

Northern HORIZONS

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OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Fall 2008

LEARNING TO SERVE



Northern HORIZONS

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letters

Received the current issue of *Northern Horizons* [Summer 2008]. You are to be commended for this exceptional issue. It is one of significant content, and well written. The information is certainly high caliber, and should be a genuine motivator for our alumni and friends of the university. Northern Michigan University is clearly positioned for national and international recognition. As former president, I view this progress and President Wong's planning with pride. As we used to say back 24 years ago: "Working to Put Tomorrow in Good Hands."

—John X. Jamrich
President Emeritus
Northern Michigan University
Jacksonville, Fla.

I read with interest your articles in the Summer 2008 issue on NMU's new international emphases. I welcome the efforts to expand the horizons of our students. However, in the article by Richard Whalen on his experiences in Buenos Aires, an error occurred somewhere along the way. In the interest of further international enlightenment, it should be noted that the picture on page 16 was taken at a site familiar to me in the Old City area of Montevideo. The photo on the following page also obviously is not from B.A., but perhaps it is at least from Argentina.

—John W. Renfrew
Professor Emeritus,
half-time resident in Montevideo

Editor's note: We have not been able to reach the author to determine the location of the other photograph. We appreciate the clarification of the implied location of this one.



In another photo note, this image of Plaza des Armes, Cusco, Peru, that appeared in our summer issue as one of the winners of our international photo contest was attributed to a different photographer. It is the work of NMU student Alex Holley.

Love and music

Do you have an unusual story of romance at NMU? Were you involved in the local music scene or are you making music as your career today? Would you share memories of your days rousing the crowds at Memorial Field (or far-away fields), as part of the marching band? We're working on these themes for the winter issue of *Horizons*, and we'd love your help! Please e-mail horizons@nmu.edu.



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ON THE COVER: NMU students on Make a Difference Day 2007, helping a resident by raking leaves, and sharing some colorful smiles. Photo courtesy of the NMU Volunteer Center.

On campus today

NEW DIRECTIONS



NMU to help jump start businesses

Northern received \$65,000 to establish a Business and Industry Center. It will be located in the Jacobetti Center to take advantage of available space and manufacturing-type equipment. Student interns will assist new business ventures with financial and marketing plans, Web site creation, e-commerce and information technology software. They will also provide design and prototype development services. NMU will complete the package by tapping into the expertise and resources of two local entities: Northern Initiatives and the Lake Superior Community Partnership

It's all part of the Michigan Initiative for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a new consortium of Michigan's 15 public universities with the goal to raise and distribute \$75 million to help create 200 start-up companies over the next decade.

"This project demonstrates that Northern is making a serious contribution to the economic recovery of the state and the region," says Fred Joyal, NMU's special assistant to the president for regional economic development. "And the consortium's effort on a wider scale reinforces the importance of strengthening the connection between academia and industry. Universities will play a key role in creating diversified, knowledge-based businesses that will enhance Michigan's economy."

The one-stop center is expected to open this winter. For more information, visit <http://bizcenter.nmu.edu>.

Eco-design = Eco-nomics

The School of Art and Design's new Studio for Experimental and Eco-Design (SEED) will assist regional entrepreneurs in developing prototypes for products that are innovative, sustainable and customized. It will also give students career-building opportunities to interact with clients and respond to real-world design challenges, in addition to promoting economic development and community service outreach.

While the studio won't be engineering or manufacturing products, its state-of-the-art digital equipment for 3D development and prototypes will be available as well as faculty expertise.

Professor Peter Pless will determine which product ideas to assign his students. "We're looking for products that will improve people's lives and stimulate economic development," he says. "But sustainability will be a key feature. We've adopted the 'cradle to cradle' philosophy—that every product has a cyclical life and it should return to where it came from. Another important element is the ability to customize products so they have more personal value to their owners."

Pless offers an example of a local woman who wanted help designing protectors that would shield mailboxes from potentially damaging brushes with snow plows. "I challenged the students to come up with a design for a protector that was durable and effective, yet had some aesthetic



The "End-to-End" mailbox designed by student Andrew Volpe. At top left is an "Arbor Bench" designed by student Lauren Strpko.

qualities. They came up with 15 different designs. Some could be customized with home addresses or other features, such as a flower pot on top for someone who's interested in gardening."

Southern exposure: new programs in Latin America

Brazil, Argentina, Peru... NMU's campus boundaries keep expanding.

Thanks to a federal grant, NMU will collaborate with Western Illinois University and two Brazilian institutions—Universidade Federal Rural da Amazonia and Universidade Federal de Lavras—in an exchange program to prepare U.S. and Brazilian students for highly skilled 21st century jobs requiring expertise in entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility and sustainable economic development.

The first year of the four-year grant will be used to formalize relationships between the participating universities and develop online courses for combined classes of U.S. and Brazilian students.

“An exciting feature of the program is that it provides scholarships for our students’ study abroad and language immersion,” says College of Business professor Ray Amtmann. “NMU students will learn Portuguese, develop international skills, work with international students in their classes, participate in internships and have a semester abroad in Brazil. This will place our graduates at a distinct advantage when they compete for jobs and it

will help to develop the College of Business entrepreneurship program into one of the leading programs in the country.”

About 20 students from the United States and 20 from Brazil (10 from each university) are expected to participate in the program, providing lasting cross-cultural learning experiences and enormous opportunities for Michigan’s businesses and residents.

In another recently signed cooperative agreement with Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Centro Tinku, an organization that facilitates study-abroad programs in Peru, NMU students may spend two semesters in Latin America: one in Argentina studying Spanish and taking courses related to their academic majors; and one in Peru (based in the city of Cusco) taking native culture and history courses. Another group of advanced Spanish students will spend a month in



Photo of Machu Picchu by NMU student Sara Hartley. More NMU students will experience the ancient site thanks to a new agreement with a university in Peru.

Argentina, studying the language in a totally immersive Spanish-speaking environment, participating in cultural events and visiting archeological and industrial sites.

“Our goals for future growth in Latin America include faculty/student exchanges and research collaborations,” explains Marcelo Siles, NMU’s director of international programs. “We are trying to develop a strong presence in Latin America for several reasons. Latinos represent the fastest-growing ethnic group in this country, so there is added motivation to study their language and culture. Also, Latin America offers diverse international experiences close to home and it is relatively affordable.”

Intel onsite

Intel products have powered notebook computers at Northern since the university launched its technology program in 2000. But the vendor relationship has recently expanded to include student internships at the corporation’s Oregon facility, on-campus testing of new products and direct access to Intel technical support.

Seniors Cory Perry and Joe Manier were the first NMU participants in the Intel Wireless Internship Program.

“I learned a lot about how a corporation works and what programming in the real world is like with large and

small teams,” reports Perry. “It was perfect for the dream career I have in mind as a 3D computer simulation engine designer. I also worked alongside some of the most knowledgeable people in computer networking and I must say a little rubbed off on me.”

The students were paid by Intel for their full-time summer training so that they could return to campus and serve as company contacts for tests of new wireless cards and drivers. Other NMU students, faculty and staff also will be invited to test new Intel products.

On campus today

Amazing analyzer

It's not everyday you receive an automated immunoassay analyzer, but for NMU's Clinical Laboratory Sciences department, it's a very good day when that happens. The \$127,000 piece of equipment is a donation from Abbott's "Labs are Vital" program. This large instrument will provide research opportunities for NMU faculty and allow students to be trained on the same equipment they will find in most hospital laboratories.

"These analyzers are workhorses for hospital chemistry labs," says Kevin Foley, department head. "They are used to measure analytes in blood and serum; analytes such as chole-

sterol, hormones, metabolic products, vitamins—anything we can target with antibodies.

"Very few universities have them because they're so expensive. In fact, NMU is one of only four in the world to receive an analyzer from Abbott. The company has generously donated a variety of state-of-the-art instruments, but this is the biggest award they give. We had to apply for it and show that we have a quality, accredited program that would integrate the analyzer into its curriculum."

NMU also receives the reagents—chemicals—used with the analyzer and technical support from Abbott.

Enrollment rebound

The 10th-day enrollment report showed a total headcount of 9,123, an increase of 12 students over last fall's 10th-day figure.

Paul Duby, associate vice president of institutional research, says, "We had been anticipating a 0.5 percent to 1 percent drop in enrollment because of Upper Peninsula high school demographics; the dismal state of the economy; and the high cost of driving. The fact we've made a small gain is a testament to the effectiveness of our recruiting and the academic strength of the institution."

One of the main reasons for the turnaround is new graduate student enrollment, which increased sharply from 96 to 148. Total graduate enrollment is up by 10 percent to about 785.

Scrubs



A critical need in health care that NMU is helping to fill is for surgical technicians. To highlight NMU's excellent one- and two-year tech programs, the department held an open house during National Surgical Tech Week in September. Student Jackie Froiland (in scrubs, above) says she was a dental assistant and really liked passing the instruments, and was attracted to how quickly she could earn a degree in a new field and get a job. She'll graduate next year and has already been offered a position, close to home.

Clinical supervisor **Jason Prunick '01 Cert.** says, "You can graduate here and go anywhere in the world and do this. My favorite part is to see a patient I've assisted with in the OR doing great a few weeks later."

Sustainable living

Another residence hall has gone green. NMU can now claim two of eight campus residence hall renovations in the United States to achieve sustainability benchmarks set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Van Antwerp Hall has joined Meyland Hall in receiving certifications through the national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. Hunt Hall, which was renovated this summer, is also expected to achieve the LEED rating. Each facility was recognized for performance in sustainable site development, materials selection, water savings, energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

More than 250 tons of metal piping and wiring were recycled between the two projects. Many of the materials are made of recycled content and were regionally manufactured. Regulated water use has been reduced by up to 60 percent, and energy savings have been increased by putting occupancy sensors or timers on lights and by adding windows to increase natural light.

The new furnishings are made with environmentally farmed, quickly renewable Malaysian hardwood and were manufactured in Indiana. The replaced beds were donated to a nonprofit organization that supports residents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Other furnishings were donated to Marquette's Habitat for Humanity.



In-person politics

The presidential race isn't just something NMU students are watching on TV or reading about in magazines; they're helping to create those broadcasts, articles and Internet coverage, and casting delegate votes.

At the Democratic National Convention, political science majors Anke Hildebrandt and Lauren Mattioli interned with NBC News and Bloomberg News, respectively. Katie Cox, a media production and news technologies major, worked for *TIME Magazine* and Time.com. Students who gained experience with the Democratic National Committee are Danielle Stein, a public administration major, and Chelsea Smit, a political science and pre-law major. Jason Morgan, political science major, was a delegate to the Democratic convention.

At the Republican National Convention, Neil Passinault worked with NBC News; Keith Voorheis with *TIME Magazine* and Time.com; and Darren Widder with Bloomberg News.

The Political Science and Communication and Performance Studies departments used videoconferencing technology to extend the educational value of the internships to students enrolled in a joint "politics and the press" course. Interns delivered live reports from Denver and Minneapolis, interacting with their peers on campus. They also documented their experiences on text blogs. Links to the blogs and video streams are at www.nmu.edu/politicalscience.

"These internships represent an unbelievable opportunity for some of our best students to witness historic conventions and to network with some of the biggest names in politics and the media," says professor Steven Nelson.



At the Democratic convention in Denver: (from left) Miles Baker '08 BS, Katie Cox, Lauren Mattioli, Tony Tollefson '81 BS, Danielle Stein, Jason Morgan and Steve Nelson.

Branching out with WiMAX

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted NMU an Educational Broadband Service (EBS) license. EBS is a type of wireless spectrum that supports high-speed Internet access using "WiMAX" technology.

The license will allow NMU to better serve the university's growing commuter and off-campus populations with broadband access to critical course related materials currently available to on-campus students, expand the collaborative efforts between area K-12 schools and NMU students fulfilling course requirements related to student teaching activities, and continue the development of new wireless services that are critical to the NMU's Teaching, Learning and Communication technology initiative.

President Les Wong says, "Northern's TLC technology program began with a bold decision to provide each student with a notebook computer. Building on that concept, our new EBS license takes Northern's technology

to a new plateau by expanding our wireless network in a way that will make handheld and notebook devices truly portable. WiMAX wireless technology is a global standard for cutting-edge technology that will help provide our students and faculty fast, reliable access to the future's multi-media content and communication demands. It means much greater wireless penetration throughout the central portion of the Upper Peninsula.

"Although other schools and universities in the United States have access to EBS spectrum, to our knowledge NMU is among the few to use it to provide a WiMAX-based broadband network solely for education purposes. Reliable broadband Internet connections are not uniformly available in Marquette County, and NMU intends to use this new wireless broadband authorization to bridge the Internet service gap many students face."

