

# On campus today

## NEW DIRECTIONS

### WiMax: Reaching wider wirelessly

Northern Michigan University deployed one of the largest active WiMAX networks in the country on the 10th anniversary of its campus-wide notebook computer program in late August.

WiMAX is a fourth-generation protocol (4G) that offers broadband wireless Internet access. Compared with the more common WiFi, WiMAX is capable of transmitting data over much broader areas with less interference and more efficient bandwidth use.

NMU is one of the first universities in the nation with a WiMAX network. The 3,000 Lenovo ThinkPad computers issued to students this fall have built-in WiMAX/WiFi Intel cards. Students with year-old computers are able to check out a WiMax card from the library or purchase one from the bookstore. In addition to Intel and Lenovo, Motorola also participated in the WiMAX network deployment.

“Over the past few years, with WiFi hot spots, NMU covered about 10 percent of the City of Marquette. WiMAX allows us to cover nearly 100 percent,” says Gavin Leach, NMU vice president for finance and administration. “This makes us one of the first universities in the United States to be able to provide wireless access to nearly our entire student population. This would not have been possible without the efforts of our technology industry partners.”

“It was with great pride that Intel engineers assisted with the rollout of the WiMAX network,” says Eileen Lento, government and education strategist, Intel Americas. “The city-wide connectivity unleashed will help drive educational advancement and technological innovation.”

“The joint collaboration between Intel and NMU has spotlighted on a national and international level what two dynamic and forward-thinking organizations can achieve when working together for the greater good,” says Leach.



The NMU notebook computer initiative was implemented a decade ago to bridge the “digital divide” by facilitating equal access to the latest technology.

NMU’s license, one of only 59 granted worldwide, is restricted to education or government use. Northern is working with the City of Marquette and outlying townships to enable WiMax use for their departments and is also discussing ways to enhance the wireless capabilities of the area’s K-12 schools.

Lenovo recently awarded NMU the 2009 ThinkTank Campus Innovation Award, in large part for its progress with the new WiMAX network.

The award is given to the institution that has implemented the most innovative technology program over the past year. Elementary, secondary and higher education institutions from 23 countries compete for the award each year. A committee of education experts chooses the recipient based on innovation, service to constituent users and quality of implementation.

“Northern Michigan has again proven that they are one of the most innovative campuses in the world, delivering high-bandwidth wireless connectivity throughout the campus using the new WiMAX standard,” says Michael Schmedle, director of worldwide education at Lenovo. “Building on their award-winning notebook initiative, Northern has added incredible value to students, faculty and staff with the new 802.16 network.”

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### Helping students go further and farther

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds will now have more opportunities for involvement in research and other scholarly activities that will better prepare them for doctoral studies, thanks to a federal four-year McNair grant worth \$880,000—the largest grant in NMU history. The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is named for one of the first African-American astronauts. McNair died in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion.

“It’s a wonderful initiative that benefits students who are traditionally underrepresented in Ph.D. programs in the STEM areas—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—as well as history and English,” says Cynthia Prosen, dean of graduate studies at NMU. “It’s designed for students we often interact with at Northern: those from low-income households who are often the first in their families to attend college and who wouldn’t normally consider graduate school. This gives them the necessary support to push them to the next level in their educational experience.”

Northern will select 25 McNair Scholars per year. As a part of their experience, they will be paired with a faculty mentor, plan a research project during the spring of their sophomore or junior year and then conduct that research over the summer. Scholars will receive a \$2,800 stipend for this work, while faculty members will also receive support for their mentorship.

“The McNair program is about more than financial assistance,” Prosen adds. “The students will also receive academic counseling, help in understanding and preparing for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and guidance on seeking admission and financial aid for graduate programs.”

Another grant received by Northern will expand opportunities for NMU students and faculty to become more globally engaged. Tim Compton, department head of Modern Languages and Literatures, received a two-year grant for \$156,892 for the U.S. Department of Education’s International Education and Foreign Languages Program. The International Studies curriculum will be enhanced to make it more accessible, coherent and attractive to students. There will also be competitive faculty travel money for proposals to develop courses in four core areas: African art, politics or geography; Latin American art or politics; European art or politics; and a course focusing on Asia.



Announcing the new agreement at Northern are Kane Beauchamp, Senator Debbie Stabenow’s U.P. staff assistant; Dave Lucas, NMU pre-med adviser; David Luoma, MD, MSU-CHM community assistant dean and UPHEC CEO; James Randolph Hillard, MD, MSU associate provost for human health affairs; Cindy Prosen, NMU associate provost for academic affairs; and Jerry Kooliman, MSU assistant dean, government relations and community outreach.

### Future physicians

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and NMU have formed a partnership that will help disadvantaged pre-medical students and underserved areas of medicine.

The Early Assurance Program provides preference for admission to MSU’s medical school to students who are the first generation to attend college, graduated from a low-income high school, are eligible for Pell grants or express interest in a high need medical specialty.

