

On campus today

NEW DIRECTIONS



The NMU group on a tour of the “old city” of Jerusalem. They are wearing headphones originally purchased to provide simultaneous interpretation during a recent campus visit by Central American students. The headphones were appreciated by the Middle East guides, who did not have to yell to be heard and could continue their presentation while walking, and by NMU team members, who were able to learn more during their limited time in the region.

Opening doors to the Middle East

A 14-member delegation from NMU recently visited Israel and Turkey as part of a year-long study of the Middle East. Their efforts are culminating with new courses and revised programs relevant to this key region of the world.

“A lot of interest in the Middle East has to do with the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts,” says Tim Compton, head of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department. “We visited Jerusalem because that is a focal point for three of the world’s major religions. We were exposed to the richness of the culture and a variety of viewpoints: people who live in the controversial settlements, Palestinians, non-government organizations working on water issues and people who live near the Gaza Strip. There were limits to what we could do in four days, but we were able to grasp the complexities of Israel. The news gives a skewed view of a pretty peaceful place. I was struck by how safe I felt there.”

In Istanbul, Turkey, the delegation established a connection with two universities that may participate with NMU in student and faculty exchanges.

The trip was supported by a \$165,000 federal Title VI grant designed to strengthen Northern’s international studies and language curricula.

“We are convinced the new curriculum will help our graduates in international studies be more prepared than ever before to take advantage of increasing global careers and opportunities,” adds Compton.

Go Green!

Students in the Jacobetti Center will soon be able to recharge their laptops with electricity produced by solar panels and a wind turbine. The Engineering Technology Department received two grants to support the project: \$1,000 from the Wisconsin Energy Foundation and nearly \$5,000 from the NMU Wildcat Innovation Fund.

The solar panels and wind turbine have been on the Jacobetti roof for several years, but they have only been connected to monitoring equipment, with no infrastructure to make use of the electricity.

Students in the alternative energy minor will purchase and connect equipment that will control the energy and direct it to a laptop recharging station that they will install in the Jacobetti commons.

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A new bachelor’s degree program in fisheries and wildlife management will debut this fall, offered by the Biology Department. The Geography Department is now the Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department.



The environmental conservation major will be renamed environmental studies and sustainability, while the geographical information systems major will be renamed geomatics.

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This summer in an effort to reduce energy use and costs, NMU employees are working four 10-hour days, with most campus buildings closed on Fridays and weekends.



Extreme Makeover: Jamrich Hall edition

Jamrich Hall, the primary classroom facility on campus, will undergo a \$25 million renovation. The building, which hasn't been fully updated since it was built in 1969, will become a high-tech, flexible and environmentally sustainable learning environment. The goal is to completely renovate the building and construct a 36,000-square-foot addition for faculty offices currently housed in Gries Hall. This would allow for the demolition of Gries, as indicated in the campus master plan, reducing the overall square footage on campus. Plans are also under way to demolish Carey Hall, which has not been used for a number of years.

The Jamrich Hall project, most of which will be paid by the state, with the remainder from NMU bonds, is expected to take 18 months, and will start in the 2012-13 academic year.

The last capital outlay NMU received was in 2005 for C.B. Hedgcock, Art and Design and Thomas Fine Arts.

Grants and kudos

Superclassroom

NMU has received a \$160,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to promote active learning in the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math. The funding covers training for six faculty "catalysts" to redesign at least one of their own courses and serve as models for teaching colleagues. It will also enable NMU to create a student-centered, technology-rich classroom in the Learning Resources Center.

Creative Technology

NMU received the 2011 ACUTA Award for Institutional Excellence in Information Communications Technology among mid-size institutions for its WiMAX network. ACUTA is the association for information communications technology professionals in higher education. It recognizes vision and technological leadership in the creative use of technology to support teaching, research, decision-making and service delivery.

