



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT NEWS

ISSUE #17

SUMMER 2023

News from Marquette

Dominating the news is the Jacobetti Complex's renovation. With a little time to go, and quite a bit to do, the project has been a privilege to experience.

Our woodshop and high bay labs will remain largely unchanged, since they served as staging areas throughout final phases of the project. The classrooms, offices, and common areas will not be recognizable to those who have been in the building before (as recently as this past May). The winter newsletter will likely have a photo montage of the completed scope.

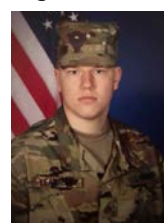


Many alumni or current students have had a strong hand in the project. Our sincere apology to any that were (unintentionally) omitted. Check out this list!

CJ Beil – 2010 ▶ (Project Manager / Detailer for Nucor Harris Rebar) provided all of the detailing and rebar for the structural concrete used at the Jacobetti for the new foundations.



Jim Johnson – 2007 ▶ (Vice President/Partner for Closser Construction and Sales, Inc. as well as a valued member of the NMU Construction Management Advisory Committee) completed the concrete saw cutting and patching for the MEP subcontractors.



◀ **Corey Leadman** – 2023 (Field Engineer Intern for Miron Construction) spent part of the summer of 2023 learning about the project from the inside.

MARQUETTE NEWS continued



◀ **Eyn Nye** – 2023 (Project Manager for Miron Construction) has remained with Miron since the summer following his freshman year. Eyn has played a key role as a key onsite person for Miron.

Ken Ohman – 2006

▶ (Owner of North Country Disposal and North Country Septic) furnished and serviced the portable toilets throughout the life of the project, and he also supplied the dumpsters for waste and recycling.



▼ **Jerad Patterson** – 2015 (Project

Manager / Estimator for Dressel-Mechanical) was responsible for the mechanical contract – all plumbing and HVACR.



Trevor Poupore –

2016 ▼ (Project Manager for Miron Con-



struction) has managed the project since it was given the green light by the State of Michigan, which seems like years ago.

Phil Scheiding – 2004 ▶ (Owner/Partner for Arrow Constructions) installed the site concrete



▶ **Paul Smith** – 2018 (Project Manager/Estimator for Smith Construction) completed the mass demolition in 2022, and also provided the site work.

Tim Sorensen – 2010 ▶ (Staff Scientist with TriMedia Consultants) managed the hazardous material identification and removal.



Interestingly, there were at least another 15 skilled technicians from various trades that had strong ties to NMU through previous enrollment in a wide variety of programs – from Accounting to Welding.

RECOGNITIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

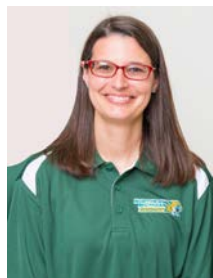
We have had a fantastic variety of awards and scholarships since January:

Awards:

Eyn Nye ▶ – Outstanding Graduating student for the Department of Technology and Occupations Sciences.



Faculty Promotions:



▶ **Heidi Blanck** – Promoted to Professor and will also be the Program Coordinator for the Construction programs. She has been a key teammate and leader for 12+ years



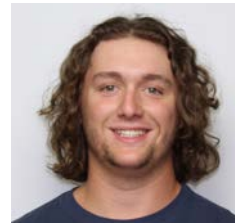
▶ **Evan Lucas** – Promoted to Associate Professor and will also be the Assistant Department Head for Technology and Occupational Sciences. He has been a strong teammate and leader for six-plus years.

Scholarships:

William J. Pulte Family Foundation Scholarship recipients



▶ **Nolan Asiala**
Marcus Chidester ▶



▶ **Luca Gemignani**
Hannah Reaman ▶



Associated General Contractors Education Endowment Scholarship recipients



▶ **Renee Blanck**
Luca Gemignani ▶
Bruce Scott ▶



NORTHERN MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTORS

The NMC group had an excellent winter doing good work in the community. While graduating four of the five executive (Will Jaeger, Raija Stille, Daniel Vince, and Max Hofweber) in May, they have an excellent incoming group for the upcoming academic year.

They made great progress on completing a vestibule for the self-contained growing structure that serves the Controlled Environment Agriculture and Indoor Agriculture programs.

The students attended meetings, provided the design, and judged the teamwork aspect of the Upper Peninsula Skills challenge. The annual event draws high schools (and their students) from across the U.P. For the first year in the competition's history, the event was not held at the Jacobetti Complex. Due to construction, it was relocated to a spectacular venue – the new training facility for Carpenters Local 1510.

Left to Right: **Moses Waite, Marcus Chidester, and Danny Wagner** ▶ were three of the judges for the teamwork aspect of the event.



The first place team from the Copper Country Intermediate School District coached by Michael Randell. ▶



FACULTY CONNECTIONS



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Important 2023 dates:

Wed. 13 Sept. – Info sessions

Thurs. 14 Sept. – Career Fair

Sat. 16 Sept. – Alumni Golf Outing

Fri. 08 Dec. – Senior Project Presentations

Fri. 15 Dec. – Hard Hat Ceremony



Find us on:

Instagram

[@nmu_construction_management](https://www.instagram.com/nmu_construction_management)

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES



Congrats to the May 2023 graduates! With the renovation closing the Jacobetti on the 1st of May, Tricia Bush (NMU Athletics), was kind enough to allow Vandament Arena to be our venue for the Hard Hat Ceremony

Jim Johnson ▶ (Vice President / Partner with Closer Construction & Sales, Inc.) provided the Keynote address.



