 1950, Georgevich was sponsored by Charles Gelatt of Dresbach, Minnesota, a friend since 1939, for immigration into the United States. It was Gelatt who made the initial gift to create the Dr. Miodrag Georgevich Endowed Scholarship.

Georgevich became a U.S. citizen in 1955. In 1970, he was a Republican candidate for the state senate. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, he led many student study tours across Europe.

Complete scholarship details have yet to be determined; however, the award will perpetuate Georgevich's legacy of pioneering international study opportunities. To contribute to the endowment, contact the Northern Michigan University Development Fund at 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan, 49855. You can also give on-line at www.nmu.edu/development.

Gifts in action

Annual Fund grants awarded to NMU programs

More than \$60,000 in undesignated gifts made by alumni and friends to the Annual Fund at NMU will provide the primary funding for four programs next year. Undesignated gifts are those not made to a specific department or program.

Student Leader Fellowship Program



Northern's nationally recognized Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP) received a \$20,000 grant. The SLFP is a two-year leadership program which enrolls about 50 students each year and includes an intensive community service component.

Ada S. McKinley Scholarship Program

The McKinley Scholarship Program also received a \$20,000 grant. McKinley Scholarships recipients are intercity students who show potential to succeed at NMU but may not have the resources to attend without assistance.

Washington Center Internship Program

The Washington Center Internship Program was given a \$12,000 grant to help fund travel and living expenses for NMU students doing internships in Washington, D.C. Through this program, Northern sends 5-15 students each year to the nation's capitol to work for a summer session or a semester in areas related to their majors. For instance, Rebecca Thompson, newly elected president of the Associated Students of Northern Michigan University (ASNMU), completed a Washington Center internship with the Department of Homeland Security in July.



Student Foreign and Domestic Travel



The NMU Development Fund executive committee also set aside \$8,000 of the undesignated gifts for domestic and foreign travel to be determined by the academic and student services departments.

"It is important for alumni and friends who contribute to the Annual Fund at NMU to know that their gifts are the keys that open the doors and windows of opportunity for students," said Martha Van Der Kamp, executive director of NMU

Alumni and Development. "These gifts enhance the Northern experience by fostering hands-on leadership, diversity, and global educational experiences, and these experiences in turn make NMU graduates that much more marketable and ready to contribute to their professions, communities, and countries."

100 YEARS OF WILDCAT

1904 — NMU's first football team, under coach William McCracken, goes 2-1-0. The team played at the County Fairgrounds field on Wright Street.

1915 — Northern's football squad begins to play on a field behind Kaye Hall (now the university's east entrance). NMU officially took ownership of this field in 1928.



1916 — Coach Wayne "W.B." McClintock leads the first football team to score more than 100 points in a season. Team posts a 4-2-0 record.

1918 — No varsity football due to World War I.

1920 & 1921 — NMU meets Michigan Tech for the first time on the gridiron. NMU loses both games (13-20, 0-26). In 1921, Northern beats MTU for the first time, 7-6. The rivalry officially begins.

1922 — Charles "C.B." Hedgcock becomes football coach. Hedgcock will coach the squad until 1937, making him the longest-serving NMU gridiron coach (15 years).



1929 — Northern enjoys its first undefeated season of a campaign of more than three games (4-0-2).

1938 — Morgan Gingrass sets NMU and NAIA records for most yards returned from pass interceptions in a game (160 yards vs. UW-Oshkosh).

1943-45 — No varsity football due to World War II.

1947 — Northern begins play on the new Memorial Field (located where the Berry Events Center now stands). Quarterback Cliff Puckett is the first-ever recipient of the program's Most Valuable Player Award.

1948 & 1949 — Record-setting and tying years for shutouts by a Wildcat team (4). The same number of shutout victories would be attained in 1958.

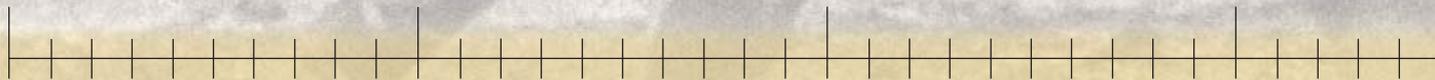
1956 — Under Coach Lloyd Eaton, Wildcats celebrate their first undefeated season (7-0-1) since 1929. Eaton is chosen the NAIA Coach of the Year. Quarterback Tom Schwalbach becomes the first NMU player to receive All-America status (Associated Press All-America Honorable Mention).

1960 — NMU advances to the NAIA playoffs, tying Lenoir Rhyne College, 20-20, but losing on total yardage. Coach F.L. "Frosty" Ferzacca is named the NAIA Coach of the Year. He will receive this honor four times (1960-63-64-65).

1962 — Tackle Jack Mauro becomes the first Wildcat selected to a first-team All-America squad, chosen to the NAIA team. Halfback Tom Neumann was named to the honorable mention contingent.

1966 — Offensive guard Curt Marker is the first Wildcat selected to play in the Blue-Gray Game.

1967 — Under Coach Rollie Dotsch, Wildcats go 9-0-0 and advance to the NAIA playoffs before losing to Fairmont State College, 21-7.



1900s

1920s

1940s



FOOTBALL, 1904-2004

1969 — Jim Danilko sets NMU and NCAA-II records for most yards returned from pass interceptions in a season with 296.

1972 — Guy Falkenhagen is NMU's first Academic All American, selected to the first team.



1975 — The Wildcats win the NCAA Division II title, beating Western Kentucky, 16-14, with Steve Mariucci at quarterback. Coach Gil Krueger is named the Chevrolet NCAA Division II Coach of the Year. Center Dan Stencil becomes first Kodak All-American, selected to the first team.

1975-76 — The Wildcats set a record for most consecutive victories (18).

1976 — NMU is knocked out of NCAA Division II playoffs when Akron wins the first-ever overtime game in NCAA-II history, 29-26.

1977 — Quarterback Steve Mariucci is selected the team's Most Valuable Player, the only Wildcat to be voted MVP for three consecutive years.

1980 — Wildcats advance to NCAA Division II playoffs but are eliminated in 27-26 loss to Santa Clara.

