

Mark '79 BS, Katherine '50s BA, '63 MAE, Art, Mary Adamini '85 BS, '96 MS and Alan '78 BS, '91 AS Feldhauser.

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**ON THE COVER:** Mrs. Wilkenson's middle school class at John D. Pierce Laboratory School in the 1950s. Photograph courtesy of the NMU Archives.

# NMU welcomes new provost

**O**n July 1, NMU welcomed Susan Koch as the new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“I was attracted to Northern Michigan University because it is a dynamic institution, proud of its heritage, with talented faculty and staff and a really optimistic, can-do attitude,” Koch said. “Also, NMU obviously plays an absolutely central role in the economic and cultural development of the region and state. All of these factors combined made Northern a desirable destination for an educator.

“My husband [Dennis] and I loved Marquette from the moment we got there. We’re very interested in communities that have interesting histories and Marquette was just bursting with stories to tell. The natural landscape is incredible. Who could not be immediately engaged



Provost Susan Koch is responsible for academic programs and overseeing student life on campus.

in its beauty? The area offered all of the things that we like to do. So, both professionally and personally, Northern and Marquette are a great fit for our family.”

Koch, who was dean of the graduate college and associate provost at the University of Northern Iowa, will assume the duties of Fred Joyal, who will focus on serving as the point person for Northern’s economic development efforts.

“Dr. Koch brings the creativity, experience and style that Northern will need to meet today’s and tomorrow’s challenges,” said NMU President Les Wong. “She is a successful administrator and passionate about student learning. She was consistently the top candidate across all campus constituencies and the top candidate for me and other administrators. I look forward to our work together. I also want to sincerely thank Fred for his work as the provost. He will be a key player in our future and remains a valued and active member of NMU.”

# New vice president and trustees



**Gavin Leach** has been appointed vice president for Finance and Administration and treasurer of the NMU Board of Trustees. He takes over the responsibilities for Mike Roy, who becomes a special projects consultant until his planned 2008 retirement.

Leach earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from NMU and holds a CPA certificate. He joined the staff as a senior accountant in 1989 and was later promoted to budget analyst, senior financial analyst, budget director and associate vice president for Finance and Planning. Leach was acting chief financial officer and treasurer of the NMU Board of Trustees in 2003-04 while Roy served as interim president.



**Stephen F. Adamini**, of Marquette, was appointed by Michigan Governor Granholm to the NMU Board of Trustees. He is a former state representative and an attorney at Kendricks, Bordeau, Adamini, Chilman & Greenlee, P.C. He succeeds Karl A. Weber, whose term expired.



**Gilber L. Ziegler**, of Charlevoix, is making a return to the NMU board. His previous appointment spanned from 1993 to 2001, during which time he was elected for yearly terms as board vice chair and chair. The NMU alumnus is president of Alken-Ziegler. He succeeds Larry C. Inman.



To better reflect its size and the breadth of arts programs offered by NMU, the School of Art and Design is now the new name of the former department. "In approving the change of name to the School of Art and Design, the Board of Trustees and the administration have recognized our significant increase in majors, our new facility and programs, and the success of our students and faculty," stated Michael Cinelli who became associate dean and director of the School.

## SUPERCOMPUTER!

Northern has a new supercomputer lab that will enable faculty and students to split large tasks into smaller pieces that can be run simultaneously on multiple processors, achieving faster results.

"Parallel processing is not a new concept, but we now have nine boxes, or the equivalent of 18 computers in a small space," said Mathematics and Computer Science Professor Dave Powers. "That means we can run programs 18 times faster than if you used a single computer. The applications for this extend beyond math research and instruction. It can be used for any of the sciences that require high-speed computing. Simulations that used to take days could be completed in half a day with this system."

## Dining services wins awards

Northern has received two Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards. The nationwide competition honors the most successful ideas in menus, presentations, special-event planning and new dining concepts. It is sponsored by the National Association of College and University Food Services.

Among medium-sized schools, Northern won silver in the category of stand-alone, single-concept retail outlet for Temaki & Tea. The venue is located on the upper floor of C.B. Hedgcock and serves sushi and noodle dishes, along with other organic and fair trade food and beverages.

In the residence hall theme

dinner category, NMU earned bronze for "Northern Lights" at the Marketplace (residence hall dining center in Quad I). The event was held on the Sunday night students returned from spring break.

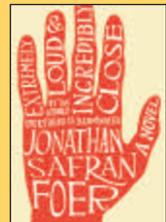


In addition to themed décor and food, students could enjoy roasted marshmallows, hay rides and games.

"These awards not only boost morale, they put Northern in the same league as some of the big-name universities known for their great dining services operations," said Dining Services Director Andre Mallie. "It's also good for the students because it enhances their total experience."

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Starting its second year, the "One Book, One Community" program encourages the



Marquette County and Northern Michigan University communities to read the same book and to come together to discuss it in a variety of settings.

This year's selection is the novel *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer. It's the story of a nine-year-old boy whose father dies in the World Trade Center on 9/11, and his quest to discover what a key he found in his father's closet opens.

Many events are planned for the fall, including a live Webcast with the author—which will be available to alumni.

# Faculty accomplishments



## Professor wins Emmy Award

Communications Professor **Dwight Brady** recently received a Michigan Emmy Award presented by the state chapter of the National Television Academy.

Brady and two employees of WKAR-TV in East Lansing were recognized for their contributions to “Michigan at Risk,” which won for best public/community affairs series. Brady produced a documentary for the program titled “Michigan’s Green Energy Economy.” It aired statewide and explored how investment in solar, wind and biofuels is creating economic growth in the state. The documentary was nominated for two other Emmy Awards in the categories of best documentary and best environmental program.

## Digitizing 17th century poetry

Associate Professor of English **Robert Whalen** is giving 17th century poetry

the high-tech treatment through his project titled The Digital Temple. His goal is to transcribe and encode the English verse of devotional poet George Herbert into an electronic edition that can be thoroughly examined with sophisticated text analysis software. Whalen has received the 2007-08 NMU Peter White Scholar Award to help fund the project.

## Distinguished Faculty

The 2007 NMU Distinguished Faculty Awards were given to Health, Physical Education and Recreation Professor **Mohey Mowafy**, School of Education Professor **Laura Reissner** and School of Nursing Associate Dean and Department Head **Kerri Schuiling**.

**Carl Wozniak**, an education instructor, has received a 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the National Earth Science Teachers Association for establishing, developing and hosting the original NESTA Web site.

Marketing Professor **James Camerius** received the Philip Fisher Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Case Research for serving the organization with distinction. He joined Northern in 1963.



## STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD

While studying abroad is nothing new at Northern, some recent excursions put a unique twist on educational travel.

This spring, 13 NMU students performed biological field studies in Zambia, studying such creatures as cranes, elephants, ticks and mollusks. They are shown above at a burial site of explorer Sir David Livingstone.

A course in international health care took a group of nursing and health education students to Honduras, where they treated children for head lice and taught them about proper dental hygiene and hand washing.

Twenty-one students spent an entire month in Chihuahua, Mexico, last semester, absorbing the language and culture through a partnership with URN, Mexico’s “Regional University of the North.”

Other students are the recipients of prestigious travel awards, such as junior Danielle Hernandez, one of six students nationwide selected for a National Science Foundation program. She studied health and environmental issues in Ghana.

# Northern launches new programs

In a continuing effort to respond to local and national employee training needs and expanding careers opportunities, NMU is introducing a number of specialized programs.

Northern is the only university to now offer a bachelor’s degree in loss prevention management. The

degree is also NMU’s first all-online program. It was developed in conjunction with national retail loss prevention experts.

Also new are a plastic injection technology certificate (see the article on page 25), a human-centered design major, entrepreneurship minor

and these programs serving the health field: respiratory therapy, radiography, pre-physician assistant, emergency medical technician and doctorate of nursing practice (in collaboration with Oakland University).

# LEGACIES at NMU

## Families ✨ Traditions ✨ Experiences

Whether it's four generations of a family each experiencing Northern in their own way, brothers and sisters following the same path, an extended family with a shared passion, or a group of unrelated students joined together in lifelong friendships, NMU has been a catalyst of legacies, traditions and bonds for 108 years, and ones that are being initiated and experienced today, and tomorrow. This NMU "family album" highlights just a few. If you'd care to share yours, write it up and send it in. We'll post it on the *Horizons* Web site.



*Clockwise: Teacher Bill Helfer's fourth grade class at J.D. Pierce School, John DeVoe, Ralph Egizi and Rolly Babcock with their snow statue in 1968, a homecoming float outside of Hedgcock, students from the Newman Center in 1967-68 on steps of Kaye Hall, Bob Mariucci, "Sugar" and Rick Popp.*

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# Four Generations. Six Stories. One Connection.

The Feldhauser family's NMU story spans 95 years

By *Brianne S. Rogers '07 BS*

It is the summer of 1913. Aileen McNamara, a young, Irish woman is walking toward the rebuilt Longyear Hall. She walks past the only other building on campus, the Peter White Science Building. Aileen, originally from Manistique, has just started attending Northern State Normal, and is taking classes toward a teacher certification. As she enters Longyear Hall, she pauses, glances over her shoulder, and absorbs one last view of the relatively new 20-acre campus, before proceeding to her history class.

What Aileen didn't realize on that summer day was that she was the start to a unique connection. A connection that would span four generations and include six very distinct personal stories. It is a Northern connection.

**Aileen McNamara Nelson** (graduation date unknown) was the first of her family to walk down the corridors of Longyear Hall. Thirty-two years later, her youngest daughter, **Katherine Nelson Feldhauser BS, '63 MAE**, would walk down the same halls.

Katherine started attending the Northern Michigan College of Education in 1945 as an education major. There were no dormitories when she arrived—Carey Hall would not open until 1948—so she lived at Mrs. Yates' boarding house at 710 N. Third Street, paying five or six dollars a week, and living with seven other female boarders.

Katherine went to school full-

time for her first two years, working at the library on campus for 35 cents an hour. Although much of her time was taken up with her studies, working and returning to Manistique on the weekends, she still found time to enjoy herself. She was an avid basketball and football fan and made frequent trips to Presque Isle with her friends from the boarding house.

"I always enjoyed the pep assemblies. It was fun to get all together in the auditorium and see everyone. The Elite was a little restaurant we could hang out in at night, and we would go down to the Tip Top," she recalled.

**For some summers, mother and daughter went to summer school together, both living at Mrs. Yates' boarding house.**

When she took a job teaching kindergarten through fifth grade in a one-room school house in Thompson, she began attending Northern on a less regular basis.

"They [Northern professors] used to come to Manistique and teach classes at night. I would also come to summer school. I did whatever I had to do," she said.

For some summers, mother Aileen and daughter Katherine went to summer school together, both pursuing, and eventually earning, degrees in teaching and both living at Mrs. Yates' boarding house.

Katherine explains, "We both had

special certificates when we started teaching, which means you didn't have to have a four-year degree. We lived together a lot because my dad had died. I wasn't married at the time and I was the youngest of three. It worked out really well and it was nice."

Katherine and Arthur Feldhauser were married in 1961 and shortly after moved to Marquette, where he worked with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). They had three children Mark, Alan and Mary.

"I had dated occasionally, but after I met Art that was it. I still keep thinking someone must have told him about me, being about 22 and an old maid."

Although Katherine was raising a family, she didn't sway from completing her goal of earning her master's in education. **Mark Feldhauser '75 BS** recalls her dedication, saying, "I remember when I was younger and she was in grad school she would take us kids to the NMU library with her sometimes when she had to study or research a paper there. I remember spending hours in the quiet looking at magazines."

Some 10 years later, Mark would again be found amongst the stacks of books at the Olson library, studying chemistry for Dr. Roger Barry's class, one of his most influential professors. He also credits Dr. Phil Doepke, whose love of nature inspired Mark to go into his current line of work. He's an environmental manager with the Department of Environmental

Quality, based in Gwinn, following his father's footsteps.

However, Mark wasn't stuck inside the library his whole college career. There were rainy football games at Memorial Field, summer swims at Picnic Rocks and McCarthy's Cove, and Iron Ranger hockey games. Mark was an enthusiastic foosball player and competed in tournaments at the Brat House and enjoyed hanging out at Pier One. Today, Mark and his fiancée, **Ann Wilson '92 BS** (also coincidentally with the DNR), are dedicated NMU Wildcat hockey fans.

When he was a senior, his younger brother, **Alan Feldhauser '78 BS, '91 AS**, started attending NMU. Both pursued science-based degrees and shared admiration for Professor Alfred Neimi, who, as Mark said, "had a sense of humor he applied to his teaching so I had a better retention of the subject matter." Both brothers lived at home, but Alan had more mixed feelings about this arrangement.

"Living at home had its economical benefits. The drawback was I was not very involved with NMU other than class," Alan explained. However, in the spring of his sophomore year, he made that connection by joining the fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi. Along with his outdoor interests, Alan was an active Alpha member, an intense competitor in the annual tug-of-war competitions, a member of the Muzak Bears softball team, and with his frat brothers, a frequenter of such establishments as The Village Pub, which they deemed their headquarters. Today, Alan is a senior planner for the County of Marquette.

