



The leaves are beginning to show the first glow of autumn. Hints of red and yellow dot the landscape that only a few short weeks ago was awash with green. It's familiar, this change of seasons in the Upper Peninsula, but it still amazes us each year with its spectacular, quiet beauty. The sensation is similar to what many alumni who have visited campus over the last few months have felt—returning to a place that is at once so familiar and at the same time so different. While any university is in a constant state of evolution—changing programs



change...

Photography by Bill Sampson.

and facilities to meet the needs of the next generation of students—the changes at Northern over the last 10 years have been particularly striking. In past issues, we’ve shown you the Berry Events Center and the Seaborg Science Complex (pictured above). In this issue, we’d like to show you some of Northern’s newest additions so that you can see for yourself how the face of your university has changed.



For the first time since the late 1960s, all Art and Design programs and faculty members now reside under one roof. The 60,000 square-foot Art and Design facility opened January 17, 2005, and houses the drawing, painting, photography, and printmaking components previously located in Lee Hall. It also accommodates the computer labs and concentrations of digital cinema, environmental design, and illustration that occupied portions of Thomas Fine Arts.

The facility features a 100-seat lecture room, a digital green screen room, a computer suite with four labs and a sound studio; a critique room; a photography suite with light studio, commercial-scale darkroom, and film-loading rooms; and a student lounge area.

There are also six new studios. One is for general design projects and mimics an art agency with 25 cubicles. Another is a portfolio studio, which allows students to effectively photograph their pieces of art—whether they are large or small, flat, or three-dimensional. There are also studios for matting and mounting, printmaking, painting and drawing, and illustration. The latter two feature controlled lighting.

Above: Art and Design and the DeVos Art Museum. Top right: Student lounge. Bottom right: Drawing and illustration studio.



► Being in the same building as the rest of the department makes everything so much easier and convenient. I have ready access to other faculty members, and students can get to my office between any two art and design courses rather than having to trek across campus. It opens communication and encourages interaction.

The four Macintosh imaging studios allow students access to computers, scanning, printing in many forms, digital still and video cameras, and a whole range of production software.

—Stephan Larson, professor, NMU Art and Design Department

► The art program at NMU is quite impressive compared to what it was four years ago when I was a freshman. The equipment is all new and there is plenty of it, which was not the case my first year here. I am glad that I'm here to experience at least one year of this new facility.

—David Fedorski, senior, digital cinema major, Schaumburg, Ill.

► The illustration lab is a pretty good size and has a setup where students can work on drawing tables and easels at the same time. There is also a setup in the front of the studio for a live model and ample storage space for students. We also have an airbrush facility in the studio, and we have the best source of natural light in the entire building, which is perfect for landscapes and outdoor pieces.

—Tom Cappuccio,
professor, NMU Art and
Design Department

art and design



The new Art and Design facility is anchored by the DeVos Art Museum. The museum is comprised of two galleries. One is 2,500 square feet and designed for rotating exhibits, including student, national, and community exhibits. The other is 2,000 square feet and showcases the university's permanent collection, which ranges from Japanese art to early 20th-century illustration. The museum also has a climate-controlled storage room for permanent collection works and a "prep space" with a loading dock to receive pieces for upcoming exhibits.

The art museum was previously located in Lee Hall. The original Lee Hall gallery was established in 1975 and received museum status in 1996. The DeVos Art Museum was made possible with support from the Dan and Pamella DeVos Foundation and the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

Above: Student art and rotating exhibit gallery. Above right: Permanent collection art gallery.



art museum

- ▶ I love coming to work. It is such a great environment to be in. The DeVos Art Museum is a gorgeous space for showing art. It has a great “wow factor” when people first come in. The front gallery is very contemporary, and I can do larger exhibits there. It is a perfect space for showing big paintings and sculptures. The back gallery has a much more classical feel. It is a joy to set up new shows.

With the Art and Design Department and the Art Museum all under one roof, it is much better for students and faculty to interact and enjoy the art museum.

—Wayne Francis, coordinator of cultural affairs and museum director, NMU Art and Design Department

- ▶ The new DeVos Art Museum is much more modern than the one in Lee Hall. The displays are more interactive. The new facility lends itself more to technological art.
- Dan Gausden, junior, history major, Higgins Lake, Mich.

- ▶ Students and community members like the architectural aspects of the building. It’s a really cool place to walk around and check out or just sit and hang out for a while.

—Susan Truckey, freshman, athletic training major, Republic, Mich.

- ▶ The DeVos Museum space is much better than the old one. It’s much more presentable to the public and much better for art shows. I like the use of steel and minimalistic color.

—Britt Johnson-Dunlop, senior, political science major, St. Charles, Ill.

devos



C.B. Hedgcock Fieldhouse was constructed in 1957 and included a fieldhouse with a 90'x122' gymnasium, a gym for intramural sports, an indoor swimming pool, staff offices, classrooms, locker rooms and showers, a training room, and other facilities. The last varsity basketball game took place in the fieldhouse on Feb. 20, 1999. The building, which is now known simply as C.B. Hedgcock, includes one-stop services for students, faculty, and staff. Some of the service suites at the facility include Academic and Career Advisement, Admissions, Consultation Services, Dean of Students, Diversity Student Services, Financial Aid, Financial Services, First Year Experience, Honors Program, Housing and Residence Life, the JOBSearch Center, Registrar, the Student Service Center (where bills can be paid), Upward Bound, Tutoring, the Music Department's Reynolds Recital Hall, and the newest eatery on campus, the Fieldhouse Food Bar.

