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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# A brave new world

The last five years have touched our country. You can feel it here at Northern. You could see it in the more than 3,000 small flags planted on the academic mall by the NMU College Republicans on September 11. You could hear it at the UNITED conference, where we talked about how we're living with each other in this world—and how we can do better. You could even smell and taste it—in the sushi at the new Temaki & Tea Asian eatery in Hedgcock, where students from Japan are helping to create authentic offerings; in Fieras, a Latin café replacing Bookbinders; and at the upcoming Mexican fiesta celebrated around the novel many of us are reading about illegal immigration, *The Tortilla Curtain*. And you can read about it here in this issue of *Northern Horizons*, in these stories of NMU alums who have devoted their lives to protecting our country and us.

Our seemingly more dangerous world is reflected in NMU's new forensic biochemistry major, which prepares students to work in crime labs; in criminal justice being the fourth most popular major this year; in the fearless students enrolled in our wildland firefighting courses and in our alums who battled blazes out West all summer long; and in the proud faces of the 22 most recent graduates of our Police Academy. It's visible on many days in the campus flags flying at half staff for a Michigan soldier.

But instead of retreating into our own, sometimes more comfortable ways and closing our doors, we are accepting the challenge to understand other cultures and beliefs, to deal with the threats to living a good life, however that may be defined.

As President Wong and a team from NMU travel to China this month to forge new alliances, and the university focuses on making study abroad an experience for every Northern student—and Northern a resource and temporary home for foreign students—we actively seek connection and coherence with the wider world. We continue to search for ways to balance the dangers and the thrills of the known and the unknown.

—Rebecca Tavernini



Emily Schmitz

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# 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 Puncocar, 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](http://www.nmu.edu/greetingcards) beginning October 15. Orders can be placed by e-mail at [business@nmu.edu](mailto: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.



## 'Cats action on your computer!

If you can't make it to a game, you don't have to miss the action. Listen to 'Cats football, hockey and men's and women's basketball games—home and away—live via the Internet, or later at your convenience.

To receive the broadcast, visit the NMU Athletics Web site: [www.nmu.edu/athletics](http://www.nmu.edu/athletics), and click on the broadcasts link at the top of the page to listen to live action for free. Games also are available on TEAMLINE by dialing 800-846-4700 and entering 1759 as NMU's team code. TEAMLINE games are billed to your credit card and can be heard when you want. Just watch out for that lamp when celebrating a score!



## 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/superiorede](http://www.nmu.edu/superiorede).



Every day, computer hackers and other cyber criminals launch countless attacks that shut down Web sites and release a never-ending onslaught of worms and viruses on computers and networks around the globe. And despite the fear invoked by such terms as digital Armageddon and digital Pearl Harbor, these attacks pose no threat to life and limb. However, they do pose a significant threat to the economy. According to Computer Economics, the worldwide economic impact of attacks like these totals more than \$10 billion a year.

Not surprisingly, the federal government's Web sites and computer networks are particularly attractive targets for these criminals. So why is it that we don't read more about these attacks as they continually strike in our own digital back yard?

technology across the 13 bureaus that comprise the DOC enterprise—the three largest of which include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Patent and Trade Office. He is responsible for managing the department's IT financial resources, with an annual budget of \$1.5 billion. In addition to IT security and critical infrastructure protection, West oversees IT operations and policy, IT planning and capital investment review, IT architecture, information quality, E-government, and Next Generation Internet.

West is no stranger to the CIO role. Prior to his promotion to the DOC, he was CIO for the Federal Emergency Management Agency for three years and the National Weather Service for almost two years. Other

# Becoming the Best by Preparing for the Worst

By Karen Wallingford '02 MA

"You won't read about most of them because they're unsuccessful," said **Barry West '85 BS**, who was named chief information officer for the U.S. Department of Commerce in June. West, and others like him, are a big part of the reason cyber attacks on the government's computer infrastructure have had such an insignificant impact.

With more than 25 years of experience in the IT field, part of West's success is rooted in his belief in preparing for the worst. It's something he learned from his early years as a first responder. Prior to a stint in the U.S. Air Force, he spent six years as a volunteer firefighter and emergency technician near his hometown of Smithsburg, Maryland. And now, rather than fighting fires as they happen, he's responsible for preventing them, metaphorically, from happening in the first place.

"We have more than 350 IT systems, and I have to make sure that all of these are secure and that they have proper security plans in place," he said.

IT security is a critical aspect of West's job, but it's only a part of his responsibilities. As CIO, West is responsible for leading and coordinating information

positions he has held in government include deputy director of the Office of Electronic Government at the U.S. General Services Administration, associate director for production services at the National Technical Information Service, and systems manager at the Census Bureau. All of these positions have been career appointments based on experience, accomplishments and education rather than political affiliation.

West's rise in the IT world was literally from the ground up. As a high school student, he started working for Tab Books, Inc., where he did everything from warehouse and janitorial work to helping operate the printing presses. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in a community college near his hometown and began working toward an associate degree in data processing. After two semesters, Tab offered him a job with its newly established computer department. Under his leadership,

the company converted from a manual-based operation to a completely automated system.

While his job at Tab was challenging, the hours were long and didn't afford him the opportunity to advance his education more than one class at a time. The desire to obtain a four-year degree, coupled with a healthy dose of wanderlust, prompted him to enlist in the Air Force, where he was trained as a weather specialist.

In 1984, West was stationed at the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Gwinn. With Northern Michigan University just a short drive away, he jumped at the opportunity to enroll in the College of Business's computer information systems program. His schedule was grueling.

"I did 44 credits in 15 months, and I worked full time. It was unbelievable," he said. "I graduated in '85 and then got stationed in Alaska in '86, so it was just by the skin of my teeth that I made it through the program."

After a year at a remote station in Alaska, West was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. While at Andrews, he enrolled in an extended degree program at Central Michigan University, and received a master of science in administration in 1990.

**West faced and survived some of the most intense pressure of his career during his tenure as CIO of FEMA, leading the IT department during the two busiest hurricane seasons on record.**

Since then he has also earned a master of science in information technology and a chief information officer executive certificate from the University of Maryland.

West left the Air Force in 1988 and went to work at the Census Bureau as they were gearing up for the 1990 census. Perhaps it's only fitting that he is returning to the DOC as the Census Bureau prepares for the decennial



The devastation of Katrina on New Orleans' 9th ward, six months after the hurricane.

Marvin Neuman, courtesy of FEMA

census in 2010. As he works to support the mission of the Census Bureau and the other 12 bureaus in Commerce, his "prepare for the worst" philosophy is sure to be put to the test.

He's up for the challenge, having faced and survived some of the most intense pressure of his career during his tenure as CIO of FEMA. West led FEMA's IT department during the two busiest hurricane seasons on record, 2004 and 2005. When asked whether or not part of the reason he left FEMA was due to the intense scrutiny the hurricane-battered agency has endured over the last few years, he said it wasn't even a consideration. While he admitted that he won't miss having to go to work every weekend during hurricane season, he said leaving FEMA wasn't as easy as he thought it would be.

"I was a perfect fit for FEMA based on my first responder background, my weather background, and my experience at NOAA. I knew the mission really well, and I had built a really strong team there. And looking back, we really put some neat systems in place."

One of the accomplishments West is most proud of during his time at FEMA was establishing more than 60 mobile disaster response centers. These roving command centers, in conjunction with an online relief registration system that he also implemented, are deployed to areas where power and phone service have been knocked out, allowing people to register for and receive aid more quickly. According to the April 2006 issue of *CIO Spotlight*, at its post-Katrina peak, FEMA registered more than 100,000 people a day for support and assistance—

45 percent online and the rest by phone—for a total of three million individuals.

“Obviously during Katrina we had some major communication issues, and major infrastructures were totally destroyed in New Orleans, but the IT for FEMA and the support that we provided did not have any issues,” West said. “We didn’t miss a beat with our network support.”

The leadership and support he provided at FEMA, West said, were a big part of the reason he got the job at the DOC. Indeed, West has an established track record for motivating employees by, among other things, establishing a solid line of communication.

“I feel in all three of the CIO positions, I’ve really changed the whole atmosphere of the IT organization. I think that’s due to my management skills, the people I surround myself with, and how I treat people. I expect a lot out of people, but we have fun while we work.”

Win Henderson, courtesy of FEMA



During his time at FEMA, West established more than 60 mobile response information centers (MRIC), where residents of damaged areas can register for and receive aid, even when power and phone service are not available. The photo on the left shows the inner workings of an MRIC in Baton Rouge, La.; on the right, FEMA specialists operate out of one in Covington, La., shortly after the hurricane.

One of the first things West did when he joined Commerce in June was visit all 13 bureaus and talk with the CIOs and other IT professionals.

“That went a long way,” he said. “I think it’s important to have that personal touch.”

Establishing a personal touch is no small task considering the DOC building takes up a full city block in Washington, D.C., and houses more than 4,000 employees. But it’s something West takes very seriously. He holds regular meetings with the council of CIOs, where they talk about hot issues facing the various bureaus across Commerce.

In addition to being CIO at the Department of Commerce, West serves as president of the nonprofit American Council for Technology, the largest federal IT association in the United States. Its mission is to bring

together government, industry and academia to improve the acquisition and use of IT resources in government. He represents the United States each year at the International Council for Information Technology in Government Administration conference that brings together more than 25 NATO countries. He lectures at various conferences across the country and also is an adjunct instructor in the graduate school at the University of Maryland, where he teaches courses in program and project management.

“When I was in the U.P., one of the forecasters I worked with at the Air Force said, ‘You’re going to burn out.’ Well here I am 20 years later, and I haven’t burned out. I do get tired, but I’ve learned that you have to balance things in life. You have to balance your job, your family, and yourself, and you’ve got to give time to each one of those things.”



Robert Kaufman, courtesy of FEMA

He maintains balance in his life by exercising, traveling with his wife, Laurie, and scuba diving. His greatest stress reducer is riding his 100th anniversary Road King Classic Harley Davidson.

Having held the top IT position at three different government agencies and now as CIO at the Department of Commerce, it’s clear that West has had a significant impact on the direction of our country’s integral information systems. The sentiment is not lost on him.

“I got my bachelor’s degree from Northern Michigan, and now I’m in this job. I feel like I’ve made it. Everything has just kind of been brought together. I love the challenges I’m faced with, solving problems and turning organizations around. When you add all that up, I’m really happy. I get up in the morning, and I’m motivated because I love my job and I love this field.” ■



GUARDING OUR GATES  
BY  
KRISTI EVANS

DRUG SMUGGLERS are notorious for devising extreme methods for transporting their cargo across international borders undetected. But the “kids for cover” conspiracy was downright disturbing. Infants were rented from their parents—often in exchange for cash and drugs—to accompany female couriers shuttling cocaine or heroin from Panama to Chicago, New York and London. The stash was concealed in baby formula cans. Who would dare suspect that the white, powdery contents could be anything but essential nourishment for the young child in tow? The charade worked ... for a while.

IT WAS A LATE SPRING DAY in 1999 when **Scott Hegerich '69 BA** received a tip that would trigger the defining case of his career. He was working as an intelligence research analyst in the Chicago office of the former Combined Agency Border Intelligence Network.

“The Director of CABINET was in a large corner office that was previously occupied by Eliot Ness, and the rest of us bumped into the ghosts of the ‘Untouchables’ as we performed our duties,” he said.