1981 — Under Coach Bill Rademacher (a former Wildcat great), the 'Cats go 10-0-0 during the regular season. Northern beats Elizabeth City (N.C.) 55-6 in the first round of the NCAA-II playoffs before losing 62-0 to Southwest Texas.

1987 — NMU advances to the second round of the NCAA-II playoffs and beats Angelo State 23-20 in overtime before losing to Portland State 13-7. Running back Steve Avery is the GLIAC Player of the Year; defensive back Jerry Woods, the GLIAC Specialist of the Year; and Herb Grenke, the GLIAC Coach of the Year.

1991 — The Superior Dome becomes the home of the Wildcat football team.

1996 — Matt Hoard is voted the MIFC Player of the Year and Offensive Back of the Year.

1997 — Punt return specialist Brian Pinks sets NMU and NCAA-II records for most career yards returned (1,228).

2000 — Marc Dugas is named the GLIAC Offensive Lineman of the Year.



2002 — Current head coach Doug Sams is hired to lead the Wildcat football program.



Jack Mauro (1962)



Curt Marker (1966)



Jim Danilko (1969)



Guy Falkenhagen (1972)



Steve Mariucci (1977)

1960s

1980s

2000s



Tell us what's happening in your life

Keeping Track is generated by your submissions and is open to all alumni. Send your submission to the NMU Alumni Association, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855; e-mail to horizons@nmu.edu; or send via the Web at www.nmu.edu/horizons. If you would like to include a picture with your submission, please send a print or digital photograph with a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

WWW.NMU.EDU/HORIZONS ■ HORIZONS@NMU.EDU

Pre-1960s

Laraine (Giuliani) Tracy '44 BA of Bloomington, Minn., recently published her memoirs, *Reflections on a Shining Floor*, for her family and friends. Laraine is a retired humanities teacher and Northwest Airlines flight attendant. She is active in Bloomington's theater and arts scene. lorrytracy@aol.com

Eileen Schultz '52 BS of Yorba Linda, Calif., is a retired teacher. She taught grades K-6 for 30 years. Eileen has four children and nine grandchildren. "I'm in good health, enjoy Christian activities, golf, gardening, and politics."

Ruth (Bradway) Thiox '54 BS of Menominee is a retired elementary art supervisor. She worked in the Menominee Area Public Schools. She loves retirement.

Marvin Tollefson '55 BS, '65 MA of Crystal Falls retired after 31 years of teaching in the Forest Park Schools. Marvin has been a registered official for the Michigan High School Athletic Association in football and basketball for 40 years.

Herbert Hamlin '56 BS of Umatilla, Fla., and his wife **Joyce (Fielder) Hamlin '60 BME** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They have five children and five grandchildren, who all live within 30 miles of their home. "We enjoy receiving *Horizons*. Keep it coming."

Melvin Holli '57 BS of River Forest, Ill., gave a talk in May at the University of Helsinki's The Celtic Connection in North America conference. His talk was based on his books *Biographical Dictionary of American Mayors* and *World War II Chicago*. Melvin is a professor of history at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

60s

Bruce Sachs '61 BS, '64 MA of Livonia retired from Livonia Public Schools in June 2003 after teaching elementary school for 42 years. besachs@sbcglobal.net

Richard Dandini '62 BS of Leominster, Mass., is a retired educator and director of facilities in the Leominster School System.

Robert Bannan '67 BS of Paradise retired earlier this year after 37 years in education.

Robert Jacobson Sr. '67 BS, '69 MA of St. Clair Shores and his wife **Alyce (Krause) Jacobson '67 BS, '69 MA** are both retired from teaching jobs in the Detroit metro area and are enjoying time with their two grandchildren. "We are looking forward to spending some time at our cottage on the banks of the Ford River, southwest of Escanaba." robertjacobson@hotmail.com

Robert Oust '67 BS of McCormick, S.C., is a regional distribution manager for Dow Corning. He relocated from Michigan to South Carolina in 2003.

Previously, Robert worked as an automotive sales manager.

Leonard Trudeau '67 BS, '77 MAE of Norway retired in January after serving the Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine School District for three years as its principal and 3 1/2 years as district superintendent. Prior to his work in Pembine, Leonard had retired from the Michigan Public Schools in Petoskey in 1997.

Janet Nellis-Mendler '68 BS of Pinckney retired in May from the University of Michigan News Service, where she was manager of state media relations. She is now working part time on behalf of the Michigan Press Association Foundation, a non-profit organization that exists to encourage young people to pursue careers in community journalism.

Richard Negrinelli '68 BS, '74 MAE of Au Gres retired from the Clio Area Schools in 2001 after 33 years as an educator. He served as community school director for 27 years.

Susan (Bohn) Ralphe '68 BS of Fountain Hills, Ariz., will not seek another four-year term on the Fountain Hills town council. Susan served on the town council for 10 years. During her tenure, she fought to save as much of the 1,800 acres in the McDowell Mountains on the west side of Fountain Hills as possible. Now that she has left the council, she plans to spend more time with her family, and she may return to writing.

Margaret (Ruuttila) Byrnes '69 BS of Huntsville, Ala., was elected 2003-04 Teacher of the Year at Lynn Fanning Elementary School in Meridianville, where she teaches 4th grade.

Susan (Landen) Meneghel '69 BA, '70 MA of Arden Hills, Minn., retired in May after more than 30 years with Fairview Hospital and Home Care in Minneapolis.

Allan Prideaux '69 BS of Sault Ste. Marie retired after teaching for 30 years at Rudyard High School.

James Schmid '69 BS of Battle Creek retired from the State of Michigan in 1997. He was a social worker. He and his wife Jeanette are beginning their third year of ownership of Swonk's Flower Shop in Battle Creek.

70s

David LaPoint '70 BS of Florence, Wis., retired in 2003 after 32 1/2 years of teaching mathematics and coaching football in Florence. In March, David was inducted into the Wisconsin High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame. coach@up.net

Thomas Balzarini '71 BS, '96 MAE of Michigamme retired in May after teaching 6th grade math and all subjects in 5th grade for 15 years in Sanders, Ariz. Prior to that, he taught for 15 years in Sidnaw. For his retirement, Thomas will spend 6 months per year at his cottage in Michigamme and 6 months in Arizona.

