



Financial trading lab opens in University Center

A bull market? A bear market? Northern students will now be able to track the markets as if they were on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange or at a Wall Street brokerage firm. The financial trading lab at NMU, located in the University Center across from the Wildcat Den, was unveiled in November. The lab replicates a stock broker's office. No actual trading will take place, but students can simulate the purchase and sale of stocks and bonds, perform financial analysis and research firm performance using continuous-feed financial data.

"The education and training for careers in business increasingly have a real-world component to complement classroom instruction," says Raj Sanyal, dean of the College of Business. "This setup is similar to large brokerage firms. It reflects Northern's high-tech environment and promotes teaching and research. With this lab, NMU is in the distinguished company of such institutions as MIT, Penn State, the University of Michigan and the University of Texas."

The lab is equipped with 25 workstations, including one for the instructor. Each receives financial data from real-world markets. LCD monitors and a data

The lab is designed for students to gain practical skills related to finance, portfolio and risk management and financial trading.

board display the latest financial, economic and political news provided by e-Signal. A 16-foot-long, tri-color electronic ticker tape scrolls above the entrance to the lab. Students and professors will be able to track their investments and make financial decisions based on the continuous data feed.

The lab is designed so that students gain practical skills related to finance, portfolio and risk management and financial trading. Lab activity is already being incorporated into the

curriculum.

"So far, we have used the lab for class, and we have been able to watch the movement of the Dow, which has been very active over the past couple of weeks," says senior year accounting and financial planning major Jeanne Friesen. "While we have not used the lab to its full potential yet, the equipment and setting are both very nice. I think it is great that NMU has given students such a great facility and has had the foresight to offer real-world learning tools."

"The development of the trading lab, in addition to the operation of the NMU student investment fund (the Superior Fund), will play a key role in enhancing the regional and national profile of the College of Business and the university," said Daniel Konku, business professor, who initiated the effort.

Many alumni and friends have contributed to the construction of the lab, and to the Superior Fund. The college welcomes donors to help support these real-life learning situations. An excellent opportunity also exists to name the lab.

In addition to its impact on campus, the trading room will be a resource for area businesses, schools and the broader community.

Students get invaluable experience analyzing chromosomes in new lab

A collaboration between NMU and Marquette General Hospital (MGH) has created a tremendous new opportunity for further student hands-on learning, this time in a shared cytogenetics and molecular pathology laboratory.

"MGH's need for employees in these labs and NMU's interest in enhancing diagnostic genetics students' experiences are perfectly served by this collaborative arrangement," says NMU President Les Wong.

Cytogenetics is the study of chromosomes and chromosome abnormalities.



Photo courtesy of MGH

Andrea Hales, laboratory assistant, is using the lab's temperature and humidity controlled chamber to prepare slides for chromosome analysis.

"The results from cytogenetic testing can tell us how to categorize a patient's disease, what clinical course the patient needs to follow and which sub-set of drugs the patient responds to," explains Dr. John Weiss, anatomic and clinical pathologist at Marquette General.

The lab is located in the West Science building on NMU's campus, and is outfitted with the best equipment for conventional and molecular cytogenetics. A state-of-the-art imaging system, cutting edge Nikon microscopes, and humidity- and

temperature-controlled slide dropping chambers and rooms are a few of the lab's key features.

"Marquette General continues to have a growing partnership with Northern on other programs," says Marquette General CEO A. Gary Muller. "These include the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Research Center, clinical laboratory sciences, the NMU-MGHS School of Respiratory Therapy, radiology and emergency medical technician training, and the School of Nursing."

The cytogenetics lab offers diagnostic services in all types of chromosome studies, including cancer cytogenetics, congenital disorders, prenatal diagnosis and high-resolution chromosome analysis. John Rhoades, laboratory director at MGH, says, "The cytogenetics lab provides a service that was previously unavailable in the Upper Peninsula. We are put on par with other health-care facilities like Mayo Clinic."

For the past six months the lab has been doing correlation studies, and is now releasing patient results and performing in-house testing ordered by physicians.

"Students at Northern who are in the diagnostic genetics curriculum will have the opportunity to complete an initial internship at MGH's new lab before going to Mayo Clinic for the final internship," says Lucille Contois, director of NMU's clinical laboratory sciences department. "Also, students in NMU's cytogenetics class have one-on-one learning opportunities in the new lab. This is a unique and wonderful addition to NMU's program."



Tumor research student team members, from left, are Jessica Karasiewicz, Steve Davis, Amanda Moraska, Justin Segula and Cory Peronto.

Innovative brain tumor research

For Justin Segula, fellow graduate student Steve Davis, undergraduates Jessica Karasiewicz, Amanda Moraska, Cory Peronto and other team members, the ongoing collaboration between the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center at MGH and NMU represents an incredible opportunity.

