

Northern HORIZONS

WINTER 2004

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NORTHERN

A Day in the Life...

Mary Dettloff '86 BS
Deputy press secretary to Michigan
Governor Jennifer Granholm



BREAKING NEWS
Board of Trustees names Les Wong
as 13th president of NMU.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As long as there's snow on the ground...



It's not often that *Horizons* is able to bring its readers breaking news. In early January, it became clear that the search for Northern's next president was ahead of schedule and would likely be concluded somewhere

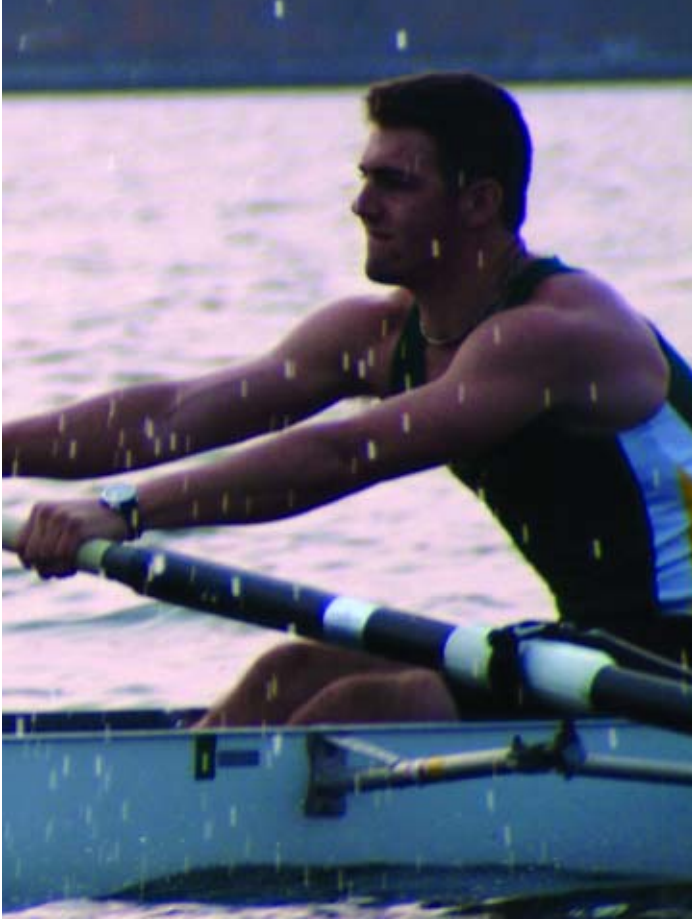
between the winter and spring/summer issues. So when the *Horizons* staff decided to "stop the presses" on the winter issue in order to bring you the news of who had been selected as Northern's 13th president, I figured that as long as there was snow on the ground, technically, it was still winter.

This has been my philosophy about Upper Peninsula winters ever since I moved here. When I was a graduate student at Northern I had an office in Gries Hall, and I remember watching a snowstorm from my office window just days before May commencement. It was the end of my first U.P. winter, and I was quickly gaining a new appreciation for the words "snowfall total." Just a few months earlier, I learned the hard way why people in Marquette who don't have garages park their cars so far back from their houses.

I had gone to visit my family in Colorado and left my car parked outside the house I was renting. When I returned two weeks later, I found that the hood of my car had been smashed in on one side. I'm kind of embarrassed to admit that it took me over a week to realize that the damage had not been the work of a vandal but rather that of an icicle that had to give up its hold on the side of my house due to its mammoth weight.

I'm not really that callous about U.P. winters. I think they're quite beautiful. Every year, I'm awestruck by the way the ice covers the trees along the Lake Superior shoreline and the way every inch of every tree sparkles after a snowstorm. It just took me a while to adjust to the fact that sometimes in the U.P., the calendar and the season simply don't match. As this issue goes to press, that fact holds doubly true.

In all seriousness, though, we are pleased to be able to bring you the news that Northern's Board of Trustees has selected Leslie "Les" Wong to lead the university just weeks after the formal announcement. And in anticipation of the next issue, we look forward to learning more about him and bringing his story to all of you.



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Crew is one of the newest club sports at Northern Michigan University, and its popularity is growing every year. **Miriam Moeller '00 BA, '02 MA** spent a morning working out with Northern's crew team. She found out how the team got started and just what it takes to be competitive out on the water.

8 A day in the life at NMU

While many NMU alumni get nostalgic for their college years and travel back to their alma mater to visit professors and see how the campus has changed, few actually venture inside a classroom to see how the academic experience has changed. So the *Horizons* staff signed up **Steve Guzowski '79 BS** for a full day of classes and asked him to tell us if life as an NMU student is different than it was twenty-five years ago.

12 Talking points: A conversation with Mary Dettloff

During her career, **Mary Dettloff '86 BS** has seen former President Bill Clinton address Michigan legislators on the House floor. She has met Jesse Jackson, Hillary Clinton, and numerous Olympic athletes. Find out why she says her current job as deputy press secretary to Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm is the icing on the cake of an already solid career inside Michigan politics.

ON THE COVER

Mary Dettloff, deputy press secretary to Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm inside the rotunda of the Michigan State Capitol. Photograph by David Trumple.

ON THIS PAGE

The Northern Michigan University crew team practicing on Lake Superior last fall. Photograph by Kim Marsh '80 BS.