

NMU celebrates 'similarities and differences'



Nationally recognized speakers came to campus in September as part of NMU's "Uniting Neighbors in the Experience of Diversity" (UNITED) Conference. The three-day event was designed to celebrate the cultural similarities and differences in the Upper Peninsula community.

Keynote speakers included Angela Davis, a social activist formerly associated with the Black Panther Party in the '60s and '70s and currently a philosopher and professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz; Frank W. Hale Jr., scholar, author, consultant, civil rights crusader, and vice provost and professor emeritus at Ohio State University; Gerald Hill, a private consultant in tribal law, tribal government and Native language revitalization; Jim Hubbard, a photojournalist who created Shooting Back, an organization dedicated to empowering children at risk through photography; and Shirley Wiegand, an expert in anti-sodomy laws, former member of Anita Hill's law team during the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearings, and professor at Marquette University Law School.

"The purpose of the UNITED Conference was to affirm diversity as an important value in the Upper Peninsula, celebrate diversity within our communities, and create a tangible culture of diversity broadly defined at NMU," said Judith Puncochar, chair of the UNITED planning committee. "The people of the Marquette area are preparing for a future in an increasingly diverse and globalized society. Our prosperity and cultural enrichment are rooted in a spirit of innovation and cooperation with peoples from diverse cultural groups."

The UNITED Conference offered an opportunity for community members to discuss topics related to

diversity and to meet more than three dozen speakers, musicians, dancers and artists who participated. A film festival and community art project was also a part of the event. The Marquette City Commission passed a proclamation that declared September as "Diversity Month."

The month-long celebration was intended to close with a presentation by actor, activist and author Edward James Olmos titled "We're all in the same gang," but due to travel issues, his appearance had to be postponed. Arrangements are being made for a future visit. The award-winning performer is known for his roles in "Miami Vice," "Stand and Deliver," and "Battlestar Galactica."

NMU cards for special occasions

Alumni and friends can order holiday and NMU-themed blank cards designed and marketed by NMU students through a new collaborative effort between the art and design department, College of Business and communications and marketing office.

Keith Ellis, NMU art and design professor, is having his students create cover art for the cards. A campus committee will select the designs and NMU's American Marketing Association student group will market and coordinate the sales of the cards.

"Last winter when our college was going out to purchase holiday cards, I thought, 'Why am I giving my money to Hallmark for cards

that NMU students could design, produce and sell—all while gaining valuable real-world experience?'" said Rajib Sanyal, dean of the College of Business.

The cost for a set of 24 holiday cards with envelopes and a personalized message starts at \$30; a set of 24 blank cards is \$20.

A sample of the cards will be on www.nmu.edu/greetingcards beginning October 15. Orders can be placed by e-mail at business@nmu.edu or by sending a check or money order made out to Northern Michigan University to NMU Card Project, College of Business, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, MI 49855.

The changing face of campus

New partnerships with area businesses and organizations are leading the way in innovative uses of Northern's facilities.

By leveraging the asset of physical space, Mike Roy, vice president for finance and administration, said NMU could reduce facilities costs and apply the funds to other areas.

Some possibilities that have been explored include selling buildings or leasing space to entities that share the university's mission, moving programs to different campus buildings or demolishing buildings that are not being used.

"We've been talking with representatives from Marquette County and Telkite about leasing space at Sawyer so we could move our aviation maintenance, collision repair and automotive programs out there," said Roy. "This would free up a wing of Jacobetti to allow us to move other operations into there."

As for renovation plans, the university would like to create new uses for Lee Hall.

Over the summer, Northern entered into an agreement to lease Jacobetti space to local trade unions during off-peak hours. Another lease arrangement that begins this fall is for Marquette General Hospital to establish a cytogenetics and molecular biology lab in three classrooms on the third floor of West Science. Discussions are ongoing with MGH on other facility partnerships—particularly the University Center.

As for renovation plans, the university would like to create new uses for Lee Hall, primarily through private funds.

"We're going to do a feasibility



Northern students have a new on-campus housing option this year. The new Woodland Park Apartments (above) are located just south of Wright Street near Neidhart and Tracy avenues. The facility features a combination of efficiencies, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and four-bedroom units. It includes a centrally located commons area complete with a lounge/community room, kitchen, study space and fitness center.

Meyland Hall also was renovated this summer with upgraded resident rooms, lounges and infrastructures. Exterior improvements include a new pitched roof, windows and contemporary design. Three-story sunroom additions have been constructed at the three main entrances. Magers Hall was renovated in the same style last summer and Van Antwerp and Hunt Halls are next on the list. Wireless capability was installed in all remaining residence halls, making virtually all of Northern's campus wireless.

study to see if there is enough interest among alumni, friends and the Marquette community," said NMU President Les Wong. "What we would like to put in Lee would be the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Museum, Alumni Relations, the NMU Foundation, a restaurant-type facility, and we'd like to restore the second-floor ballroom. Many of our alumni remember when the second floor was a ballroom that held some of the university's most gala events. And the view of Lake Superior from there is spectacular."

Adjacent Carey Hall will likely

be torn down, after several options, including creating retirement condominiums, were carefully studied and found to be too costly.

In addition, renovation of the Cohodas building—of which more than half is now used for academic purposes—is NMU's top priority capital outlay project waiting for state funding.

A combined heat and power cogeneration addition to the Ripley Heating Plant, which could supply both NMU and MGH, is the second priority on the capital outlay list.