They are active participants in research that examines the genetics of primary brain tumors and may discover pathways that will ultimately lead to new treatment approaches and more effective care for patients. In addition, the program allows them to participate in research and acquire knowledge and experience at a level that will give them a competitive advantage in their careers.

The research is led by Robert Winn of the NMU Biology Department in collaboration with MGH neurosurgeon Richard Rovin. Their work has been recognized nationally and received the 2007 Brain Lab Community Neurosurgery Research Award.

Segula and Davis will be defending their theses in the coming months and will be presenting their research at the Annual American Association of Neurological Surgeons conference in April.

On campus today

REDEFINING THE CLASSROOM

In the community or at the capitol, students are learning and serving in powerful ways

Since he started teaching at Northern in 1969, Bob Kulisheck, political science and public administration professor, has been a strong advocate of experiential education. He was one of the founders of Northern's highly successful Washington, D.C. Internship program. He helped develop Northern's unique Superior Edge program. He served as his department's intern supervisor. And he regularly incorporated academic service learning activities in his courses.

In addition to his service to the university community, he has served as a Marquette city commissioner and mayor. He currently chairs or is on the board of numerous area organizations and service clubs.

It's only fitting that Kulisheck has been selected to receive the Michigan Campus Compact's 2007 Life-Time Achievement Award.

Before he retired last month he shared his reflections on 38 years at NMU.

Q: You were instrumental in developing the master of public administration (MPA) program in the 1970s. How has it changed over the years?

A: When I arrived on campus we didn't have a graduate political science program and most of the students enrolled in our undergraduate program were planning careers in

secondary education. While we still take pride in preparing students for careers in education, we now offer undergraduate degrees in pre-law and public administration.

As with our undergraduate students, the types of graduate students enrolled in our programs have changed over time. When we



Professor Kulisheck

started our graduate program, all of the classes were taught at K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base and most of the students enrolled were Air Force personnel. After K.I. Sawyer closed, we moved onto Northern's campus. We also created a new MPA program with areas of specialization in health care, personnel, financial and criminal justice administration. One of the things we take pride in is our ability to continuously modify our graduate program to accommodate the changing needs of our students.

We have also offered our graduate program at several distant

locations. It is gratifying to know that after over 20 years we now have well over 600 public administration graduates employed as administrators with public, private and nonprofit organizations throughout the Upper Peninsula, the state, the nation and several foreign countries.

Q: What is "academic service learning" and how is it helping to set NMU apart?

A: Over the years, we have come to the realization that students learn through doing and it is important that they have the opportunity to see how the concepts and theories that they study in class apply to real-world experiences. Given the fact that we are political scientists teaching about government, we also want to encourage citizen participation and civic engagement.

Academic service learning is one form of experiential education. Other forms that are part of our curriculum include our local, state and Washington internships, student-teaching placements, campaign practicum classes, Model United Nations, Mock Trial teams and various civic engagement projects.

Academic service learning explicitly integrates theory and practice into each course. Projects included in my public policy analysis classes have involved work with the city and county of Marquette, the Governor's



Washington Center interns Miles Baker and Anne Rossio '07 BS, fourth and fifth from left, in the Washington law office of Mark Ruge '80 BS, with professors Steve Nelson and Brian Cherry and Congressman Bart Stupak's Deputy Chief of Staff, Stacy Welling '00 BS '02 MPA.

Upper Peninsula Office and the Marquette Medical Care Access Coalition. Students involved in these projects report that their practical work experiences have helped them gain a more realistic understanding of material covered during the traditional class lectures, discussions and assigned readings.

The university recently expanded academic service learning activities with the creation of the new campus-wide Superior Edge program. This program deepens students' theoretical understanding and gives them an "edge" in their search for employment.

Q: What is the Washington internship program?

A: About 25 years ago I did a class project sponsored by General Motors. It was a national competition about ways that GM could become a better corporate citizen. We did a study in one of my classes and submitted a report and recommendations to GM. We won the competition and received a several thousand dollar prize. I salted the money away and used little bits of it to send students to Washington.

are first-generation college students who have not traveled a lot, so it is good to get them out of the U.P. and give them a chance to test themselves against other students. Our students find that they are equal to or better than students from many other larger or more privileged institutions. Not only do our students develop more confidence, but their supervisors in Washington write back and say that Northern interns are some of the best kids that they have worked with and frequently request additional Northern interns for placement with their agencies.

Q: What do you think are some future program priorities?

A: We have been very satisfied with the Washington Center program and we want to continue with that. Now, we hope to do something comparable in Lansing and we are also seeking funding for paid local internships.