At that time, CABINET fell under the auspices of the U.S. Customs Service. Its mandate was to

“The British customs agent came to me one day and said a woman was arrested in London with about seven pounds of cocaine hidden in baby formula, and that the baby with her wasn’t hers.”

field database research questions from any police agency in the world. Hegerich was assigned to a British customs agent stationed in Chicago.

“He came to me one day and

said a woman was arrested in London with about seven pounds of cocaine hidden in baby formula, and that the baby with her wasn’t hers.”

Hegerich recalled. “I got on the computer to look at the immigration database, which

connections between people and identifying patterns of activity.

“My research showed that the adult and baby came through Atlanta,” he said. “The office down there had a couple of seizures of that kind and thought that was it. But these people had used Dallas a



Scott Hegerich at the Sault Ste. Marie border station in 1987.

captures information on arrivals. I ran the baby’s name, and lo and behold, this six-month old had already logged five arrivals into the United States. The woman also had a bunch of arrivals from Panama and from England. It looked pretty

couple of times before until they started getting caught. It’s what we call port shopping: Once you start arousing suspicion in one location, you move to another. The baby sometimes traveled with other adults. Once we located them, we found that there were a total of 20 children being used.”

Hegerich said it was one of the first cases to appear on the docket of Pat Fitzgerald, the U.S. attorney in Chicago. Fitzgerald more recently garnered national media coverage as special counsel in the CIA leak investigation of I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby, the vice president’s chief of staff.

Hegerich’s main role in the

ominous so we alerted our boss.”

Hegerich played an active role in the ensuing investigation. By tracing backwards and pulling up flight lists, Hegerich started making

“kids for cover” conspiracy was mining databases for information that ultimately led officials to the home addresses of those involved.

“We used the same kind of tools and analysis for drugs that they’re now using for terrorists,” he explained. “The federal databases have become more sophisticated with better and faster computers. There are also commercial databases like LexisNexis that offer information we didn’t have 20 years ago. It used to be you couldn’t verify that Joe Blow lived at a certain address. Now you can find out if he lives there, for how long and other stuff. From the perspective of someone who did that kind of work, it’s much better now. For someone trying to hide everything about themselves, it’s not so good.”

After the initial flurry of activity tapered off and it became obvious that the investigation would be long-term, Hegerich continued juggling other cases. One involved a man who was in the final stages of trying to secure U.S. citizenship. Hegerich said the State Department was trying to deport him because they believed he had participated in terrorist training in his native Middle East.

### Another case involved a corrupt state department official in Guyana who was selling U.S. visas for \$10,000 each.

“He claimed he never left the U.S. that year, so they came to me and I went into the database,” he added. “I found a couple arrivals for that man with his passport number. He was convicted of criminal contempt and sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison, followed by deportation.”

Another case involved a corrupt

state department official in Guyana who was selling U.S. visas for \$10,000 each. Hegerich helped collect much of the information used against the official, who unexpectedly entered a guilty plea on the day his trial was to start.

In the wake of the 9/11 tragedy, Hegerich and his colleagues worked a 12/7 schedule

their work on the case by the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association.

“It turned out there was another group bringing drugs from Jamaica using some of the same couriers. We



for a few months, researching the flight lists for the aircraft involved. It was a short time later that the Department of Homeland Security was established, with immigration and

customs falling under its organizational umbrella.

The “kids for cover” investigation did indeed trudge on for years, but it ultimately netted 54 convictions. Hegerich was a finalist for Chicago’s federal law enforcement officer of the year in 2001. A few years later, he was also among a group of more than 20 honored for

came to the conclusion they were tied together as some type of south-side Chicago gang activity. Once the first few were caught, they started flipping on each other. No one indicted was found innocent. They even indicted parents of the babies. It made me feel pretty good to play a role in bringing it down. The rewards weren’t monetary or anything, but I got satisfaction from knowing that a supply of drugs was at least interrupted.”

HEGERICH COMPARED IT to the sense of fulfillment generated by seizures in his previous position as a land border inspector. He began clearing passengers and freight in 1974. Customs inspectors were not uniformly armed back then, he said. They had a choice of whether to

carry a gun. Hegerich opted not to pack protection at first. But it took him only one month to change his mind.

The pivotal moment occurred while Hegerich was part of a skeleton crew working the midnight shift on the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit. An inspector working the auto lane notified Hegerich via intercom that he was sending a car ahead for a secondary inspection. The occupants were two couples from Ohio who drove one-and-a-half hours to “see the sights in Canada,” apparently for a whopping 20 minutes in the middle of the night when nothing was open.

Hegerich sent them inside for an ID check while he started examining the vehicle. The glove compartment was locked. After retrieving the key inside, he opened it to find a loaded 38mm with a two-inch barrel. The driver claimed he had no idea of how it got there, even as Hegerich sized up the empty holster slung over the man’s shoulder. A pat-down search of the other passengers uncovered a loaded .25-caliber automatic in a jacket pocket.

“It wasn’t scary at the time because we were busy going through the seizure and arrest process, but I started thinking about it a lot more when I got home that morning,” Hegerich said. “If the driver had decided he wasn’t going to pull off to the side, he could have shot my friend who was alone in the auto lane inspection booth and been in downtown Detroit a half-mile later. Or, when I got them out of the car, they could have shot me dead. I didn’t even have a gun. That’s when I became an armed officer.”

While in southeast Michigan,

Hegerich also worked at the Detroit-Windsor tunnel and the metro airport.

A SHORT TIME after graduating from Northern, he was drafted by the U.S. Army. After two years of service and a few graduate-level classes at NMU, he decided to get a job. Hegerich took the federal civil service entrance exam. The first agency that called was U.S. Customs.

He transferred from the Detroit area to Sault Ste. Marie, the only U.P. location with full-time customs inspectors. Hegerich worked in the Soo from 1975 to ’87 before taking a foreign assignment as an inspector at Vancouver International Airport in British Columbia. He fulfilled his four-year-max assignment there before moving to Chicago to work first at O’Hare Airport, then at CABINET until it was dissolved in

The glove compartment was locked... He opened it to find a loaded 38mm with a two-inch barrel. The driver claimed he had no idea of how it got there, even as Hegerich sized up the empty holster slung over the man’s shoulder.

2002. Hegerich returned to O’Hare and closed out his career as an intelligence research specialist.

“The procedures are pretty much the same whether you’re at a land border or an airport,” he said. “The main difference is that most people who arrive on an airplane present themselves to customs with just their luggage in hand. You don’t worry too much about the commercial airplane as a hiding place because there are teams of inspectors who do that for you. But at a land border, a car or truck could serve as potential hiding places, or they could be stolen. Inspections there

take a little longer.”

Retired since 2005 and living in Vancouver, Wash., the only thing Hegerich inspects on a regular basis now is his lawn. “My hobby is keeping the yard up. It’s nice to get out for an hour or so every day. I spent a lot of time in this area while working in British Columbia and wanted to come back here. We’re about four miles from Portland, but it looks like we’re way out in the country. We can see Mount Hood and Mount Saint Helens.”

Hegerich has fond memories of NMU, and although his career was not directly tied to his degree in history, he said his education served him well in his field. He learned how to put a sentence together properly, which helped when he was asked to write reports in addition to mining data. He also worked at the campus radio and television stations,

which made him more confident and outgoing—two qualities that are essential in law enforcement. “It’s difficult to succeed in that field if you’re timid.” So his NMU experience provided some indirect benefits professionally, even though he veered from his original career goal. “I had planned to teach, but student teaching convinced me that was not the right path. I couldn’t see myself doing that for about 40 years. It was kind of by chance I ended up in law enforcement, but after more than three decades, I think it’s safe to say it worked out alright.” ■



# Busting the Bad Guys

By Rebecca Tavernini

It's 11:30 at night. Two men sit in an old pickup truck in a parking lot behind a Lansing pool hall. In a brown paper bag they have a couple pounds of marijuana. They're waiting for the buyers to show up and meet them inside. Now, suddenly, the two buyers are flanking the side windows of the truck. One says to the passenger, "Show me the weed." The paper bag is lifted and opened. The buyer reaches into his pocket, and pulls out a gun; his partner does the same. Both guys in the truck have semi-automatics pointed an inch from their heads. The buyer screams, "Give me the dope! Give me the dope NOW!" He grabs the bag and runs—down the alley, the other toward the street. The guys selling the pot run after the buyer with the bag, who turns and fires a shot; they fire five back. They nearly catch up with the man, just as a

Ojibway in 2003, ready to board a helicopter in Operation HEMP to survey a three-county region in Lower Michigan for marijuana plants.

German shepherd leaps on him and bites down hard. On the ground, the pursuers pull his wrists behind his back and clamp them with handcuffs. A few weeks later, the pair will find the other buyer in a drug house and cuff him, too. The buyers are sentenced to 10 years for armed robbery.

The two men looking to sell the marijuana return it to the precinct lock-up, ready for use in another "reverse," where the good guys—two undercover cops—pose as the bad guys.

That was 10 years ago and now **Christopher Ojibway '90 BS** has learned the bad guys are getting out. After 13 years with the Lansing Police Department, having put

dozens of offenders behind bars—many who've threatened him—Ojibway, a graduate of Northern Michigan University's criminal justice program, is always alerted and aware of when prisoners get out. "It's hard for me to let my guard down," he says. "Not just because of the past, but because of the world we live in."

He's seen a lot of that world as an undercover detective with the Lansing Police Special Operations division investigating street-level drug dealers; with the Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad, handling upper-echelon, large-quantity dealers; with the multi-jurisdictional Fugitive Team, hunting down violent offenders; as a road patrol officer; and as an investigative officer.

Sometimes the bad guys didn't make it to sentencing, like one fugitive who had shot an Ionia County

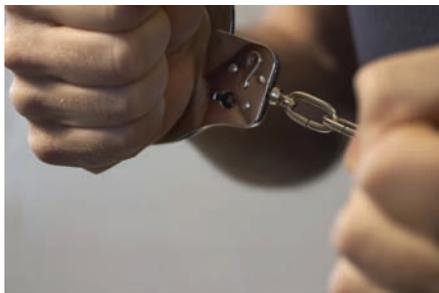
sheriff's deputy, and after being cornered in the woods by an FBI SWAT team as part of Ojibway's Fugitive Team, chose to shoot himself instead.

Despite the inherent challenges of the job, Ojibway says working as a police officer was a dream come true. "I really fell in love with law enforcement when I did a college internship with the Chocolate Township Police Department," he says, noting that Chief Greg Zyburt was a big influence, a great role model and good friend to this day. After working as a police service officer in Chicago and doing some odd jobs there, Ojibway landed the job in Lansing in early 1992, and was excited to have all the avenues and experiences of a large, metropolitan police officer available to him. Being a small-town boy (he grew up in Marquette) in a big city was eye-opening. "I had never seen cocaine before. I had never seen a prostitute. I had never seen a lot of things," he recalls. But he says he wasn't intimidated; he thought of it as an adventure.

After working road patrol, he really found his niche working as an undercover agent. Ojibway had many different looks and stories—each customized to the suspect. There was the woodsman persona, unshowered with plaid shirt and beard; the student look; the clean-shaven, well-dressed businessman look. "I'd emulate the way they talk and look—whether they're an 18-year-old student or a 40-year-old dentist—you have to make them feel like you're one of them."

