

Bridges Over Troubled Waters

Generous Donors Shore Up 'Underwater' Endowments

It should come as no surprise that this has not been a banner year for endowments. The shrinking economy and stumbling markets have taken their toll. We are proud to report that the NMU Foundation Board of Trustees, as early as 2006, began reducing endowment exposure to market volatility. These defensive moves have helped us to outperform relevant benchmarks, protect gifts and minimize the impact of an unstable economic environment.

Overall, the endowment funds performed very well this year compared with other universities across the country. For instance, according to *The New York Times*, Harvard University's endowment tumbled over 27 percent this last fiscal year and Yale reported a loss of 30 percent. By contrast, NMU's endowment experienced a decrease of 14 percent and ranked in the top third of public universities in terms of endowment preservation.

However, despite our best efforts, some endowments will be unable to sustain awards for the upcoming school year. History tells us that these times will pass and we have already seen some improvement. In the meantime, we have been listening closely to what our donors are telling us about their situations, concerns and passions. What we are hearing is that their dedication to our students and to higher education remains strong. In fact, a number of these donors have made special "bridge" gifts this year to ensure that

the endowed scholarship they established can continue to provide support, as intended, without interruption.

Thank you to all our donors and a special thank you to those donors who made bridge gifts to the following funds:

Elsie O. Treves Mayhew Scholarship
George and Evelyn Kivela Scholarship
Marjorie McKee Scholarship
Luther S. West Scholarship
NMU Study Abroad Scholarship
Burton G. Frick Business Scholarship
Bobbi Ameen Memorial Scholarship
Dr. James Greene Scholarship

Barbara J. Patrick Scholarship
Debbie LaCrosse Scholarship
Sherman Nebel Memorial Scholarship

To learn more about how you can help sustain or create scholarship opportunities and transform NMU students into the healers, educators, entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow, contact the NMU Foundation at 906-227-2627, toll free at 888-NMU-GRAD or visit our Web site: www.nmu.edu/foundation/scholarships.

—*Martha Haynes*
NMU Foundation Executive Director

How do endowed scholarships work?

Each endowed named scholarship begins with an initial gift of at least \$15,000 and is permanently endowed when the fund reaches \$25,000. The principal of these funds is never invaded and the awards are made from earnings. Guidelines are established by the donor and an NMU Foundation officer. Through solicitations, or subsequent gifts from the original donor made within three years, the fund must grow to \$25,000. Once the fund reaches endowment status, awards are made from the earnings of the fund based on NMU Foundation spending guidelines. There is currently a 5 percent spending policy, so a fund with a balance of \$25,000 would yield one \$1,250 scholarship or two \$625 scholarships. The principal will remain intact and earnings above the 5% are applied to the principal. Subsequent gifts to the scholarship are also applied to the principal. As the principal grows, so may the amount and/or number of awards.



Gifts Evolve to Reflect Changing Times and New Opportunities

In 2000, when Robert Dornquast, NMU professor emeritus of communication and performance studies, endowed field studies fellowships for students to attend the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Canada, he may not have imagined that

his generosity would prove to be a stepping stone to an entirely new area of study and experience for NMU students.

Stratford Field Studies became the heart of a more expansive Canadian Culture and Society program offered this fall. This field-based course gave students an opportunity to engage with and learn from key cultural sites and events in southern Ontario. Students visited Stratford, home of the premier North American Shakespeare festival, to see four plays as well as two works by Canadian playwrights. Students also visited Ottawa, the home of Canada's Parliament, National Art Gallery and Museum of Civilization.

A gift represents the aligning of a donor's passion with specific university needs, programming or student

and have made subtle or wholesale adjustments to the criteria or direction of the gift in order to make sure that students continue to receive the greatest benefit.

As we reflect on the turbulent economic times and the rapid pace of social and governmental change, it is interesting to note how, as in the case of Robert Dornquast's gift, the initial seeds of donor generosity can grow and evolve. These transformations tell us much about how our students, our university and the world around us are changing.