NMU students interested in caring for underserved populations will complete a program of enriching clinical and service experiences, as well as academic advising directed toward admission to MSU College of Human Medicine.

During their junior year, students who excel in the NMU program may apply to the College of Human Medicine and selected students will be assured of admission and begin a relationship with MSU during their senior year. There will be three seats reserved for this program.



Art and Design professor **Michael Letts '84 BFA, '93 Cert.** competed in ArtPrize, an international exhibition and contest judged by the public. He was one of 29 artists from more than 1,000 chosen to display his works at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids as part of the city-wide exhibit. Shown above is his "Plum Beach," a 60" x 72" acrylic on canvas painting.

## Educator excellence

**Professor Tawni Ferrarini** has received the 2009 Economics Educator of the Year Award from the Michigan Council on Economic Education and was named the inaugural recipient of the Abbejean Kehler Technology Award by the National Association of Economic Educators.

Ferrarini was praised by the MCEE for her service as a professor and director of the NMU Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship, for going "above

the call" to provide teacher education and professional development opportunities and for her role in advocating technology and online programs.

**Harvey Wallace**, head of the health, physical education and recreation department at NMU, is among four new appointees to the board of directors for the Public Health Accreditation Board. The board will help PHAB in developing a successful national public health accreditation program.

## Enrollment up despite tough times

Fall preliminary figures showed a 1.4 percent increase in student headcount at Northern, an addition of 128 students over last year. The strength is at the junior level, where the number of students has increased by 107, which helped to offset a slight dip of 1.3 percent in graduate enrollment and a 3 percent decrease in new freshmen. Undergraduate transfers are up significantly, from 435 to 524.

## Remembering, honoring

**Lt. Col. Kip Taylor '85 BS**, who was killed in the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, was memorialized with the dedication of a plaque on Veterans' Rock near the University Center.

The dedication on Sept. 26 coincided with the 40th anniversary of ROTC at NMU. Kip was the son of **Kay Taylor '85 BS** and the late Lt. Col. Donald Taylor, who headed the university's military science program. Kip was the Wildcat basketball team captain, earned a bachelor's degree in management and was commissioned by his father into the Adjutant General Corps.

Taylor was 38 at the time of his death. He was killed six weeks before the birth of his second son. His wife passed away in 2003. Taylor's many service awards include the Legion of Merit and Purple Heart, both awarded posthumously.

"A cornerstone of strength for NMU cadets past, present and future, remains Kip Taylor, for no other cadet sacrificed so much for his country," said Maj. Kyle Rambo, new commander of the ROTC Wildcat Battalion.



The dedication ceremony, with the Taylor family in the front row, holding hands.

## CELEBRATING ANATOMY OF A MURDER



**John Voelker '25** with Lt. Coleman Peterson, who was played by Ben Gazzara in the movie, and Charlotte Peterson, played by Lee Remick.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the release of the film "Anatomy of a Murder," based on the best-selling novel by Ishpeming native and NMU alumnus John Voelker (under the pen name Robert Traver), a number of exhibits and activities have been taking place on campus and around Marquette County.

The Beaumier Upper Peninsula Heritage Center is displaying an exhibit titled "Hollywood Comes to Marquette County: the Making of Anatomy of a Murder" through Dec. 23. It tells the story of Voelker's life as an attorney, judge and author, and explores his work on the People vs. Peterson murder case, which was the inspiration for the book and the film, and focuses on the shooting of the film in Marquette County and the impact it had on the community and movie industry. The movie was directed by Otto Preminger and

featured such stars as Jimmy Stewart, George C. Scott, Eve Arden and Duke Ellington.

The center's exhibit and an online exhibit hosted by the Central Upper Peninsula and NMU Archives (see [www.nmu.edu/voelker](http://www.nmu.edu/voelker)) features dozens of photographs, artifacts, original manuscript edits, court transcripts, movie memorabilia and other information about this classic American film and novel.

A film symposium was held on campus and WNMU TV-13 staff helped produce a behind-the-scenes documentary by independent filmmaker John Pepin, which explores the events leading up to and including the making of this courtroom thriller. DVDs are available by calling 800-227-WNMU or 227-1300.

## Top chefs

**Dorm and campus food** just ain't what is used to be. Nathan Mileski, senior chef for NMU's Dining Services, won first place in the 9th annual National Association of College and University Food Services culinary challenge in Milwaukee this summer, while NMU Dining Services, as a unit, picked up two gold medals.

In the NACUFS challenge, six regional winners from around the country competed to create, in one hour, a nutritionally balanced plate using the featured ingredient of local organic rainbow trout with side dishes and sauces. Mileski won with his trout schnitzel with mohrengemuse carrots, sauteed beet and celeriac morel mushroom spaetzle with riesling beurre blanc.