Celebrating an iconic architect

The 100th birthday of the late **John Lautner '33 AB, LC**, one of the most visionary architects of the 20th century, will be celebrated with joint exhibitions at NMU's DeVos Art Museum and the new Marquette Regional History Museum Aug. 19-Nov. 13. After Northern, Lautner went on to study with Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin and settled in Los Angeles where he became well known for designing innovative structures. He received the Gold Medal of the American Institutes of Architects in 1993. The exhibits will feature photos, models, plans, films, talks and workshops from visiting experts. See www.nmu.edu/DeVos.



Hatherall Residence, 1958. Image by Zachary Cornwell.

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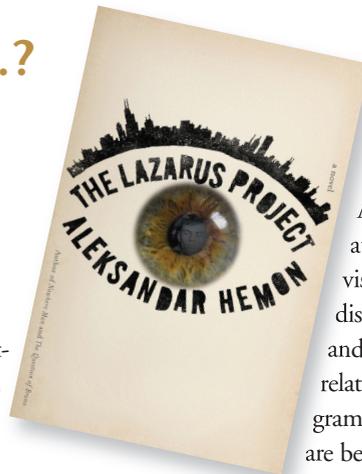
NMU had the largest class ever march in commencement this year, with 848 of 1,035 graduating students participating.

Skateboarders at NMU Break Guinness World Record

More than 340 people glided on skateboards and longboards through the NMU campus on April 10 to set a Guinness World Record for the "Largest Skateboard Parade." The former record was 250. Students from the NMU Skate and Snow Club and the Marquette Informal Longboarding Foundation organized the event. This is the fifth world record to be set on the NMU campus. Others include the largest game of musical chairs (1977), largest pasty (1978) and largest sauna (1996 and 2005).

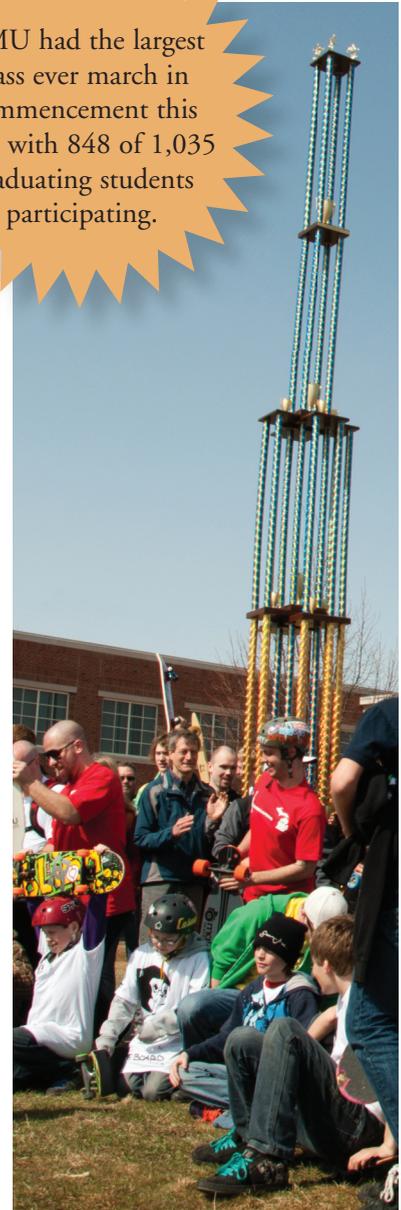
Have you read...?

The Lazarus Project by Aleksandar Hemon is the 2011 selection for NMU and Marquette County's One Book, One Community program. Hemon creates a work of historical fiction born from an event long shrouded in mystery: the 1908 shooting of 19-year-old Lazarus Averbuch, a Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe, by the chief of Chicago Police. The novel weaves together Averbuch's story with that of Vladimir Brik, a 21st century fictional Bosnian-American writer working on a book about Averbuch. His research takes him and a quick-witted photographer, whose photos accompany the story throughout the novel, on a crazy trip through Eastern Europe and their



own pasts. An author visit, book discussions and other related programming are being planned

around the book. One Book, One Community is designed to bring Marquette County residents and Northern Michigan University students, alumni and employees together to read and discuss the same book. For an updated schedule of events, visit www.nmu.edu/onebook.



skateboard and trophy photos: Tim Rosslund

One world record deserves another, right? In conjunction with the skateboard parade, the Marquette-based Internet business Quick Trophy unveiled a 22-foot, 6.5-inch trophy on NMU's campus, which was later confirmed by Guinness World Records as the largest trophy. Quick Trophy is owned by NMU alumnus Terry Dehring '78 BS, '81 MA (pictured at center, clapping) and employs many NMU students. The mammoth trophy, which consists of 23 wood bases, 18 cups, including an 18-inch championship cup, 12 skater and star figurines and 48 columns, is currently displayed in—where else?—the world's largest wooden dome.

