



# Northern HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS  
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Fall 2007

**Making History at NMU**

# Northern HORIZONS

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## Editor's Note

**Once again**, our magazine can contain only a dash of the accomplishments of a few of NMU's talented alumni, as we turn our attention in this issue to the theme of history. While there are many with history degrees working in law, education, technology, ministry and other careers, we're concentrating on those rare individuals who actually work in the field of their degree! And on the keepers of NMU's flame. Be sure to check out [www.nmu.edu/horizons](http://www.nmu.edu/horizons) for bonus material, including an article by Missouri Historical Society President **Robert Archibald '70 BA, '72 MA**.

—*Rebecca Tavernini*

## Letters to the Editor

**The front page** [cover] of the summer issue is the 7th grade class of John D. Pierce school, probably spring 1948.

Front row:

4th from left: Grace E. Ogren, my sister

5th from left: Karen Olson, world famous skating performer

Top row we have Jimmy Lahti, Neely-Ann Schaefer, Bill Flink (brushing his hair aside) and, over on the right side of the row, we have Nancy Balwin, Ph.D., Joan May (father was Baptist minister) and David Cole (author in New York)

Third row first person is Catherine D. Wilkerson (Willy Wilkerson), 7th grade teacher

Front row, 1st person is Bobby Luoma

2nd row, 2nd is Richy Hytinen

2nd row, 5th is Leroy Libby

2nd row, 6th is Jimmy Wagner (insurance man)

I think Ann Johnson is 3rd in the 3rd row

I think Bruce Tervola is 2nd to the end of the 3rd row

Dickie Retaski may be the short one in the front row

Beverly Kiltinen (cousin of NMU's John Kiltinen) may well be the girl in the front row raising her left leg. She lives now in Elk Grove, Calif.



Thanks for the memories.

—*Dr. John Ogren '51 JDP and '55 NMCE*

**As soon as I saw** the summer *Horizons* cover, I knew it was J.D. Pierce. I only got to go there one year, the year we moved to Marquette. That was the last year of the high school (1960-61) and the year Pierce won the state Class D basketball championship.

Just going to East Lansing to the Breslin was a major thrill. We got to pile in buses and cross the bridge and cheer our lungs out at the big game. Can't remember now who we beat. Maybe Swartz Creek. Whoever it was, we won. Then the buses turned around and hauled us back to the U.P. Got about as far as Paradise when everyone agreed we could go no farther without a pit stop. The only place open that time of night was a bar. The chaperones were a little edgy, but, hey, we had to go! Until we got inside, that is, and then we all had to belly up to the bar and buy Cokes.

Pierce was wonderful and I was sad to see it close.

—*Mary Lu Schwarz Lockhart*

**Note:** Also identified by Marian Carlton—back row, 3rd, 4th and 5th from left: George VanCleve, Ruth Carlton (her sister) and Drexel Bittle. Identified by Alma Kiel Hundt—3rd row right 3rd in from end, Alma Kiel.

**The summer 2007** *Northern Horizons* magazine article entitled "Strike up the Band" featured several members of my family. They all attended this year's Homecoming, participating in the alumni marching band festivities. The last time the three of them marched together was Ann's second year at NMU in the fall of 1997. My dad was the oldest band alumnus to participate in this year's band at 86 years old, but the three of them had a fabulous time!

—*Marti Alexander*

# WILDCAT NIGHT Across the Country

Mark your calendars,  
call your friends,  
choose a local hangout  
and get your growl on for  
**NMU vs. Ohio State.**  
Then join fellow alumni  
around the country to  
cheer on the 'Cats!

**Friday, Feb. 15**

Mount Pleasant • Appleton • Flint  
Lawing • St. Louis • Phoenix  
Washington, D.C. • Chicago  
Madison • Wake Falls • Battle Creek



Once you've chosen a spot to watch the game,  
contact the Alumni Association at 1-877-GRAD NMU  
or [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu).

Travel with fellow  
NMU alumni to  
Tuscany, Italy. Spend  
seven nights in the  
ancient Etruscan city  
of Cortona and your  
days exploring Assisi,  
Montepulciano,  
Siena and Florence.  
Experience palaces,  
cathedrals, museums,  
architecture. Taste  
and learn about the  
region's food, wine  
and culture. An  
adventure of a life-  
time, for \$2,295 (plus  
airfare). Call the  
Alumni Association  
to learn more and  
reserve your spot.

**Bella!**



# Italy!

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



**THEN**

**Tom Peters '55 BS, '60 MA, first director of NMU Alumni Relations and Alumni Association member**



**NOW**

“Believe it or not, this all got started back when a group of alumni from Lower Michigan wanted to come back to Marquette for Homecoming. It was the late 1950s, I was teaching in Battle Creek at the time. I got a list of names of alumni who lived downstate from the registrar’s office. I sent out 300 penny postcards, arranged a caravan and we headed north for the festivities. About a year later, Dr. Edgar Harden, president of Northern at the time, called and asked if I would be interested in returning to Northern to start an alumni relations program. Keeping alumni connected to Northern has been a lifelong commitment for me.”

So says Tom Peters, the first director of Alumni Relations at Northern Michigan University.

“We knew that Northern needed to be involved in outreach. We

needed to know where our alumni were and what they were doing. It was really important in the early days to have events that allowed people to get together. We wanted them to feel a part of the Northern family.”

That mission continues today.

“The biggest change, I think, has been in communication. It has gotten so much better over the years. In addition to the university doing a better job communicating, the communication tools have changed and that makes it so much easier to stay connected.

“But while much has changed over the years, it also remains remarkably the same. Everyone who attended Northern, whether it was in the ‘50s or the ‘90s, had a very positive experience. When they reminisce about their time on campus, they have good feelings. They speak fondly of professors. They speak very highly of their education. The friends they made on this campus have remained their closest friends. They share a passion for this institution.

“I am proud that what we started back in the ‘50s has been so successful. We were a very small family at the time. Now we’re a large family. But we’re still family. No matter where we go or what we do—we’re the Northern family.”

Of course  
I’m a member.

Are you?

Consider joining the  
NMU Alumni Association today.

[www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni) • 1-877-GRAD NMU • [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu)



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