Above: C.B. Hedgcock west entrance. Top right: A view of the second floor student lounge area.
Bottom right: The Fieldhouse Food Bar.



► I am amazed at the transformation of Hedgcock. I remember playing basketball in the almost barren building my freshman year, and now I wouldn't even recognize it as the same place.

—Amy Warman '03 BS, Des Plains, Ill.

► I had been in the old fieldhouse many times before, and I was surprised to see how well the renovations went. The setup is open and inviting. It's right in the middle of campus, too, so it's easy to find and has adequate parking. Plus, it was a chore to get to the Student Service Center when it was in Cohodas.

—Brett Kratz, sophomore, business/CIS major, Ishpeming, Mich.

► Being in the center of campus has a much different feel to it. We're more in the mainstream of student traffic. From a customer perspective, we love having a large reception area and so many student service areas close by to direct visitors to. It's a great work environment.

—Gerri Daniels '83 BA, NMU director of admissions

► Hedgcock is a nice place to study and grab some snacks between classes. It's also nice to come here when you really don't have anything to do except hang out. It has big, comfy chairs and plug-ins for my laptop, which are big pluses in my book.

—Andrea Bussiere, senior, nursing major, Ishpeming, Mich.

c.b. hedgcock



M

Mildred K. Magers Hall was constructed in the mid 1960s as a residence hall, but declining enrollment in the 1980s caused the university to close portions of the facility. Magers was converted to faculty offices from 1988-1991. Once renovations were complete, the facility housed the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences offices; the College of Business; the departments of Economics, Education, History, Language, Nursing, and Political Science; the Academic Senate; and the AAUP office.

Increasing enrollment over the last several years has created a pressing need for additional campus housing. After all academic and administrative offices in Magers had been relocated to other campus buildings, construction began during the winter 2005 semester to convert the facility back into a residence hall. In August 2005, the first students moved in. The three-story masonry building has 50 residence rooms and four community rooms per floor.

Above: Magers Hall. Top right: A residence hall room. Bottom right: Student television room.



► It's spiffy. I like the sun rooms the best because they're nice to relax in when the TV room is overcrowded. I lived in Payne Hall for two years, and compared to that, it's like living in a mansion here. I waited in line behind 50 people to sign up for this room. I wanted to live here because this is the first new hall since the '60s, and I wanted to be a part of shaping it.

—Michael Jensen, junior, mathematics education major, Des Plaines, Ill.

► Since the renovation began taking shape, alumni have been commenting to me and saying, "Wow!" They always remark on the pitched roof and how it enhances the look of the building. Interestingly, the roof, one of the most expensive parts of the renovation, not only added a classic, residential look to the building, it also increased ventilation and allowed us to do what we needed to with the mechanical system.

—Carl Holm '70 BA, '76 MAE, NMU director of Housing and Residence Life.

► It's awesome. Everyone is jealous of us. The wooden doors are definitely a plus; they look so much nicer. It's nice to know that we're the first ones to sleep in these beds. I wanted to have a loft, though, and we're not allowed, so I was bummed about that. The stackable dresser drawers



make up for that, though. Those give us a way to conserve floor space.

A.J. Fischer, freshman,
marketing major, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

magers hall



Other than the new above-ground covered walkway that connects Thomas Fine Arts to C.B. Hedgcock, the exterior of the Music Department's main facility remains largely unchanged. Inside, however, the department's facilities have undergone a complete overhaul. Highlights of the renovation include 28 newly designed practice rooms, 16 of which are Wenger studios, named for the company that set the standard for music industry facilities. In fact, NMU's percussion ensemble room is the largest Wenger studio ever built. Two of the Wenger rooms are "V-ready," which means they have programmed capabilities to perfectly duplicate the acoustics of other venues.

The music technology laboratory features 24 keyboard stations—each with an accompanying area for a student's notebook computer. The previous lab had 12 stations. Other enhancements include a new music education classroom designed to simulate a public school setting for future teachers, and an improved storage area with floor-to-ceiling compartments of various sizes with humidity control to protect the instruments.

Above: Thomas Fine Arts with the new connector that joins the facility with C.B. Hedgcock.
Top right: Music technology laboratory. Bottom right: Small ensemble room.