James Bonucci '72 BS of Grosse Pointe Park is the stage manager for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Linda (Parr) Matos '72 BS of Houston, Texas, retired after working with Shell E&P Companies for 24 years. She and her husband Jacson will be moving to Brazil temporarily to begin their retirement. Although they will be moving closer to the equator, Linda still writes, "We miss the snow in Michigan."

Richard Stewart '72 MAE of Moreno Valley, Calif., retired from the U.S. Air Force at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is an attorney with Feller, Stewart, and Foley, LLP, specializing in general civil litigation. His wife **Susan (Beyer) Stewart '73 BSN** graduated summa cum laude with a master of science in nursing degree from California State University, Long Beach in 2000. She works as a nurse practitioner for a cardiologist; she also works part time as a registered nurse at Riverside Community Hospital. "We both miss Marquette and will be visiting again in the summer."

FLASH BACK Student Gathering, 1960s



Anna (Williams) Taylor '73 BS of Alpha, Ohio, retired in July after 25 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. Anna retired as a lieutenant colonel.

Beverly (Morse) Solomon '74 BS of Rochester works as a school social worker during the school year. She also works as a psychiatric/medical social worker for Oakland Family Services at Troy Beaumont Hospital. "I love both jobs! I have three great girls and a very supportive husband. I am blessed. I wouldn't have all this without my NMU education, which put me on a path to success."

Allan Poikonen '75 BS of Elizabethtown, Ky., is a retired U.S. Army officer. He works for Alion Science and Technology as a senior operations research systems analyst.

Kim Van Osdol '75 BS of Menominee is the community bank president at Nicolet National Bank. The Marinette Area Chamber of Commerce presented Nicolet National Bank with the 2004 Small Business of the Year award in May. kvanosdol@new.rr.com

John Ashley '77 BS of Orlando, Fla., is a television instructor at Cypress Creek High School. His students produce and direct the school's daily news as well as other special program-

ming and present it on the school's Web page. John would like to develop an audio broadcasting production class and stream audio over the Internet and then secure a frequency to provide coverage for the Cypress Creek community. ashleyj@ocps.k12.fl.us

Ronald Fuson '77 BS of Pine Bluffs, Wyo., is a teacher and head football and track coach at Pine Bluffs High School. He was selected to be on the coaching staff of the South Team in the Wyoming Shrine Bowl by **Ray Kumpula '81 BS, '99 BME** of Glenrock, Wyo. The Shrine Bowl is the all-star game for high school graduates in Wyoming. Ray is the head coach at Glenrock High School.

Patricia Gagnon '77 BS, '89 MAE of Negaunee received the 2004 Jim Tretheway Award from the Upper Peninsula Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association for her contributions to Upper Peninsula athletics. Patricia is the district technology coordinator for Negaunee Public Schools. Patricia.Gagnon@sbcglobal.net

Jim Totz '77 BS of Detroit received a master's degree in sports administration from Wayne State University in December 2003. He has taught elementary education for the past 19

years in the Detroit Public Schools. James.totz@detroitk12.org

Alan Christenson '78 BS of Lompoc, Calif., was recently promoted to the position of drug treatment specialist with the Psychology Services Department of the U.S. Penitentiary in Lompoc. Alan has worked for the Bureau of Prisons for 21 years.

Shaun Clark '79 BS of Marquette is an alternative education teacher with the Marquette Area Public Schools. He is scoutmaster for Boy Scouts Troop 305, assistant director of the Boy Scouts of America Camp Hiawatha, and the junior leader training scoutmaster for the BSA Hiawathaland Council.

Bob Glantz '79 BA of Berkeley, Calif., is the research and editorial services director at Access Communications. The *San Francisco Business Times* and *Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal* recently named Access the "Best Place to Work in the Bay Area" in the small company category (fewer than 100 employees). Bob has been with Access since its inception 12 years ago.

Allen Learst '79 BS, '89 MA of Grand Junction, Colo., is an associate professor at Mesa State College, where he teaches creative writing, literature, and composition. He has published fiction and poetry in the *Alaska*

Quarterly Review, War, Literature, and the Arts, Chattahoochee Review, Ascent, and The Literary Review.

Kathryn (Davis) Messerich '79 BSN of Medota Heights, Minn., was appointed district court judge for the First Judicial District for the State of Minnesota by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Her judgeship will be chambered in Hastings.

80s

Peter Christopherson '80 BS of Sheboygan, Wis., is a teacher and head junior varsity football coach at Oostburg High School. He is in his 22nd year of teaching—his 13th at Oostburg—and his 20th year of coaching football. He earned his 50th win as the head J.V. football coach at Oostburg in the last game of the 2003 season. He is 69-55-2 in his career. "More importantly," he writes, "I think I've taught many young men about life and growing up and priorities."

Kevin Boyle '81 BS of Arlington, Va., is an attorney and partner with the law firm Latham & Watkins. He moved from the firm's Washington, D.C., office to northern Virginia to help open an office in Reston. Kevin also

serves on the NMU Development Fund Board of Trustees.

Gary Miron '83 BS of Kalamazoo was appointed chief of staff of the Evaluation Center and tenured professor of teaching, learning, and leadership by the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees in February. Gary has been a principal research associate with the Evaluation Center since 1997 and is a specialist in evaluating school reform initiatives.

Lillian (Lipski) Bonetti '84 BS of Fletcher, N.C., is a marketing and public relations coordinator at Margaret R. Pardee Memorial Hospital. She received a first place award in the newsletter category from the Public Relations Association of Western North Carolina for the hospital's external newsletter, *Health Talk*. Lillian is the editor of the publication, which is published three times a year. lmbonetti@yahoo.com

Marilyn (Francis) Gibbs '84 BS, '01 Cert., of Interlochen graduated from the associate degree in nursing program at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City last December. She was accepted into the University of Michigan's BSN program, which she began in August. Marilyn is a school nurse at Interlochen Center for the Arts.

FLASH BACK The Cast of the Fantastiks, 1970s



Joseph McLafferty '84 MAE of Manitowoc, Wis., and his wife Becky are the proud grandparents of Kaleigh Marie, born in February 2003.