Younger sister **Mary Feldhauser Adamini '85 BS, '96 MS**, said that coming from a line of teachers,

"There was never any question we would all go to college in one form or another." Mary nearly broke with tradition and went to another school. After going to orientation at Michigan State, however, and "seeing 600 people in a lecture class, I decided that wasn't going to be my kind of learning."

She attended NMU with her future husband, **Daniel Adamini '85 BS**. She started to work full time as a reporter at *The Mining Journal* when she was a junior at Northern. She found a lot in common with Dr.



From left: Alan, Sue, Brian, Mary, Abby, Mark, Ann and Katherine.

Gerry Waite, who had worked at the *Milwaukee Journal*. "A lot of times when I would write stories [for *The Mining Journal*] we would critique them in class," she said. "Which sometimes I liked, sometimes I didn't, depending on whether I did well or not!"

**Brian's experience has a twist—he attended NMU at the same time as his mom, Sue.**

Mary, who now works as the supervisor of administrative services at the Marquette Board of Light and Power, recently returned to NMU's campus for a seminar and noticed how much it has changed.

"I loved the indoor walks in the wintertime. Then going to the new

art museum; I had been to the Lee Hall Gallery, but the new gallery is no comparison. And the Seaborg Center was just amazing. The campus was nice when I was there, but I think it is bigger and better now. I think it has a lot more to offer."

These changes are commonplace to Mary's nephew, **Brian Feldhauser '07**, the fourth generation to attend NMU. Brian completed the pre-pharmacy program at NMU and plans to attend Michigan Technological University in the fall to pursue pharmaceutical chemistry. His experience has a twist—he attended NMU at the same time as his mom, **Sue Feldhauser '05 BS**.

"People would ask, 'Is Sue your mom?' It didn't bother me. I thought it was kind of cool," Brian said.

Like his dad, Alan, he enjoys Marquette's downtown and the outdoors. He frequents Upfront and Company with his friends for the live

music. He can also be found playing a pick-up game of basketball, kayaking or cross-country skiing. Alan's daughter, Laura, also attended NMU. And their cousin, Abby Adamini, will attend in the fall, pursuing a double major in international relations and Spanish—and like her grandmother and great-grandmother, hopes to be a teacher.

It has been 95 years since Aileen McNamara Nelson walked into Longyear Hall and unknowingly started an educational tradition. Between the time Aileen started and Brian finished, NMU changed its name five times, has had 12 presidents, acquired an additional 300 acres and its buildings have morphed, disappeared or materialized. Despite the changes and the years, these four generations are connected by their Northern experience. ■

# Strike Up the Band

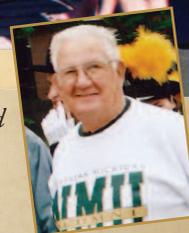
The DeVoe family proves the existence of a “band director” gene

By Kristi Evans

When John DeVoe '46 BS gets the urge to “strike up the band,” he can assemble all the instruments and talent he needs with a family reunion. He is the patriarch of a clan whose uncanny penchant for turning music into a hobby or career spans three generations and even marriage.



At a 2004 reunion, the DeVoe family formed a German band and played tunes on the deck of John and Grace DeVoe's summer home, overlooking Sunset Point. John, on tuba, leads (from left) Maddie, Ann, Tom, Kate, Bill and Bob.



After serving in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, DeVoe started what would become a familiar refrain: he graduated from Northern and became a high school instrumental director. Two sons followed the same path and one of them married a flutist. His two other children opted for different careers, but still play instruments. At the grandchild level, one teaches high school band, two are music performance majors at other universities, one graduated from NMU and married a fellow Wildcat who became a band director, another recently married a band director, and a high school student is playing the clarinet. Even a niece and nephew received music degrees from Northern.

To say the apples haven't fallen far from the DeVoe family tree would be an understatement. But how does John explain the inordinate number of relatives whose interests have branched out in a similar direction?

“I can tell you that it wasn't coerced; they all participated willingly,” he said. “I just think the climate was set in our home and it was a good, wholesome activity. It wasn't really compulsory, though I suppose there was a little compulsion—you had to keep after kids to practice

and things. But I feel very good about it and I have a lot of pride in how it turned out.

“I owe my career in music to my parents,” DeVoe says. “There was a lot of it playing in our home and my parents saw to it that I had more opportunities with it than they had.”

His wife, Grace, dabbles in piano but humbly downplays her ability. She also was surrounded by music during her childhood. “We would listen to opera on the radio,” she said. “And all of us would sing along with the opera and act silly like we were performing it.”

DeVoe attended high school at John D. Pierce, a learning laboratory for student teachers operated by Northern. “In my junior and senior years at Pierce, I played in the Northern orchestra,” he said. “I was taking lessons from the head of the music department at Northern, so it was an easy move from high school to college. Northern was a small school in those days. I remember the enrollment fee was \$22.50 and that included a locker. I played in the orchestra and band. I had played bass horn in high school, but Northern didn't have enough of those to go around, so I picked French horn instead. Part of the



*Bob's daughter, Kate, and Ann's husband, Tom, on trumpet.*

business of being a teacher is knowing how to play a number of instruments.”

DeVoe graduated from Northern, taught in Crystal Falls for two years and earned his master's degree from the University of Michigan before settling at Creston High School in Grand Rapids for most of his distinguished 28-year career.

“One of the main reasons I went there is that the city had a good symphony orchestra that I could play in on the side.”

The couple's son **Ben '70 BME** would also move to Grand Rapids after college. He played clarinet in the same symphonic band as his father, but taught at Union High School. His career was tragically cut short when he died of cancer five years ago, leaving behind a wife—a flutist—and three children. Ben's professional and personal legacies live on. Union High School honored his commitment to music education and passion for the arts when it dedicated the “Benjamin DeVoe Fine Arts Wing.” One of his children picked up the baton and is a band director in southern Michigan.



*Brothers Bill and Bob on trombone.*

Another recently married a band director.

**Bill '81BME** was the second child to become a band director. He spent 10 years in the Pinconning and Fenton school districts, but a combination of budget cuts and a desire for change helped propel him into the hardware business. He ran a store for a decade and now works at a building center. He plays trombone in the Norway Community Band and is watching his oldest child advance on the clarinet.

“My siblings and I were going to concerts from before we were born,” he recalled. “In addition to being a school band director, my dad was involved in civic and shrine bands and the church choir. Between those



*Cousins Ann and Jamie (playing his dad Ben's clarinet).*

activities and our own performances, it seemed there was something every week that the whole family would attend. It doesn't surprise me that the love of music was passed down to my generation, but I'm amazed how it has carried through to the next one. We've had three generations playing together at one event.”

The two other DeVoe children elected not to pursue music as a profession. However, Bob, a researcher at 3M, was a member of the University of Michigan marching band for two years and continues to play the baritone in his spare time. Bob's two children are music performance majors in college: a son on trombone and a daughter on trumpet.

Martha is a retired education

media specialist. She played violin during her school years and at Western Michigan University. Her daughter, **Ann Alexander-Golden '01 BS**, received a psychology degree from NMU and married—surprise—a band director and NMU alumnus, **Tom Golden '05 MAE**. The couple live in Cheboygan.

“It's a disease; it really is,” laughed Ann. “It could have been subconscious on my part. I met my husband when he was the bass player in a cover band at Wahlstrom's. I was one of the groupies. I joke with him that he married into his true family.”

While at NMU, Ann played in the marching, symphonic and pep bands. She also had an opportunity to play alongside her grandpa John and uncle Bill in a performance featuring students and alumni. She hopes Northern will resurrect the alumni band so she will have an opportunity to repeat the experience.

“It was fun to watch them. It was almost like they were young again, sitting in the stands, playing and goofing off like the rest of us. It would be nice to do again, only this time we would all be alumni. ... My grandpa gave me my clarinet when I was in second grade. He typed me right there. I wanted to play the flute, but he happened to have a spare clarinet so I played that instead.”

At 86, her grandpa John remains an active player, especially during the winter months at his second home in Florida, where he plays in two bands.

Two key elements comprise most hit songs: a refrain, or the repetitive melody and lyrics that make it memorable; and a bridge, which connects two sections together. The DeVoes' refrain is the recurring tendency to turn music into a profession or serious hobby. Their bridge is a shared interest in an activity that can unite generations and provide lifelong enjoyment. ■

# The Computer Clan

The German siblings, plus a spouse, all work in the same building for the same high-tech firm

By Kristi Evans



Jerry, Bob and Maria German, now and then (from left).

Some siblings work hard to differentiate themselves so they can fly solo in their chosen direction when they're ready to leave the nest. But the German siblings—two brothers and one sister—are rare birds indeed. Or ducklings, as they like to joke, for their tendency to fall in line and follow the same path in close succession.

The trio has taken emulation to a new level. All three attended Northern within six years of each other. All three had the same academic adviser. All three graduated with technology-related degrees. And all three work for Seagate Technology, a global digital-storage solutions corporation, in the same Shakopee, Minn., location.

Yet the siblings are quick to point

out that they aren't clones. They managed to preserve their unique identities and interests while pursuing similar education and career tracks.

**Jerry German '81 BS** started the trend. "I took an electronics class at Gwinn High School and I enjoyed it enough that it led me to Northern's industrial technology program," he said.

**Maria German Noer '85BS** also opted for industrial technology. "I was going into nursing and my first semester I picked biology and chemistry-type nursing classes. They just weren't doing anything for me. Jerry had just landed a good job after graduation. I liked math and decided to take a basic house wiring class. It clicked, so I continued in that direction and my minors were

in electronics and electricity."

For **Bob German '87 BS**, the decision to attend NMU "was pretty much based on Jerry's positive experience and wanting to follow his lead. Northern's location also helped. It was close to where we lived, at K.I. Sawyer, so we could commute to school."

The siblings' father was stationed at the U.S. Air Force base and retired as the non-commissioned officer in charge. Their mom worked for the Department of Defense in data management. They said the military lifestyle of being frequently uprooted and relocated made them rely more on each other and fostered a close-knit bond. "Our parents did a good job of raising us to have the right values and work ethic," Bob added.

At Seagate, Jerry is the senior lead manufacturing test engineer for developing disc-drive processes. He works closely with design engineering organizations worldwide. Maria is a senior program manager. She works in firmware development, which she described as controlling the hardware in the drives and allowing the drives to talk to other parts of the computer. Bob manages the advance process development group. Its members develop and "stage" new technologies, getting them ready to hand off to product teams.

Jerry and Bob, whose offices are separated by about 50 feet, have a cup of coffee together each morning. Maria's office is 75 yards away. Does that make her a relative outsider? "Yes, they tell me that all the time," she joked during a group interview via speakerphone. "And they've excluded me from their morning ritual; I'm not invited."

Bob said the coffee conversations usually revolve around weekend plans, hunting, fishing or "talking

bad about Maria.”

After the trio engaged in some more good-natured ribbing, Maria added that she does cross paths with both brothers at Seagate occasionally when they are working on major projects. The job has benefited her personally as well. She is married to a colleague.

Her brothers married outside the company. Jerry met his wife in Minneapolis. Bob met his wife, **Carol (Vertanen) '88 BFA**, at NMU, where was a student in the art department.

The Germans and their families get together outside of work only on special occasions. They keep busy schedules with kids' activities. And as further proof that conformity does not rule all aspects of their lives, each resides in a different city. In other words, the risk of being oversaturated with sibling contact is pretty slim. It also helps that they work for a large corporation.

“This is the best job I've had,” Bob added. “Seagate's been good to all of us. Even though we've made the full circle, it's a good company to work for—they've taken care of us.”

That circular path to Seagate began when Jerry graduated from NMU and accepted a job in the supercomputers division of Control Data in Minneapolis. He later transferred to a subsidiary, ETA Systems. Jerry helped his younger brother secure a successful interview at ETA. But when Seagate bought out the company's

**Jerry and Bob, whose offices are separated by about 50 feet, have a cup of coffee together each morning. Maria's office is 75 yards away.**

data-storage division and the plant closed down, Jerry and Bob were offered jobs in Oklahoma.

Maria worked in the defense products group of Unisys—formerly Sperry—after graduation. The industry's financial instability, combined with her desire to make a change, led Maria to pursue an opening at her brothers' company. But several years later, the Germans faced corporate downsizing related to the dot-com bust of 2001.

“A lot of product support functions were shut down and, in some cases, employees were given options to

work in one of the other design centers,” Bob said. “I moved my family to Minnesota that year. I was the first one up here. Jerry and Maria followed me two years later when the Oklahoma design center closed and they were offered transfers. People at Seagate thought it was highly irregular that four of us—counting Maria's husband—work in the same building, but there hasn't been any negativity about it.”

