

On campus today

NEW DIRECTIONS



NMU's 'Road Map to 2015' unveiled

NMU has a new strategic plan: The Road Map to 2015 and Beyond. This academic master plan is the first step in launching a campus-wide discussion of the university's future priorities.

The plan focuses on four broad elements: innovation; helping students lead more meaningful lives; leveraging campus attributes; and community engagement. Each includes specific goals and priorities based on information gleaned from interactions with the campus community.

"The road map is and will be an evolving document," President Les Wong says. "But it must also provide benchmarks to guide our decision making and our work with students. It doesn't define times, dollars or locations. It identifies opportunities and challenges. We have strong departments and units on campus. The road map supports and builds on that work while recognizing distinctive features that separate NMU from its competitors."

One of those prominent features is the natural environment. Wong says NMU must achieve the highest standards for sustainability and energy efficiencies to serve as a model community. The university can further leverage its unique location by creatively incorporating Lake Superior and the neighboring landscapes into its academic programs, research agenda and the overall university experience.

The academic curriculum is also addressed under the plan's "innovation" element. Wong says Northern "must reinvigorate the standards and processes that will sustain successful programs, create new ones, eliminate programs with declining enrollment and reflect the creativity of campus talents." He also recommends a new professional development program for faculty and staff that rewards innovative practices and encourages collaboration across disciplines and departments.

Collaborative efforts that extend beyond campus are addressed under "community engagement." The specific priorities are: increase partnerships designed to enhance community and economic development in the Upper Peninsula; establish productive affiliations with NMU's larger communities—from the local to global levels—that will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources; put into action a commitment to make NMU an inclusive community where differences are recognized as assets; and increase participation in the Superior Edge program, academic service learning and other leadership development initiatives that give students practical experience while helping the community.

Wong said Northern can maximize opportunities for students to succeed at NMU and help them lead productive, meaningful lives. The goals for this focus area include a revamped liberal studies program that reflects the skills and knowledge needed in a rapidly changing global economy; a new academic advising system and retention management network; achieving the highest level of information technology skills and competencies among faculty, staff and students; and setting technology literacy benchmarks for all NMU graduates.

"Each goal and priority achieved will be replaced by goals and priorities that continue to motivate and energize us," Wong concludes. "Northern needs to be bold, but not reckless, progressive and not constrained by the status quo."



To watch President Wong's rollout presentation and access Road Map materials, go to www.nmu.edu/roadmap2015.

Grants fund research on fish, schizophrenia and influenza



Jill Leonard

New populations of trout, improved memory and attention spans, and a faster formulated and acting vaccine are results that NMU researchers are hoping to achieve in three separate, major research projects.

Biology professor Jill Leonard received two National Park Service grants totaling \$370,000 for continuing research at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to restore the coaster brook trout population in Lake Superior.

“Coasters were depleted in the late 1800s because of logging, fishing and habitat problems,” Leonard says. “This fits into Pictured Rocks’ mandate for native and community species restoration and longtime conservation efforts that are linked to the cultural significance of heritage species and maintaining those populations. Coasters are also very popular with fishermen.”

This phase of her project will focus on the competitive impact of non-native species such as steelhead and coho salmon on native trout.

The grants will support the work of four graduate students and a research technician this summer. Undergraduate students and freshmen fellows also will be involved.

A \$185,000 grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health

funds testing on a new class of medications that might offer better treatment for schizophrenia.

NMU psychology professor Adam Prus will lead the study. He said schizophrenia medications are generally effective in

controlling paranoia and hallucinations—the most common symptoms associated with the disease—but they are less successful in targeting cognitive deficits. Schizophrenia can adversely impact attention and short- and long-term memory, leading to extremely high unemployment rates and homelessness.

“We’ll conduct memory and attention studies in laboratory rats,” Prus says. “We will also study the neurochemical actions taking place in the brain when the drugs are on board to see if they alter activity in the pre-frontal cortex, which is the critical region for memory and attention.”

Thirteen students will work on the project.

Merck Institute for Science Education and the American Association for the Advancement of Science has awarded \$60,000 to NMU for research that could lead to a better influenza vaccine that can be produced faster and takes less time to achieve full resistance after an injection. Researchers might also gain a better understanding of autoimmune diseases if their hypothesis is correct that marginal zone B cells in the spleen—the first responders against the influenza virus—are the same cells that produce auto-antibodies in diseases such as lupus and arthritis. Another hypothesis is that some chronic lymphocytic leukemias might originate from these cells.