Roger Blau '85 BS of Green Bay is an insurance agent at MSI Insurance and Country Insurance and Financial Services. He was named one of the company's top producers for 2003. He was recognized for his sales and service achievements in auto, life, homeowners, and business insurance.

Dave Nostrant '85 BS of St. George, Utah, will be returning to Michigan this summer to open and direct the new Vic Braden Tennis College at the Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor. nostrant@infowest.com

Mark Simon '86 BS of Marquette is a financial planner with American Express. Mark is also the vice president of NMU's "N" Club for past Wildcat letter winners.

Thomas Skoog '87 BS of Powell, Ohio, was recently elected as a partner with the audit and tax firm, KPMG LLP. He provides assurance services to consumer and industrial-markets clients in southern Ohio. Thomas has worked for KPMG since 2002.

Kevin Coté '89 BS of Vancouver, Wash., is the associate director of development and alumni relations for the Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine.

Gregory Zajac '89 BS of New Berlin, Wis., is a certified radio marketing consultant with Racine Broadcasting. "I would like to say hi to all students, professors, and staff I met during my time at NMU (1986-1989)."

90s

Renée (Ouwinga) Johnson '90 BS of Spartanburg, S.C., is the mother of triplets born in December 2003. She is a stay-at-home mom. run-4-fun2002@yahoo.com

William Bowerman '91 MA of Central,

S.C., presented a paper titled, "Evaluating Great Lakes Bald Eagle Nesting Habitat with Bayesian Inference" at the 3rd International Wildlife Management Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, last December. William is an assistant professor of wildlife ecology/toxicology in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Clemson University. wbowerm@clemson.edu

Rick Cormier '91 BS of Escanaba is attending NMU to earn a teaching certificate in secondary education, social studies. rcormier@nmu.edu

Jennifer Ellis '91 BA of Laingsburg is a full-time mother of three children, Derek, 7, Braden, 4, and Cadence, who was born in December 2003. Jennifer also works part time as a commander in the National Guard.

Frank Fisher '91 BS of Fort Hood, Texas, is a first lieutenant (P) in the U.S. Army with the 4th Infantry Division currently stationed in Iraq. SGTFisherUSA@aol.com

Mike Gaunt '92 MAE of Stephenson and his wife **Lynn (Barrette) Gaunt '93 BS** welcomed the birth of their daughter, Maggie Caroline, born in April 2004. lynnbarrettegaunt@yahoo.com

Rob Olson '92 BA of Hillsdale is a teacher with the Pittsford Area Schools. pittsroom@yahoo.com

Ross Plasters '92 BS of Greensboro, N.C., is an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance. He has been married for 10 years and has two children.

Robert Waara '92 BS of Saint John, U.S. Virgin Islands, is a marine biologist for the National Park Service. Rob_Waara@nps.gov

Chris Charboneau '93 BME of Southfield is the director of bands at Seaholm High School in Birmingham. He has been teaching for 11 years, 6 of which have been at SHS. Chris has been included in three volumes of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and was nominated for a Walt Disney

Teacher Award in 2002. His bands have won more than 60 awards at the district, state, and national levels. cc07bps@birthingham.k12.mi.us

Sharon (Bjorkman) Chick '93 BSW of Niagara, Wis., is a semi-retired social worker. She is facilitating a diversion program for men who are court-ordered to receive counseling by Dickinson County for domestic violence. She says that retirement is busy.

Edward Kostreva '93 BS of Marquette is the executive vice president at Northern Michigan Bank and Trust. His third son was born in December 2003. ejkostreva@nmbank.com

Barbara Porter '93 BA of Los Angeles, Calif., is an actor working under the professional name of Porter Kelly. She has appeared in several national commercials, most recently a Hallmark commercial advertising its kissing bears for Valentine's Day. Barbara also performs in two improv shows in Hollywood, "Tigerpants" at ImprovOlympic West and "DVDvious: The Improvised DVD."

Rhonda (Witkowski) Bunce '94 BS of Brownstown and her husband **Geoffrey '93 BA** celebrated the birth of their son. Rhonda says her career is progressing well. She is the director of human resources for a local health care system. bunce@comcast.net

Lynn Kanieski '94 BS of Skandia completed her master's degree in biology at Arkansas State University in May 2003. Lynn works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. lynk28@excite.com

Tami (Malkowski) Thom '94 BS of Lake City completed a master's degree in educational administration in 2003. She has two children, Maggie, 5, and Noah, 3. She taught high school science for eight years and is now a stay-at-home mom.

Mark Trenkle '94 BS of Woodstock, Ga., is a technical support specialist at ADP Automatic Data Processing payroll company. trenklemj@hotmail.com

Adding to the Leadership Spectrum

DAVE BONSTALL '73 BS AND RACHEL HARRIS '91 BS

Tim Elmore identified four “primary colors,” or key fundamentals in his book on nurturing leadership in children: character, perspective, courage, and favor. “Just as each painter begins with a palette of red, yellow, blue, and white, every leader must have four primary colors inside of them if they are to influence others in a masterful way,” Elmore wrote.

The nationally recognized Student Leader Fellowship Program at NMU may abide by similar principles, but when it comes to establishing a group identity, its members have moved far beyond the primary palette.

“In the first year, we decided students needed something to wear to show they were part of the program,” said Dave Bonsall director of student activities and leadership programs. “We bought sweatshirts

with red blocks on them. I thought it looked nice and, in my mind, I figured we would just have red blocks forever.”

Bonsall’s selection quickly became passé. The second group of participants lobbied for its own unique identifier and settled on blue.

“After several years, the color choices were starting to get a little crazy, so I figured we could start over with red,” said Rachel Harris, assistant director. “The students said, ‘No way!’ They wanted their own. Now it’s become a big deal for each group to vote on a new color, and our alumni are eager to find out what it is every year.”

The palette expanded to include several hues—from burgundy to lime to mango. There are also variations of the same shade. For example, basic blue has morphed into aqua, navy, and sky.

Despite the surface changes, the core of the program has remained consistent since it was established in 1991.

“Our mission has been to help students develop their leadership potential and their desire to be involved as a leader at the community level after they graduate,” Bonsall said.

About 60 student fellows are selected for the SLFP each fall, based on eligibility criteria and their ability to make a two-year commitment. The program begins with a weekend retreat at Bay Cliff that features activities designed to build fellowship and teamwork.

