

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.

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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 "DVDicious: 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 BONSALE '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 Talvensaaari '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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