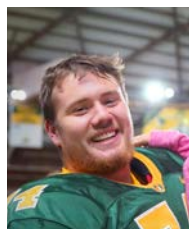
Kole Atanasoff ▶ (Iron River, MI) is returning to the family business, and will be a Project Manager for Krist Oil in Iron River, Michigan.



◀ **Seth Berenz** (Marinette, WI) will be a Platoon Leader for the United State Army in Fort Riley, Kansas

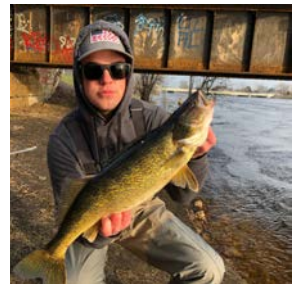
Brett Blackburn

▶ (Fenton, MI) will be returning to NMU to complete the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management, after completing Associate of Applied Science degrees in Building Technology and Climate Control.

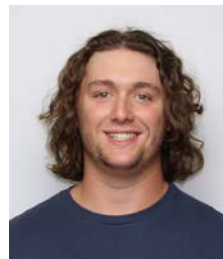


◀ **Derek Crane** (Sault Ste. Marie, MI) will be starting his career in Sault Ste. Marie, MI and working for Maleport Construction.

Colin Erickson ▶ (Kingsford, MI) will be working for MJ Electric out of their Green Bay, WI office.



Luca Gemignani ▼ (DePere, WI) completed his Associate of Applied Science in Building Technology, and will be coming back to NMU in August to continue toward his goal of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.

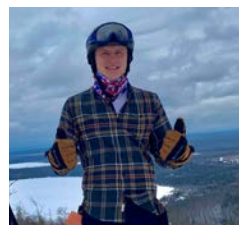


Max Hofweber ▶ (Clare, MI) will be sticking with the civil side of life, and working for Rieth Riley, Inc. out of their Houghton Lake, MI office.



◀ **Will Jae-ger** (Dayton, MN) is heading west to work for Hensel Phelps out of their Thornton, CO office

Brad Klinger ▶ (Charlevoix, MI) is also heading west to work for Nicholson Construction out of their Salt Lake City, UT office.



◀ **Peyton Larson** (Brighton, MI) will be working for OHM Advisors out of their Hancock, MI office.

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES



◀ **Brandon Martens** (Norway, MI) will be heading work for the Power Division of Michels Corporation out of their Neenah, WI office



▶ **Avery Martin** (Crivitz, WI) will be employed by MJ Electric out of their Appleton, WI office



◀ **Ben Mesler** (Grand Rapids, MI) completed his Associate of Applied Science in Building Technology, and will continue working for Weather-wize Log Home Restoration.



▶ **Noah Newton** (Central Lake, MI) will be heading back to Central

Lake to work for the family business – Dan Newton & Sons Builders



◀ **Eyn Nye** (Marquette, MI) received the Outstanding Graduating Senior for the Technology and Occupational Sciences Department, and will continue working for Miron Construction.



▶ **Danny Parks** (Fowlerville, MI) will be starting his career with First Companies in the Flint, MI area.



◀ **Nick Pietila** (Chassell, MI) is moving to the Detroit, MI area to work for McCarthy and Smith out of their Farmington Hills office



▶ **Ryan Polley** (Gladstone, MI) completed his Associate of Applied Science in Building Technology, and will be coming back to NMU in August to continue toward his goal of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.



◀ **Hannah Reaman** (Saginaw, MI) will be employed by AZCO, Inc. out of their Appleton, WI office



◀ **Kody Richlen** (Crivitz, WI) is moving back to Crivitz and working in the family business – Richlen Excavating.



▶ **Trent Schrage** (Petoskey, MI) is off to Detroit, MI and will be employed by Ideal Contracting



◀ **Rajia Stille** (Ishpeming, MI) will be working for Christman, out of their Detroit, MI office.

▶ **Colton Terbeek** (Grand Rapids, MI) will be working for Christman, out of their Grand Rapids,



MI office.



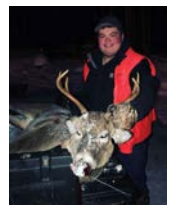
◀ **Daniel Vince** (Rochester Hills, MI) is heading to Kentucky for a sizable battery

plant project for Barton Malow.

▶ **Danny Wagner** (DePere, WI) completed his Associate of Applied Science in Building Technology, and will be coming back to NMU in August to continue toward his goal of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management.



▶ **Wyatt Wonnacott** (Petoskey, MI) will be returning to his hometown and working for the family business – S & S Welding.



Best of luck to the outstanding graduating class of May 2023!



OUTREACH

2023 came in like a freight train, and the winter semester ended that way as well. In between a few snow/ice days, the Fun Bunch was active with outreach.

