

Scholarship to aid water science majors

Few things in life gave **David Rautiola '96 AS** more pleasure than standing hip-deep in a stream, taking in a crisp new morning while chasing the elusive steelhead. He loved fishing, and he loved water.

As a tribute to his love of water, **Heather Rautiola '95 Cert., '96 AS** has created the David J. Rautiola Annual Water Science Scholarship in honor of her husband, who died in July 2004. A graduate of NMU's wastewater management program, David spent his career as a wastewater treatment plant operator.

"Dave and I had talked about creating a scholarship someday, so this seemed appropriate to do," said Heather, who resides in Grand Rapids. "Dave loved the Marquette

area. He loved the water up there. It seemed so fitting to give back to Northern this way, especially after talking to one of the NMU professors who expressed how much such a scholarship would mean to the water science program."

The Rautiola Scholarship will be awarded to an NMU student majoring in water science. To be considered for the award, candidates must submit a paper explaining why they wish to pursue a water science-related career.

"This scholarship will be a great help to students who pursue the major. This is the first scholarship available to NMU water science students, and we really appreciate the Rautiola family's generosity," said NMU chemistry professor



David Rautiola

Eugene Wickenheiser.

Northern's water science program is an interdisciplinary degree opportunity that allows students to understand water pollution, quality, and environmental systems through the application of biology, chemistry, and geography.

Silk joins Foundation staff

About five years ago at a turkey processing plant in Grand Rapids, Amy Silk (right)



put on waders, a lab coat, safety glasses, and a hard hat, and prepared to get to work. While it might sound odd to some, it's just one of the many aspects of a university development professional's job.

Silk is the new director of NMU Foundation operations.

"A key part of the job is visiting alums. I often get to visit them at their places of business or employment. Frequently that involves a tour of the facility. Touring the turkey processing facility was one of the

most unusual experiences I've had," said Silk, who came to NMU from Central Michigan University, where she worked as a development officer for the College of Business Administration since 1999.

At NMU, Silk manages the day-to-day operations of the NMU Foundation, which oversees the fundraising efforts of the university.

"Joining the Northern team is an opportunity to really have an impact on building a relatively new development program," Silk said. "The Foundation and Alumni Association staffs are very engaged and dedicated to the work they do here. I also am excited about the vision President Wong has for NMU. And, I really like snow. Marquette is a beautiful city."

As the mother of two college-age daughters, Silk will have a chance to experience NMU from a parent's perspective. Her oldest daughter Hailey attends as a guest this summer before returning to CMU for her junior year, and her youngest daughter Alison enrolls as a Northern freshman this fall.

Silk is a 1975 graduate of Michigan State University, where she received a degree in retail marketing and management/fashion merchandising.

"I have a passion for learning and education, and how it significantly impacts an individual and the world. I also love the joy giving brings to the donor as well as to the recipient. It truly is a two-way relationship."

Foundation reorganizes giving societies

The NMU Foundation has simplified its giving societies to recognize lifetime giving and commitment to annual giving.

The society to recognize lifetime giving will be known as the President's Society. A donor becomes a member when his or her lifetime contributions to NMU surpass \$10,000. The President's Society has four levels: member (\$10,000 to \$49,999), bronze member (\$50,000 to \$99,999), silver member (\$100,000 to \$499,999), gold member (\$500,000 to \$999,999), and platinum member (\$1 million and above).

The 1899 Society will honor donors who have given for 10 consecutive years, regardless of the size of their gifts. Memberships to the NMU Alumni Association, affinity clubs, or gifts to WNMU radio or television are not included since those affiliations already provide benefits and recognition.

The 1899 Society is especially designed to recognize those who consistently contribute to the NMU Annual Fund, whether the gifts are designated to a particular department or program, or are undesignated for use to assist with the university's most critical needs, according to Martha Van Der Kamp, executive director of advancement.

"Where would we be without those who choose to invest in large ways in Northern students, faculty, staff, and programs? Certainly not ranked among the best in the Midwest as we now are. We also wouldn't be where we are without those smaller, heartfelt gifts that, added together, are critical to NMU in so many ways. Both types of giving are equally appreciated by Northern and will now be equally recognized," Van Der Kamp said.

Devos Art Museum dedicated



Andy Gregg '93 BFA

Dan and Pamela DeVos (pictured at left) attended the official dedication of the DeVos Art Museum on April 15.

The museum, formerly known as the NMU Art Museum, was located in Lee Hall until January, when the addition to the Art and Design building was completed. The new museum features two galleries—one for rotating exhibits and the other for exhibits from NMU's permanent collection.

The museum's renaming is in honor of a \$1 million gift by the Dan and Pamela DeVos and the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundations, both of Grand Rapids, during *This Decisive Season: The Campaign for Northern*

Michigan University, NMU's first-ever comprehensive fundraising effort from 1996-2003 that realized \$36.6 million in private giving to the university.

Dan was a member of the NMU Board of Trustees from 1995-2003 and served as chair from January 2001 until his term expired in December 2003.

Northern celebrates Reynolds Recital Hall dedication with gala concert

Phyllis Reynolds (center) cut a ceremonial ribbon along with NMU President Les Wong (left) and Don Grant, head of the NMU Music Department, to officially dedicate the Reynolds Recital Hall on April 19. The ribbon cutting was followed by a gala concert featuring four student ensembles and soprano soloist **Valerie Errante '80 MME**.

The recital hall is named in honor of the Phyllis Reynolds family of Marquette, long-time supporters of NMU. Reynolds was a major contributor during *This Decisive Season*.



Bill Sampson



Jim Godell

Foundation offices get a makeover

The NMU Foundation and Alumni Association offices have a new look thanks to a generous furniture donation from Steelcase Inc. of Grand Rapids. The new furnishings are part of the company's Metro line and create an elegant and welcoming reception area for alumni and friends of Northern.

Steelcase president and CEO James Hackett has an honorary degree from NMU, and Brian Cloyd, director of corporate relations, currently serves on NMU's Board of Trustees. Cloyd is pictured (center) with NMU president Les Wong and executive director of advancement Martha Van Der Kamp.