



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENTNEWS

ISSUE #12 WINTER 2021

NEWS FROM MARQUETTE

Unfortunately, we have not had any faculty meetings at Black Rocks since the summer. Getting take-out from there is just not the same. Like most of the planet, our regular meetings were virtual. Soooooo....we are all hopeful that restrictions will ease and we will be able to get back to a revised normal. It was a dandy of a semester.

August: We are sincerely thankful that our Executive leadership team at NMU committed to face-to-face teaching and learning back in May. With the full support of NMU's Board of Trustees, our President and Vice Presidents planned for our classes to be in-person for as long as the law would allow. While many/most institutions were announcing online instruction early, late and points between, we were within a couple of days of completing the fall semester in-person. Room capacities and quarantines were occasionally tricky to navigate, but things went pretty well on the overall!

September: We had our best virtual career fair ever back in September. It is less important that it has been our only...just that it has been our best. The fair was well attended by both employers and students, and many opportunities were still available for students. Golf outing attendance was down a little this year, but we were not shocked. Without a face-to-face career fair, justifying travel to and from Marquette was a challenge. Not to give away too much, but Teaser: Evan & Mike were part of the winning foursome.

October: The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Michigan was able to hold a virtual Student-

Contractor Awareness Night. Universities from across that state tuned in to another solid program, and a great afternoon / evening.

November: Our seniors completed eight projects in the community, and Evan won an award – more to come later in the newsletter!

December graduates are all either employed or returning to NMU for more education.

The "lone tree" picture signifies a "Charlie Brown" sort of Christmas. On a recent hike toward Little Presque Isle, the Andary family came upon tree that was growing out of a well-eroded rock formation. The plan was to snag three colored solar lights and a three-foot piece of garland to decorate it. The logistics didn't work out too well, as it is not easy to access. Instead, the photo was altered a bit to include a few Charlie Brown decorations.

That's the news from Marquette – thank you all for your continued support by providing the content that allows this newsletter to happen. Hope your winter is short, sweet & safe!



UPDATE 2021 HOMECOMING & CAREER FAIR

Update 2021: Likely Homecoming date is 02 October...we will keep you posted!



Find us on:
facebook
WWW.FACEBOOK/NMUCM

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES DECEMBER 2020

This semester's graduates are (once again) all placed, either as full-time employees or as full-time students.

Matthew Goss ▶

(Marquette, MI via global military service) will be returning to NMU, and continuing work toward his Bachelor of Science in Construction Management.



Ian MacDonald ▶ (Reed City, MI) is now an Assistant Project Manager with MJ Electric, and is working out of their Utility Division in Johnson Creek, WI.



Parker Hebden ◀

(Traverse City, MI) is off to Denver, CO to be a Field Engineer with Hensel Phelps.

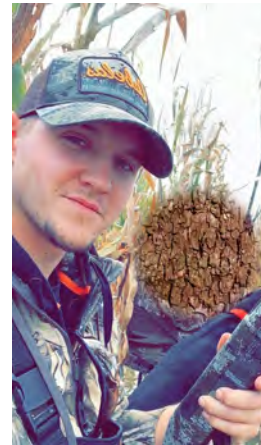
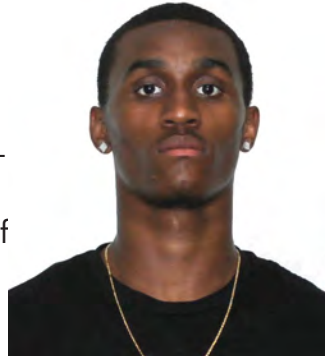
James McDonough ▶

(Marshall, MI) will be joining Rockford Construction Company in Grand Rapids, MI and working out of one of their Ohio locations.



Ravon Johnson ▶

(Willowbrook, IL) is returning to NMU, and will be continuing his education, as he begins work on his Master of Business Administration.

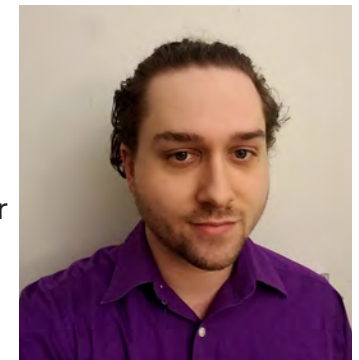


Jake Polich ◀ (Iron River, MI) will be starting with CR Meyer as a Field Engineer in their Rhineland, WI office.



Trevor Johnson ◀ (Chicago, IL & Virginia Beach, VA) is moving to Virginia Beach, VA, and will be working for the Hampton Roads Connector Partners.

River Smith ▶ (Macomb, MI) is returning to NMU, and will be continuing his education in the Computer Science field.



Makayla Kyre ▶ (Lake Orion, MI) will be a Project Engineer with Barton Malow, and working out of their Detroit, MI office, while likely assigned to a project in northern Ohio.



Daniel Webber ◀

(Troy, MI) will begin his career as a Project Engineer with O'Brien Construction out of their Troy, MI office.

FACULTY FUN BUNCH!

Evan Lucas ▼ ... pictured with his wife (Ashley), son (David) and the family dog (Zetti) was selected as **Northern Michigan University's Faculty Emerging Leadership Award** recipient for the 2020-21 academic year. There was a campus-wide pool of nominees, but Evan's accomplishments were recognized as truly exceptional. Some highlights:

- Overwhelming support and letters of nomination from alumni and colleagues
- He has been the Program Coordinator for Construction Management for almost three years
- Manages annual budgets, coordinates outreach efforts, creates faculty schedules, organizes multiple events and writes a bunch of reports
- Wrote the proposal (which was accepted) for the Online Bachelor of Science in Construction Management at NMU.
- He has been the Program Director for Indoor Agriculture for nearly two years
- He was the driving force in getting the program conceived and implemented
- Chaired the search committee that hired the program's first full-time faculty member
- He leads a huge number of campus and community committees, including co-chair of NMU's Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee, as well as the Peter White Public Library's Building Committee.
- He also provides professional construction-related consulting services through his Iron Peak Consulting, LLC.
- Outstanding teaching, advising and mentoring to the student body within our programs

Congratulations, Evan!



The back half of 2020 was not the party-like atmosphere that many were hoping it to be.

Our faculty team was still able

to make some memories though. Heidi held a gathering at their camp, where we all got together (appropriately distanced) to swim and eat gyros.



