

UNIVERSITY

NORTHERN

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENTNEWS

ISSUE #13 SUMMER 2021

NEWS FROM MARQUETTE PRES.

The faculty team is back meeting regularly (in-person), and that brings a breath of fresh air to all of us in a very literal sense. The weather is warming, the snow has been gone for a bit and the outlook for the summer is very bright!

December / January: Not a ton of activity during the semester break, as the fall semester ended before Thanksgiving and the Winter semester fired up in mid-January. It was productive, yet relatively uneventful.

February brought a few days of sub-zero temperatures with no snow, which froze the lower harbor into an incredibly large skating rink. The link below has NMU's mascot (Wild-

cat Willy) enjoying the cool skating opportunity: https:// www.youtube.com/ watch?v=sVGK-EQI-Uus. If you look closely around the 23 second mark, Jim Johnson (2007) and Willy stop for a selfie.

March lacked the

traditional spring break, but we did host our Student Summit (virtually). 60+ students attended their choice of two different topics as presented by members of the Construc-

tion Management Advisory Committee.

April brought some overnight snows, and lots of rain...but also opportunities for many of our graduates and returning students. The semester wrapped up on the 30th with our Hard Hat Ceremony to recognize the graduates.

May was spent planning for the many upcoming (and in-person) activities will be part of the 2021.22 academic year. Career fairs, golf outings, SCAN nights, Women in Construction events...etc. are all intended to be live and in-person come August.



PRES. ERICKSON MESSAGE

I have always admired people who can build things. I have enormous respect for individuals who can visualize, plan, measure and construct something from a concept into an actual, usable structure. I find these



skills to be highly desirable for any number of jobs in a wide variety of professional fields. From my own experience of puttering around with projects in my home workshop over the years, I know how difficult it is and the talent needed to build something of quality and durability.

What I most admire about Northern Michigan University's Construction Management program are its hands-on learning opportunities from Day 1 until students cross the commencement stage, its high level of community involvement, and its interdisciplinary approach. When you complete this program, you've been exposed to more than how to hammer nails or pour concrete. You will have succeeded at applied physics. You will have had experiences to help you understand how to professionally interact with and manage people. You will have mastered basic business skills, such as accounting and budgeting. You will have explored green building and learned about sustainability. You will have tapped into your creative, artistic side in your design work. You will have demonstrated how multi-talented you are, because the graduates of this program are not good at just one skill, but many. The faculty are engaged, available and ready to help all of the future, current and former students achieve success.

I am also so impressed with how students and alumni interact. It is heartwarming to see the support that the alumni

working in the construction management fields give to the students and graduates of this program. There is a



PRES. ERICKSON MESSAGE Continued...

true sense of alumni reaching back to NMU to provide a hand to students the way someone once reached out a hand to them when they wore an NMU hardhat. I sincerely hope this is an NMU construction management program tradition that never fades. Northern also owes a huge debt of gratitude to the many successful alumni who served on the program's advisory committee over the years. Your insights, experience and resources are invaluable in helping to keep Northern's program relevant, so our graduates are extremely well prepared to enter the industry.

One of the things I'm most excited about regarding this program right now is its strategic efforts regarding diversity and inclusion. We are demonstrating more each year that

when we say we admire people who can build things, we mean all people who can build things, regardless of gender, race, culture or physical challenges. What I see when I visit the lab or go to a site where NMU construction management students are working are individuals of all types who are extremely passionate about creating physical structures that improve the lives of others. It's inspiring and always makes me want to head home and start a new home improvement project of my own. I only wish I was as talented as the current and former students highlighted in this newsletter. I have every confidence they will continue constructing amazing structures over their careers and lifetimes. I hope I get a chance to see many of those projects.

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES

MAY 2021

Another semester of 100% graduate placement. All of the

students will be either returning to NMU as full-time stu-

dents, or starting their professional careers in the construction industry.

Megan Antal ► (Dearborn, MI) will be heading back to Southeast Michigan to start her career with Alrig USA as a Project Engineer.



Sam Bongiorno (Grand Rapids,

MI) will be working for Blattner Energy as a Field Engineer out of their Avon, MN location, but will likely be traveling throughout the

central states.

Sean Brady 🕨 (Warren, MI) is packing up and

heading to Baltimore to be a Field Engineer with the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company.



of their Lansing, MI office. However, he is assigned to their northern operations unit, and will likely be spending quite a bit of time in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.



Tyler Crisp < (Mukwonago, WI) accepted a Project Engineer position with Miron Construction in their Neenah, WI office.

Ian Dickerson > (Grand Haven, MI) will be returning

home to start his career working in the trades.



Brennen Gatt (Howell, MI)

will be working for Blattner Energy as a Field Engineer out of their Avon, MN location, but will likely be traveling throughout the central states.

Jacob Golab 🕨 (Clarkston, MI)

will be returning to NMU in the fall to continue work toward the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management.

> Austin Goodenough (Wisconsin Rapids, WI) will be a Field Engineer with Boldt in their Stevens Point, WI office.

Noah Green ► (Lake Orion, MI) will be moving to Glenwood Springs, CO to start

his career as a Project Engineer with MW Golden Constructors.







Spencer Cota < (Milford, MI) is starting his career with Clark Construction Company as a Project Engineer out

Connor Bruinius < (Ada, MI) is heading south

to be a Field Engineer with Hill & Wilkinson in Dallas, TX.

Collin Cavin 🕨 (Marquette, MI) will be working for Power Construction as a Project Engineer in Chicago, IL.







CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES

MAY 2021



Karlie Hanson < (Stephenson, MI) is leaving the Upper Peninsula for Baltimore, MD, where she will start her career as a Field Engineer with the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company.

Bowen Holmes 🕨 (Honor, MI) will be

working as a Project Engineer with Rockford Construction Company in their Grand Rapids, MI office.



Morgan Pelach > (Gaylord, MI) will be living in Saginaw, MI and working for



Clark Construction Company out of their Lansing, MI office



Devon Pietila ┥ (Hartland, MI) will be

returning to NMU and completing work toward his Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management.