Mike and Kate ► attended the annual Michigan Construction Teachers Association Conference in Bellaire, MI...in early February



Mike (along with Chrissy Carr and Kim Randolph from NMU Admissions Office) once again attended the Michigan Construction Career Days at the Operating Engineers Local



324 training facility in Howell, MI in late-April. They visited with over 3,000 students in a two-day period

Heidi got to catch up with Collin Cavin (2021) in Chicago, IL while networking with Power Construction

Kate was invited and attended the visiting faculty session with Hensel Phelps in Denver, CO during mid-June



Pictured ►- left to right: **Nate Thomas** (2021), Kate, **Nick Hughes** (2021), and **Bob Mantz** (2010).



◀ Kate & **Nick Hughes**

Nate Thomas ► & Kate



◀ **Bob Mantz** & Kate



The Fun Bunch had a long-overdue strategic planning session at Black Rocks in early-July.

It wasn't (technically) outreach, but outreach was on the agenda – so it counts.



GUESSWHO

Daniel Kennard properly answered last issue's "Guess Who". It was none other than Mr. Trevor Poupore – the dude in charge of making the Jacobetti Complex awesome



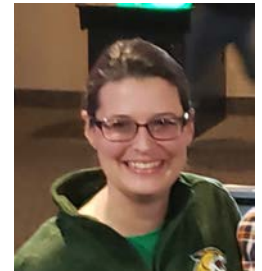
This issue's alum hails from Manistee, MI.

1. He has built a career on the civil side of construction. He covers the basics of Asphalt Paving as the narrator in a YouTube video.



2. Can occasionally be found at critical Safety Meetings with them ►

3. Went to NMU at roughly the same time as her ►



4. Is well known across the alumni circuit as having the best practice swing in the golf world.

5. He married his college sweetheart. ► They have lived in a number of different states since their time at NMU, and always find their way back to Marquette – where they reside today!



Mental Health

Michael Oswald (2003) is the Chief Operating Officer for Hill & Wilkinson, as well as Co-Chair of NMU's Construction Management Advisory committee.



When asked to write a piece on Mental Health my mind certainly went a lot of different directions. How do you try to capture a topic that is so complex and so challenging? This topic is something universities, businesses, and families grapple with every day and it seems to still carry a stigma that is hard to get into the light. At a point in my life the subject of "Mental Health" was so far from a concern or priority of mine that to be writing about it one day is surreal. I certainly have learned that that these priorities can change ever so quickly. I, like many of you reading this, have had tragedies and struggles in my life and un-told stress from life, family, work and so on. I hope those reading this can see a path through their own situation or be able to recognize challenges in others around you and lend a helping hand. I've put a few thoughts together that I've picked up along the way that hopefully can help you or someone in your life when that day comes.

1. "Everyone is dealing with something". I don't think there is a more real statement, especially as it relates to our daily interactions with people. We are not alone in this challenging world and we have peers at every level that are dealing with something. The hope is that we all can find ways to lean on or help those people around you. In your business life you will undoubtedly see changes in production or quality with someone around you. Remind yourself that everyone is dealing with something. Showing grace with people and understanding the potential that there may deeper issues at play can mean all the difference in the world. It may allow you to help in the moment or just provide the support that is sometimes desperately needed. These are concepts that no matter what perspective or position you have, knowing that "everyone is dealing with something" hopefully not only helps you but also allows you to help others around one day.

2. "Run your own race at your own pace". Establish what defines success for you. Today, more than ever, we face so much social pressure that people struggle to live up to this unrealistic version of reality. Peer competition, social media and so on. Nothing is what it seems. The personas that people create aren't real. People may easily end up running a race that isn't even theirs. At one point in my career, I didn't have a clear idea of what success meant to me. I was too concerned about things that didn't make me happy. I started focusing on my

own version of success by honing in on what was truly important to me and my family. If you feel the pressure to be everything to everyone or feel like everyone "has it figured out but you" remember to run your own race. I was going down a path of feeling like I needed to accomplish everything all at once. The stress and pressure that I was putting on myself was affecting every part of my life, negatively. Stepping back and thinking about what you define as success can be a great first step at running your own race.

3. "It's Ok not being Ok". This may be the one thing that is the most difficult to think about or admit. We are all going to be in and out of this position at times in our life whether we want to admit it or not. I don't think that it's possible for us to avoid "Not being ok" at some point in our lives. The number of challenges that we all face today or are going to face are too numerous to list. For those of you who have not had issues in your lives please keep looking out for those around you. Keep looking in the mirror and running your own race while helping along the way. For those of you who know you are not ok, reach out. Sometimes great people can find you in that moment, but typically we have to find the strength to reach out. Professional resources are so scarce in this space and, regretfully, I think they will not keep pace with real demand. For those of you that have "not been ok" in your life and have weathered the storm, your experiences can be so enlightening and inspirational to others. Leaning in to share experiences can make all the difference in the world. Although not from a professional, this connection could lend a hand to those struggling to realize they are not alone.