Prior to NMU, he was the executive chef and food and beverage director at Drummond Island Resort's Bayside Dining, which was featured in *Gourmet* and *Bon Appétit* as one of 12 "Great Restaurants of America" during his tenure.

Dining Services received a gold medal for top residence hall theme event for its Lumberjack Brunch buffet and for a challenge where teams received a mystery basket with a list of 13 ingredients that had to be used in their menu. NMU's three-course menu included braised beef short ribs with shiitake mushroom risotto, sautéed shrimp, caramelized nectarines with a strawberry rhubarb vinaigrette and pan-seared striped sea bass in a lemon herb beurre blanc. Hungry yet?

# On campus today

## SPORTS AT NMU



### Training Week



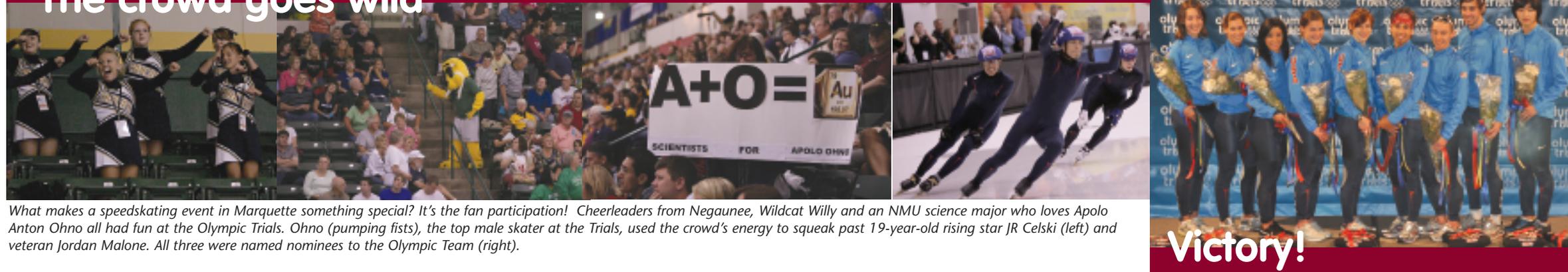
In June, the U.S. Short Track Speedskating National Program trained for 10 days at Northern Michigan University, preparing the skaters for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials and World Cup that would take place at the Berry Events Center in September and November, respectively. Pictured are the skaters running Mt. Marquette, training on the Upper Harbor sands, signing autographs at the Superior Bikefest, posing with young friends during a "skate with the team" event and resting during a training break.

### Olympic Trials action



U.S. Olympic Team Trials, Sept. 8-12: The top five men and women chosen as Olympic Team nominees meet with the media; action at the Berry Events Center; Katherine Reutter (in red), the top female skater at the Trials, makes an outside pass on the way to another gold medal; Jordan Malone (blue helmet) holds onto a slight lead; Jimmy Jang, U.S. National Program assistant coach and former USOEC coach, provides encouragement to a skater.

### The crowd goes wild



What makes a speedskating event in Marquette something special? It's the fan participation! Cheerleaders from Negaunee, Wildcat Willy and an NMU science major who loves Apolo Anton Ohno all had fun at the Olympic Trials. Ohno (pumping fists), the top male skater at the Trials, used the crowd's energy to squeak past 19-year-old rising star JR Celski (left) and veteran Jordan Malone. All three were named nominees to the Olympic Team (right).

**Victory!**

### Football 'Cats Roar

As of press time, the NMU Wildcat football team was off to its best start since 1995. In fact, between Sept. 12 and Oct. 10, the 'Cats roared for five consecutive victories, including wins over then ranked No. 16 Saginaw Valley State (23-20) and No. 22 Wayne State (45-20). The strong showing put NMU in the American Football Coaches Association's Top 25 poll for the week of Oct. 12 for the first time in school history. The 'Cats came in at No. 23.

Coach **Bernie Anderson '78 BS, '84 MA** says all aspects of the team are stronger this year: offensive, defense and special teams.

"We're more two-dimensional. We can run. We can pass," says Anderson. "A key to our success so far has been the strong play of the offensive line that has allowed our running game to be productive. Defensively, the players have responded well to the system put in last year by **Randy Awry '78 BS, '81 BS, '86 MA** and the other defensive coaches. The defense has been making the stops, the offense has been moving the ball and the special teams have given us good field position. Things are clicking on all cylinders."

Based on their performance at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Short Track Speedskating, five men and five women were nominated for the U.S. Olympic Team that will compete in Vancouver at the Winter Olympic Games. The skaters become official members of the squad based on spots earned in World Cup action. NMU was the site of the final short track World Cup Nov. 12-15. Pictured are (left to right): Lana Gehring, Kimberly Derrick\*, Alison Baver\*, Alyson Dudek, Katherine Reutter\*, Apolo Anton Ohno, Jordan Malone, Travis Jayner\* and Sam Cho\*. Missing is JR Celski, who was injured during the Trials.

\*Former United States Olympic Education Center skaters.