

On campus today

NEW DIRECTIONS



Studying abroad before starting school

A program was launched this summer to give freshmen an enhanced global perspective before they arrive on campus, as well as an instant group of new NMU friends.

Nine-day study trips to England or Quebec were offered in early August. Each was worth two academic credits, with coursework continuing throughout the fall semester. In the course A History of England through the Arts, students visited London's historic sites, such as Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Westminster Abbey, House of Parliament and major museums. They also participated in walking tours tracing literary, political and pop culture landmarks.

Students in the French Canadian Culture and Civilization course visited historic Quebec City and explored Canada's modern-day French culture in Montreal. A grant of \$8,000 through the Government of Canada's Student Mobility Program helped to defray some costs of student travel.

Each group was led by an NMU instructor and staff member.

Plans are for the Freshman International Experiences to be offered every summer, though the destinations may vary.

Also new this year is a volunteer service trip to Belize sponsored by International Programs during spring break 2011, where students will help improve a school in El Progresso.

ROTC in China

Cadet Morgan Steele of the Wildcat Battalion Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at NMU spent three weeks in China this summer as part of a test program implemented by the U.S. Army's Cultural Understanding and Language Program. The Army assigned cadets from multiple ROTC programs to 18 countries. Steele taught English to 71 grade school children in the city of Xi'an in the Shaanxi Province.

"Working with the locals of Xi'an was one of my favorite parts of my trip to the other side of the world," Steele says. "They were so friendly and more than willing to teach me new words in Chinese and take pictures with me. I spent a majority of my time working with the 6-year-olds of one of the kindergarten classes. Most of their English was already very good, so my partner and I taught them games and songs. We also taught them how to tell time and how to count, add and subtract."

Cadet Benjamin Crocket spent the summer in Dongducheon, South Korea. He was able to train with U.S. and South Korean Armed Forces during a combined training exercise.

Department head Lt. Col. Kyle Rambo says NMU's Military Science Department intends to expand its support for this program and send additional cadets next summer.





Military Friendly

Northern is among the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are “doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students,” according to *G.I. Jobs* magazine. This is the second consecutive year NMU was named to its list of Military Friendly Schools.



“This list is especially important now because the Post-9/11 GI Bill has given veterans virtually unlimited financial means to go to school,” says Rich McCormack, *G.I. Jobs* publisher. “Veterans can now enroll in any school, provided they’re academically qualified. So schools are clamoring for them like never before. Veterans need a trusted friend to help them decide where to get educated.”

Derek Blumke, president of Student Veterans of America, said, “The Military Friendly Schools list is the gold standard in letting veterans know which schools will offer them the greatest opportunity, flexibility and overall experience.”

Currently, 232 NMU students are receiving veterans benefits.



Art and Design professor Peter Pless exhibited eight new prototypes at the renowned 2010 Salone Satellite, an exhibition of select young international designers held in Milan, Italy. His collection merges a variety of domestic objects, technology and lifestyle into products that are distilled down to their essential function while defining new interactions, experiences and elegance. “The conceptual framework ‘Spaces’ defines the significance of certain products that people have direct contact with on a day-to-day basis,” says Pless.

Got Deutsch?

Motivated by significant growth in the German program in the last decade, a new German studies major has been introduced. The program’s emphasis moves beyond language and literature to also include German history, politics, business, philosophy, economics, art and design and popular culture. The major also addresses changes in the European community over the past few years that have increased the interest in and value of studying the German-speaking world and the significant global role played by Germany today. In addition to being the world’s second largest exporting nation, more than 250 German, Austrian and Swiss firms do business in Michigan.

Chinese students boost enrollment numbers

Fifteen more students started the fall semester at Northern than were here last year, according to the university’s 10th day enrollment report, for a total headcount of 9,273.

Continuing undergrads, up by 141 students, made up the biggest increase, particularly at the senior level; along with undergraduate transfers, who number 50 more than last year’s significant increase. Also, international enrollment is up more than 27 percent to 90, thanks in large part to a contingent of 21 Chinese business students from Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing.

Offsetting the gains was a drop of 29 first-time, full-time freshmen and a nearly 7 percent decline in graduate students. The good news, however, is that more freshmen are being regularly admitted, reflecting stronger academic credentials such as ACT scores and high school GPAs. A growing number, almost three-quarters, are voluntarily participating in the First Year Experience program, which is designed to ease the transition from high school to college and leads to improved academic performance and retention.

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English honors



English professor John Smolens is winner of the 2010 Michigan Author Award, presented by the Michigan Library

Association to a Michigan author with an outstanding body of fiction, nonfiction, poetry or playscripts.

Smolens has published six novels—the latest being *The Anarchist*—and a collection of short stories. He has also been named the 2010-11 Peter White Scholar at NMU. For that he received a \$17,500 award to assist with his latest literary effort, tentatively titled *The Schoolmaster's*

Daughter, the story of a family framed by the American Revolution battles of Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill.