This article surely doesn't solve the mental health crisis in our country today nor are these brief thoughts coming from a place of expertise in this arena. What I do know is that given the multitude of factors that make it increasingly difficult to access more formalized mental health resources, it is critical for people like each one of us to be a bridge to helping in those small moments. By paying attention to those small moments that become big moments the right actions or words can be the difference in someone's life. Then, when it's your time to feel like the world is closing in, hopefully you will remember that it is perfectly OK to reach out to someone for help. Knowing you don't have to fight it on your own. Remember that everyone is dealing with something so run your own race and know that its ok if you aren't ok sometimes.

****Noteworthy** – When Andary and Oswald first started talking about this topic many years ago, both agreed that the two large hurdles for a lot of people are (1) recognizing that the struggle is real, and (2) asking for help. If people can overcome the hurdles, there are great resources available to help with beginning the journey to feeling better.

FUN BUNCH REPORT

The Fun Bunch was able to be active while gathering for the semester's end celebration of "final grades are done" in early May.



Evan has been active watching these two (David & Evelyn), as well as being the new Assistant Department Head for Technology and Occupational Sciences. Additionally, he is still the active Director for the Controlled Environment Agriculture and Indoor Agriculture programs. Coaching baseball and soccer are a couple of hobbies as well, all while planning the upcoming youth hockey season.



Heidi has been active developing this academic year's Women in Construction events, creating tons of content for our online degree program, and teaching / advising our Global Campus students. She has also been active working at camp, and co-chairing our new faculty search committee.

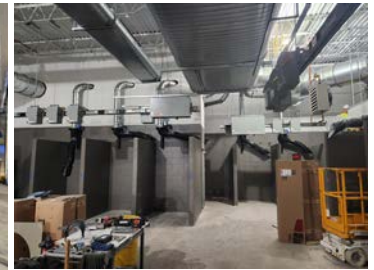
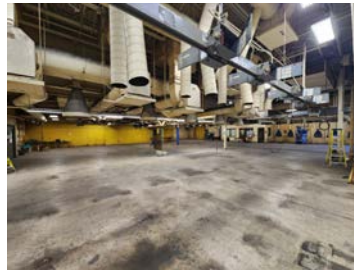
Jim has been active developing this property (M553 on your way to the ski hill) into the Future Rolling Meadows complex, as well as co-chairing our new faculty search committee.



Kate has been active coaching softball, baseball, working with our Global Campus students through the admissions process, and building her family's home.



Mike has been active working on the Jacobetti Renovation...as a Sheet Metal dude. He's been helping turn the welding lab from this (left) to this (right).



Mark your calendar!

CAREER FAIR

September 14, 2023



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"By completing this online bachelor's degree, I will be prepared to take on leadership roles within the construction industry, whether in project management, cost estimation, scheduling, or quality control. Additionally, I can develop a deep understanding of sustainable construction practices, technological advancements in the field, and effective communication and collaboration skills."

Derrick Stanton ▶
Foreman



WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

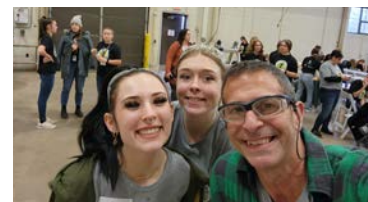
During the winter of 2023, Heidi and Kate put together a hugely successful Upper Peninsula Women in Construction events.

A dynamic group of donors made everything possible, while dozens of volunteers came from the area, but many traveled from far and wide to provide time and expertise.

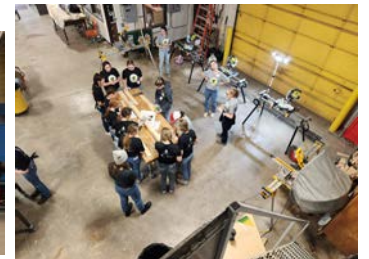
The three stations included

(1) a variety of professional skilled trades....Operating Engineers Local 324, Carpenters Local 1510, Electricians Local 906, Sheet Metal Workers Local 7, Ironworkers Local 8 Laborers LiUNA Local 1329, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 111, as well as the Upper Peninsula Construction Council. **(2)** a building project in the woodshop, and **(3)** a metal-working project in the welding lab.

Together, Heidi and Kate also hosted an event for middle schoolers that was an amazing opportunity for early introduction to the construction industry.



WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION



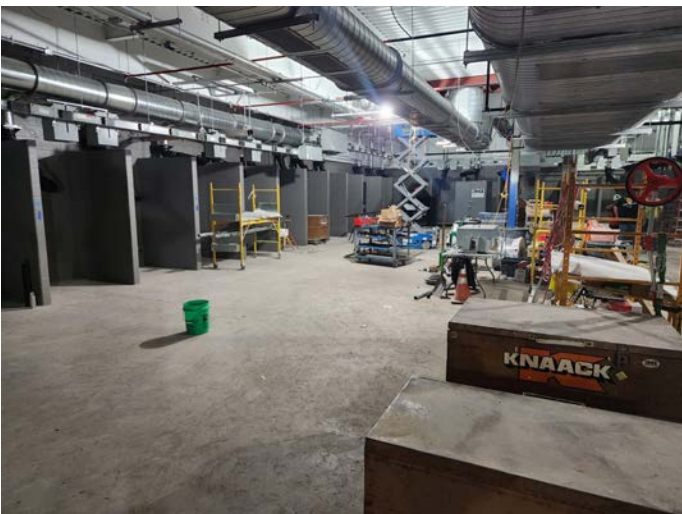
MORE FROM THE JAC



Old ▲ and new ▼ main entrance



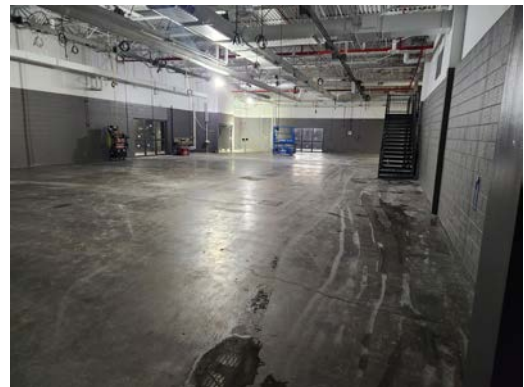
Large wall graphic



New welding lab



BIM Lab



CNC Lab

MORE FROM THE JAC



in entrance atrium



Renovated classroom near HVAC lab



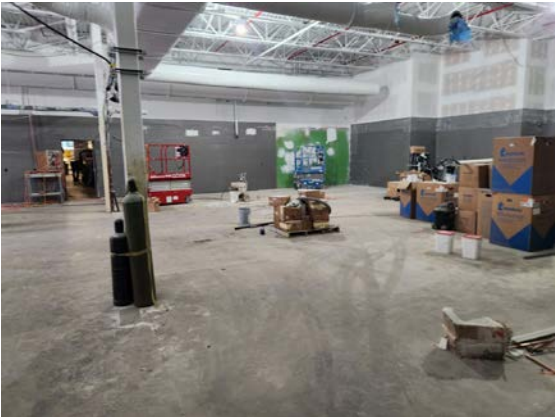
Main corridor looking south



Tiered classroom



From the high bay looking east at a new informal learning area



Fabrication lab



Innovation Hall event space

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sean Clements (2007)

Sean has had a few titles through the years. Abatement Specialist, Residential Contractor, and (Award Winning) Sales Manager to name a few. Now, it is Entrepreneur – to go along with husband and father.



The Clements family was featured in the May 2023 edition "Marquette Neighbors." With permission from Eric Hammerstrom (Content Coordinator and Author), along with Taylor Ragusett (Taylor Ragusett Photography), their piece is used below:

Your Neighbors The Clements: the Family that Plays Together

By Eric C. Hammerstrom with photography by Taylor Ragusett

A wise man once said that if you can turn your passion into a paycheck, you'll "never work a day in your life." That seems to be the philosophy of our neighbors, Sean and Cheryne Clements, and their sons Easton and Brody.

Don't take that the wrong way—the Clements family works incredibly hard. It's just that it's downright difficult to tell exactly where the "work" and "play" aren't happening simultaneously.

Sean, Cheryne, Easton and Brody are about as active as human beings can be. In fact, Sean's day begins with his own workouts at about 4 AM. Cheryne and Brody begin their day with a 5:30 AM workout at the Y.M.C.A. Then, throughout the day, they work or play or work AND play at the same time.

"It's been almost two decades of a lifestyle built around fitness," Sean explained. "I struggled since I was a young boy with body composition issues, and I went through a transformation in my twenties where I lost a bunch of body fat and I got lean and muscular. That was the growth trajectory for myself that really just catapulted me to growing stronger as a father, as a husband." When it comes to health and fitness, Cheryne comes from



a family tree devoted to individual health and the health of the community as a whole. Cheryne's mother, Carole LaPointe, was a nurse who raised five children in Baraga. She became the director of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) Health Center that bears the name of her father (Cheryne's grandfather), Donald LaPointe, who served the community as KBIC Chairman. Cheryne's grandmother Myrtle Tolonen was the first Tribal Chairwoman of the KBIC, and Cheryne's sister, Bridget LaPointe Dunham, is now the tribe's CEO.

After graduating from Northern Michigan University with a degree in Management/Health & Fitness, Cheryne did her part, too, working as Youth Program Director for the KBIC and establishing the tribe's fitness center.

Moving to Baraga after graduation was also a return home for Sean, who studied Construction Management at NMU. Both Sean and Cheryne were born and raised in Baraga County. Sean graduated from L'Anse High School in 2001. Cheryne graduated from Baraga High School in 2003.

Sean and Cheryne have two boys—Easton, a senior at Marquette Senior High School, and Brody, an 8th grader at Bothwell Middle School. According to Sean, both boys "came out of their mother's womb holding basketballs."