The siblings say the stress of the Oklahoma shutdown brought them closer together. They do not take gainful employment for granted, knowing that high-tech companies are more prone to industry swings.

“Our parents get a little nervous when there are layoffs or relocations going on,” Maria added. “But they're very pleased with what we've accomplished. We were among the first from both sides of the

family to go to college.”

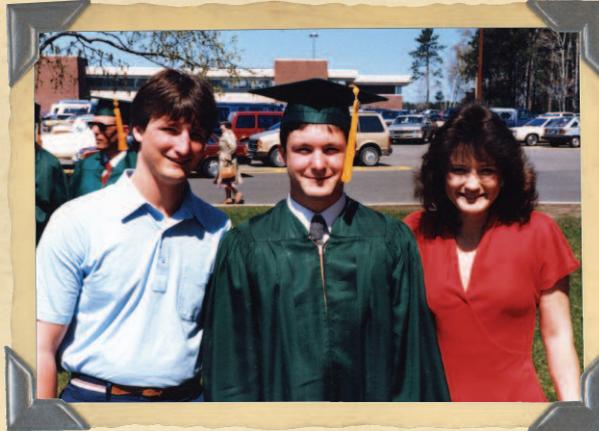
The Germans' parents remain in Marquette. Maria shared an “it's a small world” occurrence from a couple years ago. She said her parents were walking near the marina on Presque Isle and struck up a conversation with another couple, who invited them on their boat.

“After the husband found out we all graduated from Northern, the field we went into and our last name, he said to my parents, ‘Is your daughter Maria?’ It turned out that he was Bill Rigby, our adviser at Northern. I was one of few females who went through the program, but I was amazed and impressed that after 20 years he still remembered my name. I got to see him in Marquette a few weeks later.”

It's clear the German ducklings made a big splash at Northern and in their careers.

“I think it's just that Jerry, the first person in, set the bar high by doing a great job,” Bob said. “I wouldn't have gotten the job at ETA without them having Jerry's performance as a measuring stick. He's the silver-backed ape of the group. And Maria wouldn't have gotten her job without being homesick for her brothers.”

After a reported headlock following the last comment, and with all kidding aside, he added that Jerry “made it easier for Maria and me to get a chance to prove ourselves. In fact, shortly after moving to Oklahoma, one of the VPs at Seagate asked if there were any other siblings in the family. They were ready to hire more.” ■



## A Tribe of Teachers (mostly)

How six Feldhusen siblings financed their own educations and went on to work in education and media

By Mary Feldhusen '76 BA



A Feldhusen family portrait from the early 1960s. In front, from left, are Tom, Mary, Barb and Mike. Standing are Henry (the father), Dave, Hank and Dorothy (the mother).

Our parents, Henry and Dorothy Feldhusen, were very proud that all six of their children graduated from college: Northern Michigan University. Neither of them went to college, but they encouraged us to further our educations. All six of us paid our way with scholarships, grants, loans and by working. Four of the six who graduated from what used to be known as the “teacher’s college” did, in fact, go on to be teachers. We all graduated from Wm. G. Mather High School, Munising, before heading off to college, some of us with a few starts and stops along the way.

**Tom '66 BS** started at NMU in 1959, after transferring from Marquette University. He graduated with a major in history and minor in speech. **Mike '65 BS**, next oldest, was deciding between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and NMU, when Northern offered him a partial scholarship for football in 1959. He majored in biology and history. **Hank '71 BS** started at Northern in 1964. He and his wife, Jan, were married in 1966, before he was drafted into the Army to serve in South Korea. He got a degree in elementary education, grades K-9, majoring in English and social studies. **Dave '66 BS**, youngest of the four boys, was actually the last of the Feldhusen siblings to graduate from NMU. There was a 15-year span between his high school graduation in 1966 and commencement ceremonies at NMU. He

attended the University of Wisconsin-Superior on a basketball scholarship for about two years before putting his studies on hold to get married and start a family. Dave and his wife, **Jaci '81 BS**, attended NMU from 1979 to 1981 and graduated together. Dave majored in history and minored in English; Jaci in French with a minor in English. Their daughter **Kim '95 BS, '97 MA** majored in writing and minored in political science and went on to get a master’s degree in English from NMU. **Barbara '74 BA** graduated with her elementary education degree. (Our brothers often joked that, when Barb was born, she ruined the perfect basketball team for the family.) She later went on to get a master’s degree in religious education from Loyola University. Finally, I, **Mary '76 BS**, the youngest Feldhusen, majored in English and minored in secretarial administration and earned a liberal arts degree.

The consensus seems to be we attended NMU mostly because it was close to home and affordable ... and, for everyone but Tom, we went to Northern because the rest of the family had gone there and we were familiar with it. We all had the commuter experience at some point in our college careers. Some of us lived in the dorms, some in married housing, and some off campus in Marquette and Ishpeming. We remember travel being especially precarious between Munising and Marquette in the winter months. Tom said during his college days school was cancelled for the first time ever because of bad weather.

We all worked while attending Northern. Mike worked part-time in an NMU cafeteria kitchen as a dishwasher and later in the library. He was also a resident assistant for a semester. Hank worked at Fluette’s Gas Station and Turner’s Standard station in Marquette. His wife, Jan, worked at the Marquette Medical Center. Dave worked at the Lakeview Arena and also cleaned dorms on a work-study program. I worked in the NMU News Bureau and for Sports Information Director Gil Heard, taking statistics at football and basketball games. We all



Mary (on right) at her NMU graduation in 1976, with fellow alum, sister Barbara, and their parents.

worked at various jobs during the summer months.

After graduation we started our careers, with the teaching bug hitting most of us. Mike taught social studies and coached football in Harbor Springs and Byron. He returned to Munising and taught fourth grade at Sacred Heart School and eventually retired in 1997 from Munising Public Schools.

Hank was offered a job with Stanton Township Schools as a teacher of fourth- through eighth-grade students at Heikkinen School, a two-room schoolhouse, in Toivola. He taught there for 28 years, retiring in 2000. He was able to teach all three of his children over nine years, who all went on to earn college degrees. He was also a bus driver in the Adams Township School District and a staff member and director at Camp Nesbit, an environmental camp for sixth-grade students.

He was also in the Michigan National Guard. Hank continues to teach on a part-time basis at Twin Lakes.

Barbara started out teaching religious education classes at Sacred Heart Parish in Munising. She became the religious education program director and has been

**We remember a lot of the same favorite haunts, long gone now: Kaye Hall, the Pizzarena and the Blue Link on Presque Isle, Sandy's and its 10-cent hamburgers, Big Al's restaurant and its famous onion rings, the Palestra on Fair Avenue...**

working there for 31 years as director and part-time teacher. Our mom, too, worked as a CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) teacher in the parish for many years.

Dave's first teaching job was in Beach, N.D. Dave teaches now in the Luxemburg-Casco (Wis.) School District and plans to retire this year.

Tom's career path took a different turn, but even he spent some time as an instructor, teaching U.S. government at Munising High School. He worked as a news director for radio stations in Munising, Ishpeming and Marquette and then at WLUC-TV6. He retired from radio two years ago and now lives in Republic with his

wife, Trish. He is a member of the Republic-Michigamme School Board.

I am the only absolutely non-teacher of the siblings. I began work at Hiawatha Chef Supply, Inc. in Escanaba following graduation, worked as a clerk for a construction company, and in 2002, I took a job at *The Daily Press* in Escanaba and am currently business editor and cover the Delta County beat.

All six of us have some similar memories of college life. For example, we remember a lot of the same favorite haunts, long gone now: Kaye Hall, the Pizzarena and the Blue Link on Presque Isle, Sandy's and its 10-cent hamburgers, Big Al's restaurant and its famous onion rings, the Palestra on Fair Avenue, Andy's on Front Street and peanut night, events in the old Hedgcock Fieldhouse, games at Memorial Field, winter carnivals,

and the Wildcat Den with its wooden tables and benches etched with names of hundreds of students past. Tom remembers spending a lot of time there as a commuter playing cribbage.

Tom took part in a demonstration in 1960, when some Board of Control members objected to Edgar Harden's vision for Northern.

Mike was part of the 1960 Wildcat football team that received a bid to be in the post-season playoffs. The team played Lenoir Rhyne on its home field in North Carolina. The game ended in a tie. There was no provision at that time for overtime play. The winner was the team with the most offensive yards. Northern lost the game by 20 yards.

Streaking was all the rage when Barbara and Mary were at college.

The biggest difference between the "good old days" at NMU and the present is that NMU used to be small enough that you knew almost everyone on campus. Also, the cost has increased dramatically over the years. Kids pay more now for books than Tom and Mike paid for tuition.

If Mom and Dad were still alive, they would be so pleased to know their children are featured in this magazine. Having all six of your children graduate from the same college, with four of them going on to careers in education, may not be a record, but it's certainly quite an achievement and quite a legacy. ■

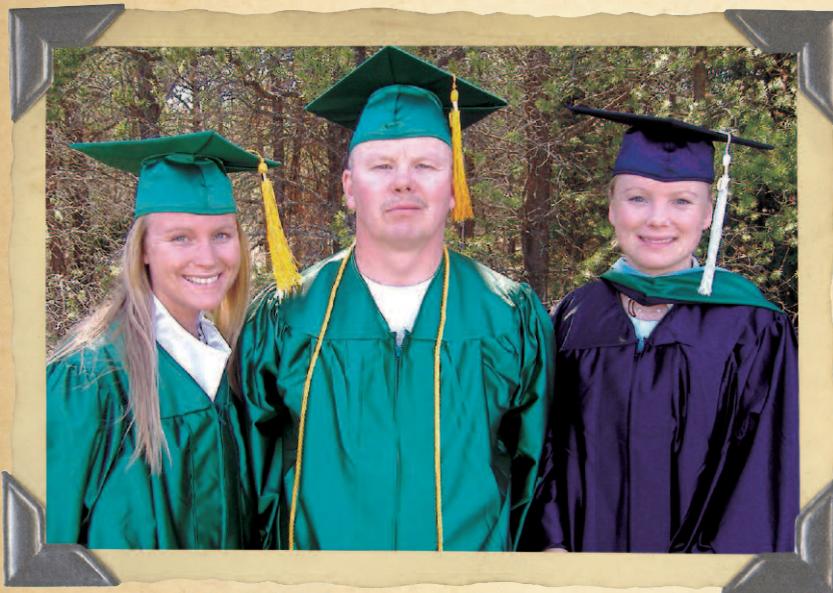


*Mike (left) and David on graduation day. The sisters at an NMU Winter Carnival while brother Mike was in school.*

# Like Father, Like Daughters

The Hytinens don caps and gowns and earn associate, bachelor's and master's degrees on the same day

By *Miriam Moeller '00 BA, '02 MA, '05 MFA*  
*Reprinted with permission from The Mining Journal*



*Dad Paul Hytinen flanked by daughters Erin (on left) and Jamie.*

**P**aul Hytinen, 51, is proud of his two daughters, Jamie and Erin, for graduating from NMU this May.

**Jamie Hytinen '02 BS, '07 MAE and Erin (Hytinen) Wasie '05 AS, '07 BS** are equally proud of their father—because he also received a degree from NMU at the same time.

“For my dad to go back to school after 30 years is, wow, ... I know where I get my intelligence from,” Jamie Hytinen said. “He got As in all his math classes; I think it was so cute when he walked around with his backpack.”

**Paul '07 AAS** earned an associate degree in electromechanical technology. Erin, 25, completed an associate degree in criminal justice and decided to go for a bachelor's degree

in community health education.

Simultaneously, Jamie, 27, who already had a degree in elementary education and works as a kindergarten teacher in Dollar Bay, began to study for her master's degree in elementary education. In fact, when she realized that her father and sister were scheduled for graduation together, she took seven credits instead of the usual four, while working full time, so she could graduate with them both.

Together the family members helped each other through college.

“The kids were a great benefit for me,” Paul said. “They helped me through the process.”

“Yeah, because Jamie had experience ...,” Wasie said. “... she was able to guide me, and Jamie and I would both guide my dad. I helped

him with his HP 200 (physical well being) class.”

The daughters helped their father set up his computer and enroll in classes, while his wife and their mother, **Mary '77 BSN**, supported them mentally.

“Whenever I was stressing out, Mom just said, ‘you get it done. You do what you need to do.’ She listened to my stressing out a lot,” Jamie said.

All three Hytinens are ambitious and show endurance, especially Wasie, whose husband was deployed to Kuwait for 18 months while she pushed through college.

The family was already close before this experience, but going to college together has brought them even closer.

“Failure is not an option. I have seen them through achievement turn into fantastic adults,” said Paul about his daughters.

Jamie said she still talks to her parents every night, and it feels odd when her routine is interrupted.

“This past year my dad and I were in correspondence several times [a day],” she said. “He'd call me every day and after class on Tuesday night. I waited for that phone call.”

The three graduates shared their typical college experiences: talking about mutual professors, worrying about paper deadlines, struggling with technology.