Heidi & Kevin ▲



Jim & Kelly ▲



Evan, Ashley & David ▲



Mike, Susie & Jason ▲

FACULTY CONNECTIONS



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Michael Andary
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Jim Conlin
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Evan Lucas
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We were able to have one last meeting at Black Rocks before school got started in August. ▲



Jim had an impromptu meeting with alums Cam Verigin and Nick Sexton early in the fall. ▲

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Caleb Hayes (2008)

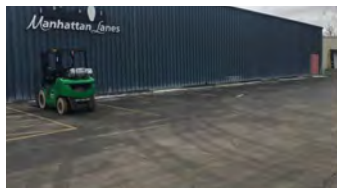
Family: Caleb was raised in Rock, MI. He married his college sweetheart (Stephanie) in 2009 and they now live in Hobart, WI. They have two children... Seven year-old – Levi, and five year-old – Ali. The Hayes family is heavily involved in their faith and place their priorities in God, family and real estate... in that order. Charitable giving is a significant part of the family and his companies' DNA.

Career: He started his career after graduation with the Gilbane Building Company's Chicago, IL office. He was placed on the University of Chicago's Medical Center for about two years. Caleb and Stephanie then decided it was time to follow his passion – which is real estate.

Throughout his undergraduate career at NMU, Caleb partnered with his father to flip two homes and fix up a third. He loved it, and knew that he would be involved with real estate for the rest of his career. Starting in 2010, he sold real estate in the Fox Valley of Wisconsin and began flipping 15 – 20 houses per year. Jumping forward a bit, Caleb now leads a large real estate empire that operates under the name of Caleb Hayes Enterprises. The company consists of three divisions:

- Keller Williams Real Estate Brokerages of which he owns and invests in 6 Keller Williams Franchises that have offices spanning across Upper Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Montana.
- REID, which stands for Real Estate Investing Division and consists of 3 companies (Park Place Holdings – flips and holds long term commercial properties, Marvin Gardens - holds multiple residential rental properties, and Boardwalk Properties – flips residential properties).
- Private Equity division which includes two businesses: a real estate school (Hayes University) and title company (Caliber Title), and a private equity fund that invests in real estate companies and assets with nearly 40 investors.

Caleb employs over 600 real estate agents and another 50 people as support staff. His Big Why in life is "to inspire others so that together we can achieve freedom." Through his real estate school (Hayes University) and Youtube Channel ([youtube.com/calebhayes](https://www.youtube.com/calebhayes)), he shares his knowledge on real estate, investing and wealth building as a way to cultivate talent and give back to the people in our real estate industry.



Stephanie, Ali, Caleb and Levi

"Fast Five" with Caleb

- 1 What is your favorite movie? *Remember the Titans*
- 2 What is your best NMU memory? The surveying final project allowed me to meet, work with and get to know a few classmates. My spare time was always spent working on one of my projects. The Bidding Strategies project that challenged students to find a real property, develop it and then either sell or rent it was also great. I was able to use the project I was working on, so the reality made the project impactful. So much so, that I still have that project binder at home today.
- 3 What is your greatest professional accomplishment? Not being afraid to fail. That mindset has allowed me to keep pushing myself in spite of fear. Being able to act and make decisions with logic instead of emotion has been a tremendous benefit through the years.
- 4 What is the best part of coming back to Marquette? We make an annual trip to Marquette, and it always includes food from Border Grill, visiting many of the pubs and breweries and then walking around campus to see the changes each visit. It is wonderful to reminisce about our meeting at NMU and looking back at times that were much simpler.
- 5 Who is the person he would most like to meet? As a man of faith, I would like to meet some of the key leaders from the biblical times. King Solomon's advice about debt is still used in my daily approach. In business, competition is tough, but during those times, leadership makes you a target in war. I appreciate what those leaders had to endure.

Morgan & Dakota Pelach

Gaylord, MI

The two sisters are about a year apart (Dakota is younger) in age, and have always been close.

Dakota (left ▶) attended Alma for volleyball and studied Biology.

Morgan (right ▶) went to Grand Valley State for Legal Studies and Criminal Justice. They each earned a baccalaureate degree at their respective schools, but were looking for something more out of a career...more fulfillment, more challenge and more unique experiences. Their mother (Kelly), and Mike Andary's wife (Susie) played varsity volleyball together at Lake Superior State University back in the day. Through a series of unrelated events and a cool chain reaction, both Morgan and Dakota ended up at NMU to start the Fall 2019 semester. On an accelerated path to completion for our degree, they have managed to be heavily involved with Women in Construction events and outreach, while maintaining 3.9 grade point averages.

Each spent the summer of 2020 on a summer internship with Mortenson on separate projects in Wyoming. Dakota worked on TB Flats I wind farm with primary daily duties in charge of ground QA/QC. She coordinated, inspected and tracked grout pours, hub and drive train and bolt torquing. She also did blade inspections, typically from the towers. There was lots of paperwork throughout the day as well.

Morgan was assigned to Ekola Flats Wind Project as part of the power delivery solutions team, which was more on the collection side of electrical. She coordinated with other trade partners and subcontractors on a daily basis, and did lots of QA/QC tracking. She did some climbing for switch gear and grounding inspections, but did more material procurement on the ground. Morgan was heavily involved with project scheduling, and also worked on close-out procedures.

The projects were interesting, because lots of the crews were shared between the two separate projects (actually three), but it was all part of the same program.

At NMU, they appreciate the smaller class sizes and the sincere care shown by the faculty team. Both Morgan and Dakota really enjoyed visiting Marquette growing up, and appreciated the time spent here. Coming back to live here for a couple years has been great thus far.



Most proud of:

Morgan – being willing/able to dive in and get the degree done in two years. Trying to balance everything took her out of her comfort zone. Time management and communication have been keys.

Dakota – found the learning curve adjustment to be challenging, but rewarding. Taking all of the 100/200 level classes together took some adjustment. Taking the 300/400 level classes together is a fair amount of work.

Plans:

Morgan – following graduation in May, she will be relocating to the Saginaw, MI area and planning to get married in June. She and her fiancé have already purchased a home. She has been discussing opportunities with a few different firms.

Dakota – graduating in May and looking to commercial construction right now, and is contemplating a number of opportunities

Most Memorable:

Morgan – really enjoyed last year's Women in Construction event. It was a great way to connect with other young ladies and be a mentor.

Dakota – the senior project for the Janzen House. The kind words from the community members were very rewarding. There were a lot of eyes watching the project...it was a lot of work, but something tangible was produced by our team and it was appreciated by the community.