Four professors will lead the research, which involves students and collaboration between the NMU biology and chemistry departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Marquette General Hospital.

NMU students are convention delegates

Who says students aren’t politically minded these days? Three NMU students have their hands in the political arena this year as convention delegates. Mitchell Foster of Big Rapids was the youngest delegate at the Michigan Republican Convention. The political science and economics major was a freshman when he attended the convention. He is a member of the Young Republicans student group and has election aspirations of his own, hoping to some day become a state senator or representative.

Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are Miles Baker and Jason Morgan. **Baker ’08 BS**, of L’Anse, double-majored in international studies and political science, was the editor in chief of the *NMU Political Review* and Students for Barack Obama field organizer for Northern Michigan. Morgan, a junior political science major from Bentley, is an ASNMU (student government) representative to the Academic Senate and member of Students for Hillary Clinton.

In addition, NMU staff member **Sue Tollefson ’74 BS**, with the USOEC, and **Tom Baldini ’65 BS**, district director for Congressman Bart Stupak, also are DNC delegates with NMU ties.

On campus today

What we're reading

The One Book, One Community program selection for 2008 is *The Shadow of the Wind*, an international literary bestseller by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

One Book, One Community is designed to bring Marquette County residents, students and NMU alumni together to read and discuss the same book.

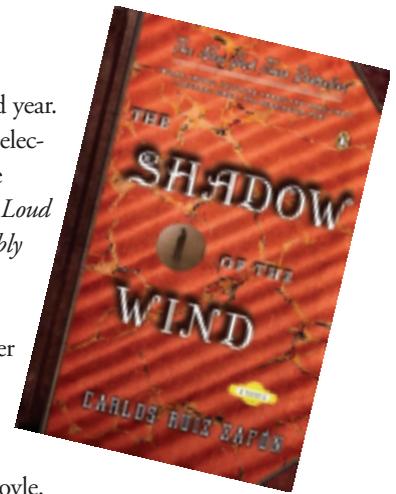
The Shadow of the Wind is set in post-Spanish-Civil-war Barcelona. Young Daniel Sempere's father takes him to a place called the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, where he is told to adopt a book to keep its memory

alive. He picks *The Shadow of the Wind* by a writer named Julian Carax and is so impressed that he sets out to find the rest of Carax's work.

Daniel is shocked to discover that someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book this author has written. His seemingly innocent quest has opened a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets: an epic story of murder, magic, madness and doomed love. Daniel realizes that if he doesn't find out the truth about Carax, he and those closest to him will suffer horribly.

The local One Book program is

in its third year. Previous selections were *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer and *The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle.



Events surrounding the book are being planned for the fall. Check www.nmu.edu/onebook for updates, Web-streamed events and discussions.

Bringing the world to NMU

Whether it was Chinese acupuncture at lunchtime, learning about Australian environmental issues or attending a Dylan Thomas tribute, the NMU community hosted and experienced a wide range of experts from around the globe. Some highlights from the winter semester:

- The consulate general of Japan for Michigan and Ohio discussed Japanese production of cars and the 600,000 Japanese industries established in the U.S.
- The first Indigenous Earth Day Summit at Northern featured an Aboriginal Australian delegation discussing development of "new sustainable lifeways based on the traditional wisdom of our ancestors in combination with contemporary technology."
- Welsh poets Ian Gregson reading from *Call Centre Love Song* and Peter Thabit Jones and Aeronwy Thomas celebrating the life and



Endangered wild dogs with zebras; Australian Victor Steffensen performing on the didgeridoo; NMU English professor ZZ Lehmborg with Fulbright Scholar Master Han Jingsheng.

writings of her father, Dylan Thomas.

- A Zambian biologist (who happened to meet a group of NMU students while they were studying in Zambia) advocating for the preservation of African wild dogs, and a Sri Lankan biologist on the state of freshwater crabs in that country.
- A look at "Change in China" presented by a professor from East China University, and traditional Chinese medicine, martial arts and therapeutic massage taught by a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence who is an expert on mindfulness healing, acupuncture and qigong interventions.
- Month-long Darfur Experience events sponsored by Northern's Public Relations Student Society of America, which taught of the region's genocide and living conditions and raised funds for refugees through creative competitions.

CHANGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Prime professors

College of Business professor

Sandra Poindexter is one of three recipients of the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. She was selected for the honor by the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan based on her "sustained commitment to creating and infusing innovative teaching strategies and experiential learning opportunities into the classroom.



