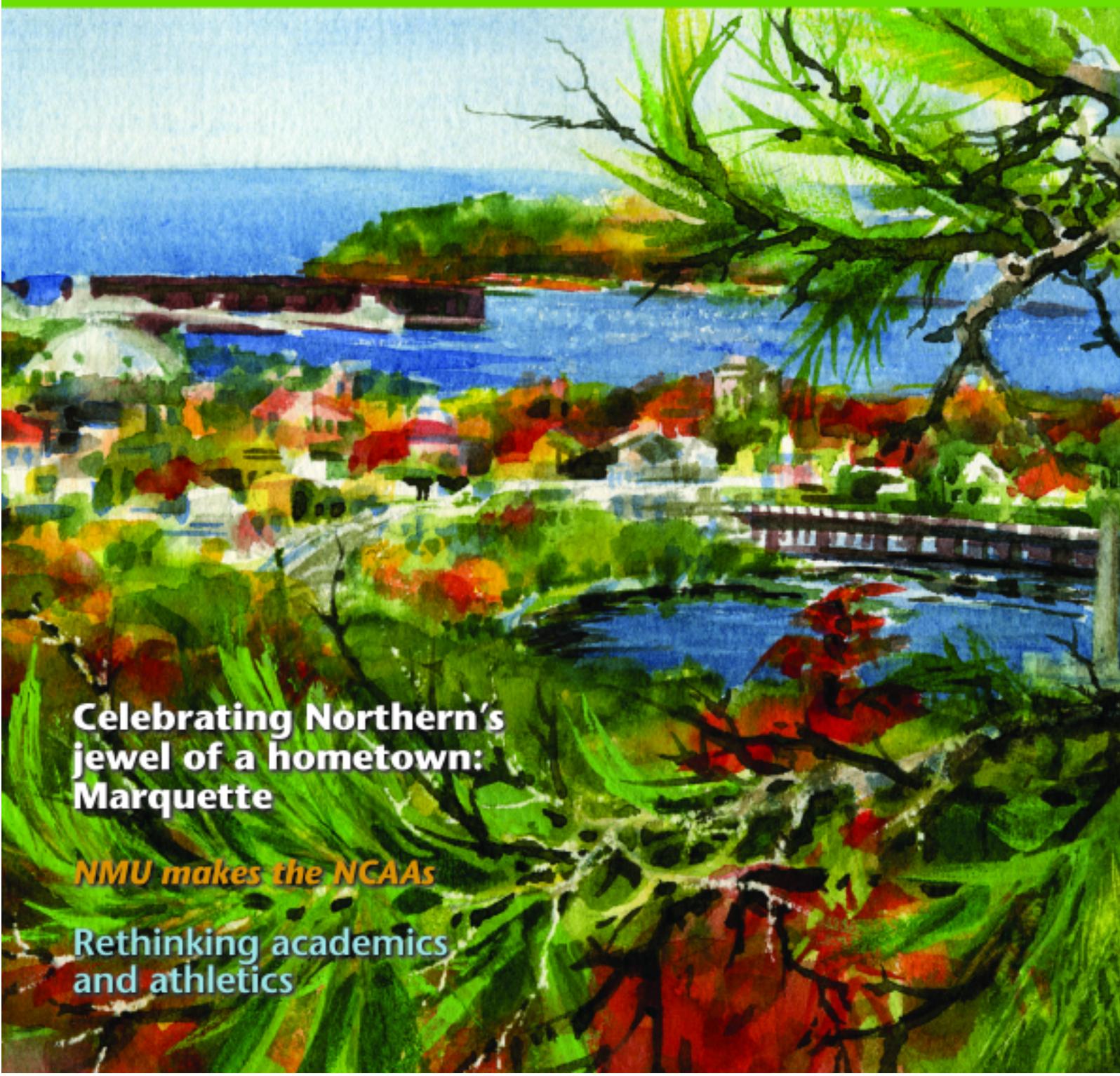


Northern HORIZONS

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Summer 2010



**Celebrating Northern's
jewel of a hometown:
Marquette**

NMU makes the NCAAs

**Rethinking academics
and athletics**

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Editor's note

It's a Sunday morning in early June and on campus it's an unusually warm 78 degrees. But down by the lakeshore, a cool breeze whips off Superior, dressed in haze and spiked with small waves. Sometime during a recent night, daring representatives of the Marquette Senior High School graduating class voyaged out to Third Rock and painted a "10," replacing the Haitian flag with a heart in it that had shown our sympathies across the waters throughout the winter. Sunbathers spot the beach and down by McCarty's Cove, I see the bikes of my son and his two friends, dumped in the grass at the top of the dunes, and them digging in the wet shore sand. I don't worry about them drowning, as they won't be able to stand the water for more than a few feet or few seconds before their feet start to freeze. Just last weekend, my daughter and her friend organized a "random party" at McCarty's via Facebook, inviting 68 of their pals without ever lifting a phone. While parties may come together differently these days, it's great that some things—like a picnic at McCarty's— just don't change. The red Coast Guard station stands watch and the rioting lilacs spray their intoxicating perfume on the wind.