Morgan (left) enjoying the scenic views in Fort Collins, CO at the Horsetooth Reservoir

Dakota (right) with her climbing gear in a turbine tower in WY

DONOR FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

The NMU Construction Management Advisory Committee selected Noah, Spencer, Bowen, Nick and Will from a large pool of applicants during the fall meeting in November.



Noah Brown
(Junior)



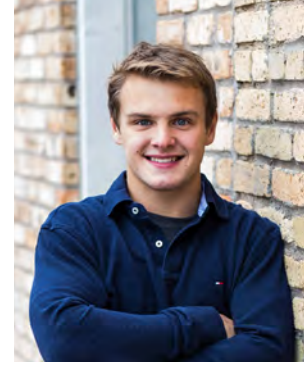
Spencer Cota
(Senior)



Bowen Holmes
(Senior)



Nick Hughes
(Senior)



Will Jaeger
(Sophomore)

THE NETWORK

The network was fully functional throughout the fall semester. Evan Lucas, via the Iron Bay Restaurant, met an architect from Grand Rapids, MI that was administering a project for the Marquette Housing Commission, which involves rehabilitation of The Lake Superior Village and the Pine Street Apartments. Kathleen (the Project Architect) was in need of an on-site administrator for bi-weekly requirements for MSHDA requirements, so Evan filled that role.

First Contracting, Inc. from Ovid, MI is the GC of record, and they were introduced to Evan at one of the first project meetings. The project was supposed to start in late-spring, but based upon a variety of issues, FCI was unable to get started until late-September, and the deadline remained unchanged. FCI needed labor, so they inquired with Evan, who then informed the student body of the opportunities available for the next year-plus.

Chesapeake Community Advisors (CCA) is the developer out of Baltimore, MD. They were hired by the Marquette Community Housing Commission to help close the financial deal. In order for the financing to work, the units need to be occupied, which takes a lot of scheduling. Evan's role has grown as he also now deals with the schedule – as well as project oversight and the budget for CCA. Nearly \$18M will be spent between now and the 31 December 2021 deadline.

Project Highlights:

Lake Superior Village – all 116 dwellings are getting fully renovated exteriors, with new siding, roofs, and windows. They will also be receiving new heating units, kitchens and other cosmetic upgrades.

Pine Ridge – all of the units will be getting cosmetic interior upgrades along with new air conditioning equipment. There will be three new elevator cars installed, and all of the barrier free apartments will receive a significant update.



▲ The students that are now employed by First Contracting, Inc. (L to R) Megan Antal, Zack Parent, Thomas Steele, Ryan Pietila, Trent Kantola and Danny Parks ...not pictured – Jordan Humpert.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION (WIC)



Heidi Blanck ▼ (2000) has been busy with the Women in Construction planning, even though we are unable to host events in-person. She recently participated

in a virtual event that was geared toward getting more female participation in the construction industry. Heidi is the driving force for all of the program's outreach to young women.



NMU Participates in 'Project Accelerate'

(Excerpt from Kristi Evans – NMU News Guru)

Northern Michigan University's Heidi Blanck and Kathy Richards personify the success women can achieve in construction, engineering, design and trades. Blanck is an associate professor in NMU's construction management program. Richards is associate vice president for Engineering and Planning/Facilities. Each gave a recent presentation encouraging other women to explore related career opportunities as part of the Build Initiative's "Project Accelerate" program.

The eight-week program runs through Jan. 15. Its lectures, hands-on activities and site visits/project tours are typically held in southeast Detroit. The transition to a virtual format this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic has enabled it to more than double its audience. Participation has also expanded to include high school students and guidance counselors.

Blanck's presentation addressed the history of women in construction and her past professional experience. She also provided an overview of titles and tasks associated with project management, or achieving objectives related to scope, cost, timeline and quality.

In discussing her current role as a faculty member, Blanck promoted Northern's new online construction management bachelor's degree program. The alternative to the existing on-campus program is tailored to those with entry-level industry experience who seek

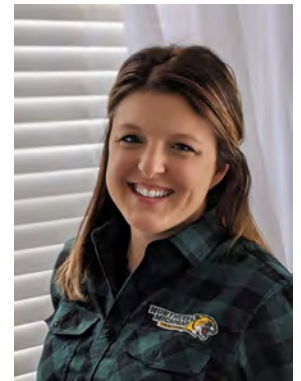
advancement potential. It will launch in January through NMU's Global Campus, a day sponsor of Project Accelerate.

"Women have made inroads in the field," Blanck said. "Our female students are always placed just as quickly as male students.

There's huge demand, but industry-wide, females comprise about 9% of the workforce across all levels of construction, from labor to executive leadership. We want to see that ratio increase."

According to Blanck, "Some women still feel it's a gender-traditional field, but it's not. The biggest thing is overcoming that perception and convincing women it's a viable and lucrative career option. Our students leave NMU and earn \$60,000 or more in the first year. Whether women enter the field via the trades after high school or with a college degree, the goal is to empower them with knowledge of the opportunities available to them."

Kate Havel ► has been spearheading our outreach efforts by incorporating contact that is more direct with potential future students and their families. She is also creating and maintaining our social media presence, and many alumni have already received correspondence from her.



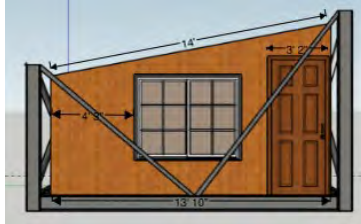
Recent graduate (Makayla Kyre), along with current students, Charlotte DeYoung, Julie Tokarz, Raija Stille, Dakota Pelach and Morgan Pelach have all assisted Kate in gathering information, strategizing and virtually meeting with (hopefully) future students. Ms. Havel's role is crucial to our outreach efforts, and we hope to expand it! Kate has also created our first virtual merchandise store. It closed in early December, but we anticipate it being back up and running once 2021 begins.

SENIOR PROJECTS

Final presentations were completed virtually on Friday, 20 November with great participation. Present were students, faculty, community partners, the Construction Management Advisory Committee (CMAC), many of NMU's Executive Leadership (President, Provost and Vice Presidents) and even a participant from NMU's Board of Trustees. Representatives from the Construction Management Advisory Committee paneled the presentations. All in all, it was an exceptional morning! This year's senior class had eight projects spread throughout the area. Some of the community partners were repeats, and some were new. Collectively, the students pumped over 2,700 volunteer hours into the community projects.