Joshua Pietila > (Hartland, MI) will be moving to the Avon, MN area to become a



Ryan Pietila < (Hartland, MI) is heading up the highway to Houghton, MI to be a supervisor with Moyle Construction.

Trevor Roberts (Kingsford, MI) will be working for Hill & Wilkinson as a Field Engineer in the Dallas, TX area.



Bryce Ruppert < (Morley, MI) is likely heading to Orem, UT to work for W.W. Clyde's heavy civil division as a Field Engineer.

Dane Schapman ► (North Branch, MI) will be staying in Southeast Michigan to work for Barton Malow as a Field Engineer.



Jordan Segard ┥ (Grandville, MI) will be starting Elite Welding



and Fabrication as a business owner, and working part time in the family business around the Grand Rapids area.

Dru Strainer > (Spring Lake, MI) will be working for Michigan's Department of Transportation as a Field Technician in Muskegon, MI.



Cade Tank < (Allenton, MI) will be working for O'Brien Construction as a Project Engineer, out of their Troy, MI office.

Deatae Young-Gulley (Macomb, MI) will be living and working in southeast Michigan, and employed by Pontiac Ceiling and Partition in Pontiac, MI.







Nick Hughes < (Albuquerque, NM) is off to Greely, CO to start working as a Project Engineer with Hensel Phelps.

Katie Juhola > (Gwinn, MI) will be working in the skilled trades around the Marquette and surrounding area.



John Jukkala < (Baraga, MI) will be returning to NMU to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.

Levi Lindberg 🕨

(Bruce's Crossing, MI) will be a Project Engineer with Wolgast out of their Saginaw, MI office, but may soon end up with their northern operations in Alpena, MI.



Melanie McNamee < (Marquette, MI) will be a Project Engineer with Barton Malow's energy division, and will be based in Southeast Michigan.

Greg O'Hagan 🕨 (Marquette, MI) will be returning to

NMU to work toward the Electrical Line Technician degree.



Zack Parent < (Wixom, MI) will be getting his career rolling with Barton Malow as an Assistant Superintendent in the Southeast Michigan area.

Dakota Pelach > (Gay-

lord, MI) is heading to Dallas, TX to be a Field Engineer with Hill & Wilkinson.





ALUMNI GUEST COLUMN

Applying Lean to projects of any size or scope: University of Chicago Medicine Homewood Clinic:

Part 1: An understanding of Lean

Guest columnist is Joel Klahn (1984). He is currently a Vice President for Bulley & Andrews in Chicago, IL, as well an Outreach Coach for Unified Works, specializing in lean training for design and construction. Additionally, Joel has been an active member of NMU's Construction Manage-



ment Advisory Committee for more than a decade.

 Joel Klahn is a Marquette Senior High School graduate, as well an NMU alumnus. He has experienced a long, productive and successful career in the industry.

 Joel (far left)
facilitating a pullplan training

This is part 1 of a 3-part series discussing the con-

cept of Lean as applied to capital projects both in design and construction, with the central argument that Lean can be applied on projects of any size and scope – the real driver of success is the willingness of the project participants to see the world differently. In the first part of the series we'll delve (briefly) into what the elements of Lean are and present some metrics and details of the subject project, a general medical clinic build-out in a suburban retail center. The underlying theme of this article is to convey that Lean

isn't complicated nor an academic construct, rather an accessible delivery method that can work on projects large and small and in varying delivery environments. But it takes commitment and desire on the part of execution team as well as support from their organizations to provide the top down/bottom up commitment needed from Owner, A/E, Trade Partner and GC/CM Team to leverage Lean.

Where did Lean come from?

You may have heard about Lean Construction, Lean Design or Lean Manufactur-



ing. They all pretty much have the same genesis which is the Toyota Production System or TPS. TPS has its origins in the work of Edward Deming, Henry Ford and Fredrick Taylor and deep research by a couple of guys from Japan. Toyota has been the leading manufacturer of quality and reliable automobiles for many decades. Their profitability is virtually unmatched by mass producers of automobiles. Toyota also has a corporate culture completely immersed in the principals of Lean – they do not view Lean as a technique to be applied to making things but rather the very essence of what and how a corporation should exist and conduct business. All this embrace of Lean results in extremely low employee turnover, lower cost of goods sold than competitors and incredible loyalty from their customers.

Following World War II, as the nation of Japan began to rebuild its shattered economy and means of production, two fellows – Kiichiro Toyoda and Taiichi Ohno – undertook a trip to the good old USA to study mass production and in particular that of the Henry Ford Corporation. They also studied supermarkets. At the time, the US had the most advance system of food production and distribution in the world. Using pull systems is how supermarket shelves were stocked, even before the advent of bar codes, RFID chips and computers.

These two were also students of Edward Deming. Interestingly, Deming had approached American Manufacturer about applying his ideas to their means of production and waste elimination but was rebuffed. So instead, Deming took his ideas to Japan where the market was much more interested in what he had to say – principal reasons for this was that given the state of the post war economy and several unique differences between the US and Japanese consumer preferences. Americans preferred bigger things with fewer variations. Japanese preferred more varied product offerings and were much more limited in their access to capital given the results of the war. Henry Ford got a lot of things right, but Toyoda & Ohno took things a bit further. They focused on the concept of "pull" and idea that "the

> next step in the process is the customer". Basing all planning and execution on collaboration with those

Henry Ford (got a lot of things right)

- interchangeable parts
- standard work
- assembly lines to create production flow
- relied on human muscle only

Kiichiro Toyoda, Taiichi Ohno (built upon Ford and leverage the human intellect)

- Toyota Production System
- quick set-ups or changeovers,
 - working in small batch work (accommodates options)
 - focuses on the worker and foreman as the experts to optimize the production system



ALUMNI GUEST COLUM

closest to the work, i.e. the last planners, they optimized every aspect of their business from design, marketing, engineering, production, sales and post sales engagement



for the benefit of the ultimate customer - the people who buy their products.