"I cannot express enough how thankful I am for this opportunity, and I feel it has truly helped shape my knowledge of Canada, of Shakespeare, and ultimately of the world."
—*from a student journal*

Then and now, regardless of changes in need and opportunity, private philanthropy represents promise and hope for each new generation of scholars, leaders and entrepreneurs.



Students in the Canadian Culture and Society class exploring history, art, theater and government in Ontario this summer.

opportunity. In some cases curriculum or programming may be revised to better represent the needs and demands of the students, the job market or the mission of the university. NMU began as a teacher's college and has grown and expanded into a multi-discipline institution over its 110 years of its existence. During that time, the demand for certain professions has increased and the demand for others has waned. Along the way, loyal donors have continued to look closely at how their gifts are designated

If you would like to open your own door to opportunity or support already established scholarships and endowments, please contact the NMU Foundation at 227-2627, toll-free at 888-NMU-GRAD or e-mail foundtn@nmu.edu. To learn more about the many ways that you can make a difference in a student's life, visit www.nmu.edu/foundation.

NMU Foundation Notes



Dr. John Beaumier receives NMU Foundation Trustee Emeritus status

John Beaumier '53 BA was granted this status by the NMU Foundation Board for exemplary service and exceptional advocacy above and beyond the scope of normal trustee duties and responsibilities.

Beaumier has maintained close ties to his alma mater. He served on the Foundation Board from 1999 to 2009 and was national campaign chair for the university's first comprehensive fund raising campaign. He is a past recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was the featured speaker at the 2006 mid-year commencement ceremony, where he received an honorary doctor of science degree. He also was a 1994 inductee into the NMU Sports Hall of Fame for his contributions to Wildcat football. The Beaumier Heritage Center was established in 2006 with a \$1 million gift from John and his family. They have also funded five scholarships. He retired in 1998 from the Mayo Clinic, where he served as a director in orthopedic evaluation and as associate professor in orthopedic surgery at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. He resides in Cedar River.

New trustees join NMU Foundation Board



Ann Neiswander '64 BS

Ann is a retired educator. She spent 21 years as an elementary learning specialist for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and 10 years as a language arts consultant and classroom teacher for Redford Schools. She has been active in the community and taken on many leadership roles, primarily with the American Association of University Women and the Lutheran Church Council. She lives in Ann Arbor.



John List '84 BS

John has 25 years of career experience in financial services and is currently a wealth management consultant for US Bank's Private Client Group. During his career, he has managed and developed teams of trust professionals, created and grown a mutual fund complex and developed

an alternative investment delivery platform. He has been the recipient of many sales awards and has received the Pacesetter Award every quarter since he joined US Bank. John lives in Cincinnati.



Richard Lundin '73 BS

Richard is the chairman and CEO of Da-Lite Screen Company, Inc. Da-Lite is headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana and designs, manufactures and markets the most comprehensive line of projection screens in the world. He has been with Da-Lite for 20 years. He is active in the community and has been a strong supporter of the YMCA, serving on boards in Ohio and Indiana and working on two capital campaigns. His wife, **Anna (Nelsen)**, also graduated from NMU in 1973.



New director of annual giving joins foundation staff

Carol Carr is the new director of annual giving for the NMU Foundation. Carol comes to the foundation from her previous position as development coordinator for Omega House hospice home in Houghton. She had been with Omega House for three years. Over the past 10 years, she has served in marketing/PR and development for various non-profits across the country, particularly focusing on annual fund campaigns and donor stewardship and cultivation.

Carol was born and raised in Marquette. She has a bachelor's degree from Western Washington University in communications and political science, and has done work on her master's degree in training and development at NMU. Both of Carol's parents are NMU graduates (**Jane VanEvera '70 BS** and **Louis Carr '71 BS**) and her grandmother, **Betty (Foard) VanEvera '40 BS** is also an alumna.

Former Director of Annual Giving **Maryellen Charbonneau '02 BS** left the NMU Foundation in February to pursue a doctorate in mass communications at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.