Ishpeming Ski Club: Sam Bongiorno, Connor Bruinius, Spencer Cota, Makayla Kyre and Trevor Roberts

This team worked with the ISC to develop different design ideas for a warming shelter at Suicide Ski Hill. It would provide judges and participants the opportunity to stay out of the elements during ski jumping competitions.



The ISC's preferred location of the warming shelter is under the ski jump. The group worked with local engineer, Mr. Phil Niemi, to provide a stamped set of documents for the project, if it moves forward to construction.

The Janzen House: Levi Lindberg, Ian MacDonald, Dakota Pelach, Morgan Pelach & Dru Strainer

The group put together some various designs and constructed them to refurbish the Janzen House front porch with some new wind protection, railings and exterior furnishings.

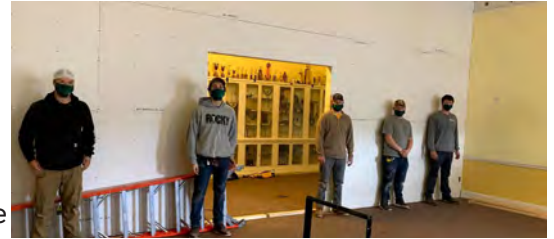


► Top row (l to r) – Dakota Pelach, Morgan Pelach, Brent Clark Executive Director of the Janzen House, Dru Strainer
Bottom row – Levi Lindberg and Ian MacDonald

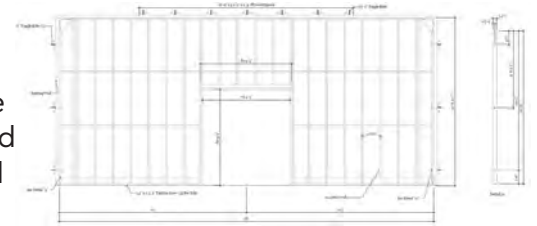


Masonic Arts, Theater and Innovation (MATI): Brennen Gatt, Noah Green, Joshua Pietila, Ryan Pietila & Jordan Segard

The MATI group took on a list of projects at the Masonic Lodge on Washington Street. They did a little refurbishing, built a partition, hung some drywall, diverted some water and provided some waterproofing.

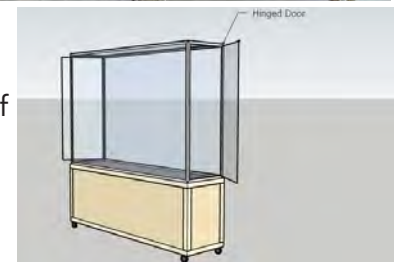


▲ (L to R) Jordan Segard, Noah Green, Ryan Pietila, Joshua Pietila and Brennen Gatt



NMU Beaumier Center: Nick Hughes, Sean Brady, and Bowen Holmes

(L to R) ► worked with the NMU Beaumier Heritage Center to design and build three display cases. They were able to build them for a fraction of the cost of museum-grade displays, with many of the same materials.



NMU School of Health & Human Performance (HHP): (L to R) ► Dane Schapman, Bryce Ruppert, Parker Hebdon, HHP Faculty, Dr. Jacquie Medina, Cade Tank and Tyler Crisp

Two years ago, one of the senior projects was to build a yurt foundation and platform. That



group got an education in engineered drawings and cold-weather concreting. This project started as a design-build for a covered walkway to the HHP yurt.

Snow and ice accumulations on the ramp made the yurt seasonal, but recent upgrades with electricity and heat warranted year-round use and better access. Unfortunately, the design aspect moved beyond the critical deadline, but the students did provide an excellent set of options moving forward. The rendering of the proposed new covered egress. By moving the ramp system away from the yurt, a better tie-in system became clear.

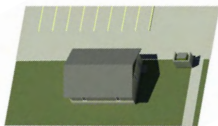


Trillium House:

(L to R) ▶ James McDonough, Austin Goode-nough, Trillium Executive Di-rector, Pat Bray, Collin Cavin and Karlie Hanson.



The Trillium House is a hospice care facility that was recently constructed in Marquette. A couple of years ago, one of the senior projects was a design-build gazebo for the facility. Trillium has additional storage needs, and this team provided designs and cost estimates to the Trillium Board of Directors so that an accurate fundraising target could be established for the construction of the project. Photos show a rendering and the locations considered...each came with unique sets of challenges.

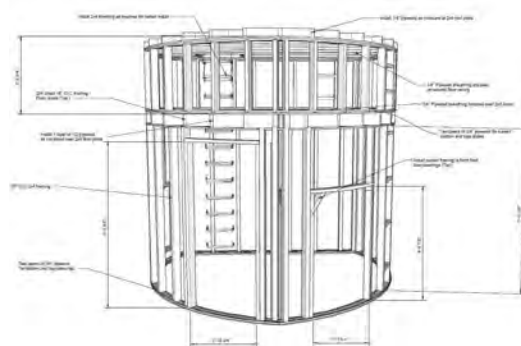


UP Children's Museum:

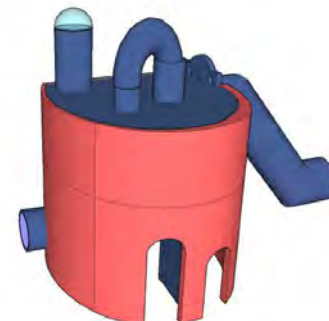
(starting left side of table and going clock-wise) – Jake Polich, Trevor Johnson, Melanie McNamee, UP Children's Museum Manager, Carie Koscielny, Daniel Webber and Deatae Young-Gulley.



This group was tasked with designing a new heart exhibit for the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum on Baraga Ave.



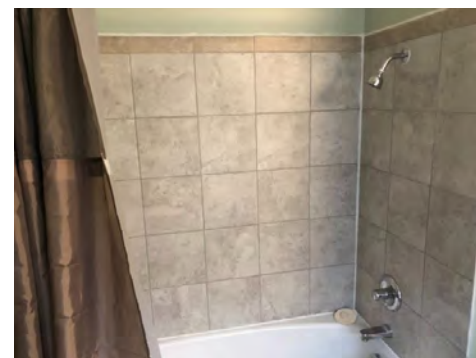
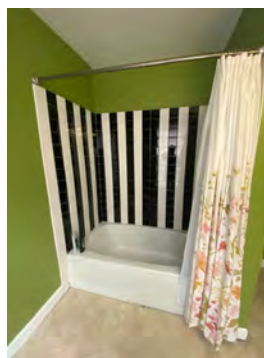
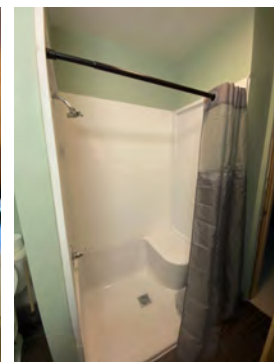
Here is a rendering ▲ of the skeleton of the planned display and a final rendering of how the exhibit is intended to look ▶.