What is it? At its very essence, Lean is a collaborative way of thinking and behaving that focuses on engaging the people actually doing the work to plan, make the work flow without interruption by eliminating waste and committing to handoffs. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. When we practice conventional project management we are pushing. We're pushing schedules on people who know better - designers, construction supervisors, trades people who know better. Wouldn't you think it'd be more effective to ask the experts how they can do their work and what would they change or improve about their circum-

Construction productivity 1950-2012



stance if they could? That's Lean: ask the right people at the right time to commit, not only when they will do their work, but how and with what conditions. With this approach and understanding we drive out waste and optimize for the benefit of the whole project. Think about this:

Projects are actual complex networks of commitments made between people.

Absent commitment-making by participants & stakeholders. urgency will replace planning; waste creation will ensue; resulting in a decline in desired project outcomes: lower quality, greater cost, longer schedule, less safe environments.



Why Lean? With a very lean understanding of the origins of Lean, let's turn our attention to the matter at hand, Lean Design and Construction. Why should we want to change or improve? What's wrong with the way we've always done thinas?

In my view, there are at least four reasons to improve: easier, better, faster, cheaper. These four goals appear in the order of priority. We should focus on making it easier for people to do a better job. When we do that well, becoming faster and cheaper will naturally follow

RESPECT FOR PFOPI F

The graph to the left charts the

level of productivity for the prior 60+ years. It may be a little hard to read but the red line at the bottom, the one that drops below the baseline of 1, is the construction industry (as a whole). The remaining lines represent manufacturing and other aspects of the US economy. You'll note that manufacturing has a nearly 10% real value add per employee while construction has actually lost productivity per employee over the time period. This is significant. And if for no other reason than wanting to improve we should embrace the philosophy, tools and techniques of lean.

SO! Let's agree to see things differently. Let's flip the pryamid upside down and embrace pull systems and support the people doing the work by providing information, materials and tools that allows them to make optimized and realistic commitments.

Choosing to see the world differently.....that is the beginning of a Lean journey.

The key

foundational elements of Lean are: 1. Respect for People

ous Improvement

Defects

Waiting

Non-utilized

Transportation

DOWNTIME

Over-production

TIMMESS

- Tools
- Information
- Material
- Manpower
- Equipment
- Safety
- Space

2. Continu-

- Inventory
 - Motion
 - Excess Processing

Resources/Talent

ALUMNI GUEST COLUMN

You can't pursue continuous improvement without respect for people as people are at the center of all things; particularly project-related activities involving design and construction.

Waste, Resource Management, and Constraint identification are the working tools of Lean. Regardless of industry or phase of the project. These activities and actions are the baseline of lean behavior and achieving superior project outcomes. Two acronyms are all you need to engage in collaborative planning.

TIMMESS: focus on the 7 resources needed to undertake any activity. If you are missing any of these items than you have uncovered a constraint. A constraint stops work, interrupts flow and must be solved. Creating work arounds, short cuts or performing work out of sequence (no flow) creates a waste. DOWNTIME: these 8 wastes are the reason projects or tasks fail project quality, cost, schedule, safety decline.

Key steps to continuous improvement:

1. Consider who the customer is and what is their expectation of quality (value)

2. Identify the value stream (process) for each product/process providing that value,

3. ID waste and challenge steps currently necessary to provide the product or work

4. Focus on creating flow in the process of production (not all process steps will have flow).

Funnel 1

5. Introduce pull between steps where continuous flow is possible to drive efficiency.

6. Manage toward perfection so that the number of steps and the amount of time and information needed to create value that serves the customer continually falls

To improve, you have to want it.... perfection is unachievable; but if you pursue it.... you'll catch ex-

Lombardi Now that we have a brief grounding in Lean - its

history, what it

is and why we

should embrace

subject project.

it, let's look at the

ANNIN

PULL PL

OF

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cellence - Vince



Project Name: Homewood Clinic **Owner: University of Chicago Medicine** Contractor: Bulley & Andrews Architect: Architrave Size: 9300 Square ft Volume: \$1,602,944 (\$150/sqft for direct work) General Conditions: \$140,369 Delivery Method: Design, Bid, Build. Competitive Lump Sum. Number of Bidders: 12

Known Constraints: delivery restrictions, adjacent business occupancy (common wall), tight schedule, tight GCs

Discovered Constraints: below slab obstructions; schedule compression due to reengineering; unfinished landlord scope of work; cross tied-fire alarm; non-demised fire protection system

Lean Tools Deployed: Pull Planning, 5S, Gemba Walks

In the next newsletter we'll explore the Last Planner Sys-



tem (as created by the Lean Construction Institute). We'll also look at details of the UCM Homewood Clinic project focusing on the makeup of the project team, roles, their commitment to Lean and how the last planner system was implemented

https://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-michigan-university-construction-management-program/

The Last Planner System 5 Connected Conversations One Stage Informs the Next Guided by Linguistic Action Sociological - Psychological - Science



Find us on: linkedin

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Luke Ribbins > President of Gateway

Family: Luke's hometown was Cedarburg, WI, but now lives in Port Washington, WI. Although he has spent his fair share of time traveling the nation for work, he and his wife (Lindsay) are happiest



at home. < Together, they have three boys - Steele is 12, Wesley is 11 and Cole is 9. The family Labrador (Stella) is a fantastic bird dog, and all around amazing part of the family. She accompanies Luke to work every day.

Career: Luke's professional career began as a toilet scrubber for Gateway when he was 12. He then worked as a Carpenter for four-plus

years during and after college. Advancing through the trade ranks, Luke was employed by some of the larger GCs around the Milwaukee area on many marquee projects. He rejoined Gateway, and steadily worked his way upward. In

the last year, he became President of the Gateway company he bought.

His father bought the Milwaukee and Chicago "Gateway", which was formerly a nationwide company when Gateway performed a broader scope



of services. In the 1950s and 1960s, they began to focus on shoring and forming for elevated structural pours. The company's expertise in challenging forming projects has led them across the country (although focused in the Midwest) to complete projects in the education, healthcare and sports venue sectors. Luke's company holds the elevations, sets the forms, shores, and reshores. There are still a few Gateways left around the country, but they are all independent companies.