On the drug stings, Ojibway would be introduced to a potential dealer by a confidential informant or by a friend of the dealer's, not knowing his true identity. After

building a certain comfort level, he'd go meet the dealer or an envoy on his own, usually in a bar or public place, and explain what he was looking for: marijuana, cocaine, crack—whatever the suspected dealer's specialty. Then he'd set up the exchange.



*"You know going into this field that you will see the worst sides of people, the worst side of life."*

"At one point, my partner and I were buying crack. We were driving around in our undercover car and the dealer started getting suspicious that we were cops," Ojibway recalls. "He said, 'Man, you gotta take a hit off this now,' holding out the crack pipe he'd been smoking. He was really questioning us about our true identities and started threatening us. When we refused, he gestured that he had a gun. At that point I slammed on the brakes, we jumped out and my partner pulled him out, slamming him between the door and the car. The dealer started throwing punches and it turned into an all-out street brawl. Then we pinned him and arrested him."

Just how does an agent insinuate himself with drug dealers without partaking in what they're selling?

How does an officer handle the instant life-or-death decisions that must be made in trigger-finger incidents? "The best tool, or weapon, to have is a creative mind and to know what to say or not to say," Ojibway says. "If you can talk yourself out of a dangerous situation—it doesn't matter what brawn you have or don't have—what you say is what will save you.

"We never participate in drug use," he says. "You tell the dealer or buyer you have to do a 'drop' for work (a urine test), or that you're late and the old lady's going to be pissed, or that you're already high."

The drug cases that frustrate Ojibway the most are dealers that have become so good at insulating themselves and laundering money, running it as a sleek business, that it takes an incredible amount of resources and time to get to the top and make the bust. And when and if it happens it's not a satisfying, put-on-the-cuffs moment, but rather something that comes to light on a tax document. "For a lot of these guys, their job is waking up every morning and seeing how they can make the easiest buck," Ojibway says.

Having seen so many kids dealing drugs also troubles him. "A lot of what you are like as an adult is a direct reflection of how you were raised," he believes. "I'd see people in an inner-city apartment, the mom or dad selling drugs right in front of their eight-year-old or two-year-old. I wonder, how are these kids ever going to make it?"

Still, he sympathizes with minorities in the inner city. He thinks his own Native American heritage has made him more sensitive to other people's ethnic groups.

“That’s just the circumstances some children have fallen into,” he explains. The street level drug dealers are mostly kids. “They see someone with a shiny car, new shoes, nice clothes. The only way they know how to get those things is from what they see—people selling drugs—and they emulate that. That’s all they know.”

Working as a uniformed officer, Ojibway has also experienced a lot of other terrible situations. In one stretch of four days, he was the first to respond to three suicides. He’s seen people hanging in stairwells or from an apple tree in the back yard. He’s witnessed the aftermath of many a gun to the head. And knocked on doors after a relative calls to say they haven’t heard from grandma or dad in a while, and Ojibway knows from the flies buzzing around the door what he’ll find inside—some dead from natural causes, some from foul play, some by their own hand “to get back at a spouse.” The images are sharp.

“You never forget about it,” Ojibway says. “You try, but you never will. Especially the smell of a dead body. In these situations, you just deal with it. You don’t have any other choice. And as unusual as this might sound, you try and have a good sense of humor. Your colleagues help you through it.

“You know going into this field that you will see the worst sides of people, the worst side of life.”

He adds that at times, interaction with the police is not positive—you’re getting a speeding ticket or an officer’s at your front door telling you a family member’s been in an accident or has died. It’s tough, he says. “But the people you work

around make it all worthwhile—that’s how you cope. That’s your support group. You work together for eight hours and then get together after.” And when he went home, it wasn’t work he could leave behind either, with his pager or cell phone a ubiquitous partner; on the other end an informant, a colleague, a prosecutor, needing something then. Not to mention the necessity of working at night, because that’s when the deals go down. “It’s rough on families,” he adds.



“At one point, my partner and I were buying crack. We were driving around in our undercover car, and the dealer started getting suspicious that we were cops...”

He says it takes someone who’s very understanding, flexible and supportive to be married to a cop. And that’s exactly what he’s found in his wife—fellow NMU grad **Carrie Wichar ’94 BS**, a teacher, with whom he has two young boys. They would love to return to the U.P., especially after spending an idyllic Labor Day week in a cabin near Grand Marais. “You don’t realize until you’ve gone away how beauti-

ful it is and what a nice place it is to live.” His parents have strong ties to NMU as well. Both NMU grads, his mother, **Barbara ’89 EDS ’71 MAE ’65 BA**, is an instructor at NMU and former principal in the Marquette schools, and his father, **Gerald ’81 MAE ’66 BS**, is retired as an adviser at the Jacobetti Center. Someday his own family will return to the U.P., Ojibway says.

For now, after sustaining a serious back injury on the job last year that prevents him from doing the police work he loves, he’s enjoying being a private eye, investigating worker’s compensation claims. He travels around the state doing surveillance work for numerous insurance companies—seeing if the claimed injury is authentic. Despite the empathy he’s gained from his own injury, he has found the vast majority of claims are invalid. He’ll videotape people who claim that they’re blind driving a car or who say they have bad knees playing softball. After hearing so many stories on the street, he’s not really surprised. They may not be drug dealers or fugitives, but they’re committing crimes, and he’s satisfied to still be fighting the bad guys.

Ojibway believes that it’s a combination of elements that make a good investigator or undercover agent: a mix of gut instinct, intuition, experience, and most of all, confidence. “The confidence you’ve gained through training, the confidence you have in your team, and the confidence you have within yourself,” he explains. “Being confident that you’re not going to lose when you go into a difficult situation, that’s what you have to have. That’s what will get you through it.” ■

# Mild Mannered Super Hero

By Becky Kratz

Teaching all day and keeping order in a classroom full of jubilant middle schoolers would seem like enough of a hard day's work for most people. When the bell rings to signify the end of the school day, some teachers are just as anxious to get home, lounge on the couch and watch TV as the students are. But for **Sue Westrick '77 BS**, a sixth-grade science teacher at downstate Algonquin Middle School, the day is not over when she leaves her classroom.

Westrick also serves as administrative sergeant of the City of St. Clair police reserves, as a reserve officer for the Algonac Police Department, and reserve bicycle officer for the Macomb County Sheriff's Department. Some of her



manage to be able to do both," she said. "The principal and superintendent of my school have been very supportive in allowing me to take days off from teaching when necessary, and my kids and husband all help to make this possible."

Teaching and doing police work in the same community has been an eye opener for Westrick. Seeing the situations that some of her students face after they go home is difficult, but at the same time she also gets insight into why they may be struggling in school.

"We have been called to houses for domestic violence, only to find out that it is one of my student's parents who are fighting," she said. "Some of the kids' home situations

Teaching and doing police work in the same community has been an eye opener for Westrick. Seeing the situations that some of her students face after they go home is difficult.

duties include crowd control, road patrol and bike patrol.

While her two jobs appear to be polar opposites, Westrick said that there are actually many parallels between the two. "You are always keeping things under control and trying to help others," she said. "They are also both very rewarding, and every day is different. The students find it pretty neat that they see their teacher out in the police cars."

Westrick received her teaching degree at NMU, and has taught in the Algonac Community Schools district for 28 years. "I loved my time at NMU and felt that I left with a very good education. I visit whenever I can, and both of my kids are hoping to enroll there," she said.

Westrick's criminal justice side did not surface until 2004, when she began volunteering the services of her bloodhounds, Sophie and Rozzie, to the St. Clair Police Department. She had trained the dogs to track people. After finding police work to be interesting, Westrick took a criminal justice course through her local college and signed up to participate in the Oakland Reserve Police Academy. Her recent graduation is a milestone for the academy, marking the first time a teacher has passed through.

Although both of her jobs are demanding, Westrick said that the people in her life help her find the time to manage both. "I truly love both jobs, so somehow I just

are truly sad. It makes me wonder how they can come to school and concentrate on the day's lessons. I have also come across former students who are now using alcohol or drugs, which is really heartbreaking."

The most intense situation that Westrick has encountered while on duty was when a man was firing a gun outside of his residence. The conflict was resolved quickly before anyone was seriously hurt, "but we didn't know that on the way there," she said.

Long days and dangerous scenarios aside, Westrick said that every experience she has with both jobs is worth it. "It's a very rewarding perspective. I plan on continuing with all that I'm doing for as long as I'm able." ■

# POLICE ACADEMY

This summer's NMU Police Academy ended not with a bang, but a crash. In their "first-aid practical," recruits had to respond to a simulated collision involving two vehicles, one of which was a bus full of kids with multiple injuries. The cadets were dispatched one squad at a time by the incident commander, recruit Ben Carlson. Also called to the scene were the Marquette City Fire department and Marquette General Hospital EMS. The recruits were required to assess and remove the victims from the bus and car in a safe manner. They received critique from local emergency personnel and even the accident victims.

The academy provides more than 800 hours of training, which exceeds the 562 hours mandated by the state. In addition to first aid/

CPR, it covers topics such as legal aspects, patrol procedures, defensive tactics, firearms, precision driving, investigations and crime scene preservation.

"We also add 40 hours of scenario-based training where we use role players to create situations that might be encountered on the job. The recruit interacts to resolve the situation," said Mike Bath, assistant director of public safety and training at NMU. "It might be a domestic violence incident, a bar argument or a drunk-driving traffic stop.

"We have almost 50 instructors involved. They range from prosecutors, judges, lawyers and current and retired law enforcement officers to defense attorneys who grill recruits on the stand in a mock trial. The idea is to throw as many real-life

situations at them as we can. It's critical to engage the recruits by providing 'hands-on' training that applies the book-work portion of the academy."

Academy cadets got a rare hands-on training opportunity when President George W. Bush visited Marquette in 2004. They assisted other law enforcement agencies with crowd and traffic control at Sawyer International Airport, in the City of Marquette, and at the NMU Superior Dome, the site of Bush's speech. When the Dead River flood of 2003 temporarily closed their training facility – the Jacobetti Center – cadets were posted at intersections on the north side of town to help stop and redirect traffic.

According to Ken Chant, director of Northern's public safety and police services, the academy was established in the early 1970s, when it became a requirement in Michigan that police officers be



# NMU's program mixes real-life scenarios with intensive classroom learning and hands-on training

By Kristi Evans

certified. The training was first offered by continuing education and shifted to the criminal justice department later that decade. In the early 1980s, the academy was switched to a "track program," which was discontinued in the early '90s. Chant said the Public Safety Institute received permission from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to re-establish the Regional Police Academy in 1995. The 16-week session is offered each May, allowing applicants to complete 12 credits toward an associate degree in law enforcement.

"It's a state requirement that you have an associate degree after completion of the academy," Bath said. "Most of our cadets are putting themselves through the academy this

way. There are two other ways to get in. One is through a military waiver. If you serve in the military police for any branch of the service for at least a year, it waives the education requirement. The other way is to be sponsored by an agency that has hired you and pays your way through the academy as well as a wage while you're here. That's pretty rare."

Those who complete the program are "certifiable" in most states. In this case, the word has a positive connotation. It means that the hiring department activates a graduate's certification. When officers move, they are recertified by their new departments.

The nearest regional police academy that similarly caters to pre-service individuals is at Kirkland Community College in Roscommon.

"Some universities offer a track program as part of a four-year degree.

There are six of those left. Otherwise, the Michigan State Police, City of Detroit Police and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources each run their own academies and hire exclusively from them."

For Regan Cole of Manistique, law enforcement is a family affair. She followed the same career path as her father and brother when she signed up for Northern's program this year.