UP Women's Center: Megan Antal, Jordan Humpert, Ravon Johnson, Zack Parent & River Smith

The team renovated two bathrooms at the Women's Center of Marquette. They were able to coordinate with both electrical and mechanical contractors for fixtures that required moving

▼ Below are before and after photos for two bathrooms within the Women's Center – Both were welcome improvements."



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS



Despite 2020 being the least exciting year of this century, 2009 alum

◀ **Kellie (Smith) Berry**, and her family continue to travel, enjoy each other's

company and find excitement in the mundane that is this year. Kellie is currently trying to, like many parents, navigate teaching a brilliant child (Alex, 6) who doesn't believe her to be her actual teacher, while her husband, Matthew, is busy becoming more of a silver fox than he was the day they met on the 2nd floor of the Mortenson headquarters over a decade ago. Their sons, Benjamin (3) and Jack (4), are frequently found practicing their Jedi skills and mastering the art of laughter while eating bagels.



Brandon Bogue ▶ (r) (2003) and his younger colleague, **Gunther Garrett** ▶ (2017) are working together on an elementary school renovation in Comstock, MI.



They are plowing through the logistics of a multi-phase remodel project of an occupied building. Gunther is a Project Engineer at the site, and his mentor, Brandon, is the Project Superintendent. Together, they are coordinating and communicating daily with executive leadership at Miller-Davis, the school district's executive team, the project A/E team and the trade professionals.



Matthew Boonstra ▶ (2017) is a Superintendent with Midwest Construction Group in the Greater Grand Rapids, MI area. He has been working on



Vicinia Gardens lately, which is an independent living center that has assisted, intermediate and memory care. His project is in Fenton, MI, and scheduled for completion in June of 2021. The facility is about 170K sf, with 133 resident units. It contains three elevators and a full-service pub. Here



are various views of the Vicinia Gardens project. In September, Matthew became engaged to Ann Kennedy on a sunset hike to Little Presque Isle.

Amber Burden (2003) is a Project Manager and Estimator for Hallack Contracting in Hart, MI. One of her recent projects included moving a 400-ton limestone and timber structure more than a quarter mile across Orchard Beach State Park in Manistee, MI.



◀ Amber's kids, Easton is eight and Bailey is six, are there to support the move.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

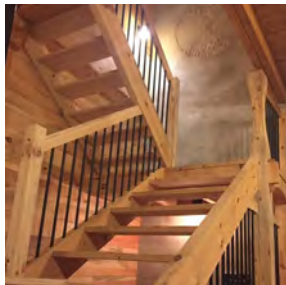
Ryan Cherry (2009) formed Top Notch Building and Remodeling in the Marquette area a few years ago. He is partnered with **Zach Lancaster** (2011), and business has been great. Top Notch has been specializing in timber-frame construction with traditional notches, as well as log buildings. They are planning to add a crew for the summer of 2021.



Their first hammer beam structure can be found at Black Rocks Brewery. He built the family home back in 2015 south of Hog's Back...



it is a timber frame bale house with a stucco finish on both the interior and exterior. Ryan's wife, Daija, was excited to see it completed after an extended period of "substantially complete." Ryan's favorite quote that he uses on a regular basis is, "The difference between wanting and having is doing."



John Clarken (2013) is a Superintendent with AG Spanos Corporation in Portland, OR. He is currently working on a four-building site. Each are wood-framed four story structures on post-tensioned slabs. He is supervising all of the trades, while also running inspections and other quality control measures on the \$100M project. The complex also has a post-tensioned parking garage, a pool and several amenity spaces.



Danny Elmore (2008) is a Project Executive with Hill & Wilkinson in Richardson, TX. One of his recent projects is a 750K sf distribution center for a client that has been hiring H&W for more than 15 years. This project was interesting for a number of reasons, but relocating a city street (from within the footprint to outside the property) made for interesting logistics.



The \$60M program will be complete in less than 12 months. **Kenny Wilkins** (2019) is a Project Engineer on the site.

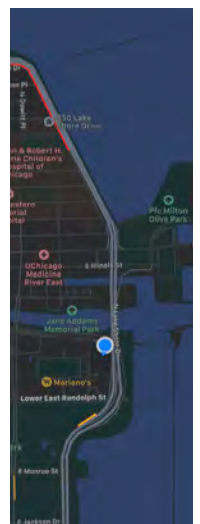
Kerry Klausner (2011) is a Project Manager with McCarthy Building Companies. His current project is the Tomahawk Creek Waste Water Treatment Facility in Leawood, KS. The project is about 80% complete. A couple of the processing systems have been started, and the facility should be fully commissioned in the third quarter of 2021.



Alex Latvala (2016) is an Assistant Superintendent with Lendlease in Chicago, IL. His current project is the Lakeshore East Towers.



Both are located just south of the Chicago River. Building KL is westernmost building, which is a 37-story apartment building, just topped out in early-December. Building J is the easternmost building, home to 47-stories of condominiums. The fraternal twins share a five-story podium for parking. Some of the amenities – three pools, retail space, fully functional fitness center, indoor waterpark, yoga room, massage room and a full-service salon. The first scheduled turnover period starts in June 2021.



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Michael LaFleur ▶ (2015) (Picture with Lindsey and their son, Calum) has been promoted to Senior Integrated Construction Coordinator with Mortenson's Federal Group. He is currently wrapping up three years in Athens, GA. Below is a blurb about the project's function:



SEPRL is a \$150 million design-build multiple phased project consisting of the demolition of 24 buildings approximately 69,000 SF, the new construction of four buildings (approximately 260,000 SF) and the replacement of all existing utility infrastructure for the U.S. National Poultry Research Center in Athens, Georgia. The new facility will expand SEPRL capabilities to respond to highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in providing research information for eradication and control, as well as data for control of



Newcastle disease, enteric viruses and Marek's disease, West Nile virus, and other exotic and emerging viruses of poultry and other birds. He is finishing up 3D model coordination over the next couple months while focusing his attention to the new assigned project.