Gateway has intentionally kept a small overhead through



the years. They rely heavily upon the experience and expertise of a seasoned office manager and project manager. Additionally, Luke employs two key shop guys, and (depending upon workload) anywhere from 10 to 250 skilled trades. Like many construction businesses, Luke's Gateway has had to adapt to many challenges through the years. Specifications for the end-result of his concrete pours can be difficult



to meet. Understanding the key qualitative differences in forming is a big part of the company's success. Class A (exposed to plain-sight view) is a much different process as compared to a Class D (provides structural integrity, but will be covered), and the cost is a large variant. Vibration control measures in a pan and joist system is a relatively new metric that can have a tremendous effect on the cost and schedule as well.

Luke's parents encouraged hard work, and it was a message he heard loud and clear through his formative years. He worked with his father, but also spent quite a bit of time working for other contractors. The senior Ribbens still stops by the office regularly and brings a long career worth of experience to the table when consulting. The relationship is strong, and that has made the transition through the buyout quite smooth.

A few recent dynamic projects from his portfolio include:

- Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln, Nebraska
- Buffalo Sabres stadium in Buffalo, New York
- Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada
- University of Wisconsin (Madison) parking structure

"Fast Five" with Luke

1. What is your favorite movie? He does not watch a ton of movies, but he really enjoyed "The Edge" with Sir Anthony Hopkins.

2. What is your best NMU memory? The entire fall season each year – the fishing, hunting and everything the fall has to offer is great!

3. What is your greatest professional accomplishment? getting to the point he is at through a combination of hard work, field experience and education. Things did not happen by accident.

4. What is the best part of coming back to Marquette? Still absolutely loves driving around the bay from Harvey, and cracking the top of the hill in south Marquette. It is a very special place...Lake Superior is incredible, and the family really enjoys coming up to visit. It is something that only people that either go to NMU, or live in Marquette, can really understand.

5. Who is the person you would most like to meet? Theodore Roosevelt – his conservation efforts were ahead of his time. President Roosevelt was an avid hunter and great outdoorsman.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Charlotte DeYoung (2023) – Hartland, MI

Charlotte is a sophomore at NMU, and working toward the Associate of Applied Science degree in Building Technology. Upon completing the A.A.S., she then intends to continue for the Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.

She spent the summer of 2020 interning with Miron Construction out of there Neenah, WI of-



fice. Charlotte was part of two different projects. One was a hospital in Alpena, where she worked directly with the Su-



perintendent. It was an addition to the existing hospital, and she was there for most of the site clearing and demolition scope. The main canopy and the primary parking lot were being removed, and most of the sitework was completed during here time on that site. The other project was in dairy processing facility in St. Johns, MI, so she got a good experience with industrial construction. The construction was largely completed, so Charlotte got a healthy dose of punchlists. Most proud of: The growth she has achieved thus far. She arrived at NMU at the age of 17, and has come a long way in a short period of time. Without a great deal of construction experience coming in to the program, her willingness to get involved and put her best foot forward has vielded positive results

Plans: Interning with Barton Malow in SE Michigan. Hoping to see more of the in-production of a project after



getting some experience with the front-end and the closeout phases. Looking at summer 2022 as an opportunity to travel. Upon graduating, Charlotte is currently planning to start her career in either Texas or Tennessee

Most Memorable: volunteering at the Women in Construction event in October of 2019.

Why NMU: Charlotte loves the outdoors, so Lake Superior was a big draw. After coming up for Wildcat weekend and a campus visit, the decision was pretty easy!

Looking forward to upcoming Women in Construction events...in person. She appreciates the opportunities presented to get involved with extracurricular activities, and student organizations. She strives to do more than the minimum is enjoys the experiences available outside of the classroom.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION (WIC)

The Women in Construction events are back on track and rolling forward, with two dates booked for the fall. Heidi will be hosting an event in the Jacobetti and northern Oakland County. High school-aged females will get an honest overview of what the construction industry has to offer as career opportunities. The Winter newsletter will be a much bigger feature.

Marquette, Friday, 15 October Clarkston, MI, Friday, 05 November



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Cota Named an Outstanding NMU Grad

Spencer Cota of Highland, Michigan, was named the NMU College of Technology and Occupational Sciences 2020–21 outstanding graduating senior. A first-generation college student, Cota graduated on May 1 with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management.



Spencer has been an active

member of the Northern Michigan Constructors, a construction management student organization, throughout his undergraduate career. He has taken on leadership roles by serving as executive secretary and vice president of the organization for the past two years, and has been the driving force behind the completion of a number of service projects within the community.

After internships the previous three summers with Boldt and Clark, Spencer accepted a full-time offer from Clark Construction Company in Lansing, Mich. He had a 3.58 cumulative grade-point average he continued to strive for excellence, both in and out of the classroom.

Hughes named a Graduating Leadership Scholar

Nick Hughes of Albuquerque, New Mexico was named as a recipient of Northern Michigan University's Graduating Leadership Scholar Award. Recipients have exhibited keen leadership skills



through involvement in student organizations and/or volunteer projects as well as become active citizens that are committed to bettering their community.

Nick has been an active member of the Northern Michigan Constructors (NMC) throughout his undergraduate career, while serving as the Treasurer as a Junior and President during his senior year. Nick's leadership helped guide the NMC through tumultuous times. His calm and steady approach encouraged the membership to safely focus on the projects at hand.

Following his summer 2020 internship with A.R. Mays Construction in Scottsdale, AZ, Nick returned to NMU for his senior year. Though he earned a number of opportunities with reputable firms from across the country, he accepted an offer from Hensel Phelps. Nick's exceptional work throughout his undergraduate career at NMU will have a positive lasting impact. He led the NMC to another fantastic year where they left if better than they found it! As part of the annual Associated General Contractors (AGC) student awards, NMU had two recipients. **Cody Nehls** ► (Juneau, WI) and **Nate Thomas** ▼ (Freeland, MI) each earned scholarships that recognized their outstanding work.