"I wanted to come here because this is one of the best academies in Michigan," she said. "It has a very good rating for getting a job after graduation."

Fellow recruit Jordan Bach of Rochester Hills added, "It's been hard, but it's the best experience of my life. I'm a much better person because of it. I'm also better trained and better able to handle any stress that's thrown at me." ■



Cadets at the simulated bus accident, at the shooting range and in the classroom. Northern has offered a Police Academy for more than 30 years.

## Lost Alumni

We know they're out there. Can you help us locate these people?

Ronald Abel '78  
 Vivian Abercrombie '48  
 Kevin Bath '00  
 John Bauer '67  
 Douglas Bray '86  
 David Brewster '97  
 Hector Chavez '80  
 Kathryn Chenier '96  
 Julie Child '90  
 Mark Dyson '81  
 Rueben Eckardt '68  
 James Edberg '76  
 Brian Lakari '90  
 Alissa Landen '86  
 Peter Oczus '53

If you can help us, please drop us a note at [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu) or call us toll free at 1-877-GRAD NMU.

## Lifetime Members

We'd like to thank the following people who have recently joined as lifetime members of the NMU Alumni Association.

Joseph H. Patterson '62  
 M. Ann (Aldrich) Patterson, '68  
 Gregory '85 and Carol (Koski) '77 Schwemin  
 Jeffrey J. Short '78  
 Nancy M. (Hanna) Berner, '79  
 Robert J. Deppen Jr., '79  
 Michael '88 and Aileen (Tibor) '82 Hoover  
 Tina (Keffer) Lewis '84  
 Lynnette M. (Brutsche) West '84  
 Shirley A. (Gedvillas) Timberman '85  
 Rebecca A. (Rogers) Burns '89  
 Benjamin '00 and Nicole (Stone) '00 and '02 Bates

## Join the Board

Would you like to be considered for the Alumni Association Board of Directors? Our organization relies on member participation!

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S NOTE

# Lessons of the Black Rocks

When you were in college, did you ever do anything crazy? I don't mean the foolish, sometimes dangerous types of things. We all have those stories (most are better off never discussed again). I mean did you ever do anything totally scary that took a lot of courage? Something you look back on now and say, "I can't believe I did that"? Like moving to a new place without having a job or a place to live? Changing majors in the first semester of your senior year? Taking that first "real" job in a field only loosely tied to your degree (and having to keep explaining the connection to your mom), but jumping in with everything you had? Choosing the Peace Corps instead of grad school?

Taking chances seemed so much easier when I was younger. Why is it that as we age we become less willing to take a risk; less willing to try something that may provide us the best experiences we'll ever have?

One thing that strikes me about the alumni featured in this issue of *Horizons* is what confident individuals they are and how that self-assurance has played a large role in their successes.

Is there something you've been dying to do, but can't get up the courage? Maybe it's time to take that risk; put yourself out there. Northern gave us the confidence to believe in ourselves. If there's anything that I have learned over the years, it's that those of us who had the Northern experience can do just about anything we put our minds to.



Thinking of going back to school? Considering a job or career change? Considering a life change? Remember how you felt when you were in college, when the attitude was, "I can do anything," and we pretty much did!

As you ponder taking that leap into a new adventure, remember what we learned as NMU students jumping off the Black Rocks. Looking down never helped. You couldn't worry about form or how cold the water might be or you'd never leave the cliff. We just simply had to jump. But do you remember that rush as you came up for air—your fear left at the bottom of Lake Superior?

Sometimes you have to close your eyes and just take one step in the right direction to have a chance to experience that kind of exhilarating, triumphant moment again.

—Garnet Lewis '86 MA  
 President, NMU Alumni Association

To learn about the benefits of membership, visit our Web site at [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni), e-mail us at [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu), or call us toll free at 1-877-GRAD-NMU.

### THREE JOIN ALUMNI STAFF

**Maryellen "Mel" (Poutanen) Charbonneau '02** has been hired as assistant director of alumni operations at NMU. Charbonneau (mcharbon@nmu.edu) is responsible for managing membership and other revenue-generating programs such as the NMU license plate, the affinity credit card, alumni travel and merchandising.

Before joining NMU, she worked for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business as an outreach specialist. Prior to that, she was a junior associate at a Madison-based communications firm. She is currently working



Mel Charbonneau

Charbonneau was a member of the women's varsity basketball team, the Public Relations Student Society of America, and an active participant in the Washington Center Intern Program. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

on her master's degree at UW-Madison in strategic communication.

As a student at NMU,

Two other new alumni staff members are senior secretaries Erin Carlson and Julie Djupe.

Carlson (ecarlson@nmu.edu) is responsible for managing the monetary aspects of the NMU Alumni Association. She handles the membership benefits and free e-mail for life program. She also is a junior working on a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in journalism.

Djupe (jdjupe@nmu.edu) handles communications with the alumni board, serves as the primary office contact for alumni events and activities, and coordinates day-to-day office administrative details.

All three can be reached by calling 906-227-2610.

### ALUMNI CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

The NMU Alumni Association board has approved a new policy on alumni constituent societies (ACS). An alumni constituent society or club would consist of alumni and friends of Northern Michigan University who have common interests due to their academic affiliation, former student groups and/or employment; their cultural, geographical or professional interests; and their desire to meet on a regular basis.

"Over the years there have been numerous discussions as to whether the Alumni Association should support the creation of small alumni groups—called alumni clubs, chapters or societies," said Deanna Hemmila, director of alumni operations. "Obviously, there are many positives to having NMU alumni societies around the country, but there were also some concerns and challenges we needed to work through, in particular how to sustain involvement for the long term, and ensure that groups are not taking any action that conflicts with the mission of the Alumni Association or the university. I think the board committee that worked on this proposal came up with a way to address these questions."

The policy states that 20 dues-paying NMU Alumni Association members must sign a petition in order to form an alumni constituent society. The peti-

tion must then be submitted to the Alumni Association board and, if approved, would grant recognition of the ACS for a two-year period. Formal recognition of the group would be granted after the initial two years if the club continued to meet the ACS guidelines.

The guidelines include such things as actively cultivating new members for the Alumni Association, supporting and helping to fulfill the mission of the NMU Alumni Association and NMU, and conducting at least one meeting or event each year for club members that shows support for the university.

"These clubs would bring people who care about Northern together on a regular basis. They could be organized based on geographical location, such as the NMU Alumni Society of Southeast Michigan, or on some other commonality such as the NMU Political Science Alumni Society," said **David Gregory '92 BS**, chair of the board's alumni involvement committee.

For complete ACS guidelines or an application, e-mail [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu) or go to [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni).

#### In the Detroit area? Looking to meet alumni?

Look for a society meeting coming up as early as November. If you would like to help make this club active, contact David Wirth '72 at [wirth1201@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wirth1201@sbcglobal.net) or 313-539-8101.

# A family tradition of giving

It is a spectacular sight to see in autumn, the amber waters of the Tahquamenon Falls crashing into the river below, surrounded by the brilliant reds, yellows and oranges of the dense forest's changing colors. The Tahquamenon Falls are the second highest in the United States to Niagara and were made famous by Henry Longfellow in his epic poem, "Hiawatha." Tucked into this idyllic setting is Camp 33, a favorite stop for area residents and visitors alike.

It is here that **Barrett Ludlow '83 BS** comes to work each day, having rebuilt with his sister, Lark, the facility their grandparents built in the 1950s. Today, Camp 33 is a rustic but modern 15,000-square foot reception area that includes a gift shop and micro brewery. But when Jack and Mimi Barrett of Newberry first bought the land, it was a rugged piece of heaven on earth that could be accessed only by travel along the river. Over time, Jack and Mimi had the visitors' lodge constructed and gave it the moniker Camp 33, in the tradition of logging companies naming each site by the numerical order in which it was built. For Jack, a logger by trade, this was his 33rd site, although not technically a logging camp. The elder Barretts worked with the Department of Natural Resources to have a road built to the facility. Later, the couple would sell all but two of the 160 acres they owned at Camp 33 to the State of Michigan with the requirement that the land be preserved and used as a public recreation area. It is now Tahquamenon Falls State Park.

Rebuilding this portion of their grandparents' legacy was both a personal and professional endeavor for the younger Ludlows, but it is not the only family tradition Barrett has upheld. For the past 20 years he has spearheaded the funding of a scholarship endowment at Northern.

"Supporting academics is something our family has always done," said Ludlow. "Quite awhile back, my father initiated a scholarship for students from Newberry area schools to attend Northern. There is

When he stops to think about it, Ludlow can't help but be surprised that 20 years has come and gone since he first helped to create a scholarship endowment at Northern, initially in memory of **Deborah Marie Bray '83 BS**, his fiancée who died in 1986 of a brain tumor.

"Debbie and I met at Northern and we were together six years before she died. The last semester of our senior year we found out she had a brain tumor and she wasn't supposed to live long, but she lived



Barrett and Lark Ludlow at Camp 33 in Newberry.

also a scholarship in honor of my mother at the University of Michigan. When part of the Paradise School was being torn down, school officials brought us a plaque honoring my grandparents for their contribution to that school's first computer lab. We've just always viewed education as one of the keys to success."

another three years. When she died, my friends and family and I started a scholarship for an NMU student, preferably a woman working her way through college like Debbie did. She got through school with the help of scholarships and by working."

The Ludlow Family Scholarship Endowment is given to an NMU

junior majoring in accounting, computer information systems or business information systems.

"Since this was started, I don't think we've missed a year [adding to it]. It's hard to believe, but this scholarship award, over time, has amounted to around \$20,000 to help Northern students," Ludlow said.

Alumni and friends who give consistently to build their endowments make a significant contribution to the university, said Martha Haynes, executive director of the NMU Foundation.

"We appreciate that the Ludlow family makes a yearly commitment to NMU," said Haynes. "They are continuing to build their family's endowment, which grows the principle, and subsequently provides even more assistance to students at Northern. Besides the financial benefits, I think donors such as the Ludlows enjoy reconnecting with Northern each year and knowing that they continue to make a difference in the life of students and the well being of the university."

Northern is a special place to the Ludlow family. Barrett's father, John, taught business management in the College of Business for 25 years. He was also a volunteer NMU football coach and continues to support Wildcat athletics with a golf outing in the Newberry area each year.

"I attended U of M and the University of Wisconsin later and while those are great schools, they just couldn't compare to Northern," said Ludlow. "At NMU we had the small class size and we were able to get to know our professors so well. If you had a question, you just raised your hand and got it

answered, usually with the professor calling you by name. That just didn't happen at the bigger schools."

After graduating from NMU with his bachelor's degree in management, Ludlow returned to the NMU classroom to take courses in calculus and physics before heading to UW-Madison, where he earned a degree in meteorology in 1987. Two years later, he and his sister began the Camp 33

renovation: a business endeavor, labor of love and the continuation of a family tradition.

"Philanthropy, giving back, is a big part of our fiber," said Ludlow.

To learn more about endowments, go to the NMU Foundation Web page at [www.nmu.edu/foundation](http://www.nmu.edu/foundation). To contact the Foundation, e-mail [foundtn@nmu.edu](mailto:foundation@nmu.edu) or call 906-227-2627.

—Cindy Paavola, '84 BS

## ANNUAL GIVING IS UP SIGNIFICANTLY

**2**005-06 was a banner year for alumni and friends showing support to Northern Michigan University through annual giving. Pledges amounted to \$325,000, more than double previous years. Large increases also were realized in the number of donors, matching gift dollars, average pledge and credit card payments for immediate pledge fulfillment. Additionally, more than 900 alumni made their first-ever gift to the annual giving program at NMU.