In their first year, each SLFP participant is matched with a community leader. The pair meets regularly, with the community leader serving as role model, adviser, and listener.

“The mentoring relationship is valuable because the students see

Turning a Passion into a Profession

MICHELLE HALLEY '93 BS, '95 MA

“I still keep in contact with my mentor, Lynn Emerick,” said Michelle Halley. “Lynn is a very wise person who listens well. I could always tell her what I was thinking and rely on getting an objective response.”

Halley was one of the first participants selected for the Student Leader Fellowship Program in its inaugural year. She said the personal relationships she cultivated with her mentor and other student fellows were among the most rewarding outcomes of the experience.

When the two were matched through the mentoring component of the SLFP, Halley was an English major and Emerick was executive director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

“RSVP was going through some significant challenges back then, and Lynn would describe how she was planning to work through them,” Halley recalled. “At that time she was also very active in the debate about potential uses for Little



Duane Pape '98 AS, '00 BS

professional adults involved in the community and realize they will be capable of the same thing in the future,” Bonsall said.

As **Andy Mendini '97 BS** can attest, it can also lead to a long-term friendship. Mendini still keeps in contact with his mentor, Norm Hefke. The two shared a common professional interest.

“I was going into teaching and he was the head of the education department,” said Mendini, who teaches fifth grade in Iron Mountain. “Norm challenged me quite a bit and offered support. But he also invited me to go fishing and running. He took me to a few Kiwanis meetings and events. He even invited my wife and me to dinner with his family. It was like a home away from home.”

Other components of the program include a leadership theory and practice course, Skill Builders! workshops, which are geared toward personal and professional improvement, and opportunities to meet with visiting leaders.

The second year revolves around

a community service internship (CSI) that each student plans and implements. A CSI typically involves four to five hours per week at social service agencies, in schools, or with other youth-oriented activities.

“The internships give students a flavor of how things operate in a community,” Bonsall said. “It’s much different than at a university, where there is more built-in support. The students realize that they are the resources to make things happen.”

Einar Manki '04 BS served as a role model for a 13-year-old Negaunee boy during his internship with Child and Family Services of the U.P. “I helped a troubled teen set goals for himself,” Manki wrote in a reflection paper on his experience. “I think he has something to strive toward now, whereas before I met him he didn’t really think about his future or have any plans for what he was going to do after high school.”

Jill Frazee '04 BS fulfilled her CSI with LifeTeen, a youth group at St. Peters Cathedral. Frazee said she discovered more about herself by

helping others: “Not only did I learn I’m capable of leading a group of people in most any circumstance, but I learned that I am able to bounce back from failure more positively than before, that I have been able to make a difference in this world by small actions, and that I always want to serve people in some capacity throughout my life.”

Harris recently announced the new SLFP class for fall 2004. When asked what qualities are most desirable, she replied, “What’s important is that they have leadership potential, an interest in community service, and an ability to make the time commitment.”

One query that does not appear on the SLFP application is “favorite color.” That may be a good thing for incoming candidates partial to bisque, lemon chiffon, salmon, or elderberry. Bonsall and Harris are fully aware that the spectrum of block colors—like the leadership capacity of NMU students—is far from exhausted.

—**Kristi Evans**

Presque Isle, and she discussed her involvement in that with me, too.”

Halley was particularly intrigued by the Little Presque Isle issue because, like Emerick, she is passionate about conservation. The shared interest would ultimately influence her career.

“I didn’t excel in science or math, so I felt precluded from going into an environmental field,” Halley recalled. “I was good at writing so that’s where I was headed. Lynn kept talking to me about environmental law. She gave me a book called, *Should Trees Have Standing?*, one of the hallmark writings on environmental law. I read it and decided it was something I really wanted to do. I was already inclined that way, but Lynn helped me realize it was the right decision.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s in poetry, Halley worked three years for the Kellogg Foundation before attending law school in Oregon. She

returned to Michigan as an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation and is now based in Marquette.

Halley lives in close proximity to some of her most controversial cases: regulating sulfide mining in the Upper Peninsula; petitioning the FCC to reassess the impact of Michigan State Police towers erected within the breeding range of endangered birds; and, in action pending before the Michigan Supreme Court, trying to secure the rights of state citizens to sue on behalf of environmental interests without proving that their claim may or may not directly impact them physically, financially, or aesthetically.

“It’s uncomfortable at times, but I think that anything worth doing is uncomfortable,” she added. “Working on these issues from a distance would be a handicap. When you live here, people know you are invested. It brings credibility to my work because it’s about my community.”

—**Kristi Evans**

KEEPING TRACK

Shelby (Spencer) Thayer '95 AT of Sanford is a medical technologist at the Mid Michigan Medical Center in Clare. dennisthayer@chartermi.net

Krista (Burroughs) DeRidder '96 BS of Kimberly, Wis., finished her master's degree in learning disabilities at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in December 2003. She also celebrated the birth of her daughter Rachel in March 2004. Rachel joins her sister Maria, 5, and brother Zachary, 3. kderidder@athenet.net

Kari (Stauffer) Vrzal '97 BS of St. Charles, Ill., received a doctor of medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in May. She will begin a family medicine residency in the Toledo Hospital Program.

Kirk Astle '96 BS, '98 MA of Ovid is a doctoral candidate in Michigan State University's English department. He successfully defended his dissertation proposal this past spring. Kirk works in MSU's Writing Center. His wife **Britta '98 BS** teaches elementary art in the St. Johns School District. Kirk and Britta have three children, a daughter, Darrel, and two sons, Sawyer and Soren. "My family was recently in Marquette for Easter, but unfortunately I didn't get the opportunity to visit the campus. My wife did, however, and she said it was spectacular, as vitality and growth were clearly evident through the construction of many new and impressive buildings. We appreciate *Horizons* and how it keeps us connected to NMU and the U.P.!"

Claudia Drosen '98 MA of Marquette plays the flute in the Marquette Symphony Orchestra. She also serves as a flute judge for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. Claudia recently had a poem published in *The Driftwood Review*.

Heather May '98 BS of East Burke, Vt., works in the alternative education department at St. Johnsbury Academy.