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https://nmu.edu/tos/construction

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTORS

The Northern Michigan Constructors provided another strong semester's worth of service to the Marquette and surrounding community. The outgoing executives paved a solid path for incoming team, and one carryover should help with continuity.

President **VP** Operations **VP** Public Relations Treasurer Secretarv

Outgoing Nick Hughes Bowen Holmes Spencer Cota Will Jaeaer Noah Brown

Incomina Will Jaeger Daniel Vince Charlotte DeYoung Garret Carpenter Raiia Stille

The custom varsity volleyball sign created during the fall semester was so popular that many of the athletic teams across campus requested something comparable. With limited time remaining in the semester, the NMC was able to design and build a really cool sign for the Women's Varsity Soccer team, and also spend a Saturday at Bay Cliff Health Camp installing siding on some of the row houses. Additionally, they were able to complete one of the sheds that was started during the COVID-shortened winter 2020 semester, so the Michigan Iron Industry Museum was exceptionally happy. Lastly, they completed a custom spice rack to fit in the kitchen at the Trillium House, which is an organization that provides care for terminal patients.



One of the row houses at Bay Cliff Health Camp that required new siding.

A few of the row houses that received siding during a spring Saturday visit to Bay Cliff. 🔻



at Bay Cliff (L to R: Raija Stille, Eyn Nye, Spencer Cota, Nick Hughes, Will Jaeger, Soren Hanson, Garrett Carpenter and Daniel Vince).



The finished prod-

uct for the volleyball team (NMC members L to R: Daniel Vince, Bowen Holmes,

Raija Stille, Char-

lotte DeYoung, Nick Hughes, Spencer

Cota and Will Jaeger)

The NMC siding installation team

The installed spice the ability to prepare meals for their are guests at the





The early stages of the soccer sign development with turf laid.

Installed and completed soccer sign (NMC members L to R: Spencer Cota, Nick Hughes, Will Jaeger, Garrett Carpenter and Daniel Vince).





The final product lit up and on display in the Women's Soccer locker room

rack, so families have family members that Trillium House.





THE NETWORK

Martin Stuge Banerud ► (2010) is from Norway – the country, not the city in Dickinson County. He came to NMU with a language barrier, along with an exceptional will to learn, grow and ski. Before returning to Oslo, he starred on NMU's cross country ski team, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management (also earned an MBA along the way), met



his wife and moved back to Oslo to begin his professional career.

The NMU Network has an international reach. At the time, Jeremy Bubb (2008) was working for Walsh Construction out of Chicago, IL. Jeremy was recruiting for Walsh at our annual career fair. He met Martin in 2010, and helped coordinate a series of interviews between Martin and the Walsh team. The interesting connection came into play, because Walsh had a joint venture project with a Norwegian firm that entailed renovating the V American Embassy in Oslo. Suffice to say, the Joint Venture was successful, as was the start to Martin's Construction Management career. After



completing his MBA at Northern Michigan University in December 2012, he returned home to work on a wide variety of interesting projects.

He steadily climbed the ladder by being

a successful leader of projects. The ▼ Kilden Barnehage-Kindergarten scope was one of those successful projects. There were very strict requirements for energy efficiency, as put in place by the municipality. It made the top five projects list in Oslo in 2018 in a Project of the Year competition.





Recently, he had a fun project in downtown Oslo. It involved renovating an entire building, but it was not a typical renovation. ▼ The building's second floor had two apartments. Famous Norwegian writer, Henrik Ibsen, lived in one of the apartments during the late 1800s. Ibsen's apartment was a historic landmark, and was turned into a museum decades ago. Part of Martin's scope was to create a theater below Ibsen's apartment that extended into the back yard of the property. Martin said it was his most challenging project to date, because of the importance of keeping Ibsen's apartment in tact while renovating all around it. Incidentally, the neighbor for this project was the Royale Palace.

Early in May, Martin was named as the Chief Executive Officer for Varden Entreprenør AS, a general contractor located in Oslo, Norway. He currently employs 28 people, and anticipates gross sales revenue for 2021 to surpass \$30M. Pictured is the project that jumpstarted things...the American Embassy. Plus the Kilden Barnehage Kindergarten had a capacity of 215 children from ages 1 - 6. It was a mass timber-framed skeleton, and the entire roof system incorporated solar panels as the roof itself. Also, the Ibsen Theater once constructed...underneath the protected apartment with the front facade of the Ibsen Theater.



Patrick Bailey (2017) is an Assistant Superintendent with

The Christman Company in their Grand Rapids, MI office. He was assigned to the new Veterans Home project in Grand Rapids, which included a



large demolition of part of the facility and a sizable addition



in place of it on the same property. The building is 153,000 sf & the construction budget was

about \$54M. It now provides 128 beds for the Veterans that

desperately need it. Patrick is wrapping up the punch list and things are looking good. BFS and HFES inspections went off without a hitch, and the project is close to occupancy.



Christian Biolchini ▼ (2020) is a Project Engineer for

Walsh out of their Detroit, MI office. His job is a CMAR con-







tract for the construction of a new electrical building, replacement of 5 sewage pumps, new electrical gear, refurbishment and/ or replacement of (6) 84" knife gate valves, demo and

> reinstallation of new 84" discharge piping, miscellaneous pavement improvements,

assist/input on overall design, compilation and management of bid packages, and overall oversight of the project. Initial contract is for preconstruction services and development of a GMP to be added as a change order. This is approximately a \$50 million dollar project, and is part of the Candice Miller capital improvement project for the Oakland/Macomb county interceptor drain.

Chris Cardinal >

(2007) is the Vice President for Cardinal Paving Solutions out of Fon du Lac, WI. Their updated company video can be viewed at: https://www.





markcardinalconcrete.com. Pictured is Chris, with his oldest son (Calim), showing his whole class a concrete project at an athletic field. Chris won Dad of the Day for that!