Sandra Poindexter

"Just being nominated by NMU for this award was an honor because there are many NMU faculty who constantly innovate, are great student mentors and experts in their disciplines," says Poindexter, who teaches computer information systems. "Actually receiving one of the awards is more humbling. It has been my good fortune to work in a

technology field at a time when the Internet exploded and at a university that chose high tech as part of its vision. The opportunities for research, pedagogy changes and real-world student projects have been almost endless."

Poindexter's teaching and research interests are in technology adoption, particularly the Internet and notebook computers into academic environments; active, team-based and service-learning paradigms; and business applications of the Web. She has also been at the forefront of NMU's international education efforts. She participated in a faculty exchange in Finland, coordinated the European Union-NMU Exchange Program and helped organize an annual International Information Technology Student Conference.

Two other faculty members are being lauded as well. Dwight Brady and Greg Warchol are recipients of the 2008 NMU Distinguished Faculty Awards.

Brady joined the NMU communication and performance studies faculty in 1997. He has taught several broadcasting courses—from writing and announcing to studio and field production. Outside of the classroom, his creative endeavors include three television documentaries: *Michigan's Gray Wolf*; *Ghost of the Big Timber*; *The U.P.*



Dwight Brady

200: A Community Pulling Together; and *Michigan's Green Energy Economy*.

Warchol, a criminal justice professor, is a recognized authority on criminal activity in Africa related to natural resources theft, poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. Other research interests include asset forfeiture, workplace violence, crime reporting patterns, drug trafficking, organizational behavior and transnational crime. He has taught at NMU since 1998 and spent one year as interim department head. Warchol has served as the departmental team leader for NMU's effort to develop dual degree programs, research opportunities and study-abroad courses with the Regional University of the North in Chihuahua, Mexico.



Greg Warchol

New degree programs

NMU students will now have three new options to prepare for or advance their careers. A bachelor's degree in art history and a graduate certificate in public management will both be offered this fall.

Also, a master's in business administration program has been approved and is expected to be open to the first group of students in fall 2009. It will likely be a hybrid program, with a mix of classes delivered online and on campus. The public management certificate also is a hybrid format.

On campus today

The Beaumier Heritage Center, the museum dedicated to preserving and presenting the history and culture of the Upper Peninsula's people, is relocating from the Superior Dome to the first floor of Cohodas Hall. A grand opening is planned for September 19. The center was established with a generous gift from **Dr. John Beaumier '53 BS**.

The center hosted the first Upper Peninsula Folklife Festival this spring, which presented traditional arts and crafts of the U.P.'s diverse populations, such as ski making, decoy carving, fly tying, and rag rug weaving; music workshops on the kantele, and bones and spoons; performances of Finnish dance and Canadian and Celtic music; and a Great Yooper Buffet.

The Heritage Center has also created a new permanent exhibit in the dome dedicated to the history of athletics at NMU. The display case features artifacts and memorabilia related to the university's fans, mascots and cheerleaders. The Wildcat Willy uniform worn by **Jay McQuillan '89 BS** in the 1980s is included, as well as a coat and trophy from NMU's first male cheerleader, **Bruce Carlson '78 BS**, old athletic uniforms and equipment, and dozens of photographs.

The sports display is part of the larger exhibition, "The Northern Century: Student Life at NMU," which will be unveiled this fall.



Part of the new "History of Athletics at NMU" display at the Dome.

International dinner focuses on student experiences

Table talk discussions ranged from Argentina to Nigeria at an international dinner recently hosted by Les and Phyllis Wong at Kaye House. The purpose of the dinner was to draw attention to the importance of international experiences for NMU students. The dinner also highlighted how scholarships help make these experiences possible.

Several students who have benefited from international and study-abroad scholarships shared stories of their travels with the Wongs and with friends of the university who are interested in supporting internationalization initiatives.



President Wong with art and design student Renee Kirchenwitz, who traveled to England; French major Kasie Veen, who studied in Orléans, France; physical geography student Ben Hayes, who went to Rosario, Argentina; speech, language and hearing sciences major Alex Tarsi, who studied in Macerata, Italy; and biochemistry/pre-med major Bisi Lashore, from Lagos, Nigeria.



Phyllis Wong and Bisi Lashore, seated in front of Ronald and Carol Tretheway and NMU International Programs Director Marcelo Siles.