On campus today

SPORTS AT NMU



NMU vs. MTU game sets football attendance record

A new **Superior Dome** football attendance record was set during the 2008 Miner's Cup game held on Sept. 18 between the Northern Michigan Wildcats and Michigan Tech Huskies. A crowd of 8,672 was on hand to see the Huskies down the Wildcats 47-21, smashing the old mark of 8,432 set on Oct. 5, 1991, when NMU played Ferris State. The seating capacity of the Dome is 8,000.

"I was proud of the NMU students who were there two hours before the game, painted green and making noise," Hobie Webster, president of the Associated Students of NMU.

The game was televised on CBS College Sports Network and FOX Sports Network–Detroit. The telecast

featured an on-site interview with **Tom Izzo '77 BS**, men's basketball coach at Michigan State, and phone interviews with **Lloyd Carr '68 BS, '70 MA**, former University of Michigan football coach, and **Steve Mariucci '77 BS, '83 MA**, former NFL coach and current NFL Network game analyst.

Follow the 'Cats

Wildcat fans are reminded that they can find all the current NMU team rosters, schedules, results and latest team updates at www.nmu.edu/sports. Broadcasts of NMU Wildcat football, hockey, and men's and women's basketball games can be heard on WUPT 100.3 FM, Gwinn-Marquette. Audio streaming over the Internet is also available from WNMU (<http://wnmu.nmu.edu>). Also, Northern Michigan University and B2 Networks (www.b2now.com) have created a partnership to provide

Wildcat fans with live game action over the Internet via broadband broadcasting. The broadcasts feature video from the team's videographer and audio from the team's official play-by-play broadcaster. The cost is \$6 per game. B2 will provide this service for Wildcat men's and women's basketball, football, volleyball and hockey action. B2 Networks' president is former NMU student Greg Bell.



Photos at right courtesy of USA Wrestling and TheMat.com

Bronze medalist Randi Miller (left) and Adam Wheeler.

Two Former USOEC Athletes Win Bronze

Former U.S. Olympic Education Center resident athletes **Adam Wheeler '06 BS** and Randi Miller won bronze medals at the Beijing Games. Wheeler, who graduated from NMU with a degree in criminal justice, competed at 96 kilogram or 211.5 pounds, in Greco-Roman wrestling. Miller, who was an outdoor recreation major at NMU, competed at 63kg, or 138.5 pounds, in women's freestyle wrestling.

On the final day of Greco-Roman wrestling, Wheeler defeated Han Tae-Young of Korea in the bronze medal match, 3-1, 4-1. It was

the first medal won by the United States in wrestling at the Beijing Games. Wheeler won his first two matches, then was defeated in the semifinals by Mirko Englich of Germany, which placed him into the bronze-medal match.

Wheeler was thrilled with his medal adding, "There were 19 people—members of my family and friends—who came here for me, so this can't get any better." Among his contingent was his wife **Marley Garceo '06 BS**.

Miller, the only U.S. women's wrestler to win a medal in 2008, defeated Canadian Martine Dugrenier in Beijing to earn her medal. "It was surreal. It was a dream come true," she said following the Games.

She was the first African-American women's wrestler to win an Olympic medal and only the third U.S. women's wrestler to claim an Olympic medal.

Miller won her first two matches, before dropping a quarter-final match to 2004 Olympic champion, Kaori Icho of Japan. She battled back with a clutch win in the repechage round to earn a spot in the bronze-medal match.

USOEC Athletes in Michigan Sports Exhibit

Several athletes with NMU connections are among those featured in the new exhibit "Faster, Higher, Stronger: Michigan Women in the Olympics" at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame in Lansing.

Text from one of the exhibit panels reads: "... Another educational institution that has drawn out-of-state athletes is Northern Michigan



Five new members were inducted into the Northern Michigan University Sports Hall of Fame in conjunction with Homecoming 2008. They are: **Hong Shao '93**, swimming—five-time NCAA national champion; **Lori Juntila Rupert '81**, women's basketball—first 1,000-point scorer in NMU history and is currently 10th overall in career scoring; **Timothy Kerwin**, men's swimming and diving team, 1975-79— MVP honors all four years, multiple-time GLIAC champion with 27 NCAA and All-America honors; **Derrick Munos '86**, wrestling—two-time All-American and team MVP, middle school wrestling coach (awarded posthumously); **Bill Schafhauser**, hockey, 1980-84— played with Chicago Blackhawks and Philadelphia Flyers organizations and in Europe; **George Works Jr.**, football, 1978-80-81-82— set a number of NMU records, many of which remain today, including career points and touchdowns, points in one season and touchdowns in one game, also played for former U.S. Football League and Canadian Football League.

University. Some women, like Lindsey Weier and **Lindsay Williams '05 BS**, pursued their Olympic dreams while participating as varsity athletes on the school's cross country ski team. Others, like speedskaters Allison Baver and Caroline Hallisey, took advantage of Northern's U.S. Olympic Education Center: the only Olympic training center located on a college campus. The USOEC has graduated 30 female Olympians since its inception in 1985 and currently offers training for women athletes in speedskating, weightlifting and wrestling."

The exhibit runs until Dec. 28.

The Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame is located at 213 W. Main Street in Lansing. The organization's Web site is <http://hall.michiganwomenshalloffame.org>.

Boxing's Back

The boxing program at the USOEC has been reinstated by USA Boxing, after an eight-month hiatus. "We're so excited to have it back," says Jeff Kleinschmidt, program director. "Of all the programs here, this one does more to change the lives of athletes than any other."

Cover story



By Rebecca Tavernini

How thousands of NMU students are getting their feet wet, and hands dirty, as leaders in and contributors to the local community and beyond...

”I learned much from being an engaged citizen, but most importantly, I learned that there is more to college than the classes. Obviously classes are important and there is no substitute for good grades, but I was reminded that I needed to be responsible for my personal growth as well ... to appreciate my communities much more and look past my own needs to see the needs of others.” So writes NMU senior Christina Boncyk, who took part in one of Northern’s many programs that blend service with learning.

While volunteering to help people in Marquette, supporting causes in Washington, D.C., or launching efforts to feed refugees in a third-world country is nothing new at NMU, the role of service and experience as a vital part of an education has recently taken center stage. Not only has increased “service learning” become a goal of the

university, it has been eagerly embraced by students.

Consider Superior Edge, for instance. It was launched two years ago with the goal of having 1,000 students enroll in the program. In the first year alone, 900 registered, and today 1,738 students are actively participating in it, with many more expected. That’s 17 percent of the student body voluntarily taking part in a program that requires 100-400 hours of activities, often above and beyond their packed class schedules.

Christina’s “edge” experience was with the Alzheimer’s Association, hospice and the hospital’s psychiatric ward. Ironically, by giving more, she got more. She says, “When I started volunteering regularly, just a couple of hours a week, I realized how others with much greater needs than me were coping.”

The benefits of Superior Edge, the Student Leader

Fellowship Program (SLFP), academic service learning classes, and other campus-community involvement and volunteer activities radiate in many directions—and they are long lasting. For one, (and for those who like quantitative proof), graduates in programs where engagement is heavily integrated have high employment or graduate school admission rates. Furthermore, adds NMU President Les Wong, “Students who have a record of service learning help employers see that their investment in a student is going to pay off sooner.”

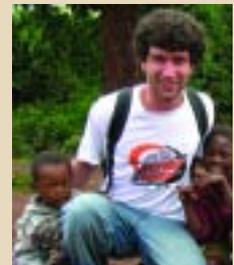
But there’s so much more. Here’s an overview of these programs at NMU, and how they’re changing students, faculty, organizations and communities, and will surely make the world a little bit better.

Superior Edge “Learning to live a life that matters.”

Superior Edge gives students the opportunity to combine in- and out-of-the classroom experiences in a way that will provide them an “edge” with employers or graduate schools. Students can participate in any number of the program’s four edges: citizenship, diversity, leadership and real world experiences. To complete an edge, students must devote 100 hours to it, log the hours and complete a reflection paper. So far, 100,000 total hours have been logged.

“I learned that being uncomfortable in a situation isn’t always a bad thing. I overcame that uneasiness and had one of the best summers of my life. It was great. This edge helped me to take a chance and discover who I was. Maybe this is what the Superior Edge is all about, taking chances.”

—Tyler Weber



While a number of universities have leadership programs, what’s unique about this one is that it offers such a variety of exploration in one program, and allows students to design their own experiences, using a combination of courses, research, service, internships, work, involvement in organizations and other possibilities. This program is open to all students, regardless of major, class standing or grade point average. Completed edges are noted on a student enrichment transcript, which accompanies their academic transcript.

“Superior Edge is providing a transformative experience for participating students as they discover that

a meaningful life is built on a foundation of hard work, service, and the courage to take chances,” states Rachel Harris, Superior Edge associate director. “Their hours of work, volunteering, and commitment represent a priceless investment in confidence, self-esteem, and the future.”

It’s been rewarding building this one-of-a-kind initiative to prepare our graduates to be effective in their work and in society, to help employers thrive, to solve problems, take risks, and embrace responsibility.

In the citizenship edge, students might do such things as assist with a fund-raiser for the Humane Society, work with YMCA programs, volunteer with hospice, harvest on an organic farm or take phone-in questions during public TV programs.

The diversity edge may find students learning dances from New Zealand, taking part in discussions on Islam, helping coordinate a Native American food tasting event or exploring Japanese art.

In leadership edge activities students might tutor students, help create a school newspaper, intern with a program getting high school students interested in careers in geriatrics or lead a team of entrepreneurs in securing funds for a new business.

And in the real-world edge, students may expand their business skills at an insurance agency, teach Spanish, build homes or even dress up as Paul Bunyon for a lesson in Michigan history.

Superior Edge graduates possess a “value added” degree that says to employers or grad schools that they’re not only smart, they can also communicate, lead, work in teams, analyze problems, work hard and manage their time.

“During the medical school admissions process, my involvement in the Superior Edge and SLFP was one of the central topics of many interviews,” writes **Amanda Moraska ’08 BS**, who is attending medical school at Mayo Clinic. “It set me apart from pools of thousands of other applicants. With the growing need for effective leadership in health care, admissions committees were

particularly impressed with the diversity of my leadership knowledge and experiences combined with real world applications of these skills, which they felt were an invaluable supplement to my academic preparation.”

Student Leader Fellowship Program

“Building Blocks for Your Future”

With a mission to develop competent, ethical, community-centered leaders, this two-year program takes a select group of about 50 students each year, trains them in leadership theory and practice, exposes them to at least 15 different “skill builder” workshops, matches them with a leadership mentor in the community and then culminates in a year-long community service internship, which each student independently plans, organizes and implements.

This year the program was one of four state finalists for the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration.

“It is truly remarkable that each year 50-60 more NMU students commit to setting aside approximately four hours every week throughout two academic years for the sole purposes of developing themselves and enhancing the community,” says Jon Barch, assistant director for the Center for Student Enrichment. “It is equally remarkable

of which were new project sites. This year’s block marks the 17th year of the SLFP. Over this time, 653 leaders have been nurtured, 535 community members have served as mentors, and more than 73,000 hours of service have been performed at 302 different internship sites.

Not only are the experiences life-changing at the time, but they serve students well as they move on.

“Graduate school admissions drilled me with questions about my experience in leadership, management, volunteerism, and with questions that went something like, ‘What kind of familiarity do you have working with a diverse group of people?’” says **Amanda Lobsinger ’08 BS**. “Luckily, I could tell them all about my SLFP Community Service Internship at Superior Hills Elementary School and how I spent 100 hours working towards my diversity edge. Without these extracurricular experiences, I’m not sure I would have been able to answer half of my interview questions with such confidence and ease. I will be bringing what I learned with me down whatever path I take in the future.” She is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education at Illinois State University.

Barch adds, “The talent and dedication of our Student Fellows is truly impressive. They leave me reassured that our world, with all of its challenges and problems, is in good hands with the leaders that are emerging.”

“After two years in the program, I look back at my younger self and see motivation without purpose, drive without direction, and a person not quite sure of what she could do with her time to give. Two years later, I feel confident, strong in my leadership abilities, and extremely self-aware with a clear idea of what I can do to make a difference, no matter how small.”

—Kara Granroth



that 50-60 civically involved members of the Marquette community join in to mentor the first-year student fellows and 30-40 staff members at various community organizations commit to offering advisement and support for second-year student fellows in their internships. This program, a one-of-a-kind partnership between NMU and the Marquette community, is just one example of how NMU is an extraordinary place for developing citizen leaders.”

Each cohort chooses a “color block” to represent themselves. Students in the Mint Block, who graduated from the program in May, performed approximately 4,500 hours of service at 30 different internship sites, 19

Academic Service Learning

“Connecting the Community and the Classroom”

A relatively new and growing teaching methodology, academic service learning is a course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs. Students reflect on their service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of both personal values and civic responsibility.

