

Northern HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Summer 2008



**Exploring a world of learning
NMU's 'Road Map to 2015'**

**Alumni doing business
across borders**

**International photo
contest winners**

Northern HORIZONS

Summer 2008 ■ Vol. 97, No. 3

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Northern
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letters

I usually glance through the *Horizons* magazine when it comes, but this month I read it cover to cover and was very impressed by the work Northern is doing to reduce its environmental footprint. Many of these practices I wasn't aware of, and it filled me with pride to hear that my school is taking proactive, smart choices when it comes to sustainability and energy efficiency. I know the tight budget NMU has to work with, when compared to schools with enormous endowments like U of M. However, with small, smart steps like the ones focused on in the cover story, NMU can truly make a difference and set a good example for its students, faculty, and everyone in Michigan.

I live in Portland, Oregon, a city that takes sustainability very seriously, and I will now walk around with a little bit more pride that my former school is keeping up with (and surpassing many) cities all over the country. Way to go, NMU!

—Ben VanderVeen '06 BFA
Portland, Ore.

editor's note

The directional themes President Wong used to frame the "Road Map to 2015," which prioritizes NMU's goals for the road ahead, are information technologies, NMU's location and international opportunities. That last priority is a two-way superhighway that will send more of our students out to experience different cultures around the world and also bring more of the world and its diversity to campus. As you'll read in this issue, much is happening toward that goal already. For students, alumni, and the NMU and U.P. communities, these life-changing experiences are having world-shaping effects.

One aspect we haven't touched on are the more than two dozen foreign-born faculty members who enrich our classrooms and outlooks every day, and remind us of what our own country has to offer. Rajib Sanyal, dean of the College of Business, writes: "I am now completing my 28th year in the U.S., having lived here longer than in the country I was born, India. What I find remarkable is how universal American values and ideas are. Television, travel and telephone have strengthened civil rights, freedom of press, the rule of law, individualism and meritocracy in India. They have also brought cheerleaders, talk shows, class-action suits, blue jeans and hamburgers to that ancient land. As an immigrant, I have no right to expect any advantage, but such is the generosity and open heartedness of Americans that I can dream big and live big. I certainly miss a fine meal of cauliflower curry and rice pilaf in Marquette, but not to worry, the local grocery stores carry cloves, coriander, and cumin and cooking is a hobby easily embraced."

And while every picture tells a story, the photo of the lily pads on page 18 begs a behind-the-scenes explanation. According to photographer and student Karl Mercer, "This photo is of a boy picking water lilies at the tomb of the last king, Thu Duc, of the Nguyen Dynasty. My language teacher decided that all of the girls on our trip needed to have a lily to call their own, so she sent this boy out into the pond to pick the best lilies for her. It seemed so odd that we were at a tomb of the last Vietnamese king, and there we were plucking flowers from his lily pond for only 20 cents a pop. The moment was all too surreal."



NMU HOMECOMING 2008

Homecoming activities are sponsored by the
NEMU Alumni Association. 1-877-GRAD NMU.
If you are not a member, consider joining today!

Thursday, Oct. 2

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sonderegger Symposium: A day of U.P. history
- 7:30 p.m. The Foreigner, a comedy—Forest Roberts Theatre

Friday, Oct. 3

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. NMU AA Board of Directors meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Homecoming parade on Third Street
- 6:30 p.m. Receptions for the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Professional Studies, College of Business and Political Science Department—Landmark Inn
- 6:30 p.m. Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony
- 7 p.m. "See ya at Donckers" reunion—Donckers Candy Store
- 7:30 p.m. The Foreigner, a comedy—Forest Roberts Theatre
- 9 p.m. All alumni reception—Upfront and Company

Saturday, Oct. 4

- 10:30 a.m. Alumni Association awards and Foundation scholarship brunch
- noon Special reception for theatre alumni and Friends of the Forest Roberts Theatre—Black Box Theatre
- 1 p.m. The Foreigner, a comedy—Forest Roberts Theatre
- 3 p.m. Backstage tour of the Forest Roberts Theatre
- 2 p.m. Tailgate party with food, beverages, music, pictures with Wildcat Willy—outside Superior Dome
- 4 p.m. NMU football vs. Saginaw Valley State—Superior Dome
- 7 p.m. Fifth quarter reception—Holiday Inn



Keep your eye on our Web site for more reunions and activities: www.nmu.edu/alumni





Hiromi Nakamura '08 BS
First Year Free Member of the Alumni Association

Of course
I'm a member.

Are You?

When Hiromi Nakamura came to Marquette seven years ago as part of the Sister City delegation from Higashiomi, Japan, she fell in love with the area. Even though she was soon to graduate with a degree from a college in Japan, which would allow her to teach English in her native country, she had a new idea: to come back to Marquette and attend NMU to get an additional degree.

With the help of a Sister City scholarship and NMU's Weting International Student Fund, she did just that, and graduated this May with a bachelor's in psychology - early childhood. Now she has interviews lined up on the West Coast and in Hawaii to teach at an international preschool.

"Studying abroad really opened my mind," she says. "It is hard work, but as long as I worked for it I knew I could gain something back."

In addition to volunteering to teach Japanese to NMU students going on their own study-abroad experiences, Hiromi has made giving back a priority. "I joined the Alumni Association because I want to have something to keep connected with Northern. I had the scholarship, so I want to dedicate something back to Northern some day."

"I'm really confident about myself. I can't believe the success that is available to me from the experiences I've had at Northern."

"I have realized that a lot of people supported me to be who I am now. I hope to support other people."

Consider joining the NMU Alumni Association today.

www.nmu.edu/alumni • 1-877-GRAD NMU • alumni@nmu.edu



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