Andrew Thompson '98 BS of Cedar Springs was recently promoted to IT manager at Charter Communications in Walker. Andrew maintains all networks, computers, and a telephone switch for a 300-seat call center. He has worked for Charter Communications (formerly Bresnan Communications) ever since he graduated from Northern. skinny@darkfiber.org

Kelly Wagner '98 BS of Chatfield, Minn., recently accepted a job as assistant Fillmore County attorney in Preston, Minn. She will be focusing on juveniles and misdemeanors. kelmichele@hotmail.com

Clint "Empire" Dodson '99 BS of Lincoln Park recently released the second CD under his record label Galactic Dust Records. The CD, titled, *Untyin' Lost Souls*, is a compilation focusing on Detroit indie hip-hop, with an emphasis on the intelligent, realistic, and emotional side of hip-hop and little or no reference to violence. empyre327@galacticdust.com

Josh Griffin '99 BS of Orlando, Fla., is a client engineer at Channel Intelligence in Celebration, Fla. Josh.griffin@channelintelligence.com

Kathy Johnson '99 AA of Ishpeming had a couple of surprise encounters during the holidays. While enjoying dinner with friends at the Damm Site Inn, she ran into one of her high school friends, **Mike Ridley '76 BS**, who was performing there that night. "For those of you who don't know, Mike has a CD out on the market. It is great." Later she ran into **Dan Stencil '76 BS** at her niece's 6th grade band concert. "It really is a small world." kajohnso@nmu.edu

Jennifer (Varvil) Nelson '99 BS of Okemos has joined the law firm Dykema Gossett PLLC's Corporate Finance Practice Group. Her practice will focus on corporate matters and public finance.

Allison Watkins '99 BA of McClellan, Calif., has completed three years of

service with AmeriCorps and is now a service learning coordinator for the AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps' western region. alwatkins@lycos.com

00s

Ryan Burri '00 BS of Grand Rapids graduated from Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine in May.

Krista Cihlar '01 BS of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., received a doctor of medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in May. She will begin a pathology residency in the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals Program in Milwaukee.

Benjamin Cooley '01 BA of Homer, a Navy seaman, recently completed recruit training with honors. Benjamin was recognized for outstanding performance in all phases of training, which includes instruction in seamanship, military regulations, close-order drill, first aid, and naval history.

Matthew Cullen '01 BSW of Round Lake, Ill., graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams College of Social Work with a master of social work degree in May 2002. Matthew is a prevention specialist with Family Service and Community Mental Health Center in McHenry, Ill. He and his father also run a company called The Cullen Boys. Together they provide motivational speaking and training presentations for leadership, facilitation, and team building. Matthew is married to **Stephanie Gekiere '03 BS**. Stephanie is a manager-in-training at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. bluln18@hotmail.com

Ben Miller '01 BS of Battle Creek was recently elected vice chairman of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. He was first elected to the board in 2000. Ben is a government affairs representative for the Lansing law firm Butzel Long. millerb@butzel.com

FLASH BACK

Dead River Games, 1999



Shanon Truse '01 BS of Tinley Park, Ill., is working as a behavioral therapist with a seven-year-old autistic girl. She is also working on her master's degree in clinical counseling at St. Xavier University in Chicago. "My job is great experience, and I will love to work with more children in the future." struse@alumni.nmu.edu

Brian Blettner '02 BS of Land O'Lakes, Wis., is the high school English teacher for the Watersmeet "Nimrods." In January the Nimrods were featured in an ESPN ad; in March, the Nimrod basketball team made an appearance on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. Brian is a proud graduate of the Watersmeet Township School.

Kevin Hulsey '02 BS of Osceola, Wis., works for Select One Mortgage as a senior loan officer. khulsey@selectonemortgage.com

Suzanne Poupore '02 BS of Green Bay, Wis., is a teacher for the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Head Start. supoupor@alumni.nmu.edu

Amber (Tonge) Cittadino '03 BS of Dollar Bay and her husband Tony welcomed the birth of their first child, Carter Michael, last October. Amber is enjoying her time being a stay-at-home mom. cidz28@aol.com

Elizabeth Koski '03 BS of Lansing is a law student at the Michigan State University College of Law. She also works for the MSU College of Law Admissions office and the MSU 4-H Youth Development office. elizabethkoski@yahoo.com

Jessica Mariin '03 BS of Escanaba is a youth care worker for Teaching Family Homes in Gladstone. jezolyln@hotmail.com

Marriages

Susan (Kumkoski) Wood '82 BS to Edgar Jacobsen.

Mike Nelson '83 Dipl. to **Mary Tikkanen '83 AB, '88 BS.**

Susan Blake '86 AB to **William Mathews.**

William Gaston '86 BS to **Heather Dockery.**

Ann-Marie Axford '87 Cert. to **Michael Porath.**

Michael Baum '87 BS to **Laura Tobin.**

David Fleming '87 BS to **Cari Wieck.**

John Krusic '88 Cert. to **Michelle Olsen.**

Mary Doherty '89 BSW to **James Robertson.**

James Elie '89 BS to **Patricia Rottier.**

Theresa Bell '93 BSN to **Eric Raikko '02 BA.**

Tresa Kempainen '94 BSW to **Christopher Stevens.**

Jacqueline Nelson '94 BS to **Percy Dales.**

Lynn Anderson '95 BS to **Benjamin Meikle.**

Jason Kangas '97 BS to **Jaime Pilath '01 Cert.**

Diane Storm '97 BS to **James Shores.**

Aaron Wixtrom '97 AS to **Rochelle Kuzma.**

Danyella Abraham '98 BS to **Alex McAlister.**

Amy Bouiffiou '98 AB to **James Stanchina.**

Brian Nygard '98 BS to **Elizabeth Fitzgerald.**

Kate Selke '98 BS to **Ryan Harmon.**

Michael Denofre Jr. '99 BS to **Brandi Nelson.**

Dana Heimerl '99 BS to **Michael Tuffelmire '01 BS.**

Todd Marshall '99 BS to **Alison Miller '01 BS.**

Andrew Patz '99 BS to **Debbie Raymakers.**

David Robinson '99 BS to **Robyn Wallington.**

KEEPING TRACK

Patrick Aldrich '00 BS to Amy Nutini '02 BS.