Sean Clements **v** (2008) is the Home Improvement Spe-



cialist and Sales Director for Upper Hand Window Company in Marquette, MI. Sean is a L'Anse, MI (fire up Purple Hornets!) native, but has spent most of his post-NMU career throughout the west end of the Upper Peninsula. Sean's

expertise with installations (siding and windows) have led to a very productive career in sales. He and his wife have also

recently started the Fit Body Boot Camp in Marquette. Their success in transforming lives within the community has been exceptional. Pic-







tured is Sean and his family (Left to Right) Cheryne, Brody, Easton, Sean and Capri (the family friend). Sean is also a licensed Contractor in the state of



Michigan and had a contract to renovate a basement. He had a clean slate opportunity to start from ground zero. Another project was the renovation that took place at Fit Body Boot Camp required a full-family effort. Easton, Sean, Brody and Cheryne all



poured a lot of sweat equity into the project.

Joshua Crim > (2018) is a Project Engineer with Mortenson's Heavy Civil Group. He is currently working with Mortenson's Solar division on the world's largest solar farm in Mojave, CA. Fellow alumni Elizabeth Boose > (2019) and Peter Gibson (2016) are part of Mortenson's solar team. The energy produced is projected to exceed 1.1 GW. Half of the land being utilized is actually part of Edward's Air Force Base. Joshua has



learned a great deal on the project. Coordinating with local, state and federal agencies has been a great experience. He has incorporated water conser-



vation practices, since California has declared a drought emergency. He has learned a bunch about environmentally sensitive areas, as the Joshua Trees (protected in California) are spread throughout the landscape. And he has gained a ton of experience in working with the local tribes in culturally sensitive areas. Overall, the project has created a learning opportunity that is second to none. Also pictured are Josh and his sweetie at their recently purchased home in Lansing, MI Chris Crittenden (2003) is the President of DeVere Industrial, LLC and is based in Alpena, MI. He started his company in 2016. Chris' specialty is industrial maintenance, and his primary clients are LaFarge Cement along with Carmeuse. Most of his contracts (geographically) run from Cedarville, MI south to Alpena, but he does have a client in Gwinn. Pictured are Chris with Mary and their 16-mo. twin sons, Kent





and Charlie. Also pictured are the DeVere Industrial Office where about \$6M in gross revenue is contracted annually and the shop where upwards of 60 skilled trades will seek their daily assignments during the peak season.

John Dibala > (2010) is a Construction Project Manager for the Corpus Christi Independent School District in Corpus Christi, TX. He was a featured alum on our Facebook page in early-April...please see: https:// www.facebook.com/NMUCM/ Pictured are John walking the new high school building with the Project Superintendent and John

with all the dignitaries at the ground breaking ceremony.











Find us on: linkedin

Kent Frantz > (2017) is the owner of Frantz Contracting, LLC. He plans to operate in the Marquette and surrounding area.

Kent and Courtney married on 22 May 2021.



Joe Harvey > (2000) received a promotion in February of this year. The press release from Community First Credit Union follows:

Joe Harvey has been promoted to Senior Vice President Facilities at Community First Credit Union with over 20 years of construction, safety and facilities management experience.



Harvey joined Community First in January 2019 as VP of Maintenance and Building Operations. In his new role, he joins the Senior Leadership Team, overseeing the operations and maintenance for all of Community First's 26 branch locations.

"We are fortunate to have Joe's extensive experience in facility management, construction and team leadership to help serve Community First member-owners," said Community First President/CEO Cathie Tierney.

Prior to joining Community First, he was with the Kimberly Area School District as Director of Facilities and Safety Management for nine years, where he led a team of 41 employees who managed 1.45 million square feet of space, 195 acres of property and about 20 buildings that served a district with about 5,000 students and 500 staff members.

Harvey learned the construction business from the ground up, laying footings/foundations and building homes while in high school and college. A native of Gladstone, Mich., he earned a construction management degree from Northern Michigan University and came to the Fox Valley to work for Appleton-based Hoffman Corp. (now Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction). During his career, Harvey has managed multiple large construction projects across the Midwest incorporating energy efficiency, sustainability and green-building initiatives. "I've always taken great pride in my work and feel equally comfortable on the job site with staff or at my desk working on spreadsheets and project budgets," said Harvey. "The facilities team has nine talented and hard-working staff members who take pride in serving our employees, members and community by providing an attractive, clean and safe environment."

Harvey has also been an active volunteer with Rebuilding

Together Fox Valley, Habitat for Humanity, YMCA of the Fox Cities and the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Board.

The Harvey family ▶ - L to R: Abram (15), Joe, Linnea (13), Kami (wife at 29 and holding) and Elsa (18).



that will create new tunnels and widen interstate highways across Virginia. Pictured are views of creating an island.

Makayla Kyre ▼ (2020) is a Project Engineer with Barton Malow out of Southfield, MI. She is cur-

rently working on the General Motors Warren, MI Technology Plant where they are constructing a new battery cell lab.



Pictured are Makayla outside the project trailer in Warren, MI and her enjoying some fly fishing on her down time.





(L to R) Bob Mantz (2010), Daniel Menze (2019), Parker Hebden (2020), Patrick Mc-**Fadden** (2017) are working for Hensel Phelps on a few projects at the Denver International Airport, in the Terminal (known as the Great Hall), that require precise coordination.



Parker Hebden is a Field Engineer on the Great Hall Phase II Renovation of the terminal slated to begin demo this summer. The primary goal of this project is to start the relocation of the North TSA checkpoint from Level 5 of the terminal up to Level 6. Challenges include relocation of the airline check-in counters from their current location, close proximity with the public, TSA and other airport stakeholders. This will require a structural steel extension of the level 6 deck to create the real estate required for the new TSA checkpoint on Level 6.

Daniel Menze is a Field Engineer on the Level 5.5 Odd Size Bag Handling System (BHS) Project. This project consists of installing multiple BHS Declines within the Phase I area of the Great Hall for large oversize bag (skis, golf clubs, etc.) checkin at the new ticket pods constructed under the Phase I scope of work. Challenges include constructing this platform and BHS Conveyor decline over an operational electrical room, requiring multiple electrical shutdowns to relocate and make space for the new platform. Also, erecting a steel platform and conveyor over an operational electric room. All this power feeds operational stakeholders at the airport and requires close coordination with them.