“Well over 50 percent of students learn best from hands-on experiences. Many students have expressed how much better their experience is in a class when it includes active learning,” explains Dave Bonsall, director of the Center for Student Enrichment. “A number of students have found that an academic service learning experience affirms their choice of a major/career. There have also been cases where this type of experience has helped students come to the realization that the major they are in is not the right one for them.”

President Wong echoes that sentiment: “Academic service learning enables students to test drive a career before they enter it. It adds the emotional element to an education. And it allows students to discover their self-identity.”

HPER associate professor Bill Connor agrees. “When you get the kids out there you can see the fire in their belly—or you can see ‘this isn’t for me.’” In his ASL classes that pair his students with K-12 students in gym activities or in which they create and instruct individualized aquatics lessons for handicapped children, he’s seen students who were scared and unconfident turn into students with a passion for their subject and a gift for teaching. “It’s a win-win collaborative program,” he adds.

Currently, 52 courses at Northern have an ASL component. Official designation began in the winter 2008 semester, so there are likely many that include service learning, but are not yet registered.

recently-retired Bob Kulisheck, were honored with awards in 2007 from the Michigan Campus Compact (along with six NMU students) for being champions of academic service learning.

“I like ASL projects because so many people benefit from the work,” says Charles Ganzert, Communications and Performance Studies professor and ASL faculty liaison. “Students try harder when they know their projects mean something. The community participants enjoy the chance to share their work with young people and get assistance on a project. As a faculty member, it is more fun to come to work when you know you can make a difference in your town.”

Basically, ASL makes learning fun and meaningful for all involved. A few recent activities include:

- Student teacher candidates in three education courses created “book bags” containing books, art materials and ideas for first graders, to promote literacy development at home.
- A construction management class, CN 450 Project Control, took on the conceptualization, planning, scheduling, budgeting and design of a renovation of the local American Legion post. A group of 35 students worked on the project for about seven weeks, presenting different options to the Legion group. “The student effort was phenomenal,” says instructor Mike Andary. “And they learned a lot about the importance of client

“For the last 24 months, I’ve learned theories, practices and cases that relate to public relations. Academic service learning in my PR 330 Message Design course allowed me to apply those concepts in an area of interest. By working alongside an actual client, I was able to experience breakthroughs and setbacks, like a professional PR practitioner.”

—Andrea Jerabek



While faculty report that ASL is a great way to engage students who are different types of learners, improve content learning and student-to-student camaraderie, students aren’t the only ones who benefit from ASL courses. Instructors also find rewards in improved student-to-teacher camaraderie and job satisfaction. As ASL becomes more prevalent (and understood) on campus, there’s more collaboration between faculty on curricula and outreach efforts.

Also, fifteen \$500 “action grants” are provided by the provost’s office to help facilitate some of the courses. Two NMU faculty members, Sandra Poindexter and

relationships.” As far as the client goes, Post Commander Frank Donckers affirms, “They brought a lot of expertise and enthusiasm I hadn’t expected. This plan had been on the table for years, but once they got involved, it got done. And the end product is outstanding.” Student Jamie Martin says, “It was a living, breathing experience. As a class it gave us pride to take part in a community project. Personally, it was a real stepping stone in my career.” This semester the class is evaluating which one of three new projects to undertake.

- English Prof Kia Richmond used a \$6,000 grant to implement a “Good Books” project that paired her

students with high school students from Teaching Family Homes (a facility for neglected and abused children) to explore books together.

- Many activities live on after a semester is over. In courses offered through the Nursing and HPER departments which have taken students to Honduras over the past three years to practice public health, students are now undertaking the development of a Web site to raise funds for a new hospital there, which adds another dimension of skills to apply to real-world situations.

NMU Volunteer Center

The NMU Volunteer Center is another way that Northern connects with community. Needs are e-mailed or phoned in to the center, which is staffed by three student employees. An e-mail update is sent out weekly to 2,000 students, faculty and staff who have registered to receive the list of volunteer opportunities and events. The center also runs a program that matches agencies to student organizations committing a certain number of hours a month. The center sponsors a number of annual projects that include blood and bone marrow registration drives and Special Olympics.

“A good estimate is that there are a couple thousand students volunteering doing about 100,000 hours a year,” says student Nicole Weber, the center’s assistant coordinator.

are not aware of what is located in Marquette. It is important to instill a sense of service and community in students while in college so that they will continue to volunteer as a lifelong passion.”

• • •

Whether it’s Working with the Wongs for Habitat for Humanity, a student group raising \$22,000 for cancer research, Art and Design students creating Web sites for small towns or a geography class partnering with the Nature Conservancy to monitor a watershed, a fervent osmosis of service and engagement is occurring at NMU.

With “Community Engagement” and “Meaningful Lives” as two of the four driving forces in the university’s strategic plan, The Road Map to 2015, it’s clear those goals are already in motion.

As collaborations expand, an important distinction has emerged. “In discussing potential programs with agencies, we’ve been changing the language we use from ‘volunteer’ to ‘partner,’” explains President Wong. “When we talk about ‘co-instructing’ there’s a real excitement, and more of a sense of responsibility attached to it.”

“Service-related activity is being embraced at NMU and is rapidly becoming a distinguishing feature of this university for some very good reasons,” says Bonsall. “We have a very genuine student body with a strong service



Make a Difference Day



Good Books for Teaching Family Homes



Stream restoration partnership

One of the biggest activities the center coordinates is the annual Make a Difference Day. Last year more than 90 student organizations and 900 students participated, doing painting and yard work for elderly or disabled residents. The center hopes to implement a spring edition of Make a Difference Day in April.

“Service can be such an integral component of higher education and can help students develop community-minded thinking and life skills,” adds Nicole. “Many students move here from outside of Marquette and are interested in volunteering but can find it overwhelming or challenging to find opportunities on their own since they

ethic, a supportive faculty and an engaged, welcoming community. But the rapid growth of learning through service has created one of those ‘good problems’—we simply do not have the staff or resources needed to fully develop all of the opportunities that are available to us.”

“As we grow, we need to find ways to better document and share these activities, to organize and coordinate our efforts,” states Provost Susan Koch. “These are critical experiences at our university. It’s more than volunteering—it’s an intellectual activity. It’s part of our identity.” ■

Running the Race

By Kristi Evans



Andy Gregg, MQT Photo

The U.P. 200 Sled Dog Race will reach its 20th anniversary milestone in February. Thousands of visitors will descend upon Marquette and join with local residents to line downtown Washington Street for the start of this Iditarod qualifier. They will cheer as each 12-dog tandem—with musher and sled in tow—eagerly lurches from the chute and begins carving through the snow with rhythmic precision before disappearing down the darkened trail. For spectators, the race is poetry in motion. For organizers, it is a smooth operation, thanks in large part to the work of 1,000 volunteers. Many are NMU students or employees.

“We can and have run the race with less support, but it’s much easier and there’s better coverage all around since we’ve been able to mobilize the university community,” says Cori Bodeman, U.P. 200 volunteer coordinator. “Of the 600 people I’ve got working the start and finish, half are NMU students.”

Volunteers also help with set up and take down, vet checks before the race and at checkpoints, dog handling, road crossings, crowd control and bag checks to ensure mushers comply with the rules and carry the required gear.

“Several student organizations and the Greek system help out and it’s nice to see the legacies they’ve created by taking on the same jobs or helping at the same locations each year,” Bodeman says. “The constructors group builds the barricades, the rugby team helps erect them and groom snow, the crew team helps with the take down and other groups follow a similar pattern each year. The volunteer registration has also improved. With the help of NMU, almost all of it’s done online now.”

The U.P. 200 injects more tourism revenue into the local economy than any other annual event, according to Pat Black, director of the Marquette Country Convention and Visitors Bureau. “My guess is that the race brings in about \$2 million in spending in the county over the three days. It certainly generates out-of-town visitors. Hotel rooms are generally sold out well in advance.”

While many NMU individuals and groups volunteer on their own accord, there are also coordinated class activities. One is an academic service learning course that allows students to apply classroom theory to real-world situations and write a reflection paper on the experience. It is taught by College of Business professor Carol Steinhaus.

She started volunteering for the race in part because of her professional interest in organizational behavior and how people function in group activities.

“I met with the volunteer coordinator and we talked and I became excited about the prospect of initiating some student involvement,” Steinhaus recalls. “The first year, I had a few students from my classes help out. But then we created a one-credit, special topics teamwork course.

“Of the 600 people I’ve got working the start and finish, half are NMU students.”

Students applied concepts they learned in a prerequisite management course to actually managing aspects of the race.”

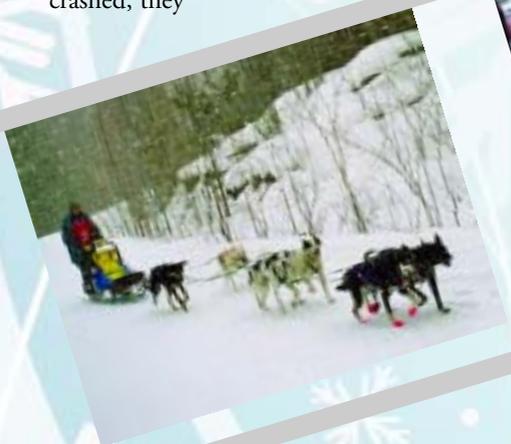
This year the course has morphed into a pair of two-credit sessions—one in the fall that covers event planning and one in the winter that focuses on event management. Students will assume major planning and leadership roles for both the Noquemanon cross-country ski race in January and the sled dog races in February. The latter includes the U.P. 200 and the shorter-distance Midnight Run and Jack Pine 30.

Steinhaus says her students originally helped in setting up and

taking down barricades along the route, serving as road crossing guards and performing key activities at checkpoints and the finish line. This year they will also take on major roles in Munising to mark the finish of the Midnight Run, and in Gwinn, the start of the Jack Pine 30. The class also will supervise other student groups in race operations.

“It is important people realize that NMU students support the community like the community supports NMU,” Steinhaus says. “The sled dog folks have been very happy with the students’ work and some students have even received job offers from people who were impressed by the effort they saw. Overall, this partnership of a wonderful community group, a rather unusual event and an NMU class of energetic, committed and focused students has been a fantastic success.”

The students do everything—they’ve even helped sled dog teams that have stopped get back on track. In Munising, one student had her NMU laptop with her to study during the slow periods. When the race coordinator’s computer crashed, they



computers to use. They work with Terwilliger and U.P. 200 Web site manager **Bev Stroh '98 BS '00 MPA** to conceptualize story ideas and conduct necessary interviews before writing content that is posted online.

Communication and Performance Studies professor Dwight Brady, along with students in an advanced field production course, shot and contributed video footage of the 2005 race to ESPN’s “Timeless” series.

“It turns out to be a great experience for everyone,” Terwilliger says. “It provides real-world reporting and publication experience for students and solid content for Bev.”

Former feature writing student Nancy Longtine described the experience as both



only because there was a chance of having a piece published, but because we have been given the chance to work with community members who are involved in a huge community event. I interviewed a musher who invited me to attend her dog team’s pre-race vet check. That’s something I’d probably never have gotten the chance to do if it hadn’t been for this assignment.”

Communication and Performance Studies professor Dwight Brady, along with students in his advanced field production course, shot and contributed video footage of the 2005 race to ESPN’s “Timeless” series. They also produced a documentary titled “U.P. 200: A Community Pulling Together,” which won a Michigan Broadcasters Association award and—at this writing—could be viewed on the event’s home page at



www.up200.org.

Audio communication

is a vital component of the race. NMU employees and alumni affiliated with the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association (HARA) provide a critical link between checkpoints along the route and the race headquarters in Marquette.

“The ham radios are unbelievably valuable,” says **Pat Torreano '68 BME**, U.P. 200 director. “Computers

challenging and rewarding.

“This has really been a sort of a trial by fire,” she says. “Each of us has had some experience writing in the past and we all bring different skills and ideas to the table when we workshop our articles. It was exciting, not

ended up using her laptop.

Students in English professor Cate Terwilliger’s feature writing course also put their notebook

can go down, so they're a big safety net. With the ham radio network and the computerized system, though, we've sure come a long way from the very first race. That was done with one telephone at the Holiday Inn ... and white trail markers."

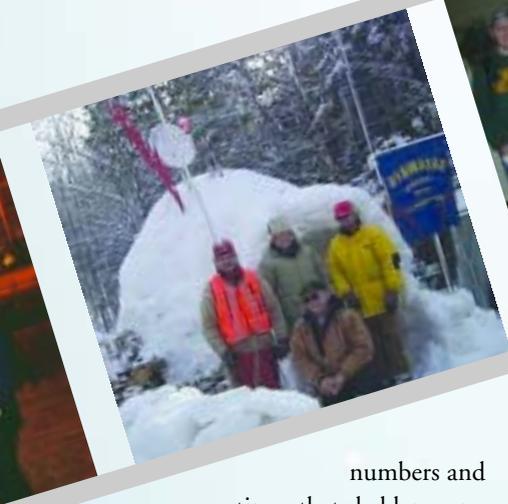
One contingent of ham operators—including retired and current engineering and technology professors Carol Hicks and Mike Cauley and NMU alumnus **Pete Kotila '79 MS**—even constructed an igloo from scratch one year as a creative wind block at their remote location on the Rapid River truck trail off M-95.