ALUMNI AWARDS GRANTED AT HOMECOMING

Alumni Service Award Thomas Ungrodt '76 BS

Tom is president and CEO of Ideation, Inc. of Ann Arbor. He has been actively involved with the university for many years, as president of the NMU Foundation Board of Trustees, serving on the College of Business Advisory Council and as executive-in-residence.



Outstanding Young Alumni Award Kristen Lucas '95 BS

Kristen has her doctoral degree from Purdue. She has developed a research program on the children of Upper Peninsula miners, on which she collaborates with NMU faculty and staff. She shares her experiences with undergraduate students whenever she is on campus.



Alumni Civic Leadership Award Timothy Bennett '74 BS

Tim is executive director of Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay. He has been a tireless advocate for children and adults with disabilities. He is also engaged in the Marquette community through the Marquette Historical Society, Diocese of Marquette Review Board for the Protection of Young People and St. Michael Parish.



Distinguished Alumni Award Paul Goldman '63 BA

Paul is founder and CEO of Goldman Group in Southfield. The company sells professional medical and dental practices nationwide. His public service and loyalty to NMU are remarkable. He rarely misses an opportunity to return to campus for Homecoming.



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Enrollment continues to increase; smallest tuition hike

Northern's fall enrollment will increase for the ninth consecutive year, according to the preliminary estimates available at press time. Paul Duby, associate vice president for institutional research, said the fall 2006 headcount is projected to be between 9,500 and 9,600. If that holds true, it will mark an approximate 22 percent increase from the 7,826 recorded in 1997.

"We ended the fall 2005 semester with an enrollment of 9,500," Duby said. "We're definitely going to be moving up from that. We won't likely gain the full 200 students we projected more than a year ago, but I feel comfortable that we have a good chance of reaching that by the end of the fall."

The NMU Board of Trustees this summer approved a tuition and fee schedule for 2006-07. The annual cost for full-time resident undergraduate students will increase by 4.8 percent. They will pay \$6,141, which is \$283 more than the previous year. Nonresident undergraduates will pay \$10,077, an increase of \$475. The annual rate for full-time graduate students will total \$4,981 for Michigan residents, up \$227 from a year ago, and \$7,333 for nonresidents, which represents a \$339 increase.

"We'll be able to maintain the quality of our programs and sustain efforts in a number of initiatives while keeping the tuition increase modest," said NMU President Les Wong. "I think it's a sign of our board's confidence in the administration to steward the financial resources as efficiently as possible."

The 4.8 percent tuition increase is the lowest hike among Michigan's 15 public universities. NMU continues to have the second-lowest tuition and fees in Michigan.

Northern launches Superior Edge program

With the new “Superior Edge” program at Northern Michigan University, students are learning to live a life that matters. They’re also gaining a distinct advantage as they prepare for a career or graduate school.

Other universities have leadership programs, but Northern is the only one in the country to ramp it up by combining leadership with three other value-added components: citizenship, diversity and real-world experience. Each of the four “edges” involves 100 hours above and beyond normal degree requirements. Participants will also write a reaction paper and create an online portfolio.

The program is open to anyone—regardless of major, class status or grade point average—at no additional cost. It is also self-designed by students to match their interests and fit their schedules. They have the option of completing any or all edges, with the results reflected on their student enrichment transcripts. Those who put in the full 400 hours will graduate with special honors for achieving the Superior Edge.

Kevin Duby, a senior from Marquette, served on the task force charged with developing the guidelines. He also participated in the pilot program last year and will continue his involvement through his final semester at NMU.

“I think the program guides students in their activities,” Duby said. “The way it’s set up with the criteria required to complete each edge, it helps them focus their efforts. It’s always good to get involved in activities, but students will get more out of those activities



if they are aimed toward a common goal rather than all over the board. The program ties together what students want to get out of it and think is reasonable with what faculty and staff think will benefit students, the university and community.”

Gavin Telfer from Whitewater, Wis., participated in the pilot and is now the graduate student assistant for the Superior Edge.

“It was exciting to be one of the first 100 students trying the program out,” Telfer said. “It really is a unique program that isn’t offered anywhere else, and I hope it will serve as a model for other universities. Thousands of people get degrees each year, so it’s somewhat of a crapshoot for employers to pick the most qualified candidate. But an applicant who has something like the Superior Edge just might separate himself or herself.”

The ultimate goals of this intense but invigorating program are that students will grow as competent, ethical and effective leaders; become engaged, involved citizens; develop sensitivity and awareness relating to domestic and global

diversity issues; and relate classroom theory to workplace practice in real-world settings.

“It’s extremely flexible,” said Rachel Harris of NMU, who directs the initiative. “Students who are already heavily involved

will be able to package that to their advantage. Students involved to a lesser degree may have an incentive to do a little more. And students not doing much of anything outside of class might decide to change that. It’s up to the students how much they’re willing or able to invest, and they can finish at their own pace.”

In his fall convocation address, NMU President Les Wong said of Superior Edge: “Imagine our modest goal of 10 percent of our students, or 1,000 students putting out 400 hours of work each, mostly ungraded and unpaid, in service to their community. That is 400,000 hours of work. It’s like suddenly putting 200 full-time employees in service to the community tomorrow. The Superior Edge has this kind of potential even in its earliest stages. It will not be surprising if we receive national recognition from this effort and that attention brings students and other universities to our campus the same way TLC [the laptop program] did.”

For more information about the Superior Edge program, visit www.nmu.edu/superioreedge.