“Personally I am very relieved to have this degree finished,” said Jamie. “But to be able to share [the graduation] day with my father and my sister ... I don't know how to describe it.”

“It was a good way to come together as a family all at once before going in different directions again,” Wasie said. She's just moved

to Wisconsin, where her husband has been stationed at Fort McCoy, and is in the process of deciding on a career path as a pharmaceutical representative or in fitness.

Jamie just completed her fourth year teaching kindergarten in

Dollar Bay, where she'll be returning in the fall, and misses her "family" of students over the summer.

As for Paul, with his degree he's moved from being an apprentice to an electrician at the Empire Mine,

and loves it.

Both daughters commended their parents. "My parents have been a big motivation," Erin said. "Without their help, I wouldn't have done it. We're lucky and appreciative." ■

## The Right Fit, Eight Times

An NMU student athlete follows her family's footsteps

By Cindy Paavola '84 BS



Paris Malin, of Seaview, Wash., said academics and athletics were what brought her to Northern Michigan University—not family influence. But if her family had wanted to sway her, there would have been enough NMU alumni to make it hard for her to ignore the school 2,000 miles away from home.

Malin, a junior sports science major, is the fourth generation member of her family to attend Northern.

She says the family's NMU connection goes like this: "My great grandmother, **Bernice Hixson**, attended secretarial school at NMU while my great grandfather, **Carl Malin**, worked for a brief period as a shop instructor. **Ed Malin**, my grandpa, received his bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1951 and his master's in 1953.

**Geraldine Doefer**, my grandma, transferred from Central Michigan to earn a bachelor's in elementary education in 1952. My father, **Brett**, earned a bachelor's degree in 1981 in math and computer science. My uncle, **Karl Malin**, got his master's in nutrition and he also taught at NMU. **Jill Malin**, my aunt, received a bachelor's in 1984 and **Jay Malin**, my uncle, did part of his program at Northern before transferring to complete his degree."

In choosing a university, Malin said she based the choice on three priorities: academic program, athletic competition and coaching, and college environment.

"I had a long list of colleges that I was seriously considering and was very surprised when NMU fit the qualifications. Legacy was not in my top priorities," said Malin. "It turns out that NMU had established its sports science program to be one of the best in the country. That is what attracted me first. Next was the first-rate women's varsity athletics, specifically volleyball. I played elite volleyball and was looking at many colleges across the

country. My college athletic competition began with the volleyball team under Jim Moore, who had returned to NMU. Jim's mentor had been at the University of Washington and knew of my family legacy. That is how the process started."

Actually the process may have started as a child on summer visits to her grandparents, who owned the Birchmont Motel in Marquette. "When I was young, I came to visit my grandparents several summers. I would come to campus for recreation. My father would bring me around NMU and tell me stories about being on campus, as would my Aunt Jill and Uncle Karl."

But, she said, no one in the family pressured her about attending their alma mater.

"They didn't want me to limit my choices, but to expand my search. I traveled around the country with my mom visiting colleges. We had researched academic programs and those with teams likely to recruit me. After I attended a volleyball camp at NMU, I knew that this was the perfect choice for me. Luckily, so did the coach and he signed me."

Due to coaching changes with the Wildcat volleyball program, Milan left the team and joined the track and field squad as a pole vaulter, a change that has worked out well.

"I am very happy to be competing for NMU. Coach [Tom] Barnes is awesome."

Malin said that one huge positive of being part of an NMU legacy is the legacy tuition assistance offered to sons and daughters of NMU alumni who live outside of Michigan, which helps to make Northern's tuition rate close to that of in-state students.

"I fund my education with a combination of athletic and merit scholarships, part-time jobs and the legacy tuition help," said Malin.

It took a bit of traveling around the country to get to NMU and some change of plans once she arrived, but Malin believes she's right where she belongs. Her very individual choice of a university just happens to resemble that which many of her family made in the past. ■

To learn more about NMU's legacy tuition grant for non-Michigan students, contact the NMU Admissions Office at 1-800-682-9797.

# On-Campus Legacies

## Life's a Banquet

Deb Sharkey, a food service worker at NMU since 2001, doesn't know how much destiny had a hand in her current employment, but she's not surprised to find herself where she is, considering she learned a lot about the job as a teenager at her grandmother's elbow.

Sharkey's grandmother, Lolita Johnson, was the NMU food service worker in charge of banquets from the 1960s until she retired in the 1980s. Sharkey would work NMU banquets when she was in high school as a way to "earn money and spend time with my grandmother." But Sharkey wasn't the only family member on Grandma's team. Becky Johnson, Lolita's daughter and Deb's aunt, also worked banquets in the 1980s.

"My grandmother absolutely loved her job and I love my job, too," said Sharkey. "She loved the interaction with all the people. When I worked for her she told me to be friendly and that most people would be friendly back. I still use that advice every day."

When Sharkey's children, Crystal and Patrick, were still in high school, they sometimes worked banquets with their mom. "Kind of a family tradition," said Sharkey. "My grandmother, who died in the 1990s, would have enjoyed that."



This photo from the 1964 *Peninsulan* yearbook was captioned: "This year for the first time, all students living on campus are eating in the student center. Both men and women are using the same dining rooms. The arrangement has received much favorable comment."

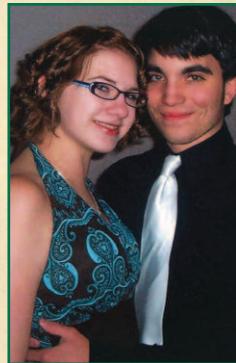


## Halverson Hall: Back to the Future



Ashley Vogel, a junior English major, doesn't remember visiting her uncle, **John Page '94 AS**, in his Halverson Hall room as a six-year-old in 1986, but when she enrolled at Northern two years ago, she tacked a photo she'd found of such a visit in her own Halverson Hall room.

"My uncle lived in 313 Halverson. I have lived in 321 and 332 Halverson—just down the hall but in the same house," said Vogel. "We were rummaging through the photo albums one day and he pointed out to me that it was me in his dorm room, and that [back then] they had the desks built in."



Ashley in April 2007 at the University Center, with fiancé Chad Macklin.

Vogel, who works as a desk supervisor for West Hall, said that when she decided to come to Northern she chose Halverson Hall because she had heard her uncle liked it when he lived there.

"My uncle, according to my mom, was very happy to hear that I was attending Northern, his old stomping grounds. Mom said he found himself having flashbacks at how much had changed in Halverson."

Vogel's aunt, **Glennes Page '89 Voc. Dipl.**, also attended Northern and was a resident assistant in Spalding Hall. Vogel points out jokingly, "I have no connection whatsoever to Spalding, past or present."

**Carl Holm '70 BA, '76 MAE**, director of NMU Housing and Residence Life, says it's not unusual for students of former residence hall members to request to live in the same hall as parents and relatives who attended before them. "It's the hall they are familiar with even before attending," said Holm.

## Dakota House

From the late '60s through the '70s, Dakota House in Halverson Hall was a special place to live and experience college life, according to **Dave Bonsall '73 BS**, director of NMU's Center for Student Enrichment and a one-time resident.

"With leadership that was first provided by resident adviser **Lenny Geiger '72 BS**, Dakota House developed into a unique community that annually had 40-plus of the 54 residents return from one year to the next. Literally every resident of Dakota House was connected and a contributor to the community in some way," said Bonsall.

Intramural sports played a big part of the Dakota House experience, as did fund-raising (the house was the student group that initiated the screening of feature films in Jamrich Hall) and awards at the house's annual banquet. They even had a house newsletter.

"All of these initiatives contributed to making Dakota a house



A Dakota House reunion in 1999.

that was a home." Bonsall said.

Today, Dakota House still exists in Halverson Hall, although one big change is that it is now co-ed. It's the only residence hall house that has retained its original name. It also has one of the most active alumni groups of any NMU residence hall or house.

Two formal reunions have occurred (1982 and 1999). Annual fishing trips to Canada usually attract 15-20 Dakota alumni. There's always a Dakota House gathering at

Homecoming each year. And there are always several informal get-togethers for residents who became lifelong friends through their Dakota House experience.

"Maybe one of the most special parts of the Dakota House legacy was when we established the Dakota House scholarship in 1999, which is awarded to a current resident of the house. It was one way we could set the example of staying involved to current house residents," said Bonsall.



## Beta Buddies



It's hard to believe that these "Beta Buddies" [Beta Omega Tau] met on the campus of what was then Northern Michigan College 50 years ago. Catherine and Janice worked at the switchboard (that really dates us), Marge and Janice were members of the student council, and Ann was on the ski team.

Despite living in many different locations during their careers and married lives, they have held many reunions over the past 50 years. They became especially good friends while teaching and sharing a home in St. Clair Shores.

While some things change—such as the name of the educational institution and the name of the sorority—the friendship between these Northern grads remains the same.

—Marge Oelsner

Beta Buddies then and now (from left): Marge (Marquette) Oelsner '59, Janice (Gibson) Hustad '57, Ann (Saunders) Reaves '58 and Catherine (Noblet) Masyra '58. All earned degrees in education.

# John D. Pierce Training School

### A one-stop K-16 education at Northern

By *Cindy Paavola '84 BS*



One of the classrooms with fireplaces. Identified on the back of this undated photo are student teacher Jane McInerney and Mrs. Wilmer.

**J**ohn Ogren started school on the Northern campus in the early 1940s, but he didn't receive his bachelor's degree until 1955. It wasn't that Ogren was a bad student—in fact, he went on to complete a doctorate after his Northern days—rather that he started coming to campus as a third grader to attend the university's laboratory school, which was known as the John D. Pierce Training School.

Northern operated a laboratory school from 1900 until 1971 to provide student teaching opportunities. The school's original location was a building on Third Street that was donated by the city of Marquette. A year later, it was moved into Northern's Longyear Hall, where classes would be offered until 1925. That's when the John D. Pierce Training School opened as a separate building on campus and was named

after Michigan's first state superintendent of public instruction. The school was attended by area children, many who would later become Northern students.

"We were a close-knit bunch," said Ogren. "The teacher, student teachers, the kids, we all felt that the John D. Pierce was a special place to learn."

Ogren's father, who worked at the sawmill in town, insisted that his children would go to John D. Pierce, despite having to pay tuition.

It was the same for **Jan (Lafonde) Brodersen '78, BME**, whose mom signed her two daughters up for their kindergarten enrollment at John D. Pierce right after they were born.

"I'm not kidding, right after we were born. She had attended John D. Pierce herself as a child and then went to Northern. She was absolutely determined that the John D. Pierce

School is where we would be educated," said Brodersen, who completed her elementary grades there before going to the area's public junior high school.

Brodersen would return to Northern's campus as a college student to study music. "My reason for choosing NMU had everything to do with Professor Douglas Amman. There was such an outstanding music program at Northern during the '70s and I was honored to be able to learn under him. Being back on campus after having spent so many years as a child there took away a lot of the transitional adjustments some freshmen go through. There wasn't anything scary about coming to Northern because I felt I knew the university inside and out."

Jim Hendricks, emeritus professor and former associate dean of the NMU School of Education, was the student teaching adviser at John D. Pierce during the early part of his Northern career. He says it's no mystery why parents wanted their children to go to John D. Pierce if the family could afford the tuition.

"The school was a gem and the teachers there were outstanding, just outstanding. The school had a marvelous library. I remember some rooms had fireplaces and the teachers would hold story time for the younger students by the fireplace. The class size was small and with the assistance of so many student teachers, students had a lot of one-on-one learning instruction and personal attention," said Hendricks, whose own children attended the school.

"The school's strength was its teachers. They were exceptional and it was easy to tell that they truly loved being there. For student teachers, it was a luxury to have that kind

of learning environment,” he said.

**Irene (Fassbender) Sparhawk '50 BS** agrees. Sparhawk spent two semesters student teaching at John D. Pierce and recalls it as “a tremendous experience.

“Because the school was right there on campus, you could practice teach at John D. Pierce for as many semesters as you could fit it into your schedule. Education majors also had great access to students of different ages because they were right there. So for instance, if you were in a music course learning about teaching songs to children, you could go over to the school and teach a song to a child.”

Sparhawk believes that the Northern-educated teachers of her time entered their classrooms after graduation “with great confidence, good control of the kids and very well prepared.”



Photos courtesy NMU Archives

A piscatorial field trip.

“When I student taught there I remember one year that some of the first-grade students were having trouble reading, so the teacher told me I could work with them. After we’d meet and she’d ask me questions about how each student responded and about what my thoughts were on their progress. Those kinds of experiences build confidence.”

The John D. Pierce School

included grades K-12 until 1961, when the junior high and high school levels were closed. The elementary classes continued until 1971 when the school closed, primarily due to financial pressures. The school building became the home of Northern’s psychology department and other campus offices before being abandoned in the 1980s. The structure was demolished in 1992.

Although the building and the school no longer remain, Ogren’s fond memories of them are strong.