"The operators report in all of the bib

says ham radios are more viable than cell phones for relaying the progress of the race, in part because there are no disruptions in signal or service between Marquette and Grand Marais (the farthest checkpoint of the 200-mile race).

"And unlike cell phones, which only allow point-to-point communication, ham radios are all tuned to the same frequency," Smith adds. "The information is shared among all of the operators simultaneously, so they can follow up with

NMU dean of Academic Information Services and a spare-time musher, competing in mid-distance events in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula, including the Midnight Run. Walch has seen university employees in action and has enjoyed watching students help mushers get their teams to the start line and assist with vet checks. She's also spotted at least one



numbers and times that sledgers come through our locations," explains Hicks. "They also take care of emergencies that come up. One time, a sled came through with no rider. We ran out and stopped the dogs and called it in. About a half hour later the driver jogged in looking for her team. Now and then racers also drop out, so you have to call in and get a support team to truck out there and haul the dogs and sleds away. We also assist with traffic control when teams cross a road."

Eric Smith '95 MA, director of NMU broadcast and audio-visual services, has assisted in the effort. He

questions or helpful feedback immediately, if needed. It has worked out very well."

Mushers are intensely focused on their dogs and the race, but that doesn't mean they are blind to the impact of volunteers they briefly encounter along the way.

"It wouldn't be a race without them," stresses **Pete Curtice '86 BS** of Chatham, a past winner of the U.P. 200 who is taking a year off from competitive racing. "Mushers are there to satisfy their own personal needs and some are there to hopefully win a share of the purse. Volunteers put up with the odd hours and frigid temperatures because they want to help out and they simply find the sport attractive."

Darlene Walch '90 MA is

NMU alum who returns to Marquette specifically for the race. "**Lee Nowak '66 BS** and his wife, Claudia, come from Traverse City to volunteer," Walch notes. "When Lee interacts with current students, I think he serves as a role model for them, exemplifying continuing participation in the community. And he's a Wildcat fanatic, so I'm sure the students know he's a Northern graduate."

This is hardly an exhaustive account of NMU involvement and the U.P. 200 is among several annual events that draw student and employee volunteers. But the race is perhaps the most shining example of the university's impact in giving back to the surrounding community through service.

The 20th running of the U.P. 200 is scheduled for Feb. 20-22. ■



The NMU Constructors working on a Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans, where they happened to meet up with the crew of "This Old House," and were featured in an episode. They are pictured with the show's iconic carpenter, Norm Abram, bottom center.

Building a better world

Northern Michigan Constructors leave behind tangible proof of their commitment to community service at every project location.

In Escanaba, an injured marine and his family now have a home that is wheelchair accessible and more energy efficient. In the Hurricane Katrina-ravaged Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, hopeful facades emerged from the desolation because students willingly sacrificed most of their holiday break to install new roofs and siding. At the Suicide Bowl in Ishpeming, an elevated judge's stand offers an improved vantage point for ski jumping competitions. And in Marquette, the club's organization and design efforts contributed to a memorial overlooking the beach near Picnic Rocks. The resulting sculpted metal angel standing atop a stone monument was motivated by the tragic 2005 drowning deaths of two NMU students.

Activities like these helped the constructors earn

"Student Organization of the Year" at last spring's leadership banquet.

"Sure, it's nice to be recognized, but I don't believe that's the drive behind the members in the club stepping up to volunteer," says Colin Philipp, NMC vice president. "It's just who we are. We have some unique talents and when we pull all of our resources together, we can accomplish great things. I don't think that it's important if we are remembered for the work that we have done, but rather that we know personally and as a group what we can and have achieved as a team."

Co-adviser Daryl Delongchamp adds, "I'm extremely proud of what they've done in the past and they're just as aggressive this year. It's a very active and well-organized group. They've had a growth in members—30 percent or better over the last year or so. The Superior Edge helps with that because it gives incentives for students to join

and get involved.”

The Constructors group is composed mainly of construction management and building technology majors, but membership is open to anyone. Many of its service activities are facilitated through previously established relationships with local organizations.

Students have provided leadership and labor for Marquette County Habitat for Humanity projects. They helped the Kiwanis Club demolish its former pavilion at Sunset Point on Presque Isle and will rebuild it in the near future. Constructors also field requests from on-campus entities.

“We fabricated wood sign cutouts used to publicize the USOEC versus China event throughout the community and we’re helping to rebuild USOEC weightlifting platforms,” says Ben Herman, president. “We designed and built a new modular display wall system for exhibits at the Beaumier Heritage Center and a new display for the Student Art Gallery. We’ve also built a relationship with the hospitality management program, helping on several projects including the design and construction of props used at their dining events.”

Constructors expanded their outreach to the national level in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. That December, 10 members worked on a Habitat for Humanity house in Montgomery, Ala. Their efforts garnered an extensive feature story in the *Montgomery Advertiser*. Most recently—in December 2007—the organization raised \$10,000 to fund a trip to New Orleans for another Habitat project. Nineteen students made the trip and put in 640 hours.

NMC member James Conlin reflects on the experience: “We repaired three roofs, sided two houses, finished

trim work on two porches and did other miscellaneous jobs, yet it didn’t feel as though all that work made much of a dent in a city with so much left to rebuild.”

Constructors also partnered with Heroes at Home/Rebuilding Together, a national effort to assist military families who lack the financial or physical resources to complete home repairs and other necessary improvements. **Mark Bonovetz ’00 BS** recruited the club for this Escanaba project.

“We not only helped with the accessibility aspect of the home, but we also installed in-floor heating, more energy-efficient windows and insulation,” explains Philipp.

Despite many contributions of sweat equity, Constructors manage to inject some fun into their organization. “We like to work hard and play hard,” says Herman. “Each year we put on barbecues, softball games and an annual ice fishing outing at Harlow Lake. The club provides a perfect opportunity for its members to evolve both professionally and socially. It’s a great way to meet new people and take on new leadership roles.”

NMC secretary Jake Supa agrees: “I have made many lifelong friends being involved with the club. Being with so many amazing individuals on different volunteering projects is awesome. You really grow as a person, but your personality and hard work help others grow, too.”

The organization’s motto—“Service, Leadership, Respect”—doubles as its mode of operation.

“It’s not a matter of having to help; our members have a drive to help,” Philipp says. “We are construction people. We are about building a better world for everyone, not only for ourselves.” ■

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Emerging as Butterflies

By Cindy Paavola, '84 BS

Inspirational writer Richard Bach once penned, “All we see of someone at any moment is a snapshot of their life, there in riches or poverty, in joy or despair. Snapshots don't show the million decisions that led to that moment.”

It's a sentiment to which senior Betsy Ott and junior Richard Andersons can certainly relate. Today, they are viewed by student peers, faculty and staff as dynamic student leaders—a snapshot in time so different than the picture they have of themselves back in high school.

That was back before deciding to attend Northern Michigan University; before joining NMU's nationally recognized Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP) and getting involved with the university's new civic development Superior Edge program. It was back before life-changing international study and internships.

One could argue that all students change during the collegiate experience. Andersons and Ott can only add, “some more than others.”

Ott, who hails from Brooklyn, Wis., says that while she was “quiet” in high school, she was active in sports—basketball and softball—the marching band and art club.

“But I wasn't the one you noticed and whose name you knew. I was that kid who didn't really fall into a category. I was hard to describe,” she says.

Ott was set to attend St. Cloud State in Minnesota when her mom, a school psychologist, met an NMU admissions counselor and decided they had to check out Northern.

“I was so taken with the beauty

of the area, but what really got me was that as we walked around NMU on the campus tour, everybody kept saying hi to the student tour guide and most of them called her by name,” recalls Ott. “I thought that was amazing.”

Being impressed with a school that seemed high on interactivity among campus members, however, didn't translate into an engaged and interactive first semester for Ott, who says she “didn't do anything, didn't join anything, didn't make many friends.”



“I think the biggest difference in me is that I'm just confident now. I know I'm good at what I do. I can go anywhere and make a community for myself.”

“Toward the end of the year, I thought, ‘This is crazy. I need to get involved in something.’

She decided to run for an ASNMU student government

position and won. As an ASNMU representative, Ott met people all over campus and in the community, learned about issues and began taking steps on a service path. By the end of that year, she applied and was accepted into the SLFP program. She also arranged for a study abroad experience in the Czech Republic for the following winter semester.

“I was on a course to get involved, but being in SLFP gave me the kick to take things to the next level. It made me think about things differently,” the English major says. “Everybody hears about how change won't happen on its own, but being in SLFP turned that from something you hear people say to a choice about how you live.”

Ott got involved with Greenpeace when an organizational representative came on campus looking for a coordinator of an event called the International Day of Action, which highlights the effects of global warming. She signed up for the job, then spent equal amounts of time organizing things and wondering what she had gotten herself into. But she was hooked; she'd found a calling: advocating for the environment.

The Greenpeace connection continued. Two weeks after arriving in the Czech Republic, she received an e-mail from Greenpeace about an event at a coal mining site and was asked to participate.

“I said I'd go and then once I'd committed, I thought, ‘Oh my God. I don't speak Czech. I can't do this.’ Forcing myself to get up and go, to walk into that group not knowing anyone and with the language barrier was one of the hardest things I've ever done, but I did it. Today, whenever I'm intimidated by something, I think about that day,” Ott says.

Ott's SLFP community service internship was working with

Greenpeace. She attended numerous regional and national conferences on environmental issues and was soon called upon by different national organizations to help train other students on advocacy. Last spring, Ott was chosen by the Michigan Campus Compact for NMU's Commitment to Service Award.

With graduation just months away, Ott looks forward to a possible career in public policy, which makes her chuckle with irony, considering she never cared much for politics before coming to NMU.

"I think the biggest difference in me is that I'm just confident now. I know I'm good at what I do. I can go anywhere and make a community for myself," Ott says. "And I've learned how to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations. In fact, I've learned that the more scared I am about doing something, the more it means I should do it. To have programs where you can learn these kinds of lessons is a huge, huge asset to students. The bottom line is this: If I can learn to do the things I've done, anybody can do them. My advice: Just jump in."

Which is exactly what Rich Andersons didn't do in high school and had no intention of doing when he arrived at NMU from his hometown of Lawrence, Mich.

"In high school, I was very quiet," he says. "I got along with most people and I had friends, but none really close enough to do a lot of things with. Getting involved back then? I just didn't do it. And when I got to NMU, I wanted to go to class, study and stay in my safe dorm room."

Someone living down the hall, resident adviser and SLFP participant Jeron Schmidt, had other ideas.

"Basically, Jeron drove me nuts. He simply would not leave me be. He kept asking me to go to things

with him and others in the house. Finally I went to dinner with him just because I couldn't keep saying no. At dinner, he and the others asked me all kinds of questions about myself. I remember thinking, 'These people seem genuinely interested in me.' I didn't expect that."



"Before getting involved, I thought a leader had to have just the right credentials, but I know now that anyone and everyone who wants to lead can. If you're inspired and choose to step up, you can change things."

Schmidt later convinced Andersons to take the hall treasurer's position, which made him the only freshman on the hall government executive committee. The new experience left Andersons with another unexpected situation—an outright hunger to get involved. Different student organizations were next on his agenda, which led to a shocking discovery.

"I found out I like being around people. I mean I really, really liked people," he says.

When Andersons first considered applying for SLFP, he thought, "Am I up for this?"

"For me, applying to SLFP was a challenge. It was kind of surreal. I knew if I applied and was accepted that it would be a whole new place for me. I would be making a statement.

"I remember the interview. I was sure I wouldn't be chosen. I told myself, 'They're looking for people who are more outgoing, people who can talk in front of a group, people with lots of leadership credentials already on their resume,'" he says.

But he did get in and spent last year with the rest of the cerulean block in the leadership theory course, meeting with his mentor, attending Skill Builder workshops, choosing a community service internship and stretching his definition of leadership. He also served as president of Hunt's hall government.

"Before getting involved with programs like SLFP and now Superior Edge, I thought a leader had to have just the right credentials, but I know now that anyone and everyone who wants to lead can. If you're inspired and choose to step up, you can change things."

That new-found confidence served him well in an internship with Zurich Financial Services in Schaumburg, Ill., last summer, writing about insurance business technology integration.