Robert Whalen of the English Department and collaborator Christopher Hodgkins from the University of

North Carolina at Greensboro have received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Scholarly Editions Grant worth \$250,000. Their project, *The Digital Temple*, is an electronic documentary edition of 17th-century devotional poet George Herbert's

English verse, first published in 1633. *The Digital Temple* is under contract with University of Virginia Press. Whalen previously received an NEH Fellowship to dedicate time to work on the project.



Laura Soldner, English professor and director of freshman composition, was recently honored by the International Reading

Association College Literacy and Learning Special Interest Group with its 2010 Dedication and Commitment to the Field of College Literacy and Learning Award.

Premier poets

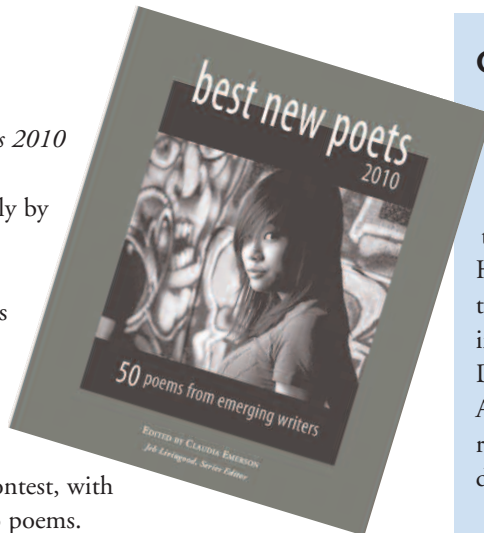
Five of the 50 poets in *Best New Poets 2010* are Northern alumni.

The anthology, published annually by the University of Virginia, was guest edited by Pulitzer-prize winning poet Claudia Emerson, who selected poems from nominations made by literary magazines and writing programs across the country, as well as through an open Internet competition. There were over 1,500 submissions to the contest, with each submission including one to two poems.

The poets are **Lisa Coutley '10 MFA**, **Adam Houle '07 MA**, **Brandi George '08 MA**, **Eric Smith '07 MA**, and **Sarah Wangler '09 MA**. They all served as English teaching assistants while graduate students at NMU.

"It comes as no surprise to the five of us that the education, mentorship and support we received from our professors and colleagues at Northern are part of the reason we have achieved this much success," writes Eric Smith.

For more information about the collection, see www.bestnewpoets.org



Green living

Another residence hall renovation has achieved sustainability benchmarks set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Hunt Hall earned a silver designation from the council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. Van Antwerp and Meyland previously received silver and certified designations.

Many of the materials used in the renovation, which took just 90 days, are made of recycled content and were regionally manufactured. Dual-flush toilets, low-flow showers and faucets, more natural light and occupancy light sensors or timers all contribute to better energy efficiency in the 40-year-old building.

Reaching out with WiMAX

Not only are the 7,500 students who live off campus, and many faculty and staff enjoying continuous access to the web to support their classwork and scholarship via NMU's WiMAX next generation wireless network, the region's police and fire departments and government offices are also benefiting from the technology. Because Northern's FCC license is for educational and governmental uses, NMU is partnering with local cities and townships to enhance their network communications. As the network has expanded throughout Marquette, Ishpeming, Gwinn, Sawyer and most of Harvey—currently covering an area of about 40 square miles—area police, state patrol and fire vehicles are able to use full broadband services on the fly in each vehicle with full motion video and data services. Critical information can be accessed via the web to each car, offering a new level of safety and security at lower cost. In addition, city and county governments will save additional dollars using WiMAX, for example, to manage water and power services including automated metering, billing and lift station management.

NMU is also working to bring public schools into the network so that rural schools will have access to high speed wireless broadband service.



Northern is building a new mock substation outside the Jacobetti Center to serve as a lab for its new power technician program. The first and largest piece of equipment for the project—a transformer—was delivered recently and lowered into place with a crane on the east side of the building. The transformer will allow students to practice troubleshooting and maintenance procedures they would use if employed by any utility, transmission or generation company. Circuit breakers, switches and a steel structure will be installed later to complete the substation.



NMU zoology major Emily Dandron spent her summer working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment to help restore lake sturgeon in Upper Peninsula rivers. She is pictured in the center with colleagues from the project.

Fish tales

While Yooper tales of the big one that got away abound, few have photos to prove it. Emily Dandron, a zoology student from Montague, spent last summer helping to reestablish self-sustaining populations of lake sturgeon in the Cedar and Whitefish Rivers in the Upper Peninsula, like the estimated 100-pounder shown above. These waterways once supported spawning runs of the fish, but their populations were decimated by excessive harvest and by habitat changes—most notably, dam construction—resulting from settlement of the region in the late 1880s and early 1900s. Lake sturgeon is a state-listed threatened species.

“I did some initial work in Wisconsin collecting eggs during final exam week,” Dandron recalls. “It was a waiting game to see when the fish would spawn in the rivers. Once they did, we were able to collect the eggs directly from the fish. In the U.P., we had lake sturgeon eggs in incubators in trailers near the rivers.” Once they hatched, her job was to go every day to clean the tanks, feed the fish and count any mortalities. They were then released in the rivers in September.

Dandron's project is part of a larger multi-agency initiative spanning five streamside hatcheries on Lake Michigan rivers.