For more information on how you can support internships, Superior Edge and other programs, scholarships and endowments, please visit the NMU Foundation Web site at www.nmu.edu/Foundation.

Couple Establishes Scholarship to Honor Dr. Kulisheck

A \$25,000 endowed scholarship has been established by a married alumni couple to honor Dr. Kulisheck's influence and innovation as an educator at NMU. They wish to remain anonymous, but one was a student of Kulisheck's and explains his reasons for establishing the scholarship: "When I was a student at NMU, Dr. Kulisheck had a strong interest in quantitative analysis of political and social data. He transferred that interest to me and it became an important part of my intellectual makeup. While I don't conduct such analyses for a living, it had a big influence on how I think about social, policy and business issues and contributed greatly to my professional and personal success."

The details and criteria of the award have yet to be finalized, but will most likely support internships and academic service learning and assist students financially in ways that are consistent with Kulisheck's academic interests.

On campus today

CHANGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Library becomes U.P.'s record keeper

Olson Library is one of 11 remaining Michigan Documents Depository Libraries and is the only such facility in the Upper Peninsula. The state consolidated the number of depository libraries from 54 in response to recent budget difficulties and the government's increasing use of electronic dissemination and digital archiving practices.

Legislative statute directs the Library of Michigan to collect, distribute and preserve published state government information.

Materials are acquired from government agencies and deposited in the Library of Michigan's collection, as well as in a network of designated depository libraries around the state to provide citizens with free and equal access to state government information.

Documents stored at these locations include information on agricultural, historical, social, economic, political, legal, environmental, judicial, cultural and health-related aspects of life in Michigan.



Olson Library offers printed documents for the public to peruse, as well as links to electronic copies.



The NMU Model United Nations Club, led by Political Science Professor William Ball, sent 22 of its members to the American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago. The NMU students, who represented the United States in the simulation, earned the outstanding delegation award for three of their five delegations, including the Security Council, the Historical Security Council and the International Court of Justice. The club is now second in the nation, behind Yale, in the number of awards won at Model United Nations Conferences.

"That is quite an achievement for a small school that has only been participating for 19 years—since I first came here," says Ball. "We also had four other students and former students who, based on their past performances, were invited to serve on staff for the conference this year."

MBA at NMU?

The College of Business is considering establishing a graduate program in business, most likely a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. The proposed program will be designed in a manner that will allow it to be completed either on a full-time basis (12 months) or part-time. At the initial stage, this would be a general MBA program with eight courses of four credits each.

The college is assessing regional and alumni interest in the program, which could be delivered on campus, online or in a blended form.

Anyone interested in the proposed program can complete a brief survey at www.nmu.edu/MBAsurvey or send an e-mail to bizdean@nmu.edu.

Students: not like they used to be

Changes in the NMU student population—from demographics and campus life to curriculum and time required to complete a degree—were addressed during a focus discussion at a recent NMU Board of Trustees meeting. NMU President Les Wong, Provost Susan Koch and Vice President Gavin Leach presented data from select years between 1960 and 2007 for comparative purposes. Some of the trends highlighted were:

- The percentage of female students has increased from 35 to 54 percent from 1960 to 2007.
- The percentage of students hailing from the Upper Peninsula has dropped from 89 to 52 during that same period.
- Students pursuing a teaching-related curriculum comprised 64 percent of the population in 1960, but only 9 percent this year.



• With a load of 15 credits per semester, the median number of semesters it takes students to earn a degree has varied from a low of 8 in 1960 to a high of 11 in 1990. It is currently 10.

• Factors influencing the time required to graduate include a growing number of experiential and international learning opportunities that complement classroom

instruction; changing licensure, accreditation and endorsement standards for various fields; and increasing credit requirements for academic majors.

• The number of student organizations has climbed from 25 to 288. Extracurricular activities once regarded primarily as social endeavors are now viewed as important supplements to education for entry into the job market or graduate school.

• The "sandwich generation" trend has put increasing demands on family finances. A growing number of single and dual parents are raising children and preparing for their college education while also saving for their own retirement and caring for elderly parents. The "true" cost of an education also includes the current costs of new family dynamics, increased work commitments, different living situations and varying levels of academic preparation.

Transfers made easier

NMU is participating in a new Web-based resource that enables Michigan students to determine course equivalencies before they change universities or enroll in a class while at home during the summer.

Through the Michigan Transfer Network (MTN), students considering NMU (or other state schools) can enter the institution they're transferring from and a comprehensive listing appears that shows all NMU course equivalents in their chosen majors.

It also will be valuable for enrolled NMU students who plan to earn additional credits that would transfer to NMU from a local school during summer break. See www.michigantransfERNetwork.org.