Politicians' papers, lumber company records

The Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives has obtained the papers of former Congressman **Bart Stupak '09 HD** and former Michigan State Senator and State Representative **Mike Prusi '69**.

Another recent acquisition are records of the Bay de Noquet Lumber Company and Oconto Lumber Company, which offer a glimpse of the logging industry and its pivotal role in the formative history of the region.



Bart Stupak

Archivist Marcus Robyns says the archives had never collected congressional papers before Stupak agreed to turn over many documents from his 18 years in office.

"There are memos, notes, correspondence, calendars, a visitors' registry and audio-visual materials produced by his office," Robyns says. "It amounts to great documentation of what happened in the Upper Peninsula and the nation and how Bart was involved.

His tenure included some newsworthy events: Iraq, Clinton's impeachment, free trade and the Accutane controversy. There are a lot of interchanges with other congressmen and drafts of legislation."

With assistance from NMU Trustee Jon LaSalle, Robyns worked with the congressman's office to determine which papers would be donated and which would be retained by Stupak. The latter includes material related to the Obama administration's health care bill.



Mike Prusi

Prusi completed an eight-year term in the Michigan Senate in December. He previously served three terms with the state Legislature, succeeding Dominic Jacobetti. Robyns says, "His papers don't just cover his senatorial career, but his days as a representative and as president of United Steelworkers of America Local 4950 in Negaunee."

Robyns also collected the Bay de Noquet Lumber Company and Oconto Lumber Company records from Nahma, a small town on the Garden Peninsula.

University historian and history professor Russ Magnaghi had stopped by the Nahma Historical Society, located in an old church, and discovered it held a mountain of old records from the lumber company.

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On a related note, Prusi was inducted into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame at NMU in May along with the late Harold Matthews. Prusi is honored for serving three terms as president of Local Union 4950 (Empire Mine) and other regional representation, coordinating the Stand Up for Iron Ore campaign, and lobbying for tariffs on imported steel products.

Matthews is recognized as first president of the Marquette Labor Council AFL-CIO, president of Local 2099 (Greenwood Mine) and for his many civic activities. Though not an alumnus, Harold had strong ties to Northern. His son **David '61** and grandson **David '84** are alumni and great grandson Charles is a junior at NMU.



Harold Matthews

Susan Koch, NMU's provost and vice president for academic affairs since 2007, is leaving to become the chancellor of the University of Illinois-Springfield. A replacement has not yet been named.

MBA student Robert Johnson of Negaunee was the top competitor at the 2011 NMU New Business Venture Competition, with his mobile application development and marketing firm, Prometheus Tree.

Professors Kenneth Janson (business), Shelley Russell (theater) and Mary Jane Tremethick '85 BSN, '93 MA (HPER) are recipients of the 2011 Distinguished Faculty Awards.

Next-gen research

The academic year wrapped up with a Celebration of Student Research, Creative Works and Academic Service Learning, featuring oral presentations, artistic performances and poster/photo displays. Students reported on such topics as:

- Taking a mathematical look at long jumping
- Our appetite: The environmental impact caused by our food choices rather than food-miles
- Quantifying the seasonal and diurnal "lake effect" of Lake Superior: A year-round comparison between onshore and offshore meteorological conditions near Marquette
- A snapshot of 21st century economic development in Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- Mild traumatic brain injury and new-onset sequelae in a veteran population
- A relationship between an athlete's level of competition and their ability to tolerate pain
- Social carrying capacity subsequent to recent wolf repopulation success in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

'Cat nips