



## Northern Michigan University Retirees Association

### Minutes of the February 12, 2015 Social Meeting

Location: Huron Room, Don H. Bottum University Center

Start Time: 10:00 AM with refreshments and conversation

Number Present: 25 retired employees and spouses/guests\*

Opening remarks were made by President John Kiltinen.

The “NMU Student Experience” was the theme of the meeting with both John Kiltinen and Amy Hubinger (NMU Foundation) offering introductory remarks on the student presenters. Amy Hubinger indicated that several of the presenters were also participants in President Erickson’s investiture ceremony earlier in the week. All students emphasized how their choice of NMU has impacted their personal and professional growth.

- Cody Norton, MS Biology student, described his research in maternal bear behaviors and his experience of receiving the Truman award for best poster presentation at an International Conference on Bear Research and Management in Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Anna Kase, BS Zoology student, explained why she chose NMU, related her extensive curricular and extracurricular activities at NMU and shared how she believed these are contributing to her decisions for graduate work.
- Cole Swiston, BS Biology/Physiology student, attributes his acceptance into medical school to advantages he had studying in a smaller university, most notably the ability to conduct research at the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center. His four years of work and civic internship with the UP Children’s Museum are weighing into a possible pursuit in pediatrics.
- Kat Klawes, BS English/Secondary Ed and Theatre/Entertainment Arts student, explained her motivation for a dual major and involvement in student governance. Her role as ASNMU president enabled her to talk with Governor Snyder on the value of arts in education.
- Genna McKenna, BS Community Health Education student, was unable to attend
- Mitchel Hanley, BS Management student, shared his newly held belief in the value of study abroad that was based on his recent six-month academic experience in New Zealand.
- Rebecca Pelky, MFA Creative Writing student, described her reasons for pursuing a second career in teaching at the higher education level, the supports offered to her and shared several of the poems which will make up her thesis: a book of poems.

A survey of retirees is being prepared for a spring delivery that seeks input on interests, preferences and desired activities. John Kiltinen requested participation and indicated results would be shared at the May meeting. The survey is being developed by Cindy Paavola.

Grant Soltwisch, coordinator of the annual pre-commencement NMU Dome Cleanup, explained that the cleanup, while it played an important role in NMU's image to commencement attendees, has run its course. The larger rubbish items has lessened in recent years and with the new NMU tobacco ban, the cigarette butt debris should cease to exist. Grant recommends that ideas for a new initiative that can be equally beneficial to NMU should be considered. A suggestion was made to put the item on the upcoming survey.

Upcoming meetings: May 14, Social Meeting; August 13, Social and Annual Business Meeting

Four jars of Soltwisch jam were given as door prizes. Joylyn Wahla won the 50/50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Poindexter  
Secretary-Treasurer NMU Retirees Association

\* Significant winter weather conditions existed that likely prevented numerous others from attending as planned.