An interview with Marcelo Siles, NMU's new international programs director

Marcelo Siles, a native of Bolivia, came to NMU from Michigan State University. He has a passion for expanding Northern's study-abroad opportunities and participants, and increasing partnerships with international universities and organizations.

Q: What are your goals for international programs at NMU?

A: My main goal is to send as many students abroad as possible. Right now we have about 200 going each year. In five years, I want that to be at least 1,000 students every year.

Next, I want to bring more international students here. We have very few because we haven't had the funds to recruit them. But I'd like to build that to 250 to 300 students.

I'm also working very hard to sign agreements with universities to create exchanges—of students and faculty, and to create joint research projects.

Q: Why do you feel it's so important for students to have international experiences?

A: We're living in a globalized world. Companies have offices all over the world. If two students with the same qualifications apply for the same position, companies will give preference to the one with international exposure.

Also, it's very helpful to students



Marcelo Siles

in selecting their major. Their minds open up and they may see more possibilities for careers when they have this experience.

Q: Are there any new programs in the works?

A: Next summer we will be starting the Freshman International Experience. This will be a two-credit course for freshmen before they even start regular classes at Northern. It will expose them to how to get a passport, pass security lines and prepare for and undertake international travel. Faculty have submitted proposals for two-week trips to various locations, which will include students visiting museums and taking part in local cultural experiences, learning the history of the area, taking a course while they're there, keeping a daily journal and writing

papers. Twenty to 25 students will travel with two professors to a choice of five different destinations. That's 100-125 students and ten professors. It will help set Northern apart. Also, other universities have found that about 75 percent of students who participate take part in future study abroad as well.

We are also in our second year of the International Visiting Scholar Series [see page 4]. We already have seven speakers lined up, discussing many different topics, from film-making in Brazil to childbirth in Germany to the Canadian Holocaust. Last year, 2,000 students, faculty and community members came to these presentations.

The Freshman International Experience will be a two-credit course for freshmen before they even start regular classes at Northern.

Q: How can students afford to study abroad?

A: All qualify for financial aid—grants, loans, scholarships—to study abroad. Some students work with service clubs to raise money in exchange for presenting to their group. Some have car washes. There are many creative ways. I'm convinced that if you really want something, you will get it.

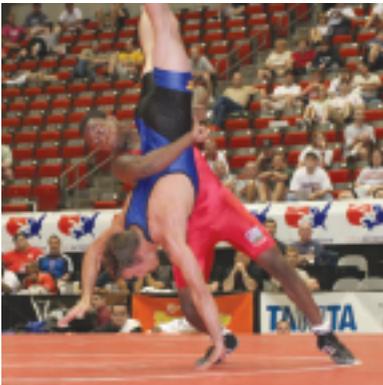
On campus today

SPORTS AT NMU

Beijing Bound? USOEC Athletes Compete at Olympic Trials

Will the United States Olympic Education Center and Northern Michigan University have representatives at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games as it did at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy? The odds say yes. The games begin on Aug. 8 in Beijing, China. As this issue of *Northern Horizons* was being sent to the press, 16 USOEC Greco-Roman and four women's freestyle wrestlers were preparing to compete at the Olympic Trials. Look for these names when the Team USA rosters are announced (www.themat.com).

Five of the USOEC Greco-Roman wrestlers to have qualified for the trials are also among the top 3 nationally ranked competitors in their weight class.



Harry Lester, in red, at the Turneul International in Brasov, Romania

Harry Lester

Lester (Akron, Ohio) is a two-time world bronze medalist and the top-ranked U.S. wrestler at 145.5 pounds. He was a member of the 2007 Team USA that won gold at the

World Team Championships. He finished fifth at the 2004 Olympic Trials, but says, "I am stronger, faster and more educated [now] in the sport. I have international experience and the hardware to prove it. Overall, I am a much more confident person." Lester came to the USOEC to train in 2003. He graduated from NMU in May 2007 with a bachelor's degree in history and is working on a second bachelor's in marketing.



Joe Betterman, in blue, during practice

Joe Betterman

A member of the 2007 Team USA that won gold at the World Team Championships, Betterman (Chicago) is ranked the No. 1 wrestler in the U.S. at 132 pounds. He trains at the USOEC facilities, but is not a member of the resident program. He finished second in his weight class to USOEC assistant coach and two-time Olympian Jim Gruenwald at the recent U.S. Senior National Championships.