Joleen Brault '00 BS to Michael Lorens.

Ryan Carlson '00 BS to Kellie Konieczny '01 BSN.

Jason Charbonneau '00 BS to Maryellen Poutanen '02 BS.

Amber Cristan '00 BS to Greg Kinonen.

Todd Hartwig '00 BS to Rose Saari.

Jamie Hill '00 BSN to Kellie Pesola.

Sabrina Nieman '00 BS to Samuel Smallcombe.

Nicole Partica '00 BS to Thomas Negel.

Mark Robitaille '00 BS to Marissa Gannon.

Eric Stanislawski '00 BS to Cammy Schweikert '02 Cert.

Cheryl Stapleton '00 BS to Dammion Masnova.

Jon Vanden Heuvel '00 BS to Kristin Kooiker.

Stacy Woelffer '00 BS to Jason Gasperich.

Laura Cloutier '01 BS to Jason Gauthier.

Michael Erickson '01 Dipl. to Misti Johnson.

Andy Ewert '01 AAS, '03 BS to Kelly Pinar '02 BS.

Jeffrey Gregorich '01 BS to Katherine Stiglich '01 AB.

Heather Nardi '01 BS to Benjamin Phillips.

Chasity Wilber '01 BS to Troy Koepp.

Rebecca Wirtala '01 BS to Brian Curtis.

Kelli Ellis '02 BS to Nick Vardigan '03 BS.

Thomas Gibbons '02 BS to Amanda Callahan.

Shelly Hume '02 BS to Rick Demers.

Jacqueline Pemble '02 Cert. to David Carlson.

Joel Asiala '03 BS to Christina Judnich.

Jennifer Dickow '03 BS to John DeMay.

Kimber Dollar '03 BSN to Jeremy Hansen.

Christopher Gromala '03 BS to Heather Johnston.

Jennifer Jacobs '03 BSN to Derek Cardinal.

Zachary Sedgwick '03 BS to Angela Luce.

Deaths

Mildred (Callahan) Papineau '23 Cert., April 15, 2004, Gladstone.

Lempi Talvensaari '23 LC, Jan. 13, 2004, Chula Vista, Calif.

Alice (Yrkkola) Lahti '26 Cert., '63 BS, April 17, 2004, Houghton.

Ovidia Evensen '29 BS, Feb. 15, 2004, Marquette.

Mary (McCormick) Fontaine '32 BA, '65 MA, March 6, 2004, Marquette.

Irene Vanni '33 BS, Feb. 20, 2004, Negaunee.

Helen (Nordstrom) Cox '34 LC, April 6, 2004, Manistique.

Estella (Eskola) Lahti '35 BS, March 29, 2004, Hancock.

Vivian (Sahlman) Michelson '38 BS, Jan 15, 2004, Chelsea.

Howard Berryman '49 BS, Jan. 27, 2004, Marquette.

Emmet Dunlevy '49 BS, Feb. 23, 2004, Colorado Springs, Colo.

James "Mr. Mac" MacDonald '49 BA, Jan. 11, 2004, St. Ignace.

Elizabeth (Butler) Jepsen '51 BS, Dec. 17, 2003, Marquette.

Eero Keranen '52 BME, April 19, 2004, Kalkaska.

Thomas Quarnstrom '52 BA, March 6, 2004, Apache Junction, Ariz.

Arnold "Aike" Aikala '53 BS, '65 MA, Jan. 19, 2004, Iron River.

Robert "Dr. Gus" Gustafson '53 BS, March 21, 2004, Ishpeming.

Ernest Pardon '54 BS, March 21, 2004, Weston, Wis.

Gilbert Carlson '55 BS, April 3, 2004, Iron Mountain.

Delores Medaugh '58 BS, March 31, 2004, Oxford.

Barbara (Tuominen) Rector '58 BS, Dec. 30, 2003, Marquette.

George "Fred" Biekkola '60 BS, April 7, 2004, L'Anse.

Theodore "Ted" Tavonatti '60 BS, '66 MA, May 5, 2004, Iron Mountain.

Shirley (Busch) Evans '61 BS, Feb. 7, 2004, Menominee, Wis.

Lysander "Sandy" Maples '61 BA, March 16, 2004, Eckford Township.

Ron Caviani '62 BME, Jan. 16, 2004, Iron Mountain.

Francis "Smokey" Drake '62 BS, Jan. 14, 2004, Iron Mountain.

Dolores (Lahtela) Carriere '63 BA, '69 MA, Dec. 24, 2003, Champion.

Louise McCrea '63 BS, April 20, 2004, Marquette.

William Baird IV '64 BS, Dec. 21, 2003, Ontonagon.

Doris (Peterson) Dowd '64 BS, Jan. 13, 2004, Fibre.

Stuart Perala '64 BS, April 16, 2004, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Norman Haataja Sr. '65 Dipl., April 17, 2004, Elo.

Margaret Howe '65 MA, March 31, 2004, Weston, Mass.

Helen Roddy '66 BS, Feb. 13, 2004, Escanaba.

Bruce Kroken '68 BME, Jan. 1, 2004, Albuquerque, N.M.

Clifford Winn Jr. '68 BS, Jan. 10, 2004, Grand Ledge.

John Litsenberger Sr. '69 BS, Feb. 4, 2004, Crystal Falls.

Phyllis Chapman '71 BS, Jan. 23, 2004, Quinnesec.

Keith King '71 BA, Feb. 16, 2004, Ishpeming.

Elwood Erickson '72 MAE, Jan. 20, 2004, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Leslie "Les" Ross '72 BS, '75 MA,
Jan. 4, 2004, Negaunee.

Daniel Schmeltzer '73 BS, Feb. 5,
2004, Drummond Island.

Glenn Silberschein '74 BS, Oct. 17,
2003, White Lake.

Gregory Rose '75 BS, Feb. 29, 2004,
Negaunee.

Sharon (LaPorte) Chapman '77 BS,
March 31, 2004, Lansing.

Katharine Talus '78 BS, July 14,
2004, Howell.

Karl Dahl '79 BS, Feb. 3, 2004,
Ishpeming.

David Bos '80 BS, Feb. 15, 2004,
Marquette.