Patrick McFadden (Project Engineer) and Bob Mantz (Area Superintendent) are coming into the final months of the Great Hall Phase I Project, scheduled to complete in November 2021. Hensel Phelps was awarded this project, and mobilized in November of 2019, following the Airport's termination of the previous contractor. Both Patrick and Bob have been on this project since the beginning. The primary goal of this project is to create a more open space on level 6 with the reconfiguration of the Airline check-in counters to create a more open space, as well as Self Bag Drop conveyors at the ticket pods for the passengers to use when checking bags. To summarize, challenges with this project have been working in an operational terminal, which has made it difficult to create consistent flow of work, material handling in

and out of the terminal, and interaction with the public and airport stakeholders. Patrick has been responsible for the extensive permitting process with City and County of Denver and Denver Fire Department. This was especially challenging transitioning, closing out, and resubmitting permits following the termination of the previous contractor. Additionally, the quantity of permits are multiple due to it being an operational terminal and the public exposure. Examples include permits required for temporary construction walls, and relocation of operational Life Safety systems as identified each time a temporary construction area is identified. Currently, Patrick is overseeing the financials to ensure we stay within budget with the Owner. He previously oversaw MEP and Baggage handling scopes. Bob was responsible for the coordination and safe execution of the structural steel erection in the Great Hall, which was especially challenging working around the public, operational escalators and the airport train arrivals platform. This took precise coordination with multiple airport stakeholders. Currently Bob is overseeing and coordinating the commissioning scope and BHS scope of work associated with Phase I. At the start of the project and throughout, the airport has setup multiple contractual milestones as required by the City and County of Denver to demonstrate the progress and updates. Hensel Phelps has completed each of these milestones on schedule or ahead of schedule.

Other NMU Construction folks working out of the Hensel Phelps Denver office, but not at the airport are (full-time) **Tyler Lenderink** and **Nick Hughes**, along with (summer 2021 interns) **Garrett Carpenter** and **Nate Thomas**.

Aaron Miller > (2014) is an Assistant Project Manager with Mortenson. He just wrapped up 128 wind towers north of Joplin, MO when the project demobilized in mid-May. It was a long 14-month project, where he was able to experience some of the wildest weather, huge quantities of change orders, lots of turnover on the supervision side and then COVID. It made the project challenging! His next project will be a 49-turbine site in Hennepin OK, and is excited about his new role and a fresh project about 5 hours west of Joplin. Aaron purchased a home last fall in Whitmore Lake, MI. His next-door neighbor is the Kruse family...Andrew (2014) is a Superintendent with Mortenson. They are both excited to enjoy some down time on the lake during the summer. Pictured is the nearly completed





living room renovation project at the new house.

Luke Oberdorfer (2010) is a Project Manager with Miron Construction in their Neenah, WI office. His current project is a new shipbuilding facility for Fincantieri Marinette Marine

in Marinette, WI. When completed, the new structure will be more than three football fields long, and have a height in excess of 130'. The



link to an informative article about the project is https:// www.workboat.com/marinette-marine-begins-construction-of-new-shipbuilding-facility.

Joshua Pifke ► (2005) pictured with his wife Casey, is a Senior Engineering Technician at Millhouse Construction and Engineering in Chicago, IL. Millhouse manages and inspects the work issued by the City of Chicago DOT, State of Illinois DOT, Illinois Tollway System and quite a few other municipalities. He has been a part of quite a few projects the last decade that ranged from mill and pave to full-depth construction of a

to full-depth construction new highway. Currently, he is at the beginning of a four-year project overseeing a new Tollway on the west side of O'Hare Airport. Pictured is an embankment to allow construction of the new highway to cross over two railroad mainline tracks.





Vince Sochacki ▼ (2004) remains as Vice President of Operations for Absolute Construction out of their Schereville, IN office. His expansion into New Jersey has been fruitful, as

the company is at capacity. Pictured with Vinnie is Julie, his college sweetheart their four amazing children: Left to right – Stella (13), Lucca (12), Vito (9) and Camilla (6).



Jake Supa > (2008) traveled to Las Vegas with his girlfriend, Grace. Kellie (Smith) Berry > (2009), and her husband, Matthew, met up with them to hit the strip and celebrate Jake's proposal in Las Vegas, NV. None of the four won big at the casinos, but Jake did



hit the jackpot when Grace said "YES"! Pictured left to right are Jake, Kellie, Matthew, and the future Mrs. Supa...Grace

Kyle Swenor ► (2004) pictured with his partner Anna and their baby girl (Maren Lake Swenor). After 13 years in Dallas, TX working with Hill & Wilkinson, Kyle moved back to his native northern Michigan in January of 2019 – driving directly into a polar vortex. When he pulled out of his driveway in McKinney, TX it was sunny and 60-some degrees. By the time he pulled into his



mom's home in Levering, MI, the weather was in full blizzard



status and he was not entirely confident that he would make it into the driveway. It stayed well below freezing for the next couple of weeks and it never stop snowing... and he loved it!

It felt like a fitting "welcome back", and now in his hindsight,

a precursor to the real storm he was heading directly into with the business that he had signed on to manage. Miraculously, through another part of the business, selling PPE early on in the pandemic, they were able to pull out of the dire situation and have since gone on to finish some amazing homes in the Traverse City area with more scheduled to complete this summer and fall. Kyle took on full ownership of the construction division for the company early in 2020, which presented quite a few challenges, but he is looking forward to the opportunities! Pictured are pumping the ICFs full of concrete and significant progress on a large home in Traverse City, MI.