Michael's new project is a joint venture for Mortenson and Alberici on the "Kings Bay Dry Dock Recapitalization, Naval Submarine Base" located in Kings Bay, Georgia. Mortenson was awarded phases one of three at \$191 million. It includes repairs to the dry dock concrete body, cover, and various mechanical and electrical systems support operations. The Dry Dock is a covered reinforced concrete graving dock that is 700 feet long by 100 feet wide by 67 feet deep (from coping deck). The cover is 825 feet long, by 270 feet wide, by 120 feet tall (above coping deck); and is composed of metal roof and siding, supported by a coated steel frame truss system. Once complete, this dry dock will house the new Columbia-class SSBN, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. His role will be recreating a structural steel model of existing conditions and breaking it out into manageable pieces to track along with a very tight schedule. He will be there for roughly

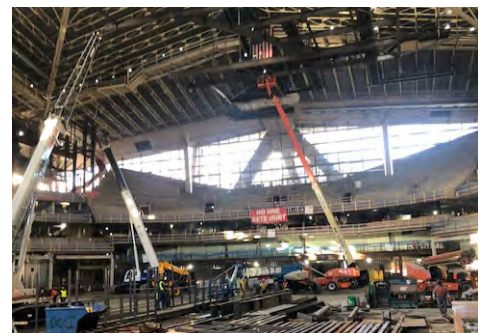


eight months and then head on to the next one. Michael with fellow alum, **Asim Menzil** ▶ (2015) and young Calum. Michael and Asim were on their way to the Georgia-Florida college football game.

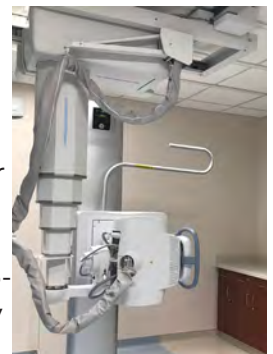


Travis Mellon

(2007) is a Superintendent II with Mortenson's Sports and Entertainment Group. His current project is the Climate Pledge Arena for the new National Hockey League team starting in Seattle, WA. The following are project features: valued at \$850 million; excavated & hauled 660,000 cy of soil; seating capacity expanded to 17,000; new 185' long tunnel to enter loading dock; new atrium; two levels of new parking; new entry plaza; expanded the old arena from 400,000 sf to 800,000 sf; structural concrete is complete; structural steel completes January 2021; ice slab install complete May 2021 with substantial completion October 2021.



Sophie Park (2017) is a Project Engineer with Hill & Wilkinson in Richardson, TX. She has been working at a few different hospital projects lately. The Children's Medical Center in Plano, TX includes interior finish upgrades, along with the medical office building (MOB) connection between parking garage and Specialty Center Two. There is also medical gas removal and interior finish upgrades at Specialty Center One Medical City Dallas is getting some new interior finishes and an X-Ray equipment upgrade at the radiology clinic. The new fluoroscopy X-ray machine will be the first equipment of its kind to be installed in the DFW area.



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

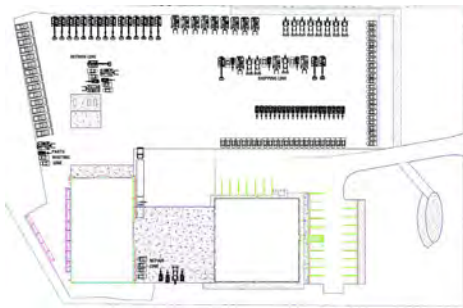
Colin Philipp ▶ (2009) (pictured is Colin, Mason, Casey & Tyler) is currently residing in St. Bonifacius, MN, which is on the west side of the Twin Cities). He is working as a Continuous Improvement Facilities Specialist for Ziegler CAT. Ziegler



CAT is the Caterpillar dealership that represents Minnesota and most of Iowa. They also represent several Agriculture Equipment brands in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Missouri. They offer a very diverse product mix from small Massey Ferguson tractors to some of the largest CAT mining products available in the world.

In his role, Colin works with General Managers and their Facilities Team to cost effectively design, build, and remodel branch facilities to improve the flow of parts and service operations.

Using various tools such as CAD, drone imagery, video & photo time-lapses, motion studies, he is able to document opportunities for safety improvements, reducing operating costs, and ensuring quality service and products for their customers. Colin has been married for six years. He and his sweetie, Casey, have two boys Mason (4) and Tyler (2).



Trevor Poupore (2016) is a Project Manager for Miron Construction in Neenah, WI. His most recently completed project is the Oshkosh Corporation Global Headquarters, and is located in Oshkosh, WI. The structure is a four-story, 194,000 sf office building for the global company that designs and builds specialty trucks, military vehicles, truck bodies, concrete trucks, airport fire apparatus and access equipment. The Oshkosh Corporation also owns Pierce Manufacturing, which designs and builds fire trucks. The total project duration was 16 months.



Kyle Root ▶ (2017) is the Founder and President of Empire Estates, LLC. He really enjoyed the Property Development course at NMU, and it sparked an interest. So much so, he started his own development company and now owns rental properties in both Michigan and Wisconsin. As of now, his portfolio consists of single family and multi-family dwellings. He is expecting 2021 to be an aggressive growth year for his business.



Chris Sachs (2003) is a Capital Project Manager with Colorado University in Boulder, CO. He is waiting for bids to come back on a major renovation he is managing on campus. It is a 54,000 sf two-building (but integrated) project. They are planning for a LEED Gold+ designation. The buildings will be stripped to the shell, with new utilities and systems being added. Also included will be a major landscape change to complement the new parking lot and snow-melt system. The new high-tech laser lab will be a highlight of the finished product, as CU's research in quantum physics is renowned. Chris noted that much of the new equipment is unique to higher education.

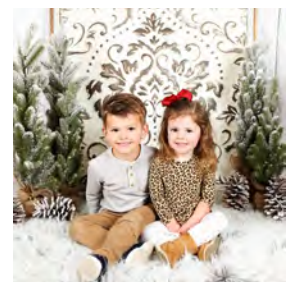


The newest family member is Fischer Michael. He was born on the 11th of December, and weighed a little more than 7 lb. Fischer joins his older sister (Sienna) and mom (Lindsey) in the Sachs home

Matthew Shem ▶ (2006) is an Executive Vice President with Hill & Wilkinson in Richardson, TX. Matthew is responsible for the special projects and manufacturing divisions. He assists with preconstruction, client relationships and field operations.