“The thing that made it such a great place for me, personally, is that it was part of the college; it was totally integrated. We went all over the campus as kids and we were involved in a lot of the college’s activities, such as the Christmas program. The John D. Pierce students were a big part of that.

“I also remember that when I

first started going to the John D. Pierce School, there were no guys on campus because they were all off fighting the war!”

Ogren adds that he thought his graduation day from high school would be the last time he’d be on the campus as a student, since his father had died just before his 17th birthday.

“Professor Forest Roberts worked it out for me to attend Northern. His



The Pierce School building on NMU’s campus, which opened in 1925.

daughter, Sarah, was in my class and she must have said something to him about me not being able to go to college because one day he showed up at my house with a bunch of papers for me to sign.”

What Brodersen, who is now a music instructor at Marquette Senior High School, says she remembers about John D. Pierce is that “we sang every day in a huge room and it was wonderful. I also remember that there were many student teachers in each room. And, of course, I remember summer school.”

Students who attended John D. Pierce were on the university schedule, not the public school schedule.

“Back then that meant we started school well after Labor Day but we attended well into July,” said Brodersen. “It was hard to get going each morning when you knew your friends had all day to play, but once we got there we had a pretty good time with lots of outdoor activities. And, one of the best parts was that we could wear shorts! That was a big deal. Then we’d close each school year with a big picnic.”

Brodersen says as a teacher herself she now realizes the daily activities were filled with learning. “But what I remember most about going to John D. Pierce School was how much fun we had each day.” ■

*Do you have a John D. Pierce memory you’d like to share? E-mail it to [horizons@nmu.edu](mailto:horizons@nmu.edu).*

# A father-son football/NMU legacy

In 1957, a young man (well maybe not so young for a college freshman) known as “Sugar Popp” (a.k.a. **William D. Popp ’63 BS, ’67 MA**) left his hometown of Johnstown, Pa., in the footsteps of his admired brothers, to pursue a college degree and with dreams of playing college football. He started with a stint at the Fork Union Military Academy ’58 and then headed to Arizona State University where he would join the first ASU football team of the legendary college coach Frank Kush. But after two years and the realization that ASU was just not the place for him, Sugar heeded the advice of his brother Bob, then playing football at Michigan State University, and decided to transfer to NMU in 1959... and that’s where this legacy begins.

For the next few years, Sugar, my dad, and the many great Northern people of the ’60s (students, faculty, administration, and residents of Marquette) formed hundreds of stories that would later be passed down to my brothers, sister and me, including stories of our dad hitchhiking from Marquette to Johnstown to visit his family and girlfriend (later our mother), stories of college pranks, and great athletic events like the 1962 ’Cats beating Lenoir-Rhyne College in the first NMU playoff victory.

After he graduated from NMU in 1963 (by the way, he jokes it only took him four terms to graduate: Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon), he and my mother, Bernice,



moved to L’Anse, where their four children were born, and soon after moved to Iron Mountain. So I grew up in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, quite close to NMU, with a father who had thoroughly enjoyed the NMU experience and continued it with us. I have many childhood memories of Northern, including Saturday trips to Memorial Field to watch the Wildcats play football, to Hedgcock to watch the basketball ’Cats, and then to Lakeview to catch the hockey ’Cats. I would meet my dad’s former teammates and classmates, and watch how happy they were to see each other and listen to their stories, told as if they just happened the week before. And I was entertained beyond that which any comedian could accomplish. I fondly remember the 1975 national championship in football, idolizing the players of that time, and thinking about someday being able to be part of a national championship.



Sugar and Rick Popp enjoying one of many Memorial Field moments together. Above, a recent photo of Rick.

So 24 years after the Pennsylvanian found his way to NMU, I took a much more direct route in 1983: 90 miles from Iron Mountain to Marquette. I, too, was in search of a college education and the chance to play college football. And with that, I added a few more NMU memories. There were even more Saturday trips to Memorial Field, but this time I was wearing the olive green and old gold once worn by my dad. I had the chance to be part of one of the greatest NMU football teams ever, playing in the 1987 NCAA II national play-offs and reaching the semifinals. I cherish the memories of playing with great athletes, even with some of my best friends from childhood—and knowing that my dad was always pulling for me and the Wildcats.

Since my graduation, my dad and I have shared several great reunions at Homecoming and other alumni events. I, too, meet up with

my old teammates, and tell the same stories over and over as if they happened the prior week, laughing as hard each time the story is told—and it's extra special when my dad is there in the middle of the gang. Together, we have grown to know and respect many former NMU athletes and other alumni; from my dad's era of the '60s, through the time of our family visits to NMU in the '70s, to my own NMU experience in the '80s, and recently at NMU alumni activities.

Now I'm living in Mexico City and my dad is in Iron Mountain. But no matter how far apart we began our journey to NMU, nor how far apart we live today, we know that we'll always share a special father-and-son relationship; one that includes a unique bond, forged in part by the one and only "Northern experience."

When my dad asked me to write this story for both of us, he wanted me to include the thrills he had in bringing his brothers and sisters to NMU when my brothers, sister and I were kids, and the greater thrill of being able to go together to so many great alumni events. He also wrote, "...the greatest thing for me is that having you go to NMU has given me two chances to go through the same college in a lifetime. Can you imagine how many pre-game 'jitters' that was for me?" And he said, "You and I will be college alumni friends forever. Back in my day, I thought I would never get out of college with a degree. Now I will never get out of there with you around!"

And neither of us is complaining about that.

—Rick Popp '88 BS, '90 MPA

*Rick Popp is the human resources director for Ford of Mexico.*



Jenny Ryan

### WILDCAT SKIERS MAKE NCAA HISTORY

Three members of the women's cross country team made history in March in New Hampshire. They became the first group of women skiers from one school to sweep two events in an NCAA Championship. The photo shows Lindsay Williams atop the podium after the 5K freestyle race. She's joined by teammates Morgan Smyth (right) and Lindsey Weier (left), who finished second and third, respectively. In the 15K classic race, Weier crossed the line first, followed by Williams and Smyth.

"This is unbelievable," said Coach **Sten Fjeldheim '86 BS, '93 MA**. "These women have trained so hard and so well. They are just so professional about it. They balance their academics and athletics so well. As a coach, this is just something that you dream about and it is something that may never happen in a coach's lifetime. I have them to thank for it."

### END IS NEAR FOR PEIF POOL

The 31-year-old PEIF pool is nearing the end of its lifespan. An estimated \$2 million would be required to renovate, which isn't feasible in the current economic climate. But the pool will stay open as long as it poses no risk to users.

The Division II swimming and diving team has been guaranteed one more competitive season, but has been warned that its future beyond that depends on the pool.

"This is worrisome from a revenue standpoint because aquatic programs are a major part of our operation," said Brian Gaudreau of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreational Sports. "It might also impact students who visit campus. Recreational facilities can be a big draw. Even if students never use them, they want to know that those options are available."

# Your ticket to Tuscany

The Alumni Association is offering an exclusive educational and travel experience to Tuscany, Italy. Alumni and friends will spend seven nights in the ancient Etruscan city of Cortona. In partnership with AHI Travel, the adventure begins May 7 and concludes on the 15th (tentative dates). Highlights include learning the essence of Tuscan cooking,



tasting wines, seeing architectural wonders and getting to know Italy through programs presented by local experts.

From the innovations of the Etruscans to the enlightenment of the Renaissance, Tuscany is a region steeped in history and human achievement. Let the charming village of Cortona be your base as you travel through the surrounding Tuscan hill country, admiring the beauty of the land. In Siena, navigate narrow cobblestone streets lined with Gothic buildings, visit the city's magnificent duomo, and stroll the

Piazza del Campo, one of the loveliest squares in Italy. Then, journey to tiny Montepulciano, set in the heart of Chianti Country. In Umbria, explore two walled cities: medieval Assisi, home to the exquisite basilica of St. Francis; and Perugia, an ancient Etruscan city-state. Finally, experience the brilliant artistic and architectural heritage of Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance.

Here's a daily itinerary:

*Day 1:* Depart your gateway city for Florence, Italy.

*Day 2:* Upon arrival, transfer to Hotel San Luca in Cortona. In the evening, gather with fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner.

*Day 3:* Take a walking tour of Cortona, its historic palazzi and charming piazzas. Visit the Romanesque cathedral and Diocesan Museum. Then tour the breathtaking hill country surrounding Cortona. Tour a winery and sample

its superb vintages and fine local cheeses.

*Day 4:* Visit the magnificent walled city of Assisi, including the basilica of Santa Maria dei Angeli and the basilica of St. Francis. Then head on to Perugia and its fontana Maggiore and the Prior's Palace, which houses the National Gallery of Umbria.

*Day 5:* Travel to Montepulciano, a town of Renaissance-style palazzi and churches. Stroll along the main street, chat with artisans and peek into wine cellars filled with famous vino nobile. Then visit the Museum of the Etruscan Academy, filled with archaeological finds and ancient works of art.

*Day 6:* See Siena's Piazza del Campo, one of the loveliest squares in Italy, the 14th-century Torre del Mangia, the Gaia fountain and the dramatic gothic duomo.

*Day 7:* A full day in Florence. A guided tour highlights the city's art and architecture. Then spend some time pursuing your own interests.

*Day 8:* Attend a presentation of Tuscan cooking and cuisine given by the skilled staff of Restaurant Tonino. A graduation ceremony will be held in the evening, followed by a festive farewell reception and dinner.

*Day 9:* Fly out of the Florence airport to your gateway city.

The approximate cost is \$2,295 (without airfare). Call the Alumni Association for more information or to sign up!

## INTRODUCING BRAD HAMEL



Brad Hamel '99 BS has been hired as assistant director of Alumni Operations at NMU. Brad is responsible for managing memberships and other revenue-generating programs such as the NMU license plate, the affinity credit card, alumni travel and merchandising. Prior to joining the Alumni team, Brad spent the last seven years with the Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreational Sports Department at NMU, ending his time there as ticket manager. "I am a lifelong resident of the

Upper Peninsula and look forward to hearing the great experiences that the alumni of NMU have to share," said Hamel.

## NORTHERN NETWORK GOING STRONG

As reported in the last *Horizons*, the new Northern Network is a social and professional networking opportunity exclusively for NMU alumni. You can connect with old friends, find a job with the help of other alums or recruit talented NMU candidates to your company. More than 3,000 alumni are already registered. "I really like the InCircle community," writes Becky Weber '05. "It is nice in the fact that it is just for NMU people and not open to other schools. I have already connected with one friend from college who I hadn't talked to in a long time."

The Northern Network is now even easier to use. It has been redesigned to help you connect with the people you care most about. Log in and see for yourself: <https://nmu.affinitycircles.com>.

## SAVE ON OFFICE SUPPLIES

NMU's office supply vendor, Office Depot, now offers the same discounts received by the university to its alumni membership. The discounts you receive were competitively bid and won by Office Depot.

To take advantage of the program, contact the NMU Alumni Office, [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu), 906-227-1026; 1-877-GRAD-NMU). Provide your contact information and an Office Depot account manager will contact you within 48 hours with your own personal login and password. Then you can order online and start saving. Orders over \$50 are delivered free and guaranteed within two business days, but are usually received the next day. Discounts are also offered in-store.

## Missing/Lost Alumni

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

**Thomas Aartila '82**  
**John P. Abbott '71**  
**Ellen Mae Arnell-Marcell '63**  
**Jessica R. Baublitz '92**  
**Ellen M. Baxter '85**  
**Denise C. Brauner '94**  
**Lorraine C. Chigi '66**  
**Rodney A. Chimner '90**  
**Lawrence E. Easley '72**  
**James T. Eckhout '76**  
**Thomas K. Halcro '73**  
**Frank T. Halford '77**  
**Candy A. (Elore) Lala '94**  
**Emily L. Lamppa '79**  
**Betsy D. Oja '95**

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

**Peggy S. (Borch) Barber '89**  
**Sarah N. Bottrell '29**  
**Yvonne M. (Smith) Cameron '84**  
**John B. DeKeyser '77**  
**Robert D. '62, '92 and Ethel J. (Saari) '62, '69 Dobson**  
**Dolores T. (Adamavich) Doepke '87**  
**David J. '80 and Roseanne (Burns) '82 Eichenhofer**  
**Karl F. Elles '75**  
**Robert J. Howe '88**  
**David M. Kelly '88**  
**Joseph E. Kelly '77**  
**Gregory J. Feamster '93**  
**Nancy Harris-Glassner '62**  
**Jon "Jack" '71 and Jeanne (Weinert) LaSalle '71**

**Kelsey S. '98 and Julie K. (Reinacher) '97 Mann**  
**Katherine L. (Davis) Miller '79**  
**Warner M. Palmer '80**  
**Susan K. (La Combe) Parker '73**  
**Carson L. Rizor '03**  
**Robert A. '84 and Tanya M. (Rajala) '83 Selden**  
**Peter T. Sinclair '99**  
**James E. '82 and Christine A. (Goodman) '82 Speaker**  
**Don W. Stacks '71**  
**Scott W. Thum '97**  
**Joy D. (Gorsalitz) Vertinden '94**  
**William and Wilma (Erickson) Verrette Scott '81 and Jill '78 White**

To learn about the benefits of membership, visit our Web site at [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni).