Spenser Mango

The 2008 U.S. Senior National champion and the No. 3-ranked American wrestler



at 121 pounds, Mango (St. Louis, Mo.) was selected the outstanding wrestler of the 2008 Senior National Championships. "I think my biggest improvement has been my defense. I guess a good offense is a good defense." Mango came to the USOEC in 2005 and is an NMU junior majoring in physical education.

Jacob Curby

The NMU senior is ranked third among U.S. wrestlers at 145.5 pounds.

Curby (LaGrange, Ill.) finished fourth at the U.S. Senior National Championships. He graduated in May with a degree in secondary education - history, and is completing his sixth year of training at the USOEC.



Jason (Jake) Plamann

He placed sixth in the 185-pound category at the U.S. Senior National Championships, but he ranks third

in that weight class among U.S. competitors. Plamann (Kaukauna, Wis.) trains at the USOEC as a facility-use athlete.



Six other top 10-ranked Greco-Roman wrestlers are vying for Olympic team spots, including juniors Andy Bisek (Chaska, Minn.), fourth-ranked at 163 pounds; Kerry Regner (Beaver Falls, Pa.), fifth, 132

pounds; and Chas Betts (St. Michael, Minn.), fifth at 185 pounds; as well as seniors Jake Fisher (Platte City, Mo.), sixth at 163 pounds and Cheney Haight (Orem, Utah), seventh at 163 pounds. Graduate

Ind.) at 112 pounds.

Lampe finished seventh at the U.S. Senior National Championships and won her second national title at the 2008 FILA U.S. Junior Championships. She was the bronze

Five Greco-Roman wrestlers and four USEOC women's freestyle wrestlers have captured Olympic Trial berths.

student Nate Engle (Helena, Calif.) is sixth at 121 pounds and sophomore Peter Gounaridis (Leominster, Mass.) ranks seventh at 211.5 pounds.

Eager to make a statement at the trials are sophomore Bo Beckman (Orem, Utah) at 145 pounds and freshmen Jonathan Drendel (North Aurora, Ill.) at 154 pounds, Peter Kowalczyk (Oak Park, Ill.) at 264.5 pounds, and Zak Nielson (Zimmerman, Minn.) at 185 pounds. These USOEC wrestlers earned their ticket to the event by winning weight-class titles at the University Nationals or with a top seven finish at the U.S. Senior National Championships.



Sadie Kaneda, in red, in action

Four USOEC women's freestyle wrestlers captured Olympic Trial berths, including sixth-ranked sophomore Alyssa Lampe (Tomahawk, Wis.) at 105.5 pounds and freshman Shyla Iokia (Wailuku, Hawaii) at 121 pounds; eighth-ranked Sadie Kaneda (Honolulu, Hawaii), 105.5 pounds; and ninth-ranked Amy Borgnini (Terre Haute,

medalist at the 2007 Junior World Championships. Kaneda took gold in her weight at the Women's College Wrestling Association Freestyle National Championships.

An additional 21 NMU-USOEC alumni wrestlers are competing at the Olympic Trials, making a total of 41 athletes with direct ties to Northern participating at that event.



Jim Gruenwald, with beard

Olympic Dream Dashed

Jim Gruenwald, who came out of retirement in October to compete for an Olympic berth, qualified for the Olympic Trials. Ranked second in the nation at 132 pounds, Gruenwald won that weight class at the U.S. Senior National Championships. However, the two-time Olympian severely injured his shoulder in a May 10 match in Rome, Italy, and will not be able to compete at the trials in June.

Competing, Falling Short at Trials

Two USOEC weightlifters, Collin Ito (Vista, Calif.) and Ashley Suggs (Whitesboro, Texas), competed at their sport's Olympic Trials, finishing 25th and 29th, respectively. The trials took place May 16-17 in Atlanta, Ga.



Ashley Suggs during the USOEC vs. China event in Marquette last fall

Ito, an NMU junior, snatched 152 kilograms and clean and jerked 195 kg for a 347 kg total. Suggs, an NMU senior with a major in sports science, snatched 78 kg and had an 85 in the clean and jerk for a total of 163 kg.

"The USOEC athletes did well overall," said USOEC coach Andy Tysz. "The Olympic Trials are a big deal and there was some great lifting going on. We were pleased to have qualified to be there and take part in the competition."

NMU's Berry Events Center will be the site of the 2009 USA Weightlifting National Collegiate Championships, which will take place April 17-19. Ticket information will be announced in the fall at www.nmu.edu/usoc.