Pictured are Matthew and his wife, Tiffany and their children – Liam (left) and Blake (right) ready for Christmas



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Jon Slack ▶ (2015) (pictured with Amanda, Anna Marie, the newest addition and Isla) is a Project Manager with Clark Construction Company out of Lansing, MI. He is still working on an eight-story 200,000 sf casino and hotel expansion. A high stakes gaming area, lounge expansion and an upscale restaurant are part of the scope.



Kurt Thiele ▶ (2019) is a Project Engineer with Hill & Wilkinson in Richardson, TX. Kurt and Melissa were married in October. He recently helped complete the "Crown Centre", which is a four story office building. It is a tilt panel structure that included a radius along the front elevation. His current project, The Bent Tree Country Club, is a new high-end clubhouse, banquet hall, restaurant, bar, etc. for Dallas' finest.



Kurt and Andy Steinhauer (2018) ▼ playing in an "adult" hockey tournament. Note: Andy's stick is broken...in the last minute



of their final tournament game, he broke it while running an opponent into, and through, the boards.

Jesse Tarr (2006) is the Owner and President of Wind Secure as well as Corrosion Control Solutions. He has had a strong year, as his companies have had a presence on 70+ different wind farms. They have operated from Hawaii to New York, and many points between. Like quite a few growing businesses, Jesse has had some challenges finding key technicians to perform the work. A turbine (with Jesse and two colleagues on the hub) of a sizable windfarm where nearly 39,000 bolts were torqued for break-in maintenance.



Thomas Wahlstrom (2018) is the onsite Project Engineer for Gunchlach Champion, Inc. (GCI), and assisted Ken Kasten (2007) in the estimating phase of the project. Current NMU student Gabe Johnson will be assisting GCI from the field and the office, as he is available throughout the duration of the project.



Things are progressing nicely for GCI at the Island Resort & Casino project in Harris, MI. They were awarded the general contract for the \$32M hotel expansion and waterpark addition early in 2020, and broke ground in early June. The structural precast for the 12-story hotel tower and waterpark was completed between September 7th and November 8th. IES precast wall panels are being installed through December, while the roof steel is completed. The envelope is scheduled to be complete prior to Christmas.

With the building being in the dry and all major subs under contract for the project by the end of 2020, GCI will continue to push their self-perform work and sub-contractors to complete the 138 new guest rooms, fine dining restaurant, and waterpark by late-December 2021.



Nathan Williams

(2019) is the Facilities Coordinator for JX Enterprises, which owns more than two-dozen commercial truck dealerships across the upper Midwest. Nathan logged over 20,000 miles between January and March traveling between all of the different dealerships in order to learn the needs of each facility.



In February, JX Enterprises purchased Marquette Mountain, so Nate spent the spring and summer performing upgrades on the hill and surrounding structures, while also helping open a few new dealerships (Negaunee, MI and Hickory Hills, IL). 2021 is expected to be another aggressive growth year for JX, so it fits Nathan's mantra as a "can do" person. All of Nathan's pictures (this issue) are from Marquette Mountain. We anticipate seeing renovation pictures from dealerships across a five state area in future newsletters.



He has been able to blend a lot of hands-on work with his approach, which has helped the people around him, and allowed Nathan to grow as a leader. Nathan has been able to maintain his position with Forsyth Township as an Advanced EMT, where he is the Training Officer. Additionally, he is a Team Leader for Marquette County's Search and Rescue. Lastly (for now) he can be found on most Saturdays still working at Lakeshore Bike.

More Alumni Happenings

Rod Ames (1995) is a Superintendent with C. Ames Construction in Wadsworth, IL.

Brett Baum (1997) is a Product Management Director for USAA in the greater Phoenix, AZ area.

Marc Belluomini (1995) is the National Sales Manager for Sprinturf in the Chicago, IL area.

Kayla (Voss) Billmeier (2010) is an Assistant Project Manager with Lunda Construction Company, and is building bridges in the Minneapolis, MN area.

Dan Boyle (1984) is a Project Manager for Upper Peninsula Healthcare Solutions in Marquette, MI.

Jim Conlin (2009) and his wife, Kelly, purchased Frosty Treats on Third Street in Marquette during September, and they know how to make an incredible turtle.

Kevin Connolly (2006) is now the Director of Business Operations at Pepper Construction Group in Chicago, IL.

Joshua Downs (2018) is the Owner of JD Hardwood Flooring in Marquette, MI. He is a full-service hardwood flooring contractor that is serving the Upper Peninsula.

Alec Egnatuk (1999) is the Wastewater Superintendent for the City of Marshal, MI.

Jason Fee (2000) is a Senior Project Manager with Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor, MI.

Thomas Forester (2019) is now an Energy Consultant with RxSun and operates in Chicago, IL. His new role includes sales for systems, project management and a little design.

Jason Heeres (2001) is a Project Executive for William A. Randolph, Inc. in Gurnee, IL.

Andy Herman (2008) is a Sash and Door Sales Representative for Preston Feather Building Center in Petoskey, MI.

Matthew Kehrer (2011) is a Lead Superintendent for Gilbane Building Company. He recently finished pre-construction for a four-campus package for the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM). The precon effort was to provide infrastructure upgrades at Worcester State University, Fitchburg State University, Quinsigamond Community College and Northern Essex Community College. He is currently in Massachusetts working on the Northern Essex Community College electrical and plumbing upgrades.

Brett Koth (1999) is a Senior Project Manager with Civeo in the metropolitan area of Denver, CO.

Austin Krueger (2006) was recently promoted to Project Controls Manager at AZCO, Inc. in Oshkosh, WI.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Shawn Krueger (2009) is now the Director of Operations for Gwinn Schools in Gwinn, MI. His role encompasses oversight for all transportation and facilities.

Wayne Maguire (1994) is the Engineering Technician and CAD/GIS Operator for the City of Trenton, MI.

Dennis Mors (2001) is the Sales Director for Innovative Products and Dealer Development for Somero Enterprises in Sumter, SC.

Jon Mottonen (1989) is a Superintendent with Howard Immel, Inc. in Green Bay, WI.

Sarah Paris (2010) has been promoted to Area Operations Manager with Johnson Controls. She will be assigned to multiple projects for site management and will also be developing new projects within her area. Starting as an intern 10 ½ years ago, she is now responsible for \$50M in annual contract volume.