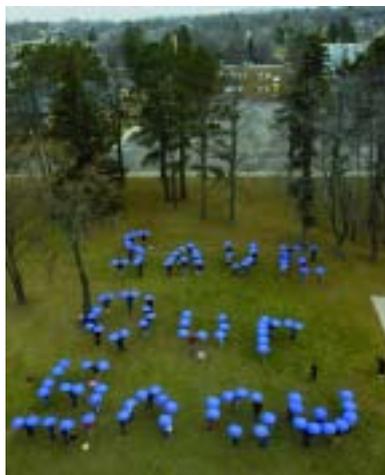
"Keep in mind that I've never worked in a business office in my life and I didn't know anything about insurance! But since coming to NMU and getting involved in all of the things I've gotten involved in, I've learned how to talk to be people, so that's what I did. Before I wrote anything, I'd find the person in charge of it and go and talk to them. They were so impressed that this intern was taking such initiative. That's just one example of what I've been learning to do here at Northern that I didn't even really realize I was

learning to do.”

This year, Andersons remains involved in several student groups and he’s now resident adviser for Hunt’s Arctic House. He’s also completing his SLFP community service internship, which consists of weekly after-school writing camps at Bothwell Middle School.

“When my old friends visit now, they are like, ‘Who are you?’ and I think that’s hilarious, but something that really moves me more is that even my parents have been impacted

by my activities at NMU. I think I’ve kind of motivated them to get



This artistic demonstration outside of Cohodas Hall was part of the campus project Ott organized for Greenpeace to build awareness of global warming.

out of their shells, too. My mom has started volunteering at the local school and my dad is getting out

more in general and becoming more active in the community,” he says and can’t help but smile.

Andersons says that being an RA has given him a chance to be the “Jeron Schmidt” for other NMU students.

“I tell other students, ‘You can be something different than who you were in high school. Look for opportunities you think you might like and just go for it. Break out of your box. Take up a leadership role.’ Some just nod their heads, but some are taking my advice. I’m living proof that it doesn’t take much to get started—sometimes nothing more than a decision to go to dinner!” ■

Dedicated mentor

By Rebecca Tavernini

The demands of being a student can be rigorous, and it’s easy to get so caught up in school that having a life outside of it seems barely possible. The same goes for adults wrapped up in their busy careers. But **Gloria Clocklin** ’75 BSN, a nursing professor, not only thinks it’s important to create a fuller life, she makes it happen—for herself and the many students she has mentored through the Student Leader Fellowship Program. “I was involved in several different groups in the community and I saw that I might help students see the possibilities for not only professional development after school, but also how to have a life outside of nursing,” Clocklin recalls about initially volunteering as a mentor.

She has been matched mostly with nursing students—about eight of them over the years—and they’ll do things they’re both interested in, like take Skill Builder workshops together, perhaps go hiking, biking or snowshoeing, meet for lunch or coffee, volunteer at an event, and maybe do some baking and bring goodies to a local homeless shelter or safe house for abused women. “The students who live in the dorms especially enjoy the cooking part!” she jokes. “They learn that it doesn’t take a huge commitment to make an impact on people.”



Gloria Clocklin with student fellow mentees Heather Lanenga ’99 BSN and Jenny Petiprin ’99 BSN, volunteering together at the Special Olympics.

Clocklin says her involvement with the Junior Red Cross in high school was an experience that influenced her whole life, and not just her career. Serving as a mentor is a continuation of that, and a chance to pay back mentors she had along the way. “Just spending time together, being there for them to bounce ideas off of, or to talk about breaking up with a boyfriend, or challenges at school—I find that very rewarding,” she says. “It’s also exciting to watch them grow, become student leaders and start their careers. Many of us keep in touch long after the mentorship is over.”

Alumni in action

Coaches for Life



By Rebecca Tavernini

Coaches Tom Schwab and Mike Lilleeng with the John Hersey High School 2008-2009 girls swim team

Why would two retired men choose to spend their days with 40 or so rowdy teenage girls? And then spend nights and weekends with a team of pubescent boys?

For **Tom Schwab '72 BA, '74 MA** the answer is simple: "I love volunteering, to coach and to teach, both boys and girls at all age levels and all types of teams." For **Mike Lilleeng '74 BS, '77 MA** being retired "gives me more time to thoughtfully plan workouts and give even more of my energy to the swimmers."

When Lilleeng decided to try out for the NMU swim team, little did he know that he'd be starting a lifelong teaching and coaching partnership and friendship—one full of

mentoring and inspiring others to succeed. Schwab came to NMU on a swimming and diving scholarship and immediately saw great talent in Mike. Both were studying to become teachers (Tom in industrial arts and Mike in physical education and biology) and hoped to coach as well.

They excelled on the swim team. Tom finished out his undergrad years at NMU as a two-time NCAA All-American and co-captain of the men's team, then continued on to coach diving with former head coach Don Trost. Lilleeng was cut short on a sure road to being an All-American when he was stricken with meningitis his junior year while en route to Florida for winter training with the

team. However, he went on to attain All-America status as a master's swimmer in later years in many events. At age 48, he placed second in YMCA nationals in the 100-yard butterfly and first at the Senior Olympics at age 50 in the 50-yard butterfly and 500-yard freestyle.

After recovering from the meningitis and entering the graduate program in health education, Lilleeng served as swimming coach while Trost became diving coach, leading his team to a top 10 finish, with multiple swimmers earning All-America honors (including Tim Kerwin, who was just inducted in NMU's Sports Hall of Fame.) With a career filled with only winning

seasons, Trost set the bar high for Tom and Mike. Schwab says of Trost: "What a winner and fantastic leader."

After a couple of years teaching at Wheeling High School, in a suburb of Chicago, Schwab had the opportunity to recruit Lilleeng, who had gone on to teach high school in Beloit, Wis., and coach two state champion boys swim teams. "Tom did such a great job of talking me up I was able to get the job at Wheeling," recalls Mike. "From this point on he and I taught and coached the boys and girls swim teams together for the next 30 years." Always a team, they alternated as head coach. Not surprisingly, the duo led many of the young athletes to state honors and even one to qualifying for the Olympic Trials. They have sent several of their students on to NMU, too, including Missy Baron (All-America diver) and Lisa Goodman (springboard diving national champion).

In 2000, Schwab was given the Service Award by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association and was inducted into the Lake County/Waukegan Hall of Fame.

"But our great achievement I feel is that we work with every student that comes out, no matter their ability," says Schwab. "Mike and I have always taken special needs students on our team, including MMI [mild mental impairment] students."

One of those students was Rick. "He never earned one point for the

team, but he taught us many real-life lessons about other people," recalls Schwab, who explains he used swimming as a reward system to help the student learn how to make change for a dollar and how to tell time. "Every meet our swimmers, and the audience, would be cheering like crazy when Rick would finish, with great pride." Rick went on to earn a varsity award.

"I felt a great personal need to gain a better understanding of the special needs students, who I felt were often misunderstood," explains Schwab, who went back to school to earn another master's degree (a third), this time in special education.

After retirement, the pair

teer coaches youth baseball and softball, which he has been doing for 30 years, with equally stellar success. He also enjoyed returning to Northern to

assist running the National Swimming and Diving Championship meet and the NCAA diving event and to judge at the NCAA National Championships. (His wife, Carol [Sepanek], attended NMU for three years and the couple loves to come back to Marquette, as do Mike and his wife.)

When so many people long for the relaxation of retirement, why do these two keep so involved?

"I like working with student athletes to try to improve them in swimming as well as their future. It also keeps me involved in a sport I like and makes me feel good about myself," says Lilleeng.

"Coach Mike Lilleeng and I coach together during our retirement every day, as we both were invited back because of our teams' successes. We work well together and can read each other's minds both in a coaching relationship and as best friends."

were asked to continue coaching swimming and diving at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, Ill. Last year, their team was undefeated in the regular season. Schwab was recruited to also teach and coach part time at an alternative school for special education students. In addition, he volun-

"I simply love teaching and coaching. It's still a big high for me!" adds Schwab. "I've had an exceptionally lucky career, being able to enjoy a lifetime of achievement with a teammate and best friend." ■

Tom and Mike would love to hear from their classmates and teammates: mikelilleeng@comcast.net tom.schwab@d214.org



Tom Schwab with national diving champ Lisa Goodman '85 BS, whom he coached in high school.



Mike Lilleeng (left) with friend Jim Rivers '74 BS at Presque Isle in 1976.

Shawn Brown is pictured at left, working with a community AIDS program in Kenya.

By Kristi Evans

Mission possible



If a commitment to service is somehow embedded in our DNA and if **Shawn Brown '07 BA** passes on even a portion of the charitable gene to her first child—due in January—the world will be better for it.

While enrolled at NMU as an athletic training major in the pre-med program, Brown amassed an impressive service record on campus and across the globe. She has continued on the same track at the University of Michigan, despite the rigors of medical school. Impending motherhood might have interrupted a planned trip to Haiti last summer, but it has not diminished her drive to make a difference.

“I think of volunteering as a way of life—I’ve never thought of not volunteering,” Brown says. “Northern was an amazing environment for it because the smaller size gave me opportunities I wouldn’t have had at a larger university and direct access to the people who could make it happen. Northern also embraces globalization to the extent other universities don’t. If you’re willing to look, there are plenty of ways to get involved.”

One option is the Superior Edge, which helped Brown identify “gaps” in her engagement in domestic diversity. Another is the International Volunteering Student Organization, which Brown established at NMU with encouragement from an adviser to increase awareness of overseas service options. She led by example, traveling on service missions to Kenya, East Timor and Peru.

Brown worked with grassroots organizations in remote Kenyan villages on women’s empowerment and AIDS/sexual education programs. The latter included home visits to registered AIDS patients. Brown offered

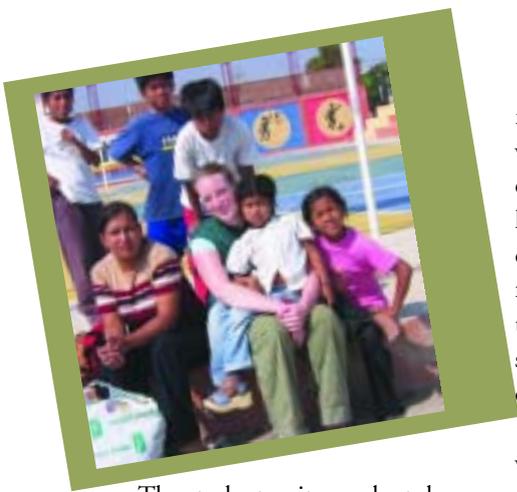
whatever help she could—from nutritional support and education to counseling and medications.

“We tried to make their home life as easy as possible,” she says. “There’s a stigma in tribal Kenya that AIDS is punishment for something you did and families often disown or ignore individuals after a diagnosis. But what was eye-opening to me is that people weren’t dying of AIDS; they were dying of starvation. They created everything they ate. If they got sick, they couldn’t fish or work the land, which meant they couldn’t produce food and eat. The cycle would just continue. It’s interesting to think of not being able to go to a corner grocery store to get what you need.”

“I hadn’t been outside of Michigan and my first-ever airplane flight was to Kenya, so you could say I was thrust into a very different culture. I had a hard time reconciling myself to living by tribal society rules. But the people were welcoming and seemed genuinely thrilled to have me there. It was a self-driven environment. I filled in where I could.”

Brown arranged the trip herself and traveled solo, but she was accompanied by NMU peers on future missions.

In East Timor, a trio of pre-med students spent two months at the Bairo Pite Clinic. Brown says it was founded by Dr. Dan Murphy, a U.S. physician born in Ishpeming, and is one of only two major medical facilities in the country. Both are staffed by Timorese nurses and administrative assistants, but rely on overseas volunteers to serve as doctors. The country regained its independence earlier this decade, and 20 years of Indonesian occupation and genocide left behind palpable deficits in medical services and infrastructure.



The students witnessed a tuberculosis epidemic and worked mostly in the clinic emergency room, assisting with wound care. They stayed in shipping crates that had been converted into living units, complete with air-conditioning.

In Peru, Brown and other NMU students assisted teachers at schools in the slums outside Chiclayo and moonlighted as English language instructors. Their daytime role extended beyond the classroom. Sometimes they wandered through

neighborhoods, looking for children who weren't in school. Youth often earn money for their families by collecting tickets on buses and other odd jobs. Brown talked to their families about the value of education, to convince them that children could secure more lucrative jobs if they continued on to secondary school.

"The three service trips I took while I was at Northern completely changed my life and outlook. I never realized before I went just what it was like overseas and how good we have it here. From a personal perspective, it was empowering. I wasn't sure I had enough resources or knowledge to help anyone, but when you go somewhere with so little, everything you do makes a huge difference. I was a licensed EMT, so the first two missions involved a lot of basic medical work. That hands-on and health education experience were more up my alley and really cemented my

mission to do overseas medical work as a career."

At the University of Michigan, Brown is involved in the Student Alliance for Global REACH, a larger version of the organization she started at NMU. After completing her surgical residency, her goal is to work nine months out of the year in a stateside clinic near her and her husband's families in Traverse City, and spend the remaining three months in foreign clinics, doing work with trauma relief.