# Donors thank a real life saver

The quick and professional actions of Northern Michigan University senior nursing student Naomi Benda were recognized with a \$75,000 gift from Cathi and John Drake to NMU's School of Nursing for the creation of a critical care simulation lab.

Last August, Benda performed lifesaving CPR and emergency first aid on Cathi Drake after she collapsed in a restaurant in Houghton, Mich., while having dinner with her husband and friends.

During May's nursing commencement pinning ceremony, Benda, who hails from Cokato, Minn., was surprised with the announcement of the Drake's gift in her honor. She was also presented with a State of Michigan Certificate of Tribute citation from Gov. Jennifer Granholm and a State of Michigan Special Tribute from the House of Representatives.

**“We really appreciate what Naomi did and what Northern Michigan University did in training her to handle such a situation so well.”**

The critical care simulation lab is located in NMU's West Science Building and emulates a room in a state-of-the-art intensive care hospital unit. It was officially opened and dedicated as the Benda-Drake Room following the pinning ceremony.

“It was a total surprise,” said an



A surprised Naomi Benda with the Drakes in the new critical care simulation lab. Their gift was revealed to her at her nursing graduation pinning ceremony in May.

emotional Benda, following a tour of the new lab. “I was bawling my eyes out. I wasn't sure when I first heard it announced what a critical care simulation lab would entail but it's a beautiful room, and it will be a great learning environment for future classes here.”

The Drakes, who are from Warren, Ohio and are retired owners of a manufacturing business, attended the pinning and room dedication and the commencement ceremony to see Benda graduate. They reside in Hancock during the summer.

“We really appreciate what Naomi did and what Northern Michigan University did in training her to handle such a situation so well. And we're hoping that this room will help train more future nurses to perform so well. That's our mission and our hope; this gift isn't about us. It's about the future

and the young people NMU is trying to educate. We want to help the university continue to provide the highest level of training in its nursing program,” said John Drake.

**“This gift isn't about us. It's about the future and the young people NMU is trying to educate.”**

“The room is great and Julie Dobson of the NMU nursing department did a wonderful job of putting it together,” added Drake.

Kerri Schuiling, associate dean of nursing, said there is a severe shortage of nurses with critical care experience.

“A simulation lab enables us to provide an educational experience for our students that helps to meet that need,” said Schuiling.



## Honoring a lifetime of support

Phyllis Maki of Marquette is just the second person in the university's 108-year history to receive the NMU President's Lifetime Achievement Award. She was honored at a dinner this spring.

"I cannot think of a single person who has given more to make this university so special. Not one," said NMU President Les Wong.

The citation recognized Maki for her tireless advocacy on behalf of her community and NMU. She has served the latter as a distinguished member and past president of the NMU Foundation Board of Trustees, an honorary alumna and—along with her husband, Carlo—

a generous contributor.

Maki's daughter, **Debbie Veiht '80 BS, '89 MAE, '04 EDS**, spoke on behalf of the family after the award presentation.

"In a way, Mom is sad that her involvement with NMU is waning," Veiht said. "Yet she knows she has left her footprint at NMU. For well over 20 years, she has given of her time, talents and treasures to this university and the community. Never once did she feel taxed handling any of the projects set before her. Looking back, Mom's leadership not only helped Northern in so many ways; it also expanded her purpose for being involved and opened the doors for her to help many others."

The award was established in 1999 to coincide with Northern's centennial celebration and was presented to former Lt. Gov. Connie Binsfeld.

### NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM LAUNCHED FROM GIFT OF COMPANY MACHINE

Northern has partnered with Ironwood Plastics on a new one-year certificate program in plastics injection technology that will be offered beginning this fall.

The company and its owners, the Stephens family, contributed a gift valued at about \$125,000 to fund student scholarships, a plastics injection machine, raw materials to operate the machine and an instructor who will teach some courses in conjunction with NMU professors.

"This program will provide graduates with the knowledge and technical skills needed for entry-level employment in the plastic injection industry as a machine operator, maintenance technician or mold technician," said Tom Meravi, professor of technology and applied sciences. "There are good jobs with sustainable incomes in the Upper Peninsula in this field, including at Ironwood Plastics."

The partnership is mutually beneficial. NMU has tailored a program that will draw more students to the university and train them on the same equipment they will encounter in the professional arena. In turn, Ironwood Plastics and similar companies will be able to maintain a qualified workforce.

"NMU already had the rudimentary phases for a great program, with the robots and other machinery related to the process," said **Scott Stephens '91 BA**, who returned to campus to demonstrate the machinery to faculty and staff. "It was just a matter of introducing our specific technology. The staff at Northern has been fantastic in making it happen."

"But this isn't just about us. There are other molding companies in the U.P. that will benefit. This is an outstanding example of business-industry and education working together to help address economic and employment issues in our region."

Graduates of the plastic injection technology program will be guaranteed an interview with Ironwood Plastics. Meravi added that all of the courses are transferable to an associate degree in manufacturing technology-industrial maintenance or to a bachelor's degree, if a student wanted to continue his or her education while working in the industry.

Another example of an NMU-business partnership is the computer numerical control technician program previously developed with Pioneer Surgical Technology.

## 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

## '60s

**Tom Poisson '67 MAE** of Ontonagon is the longest-serving member of the Ontonagon County Economic Development Corporation. He is one of the original board members from the organization of the EDC in 1977.

## '70s

**Mary (Dougherty) Green '71 BS** of New London, Wis., retired in March after working as a medicinal technologist MT (ASCP) for 35 years.

**Robert Louria '71 BS** of Dearborn retired after teaching and coaching 30 years in Detroit Public Schools. He was elected to the U.S.S.S.A. Softball Hall of Fame in Michigan in 1992 and elected to the national U.S.S.S.A. Hall of Fame in 2006. [winship29@yahoo.com](mailto:winship29@yahoo.com).

 **Thomas Ochs Jr. '71 BS** of Royal Oak received the Captain Lewis Ludington Award.

**Jerry Green '72 BS** of New London, Wis., retired in June 2006 from teaching earth science and chemistry at New London High School.

**Victoria (Gregory) Dittmer '75 BS** of Grand Ledge has worked for the State

of Michigan for the past 25 years and is currently director of Michigan's Department of State Information Center. She and her husband, Bruce, have two children, both of whom recently graduated from Michigan State University. The couple often returns to the U.P. in search of old and new haunts.

**Ralph Wahlstrom '78 BA, '81 MA**, of Buffalo, N.Y., published a book, *The Tao of Writing*, and will be traveling to Paris to present a workshop on writing and peace education. Ralph and his wife, **Cynthia '79 BS**, have three children.



Three generations of Cleven family graduates. **C. E. Cleven '50 BA** (left) is a retired principal of East Grand Rapids High School. **Philip Cleven '65 BS** (right) is a retired social studies teacher and department head at L'Anse Creuse High School in Macomb Township. **Brian Cleven '91 BS** is an industrial archeologist and project manager at R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates in Frederick, Md.

## '80s

 **Soren Christensen '80 BSN** of Silverdale, Wash., retired in

January after a 26-year Navy career. [sorenjim@wavecable.com](mailto:sorenjim@wavecable.com).

**Steve Loring '80 MAE** of Cadillac retired from the Michigan Department of Human Services after 32 years as a child welfare worker. He married Fonda Soltysiak in June 2006. [sloring51@msn.com](mailto:sloring51@msn.com).

**Ron Hise '81 BS** of Worley, Idaho, was promoted to park manager at Heyburn State Park in northern Idaho. He began his career 24 years ago and is now responsible for almost 14,000 acres of state park land.

 **Mike Campbell '82 BS** of Milford works as a News Bureau Chief for Metro Networks. [mbcampbell@comcast.net](mailto:mbcampbell@comcast.net).

**Peter Freccchio '82 BS** of Norway made the switch to newspaper in 2005 after working 25 years in radio (starting with WBKX at NMU). He is now a staff writer for *The Daily News* in Iron Mountain. [qfreccchio@uplogon.com](mailto:qfreccchio@uplogon.com).

 **Carolyn (Holland) Blake '83 BS** of Dyer, Ind., received a master's degree in education from the University of Phoenix. This is her second advanced degree. She previously received a master's of public health administration from Benedictine University in 1993. Carolyn is married with two children and recently represented NMU at several area high school college night events.

**Larry Majetic '84 BS** of Clinton Township has been a city planner for Sterling Heights for the past 20 years.

**Judith "Jan" Jansen '85 BS** of Crystal Falls completed her master's degree in urban history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in May 2006. She substitute teaches for the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District and is in the process of publishing her first novel, titled *Cistern Secrets*.

**Charles Jarman '85 BS** of Petoskey became a Dave Ramsey certified financial counselor. He is pictured here

with his wife, Rene. They have two children and four grandchildren.



**John Kumjian '85 BME, '01 MAE** of Lake Ann teaches instrumental and vocal music at Glen Lake Community Schools. He is also a guitarist and percussionist with The New Third Coast. John is currently recording with various artists and is busy with his own project studio. He is married to **Cherilyn (Wright) '86 BS**. [jckumjian@hotmail.com](mailto:jckumjian@hotmail.com).

**Al Muma '85 BS**, of Red Wing, Minn., is director of human resources at Treasure Island Resort and Casino. [alvisniell@hotmail.com](mailto:alvisniell@hotmail.com).

**Paul Zagata '85 BS** of Manton is the K-12 principal and athletic director for Boyne Falls Public Schools. He is married to **Mary (Wahlstrom) '86 BS**.

**Tom Aepelbacher '86 BS** of Novi is vice president of manufacturing at Trimas corporation. He and wife **Lauri (Williams) '89 BSN** have three children. Tom coaches hockey and baseball, and is an avid Wildcat fan. [aepelpeople@hotmail.com](mailto:aepelpeople@hotmail.com).

**Colleen (Fard) Dodd '87 BS** of Cheboygan is employed at VitalCare Inc. in software administration and support.

**Steve Houck '87 BS** of Carson City was named the 2007 Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year. He has worked for the Department of Corrections for 15 years and enjoys coaching football and power lifting. Steve is married with five children. [samy7@midmich.net](mailto:samy7@midmich.net).

**Brenda Pope '87 BS** of Waterford recently graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint as an MSN family nurse practitioner. She is working in cardiology at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland and Waterford Mercy Medical group: internal medicine/pediatrics.

**Robert Martin '88 BS** of Marquette was named Wells Fargo district president for Michigan. At Wells Fargo, he has been a community banking president for Escanaba, Menominee and Ironwood.

**Asim Vehbi '88 BS**, of Lefkosa, Mersin, Turkey, was appointed the minister of environmental and natural resources in the new government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus after working as vice-chancellor at Girne American University. [asim\\_vehbi@yahoo.com](mailto:asim_vehbi@yahoo.com).

**Rebecca A. Burns '89 BS** of Plainwell was promoted to director of environmental health at Branch-

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Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency. rebaburnsaxid@aol.com.

 **Richard Clark '89 BS** of Las Vegas, Nev., is director of the office of student conduct and residential life at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He is married to **Karla (Knieper), '89 BS**. richard.clark@unlv.edu.

**Dan Sullivan '89 BS**, of Rice Lake, Wis., and his wife, Becky, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Luke Daniel Sullivan.

## '90s

**Jim Erickson '91 BS** of Ironwood works for Wells Fargo Bank as a business relationship banker. He and wife, **Laurie (Heikkinen) '91 MAE**, have five children. jim.p.erickson@wellsfargo.com

**Michael Hagwell '91 BS** of Houghton recently passed the HFMA Certified Healthcare Financial Professional examinations with a specialty in

accounting and finance.

**Ken McNaughton '92 BA** of Colfax, Wash., is captain of the Colfax Fire Department, serving as safety officer and fire marshall. Ken was recently ordained and serves as associate pastor of men's ministries at Community Bible Church.

 **Ricky Ray Taylor '92 BS** of Weehawken, N.J. is a boxing trainer.

**Cossondra George '93 BS, '00 MAE** of Newberry teaches seventh grade at Newberry Middle School. She also works as a MiddleTalk cooperating teacher for the National Middle School Association and is a charter member of the Teacher Leaders Network.

**Dean Masters '94 MPA**, of Denver, Colo., retired from the Air Force Reserve as a major after 22 years of military service.

**Christine Ide '95 BS** of Madison Heights received her Master of Business Administration degree in June 2006 from Walsh College.

cawitt@wowway.com.

**Lisa Kositzky '95 BS** of Gladstone was promoted to vice president of operations at Northern Michigan Bank and Trust. She and her husband, John, have two children.