"Annual giving is vital to a progressive university such as Northern," said Robyn Stille, director of annual giving. "It is the key to helping launch new initiatives and to providing ongoing funds for student programs."

To rejuvenate its annual giving, the NMU Foundation partnered last year with RuffaloCODY, a company that specializes in telephone fundraising and annual giving programs. RuffaloCODY assisted the Foundation in an intensive database cleanup effort, which resulted in the call center increasing efficiency and effectiveness of calls being made. The call center is staffed by students and operates year-round.

"What the annual giving dollars enable us to do is to assist students, for instance, with travel to professional conferences, and departments with such things as upgrading their labs. These enhance learning opportunities for students," said Don Rybacki, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and department head for Communication and Performance Studies. "For the most part, academic department budgets take care of day-to-day operations, so when annual giving increases, it expands the university's ability to increase opportunities for students."

Annual giving is also the program through which the university receives most of its yearly unrestricted dollars—gifts made to be used at the discretion of the university where they are most needed.

"We know alumni and friends care about the university and its students. They want to help advance Northern. The NMU Foundation's annual giving program is one opportunity for them to do so. I think the increase in annual giving demonstrates their generosity and commitment to NMU," said Stille.

# Do-it-yourself sports

Three and a half years ago, senior art and design major Amy Miyajima was fresh out of high school and wondering what to get involved with at NMU. Previous experience in martial arts and a life-long interest in Japanese culture led her to a fluorescent flyer for budo taijutsu, an ancient Japanese martial art that is offered at NMU as a club sport.

“Budo has taught me a lot about Japanese history and ninjas,” said Miyajima, who is now the club’s president. “I hadn’t really known too much about ninjas except what I saw on cartoons, but now I know that it all stems from Japanese people who were forced into guerilla warfare. I’ve also learned how to use traditional weapons and various defenses.”

Like Miyajima, many NMU students find club and intramural sports that cater to their interests. Sport clubs offer social, recreational and competitive activities for students of all athletic abilities. NMU’s current sport clubs include alpine skiing, budo taijutsu, crew, cycling, dance team, figure skating, volleyball, lacrosse, men’s track and field, and men’s and women’s ice hockey, rugby and soccer.

Intramurals are short-term sports—the “season” is usually the length of a semester—that are available to students, faculty, staff and community members age 16 and older who have recreation passes for the PEIF. Unlike sport clubs, intramural participants compete only against other on-campus teams. Available intramurals include flag football, ice hockey, ultimate



Frisbee, indoor soccer, table tennis, dodgeball, volleyball, softball, racquetball, broomball, kickball, floor hockey, basketball and toplet.

Brian Gaudreau, associate programming director in the intercollegiate athletics and recreational sports department, said that participation in club and intramural sports has increased over the past three years, with 4,277 participants in intramural sports and 325 in clubs.

“Students are coming from more athletic backgrounds and looking for something to extend their high school sports experience. Those who are not ready to compete at an intercollegiate level can take advantage of the clubs and intramurals,” he said.

Tricia Sheldon, assistant programming manager, added that the club and intramural sports offer students a great opportunity to meet new people.

“We advise all incoming freshmen to participate. It takes a load of stress off if they can find a network

of people to count on. The exercise is an obvious benefit, and they can have fun at the same time, too,” she said.

Sport clubs and intramurals differ from intercollegiate sports in that they’re entirely student-led. In order to begin a sport club, a group of students with a particular interest meets with Gaudreau and goes through the sport club manual. They must then give a presentation to representatives from the other sport clubs, who will vote and decide whether the new group should be accepted.

If the club is accepted, the process isn’t over. A stack of paperwork, including composing a constitution, becoming a registered student organization on campus, and determining funding, must be completed. Although they are ultimately grouped into the same category, not all sport clubs are the same.

“A lot of the sport clubs don’t compete at all,” said Gaudreau,

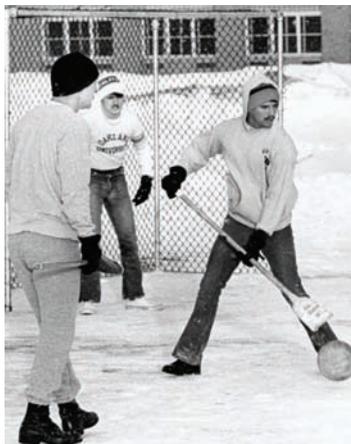
“Like water skiing and snowshoeing clubs that we’ve had in the past—they’re content to just meet and do things together as a group of friends.”

Intramural sports have a deep-rooted history at NMU, especially broomball. Broomball has been played here for more than 20 years, and has become the most popular intramural. Cassie Webb, a junior exercise science major, participated in broomball to help her train for the crew team.

“Broomball is pretty much the sweetest thing ever. Crew uses it as a jump start into spring training because the game is all sprinting and requires much arm strength to swing heavy wooden brooms around,” she said.

While she believes that club sports bring friendship, teamwork and honor to the university, Webb said that her experience with intramural sports has been just as important.

“Intramurals are a better chance to just have fun and socialize. They aren’t time consuming, and most



NMU Archives

Broomball has been played at NMU for more than 20 years, and has become the most popular intramural sport. This match took place at Winterfest in 1977.

teams don’t have scheduled practice; they just play once a week. With a sport club, you have to dedicate a lot more time to practice and competition and also pay dues. Clubs still involve fun and socializing, but they’re a lot more serious.”

Changes in facilities and schedules have caused the intramural program to evolve. About 15 years ago, Gaudreau said, intramural games were mostly played outside

with the latest game being played at about 4 p.m. Now with the Berry Events Center and the PEIF, most of the games can be played indoors, and with more students taking night classes, it is not unusual for games to last until after midnight.

Another major change in the intramural program is the inclusion of co-rec leagues that allow men and women to play on the same team. “They know they want to play together, and it’s more fun that way,” said Gaudreau. “The women are just as hardcore in competing as the men.”

Starting this semester, intramural players in certain sports can also anticipate being broken up into “A” and “B” leagues for the first time to balance competition between players of different skill levels.

While intramural and club sports continue to evolve, the enthusiasm, sportsmanship and camaraderie of the players will remain at the heart of these endeavors.

—Becky Kratz

## FIVE INDUCTED INTO NMU SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Five former Wildcats were inducted into the NMU Sports Hall of Fame during the Homecoming festivities.

The Class of 2006 includes:



### Zachary Fowler, '82 BS

*Football*  
1975 Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American  
Led NCAA championship team in receiving yards



### Gwen Jackson, '83 BS

*Women's Basketball*  
1980, '81 SMAIAW II All-State  
1981 AIAW II All-Regional  
Ranks 16th NMU all-time scoring with 1,192 points

### Denise Porath, '80 BS

*Field Hockey*  
NMU records in career (43) and single-season (31) goals  
Selected for U.S. Olympic Development Team



### Bret Williams, '84 BS

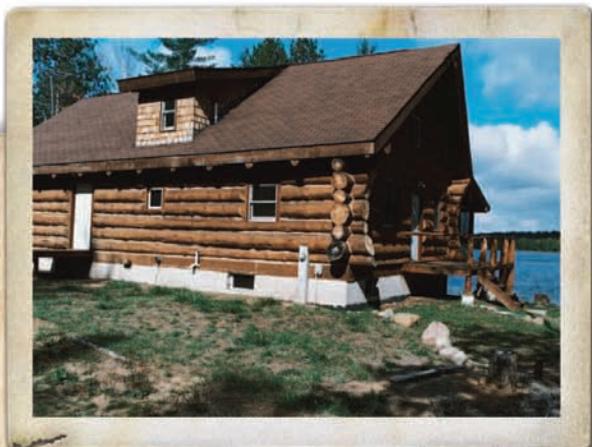
*Alpine Skiing*  
1980 All-American  
NMU's only NCAA alpine skiing champion (1980)



### Jerry Wright, '61

*Men's Basketball*  
Named 1961 NAIA Third-Team All-American as a freshman





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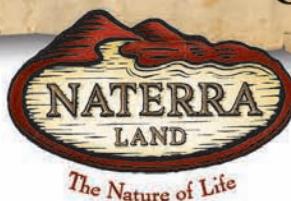
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## Tell us what's happening in your life

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](mailto:horizons@nmu.edu); or send via the Web at [www.nmu.edu/horizons](http://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.

[WWW.NMU.EDU/HORIZONS](http://WWW.NMU.EDU/HORIZONS) ■ [HORIZONS@NMU.EDU](mailto:HORIZONS@NMU.EDU)

 NMU Alumni Association member

 NMU Alumni Association lifetime member

## '40s

**Lawrence DeRidder '40 BS** of Rockford, Tenn., was inducted into the Educators Hall of Honor at the University of Tennessee. He was head of the department of educational psychology and guidance in the College of Education from 1964 until 1983. He retired in 1986 and has remained active in his profession and community, receiving the Mental Health Association of Knox County's Volunteer of the Year Award and the American Association for Counselor Education's Distinguished Mentor Award.

 **Helmi Lepisto '49 Cert.** of Rock was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She is a retired teacher who still substitute teaches. [signing@tds.net](mailto:signing@tds.net)

## '50s

**Robert Savera '55 BS** of Las Vegas, Nev., has been selling property and homes in Vegas for 28 years. He enjoys watching the budding metropolis grow. [bob@lasvegashomeinfo.com](mailto:bob@lasvegashomeinfo.com)

 **Cory Hartbarger '56 BS** of Shelbyville, Tenn., is fully recovered from cancer surgery and an Achilles tendon tear and will be coaching high school baseball.

**Martin Kasiska '59 BS, '65 MA** of Shelby Township is a five-year prostate cancer survivor. Martin serves as chapter leader for the International Prostate Cancer Support Group, at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

## '60s

 **Peter Diol '63 BS** of Dublin, Ohio, sold his 32-year-old coffee business to Filter Fresh, where he is still employed. He and his mother **Helmi (Erkintalo) '29 Life Cert.** both had NMU Professor Forest Roberts 30 years apart. [diol@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diol@sbcglobal.net)

**Gloria Gillespie '66 BA '70 MAE** of St. Joseph has announced her candidacy for another term as a Berrien County commissioner. Gloria is on her eighth term of the board and is vice chairwoman of the Personnel and Human Services Committee.

 **Ken Haagensen '65 BS** of Edgerton, Wis., retired after 38 years of teaching. He continues to teach golf and tennis.

**Steve Lindberg '66 BS '78 MAE** of Marquette is a candidate for state representative in the 109th district.

Most recently he served as a legislative aide for state representative Stephen Adamini. Steve and his wife, Paulette, have owned a travel agency in Marquette for 27 years.



**Frank Stipech '67 BS** (above) of Houghton retired in June after 30 years of service with Upper Peninsula Power Company, most recently as operations manager. Frank is a member of Houghton Kiwanis, Lake Superior Community Partnership Advisory Board, Copper Country United Way, and Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance.

 **Malcolm R. McNeil '69 BS, '71 MA** teaches at the University of Pittsburgh. He has published numerous articles, helped create a test for communication disorders and now has the highest honors from the U.S. Academic Programs in Communication Disorders.

 **June Schaefer '67 BA, '68 MA** of Marquette was selected as Baraga High School's graduation speaker for 2006. She is an NMU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and a Michigan Special Olympic Hall of Fame inductee.