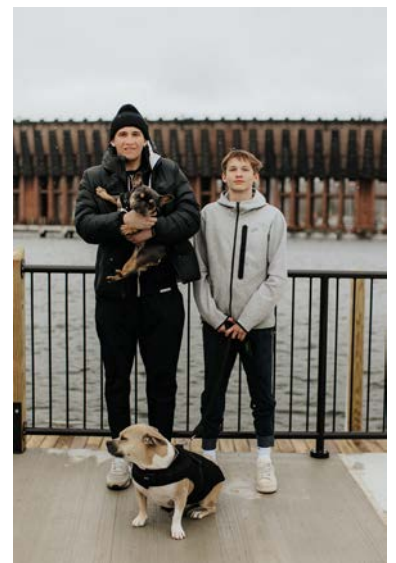
Cheryne was a standout basketball player at Baraga High School, which explains the boys' gravitational pull toward hoops. Sean grew up playing hockey, football and golf. Thus, it makes sense that Brody is a football player, too, and that Easton is a golfer.

Easton will realize his goal of playing college basketball at Bay College next year. He is undecided on a major. Brody, who Cheryne calls her "wild one", is excited for high school. Cheryne called him a "natural leader and communicator" who is great with math.

During their four years in Baraga, Cheryne began bodybuilding competitively on the national level, winning three overall championships. Sean was also competing at the time.

Then, the Clements family returned to Marquette, where Sean worked for The Window Store, then Upper Hand Windows.

"You know, we wanted to raise our family in Marquette," Cheryne





said, adding that Marquette had always been a “second home” for the couple. “That’s where we felt we could grow the most as individuals and then also as a family, too.”

After a few years of apartment living, the couple purchased their own home—a huge accomplishment for young Marquette couples—where they have lived for the past eight years.

“We were blessed enough to be able to buy our home, where we can raise our kids,” Sean said.

Cheryne worked as a personal trainer in Marquette for 10 years, before she and Sean got even busier! In November of 2020, the Clements opened Fit Body Boot Camp (FBBC) in Marquette. In January of 2023, they opened FBBC in Escanaba, where the Clements own a 14,000 square foot commercial facility with three other businesses as tenants.

“It is an extremely diverse fitness community,” said Sean. “Marquette offers an active lifestyle, year-round, for runners, bikers, skiers, even competitive bodybuilders. Our Fit Body Forever program is probably the most diverse group of people you’ve ever seen in a fitness facility. What we tried to do is to create an environment that was 100-percent welcoming to any and all fitness levels, because stepping foot into a gym for the first time can be terrifying.

“We sit down with people to go through their goals and then talk to them about membership, asking ‘what do you need from the program to be successful?’ in a non-intimidating way,” Sean explained. “It’s about results. It’s about relationships. It’s about community. And we wanted to be able to pay it forward, because fitness has literally changed my life. I had a longstanding, terrible relationship with food and how I felt about myself. Making a disciplined change in my life was a catalyst to much, much bigger, brighter things.”

Sean and Cheryne are excited for whatever “bigger, brighter things” come along in the future. One of their goals is to someday own property near Skanee, where Sean’s family once owned a family camp.

For the meantime, they’ll be plenty busy traveling to basketball games, golf courses, gymnasiums, and Fit Body Boot Camps from dawn to dusk.

The “Fast Five” with Sean:

1. What is your favorite movie? He absolutely loves Al Pacino and Rober DeNiro, so “Heat” is the all-time favorite.

2. What is your best NMU memory? The core group of friends he made that are still with him. Developing a strong friendship with Ken Ohman has been fabulous... friends for over 15 years. Both are strong entrepreneurs today, and had a lot of fun together in college. Now they are both husbands and fathers. No regrets about going to NMU...very happy about the relationships that were built that continue to help him expand a great network today.

A close second for memorable was his MKT230 course with Dr. Brunswick. Sean asked for an opportunity to make up an exam during his Mom’s passing. Professor Brunswick noted that it would take nearly a 100% on the exam to salvage a passable grade, but provided the opportunity. Sean capitalized on it, and did not have to repeat MKT230. Sean draws a lot of motivation from those that open a door or provide an opportunity for him, because he knows they are taking a risk.

3. What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Helping and personally coaching Terra Brugman. She is a young mother of three children. She lost over 120lbs of body fat (while adding 10 pounds of lean muscle) in 18 months. Now, more 30 months into her journey, she transformed her life. Sean played a strong role in helping her and finds difficulty putting words to the feeling of pride that Terra now experiences.

4. What is the best part of (in Sean’s case) staying in Marquette?

He is a red-blooded Yooper. To be able to stay and drive change in the community has been an absolute blessing. He has been able to raise a family in a wonderful area.

He moved downstate to abate asbestos right out of high school, and he learned that money isn’t everything. He missed the vibe of being here. He worked a bit in Baraga County, but wanted to be in Marquette. He feels incredibly fortunate to be a part of this community.

5. Who is the person you would most like to meet?

Andy Frisella is a lead-level entrepreneur. Andy owns a half dozen businesses that each gross a very high volume of dollars. He thrives on personal excellence. Andy has a saying: “Personal excellence is the ultimate rebellion”. It has helped Sean a great deal with personal responsibility...from food choices to business approach. The big takeaway is that circumstances do not change personal responsibility.

CLEMENTS continued on bottom of next page.

CURRENT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Madison (Maddy) Bell (2025) from Apple Valley, Minnesota is a current junior in the Construction Management program.

She graduated from Eastview High School. Her initial plan of study was pre-medicine, and then Business Management with a minor in Construction Systems. Thanks in large part to her discussions with Jim Conlin, she made a great choice to change her major to Construction Management.