**Nicole LaVigne '95 AB** of Appleton, Wis., is a pharmacy technician at St. Vincent hospital in Green Bay. Her husband, **Jason '95 BS**, teaches business at Little Chute High School. He is also in charge of the Future Business Leaders of America club at the school. They have three children. jlavigne@new.rr.com.

 **Kathryn Poit '95 BS** of Lapeer and her husband, Dean Dennis, welcomed twins, Nicolas and Hannah, in June 2006, who join a four-year-old brother. Kathryn works full time as a social worker with the State of Michigan. dennisk@michigan.gov.

**Joseph Yezak '95 BS** of Bay City is program manager for Delta College's WDCQ-TV.



Bernice Harrington

At age 15 (a junior at Ontonagon), my mother passed the entrance test to Northern Normal and entered at age 16. At that time, the girl's dorm was a former nursing school just south of the school.

She attended for two years and just before her 18th birthday received her life

certificate in education. She then taught in Stambaugh, Green, White Pine and Clawson until in her sixties. During these years she took summer classes at Northern Michigan College of Education.

After she retired and it became a university, she decided to get her bachelor's degree. She is probably the only person to attend it as Northern Normal, Northern

Michigan College of Education and Northern Michigan University.

Twenty years later, in 1934, I entered. My first class was Dr. Brown's Psych I. He looked at me and asked, "Your mother named Bernice? Bernice Harrington?"

"Yes, sir," I said.

"Had her twenty years ago," he replied, "You look just like her. Are you as smart as she was?"



Gretchen Holmes Karels

—**Gretchen Holmes Karels '38 BS**

*Gretchen is a retired teacher, after 34 years.*



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**Jeanette Zalba '95 BS** of Buffalo, N.Y., was recently promoted to associate director for organizational development and marketing for university residence halls and apartments at State University of New York-Buffalo. [zalba@urh.buffalo.edu](mailto:zalba@urh.buffalo.edu).

**Eli Collins '96 BS** of Escanaba works with a contractor and is an elementary substitute teacher (correction from last issue).

**Grant Guston '96 BFA**, of Marquette is an academic electronics technician at Northern Michigan University. [gguston@nmu.edu](mailto:gguston@nmu.edu).

**Christine Carlyon '97 BS** of Rochester is engaged to Richard J. Meldrum and plan to marry in September. Christine works as a special education teacher for Michigan Special Education Solutions. [Christinecarlyon@gmail.com](mailto:Christinecarlyon@gmail.com).

**Jason Sides '97 AS** of Marquette was promoted to sergeant at the Marquette County Sheriff's Office. He and his wife, Jen, have three children.

**Michelle Young '97 BA** of Negaunee is a youth and school program coordinator for Child and Family Services of the UP, Inc.

## '00s

 **Benjamin B. Bates '00 BS** was named the 22nd Operations Group Aircraft Commander of the Quarter. The Air Force captain is a pilot/aircraft commander in the 22nd Air Refueling Wing.

**Jesse Carden '01 BS** of Lake Leelanau received his chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He works at Suttons Bay Chiropractic Center.

 **Keith Dickson '01 BS** of Marquette is e-commerce operations manager at Getz's Inc. He is married to **Danielle (Dionne) '03 BS**.

**Erica Milkovich '02 MA** and **Terrence Heldreth '99 BFA** of Eugene, Ore., welcomed a new daughter to their family, Grace Lily.

**Kimberlee Monteaux '02 BFA** of Burlington, Vt., received her master's degree in college student development and administration from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in May 2006. She is now the assistant director for fraternity and sorority affairs at the University of Vermont. [kimberlee.monteaux@uvm.edu](mailto:kimberlee.monteaux@uvm.edu)

**Brian Thueme '02 BS** of Marysville recently graduated from Wayne State University with a master's of library and information science. He is currently working towards a master's of business administration with a major in leadership studies. Brian is

## KEEPING TRACK

employed with Cargill Salt as a customer order manager and married Sarah Fowler in August 2006. [bwthueme@yahoo.com](mailto:bwthueme@yahoo.com).

**Robert "Jay" Bada '04 MAE** of Concord had two years added to his contract as superintendent of Concord Schools. He has served as superintendent since Sept. 2005.

**Heather Berg '03 BS**, of Orange, Calif., works as a senior training consultant for InterContinental Hotels Group.

**Randy Carlisle '03 BS** of Marquette was promoted to production manager, overseeing the production and creative services department for WBKP/WBUP Television. He is also the promotions director.

**Mark Cotton '04 BS** of Sacramento, Calif., is employed at Grower Direct Marketing. [mcotton@growerdirect.net](mailto:mcotton@growerdirect.net).

**Catherine Carlson '04 BSW** of Escanaba works at UPCAP Services, Inc. as an information and assistance coordinator for the Upper Peninsula

### A Northern Network gathering

NMU alumni who work in student affairs at universities from around the country met up at a recent conference in Orlando. They arranged it through the Northern Network.

Shown in photo, front row, left to right: Kerry Wallaert '04, Southeast Missouri State, Kimberlee Monteaux '02, University of Vermont.

Back row, left to right: Jessie Stapleton '02, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Rachel Harris '98, Northern Michigan University, Jodie Filpus '00, University of Minnesota Duluth, and Kris Day '94, University of Michigan-Dearborn.



2-1-1 call center. She also serves as a Michigan Medicare/Medicaid assistance counselor.

**Sarah Southard '04 BSN** and **William Southard '03 AAS, '05 BS** of Dundee welcomed their first daughter, Katherine Alexandria, in November. [wsouthard@alumni.nmu.edu](mailto:wsouthard@alumni.nmu.edu).

 **Timothy Tanis, '04 BA** of Salem, Ore. received his master's in business administration, focusing on

human resources, from the University of Salem. He recently passed the Global Professional in Human Resources exam and is preparing for the Professional in Human Resources exam. [ttanis@alumni.nmu.edu](mailto:ttanis@alumni.nmu.edu).

**Jaka Hardiwinangun '05 Cert.** of Houston, Texas, is working as a GIS mapping specialist for Landworks Inc. He is married to Cecilia Anderson. [jhardiwi@alumni.nmu.edu](mailto:jhardiwi@alumni.nmu.edu).

**Karaline Sporte '05 BSN** of Grand Rapids is an RN-PACU for St. Mary's Health Center.

**Andrew Gorecki '06 BS** of Mt. Pleasant is currently a physical therapy student at Central Michigan University.

**Curt Holsinger '06 BS** was promoted to land maintenance coordinator at Chippewa Nature Center. He has been employed with CNC since 2002.

 **Bradley Sheehan '06 BS** of Peoria, Ill. works as an assurance associate for Clifton Gunderson.

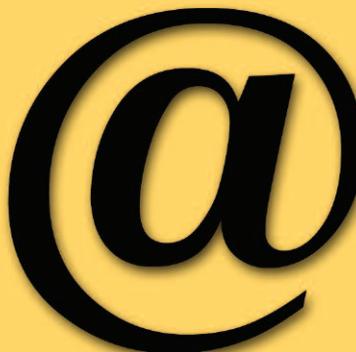
**Sally Willis '06 BS** of Cedarville was named Mackinac County emergency services coordinator.

# yourname@alumni.nmu.edu

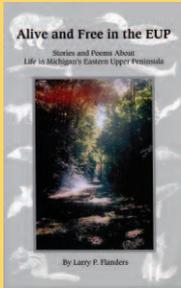
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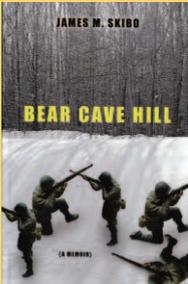


# Alumni in Print



Sault Printing Co., Inc. 2005

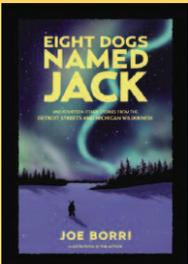
**Larry P. Flanders '67 MA** of Trout Lake presents his first anthology of poems and prose about life in northern Michigan. *Alive and Free in the EUP* explores the wildlife, waters, and forests of the Upper Peninsula with catchy limericks and refreshing stories inspired by his six grandchildren.



iUniverse 2006

In his memoir, *Bear Cave Hill*, **James M. Skibo '82 BS**, tells of growing up in the mining town of Alpha during the bloodiest phase of the Vietnam War. Despite his father's refusal to speak of his own WWII experience and the return of three wounded

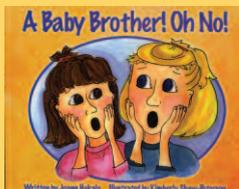
soldiers, Skibo and his friends role-play war games almost daily, oblivious to the true horrors of battle. A fateful ride down a ski jump, however, changes everything.



Momentum Books 2007

*Eight Dogs Named Jack: and fourteen other stories from the Detroit streets and the Michigan wilderness*, **Joe Borri's '84 BA** characters roam the locales of Detroit's East Side to the northern reaches of the state. Borri illustrated

the cover art himself, along with the woodcut-style drawings that accompany each story.

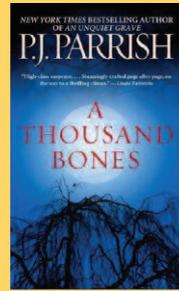


Beaver's Pond Press, Inc., 2006

**Joann Hakala '73 BS, '75 MAE** has published a children's book, *A Baby Brother! Oh No!* based on a true story about her

grandchildren. When Sara and Nicole find out Mom is

having a baby, they keep their fingers crossed for a sister (because brothers are big trouble). What will they do when Mom returns from the hospital with Mike, their new baby brother?



Pocket Books, 2007

Best selling authors Kristy Montee and **Kelly Nichols**, who write under the pseudonym P.J. Parrish, have released another exciting murder mystery set in Michigan's snowy woods. In *A Thousand Bones*, a

rookie cop in small-town Michigan uncovers the first clue in a string of brutal murders of young women.



PublishAmerica, 2006

**Renee Hand '97 BS** presents her first novel, *Magic Hearts*. The story follows Corinne, a young woman born with the power to heal. Forced to run away from an arranged marriage and an array of enemies, she finds protection in a most unlikely place.



Poison Pen Press, 2007

**Margit Liesche's '72 BA** first novel, *Lipstick and Lies*, focuses on Pucci Lewis, a Women Air Force Service Pilot and undercover agent during World War II, who is sent to unmask an imprisoned countess-counteragent suspected of triple-dealing. Pucci

must become a sister inmate to see what she can learn about the countess' role in the German spy ring operated in Detroit.

## Marriages

- Michael Stricker '03 BS to Nicole Thorndycraft '01 BS.**
- Paige Wetting '97 BS,** to Jeffery Bennett.
- Kevin Gardner '05 BS,** to Nell Bagley '05 BS.
- Sarah-Beth Breen '04 BA** to Travis Janssen.
- Amanda Betts '05 BS** to Fritz Heidema.
- Janet Drenth '75 BSN, '95 MSN** to John Noye.
- Kristen Biekkola '99 BS** to James Verstegen.
- Andrew Parsche '98 BS to Meghan Marsden '99 BA.**
- Angie Halberg '02 BS, '04 MA** to Erik Beaudoin '02 BS.
- Alena Sturos '04 BS** to Nick Anderson.
- Joy Ison '04** to Daniel Smith.
- Alysha Everson '05 AB** to Kristian Sperry.
- Sabina Etelamaki '05 BS** to Kevin Carlson.
- Robert Noe '05** to Erica Holmsten.
- Beau Blackburn '06 AAS** to Jolynn Rozich '03.
- Brian Maki '93 BS** to Laura Kellow.
- Gary Luukkonen '97** to Amanda Washburn.
- Kimberly Contois '03 BS** to **Matthew Matulewicz '05 BS.**
- Eric Dorais '98 BS** to Kelli Cooley.
- Joseph Fransted '06 BS** to Ashley Elmbald.
- Sarah Olds '05 BS** to Gabriel Ryan.
- Sara Mosio '01 BS** to Michael Cruchelow.
- Colin Oas '99 BS** to Kristen Ott.
- Erica Gorsalitz '04 BS** to Jacob Stock.
- Rachel McNamee '05 BS** to **Gregory Berglund '03 BS.**
- Roberta Feltner '02 BSN** to **Adam Carpenter '06 BS.**

### UNION OF THE BECKER/BALESKY TRIBE

**Doug Becker '77 BS** wrote to say his daughter **Katie '04 BS** married **Brad Balesky '03 BS** in June 2006. The bridesmaid was Katie's sister **Sheri '05 BS**. The groom's parents are **Dann Balesky '72 AS** and **Jeanne (Reno) Balesky '72 BS**. And there had to be at least 30 NMU alumni attending as guests. "Maybe someday there will be a third generation Becker/Balesky NMU alum!" he said.

His daughter Sheri and he both had John Kiltinen as their Calculus I and Abstract Algebra professor—the only two-generation underclassmen Dr. Kiltinen has had. Becker has been teaching math for 29 years at Gaylord and Sheri started teaching math downstate right after she graduated. Katie is an accountant/auditor.