 **David Williams '69 BS '70 MAE** of Nashville, Tenn., is vice chancellor and general counsel for Vanderbilt University. He also was elected as chairman of the board of

## KEEPING TRACK

directors of the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. David is an NMU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

**Ronald St. Martin '63 BA** is chief operating officer at New Technology Management Inc., of Reston, Va., which designs and deploys high-tech border security and surveillance systems and processes as the prime contractor for the Department of Homeland Security at all land border ports of entry in the U.S. The company's clients also include branches of the U.S. military, the departments of Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture and the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as private sector firms such as Raytheon.

Ron has also served as senior director of the Crisis Management Center of the National Security Council at the White House; director of strategic planning in the office of the U.S. secretary of defense and as senior analyst for Northrop Grumman. He retired as captain after 25 years with the U.S. Navy.

He was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying, "I have been fortunate in my career path and I am at the apex of a wonderful career and able to accomplish my goal of mentoring and working in something that will help ensure the security of the U.S."

## '70s

**Robert Archibald '70 BA '72 MA** is president of the nonprofit National Council of the Lewis & Clark

Bicentennial of St. Louis, Mo. Bob is a NMU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

**Lyle Smith '71 BS of Norton Shores** is a Ward I City Council member. His principal goal is job creation, which he says keeps families and the community united and positive.

**Linda Austin '72 BS** of Midland is a children's librarian.

**Janet (Hall) Bjerregaard '72 BS** of Bettendorf, Iowa, recently retired after more than 31 years of working as a civilian contracting officer for the United States Army. She has two daughters who are attending the University of Iowa and her husband, Wes, still works for the Army. Bjer123@aol.com

**Ann Edenfield '72 BS** of Albuquerque, N.M., was Northern's 1969 homecoming queen. She recently returned from India where she led her Wings Ministry into several villages, many of which had never seen "white faces." annedenfield@wingsministry.org

**Ann Milam '73 BS** of Phoenix, Ariz., recently retired from the Roosevelt School District in Phoenix after 32 years of teaching. Pegasus-wing@cox.net

**Ron Ryoti '73 BS** of Marquette was hired as an Upper Peninsula sales specialist for the Michigan Hotel and Resort Association. He lives with his wife, Jodi, who is a teacher.

**Bill Simpson '73 BS** of Hudsonville retired after 30 years of teaching within the Michigan Department of Corrections. He now enjoys spending time with his four grandchildren, camping with his wife, coaching little league, playing softball and driving the school bus for Hudsonville Schools.

**John Ball '74 BA** of Port Charlotte, Fla., retired after 31 years of teaching industrial education. In the last 10 years of his career he taught in a special school for mentally, physically, and emotionally challenged students. He

and his wife **Cathy (Kellner) '69 BS** survived a direct hit from Hurricane Charley, but still enjoy the Florida weather. They like returning to Marquette when they can to "stick their toes in beautiful Superior and have a Togo." ballfl@earthlink.com

**Anne Bezotte '74 BS** of Sandusky has been teaching for 32 years. She is married with two grown children.

**Paul Cappoferri '74 BS '83 MAE** of Hartford, Wis., was named Educator of the Year at Hartford Union High School. He has been associate principal of the school for 17 years. Previously, he was a physical education teacher, head football and wrestling coach in the U.P. Paul is married with four children.

**Roy Cole '74 BA** of Holland is the author of "Survey of Sub-Saharan Africa: A Regional Geography" published by Oxford University Press. In the years following his graduation he served in the Peace Corps, studied in Egypt, and conducted research in Mali and Sudan. He received his Ph.D. in Geography from Michigan State University in 1991. He is associate professor of geography and planning at Grand Valley State University. During fall semester 2005 he taught as a visiting scholar at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. coler@gvsu.edu

**Linda Constine '74 BNK** of Marinette retired after 45 years of service as vice president, controller and trust officer at The Stephenson National Bank & Trust. Linda is actively involved in her community, having served as a member of more than 10 different organizations and charities.

**Arthur Olson '74 AT** of Clifton Park, N.Y., joins Conservation Services Group as director of New York residential services in the firm's Albany office. He has more than 20 years of experience in regulatory affairs, new product development, energy management and sales and marketing.

**Michael Roesner '74 BA** of Philadelphia, Pa., is a two-star admiral and commander of the Naval Inventory Control Point in Pennsylvania. He is married with two children and his youngest son, Matthew, attends Northern.

**Jill (Perry) Kwiatkowski '76 BS** of Cheboygan was recently honored as Educator of the Year for her work at Bishop Baraga Catholic School in Cheboygan. Outside of the classroom, "Mrs. K" is married to Ken, the Cheboygan city clerk/treasurer and keeps herself busy raising their five children and hosting foreign exchange students.

 **Daniel Stencil '76 BS** of Independence Township recently reached his all-time career goal when he was named executive director for the Oakland County Parks and Recreation System's county parks and golf courses. In 1975, Daniel earned honors as a Kodak All-America First Team as a center on the NMU Wildcat football team. He is married and has two sons.

**Peg Stowers '76 BS** of Dowagiac is superintendent for the Dowagiac School District. She was an English and history teacher at the high school prior to her promotion.

 **Steve Mariucci '77 BS, '82 MAE**, former Detroit Lions and San Francisco 49ers head coach, signed on as an expert commentator for the NFL Network. His first broadcast will be the Denver at Kansas City game on Thanksgiving night. Over the past nine years, he and classmate **Tom Izzo '77 BS**, Michigan State University Spartans head basketball coach, have raised \$3 million for their hometown in the Iron Mountain Charities Classic golf event.

**Patricia Beauchamp '78 BSN** of Iron Mountain was recently hired as the Iron Mountain School District nurse. Patricia is a registered nurse and has been a hospital supervisor at Dickinson County Healthcare System since 1994, and an occupational nurse at Pride Manufacturing of Florence, Wis., since 2004.



 **Steve White '79 BS** (below) of Northville was recently appointed president of Signs Now, one of the world's leading providers of indoor signage, exhibit displays and large-scale graphics.

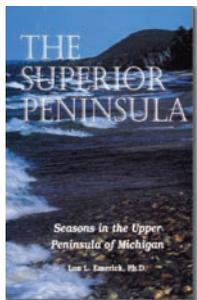
## '80s

 **Steven Brown '80 BS** of Big Bay is purchasing director for Helen Newberry Joy Hospital in Newberry. sbrown@alumni.nmu.edu

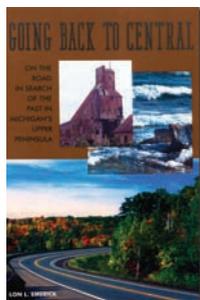
**Steven Meddaugh '80 BS** of Tampa, Fla., was promoted to colonel in the United States Army. He is a Special Forces Officer and recently returned from deployment to Iraq. Steve has spent the last 26 years serving in the United States Army.

**Doug Sandula '81 BS** (next page) of Saginaw earned a master's degree in business administration from Northwood University's DeVos Graduate School of Management in Midland. He is an administrator in the laboratory at Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw. His wife, **Mary (Roman) '82 BSN**, is a registered nurse in labor and delivery at the same hospital. They look forward to hearing from anyone in the old gang at [thesandulas@diamondcs.net](mailto:thesandulas@diamondcs.net).

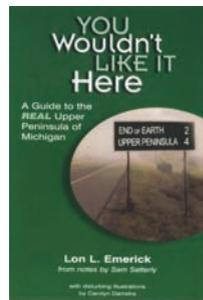
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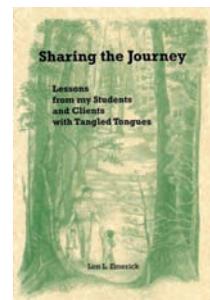
The Superior Peninsula



Going Back to Central



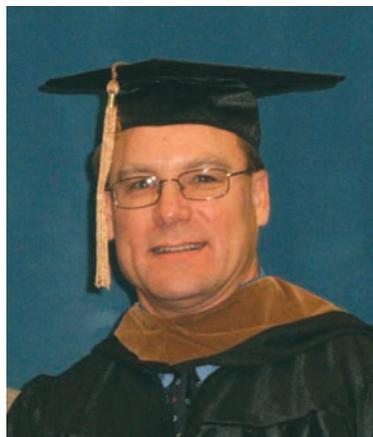
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## KEEPING TRACK



**Leah Hocking '82** (below) of Marquette and **Bryan S. Johnson '83** (right) of Saginaw appeared together at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway in "Mamma Mia!" Bryan made his Broadway debut with this musical in 2005. Hocking has been featured in seven Broadway shows.



**Bob Nelson '82 BS** of Fond du Lac, Wis., received two first-place awards from the Associated Press of Wisconsin. The Best Feature award went to his story "The Pope Did His Job," which was about local Catholic reaction to the death of Pope John Paul II. The Best Hard News Award was for "Andrew's Star," a story about the funeral service for a local soldier.

**Kathryn Flagstadt '84 BS** of Hancock works as a counselor for Michigan

Rehabilitation Services, where she assists individuals with disabilities to achieve employment and self-sufficiency. She earned her MSW degree from Michigan State University via distance learning classes held at NMU. She became a licensed social worker in July. [kflagstadt@hotmail.com](mailto:kflagstadt@hotmail.com)

**Maria 'Mia' Grenfell '85 BSN** of Iron Mountain has retired after more than 30 years of federal service as a nurse at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iron Mountain, where she worked as a discharge planning coordinator/ care coordinator home telepath champion.

**Lisa Stefanovsky '85 BS** of Holland is the health officer for Ottawa County.

**Muriel Davidson-Bratcher '86 MAE, '88 MAE** of Columbiaville works as a learning disabilities teacher consultant for North Branch Area Schools. [mbratcher@nbbrncos.net](mailto:mbratcher@nbbrncos.net)



**Jack Jacobson '86 Voc.** of Crystal Falls was honored by the Iron County Golden K for his outstanding work within the organization. He is a retired National Guardsman of the 107th Engineer Battalion. He is married with two children.

**Janice (Bilky) Wierschke '86 BSN** of Sheboygan, Wis., graduated with a BSN-nurse educator degree from Cardinal Stritch University. She works at Prairie States Enterprises as the

disease management program coordinator. [mustangwi@juno.com](mailto:mustangwi@juno.com)

**Mary (Peters) Jones '88 BSN** of Portsmouth, Ohio, received her MSN from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and a certificate in midwifery from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in 2005.

**Rachael Kasperowicz '88 BS, '93 MS** of Algonac decided to follow in her father's footsteps and become a physician. She is practicing medicine at the Colony Clinic. She went to medical school in the Antilles, did her rotations at the University of Illinois Hospital and Howard Hospital, interned at Dartmouth and completed her residency in family practice.

**Kimberly Maki '88 BS** of Cypress, Texas, has been promoted from vice president of marketing and business development for SCTE Cable to vice president of marketing, membership and business development.

**Pam Petrie '88 BS** of Iron Mountain was selected as the commencement speaker for the Iron Mountain High School class of 2006. She has been a business education teacher at Iron Mountain High School since 1990. She is married with two children.

**Vincent McKeoun '89 BFA** of North Branch works at Durakon Industries as a design engineer. In 2002, he patented an ornamental design for a tonneau cover rail.

**Leonard Parker '89 BS** of Marquette has been appointed Cleveland-Cliffs district manager-environmental affairs for Michigan. He has 31 years of experience at the mine and began his career there as a surveyor. He is married with two children and is active in community organizations.