Warren Abrahamson '81 BSW, Feb.
12, 2004, Grand Marais.

Ruth Ann (Heikkinen) Smith '81 Cert.,
Feb. 29, 2004, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Arley Carlson '82 Dipl., March 21,
2004, Republic.

Curtis Heribacka Sr. '86 Dipl., Jan.
11, 2004, Marquette.

Walter Senko '88 MAE, July 22, 2002,
Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

Duane Simpson '88 AT, Dec. 16,
2003, Climax.

Sharon Jensen '94 MA, Feb. 15,
2004, Marquette.

Nicole (Romo) Lane '94 AT, Jan. 21,
2004, Ironwood.

Karen Walls '98 BFA, July 28, 2003,
Clinton Township.

Friends

Faust L. "Frosty" Ferzacca, Aug. 13,
2004, Green Bay, Wis. Frosty was the
head coach of the NMU football team
from 1957-65. He was inducted into
the NMU Sports Hall of Fame in 1976.

Florence Slade, Jan. 29, 2004, Crystal
Falls. Florence was a faculty member
in the Health, Physical Education, and
Recreation department at NMU from
1961 until her retirement in 1986.

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Leading by example

By GREG RATHJE '95 BS



Greg Rathje was the president of Associated Students for Northern Michigan University (ASNMU) from 1992-1994 and a graduate of the Student Leader Fellowship Program. He is halfway through Northern's master of public administration program and serves on the NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE is a guest column open to all alumni, friends, faculty, and current students of Northern Michigan University. We welcome your personal essays, anecdotes, opinion pieces, short-short fiction or fiction excerpts, poetry, or images. Not all submissions will make it into the magazine, and Horizons will not return submissions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Text may be edited for space and clarity. If you would like to make a submission to Northern Perspective, sent it by e-mail to horizons@nmu.edu, through the Horizons Web site at www.nmu.edu/horizons, or by mail to Editor, Horizons, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855. Photographs should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

The most valuable lessons in leadership I learned at NMU were through the examples of others. Director of Student Activities **Dave Bonsall '73 BS** displayed the quiet dignity of leadership through service. Political Science Professor Bill Ball's lectures seemed like barely controlled pandemonium until the class understood the point he wanted them to arrive at. Former Vice President for Student Affairs **Karen Reese '63 BA, '66 MA, '76 MAE** had an incredible gift for explaining the intersection of ethics and vision. Dean of Students **Ed Niemi's '79 BS, '83 MAE** constant guidance taught me how to face dilemmas head on and the liberating power of truth—be it scientific, historical, or spiritual.

President Bill Vandament was also a joy to watch. His ability to switch from shrewd politician to empathetic listener to folksy professor provided me with valuable lessons in how to adjust one's style to the situation. I loved watching his eyes while he sized up someone. In them could be a glint of steel or a mischievous spark, depending on the moment.

I watched and incorporated these ideas into my own views of leadership and often thought of these people as I grappled with challenges after leaving NMU. Often I asked myself how these people would have handled a situation. And their lessons would resonate once again.

I am now back at Northern as a graduate student, and I continue

to see leadership in practice here. Many of the faces here are the same, but they are joined by new faculty and staff, who are also teaching leadership by example.

When I started taking classes again at NMU, I felt like I was coming home—and not only because of familiar faces. A custodian I don't remember meeting before stopped me last year and asked how I was doing. He recalled what I had done during my time as an undergraduate. Someone I had not spoken ten words to before remembered me clearly ten years later. If leadership is making an impact in people's lives, then I was learning an important lesson about remembering people and their stories.

As an undergraduate, I was in the Student Leader Fellowship Program. Now I am a mentor in the program to a new generation of student leaders. Students today seem better prepared for the challenges of our world than I was at their age. They understand the need to make a difference—to leave the world a better place than it was when they arrived.

I have had the privilege of meeting President Les Wong and his wife Phyllis several times now, both when Les was a candidate for the position and since he took office. They impress me as accessible, compassionate, and wise—attributes in leadership that never go out of style. I hope you get the chance to meet them. Their idea of leadership is a great fit with NMU. ■

Digging up the Past

Friday-Saturday October 15-16, 2004

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 15

- 5:30 p.m. Homecoming parade
- 6:30 p.m. NMU Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner and Ceremony

Saturday, October 16

- 10:30 a.m. NMU Alumni Association Awards Brunch
- 1-3 p.m. Football reunion reception
Steer and Stein Steakhouse
- 3:30 p.m. Investiture Ceremony
for NMU President
Les Wong
- 5-7 p.m. **Block Party/Tailgate**
Investiture Reception
Superior Dome
- 7 p.m. Football Game
NMU vs. Ferris State
Superior Dome
- 9 p.m. Fifth Quarter Reception
Steer and Stein Steakhouse



Special Events

- A Celebration of "100 Years of Wildcat Football"
- Football Reception
- Block Party/Tailgate and Investiture Reception

Block Party/Tailgate and Investiture Information

Saturday, October 16 5-7 p.m.

Join us outside the Superior Dome for NMU's largest tailgate party and help us cheer on the 'Cats!

- FOOD
- LIVE MUSIC
- SKY DIVERS
- GAMES

Homecoming 2004



NMU has a special meaning for us because it's where we met.

Northern provided us with the education and resources necessary to help guide us as we explored new opportunities and prepared for the next chapter of our lives. And now as our family grows and we move toward new ventures, we can reflect on the happy (and sometimes stressful) memories we had as NMU students.

We value our education, but most of all, we cherish the people we have met and the relationships we have developed over the years.

Since we live in Marquette, we see the role the university plays to help enrich the lives of its students, alumni, and the Marquette community. Our lifetime membership in the NMU Alumni Association is one way we can help the university support old traditions and build new ones. And of course, our membership helps us stay connected with alumni and friends.

Laura (Jack) '84 AB, '92 BS and Timothy Glover '94 BS. Lifetime members of the NMU Alumni Association since 1997.

Of course we're members.

Are you? Consider joining the NMU Alumni Association today.

www.nmu.edu/alumni
1-877-GRAD NMU
alumni@nmu.edu

Laura and Timothy Glover with their daughter Kelsey and sons Ryan and Robert. Photograph by Duane Pape '98 AS, '00 BS.



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