At the edge of the lower harbor, near the breakwall, sits a new Coast Guard station, though it's tastefully designed to look as if it's been there since the original, in 1890. Bicyclists, joggers, dog walkers, baby strollers move along the bike path, lined today with condominiums that have replaced old corrugated steel buildings and the former LS&I railroad offices. Where mountains of coal, often on fire, once made up the terrain along the water, (alumni from pre-1980s will remember this), today, people toss Frisbees, lick ice cream cones or lazily lay on the stretch of grass or chase around in the giant playground. Soon, the park will be filled with vendors for the 4th of July International Food Fest and fireworks, and other events like Art on the Rocks, the Blues Fest and U.P. BeerFest. The massive ore dock, which developers hope to turn into condos and stores, just keeps on being an unmistakable tie to the past (and total mystery to visitors). By the fish dock, nets are tidied along the front of Thill's Fish House and boaters spray down their vessels, with names like Dream Catcher and Esperanza.

It is a dream to be able to live here. Where children can be off being children and Sundays can be spent on the warm sand with a book and the first taste of a long summer. In a place that has yesteryear charm but the energy and vision of a university town. Where thousands of students have been and continue to be inspired to follow their own dreams, nurtured on a campus that's intrinsically linked to the one-of-a-kind community that surrounds it.

Magazine survey thanks

We've been delighted by receiving so many, and such thoughtful responses to our Horizons readership survey. Thank you if you were one of them. We are keeping the survey open for another few weeks if you haven't had a chance to share your opinions and suggestions. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/yg3rwuk>. We'll take your ideas to heart and try to put them into action in our upcoming issues.

—Rebecca Tavernini



A license plate. A legacy.



Meet Heidi and Carol Hill. Heidi is continuing the NMU legacy in her family, started by her mother, Carol (Peterson), who is a 1980 graduate. Heidi is a junior at Northern, studying communications and theater and interning this summer with the Marquette Arts and Culture Center.



Thanks to Ross Anthony '04, who is giving back to NMU by purchasing the Wildcat license plate, Heidi was able to receive the Alumni Legacy Scholarship, and meet one of the many people supporting her education.



It's more than just a license plate.

When you purchase an NMU plate in Michigan, \$25 of your \$35 fee is returned to the university and supports the NMU Alumni Association's Legacy Scholarship, available to children of Alumni Association members in Michigan. A simple way to support students and show your NMU pride!

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Rose and John Conklin '72 BS
Alumni Association Member since 2002

Of course I'm a member. Are You?

I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to have graduated from NMU in 1972 and to have been a part of the basketball program for three years. At that time, many of the sports programs were very strong, with dedicated coaches and outstanding athletes from all over the Midwest and many from the U.P. I also felt that my academic program trained me well for my career in education. And most certainly, the political activism and social changes and awareness that were a part of campus life during that time could not help but influence any student.

After graduation I returned to Illinois to teach and coach. It soon became apparent that NMU, Marquette, and the U.P. was becoming our place to vacation. My wife, Rose, and I often made the 10-hour-one-way drive and later brought our two children to enjoy the outdoor activities, sports events, and rugged beauty of the area.

I retired as a superintendent of schools in 2005 after 33 years in education. Soon after, we purchased a second home on Lake Independence in Big Bay. We spend several weeks throughout the year in the Marquette area and enjoy all of the seasons. Rose and I are proud that our son Brett graduated from NMU in 2006 and has made Marquette his home. This summer, we will be welcoming Samantha Lagerman a 2009 NMU graduate, to our family as Brett's wife. Samantha's father, Shane Lagerman, is also an NMU alumnus, graduating in 1985. Now whenever our family gets together, it is a mini NMU alumni reunion!

Being part of the Alumni Association keeps us in touch with NMU events, community activities and our Northern friends in the area and around the country. This is one of our favorite destinations and will continue to be so.

Join the NMU Alumni Association today.
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