**Dan Weinert '89 BS** of Kingsford has been named the dean of academic programs at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. For the past two years, Dan has served as the interim chair for the diagnosis and

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radiology department. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in higher education at the University of Iowa.

## '90s

**George Hyde '90 BS** of Watton is running for Baraga County probate court judge. George has served as the chief referee for the Family Division in Marquette County since 2001.

**Jill Strahl '90 BS, '01 MAE** of Escanaba is a special education teacher at Bay Pines Center. She also helps out at YMCA Delta Dolphins swim meets and K Dance Express dance recitals. She has two children.

 **Laurel Ashbrook '93 BS, '05 MAE** of Manistique is a Manistique High School teacher and girl's basketball coach. She is married with two children.

**LeAnn (Roberts) Gerard '93 BS** of Freeland has been teaching English

and family and consumer science courses at Hemlock High School for the past 11 years. She received the Crystal Apple Award for her outstanding secondary teaching in the mid-Michigan area in 2004. In 2005, LeAnn received her MA from Saginaw Valley State University and is now an adjunct English instructor for SVSU, while she continues to teach at Hemlock. LeAnn also started her own gourmet catering and private cooking business two years ago.  
[garongerard@talkamerica.net](mailto:garongerard@talkamerica.net)

**Lara Krieger '93 BS** of Chicago, Ill., and her husband, Brad Kramer, recently had their first child, Riley Jayden Kramer.  
[larakrieger@yahoo.com](mailto:larakrieger@yahoo.com)

**Jim Mangone '93 BS** of Oak Creek was profiled in the January issue of *Chain Store Age*. Jim was profiled in the publication's "Rising Stars—40 under 40" section for his work as a manager of parts and accessories,

retail operations, for Harley-Davidson Motor Co. in Milwaukee, Wis. He is married with three children.

**Carrie Zaslow '93 BFA** of Providence, R.I., is employed as a community outreach coordinator at Randolph Savings. [czaslow@yahoo.com](mailto:czaslow@yahoo.com)

**Nick Bink '94 BS** of Escanaba is general manager of Bink's Coca Cola, a 103-year-old family business. He spends his spare time enjoying his family's company and playing golf. In addition, he is a member of the Elks Club, a Little League coach and a Big Brothers and Big Sisters board member.

**Vincent Borleske '94 MPA** of Madison, Wis., is a grants and contract specialist with the Research and Sponsored Programs office at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Vince works with Graduate School academic departments for the final review, negotiation and submission of all grant and contract applications.

## KEEPING TRACK



**Matthew Driscoll '94 BS** of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., just completed his doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University. He is an elementary principal for the Sheboygan Area School District. [mdriscoll@sheboygan.k12.wi.us](mailto:mdriscoll@sheboygan.k12.wi.us)

**Scott Herioux '94 BS** of Gladstone has been the chief financial officer for Hannahville Indian Community for nearly five years. He loves spending time with his wife and three children, along with watching football, coaching Little League and playing golf.

**Bryan Hyska '94 BS** of Escanaba was promoted to business banking manager at Wells Fargo for the Menominee and Escanaba markets.

**Jill Vandenameele '95 AT, '97 BS** of Rochester, Minn., received her master of science degree in clinical laboratory science from the University of North Dakota in December 2005. Jill has been the quality specialist for the Hepatitis/HIV Molecular Lab at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., since June 2003. [vandenameele.jill@mayo.edu](mailto:vandenameele.jill@mayo.edu)

**Eli Collins '96 BS** of Bark River is an elementary substitute teacher in the Escanaba Public Schools and in the summers works at Delta County's Fuller Park assisting campers and maintaining the grounds.

**Aaron Maiké '96 BS** of Allen Park has been appointed as campus president for Baker College's Allen Park campus. He had been campus director at Baker College prior to his new appointment.

**Beth Anderson '97 BS** of Houghton was recently hired as the *Daily Mining Gazette* city editor. She has one daughter.



**Steve '97 BS** and **Cissie (Robinson) Patterson '97 BS** of Lake Orion welcomed their daughter, Kelly Angela, in February. Kelly joins her two-year old brother. Steve works as a product engineer at Siemens VDO and Cissie works for Oakland County Community College as a training

assistant. [Patterson150@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Patterson150@sbcglobal.net)

**Veronica Junak '98 BS** of Iron River is West Iron County Public School's Educator of the Year. She is active in her church and enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.



**Elizabeth Lee '98 MA** of West Bend, Wis., recently began a job working as a webfolio writer for Stewart, Cooper & Coon, an executive placement and recruiting firm serving clients, companies, and executives in the U.S.

**Jeffery Kudrna '99 BS** of Holland works as a chef at Clearbrook Restaurant and Golf Course. [Hierlwimmer\\_kudrna@yahoo.com](mailto:Hierlwimmer_kudrna@yahoo.com)

**Robert Rees, '99 BS** (below) of Lewisburg, W.V., graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine as a doctor of osteopathic medicine. He is interning at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Macomb. He has two children.



**Kevin Smith '99 AS** of Manistique is a Manistique public safety officer, crime scene evidence technician and a K-9 handler. He has two children and coaches the Manistique Hockey Association squirt team.

**Loren Snyder '96 BS, '99 MA** has joined Boomerang Marketing of Chatham as senior copywriter and media relations specialist. He was

previously with Milwaukee ad agency Blue Horse, was managing editor for Trade Press Publishing in that city and a copywriter for Cannondale Bicycle Corp.

**Larry Thompson II '99 BS** of Traverse City works as a biological products specialist at Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines.

## '00s



**Sandra J. Clark '00 BS** (above) of Engadine is ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. Sandra has been serving as pastor of the Newberry and Engadine UM churches since graduating from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in 2003. Her husband, Michael, is director emeritus of the NMU communications and marketing office.

**Amanda (Miettinen) Huyck '00 BSN** of Chester, Va., graduated in December with a master of science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is employed by West End Anesthesia Group as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Her husband, **Daniel Huyck '99 BS**, is a captain in the United States Army. He will be attending law school at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis this fall. [Amanda.huyck@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.huyck@gmail.com)



**Ryan Kieszkowski '01 BS** of Ludington is the owner of Oak Grove, a full service funeral home and

cremation service. Ryan is a certified pre-planning consultant through the National Funeral Directors Association and Funeral Service Education Foundation.

**Deanna (Frisk) LaCosse '01, Cert. '05 BSN** of Champion works for Marquette General Health System as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit. She has a one-year-old son, Nathan Robert.

**Shannon Truse '01 BS** of Tinley Park, Ill., is a teaching assistant at a Montessori school and she hopes to be head Montessori teacher when she completes her degree. She recently became engaged to a Cook County sheriff's officer.

**Ryan Boehmke '02 AS** of Crystal Falls was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Ryan was instrumental in the establishment of the Iron County Drug Court.

**Erin Celello '02 MA, '04 MFA** of Madison, Wis., is spokesperson for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Previously, she worked as the deputy press secretary for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. erincelello@yahoo.com

**Chris Crittenden '03 BS** of Alpena works as a project manager for Devere Construction Co. in Charlotte, N.C. chriscrittenden@hotmail.com

 **Marina Dupler '03 BS** of Wallace is community relations coordinator at Pinecrest, a medical care facility.

 **Eric Frederick '04 BS** of Portland graduated from Michigan State University with a master's degree in urban and regional planning. He is employed as a planner with LSL Planning, Inc. in Grand Rapids.

**Michelle Fish '04 BA** of Iron Mountain is married and raising two small children.

**Josh Johnson '04 BS** of Fallon, Nev., is editor of the *Lahotan Valley News*

and *Fallon Eagle-Standard*. He has worked as a reporter for two years. joshatjohnson@hotmail.com

**Marcus Doxey '05 BS** (below) of Holt is an accountant for Andrews Hooper & Pavlik P.L.C., a Lansing accounting firm.



**Nicole Lasak '05 BS** of Munising started "Critter's Crutch," a wildlife rehabilitation center. The major goal of the shelter is to provide care for injured and orphaned animals, and to educate the general public on the dangers of housing wild animals.

**Nicole Romero '05 BSN** is an Army National Guard Specialist who was recently named Soldier of the Year in Michigan and was also awarded the Steward Medal. Nicole is a combat medic assigned to Headquarters Company 107th Engineer Battalion. When not serving with the guard, she works at the Neuro Trauma Unit with Spectrum Health at Butterworth Campus in Grand Rapids.

**Ben Wielechowski '05 BS** of Canton Township spent his first few months out of school training for a five-month hike on the Appalachian Trail.

## Marriages

**Patricia Wagner '81 BSN** to Christopher Manzini.

**Kristin Bastin '89 BS** to Bryan Willamson.

**Nicole Perry '91 Voc.** to Bradley Swiss.

**Greg St. Martin '93 BS** to Katie Hammen.

**Sharon Bonzheim '95 AB** to Michael Riegel.

**Tracee Charbonneau '96 BS** to Joel Kauppila.

**Todd Durand '96 BS** to Jamie Keto.

**Yvonne Pandzich '96 BS** to Douglas Frame.

**Julie Tisch '98 AA** to Fred Belcher.

**Heather Campbell '99 BS** to William Fontes.

**Darcia Koski '99 BS** to William Schooler.

**Marshall Rennick '00 BS** to Jamie Phelps.

**Sarah Cody '01 BS** to Timothy Janda '02 BS.

**Jessica Lorenz '01 BS** to Brian Walters.

**Jill Miljour '97 BS '01 BS** to Jason Dubord '96 AAS.

**Eric Nelson '01 BS** to Teresa Ardene.

**Gabrielle Houg '02 BS** to Timothy Grunlund.

**James Hytinen '02 BS** to Angela Gardner '00 AB.

**Lowell Larson Jr. '02 AS '04 BS** to Kimberly Smith.

**Timothy Maki '02 BS** to Kelly Worley.

**Marisa DellAngelo '03 BS** to Matthew LePage.

**LeAnn Hebert '03 BS** to Jeffery Saarela.

**Lisa Jason '03 BS** to Kyle Button '04 BS.

**Amanda Pach '03 BS** to Tony Spreitzer.

**Marianne Saarivirta '03 BS** to William Kolpack.

**Jeramie Soderberg '03 BS** to Susan Weidman.

## Why Join?

Because my membership represents my love for Northern.

"I feel a sense of responsibility to give back to the university that I benefited from so much. Now, as a Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association, it's easier than ever to stay connected. I value my free alumni e-mail account, *Horizons* and the weekly 'What's New, NMU' e-newsletter—my gateway for news, campus issues, familiar faces and photos of a constantly evolving campus."

—Andy Forbing '03  
Ann Arbor, Mich.