Luke Ribbens (1998) is a Vice President for Gateway Concrete Forming in Thiensville, WI

Jorge Rios (2017) was recently promoted to Senior Field Engineer with The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in their metro Los Angeles, CA office.

David Sauld (1996) is the President of National Enclosure Company in the Ypsilanti, MI area. He leads a nationally-recognized curtainwall and advanced facade contracting company.

Jack Sepsey (2010) is a Project Manager with F.H. Paschen in the greater Chicago, IL area

Vince Sochacki (2004) is the Vice President of Operations for Absolute Construction, Inc. in Schererville, IN. He recently expanded Absolute's business into Boston MA and the New Jersey Metro areas of the country. He noted the challenges of acquiring licenses and permits from states that were shut down for extended periods. While the regulatory side of things were difficult, he found good fortune in finding highly qualified installers for their new markets. Vince is very proud that Absolute did not lose any employees throughout the worst of the worst work restrictions. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provided the stimulus for them to keep everyone employed during the shelter restrictions. He is still loving the remodeling world, one kitchen and bathroom at a time.

Tim Straub (2006) is now the Data Center Construction Quality Program Manager with Google in the Salt Lake City, UT area.

Noah Talentino (2018) is now a Quality Control Manager with Trade West Construction, Inc. and has been working on Phase One of the New Soo Lock project in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. His work involves deepening the upstream approach to 30'

Ed Tascoff (2020) is now a Field Engineer with Okland Construction, and is building an indoor recreational sport in Mesa, AZ.

Jim Wahoviak (2008) is a Project Manager with Specialty Granules, Inc. in Pembine, WI. SGI mines and manufactures meta-andesite rock. The colored granules are used primarily for a variety of roofing materials and their applications.

Sad Happenings:

Chris Kirby (2006) passed away in early-December due to leukemia. He was a wonderful young man (36 years old) and will be missed. His obituary can be viewed [here](#).

ALUMNI GOLF OUTING



Back in September, the annual alumni golf outing took place on the Saturday following our first-ever virtual career fair. The golf outing was scaled back a bit from previous years, in terms of people and fervered pitch. The foursome shown in the picture shot the lowest recorded score in the history (15+ years) of the outing. As a team, they became the undisputed heavyweight champions of the world! Pictured: (L to R) Paul Bentley, Evan Lucas, Mike Andary and Jim Chernosky.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTORS

The Northern Michigan Constructors (NMC) have had a very busy semester. They wrapped up two projects from a Covid-shortened winter 2020 semester, and completed a good bunch of new ones.



NMU's Volleyball team gets to enjoy a 6' x 12' lighted replica of their Vandament Arena court mounted on the wall of their lockerroom. The sign features special lighting and was mounted by the NMU trades professionals.



◀ The students completed and loaded the shed that was purchased by Ironshore Properties

▶▶ The basement of the Janzen House. The NMC emptied a vacant room and built some shelving and a small work bench for the Janzen's maintenance team.



◀▶ An exterior posting board for UPaws, which is Marquette County's animal shelter. The plexiglass-faced cabinet was designed to hold trail information, as well as other important community news related to animal welfare.



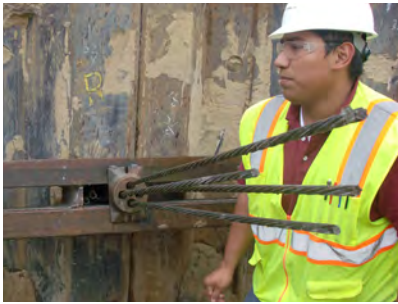
▶ Dozens of plywood Upper Peninsula forms were cut out for the Center for Student Enrichment, which were then distributed across campus and the greater Marquette community for Homecoming



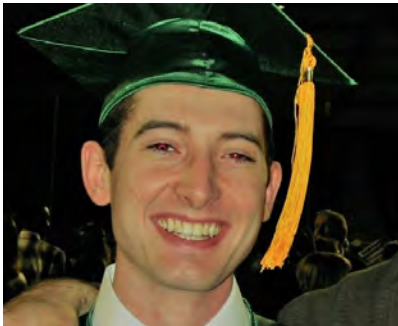
THROWBACK



2005: Ben Hager ◀ (2005) on the left and Scott Ampe ◀ (2005) on the right are celebrating their graduation. The party was at Scott's house in Trowbridge in Marquette, and now he lives on Trowbridge Street in Detroit...who knew?



2007: Sergio Mojica ◀ (2008) inspecting an earth anchor tie-back brace during a summer internship

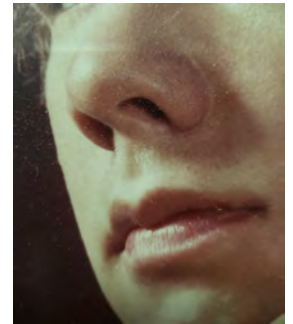


2008: Adam Glover ◀ (2008) graduation day!



2011: Ryan Poulson ◀ (2008) welcoming Evan Lucas (2011) to Whiting-Turner's Field Office.

GUESS WHO



Similar to the last issue, the first response that can correctly identify the alum from the pictures below will win a "surprise." Responses should be emailed to mandary@nmu.edu.

Hints:

- Owns a home in Marquette
- Has managed well over \$1B in construction projects throughout his career
- Not 24 anymore
- Rarely says no to good scotch
- His life mate is a teacher
- Bonus clue: graduated from Marquette Senior High School, but has not lived here for at least a couple years.

From Issue #11 – correct answer was Matthew Shem. There were quite a few rapid responses, but Jason Proctor and Josh Gustafson were somehow identical with their timestamped response. They each have a burger and a beer coming their way when they next visit Marquette.



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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

It is becoming increasingly important for construction managers to have a bachelor's degree.

—U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Scott Ampe
Superintendent
Auch Construction



DONOR RECOGNITION

Our team in Construction Management would like to recognize and thank the donors that gave generously in 2020, and made program enhancements along with student scholarships possible!



2021 UPDATE

With the beginning of a new year, we want to thank our Construction Management donors for their generosity this year. The collective investment of our alumni and friends provides critical resources for our students and faculty.

If you want to make a gift, you can do so online at: connect.nmu.edu/giveconstruction. Online giving is simple and secure, and the most efficient way to support our students today.

Thank you all for your support as we move forward into a promising New Year.