

Northern HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Summer 2009



Alumni making
it happen in the
music world

The Pride
of the North

Fantastic bands
of the past

The Beat Goes On

Northern HORIZONS

Summer 2009 ■ Vol. 98, No. 3

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Northern Horizons, the magazine for alumni and friends of Northern Michigan University, is published three times a year (winter, summer and fall) by the Communications and Marketing Office and the Alumni Association of Northern Michigan University.

Funding is provided by Northern Michigan University, NMU Alumni Association members, alumni and friends. Subscriptions are available at \$15 per year, \$7.50 for NMU retirees. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the NMU Alumni Association.

Letters Policy: Unless noted as "not for publication," communications to the editor are considered for publication. Letters will be printed as space permits and may be edited for space and clarity. Please limit your comments to *Northern Horizons* magazine or to topics mentioned in the magazine. Mail to: Editor, *Northern Horizons*, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855; fax: 906-227-2722; or e-mail: horizons@nmu.edu.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Northern Horizons*, Communications and Marketing, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855. Third-class postage paid at Midland, Michigan 48642.



Editor's note



Did you know that "Michigan Man" by **Mike Ridley '76 BS** was nominated as the official state song?

That former Northern student Mike Koda penned "Smokin' in the Boy's Room," a hit for his band Brownsville Station in 1973 and years later for Motley Crue?

That Steven Wiig, who also attended Northern, not only plays with and works for members of Metallica, but has roles in the films *Into the Wild* and *Milk*?

Or that **Elmer Aho '60 BS, '66 MA**, has hosted the Saturday night radio show, *American Country Gold*, for more than 18 years, and has a devout domestic and international following? Tune in on www.wjpd.com.

These are just a few examples of the amazing musical lives led by NMU alumni, along with the sampling presented in this issue of the professionals working in the field today, students, staff and professors on campus making and studying music and the stars of the past.

So many musicians, so many bands, so many great concert memories. Upon hearing the names Walrus, East of Orange, Tret Fure, Jim and Ray, münbüt, Amnesians or The Northern All Stars, some readers may be transported back to smoky clubs like Scarlett's, The Clifton, The Back Door, The Four Seasons or Andy's Bar during their college years (and indeed some of these groups are still playing strong). Or recall rocking out to the national acts that Northern's Popular Entertainment Committee brought to campus in the '70s, like Bob Seger, Frank Zappa, Aerosmith and Foghat (for a few bucks admission, no less).

Even though you'll see a lot of white wires dripping from students' ears around campus these days, plugged into their personal playlists, it doesn't mean that music is just a grace note in the NMU experience. For instance, students in professor Chuck Ganzert's advanced audio production class have been working with WNMU-FM to record and produce a series of hour-long music and interview shows with local and visiting performers. Two of these programs have won Michigan Association of Broadcasters Awards. Listen at www.wnmufm.org.

And a TV show called "Standing O," started by **Nick VanCourt '04 BS**, continues to be arranged and aired by production majors. The MTV-style segments air live performances and interviews with local and student bands and visiting artists such as African percussionist Bernard Woma.

Modern technology has even meant that students in the longstanding music in society class don't have to purchase CDs (or going back further, cassettes or records), but can complete their listening via Rhapsody, an online music service, and watch performances on YouTube.

Be sure to visit Horizons online (www.nmu.edu/horizons) to add an audible dimension to what you read here. You'll find downloadable songs from our featured artists, to create your own NMU playlist.

—Rebecca Tavernini





Sept. 23-26 Homecoming 2009

Wednesday, Sept. 23

5 - 7 p.m. Faculty/staff homecoming reception / Peter White Lounge

7 p.m. King/Queen competition / University Center

Friday, Sept. 25

10 a.m. - Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center open house

10 a.m. - NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors annual meeting

3 p.m. Political science symposium

5:30 p.m. Homecoming parade / Third Street

5:30 p.m. Political science and public administration reception / Landmark Inn

6:30 p.m. College of Business reception Landmark Inn

6:30 p.m. College of Professional Studies reception / Landmark Inn

6:30 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences reception Landmark Inn

6:30 p.m. 'A Celebration of Excellence' Tribute to Hal Dorf / University Center

6:30 p.m. Classes of '58-'59-'60 reunion dinner

9 p.m. All alumni reception Landmark Inn

Saturday, Sept. 26

10 a.m. - Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center open house

10:30 a.m. Alumni Association Awards and Foundation Scholarship Brunch

2 p.m. Tailgating outside of Superior Dome

4 p.m. NMU Football vs. Ferris 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**

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



Northern
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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Paula Supanich

Walt '90 BS and April '97 BS, '03 MA, '06 MFA Lindala
Lifetime members of the Alumni Association
since 2005

“While at NMU, I loved playing music with friends at TKE parties and the Village Pub on Third Street. The place used to be a hotbed for up-and-coming bands,” recalls Walt Lindala. “Putting together concerts in the down-campus cafeterias and the UC while I was at Radio X was fun as well.”

Walt is still doing similar things—organizing the annual Marquette Area Blues Fest, jamming with the Flat Broke Blues Band and working as a radio talk and music show host. He says, “My strongest memories of Northern have to do with the social aspects of the university experience...especially the day that I met April!

“Being a member of the Alumni Association has allowed my wife and me a chance to take part in some very special events and activities around the country that have strengthened our bond with NMU.”

April, who is the director of Northern’s Center for Native American Studies, agrees: “Being a member has afforded me the opportunity to serve as an ambassador for NMU, to meet alumni from all regions, from all decades and from all academic and professional backgrounds. We not only get to stay in touch, but get to take part in activities like the TKE Red Carnation Ball.”

She cherishes her student days at Northern when she worked at Public Eye News and Radio X, and weekends cheering at football games—in the freezing cold.

The couple encourages fellow alumni who live in the area or visit this summer to support live music and get out and see what today’s NMU students are playing in the clubs. “It’s pretty good stuff!” Walt promises.

Of course I’m a member. Are You?

Consider joining the NMU Alumni Association today.
www.nmu.edu/alumni • 1-877-GRAD NMU • alumni@nmu.edu