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- NMU merchandise discounts
- Free e-mail
- Being a hero to NMU
- From just \$20 per year



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or e-mail [horizons@nmu.edu](mailto:horizons@nmu.edu)

**Katrina Feltner '04 BS to Michael Mattila '03 BS.**

**June Hanson '04 BSN to Nick Gregorich.**

**Leah LaForest '04 Cert. to Adam Karki.**

**Carla Scanlon '04 Cert. to Eric Lovern '00 AAS.**

**Jill Maki '05 BS to Jeremy Connin '05 BME.**

**Kara Toutant '05 BS to Christopher Katona '02 BS.**

## Deaths

**Pearl Grimes '22 Life Cert.,** May 25, 2006, Kingsford.

**Fern Roberts '24 Life Cert.,** Jan. 16, 2006, Negaunee.

**Viola Magnuson '29 Life Cert., '44 BS,** Feb. 23, 2006, Marquette.

**Ann Marie Bergin '32 BA,** April 7, 2006, Negaunee.

**Joseph Hampton '32 Life Cert. '33 BS,** April 28, 2006, Gladstone.

**Florence Nordine '33 AB,** April 9, 2006, Escanaba.

**Waive 'Dotty' Anderson, '34 Life Cert.,** May 17, 2006, Green Valley, Ariz.

**Virginia Long '41 BS,** April 27, 2006, Marquette.

**Ethel Slater '41 BS,** March 6, 2006, Montrose, Iowa.

**Patricia Connors Ziller '46 BS,** June 29, Marquette.

**Arthur Koskinen '50 BS,** March 28, 2006, Perrysburg, Ohio.

**Rudolph Pennala '50 BS,** April 29, 2006, Marquette.

**Wayne Yelland '51 BS,** Feb. 22, 2006, Marquette.

**Manfred 'Fritz' Cerasoli '52 BS,** Feb. 3, 2006, Gladstone.

**Joan Chapman '57 BS,** March 31, 2006, Ishpeming Township.

**Francis Roberts '58 BS, '60 MA,**  
March 25, 2006, Gwinn.

**John Rukavina '59 BA,** Nov. 26,  
2006, Marquette.

**Ann Fassbender '60 BS,** Feb. 28,  
2006, Oak Brook, Ill.

**Betty (Kevern) Slade '61 BS,** Feb. 19,  
Escanaba.

**John Vidlund '64 BS,** Dec. 7, 2006,  
Marquette.

**Ronald Britton '66 BS,** Feb. 18, 2006,  
Marquette.

**Frederick Neurohr '68 BS, '71 BS,**  
May 13, 2006, Gladstone.

**Robert Miller '72 BA,** May 29, 2006,  
Marquette.

**Joseph Varney '72 BS,** May 8, 2006,  
Iron River.

**Emma (Stupar) Donckers '73 MAE,**  
May 16, 2006, Fort Collins, Colo.

**Louis Terzaghi '74 BS,** June 15,  
2006, Champion.

**Vicki Ketvirtis '76 BS,** June 7, 2006,  
Newberry.

**Russell Morrison '76 BSN,** May 15,  
2006, Bloomfield Hills.

**Donald Paulosky '78 BS,** April 28,  
2006, Williamsburg.

**Kathleen "Kathie" Wood '78 BSN,**  
March 20, 2006, Gaylord.

**Pierre DuVall '79 BS,** May 11, 2006,  
Scottsville.

**Colleen O'Connor-Dow '83 BS,** May 7,  
2006, Saugatuck.

**Thomas Lakenen '83 Dipl.,** March 22,  
2006, Harvey.

**Kim Shamion '89 BS,** May 11, 2006,  
Crystal Falls.

**Rita Marchese '90 BS,** April 28, 2006,  
Newberry.

**Arlene Harrison '94 BSW,** June 11,  
2006, Kingsford.

**Delphine Koski '06 BS,** March 25,  
2006, Negaunee Township.

## Friends

Shirley Argiesti, March 31, 2006,  
Marquette, was an instructor at  
Northern for many years.

Raymond Buchkoe, April 11, 2006,  
Marquette, taught in the criminal jus-  
tice program at NMU.

Mildred Hoard, Feb. 18, 2006,  
Marquette, worked in the business  
office at NMU, retiring in 1963.

James Malsack, March 5, 2006, Iron  
Mountain, served as chairperson and  
member of the NMU board of control  
and received an honorary doctor of  
public service degree.

## HOMECOMING—THEN AND NOW

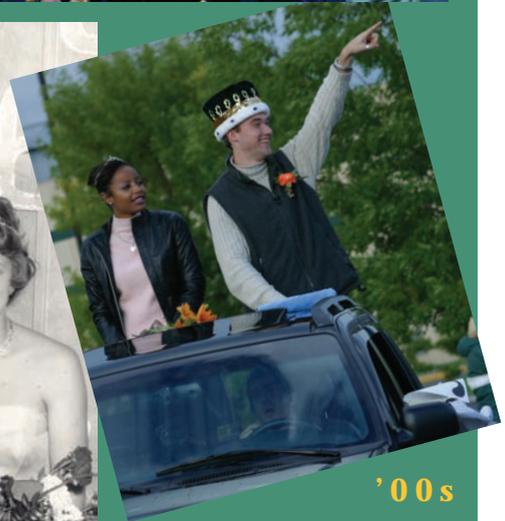


'00s

'70s



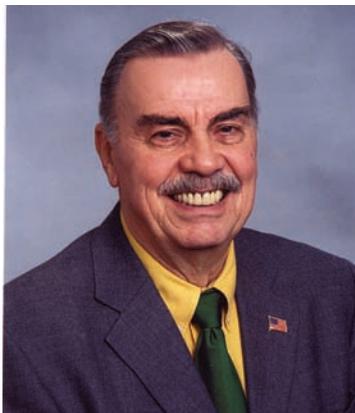
'60s



'00s

# The Northern Experience

By James S. Lombard '58 BS



**I**t has taken me some years since entering NMU in the fall of 1954, and subsequently graduating in 1958, to be able to adequately reflect upon, assess and evaluate the value and outcomes of my years at NMU. This I call the “Northern Experience.” Simple clichés would reveal an idyllic four years. The excitement of an atmosphere where learning and growing professionally comes to mind when I think back. But the real assessment and appreciation of that time came to me much later.

The most obvious values of a college education are readily apparent. The monetary value is but one outcome. Studies have consistently shown that college graduates earn substantially more during their working lifetimes.

The intrinsic value of being educated is less apparent. This is the ability to learn all kinds of things and continue lifelong learning. An educated mind has unlimited

potential. The inherent value of education begets education, a sustaining legacy for many generations.

I don't think anyone can totally evaluate the potential of their college years while they're in the process of being educated. Applying and evaluating their education comes afterward, a reflective time that causes us to ask, “Why was I so fortunate to have had this opportunity?” “What has it meant to me, and my family for generations to come?”

In the fall of 1954, a somewhat naïve youth from Hermansville, Michigan, unprepared for any kind of rigorous academic endeavor, entered Northern Michigan College, as it was known as then. Through the patience of wonderful professors, that young man—me—somehow managed to survive that first year. The small, close setting and encouragement allowed for success.

The second year was truly a blessing, for I had the good fortune of taking two classes from Dr. Luther S. West. I experienced great success through Dr. West's teaching and mentoring. This was a monumental experience in my academic career. It was the inspiration from Dr. West that gave me confidence to continue my studies. This for me was a “turning point,” or as former NMU President Judith Bailey would say, a “defining moment.” Dr. West's encouragement of me and many others reinforces the adage

that “chance favors the trained mind.”

I am pleased that NMU embraced the idea at that time that “everyone has the right to try.” This has opened academic doors for many people in terms of degrees, advanced study and professional accomplishments.

Reflecting on that turning point directly attributable to Dr. West, and all the good things that have happened as a result, spurred me to initiate the Dr. Luther S. West Biological Scholarship, which has grown with contributions and now funds scholarships for outstanding students.

If we believe that an educated society is the best investment for the future, then it would be my hope that other graduates reflect on their accomplishments and successes as a result of their “Northern Experience” and make a commitment to the future of NMU in terms of gifts for scholarships, endowments, annual giving or institutional gifts, so that others can have the opportunity to reach their potential—a legacy of undiminished and incalculable value.

*In addition to earning a degree in science from NMU, James Lombard holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan and a doctorate from Wayne State. He is a retired public school administrator living in Ann Arbor.*

**NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE** is open to all alumni, friends, faculty, and current students of Northern Michigan University. We welcome your personal essays, anecdotes, opinion pieces, short fiction or fiction excerpts, poetry, or images. Not all submissions will make it into the magazine, and *Northern 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, send it by e-mail to [horizons@nmu.edu](mailto:horizons@nmu.edu), through the *Northern Horizons* Web site at [www.nmu.edu/horizons](http://www.nmu.edu/horizons), or by mail to Editor, *Northern Horizons*, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855. Photographs should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

# Two special Alumni Association events

You are invited to join NMU alumni and friends  
for "Wicked."

**Saturday, January 27 in Chicago, Illinois**

The NMU Alumni Association will host a pre-show reception  
with NMU President Les Wong at the Oriental Theatre on  
Randolph Street in downtown Chicago.

Time: 7:15 p.m. Alumni Association Reception  
8 p.m. "Wicked"  
Cost: \$110 Alumni Association members  
\$120 Non-members  
All seats are in the lower balcony

(Ticket price includes one play ticket and one reception  
ticket, which covers all food and beverages, served prior  
to the show. A limited number of tickets are available.  
First come, first served.)

To purchase tickets, contact the NMU Alumni  
Association at 906-227-2610 or toll-free at  
1-877-GRAD-NMU.

[www.wickedthemusical.com/chicago](http://www.wickedthemusical.com/chicago)



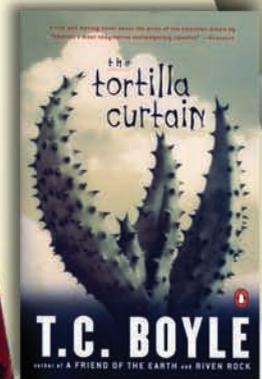
**An Evening with T.C. Boyle**  
**Live Webcast Wednesday, November 1**

The "One Book, One Community" program encourages the Marquette  
County and Northern Michigan University communities to read the  
same book this fall.

We invite all NMU alumni to read this year's selection,  
*The Tortilla Curtain*, and join us online for a discussion with  
the author, T.C. Boyle.

What: Live interactive interview from NMU's  
University Center and the University of  
Southern California-Santa Barbara.

When: Wednesday, November 1, 7 p.m. on  
[www.nmu.edu/onebookmqt](http://www.nmu.edu/onebookmqt)





Photograph by Mel Charbonneau

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**Thanks to my education at NMU, I live my dream job every day.** I distinctly remember making the trip from Detroit to Marquette my freshman year. All seven of my siblings and I had the choice to go anywhere, but we all chose NMU. I guess you could say it was a family tradition.

A defining moment in my college experience came when I enrolled in the Police Academy program at Northern. After completing my bachelor's degree in criminal justice, the academy was the next step on my path to becoming a police officer. The 16-week training was an emotional and physical test, but one I look back on with great appreciation. My instructors left me with lasting impressions, instilling in me all the responsibilities that come with my profession. My classmates, some of whom are great friends of mine today, became allies in a sometimes grueling and demanding schedule. And you can't talk about NMU without talking about the location—there's nothing better. In fact, a morning run alongside Lake Superior is one NMU tradition I haven't let go of yet.

As the Chief of Police in Chocolay Township, I'm always eager for opportunities to work with students at the Police Academy. They are incredibly bright and talented people. In fact, this is one of the primary resources I look to when recruiting officers.

Now as a member of the Alumni Association and the Marquette community, I make sure I give back to NMU as much as I can. The reason is simple—it is my way of ensuring that all the NMU traditions I enjoyed live on.

**Greg Zybut '80, Police Academy Graduate '80.  
Member of the NMU Alumni Association since 1999.  
1990 Recipient of the NMU Outstanding Young  
Alumni Award.**

# Of course I'm a member.

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