Freshmen set GPA record

The fall 2007 baccalaureate new freshman cohort achieved the highest first-semester grade point average in NMU history. The GPA was 2.76, compared with the previous high of 2.70 earned the previous year.

Plus, the percentage of freshmen achieving a first-semester GPA of at least 2.00 was 82.7 percent, which wiped out the previous all-time high rate of 80.5 percent.

On campus today

Getting better all the time

Create a more environmentally sustainable NMU. Enhance the campus climate for scholarship. Improve and expand online learning. These are the three “action projects” Northern will pursue this year as part of its continuing commitment to the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). AQIP provides an alternative process for universities to maintain their accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, with an emphasis on continuous quality improvement.

The projects were tops among 20 proposals submitted for consideration.

Read more about the sustain-

ability initiative in this issue’s cover story on page 10. The project to enhance scholarship will determine the level of scholarly activity taking place at NMU, identify existing barriers and explore measures that will make it easier for faculty to engage in scholarship and involve more students in their work.

The online learning project is motivated in part by the changing demographics of prospective students. Northern’s graduate students tend to be older, “place-bound” adults with families who can’t make regular trips to campus.

“We’re also finding that people want programs, not just classes,

offered online,” says Cynthia Prosen, associate provost for Academic Affairs and dean of the College of Graduate Studies. “But it’s not just a matter of placing content online. We have to look at quality in addition to quantity and make sure the online courses are up to the standards we expect of traditional course offerings.”

The goal with each of the action projects is to analyze what Northern is doing and take “baby steps” toward doing it better. “It’s not about fully changing how we do things in a year’s time. It’s about striving for improvement,” Prosen says.

Photo courtesy of Frida Waara



Freshman places at snowboard event

NMU freshman and entrepreneurship major Ian Thorley of Marquette finished fifth at the Icer Air 2008 Competition (www.iceair.com) in San Francisco’s AT&T Park in November. Thorley was one of just 14 elite international snowboarders selected for the event.

The competition garnered a crowd of more than 32,000 and the jumping platform was about 10 stories high. Prior to one of his jumps, Thorley text-messaged his parents, **Ron Thorley ’78 BS** and **Frida Waara ’77 BA** (she’s a former Wildcat varsity downhill skier and one of the 11 women who made up the first-ever all-female expedition to the North Pole in 2001), saying, “I love my life. This feels amazing.”

Thorely is in his third season competing as a professional snowboarder. He says he is enjoying the NMU classes he is taking during the off-season.

“I bring a different perspective to the classroom than most freshmen because of my snowboarding experience, including all the places I’ve traveled and the business part of sports,” he says.

USOEC boxing program ends

The United States Olympic Education Center discontinued its resident boxing program at the end of the fall semester. At that time, 13 boxers were enrolled.

The USOEC had announced in August that the program would be eliminated due to the lack of additional funding from USA Boxing to meet current coaching and staff expenses. The USOEC had been pro-

viding more funding for the boxing coaches and staff than for the other residential programs.

Boxing was a part of the USOEC since 1987 and produced several Olympians and professional boxers. Al Mitchell was the team’s only coach.

“We would be delighted to welcome the program back to life if

SPORTS AT NMU

Exploring women’s softball

NMU is exploring the possibility of adding women’s fast-pitch softball as an intercollegiate varsity sport. Reasons for looking at the sport include its increasing popularity and potential recruitment value, and NMU’s continued compliance with NCAA and federal Title IX requirements that athletic opportunities correlate to the student body ratio of females to males, which is growing at NMU.

“Currently, we are well positioned in this, having male and female student-athletic percentages that are very close to our overall student body percentages,” says NMU President Les Wong. “However, as our female student population continues to grow, we will at some point need to add another women’s sport to stay in compliance. Adding varsity sports is not something that can be done overnight, so while NMU is in full compliance today we are being prudent in considering a future plan for growth.”

The NMU Foundation Leadership Scholars

At NMU we believe that a complete education isn’t limited to the classroom.

Students should aspire to academic excellence. They should also be motivated to embrace service, forge bonds beyond campus borders and contribute their energy and creativity to the local and global community.

The NMU Foundation Leadership Scholars offer an opportunity for you to reward and inspire a student who stands apart from the crowd in scholarship and has demonstrated a commitment to service and volunteerism.

With a gift of \$2500 a year for three years you can provide the financial support that will help your leadership scholar to focus on his or her studies while also embracing civic involvement, community service and global engagement.

“I support the Leadership Scholars because I believe that students who excel not only in the classroom but who also reach out to their neighbors deserve our support.”

Mark Pynnanen, owner Signs Now, Marquette



For more information on how you can support leadership scholars contact the NMU Foundation at 906-227-2627 e-mail foundtn@nmu.com or visit our Web site www.nmu.edu/foundation