Matthew Taylor > (2011), pictured with his wife Britta and their daughter Letty, is an Owners Surface Specialist with Eagle Mine in Michigamme, MI. Upon graduation in 2011, TriMedia Environmental and Engineering Services in their Marquette office employed him. Matthew's role was helping with safety at the Eagle Mine



Project. Later in 2011, he became a direct hire to the Eagle Mine, and has been able to work in several different roles. Over the



last decade, Matthew has been both underground and on the surface. Pictured is a wide lens view of the processing facility in Michigamme and Matthew setting up a lighting array underground at Eagle Mine



Nick Allers (2014) is an Assistant Project Manager with Rockford Construction Company in their Grand Rapids, MI office

Kristen (Krueger) Aston, PSP (1998) is a Senior National Project Controls Specialist at RS&H in Alpharetta, GA - a northern suburb of Atlanta.

Allan Beattie (2008) is a Field Technician with Conger Industries, Inc. in Green Bay, WI.

Jeremy Bubb (2008) is a Senior Project Manager with Meyer Contracting, Inc. in Maple Grove, MN.

Sean Charette (2006) is a Site Manager for Renewable Energy Systems Americans, Inc. in Afton, NY.

Jeff Engle (1997) is a Construction Administrator with GMB Architecture in Ada, MI.

Andrew Engstrom (2002) is a Building Inspector for the County of Marquette in Marquette, MI.

Tyler Fischer (2010) is a Project Manager for Thelen Total Construction, Inc. in Crystal Lake, IL.

Wendy (Duckert) Fisher (1997) is a Senior Superintendent with Barton Malow Builders in Southfield, MI.

Joe Kowal (2009) is an Estimator and Project Manager with Huron Valley Electric in Ann Arbor, MI.

Josh Moses (2011) is a Manufacturing Engineer and Maintenance Supervisor for Harbor Industries in Charlevoix, MI.

Daniel Murphy (2003) is a Project Manager for Art C. Klein Construction in Colorado Springs, CO.

Stephen Nichols (1993) is the Owner of A3 Construction Management Services, LLX in Mesa, AZ.

David Phillips (1992) is the General Manager for J.J. Barney Construction, Inc. in Rochester, MI.

Steve Poindexter (2005) is the Owner of S & P Builders, LLC in Minneapolis, MN.

Timothy Quinn (1995) is the Chief Commercial Officer and Vice President of Sales for American Consolidated Industries, Inc. in the greater area of Cleveland, OH.

Jesse Roberge (2008) is an Account Executive for Argonics, Inc. in Gwinn, MI.

Joshua Smith (2006) is the Electrical Manager, Facilities Manager and a Project Manager for PADNOS Recycling Solutions in Wyoming, MI.

Ryan Stage (2005) is the General Manager for CR Meyer's Northern Michigan office in Escanaba, MI.

John Stenzel (2003) is a Construction Manager with Nitti Development in Elmhurst, IL. He is currently working on a 149unit subdivision development in Schaumburg, IL. If you are connected to John on LinkedIn, you can see a some drone footage of the sitework at: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/ update/urn:li:activity:6800557870539771904/

Michael Swanson (1995) is the Owner of Naples Custom Home Cost Consulting in Naples, FL.

Heath Walker (1995) is a Regional Sales Manager for Huber Engineered Woods throughout Michigan.

SAD HAPPENINGS

David Bess ► (2012) passed away in January. His obituary can be viewed at: https://www.bjorkandzhulkie.com/obituary/david-bess-jr

Ken Kasten > (2007) passed away in early-June. Ken has been a long-time member of the Construction Management Advisory Committee, and had been battling cancer over the last number of years. Ken was a dedicated husband and father, as well as a Project Manager / Estimator for Gundlach Champion. His obituary is https://www. ernashfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/ Kenneth-Kasten/#!/Obituary





GUESS WHO

From Issue #12 (Winter 2021), no one correctly identified Mr. Joel Klahn >.



So...we get to double down for this issue on the "surprise". Please email responses to mandary@nmu.edu based upon the pictures and the clues below.



So much hair



THE white tux



THE mustache for all times



The early times



Could be in the speedo...or not



Lance Armstrong...or ?



May know this girl

Hints:

- Has close ties to NMU
- Crushes it in a white tuxedo
- One of very few folks that can properly rock a 'stache' in 2020 circa 1976
- Owns a whole bunch of stuff
- Has the best neighbor ever
- Is terribly fit

UPDATE 2021 HOMECOMING & CAREER FAIR

Career Fair – Thursday, 30 September Golf Outing – Saturday, 02 September





Find us on:



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https://nmu.edu/tos/construction

THROWBACK

Ahhhhhh - yesteryear

Chris Sachs ► (2003) surveying a masonry restoration project in Minneapolis, MN back in 2004.



Quite a few alumni 🕨 enjoying the deck of the tree fort during the Alumni Golf Outing Luncheon at Susie's house in 2010

Chris Humphrey ▶ (2010) back in

2006 putting together steel truss

Jon Nehls > (1999) "Owning it" - relative

to the party in the back and the Miller

buildings.

Lite up front.



around the display built for UPaws that was housed in the Marquette Mall.

The Northern Michigan Constructors > circled

Brent Madison > (2009) and Chris Cardinal > (2007) representing the Northern Michigan Constructors during a High School visitation day to the Jacobetti back in 2006.









A community project in Sault Ste. Marie, MI brought the Northern Michigan Constructors over for a weekend of work on the baseball grandstand and press box. Left to Right: **> Chris Bruno, Adam** Glover, Steve Poindexter, Jeremy Bubb, Chris Cardinal, Chris Grebe and Adam Covert.

Hard to believe it has been two years since the faculty made the trip to Dallas, TX to visit with Michael Oswald > (2003) and all the other alumni that he employs at Hill & Wilkinson. President Erickson joined us as well.



Left to Right: **Derrick** Pass (2011), Curtis Brown (2012), Michael LaFleur (2015), Asim Menzil (2013) and J.D. Hamacher (2013) enjoying the festivities surrounding the wedding of Curtis in 2014.

The dude \triangleright in the canoe digs NMU, and that picture was from the 1900s









Phil Dix > (2006) working on a cement silo for McCarthy back in 2007.

Committee.

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

construction managers to have a bachelor degree. —U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019