"My extended family has gone on international missions to Haiti and China and a cousin works for the United Nations on refugee resettlement work. I think the impetus for me to volunteer came from them."

It looks like Brown will likely ignite a similar passion that will extend her family's tradition of service to a new generation. ■

One net at a time

The Northern Michigan University student chapter of Nothing But Nets figures that even from halfway around the world, it protected 480 lives last year.

The group of about 75 NMU students raised more than \$1,200 in its first year of existence, which helped to buy 120 insecticide-treated, anti-malaria bed nets used to protect African families at night, which is when the vast majority of the malaria-causing blood parasite, *Plasmodium*, is transmitted from mosquitoes. Each net can protect a family of four for up to four years.

The national Nothing But Nets campaign was created by the United Nations Foundation following the outpouring of response to former *Sports Illustrated* writer Rick Reilly's April 2006 column about his family bringing the wrong kind of nets—sports-related nets—to the children of Tanzania, when what they needed most desperately were bed nets.

Each year, about a half-billion people (or the equivalent of the population of Canada, Mexico and the United States combined) are infected and more than a million people die—about a person every 30 seconds. Malaria is

the leading cause of death of children in Africa.

The NMU chapter of the national organization was started by students Allison Gager and Stevie Fisher, both of Marquette.

"We had been involved in the project through a social justice committee at our church," says Fisher. "After a couple projects there, we saw that the cause was very effective in our area. We felt that through Northern it would give students an opportunity to help internationally."

Among the group's fund-raising efforts were a raffle, a car wash, an auction, contribution tables and a very successful fashion show.

"A lot of students want to make a change in the world, and this is a way to do it. They know that the time and energy they spend working with us directly affects and saves lives," Fisher says.

Fisher added that several of the group members have traveled to Africa in the past. "Those who have said that the bed nets are just a way of life; they're a necessity to protect yourself. One girl who helped us out last year grew up in Africa and when she was young, a close friend died from malaria. I think that put it into perspective for a lot of people."

Assignment: Thailand



One of the outside vendors in Singburi making guai dio nam - noodle soup. Thailand air conditioning.



Becky Korpi '07 BS signed up for the Peace Corps shortly before graduating from NMU. She is now with the Corps teaching English in Thailand in an elementary school and short-session "camps." She also has recently been appointed co-editor of Peace Corps Thailand's volunteer magazine, Sticky Rice. Following are excerpts from her blog.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008

Lost Count

Last week Eric John, the United States ambassador to Thailand, swore me and my 53 colleagues in as official Peace Corps volunteers. There were representatives from the Royal Thai Government and Washington, and we took the same oath that is given to members of Congress and other government employees—"protect against all enemies foreign and domestic" and suchlike. We looked over the words beforehand, but once we said them they weighed down the air in the room. Those words can't be taken lightly, no matter how good a sense of humor you have.

But Eric John, surprisingly, is a hilarious guy. "Today you are all ambassadors to Thailand. No wait, there's just one, and that's me." He's also got one of the most amazing speaking voices I've ever heard. If he wanted to narrate an audio book, even a motorcycle repair manual, I'd buy seven.

Now I live in Buriram province; six hours from Bangkok, a million years from being able to take care of itself. People stare at me and wonder what I'm doing here, but they still smile because they're Thai and that's

what they do. I am currently staying with Jeab, my 29-year old teaching counterpart, and it's been a helluva trip so far. Just today alone we drove to Prakhon Chai in a death trap truck, almost hit several things because the wheel doesn't turn well, got locked out for a good hour because the doors stick, and nearly ended up in a ditch because it was raining and we weren't able to locate the wiper button. All the while with her 2-year old screaming in the cab.

TIT: This Is Thailand. You either roll with it or go home, and I'd rather not go back to Michigan when it's still winter.

Tomorrow I'm renting a house. Not an apartment, a house. I have two to choose from, one with air conditioner and one that's more gorgeous than any home I have ever lived in. I have \$16,000 baht and a craving for independence.

Jeab and I just bought papaya salad, sticky rice and fresh mangoes from the market, so it's time to chow and then chase her sons around for awhile. The school year doesn't start until May 16 here, so actual work isn't necessary for weeks yet.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008

Lucky

I thought it would never stop raining in Buriram. When it did, 22,000 people were dead next door in Burma.

Then when we had our backs turned, our neighbor





Ja, Jeab's youngest son, who will be 2 next month. He's either contemplating the fascinating history of the Phnom Rung ruins or he's just in need of a nap. My fourth graders presenting their favorite colors. Note their uniforms; this style is the same throughout Thailand.



to the north—China—had an earthquake and an additional 10,000 people lost their lives. All Peace Corps China volunteers and staff are accounted for and safe, thank goodness. There is no Peace Corps Burma, also thank goodness.

Jeab and I sit in a small but expensive hotel room in SaKaeo province, watching the rain return to Thai skies and drinking cold glasses of rum and Pepsi. If women are seen drinking in this country it's a decision that follows them the rest of their lives, but once a month Jeab and I find a remote place and indulge with just one drink. It's enough to endure whatever's coming for the next four weeks, whether it's from man or nature.

Our hotel—the River Resort—caters to foreign tourists by having bilingual signs and menus, but the TV channels speak no trace of recognizable English. The news is all the same and so Jeab does not translate for me. We were invited to SaKaeo to participate in a teacher training that fellow volunteer Chris was hosting; it's business as usual in Thailand while the rest of Asia scrambles for aid and answers.

"What do we call this in English?" Jeab asks, her almond eyes focused hard on the TV screen. She is not pointing to a specific object, so I know she's inquiring about the situation—the devastation, loss of life and shock combined. Peace Corps didn't put us together for our shallow thinking, that's for sure.

"Two near-misses," I answer. It's not always easy to translate the kinds of things she wants to know, but I try. She looks this up in the battered English-Thai dictionary that she bought at the Sunday market and nods with satisfaction.

"The gypsy said you'd be smart," she adds a few minutes later, changing the channel to an American movie

that has been dubbed—poorly—in Thai.

Her English is still developing and is therefore usually straightforward, but every once in awhile she throws me completely off. "Arai na ka?" ("Pardon?") I ask.

"You were supposed to be 24 years old but she got the rest right." This is one of those moments where she keeps the specifics vague on purpose and she knows it drives me batty.

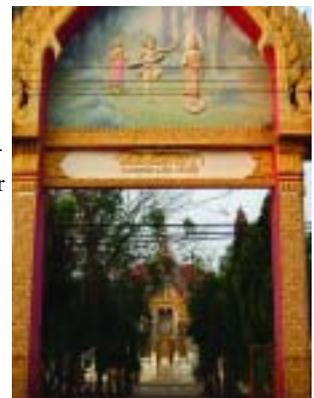
It's starting to rain hard again and we know the floors will be wet when we get home (Jeab's house is cursed with leaky ceilings). But with the air conditioning on full tilt and a strange Thai voice coming from Matt Damon's mouth, we also know how lucky we are and celebrate by playing "rock, paper, scissors" to see who goes down to the lobby for more ice.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008

Kuhn Kruu

My fourth graders pick flowers for me so that I'll sing for them at the end of the day. But it can't be something as short and sweet as the ABC's; it has to be something uniquely American with a catchy tune and a lot of words. They're absolutely hungry for my native language, always listening and watching my mouth with careful concentration.

The media and their parents tell them that America is the future and English is the vessel of passage. You can see it while they practice "Hello, what is your name?"





Playing a balloon game of Jeab's creation to help remember colors. Jeab, my trusted and loyal teaching counterpart. She also doubles as my landlady and partner in crime.

with each other, the intensity in their eyes as though the rest of their lives depend on this lesson.

But the singing thing is my own fault. I have a habit of filling silences by softly crooning something, whatever's in my head at the moment. As broad of a musical horizon as I have (everything from Arlo Guthrie to Warren Zevon on my iPod), it's usually something gutless and poppy from the mainstream. I'm like an American radio a notch above "mute" while I walk around my cramped classroom surveying my kids' work. Sonic wallpaper, as my NMU music prof. Floyd Slotterback used to say.

They're absolutely hungry for my native language, always listening and watching my mouth with careful concentration... In this way, I pay more attention to how beautiful my own language is.

In this way, I pay more attention to how beautiful my own language is. I sing every word slowly and clearly for my kids, and they marvel at the most common words because the sounds are brand new to them.

This week was Rhianna and Nelly Furtado. Next week will be Madonna because her 80's hits are probably easier for them to pick up. Luckily I just bought five of her albums on one CD for 300 baht (about \$5) at a Bangkok market. For as disillusioned as Thais are about catering to Americans, they at least know how to make a good deal that no foreigner can refuse.

I will probably completely lose my voice in two years, but having a fresh cupful of jasmine and buttercups on my desk every morning trumps everything. ■



Me and my supervisor, Atchara Buayam. She could make my life miserable if she wanted to, but as you can see there's nothing but love here.

The Peace Corps Tradition at NMU

The Peace Corps loves to recruit at NMU. The number of students who are interested in the Corps and sign up for service "is impressive for this size of a school," says recruiter Julia Capizzi. On top of that, NMU students bring with them impressive qualities. "They tend to be engaged, open-minded, curious, flexible and adaptable," she adds—a backpack full of skills that are crucial to those who undertake the 27-month commitment. Not only does she find full houses at NMU information sessions and invitations into many classrooms, she's met with enthusiasm and a real respect for what Peace Corps does and the power it has to make a resumé glow.

While a stint with the Corps can be a great transition between school and work or grad school, its life-changing powers are open to people of any age, as **James Peters '78 BS**, age 52, is finding out. He started serving in Cape Verde, Africa, this summer, where he'll be facilitating vocational education for post-secondary students and creating construction jobs. "After working 28 years [for a major automotive company], it's just time to give back," he told the *Oakland Press*. "I want to share my experiences and knowledge and hopefully make a difference in others' lives." Capizzi adds that the Peace Corps has just launched an initiative to bring more people age 50 and older into the Corps and "hear the call."

Foundation news

Tool of the trade

NMU premedical graduates get more than a diploma when they cross the stage. Because entering medical school means facing a long road filled with challenges, it has been a tradition at Northern to give these graduates a head start by equipping them with a medical tool so basic that it is easily overlooked: a stethoscope.

Each year, eight to twelve NMU students entering medical school receive the gift of a stethoscope. In the past, the stethoscopes have been paid for out of the annual premedical program operating budget. Now, thanks to the generosity of two NMU premed alums, this tradition of recognition and support will continue for years to come while freeing up money that can be used elsewhere in the premed program.

In 2006, with a gift of \$13,000, alumna **Dr. Jeanne Groos '79 BS** established a fund to pay for the stethoscopes. At the same time, she also established the Physician Alumni Scholarship that helps offset tuition costs for juniors or seniors who are participating in the NMU premedical program. Groos is board certified in pediatrics and currently has a practice with the Ministry Medical Group in Stevens Point, Wis.



Now, the stethoscope has been fully endowed through a gift from Groos' premed classmate, **Dr. Janet Balbierz '80 BS**. Balbierz has donated \$12,000 to the fund to bring it to its endowment level of \$25,000. She practices physical medicine and rehabilitation in Utah.

The Stethoscope Endowment Fund is a unique and important way to support premed graduates, to recognize their efforts and to encourage them in their upcoming endeavors in a way that will reach far beyond our campus into the world of health care and medical research. It is a gift that will be remembered day after day, patient after patient, heartbeat after heartbeat.

Leading the Parents Fund

Diane and Greg Besse of Gladstone have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the NMU Parents Fund. Diane and Greg have two children attending Northern, Gabrielle, a senior, and Cain, a sophomore.

"We were very excited to take an active role in the parents fund" says Diane. "This is a great way for us to contribute to our children's educational success."

For many years, the family has been a part of the NMU community, and they weren't surprised when their kids made the decision to attend NMU. "We have been NMU hockey season ticket holders for many years,"

adds Greg, president and owner of Besse Forest Products Group. "From a young age, our kids were familiar with NMU and the Marquette community. We visited several different colleges in the Midwest, but both Gabrielle and Cain knew Northern was the best fit."



As co-chairs of the fund, the Besses are strong advocates of providing an education that creates

the widest variety of opportunities for NMU students to travel, extend their learning beyond the classroom, explore new experiences and other cultures, develop as citizens and leaders and have the best campus experience possible.

Diane and Greg hope their active role in the parents fund will serve as an example for other NMU parents. "As parents, we can all get involved in a way that is productive for our kids and beneficial to the university. The parents fund is one of the most direct ways to do this."

To date, the parents fund has raised over \$200,000 in pledged gifts and continues to be one of the most successful annual fund-raising programs at NMU.