"We have eight teachers at Gaylord High School who attended NMU and if you check the hometowns of your students, you will see we send more than a few students your way," he said. "I start telling my students when they are freshmen the reasons to head north to NMU."



This Marquette family with NMU alumni spanning multiple decades got together in the old hometown last summer for a family reunion and the wedding of their two newest Northern grads: **Blythe Betts '06 BS** and **Aaron Raikko '06 BS**. **Bob Glantz '79 BA** of Berkeley, Calif., reports, "The wedding was a multi-hanky affair straight out of a fairy tale. The family gatherings were joyous. The weather was perfect (no snow), Lake Superior was actually warm enough for swimming, and there were pasties, smoked fish and Togos galore. Life is good, eh?" Pictured, from left, are Glantz, **Patty (Glantz) Neva '65 BS**, Blythe Betts Raikko, Aaron Raikko, **Gretchen (Glantz) Betts '70 BS, '76 MA** and **Blaine Betts '70 BS, '76 MA**.

With direct flights to Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula, endless Lake Superior activities & four seasons of fun are moments away. From departure to arrival, we've got your ticket!

# What Do You Want To Do Today?

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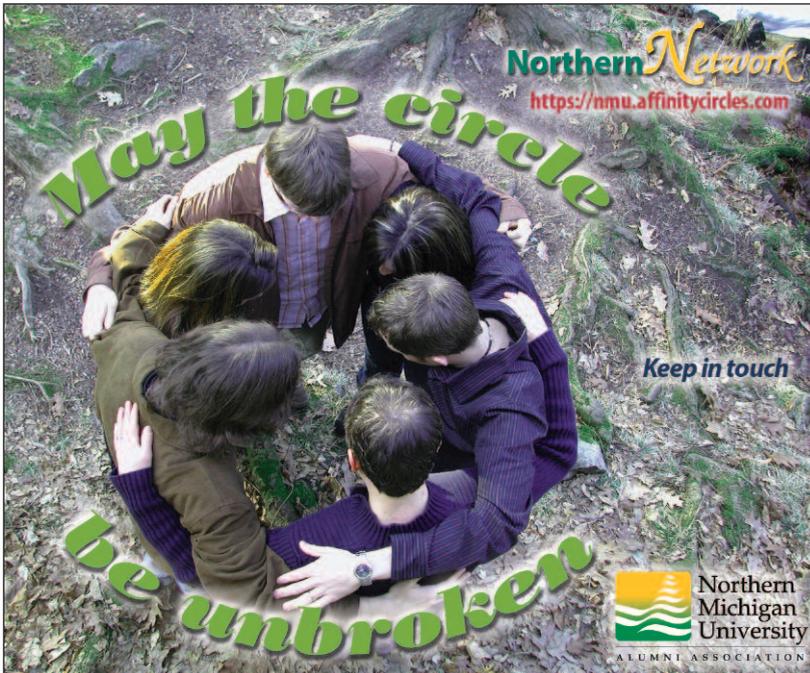
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*Milwaukee*  
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*Detroit / Minneapolis*  
www.nwa.com  
1 800 225-2525



## Deaths

**Elmer Kangas '32 BS**, Dec. 22, 2006, Muskegon.

**Carl Nelson '39 BS**, March 26, 2007, Marquette.

**Viola Vincent '40 BA**, Jan. 8, 2007.

**Edwin J. Sutter, '42 BS**, Nov. 13, 2006, O'Fallon, Ill.

**Adele Meese '43 BS**, March 21, 2007, Menominee Falls, Wis.

**Martha (Bjork) Comstock '46 BA**, March 1, 2007, Muskegon.

**Robert L. Hedgcock '47**, Dec. 28, 2006, Pearce, Ariz.

**William Rich '48 BS**, Jan. 29, 2007, Clinton.

**Chester Casari '49 BS**, March 1, 2007, Zephyrhills, Fla.

**Janette Kamper '50 BS**, Nov. 21, 2006, Pickford.

**Kenneth Lindberg '50 BS**, Nov. 21, 2006, Ishpeming.

**Thomas Kirby '51 BS**, March 14, 2007, Anoka, Minn.

**May Viola Lindberg '53 BS**, April 1, 2007, Marquette.

**Robert Sachs '56 BS**, Jan. 9, 2007, Weeki Wachee, Fla.

**Vern Dahlquist '57 BS**, Nov. 15, 2006, Marquette.

**Kenneth Adamson '59 MA**, Feb. 12, 2007, Marquette.

**Richard Lemery '61 BS**, Feb. 1, 2007, Davison.

**John Nordeen '62 BS**, Feb. 3, 2007, Gwinn.

**Darlene M. Arnie '64 BS**, Nov. 27, 2006, Cadillac.

**Garry L. Hess '65 BA**, Dec. 12, 2006, Gladstone.

**Eugene "Gene" Lakso '66 MA**, Nov. 13, 2006, Kaukauna, Wis.

**Michael Catto '67 BS**, Dec. 16, 2006, Jacksonville, Fla.

**Donald Thomas '67 BS**, Nov. 16, 2006, West Branch Township.

**Robert "Bob" Colclasure '68 BS**, Feb. 10, 2007, Merrill, Wis.

**Venetia Standridge-Bolz '68 BS**, Jan. 13, 2007, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Carolyn D. Anderson '69 BS**, Jan. 26, 2007, Marquette.

**Vernon Eugene Smalls '79 MAE**, Dec. 14, 2006, New York, N.Y.

**Susan Casagrande '70 BS**, June 16, 2006, Iron River.

**Daniel Casimir '72 MAE**, March 10, 2007, Carney.

**Constance Sawyer '72 BS**, March 2, 2007, Sault Ste. Marie.

**Charles 'Chuck' Prusi '74 BS**, Dec. 13, 2006, Negaunee.

**Marilyn Mitchell '78 BS**, Feb. 24, 2007, Harbor Springs.

**Joseph Sartorelli '78 BS**, Nov. 24, 2006, Iron River.

**Violet Lupton '79 BS**, March 25 2007, Ishpeming.

**Jeffery Sherman '80 BS**, Jan. 26, 2007, Dallas, Texas.

**Nancy DePetro '82 Voc.**, April 1, 2007, Negaunee.

**Florence Charpie '84 AT**, Jan. 22, 2007, Gwinn.

**Teresa Hunt '85 MA**, Dec. 23, 2006, Marquette. English Professor at NMU.

**Wayne Mercer '85 BS**, Nov. 30, 2006, Port St. Lucie, Fla.

**Kari Lynn (Britton) Burton '91 Voc.**, Dec. 20, 2006, Houghton.

**Carrie Roberts '92 BA**, March 5, 2007, Escanaba.

**John Hicks '97 BSN**, Jan. 1, 2007, Marquette.

## Friends

**Leslie D. Foster**, NMU English professor, June 13, 2007, Marquette.

**Howard R. Swaine**, Feb. 2, 2007, Marquette. NMU professor emeritus of economics.

**Anne Gibson**, Feb. 4, 2007, Harbert. Former NMU dean of students.

**Roger Wissler**, March 2, 2007, Marquette. Former NMU university editor.

## Our Family's Northern Journey

by Diane Elcoate '85 BS

**W**e lived near Lansing when my husband, **Robert Elcoate '60 BS**, was discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1956 and went to work with a state survey crew. They were laying out groundwork for the new power plant to be built at Northern Michigan College in Marquette. After work one day, he went over to Dean Bottum's office to talk and then took some tests and decided that he would use his GI Bill benefits and go to college. Bob and one other student were the only ones not from the Upper Peninsula.



adjuster in Petoskey, for a company out of Chicago. We lived in Petoskey for 35 years where Bob later opened his own insurance agency and I had a wonderful career as an orthodontic dental lab technician. Later, I went back up to Northern, which had by then grown to several thousand students, finished my last two years, and became an English teacher in 1985.

We had been accepted for the Peace Corps, but after spending a summer touring Europe via U-Rail, found that we had missed an important deadline and were out. So we moved to Hawaii

This was just as the Mackinac Bridge was in the initial stages of being built, so ferry service was still the only way to cross the straits. Bob and Dr. Edgar Harden, the new president of Northern, began at the same time, when all offices and classrooms were housed in beautiful Kaye Hall. I eventually worked as a receptionist at Lee Hall when it was the student union and was secretary to Mr. Lawson, food service manager. Northern had 500 students then. We lived in married student housing: the old tin triplexes. We had two babies and had left a brand new house and were one of the last to arrive at Verville. We discovered that all the "good" contents of our unit had been "robbed" to replace broken parts for the entire area—even light bulbs. After we got the little U-Haul unloaded we bought pasties, went out to Presque Isle, sat on the Black Rocks and cried. What had we done?

After graduation Bob landed a job as an insurance

where Bob became a travel agent and I taught at Konawaena High School on the Big Island. Three years later we came back to Michigan to raise sheep. Bob opened his own travel agency and I taught seventh grade English in Manistique, near where we found an affordable farm. A few years ago I published a book: *Seul Choix, Our Home*, a historical novel of the lighthouse in the 1930s. I am secretary of the Gulliver Historical Society and a tour guide at the lighthouse.

Our daughter, **Deborah Lords**, received her master's in speech pathology in 1984 (summa cum laude) when she moved from Spain to Marquette to do that. She now works for

DODS in Japan. Her daughter, **Meghann**, graduated from NMU in 2005 with a BA in English.

So even though we're not U.P. natives, we've almost become so.

**We had two babies and had left a brand new house and were one of the last to arrive at Verville. After we got the little U-Haul unloaded we bought pasties, went out to Presque Isle, sat on the Black Rocks and cried. What had we done?**



Merry and Rolly in Meyland Hall, 1968.

It was August 1967 when my roommates and I were invited to the Newman Center to hang out. The place was hopping. For the next three years, we and our friends had a wonderful time, a great social life, and enjoyed the religious retreats, masses, weddings, an ordination and lots of graduation parties (several impromptu on Sugarloaf).

But I'm getting ahead of myself. **Rolly Babcock '70 BS** had met one of my roommates (a former Detroit schoolmate) while standing in line for class registration at Hedgcock Fieldhouse (his sophomore, our freshman year). Hours later, registration complete, Rolly knew her entire family history and I suppose ours, too. Remember how slowly those lines snaked up the stairs and around the fieldhouse? Well, that afternoon, the four of us went out to walk at Tourist Park and climbed the rocks at the dam. Soon we were an active foursome, helping to build a rather lopsided homecoming float of Snow White, and we were pretty well convinced that life at NMU was going to be all right.

September of the following year we helped on another homecoming float, but that one wasn't as memorable because I was in love.

## The Northern Mystique

by Merry Howell Babcock

Rolly proposed in the Great Lakes Rooms of the Student Center during the homecoming dance. In August we were married in Centerline, Mich., with Fr. Glen Weber (NMU Newman chaplain) officiating and all our friends from the Newman Center in attendance.

We arrived back in Marquette while summer school was still in session and forgot that our apartment on Presque Isle Avenue would be occupied for at least another week. Praise the Lord for my parent's old tent and Marquette's Tourist Park. The weather was nice that week and we spent a day at the U.P. State Fair. Life just got better and better. We moved in across from the Blue Link so we knew who went where on the weekend and if we left the bedroom window open we had the best music that the North End could offer until 2:00 each morning. Rolly continued to work long hours at the cafeteria and I sold cigarettes and newspapers in the University Center, and waited tables at Donckers. Somehow, we finished the school year. Rolly graduated and we toured the East Coast's free attractions, with the tent, heading to the U.S. Navy flight school in Pensacola, Fla., where he began flight training.

Twenty-three years later, in the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard, Rolly retired from the Navy. In attendance were his family: me and our children, **Rolly III '96 BS**, **Allyson '99 BS** and **Bradley '01 BS**, all born and raised around the world. Our



Julie and Bradley Babcock, Rolly Babcock, Julie Howard, Allyson Babcock Jurmu and Brad Jurmu (from left).

addresses have included A.P.O.s in Italy and Spain and F.P.O.s in San Francisco, but home has always been Michigan (even though we currently reside in Virginia.). Stories of NMU and Marquette and a weekend Newman friends reunion in Iron Mountain many years ago all added to the mystique of Marquette for our children. When Rolly III graduated high school, there was no question about where he wanted to go to school if only to get a feel for the truth or fiction behind the legend. Soon after, Allyson decided to go to NMU to be with her brother, who knew all the "new" places to go, like Little Presque Isle. Finally Bradley got his turn. Allyson met and married **Brad Jurmu '96 BS**, and the couple reside in Marquette with their children.

It has been fun to hear the kids' stories about NMU and to realize how much and yet how little things have changed. We started out living in the same dorms with most of the same furniture. The hall paintings are still there with some changes through the years. The Newman Student Center is now Catholic Campus Ministries. Sugarloaf, Presque Isle and Hogsback remain favorites. At last contact, Height Ashbury house still exists! Or was is Loveland Basin?

**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-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. Photographs should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.