- ▶ As a former graduate assistant and current adjunct instructor in the music department, I have seen NMU through an amazing transformation. The recent renovation provides the music department with a cutting-edge facility...putting the "fine" back into fine arts.
—Janis Shier Peterson '78 MME, Marquette

- ▶ Integrating technology into the curriculum has always been a priority, but the renovated practice rooms and the music technology lab allow us to realize this goal to an even greater extent. The facility features stations where students can use state-of-the-art MIDI controllers and sound modules in conjunction with powerful software on their laptops. I'm happy that we can offer our students the chance to become familiar with this type of equipment.
—Mark Flaherty, professor, NMU Music Department

- ▶ It's great to have access to all of this technology for composing and arranging projects. The music technology lab and all of the newly renovated music facilities here at Northern definitely had an impact on my decision to attend NMU this fall.
—Cameron Mahoney, freshman, music major, Marquette

music department



Reynolds Recital Hall, located at the east end of C.B. Hedgcock, has been called the crowning jewel of the Music Department’s facility upgrades. It has a seating capacity of 300 and will be used for student and faculty recitals. Assets of the venue include curtains over the side wall panels that can be opened or closed to expand or dampen the sound; six different computerized lighting presets to accentuate various moods, from intimate chamber music to full-fledged orchestra; a humidity-controlled “safe room” for the two concert grand pianos; and high-backed seats of slightly varying widths with plenty of leg room for walking between the rows. The recital hall was made possible, in large part, by a contribution from the Phyllis Reynolds family of Marquette.

The recital hall also features a Walker digital pipe organ, purchased with a gift from **Jeannette (Skinnard) Bowden ’36 LC, BA**. In her 44 1/2 years at NMU, Bowden served as the executive assistant to five NMU presidents.

Above: Reynolds Recital Hall stage. Above center: A close up of the organ pipes. Above right: View of audience seating from the stage.



- ▶ It was a great honor to be asked to participate in the dedicatory program for the new Reynolds Recital Hall at NMU. My pianist, Jeffrey Peterson, and I very much enjoyed the experience of performing in this new and beautiful hall. The acoustics are just wonderful. It is a very “live” hall and is simultaneously intimate and spacious. The renovation of the concert grand is fantastic! The sound and the touch are superb.

When I was a student at NMU, we performed in a lecture hall in Jamrich Hall. Needless to say, this was not an ideal performance venue. The new hall will give students and guest artists a performing venue that inspires them to perform to the very best of their abilities.

—Valerie Errante, '80 MME,
Shorewood, Wis.

- ▶ I got to spend a brief day on campus this summer and had a chance to see some of the new and remember the old. Reynolds Recital Hall is a gem! What a great asset to the university. When I was a student, we held recitals in Jamrich Hall, or the IF Building as it was known back then. Everything looks modern and attractive.

—Erik Bergh '79 BME, Jackson, Mich.

- ▶ I just performed my first faculty recital in Reynolds Recital Hall, and it was delightful. I love the sound of the room, of course, and the dressing areas and backstage facilities are convenient and well designed. But I think I get the most satisfaction from the fact that the hall itself conveys a message to the audience and performers that music is significant and worthy of investment and attention. When we performed in Jamrich Hall, it seemed that our concerts and recitals were, to some extent, intruding on classroom space. We were like a sports team that only played away games. In the Reynolds Hall, we are home.

—Rob Engelhart, professor, NMU Music Department

reynolds recital hall



Willard M. Whitman School first opened its doors in 1954 to accommodate kindergarten through 6th grade. NMU purchased the building in 2001, after it had been closed by Marquette Area Public Schools due to shrinking enrollment. Interior and exterior work was required to convert the 39,000 square-foot building to faculty offices and classrooms, and to provide a 285-space parking lot to serve the facility.

Whitman Hall houses the School of Education, the dean of the College of Professional Studies, the charter school program, the Center for Native American Studies, the Center for Upper Peninsula Studies, the International Affairs Office, and the Modern Languages and Literatures Department.

Its namesake, Willard M. Whitman (1884-1955), served 34 years as superintendent of Marquette Public Schools. He played a major role in expanding the district through additional buildings and extensive programming. He is also credited with creating the student health protection program, introducing art, drama, and music into the classroom, and developing the adult education programs. Whitman taught classes at Northern for several summers.

Pictured above: Whitman Hall north entrance. Above right: Whitman commons.



► When I taught at Whitman Elementary, we had so many connections with NMU. It was a perfect fit for the university to buy this building and utilize it the way they have. It would have broken my heart to see them tear it down. After two elementary schools I worked at closed, it was almost a sign that I needed to move on. I decided to pursue an open position here. My career took a new direction, but ironically it has led me back to a familiar place.

—Sue (Vokes) Szczepanski '81 MAE, instructor, NMU School of Education.

► It seems corny, but Whitman Hall is still a school. The physical aspect has changed a lot, and that's always going to evolve. But the spirit—the purpose—remains the same, and it's still a noble one. There's still the expecta-

tion that we can influence and create good learners and teachers. The building has a lot of history, but it's what happens inside, the people and the relationships that develop that determine how it feels. This feels good.

—Joe Lubig '91 BS, '00 MAE, instructor, NMU School of Education

► Every time I walk through the doors of Whitman Hall, I think back to my times in the elementary. The biggest sense of familiarity is when I walk through the doors from Lincoln

Avenue. This is where I would walk into school every morning from kindergarten through 5th grade. Having the School of Education located in the old Whitman Elementary is a great way to keep the memory of the elementary school alive.

—Kelsey Deo, senior, elementary education major, Marquette

whitman hall