Honoring unsung heroes

*While picking up shells on the beach today,
I found a fragment of what must have been a magnificent conch...
an exquisite shard...a remnant of a masterpiece.*

Holding it gently, I tried to imagine the part as the whole.

What it was like at its best, before it was broken by time and the churning sea.

It must have been an elegant creature, a prime example of its species.

I thought of my mother, who was, before she was broken by time and degenerative disease, a prime example of our species.

Those of us who remember the bright, gracious, lovely lady that she was at her best, are grateful when you, who know only the remaining fragment of herself, handle her gently and with respect, as a once magnificent shell.

John Argeropoulos '60 BA quotes from this poem by Phyllis Yingling in explaining what helped inspire a scholarship he and his wife, **Mary '68 MA**, created to support caregivers at the nursing home where his mother resided. "The fact that the Mather staff was able to nurture my mother for 10 long years of deteriorating health (she was almost 100 when she died), speaks volumes about their dedication, compassion and quality care, especially when she had reverted back to her native language (Greek)," John says. "But they never gave up on her."

The couple established the James and Barbara Argeropoulos Scholarship, in honor of John's parents, to support health professionals at Mather Nursing Home in Ishpeming. The awards are given to employees or their dependents

who are studying in a care-related field at NMU.

"We are very grateful to the important service that these unsung heroes are providing to the frail elderly in our communities," he says. "They come in and do such difficult work day after day, year after year. Many make minimum wage, with few benefits. Yet they serve others because they see it as a privilege to do so."

The Argeropouloses also help fund in-service support and

self-renewal training for the staffs of all nursing homes, hospice programs and home care workers in Marquette County.

"What would really be wonderful," John says, "is the possibility that other alumni might be inspired to contribute to the Foundation fund and by pooling our resources designate scholarships for caregivers at other Marquette County nursing homes or facilities where they may have a parent, grandparent or spouse—and allow them to benefit from a Northern education just as we have—while thanking them for the care they provide."



The Emericks celebrating their 50th anniversary in the Swiss Alps.

Book smart

Most people, at some point in their lives, have found themselves in need due to circumstances beyond their control. This is particularly true for students who often pursue their education on a shoestring budget.

With this in mind, Lon and Lynn Emerick are re-establishing the Emerick Book Fund that they originally founded in 2002. The fund was started to assist students who, through unusual circumstances, find themselves without money to buy their textbooks.

In a note to award recipients, the Emericks state, "When we were students and later in first jobs, there were people who saw we were working hard, but struggling, and gave us an encouraging word, a bag of groceries, an invitation to a meal. That feeling of support, and the knowledge that someone believed we were worth helping out, has lasted with us over many years. All we were asked, and all we ask of you, is that you 'pay it forward.' Someday—when you are able—find a way to help out someone else."

There is no cap on the number of awards, which do not count against financial aid. Money awarded is put on account at the NMU Bookstore.

Lon is an NMU professor emeritus and the couple run a publishing company.



Mary, Barbara and John Argeropoulos, celebrating Barbara's 99th birthday at the nursing home where she received gentle care for over 10 years.

Alumni in touch

Missing Alumni

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

Jack B. Griffin '23

William W. Nicholls '46

Gretchen O. (Olmsted) Tompkins '58

Frank J. Waitrovich '58

Paul E. Kirschner '60

Jan C. Larson '65

Mary (Hendrickson) Beckley '71

Barbara A. (Burkman) Sippola '75

Geraldine L. Smith '82

Christine M. (Tornberg) Niemi '89

Jeffrey S. Cashman '92

Ann M. (LaCosse) Halvorson '93

Dwayne S. Smith '97

Jonathan D. Cooper '04

Megan E. Anthony '08

Lifetime Members

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

Nancy L. Cunningham '78

Dr. Scott '78 and Deanne (Hanson) '80 Pynnonen

Dr. Janet M. Balbierz '80

Mary L. Myllyla '83, '89

Dr. Marianne T. Erickson '89

Michelle A. (Hiebel) Todzy '90

Lawrence Wilkins, Jr. '92

Daniel '99 and Amanda (Miettinen) '00 Huyck

Jerome G. Lombardo '01

Dr. Kathryn Prevost '02

Brian M. Johnson '05

Timothy '04 and Angela (Graves) '06 Tanis

NMU alumni honored

Four alumni were recognized for their achievements at a celebration brunch during Homecoming:

Outstanding Young Alumni Award



Heather

Albrecht '96

BS, of Chicago, is vice president of non-profit services for RuffaloCODY, the nation's largest and oldest higher education fund-raising consulting/ software firm. Her areas of expertise are helping to design and oversee annual giving fund-raising efforts for colleges and universities. As a student at NMU, Albrecht was supervisor for telephone campaigns and oversaw the telemarketing program. She later was promoted to associate director of the annual fund and served as co-founder of the NMU Student Alumni Foundation.

Alumni Achievement Award



Mike Ross '76

BME, of

Appleton, Wis., is director of bands at Appleton West High School.

His groups have been invited to perform at the Wisconsin State Music Convention and have done concert tours in Italy, Germany, France, England and Greece. Ross has held many positions in different orchestras and symphonies in the Midwest, including conductor of the Green Bay Youth Symphony and principal timpanist with the

Green Bay Symphony Orchestra. He played football at NMU from 1972-74, then played in the "Pride of the North" marching band. He holds a master's in music education from Northwestern University.

Distinguished Alumni Awards



Larry Inman

'76 BS, of

Traverse City, is a retired vice president of Huntington National Bank. He serves as

Traverse County Commissioner and has been instrumental in assisting with economic development for the county. He holds a number of positions on various local and state boards, including the State of Michigan Community Corrections Board. He served four years on the NMU Board of Trustees and recently began a term with the NMU Foundation Board.



Duane

Vandebusch '59

BS, of Gunnison, Colo., is a history professor at Western State College of Colorado and the

author of six books. He also is a nationally recognized, recently retired, cross country and track and field coach. He coached 10 NCAA national championship teams, both men and women, and was a seven-time recipient of the national "Cross Country Coach of the Year" award. He holds a master's and doctorate in education from Oklahoma State University.

Wildcat Night Across the County, February 13

The NMU Alumni Association's annual Wildcat Night Across the Country celebration is Friday, Feb. 13. The NMU hockey team faces off against Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., The game broadcast begins at 8 p.m. on CBS College Sports Network.

Now is the time to plan a Wildcat Night Across the Country party for your area. All you have to do is find a local sports bar or restaurant that gets the CBS College Sports Network and then work with the staff to allow Wildcat fans to convene there. Once that is in place, let the NMU alumni office know. We'll publicize the location and details of your event, send out e-mail invitations to area alumni and send you a "party package" that includes green and gold decorations.

Heading into the 2008-09 season, Coach Walt Kyle said, "I am excited about the prospects for our team this season. We have a number of returning faces and will also sprinkle in some new names that we feel can help us. Our run over the second half of last year and into the playoffs will hopefully provide us with experience and make us a strong team to contend with this season. After watching

us on the ice in the pre-season, I really feel we have the most exciting group of players we have had in quite some time.

As a coach you can never tell how that

translates into wins, but I can assure you we have some guys that will get our fans out of their seats. It should be an exciting year."

Last year, the Wildcats met the Fighting Irish three times, with a final score of 2-1 each time. In the January home series, the 'Cats won the first game and lost the second. NMU beat the nationally ranked Irish in the consolation game of the CCHA Championship at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit in March.

Let's make this the biggest and best Wildcat Night Across the Country ever. Be a 'Cat on the prowl—organize an event for NMU alumni in your area. Thanks to those who have served as Wildcat Night coordinators in the past. This program has been successful, in large part, because of you.



A Wildcat Night gathering in Asheville, N.C.

Thank you for supporting the Annual Fund at Northern Michigan University.

I was thrilled to find out I was a recipient of an annual fund scholarship, but I was even more excited when I heard it was made possible by NMU alumni and friends. What a cool feeling to know that those who were once in my shoes are now the ones giving back.

For me, your gift meant more time to focus on my research. For others, it provided study abroad experiences, tutoring sessions, new lecture series, internship opportunities, new lab equipment and more. Every gift is making a difference, every student is benefiting, and every donor deserves our thanks.

I guess you could say your gift is like a pat on the back that says, "Keep up the good work!"

And knowing that you have invested in me and my future, I will.

Adrienne Bozic

Thank you



Adrienne researches rare plants at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.



NMU
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Keeping track

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; or send via the Web at 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 ■ HORIZONS@NMU.EDU

 NMU Alumni Association member

 NMU Alumni Association lifetime member

'60s

L. E. Ward '66 BA, '67 MA has been chosen for the 2008 Editor's Choice Award from the International Library of Poetry.

 **Gary Johnson '67 BS** has retired from a 37-year human resources and certified safety professional career. grjsafetyconsult@aol.com

Norm Virenus '69 BS retired from teaching in the Lena, Wis., School District after 39 years of service.

'70s

Robert Bolitho '70 BS of Lyman, S.C., is serving in Kampala, Uganda, as business manager for the African Bible University. ptlalways@prodigy.net

Irma Hamilton '71 BA of Southfield has been appointed director of education with the Detroit Zoological Society.

 **Don Stacks '71 BA** was recently elected as a distinguished teaching fellow by the Eastern Communication Association. He is program director of the School of Communications at the University of Miami.

 **Marlane Bengry '72 BS** of Bellbrook, Ohio, retired in June as a personnel director with Delphi Corporation after 31 years.

Tim Furno '72 BS has been inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

 **Gregory Hekel '72 BS** has recently retired after 33 years as an intelligence officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, serving in the U.S. and overseas.

Bonnie Ledy '72 BS retired as principal of St. Ignace schools after more than 35 years of service.

 **Margaret Coughlin '73 BS** was recently elected chair of the Eastern Michigan Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association. She specializes in environmental law.

Michael Webb '73 BS of Crystal Falls was recently elected chairman of the executive committee of Michigan Bankers Title of the Upper Peninsula.

Garry Parrett '73 BS, '78 MAE, '82 MAE retired in June after 34 years with Wausaukee, Wis., School District.

Judith (Mills) Vanderwalker '73 BSN of Marshfield, Wis., has retired as nurse practitioner in internal medicine at Marshfield Clinic after 34 years in the nursing profession.

Randy Middlin '74 BS retired in July after serving the Vassar School System for 34 years, most recently as superintendent.

Jean, Joan and Jan Ball '74 BS, '74 BS and '76 BS are sisters who have retired from Menominee Area Public Schools after a combined 99 years of service. They jointly received the 2008 Menominee City District Education Association Outstanding Person in Education, and the Marinette-Menominee Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year.



Michael Roesner '74 BS retired from the U.S. Navy as rear admiral in September, after 39 years with the Navy, most recent-

ly as commander, Naval Inventory Control Point, in Mechanicsburg/Philadelphia. His sea and shore tours have included points around the world, from the Antarctic to Hawaii. He has also received numerous medals for outstanding service and achievement.

Mary Tippet '75 BA has been named senior director of marketing at Marquette General Health System, overseeing community relations and marketing, printing services and volunteers.

Thomas Cornell '76 BS of St. Louis, Mo., has earned his doctoral degree in educational leadership from St. Louis University.



Tom Kelly '76 BS of Grandville has received the Outstanding Alumni K-12 Teacher Award from the

Michigan State University College of Education Alumni Association. He is a science specialist with Grandville Public Schools.

'80s

Bob Waddell '80 BS is a business development manager for LCD Displays for Avnet, and would love to hear from "the old marketing crew." He and wife **Sandy (Perry) '80 BSN** live in South Lyon. bob.waddell@avnet.com



Abe Zain '84 BS of Sault Ste. Marie was recently elected president of the Michigan Industrial and Technology Education

Society, the state's only industrial arts teacher organization.

Michael Parejko '88 BS has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Indiana Blood Center.



'90s

Tim Thomas '92 BS has been hired as the director of administration and finance for the Catholic Diocese of Marquette.

Jennifer Roth '93 BS was hired last March as the K-6 principal of Hesperia Community Schools.

Kathleen Heideman '94 MA was selected for the artist at Pine Needles residency in St. Croix, Minn., and also as artist in residence at Isle Royale National Park.

Angie (Gaspar) Griepentrog '96 BS and her husband, Roger, of Freedom, Wis., have won five Wisconsin Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Contest awards for their paper, *The Freedom Pursuit*.

Eric Mason '96 BS of Marquette is a pharmaceutical sales rep for Eli Lilly. The company recruits NMU grads

and provides real case scenarios for NMU marketing strategy classes. mason_eric_w@lilly.com

Travis Conley '96 BS, '99 MA and his wife welcomed son Bjorn in February.

Randy Schaedig '96 MAE was recently appointed science coordinator for the Midland Public Schools.