She was drawn to NMU by an email during her junior year of high school. She loved the area, but there was also a lot of opportunity for undergraduate research. At the time, Maddy envisioned a science-based study

Maddy has a good amount of construction DNA. Her family's business involves insurance restoration for commercial properties in the Twin Cities area.

Most proud of:

She is proud of being able to go out of her comfort zone, which has (time and time again) shown to be the greatest growth and learning vehicle. Moving to Dallas, TX to work for Hill & Wilkinson this summer was definitely out of her comfort zone. Moving to Marquette was also a big first step right out of high school. Getting comfortable being uncomfortable has been a tremendous catalyst for her thus far.



Plans

Completing the summer internship with Hill & Wilkinson, where she will be until mid-August. She is excited about the lineup of classes for the fall semester, and being involved with Kate and Heidi's Women in Construction events throughout the year. Being able to bring something back to the university from her experience in Dallas will make the academic year much more relatable. She is very much looking forward to the career fair, and determining next summer's opportunities.



Most memorable

The friendships and relationships built through the years at NMU are the most memorable part thus far. All of the things that were built outside of the classroom. The winters have been very fun, and the culture that NMU (and the Marquette community) thrives upon has created some amazing memories.

Why NMU?

The feeling she had once she visited the school. She was fairly well set to attend St. Thomas.

She stepped on campus, met a few people on the visit, and decided that this was the place she wanted to be. There wasn't anything specific, but the gut-feeling upon arrival



Interesting fact:

Maddy has thoroughly enjoyed reading the contracts of every contractor on her summer project. She has also currently read over 900 pages of the specifications in the project manual, and that's been rewarding / enjoyable as well.

Clements Continued

Interestingly, Andary and Clements had met in the 1990s, while Sean was a Purple Hornet in the L'Anse school system, and Andary was a Superintendent with Barton Malow. Little did they know at the time that they would have a profound impact on each other's lives in the years to come. Flash forward a few years while Sean was at NMU. He was struggling, and he credited Andary with providing some help when he was in need. A "few" years after that, Andary was struggling, and Sean was there to provide some life-changing assistance. All in all, a solid friendship for a lot of years is the net effect.



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GLOBAL CAMPUS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Derrick Stanton is a foreman for an underground water and sewer company. They do lots of sanitary, storm, and water connections outside of buildings – both residential and commercial. He calls himself both a plumber and an operator. He was born and raised in Narragansett, Rhode Island, and has been living in Grand Forks, North Dakota since 2010.



He landed a position as a heavy equipment operator after bartending for a bit in Grand Forks. His favorite machine for pipeline excavation is the Hitachi Zaxis800. It's a large machine, and very smooth.



Family

He married Amanda, who inspired him to pursue a college degree. Amanda is pursuing her DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice). They met in 2014 while bartending together in Grand Forks. Derrick was receiving an honorable discharge from the Air Force and trying to determine what was next. At the time, he was convinced that he would end up back in Rhode Island. Upon meeting Amanda,

everything changed. They visit Rhode Island once or twice per year. As a member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, he tries to make it back for the annual Pow Wow during the second weekend of August.

Together, Amanda and Derrick have three dogs. He and his younger sister are both first generation college students within his family.



Career

Derrick enlisted in the Air Force three months out of high school. During the first two months, he installed cabinets for the kitchen displays at the Home Depots for American Woodmark throughout upstate New York.



One of his mentors and his great-grandfather inspired him to join the Air Force. Derrick's got multiple generations of military veterans in his lineage, and it felt like it was what he was meant to do.

Goals

First and foremost, earning the Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management through NMU...hopefully in May of 2025. Derrick is then looking to transition to a large-scale construction company to do highways, or also looking at an inspection / safety position.

He also plans to get back to his military-level fitness.

Once they both graduate, Derrick and Amanda plan to expand their family.

A long-term business goal is to open a men's club where folks can store their motorized toys, play pool, and work on their vehicles with or without their kids....hopefully within 15 years.

Fast Five with Derrick:

- 1. What is your favorite breakfast meal?** Pancakes with butter and Vermont maple syrup. Preferably with a side of crispy corned beef hash with two eggs – over-easy.
- 2. What is your favorite thing to do when not working?** Fishing – the go-to locations are Devil's Lake and Lake of the Woods. The Red River is also a favorite. Walleye is the primary catch, as well as jumbo perch and burbot.
- 3. Where do you want to be in five years personally and / or professionally?** In five years, he would like to be (personally) a little closer to either / both of their families...a lot depends upon where their careers take them. Professionally, he would like to be doing inspections, safety management, or working as a site superintendent for a large company.

4. Who is the person that has inspired you the most throughout your career thus far?

His three male role models are his father, step-father, and father-in-law. All three have had a strong positive impact, and shaped Derrick into the man he is today.

- 5. What is your ultimate vacation destination?** Portugal.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Matthew Cronk ▶ (2008)

completed his Master of Public Administration degree at the University of Michigan after three years of grueling work. It was a cold and rainy day in late-April when walked across the U of M campus from the Rackham building to Hill Auditorium for the ceremonies, but his spirits simply couldn't be dampened. It was a tremendous amount of work, but it was an experience he relished and will serve to enrich both his future work and personal life. He plans to spend a bit of time this summer fishing with his son, and considering at a variety of professional opportunities.