Donald Archambeau '97 BS, '99 MPA of Alexandria, Va., has been promoted to human resources generalist with EIT (Electronic Instrumentation and Technology). darchambeau@eitinc.com

Bridget Gazlay '98 BSW was recently named the American Christian Writers 2008 Writer of the Year. fabriccards101@charter.net

Jim Lorenson '98 MPA of Ironwood was recently named president of Gogebic Community College.

Kristin Biekkola-Vergstegen '99 BS and husband, Jamie, of Appleton, Wis., welcomed their first child, Nathaniel Lee, in April. biekkola@fvtc.edu

'00s

Andrew Zager '00 BFA is digital media engineer for a new casino and resort in Las Vegas. He is also an award-winning photographer. aczphotos@mac.com

Lori (Morgan) Friend '00 BS of Houghton Lake is working as a career adviser for the Roscommon County Michigan Works! lorifriend@webtv.net

Kerry Slife '01 BS of Rocky River,



Ohio, is working for SearchPath International and recently spent 10 weeks in Vienna, Austria, where she was invited to play rugby on the Women's Austrian National Team, and the Vienna City team, which won the national championship.

Daryl Vizina '01 BS was the keynote speaker at the spring commencement ceremony for Inland Lakes High School.

Dionne '01 BS and George Jackson '03 BS recently came back to Michigan (Troy) from Washington D.C. In October of last year they welcomed their second child, Geremiah. bicepbulletin@gmail.com

Orion Couling '02 BS and his sister, Emily, a student at NMU, taught stage fighting workshops at the Soo Theatre this summer.

Julie (Schenning) '03 BA and Grant Murray '04 BS of Gurnee, Ill., welcomed baby girl, Aubry, in October. jmurray@alumni.nmu.edu

Michael Barnhart '03 BS has joined the Coalition for Christian Outreach to work with students at the University of Findlay in partnership with Gateway Church.

Jennifer Yatchak '03 BS recently received her master's degree in physician assistant practice from the College of Health Professions at Rosalind Franklin University.

Scott '03 BS and Ragen Toennesen '03 BA of Lombard, Ill., became the parents of an adopted son, Dane, in May. stoennes@alumni.nmu.edu

 **Timothy Tanis '04 BA** recently accepted a position as the compensation manager for Cabela's in Sidney, Neb. ttanis@alumni.nmu.edu

Scott Fluette '04 BS of Traverse City works for the Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos as a hotel manager. scott.fluette@charter.net

Amber (Pairolero) Quigley '04 BS was the honorary speaker at the Watersmeet High School commencement this spring.



Jeff '04 BS and Amanda Beneteau '05 BSN live in Phoenix, Ariz. Jeff is employed as a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch in Scottsdale. Amanda is a registered nurse with the Mayo Clinic hospital in Phoenix.
jeffrey_beneteau@ml.com

Jackie Dummer '05 BS has been promoted to account executive with the health-care practice group Weber Shandwick.

Derek Main '05 BS has been appointed manager of All-Phase Electric Supply Company in Marquette.

Alexander Hansen '07 BFA recently had a digital print titled "Azureus Sapiens" (below) accepted to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. He is also writing a documentary about his experience converting a combustion vehicle to an electric vehicle.



Dustin Skerbeck '07 BS is the general manager of the family business, Skerbeck Brothers Carnival. He started working in the carnival at age 5.

R. J. Walters '07 BS has been named sports editor for the *Hillsdale Daily News*.



Amy Chartier '08 BS worked as a nature instructor at Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay this summer.

Marriages

Jennifer Ketola '94 AB to Steven Haldane.

Rebecca Rudden '97 AS to Kevin Smith '06 Cert.

Amy Cameron '99 BS to William DeGraw.

Richard Gleeson '99 BS to Jennifer Johnson '01 Voc.

Lori Barborich '00 BS, '07 BSN to David Peura '06 BS.

Susan Chouinard '00 BS to Brian Ellis.

Christopher Penney '00 BS to Megan Kippola.

Anthony Crispigna '01 BS, '02 BS, '07 MS to Lacey Klucas '04 BS.

Joshua Cittadino '02 AAS to Danielle Magnuson.

Holly Lawer '02 BS to Jeremy Letson.

Jennie Arduin '03 BS to Adam Thill.

Benjamin Bursack '03 BS to Melissa Hedberg '07 BS.

Dana Ferguson '04 BS to Rebecca Kraemer '04 BS.

Kimberly Malandron '04 Cert. to Alan Swanson '05 BS.

Joshua Olson '04 BS to Danielle Ventre '07 BS.

Kelly Schlumpf '04 AB to Donald Thurber.

Lindsay Schneider '04 BA to Chad Lindstrom '07 BS.

Chelsee Bergman '05 BSN to Joshua Bal '06 BS.

Kristin Finco '05 BS to Michael Pfarr.

Danielle Lawrence '05 BS to John Wheeler.

Kristen Thorpe '05 BSN to Michael Truscott '06 BS.

Eric Young '05 BS to Amy Reetz '07 BS.

Daniel Bonetti '06 BS to Melissa Peymann '06 BS.

Stephen Hellman '06 Cert. to Alicia June.

Joseph Ostlund '06 BS to Catherine Guerts.

Lindsey Pepin '06 BS to Tyson Butorac.

Angela Tasson '06 BS to Robert Lehtinen.

Jeremy Bovan '07 BS to Stephanie Coron.

Alex Buck '07 BA to Lauren Johnson '07 BS.

Jennifer Danielson '07 AB to Jonnathon Pucel.

Mirinda LaCombe '07 Cert. to Benjamin Benson.

Deaths

Ruth Bucklin '35 Life Cert., Feb. 21, 2008, Traverse City.

Sofia Bernhardt '38 BS, March 17, 2008, Coldwater.

Clarence Sargent '39 AS, May 19, 2008, Fairfax, Va.

Helen Gaffney '49 BS, April 21, 2008, St. Johns.

John Larsen '50 BS, March 23, 2008, Detroit.

Robert St. Louis '50 BS, '75 EDS, April 24, 2008, Kingsford.

William Sutter '50 BA, May 22, 2008, Ludington.

Anne Magnusen '52 BS, May 9, 2008, Escanaba.

Mildred Mattson '54 BS, June 25, 2008, Manistique.

Charles Harju '55 BS, April 26, 2008, Petoskey.

John Wuorenmaa '56 BS, April 15, 2008, Colorado Springs, Colo.

John Slapp '57 BS, '64 MA, '76 MAE, April 3, 2008, Mountain Home, Ark.

Donal Sorby '59 BS, March 19, 2008, Marquette.

James Legault '63, Feb. 22, 2008, Galien.

James Barkow '64 BS, May 8, 2008, Madison, Wis.

Dennis Boyak '68, April 9, 2008, Munising.

Virginia Collins '68 BS, '74 MAE, June 15, 2008, Sault Ste. Marie.

Linda Maki '69 BA, June 2, 2008, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Marc Hagerty '70 BS, May 12, 2008, Iron Mountain.

Robert Rocchi '70 BS, '78 MAE, May 21, 2008, Morris, Ill.

Jeanne Wiitanen '70 BS, June 7, 2008, Munising.

Jeffrey Smith '72, March 18, 2008, Allen Park.

Michael Granlund '74 BS, June 9, 2008, Republic.

Richard Bedard '79, April 18, 2008, Waucesdah.

Lynn Caylia '82 BS, '91 MA, May 12, 2008, Flippin, Ark.

Rory Emblad '86 AS, May 17, 2008, L'Anse.

Lorelee Larson '90, March 30, 2008, Marquette.

Linda Ehrhardt '91 BS, May 24, 2008, Escanaba.

Kama Mottard '94 BS, May 27, 2008, Menominee.

Erick Waisanen '95 BS, March 2008 Feb. 21, 2008, Houghton.

Robert McInnis '05, June 24, 2008, Lansing.

Eric Tourangeau '07 BS, March 14, 2008, Gladstone.

Friends

Lawrence Swanson, who retired from the trades department in 1993, April 25, 2008, Marquette.

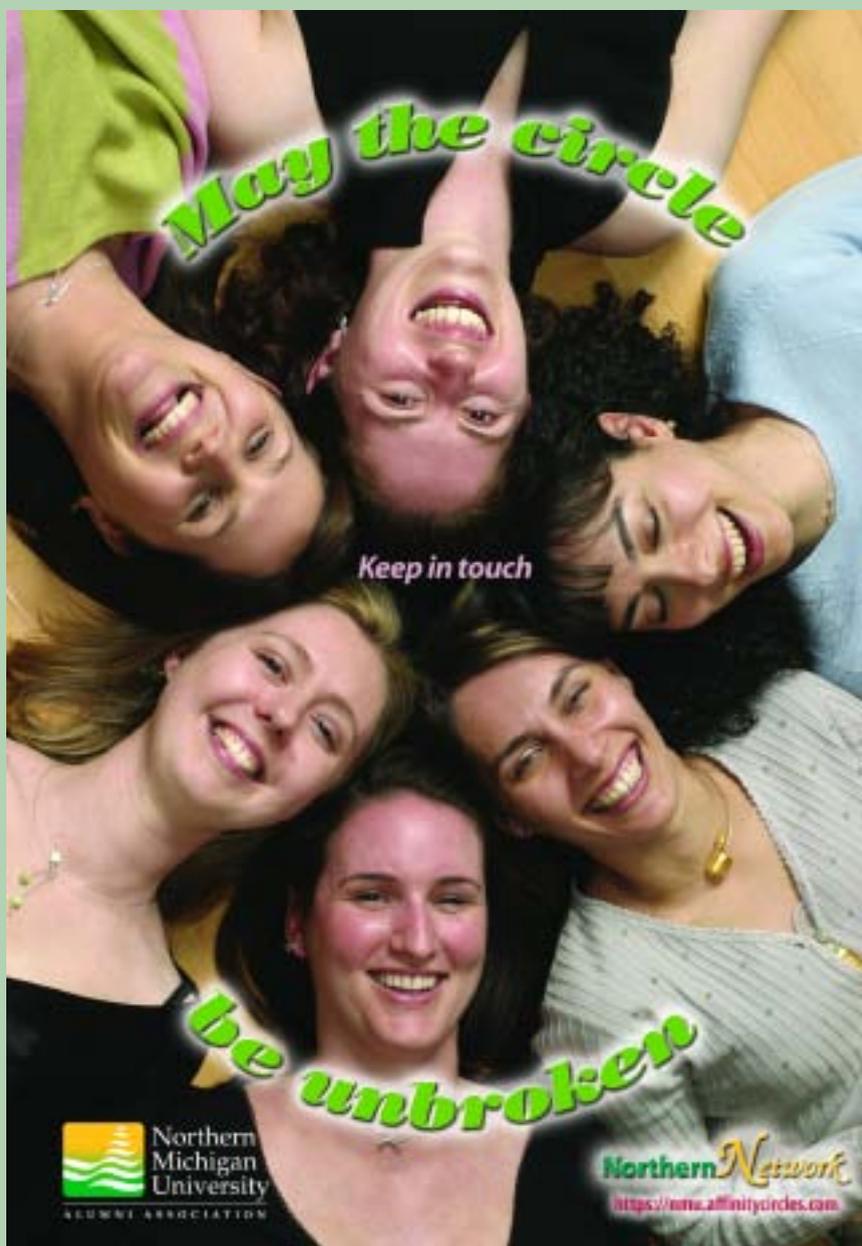
Robert Cooke, former faculty member, April 30, 2008, Ontonagon.

Patricia Lindquist, former assistant registrar and 1982 retiree, May 7, 2008, Palm Dessert, Calif.

Bob Maust, former associate dean of students, May 9, 2008, Kalkaska County.

James Dillehay, visiting professor from 1980-84, June 6, 2008, Saint Paris, Ohio.

Friedhelm Rickert, former languages professor and retiree, July 17, 2008, Marquette.





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Bill Hetrick '73 BS
Member of the Alumni Association
and Student Leader Fellowship Program mentor

I'm a member of the NMU Alumni Association because it helps me keep in touch. I love receiving the weekly e-mails that keep me in the loop on what's happening with the students and faculty of NMU and with other alumni. Some of my fondest memories are of my days I spent at Northern interacting with other students, faculty and the community. To this day, I still like to stay engaged and the Alumni Association helps me do that.

What's really a highlight for me is when someone in my family tells me a story about making an NMU connection. For instance, my son told me about a time that he was shopping in Washington, D.C. He was wearing a Northern sweatshirt. A guy recognized the Wildcat logo and asked my son about NMU. Well, it turns out that I went to Northern with the guy. Amazing.

I also know that we, as NMU alumni, can accomplish a lot together. I've been running a small business for 35 years. In the last year I've hired seven people. With one exception they were all graduates of NMU. Currently, 16 of our 31 employees have degrees from Northern.

I associate great value with being a graduate of NMU, and I associate great value with being a member of the NMU Alumni Association.

Of course I'm a member. Are You?

Consider joining the NMU Alumni Association today.
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