Noah Herington (2020) is a Project Engineer with Mortenson's Wind Energy Group. He is working on the Fowler Ridge Repower project. Pictured (left to right) ◀ are **Justin Blubaugh** (2006), **Noah Herington** (2020), **Vanessa Herington** (NMU Applied Behavior Analysis, 2020), and **Greg Pietila** (2022). Their current job placement is in Indiana where they are repowering wind turbines from Clipper C96 to Vestas V120. This conversion has never been done in Mortenson history! The conversion includes removing the rotor and nacelle from the Clipper tower and then adding a Vestas tower section, nacelle, hub, and blades. This also includes removal and installation of all internal tower wiring and controllers to ensure proper functionality. This process is being done to improve the efficiency of the turbines which will then produce more power to the grid while utilizing existing infrastructure, underground collection systems, and the substation.



Dakota Pelach

(2020) is a Project Engineer with Hill & Wilkinson in Dallas, TX, and part of the team that is building a new business district at Grand Prairie Epic Central.



She is working on six retail and restaurant buildings, a 56,000 sf below grade parking structure, a 73,500 sf two-story above grade parking structure, a water-front event lawn with a covered stage and outdoor seating, two LED hoop lighted pedestrian bridges, and an elevated pedestrian bridge.



Joshua Pietila (2021) is a Project Engineer with J.E. Dunn in Minneapolis, MN.

He is working a 16-story concrete structure in downtown Minneapolis next to the University of Minnesota.



first big pour was about 500 cubic yards. The concrete placement duration is 16 planned for months. Post-tensioned decks will go all the way up starting with three floors of parking garage.

Sam Reynolds ▶ (2022) is an Assistant Superintendent with Ultra Construction services in Marquette, MI

He is also a homeowner, a heavy equipment operator, and a skilled concrete guy

Since graduation, Sam has worked on a wide variety of projects. One day, he may



ALUMNI HAPPENINGS



be digging in new 6" water main up Marquette Mountain (with amazing views) to help support the snow making operations.

He might be pouring concrete in the morning, and then getting an emergency call to fix a broken sewer main on NMU's campus at 3:00 a.m. ◀



He has been able to hone his skills working on a lot of fast-paced and short-duration projects. Sam enjoys what he does, and is looking

forward to the growth opportunities that are being presented to him.

Jon Slack (2015) is a Project Manager with Rand. He is getting more accustomed to the design-build delivery, and is eager to be part of the projects that are on the forefront

This is the first update from Jon in a long time that doesn't include a pregnancy or birth by Amanda.

They did purchase a five-unit apartment complex in Bay City, MI that used to be a Victorian Mansion. One of the five units is an AirBNB. The Slacks are hoping to renovate the entire building, while keeping the focus on the intrinsic historic charm of the 19th century structure. They've also converted one of the units into a furnished mid-term rental that focuses on traveling professionals...for nurses, engineers, and construction managers. They have a lot of work ahead of them, but are excited about their long-term real estate plans.



Alumni moving on and moving up (unfortunately without pictures) continued on next page...

Some Pietilas

During one of the 2023 NMU vs MTU hockey games, TV6 had a feature that highlighted MTU's Pietilas.. It started back in 2016. Andary was attending an outreach event organized by the Washtenaw County Contractors Association in Ypsilanti, MI. **Ryan Pietila** approached the NMU table as a high school senior, and chatted with Andary. Ryan talked about what he wanted to do, what he liked, and where he would like to be. His plans were to attend a year a community college, and then enroll in a university after that. He started something very special at NMU with his brothers and cousins. Each of them also brought at least one friend along into the program as well...our team sincerely hopes they will keep the Pietila tradition rolling into the future! So, here is our version:

Nick Pietila ▶ (2023) was born and raised in Chassell, MI. A May grad, he is a Field Engineer with McCarthy and Smith in Farmington Hills, MI.

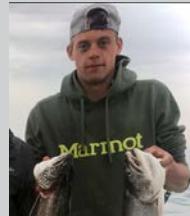


◀ Anders Pietila

(2022) is from Brighton, MI. He is a Project Engineer with Barton Malow and working at BlueOval SK Battery Park in Kentucky.

▶ Devon Pietila

(2022) is from Hartland, MI and is a Project Engineer with Barton Malow.

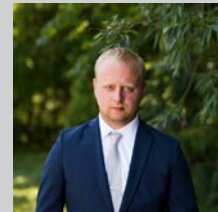


◀ Ted Pietila

(2022) is from Brighton, MI and is a Project Engineer with Commercial Contracting Corporation out of their Auburn Hills, MI office

▶ Greg Pietila

(2022) is from Hartland, MI, and is a Field Engineer with Mortenson's Wind Energy Group.



◀ Joshua Pietila

(2021) is from Hartland, MI - and a Field Engineer with J.E. Dunn in Minneapolis, MN.

▶ Ryan Pietila

(2021) is from Hartland, MI. He is a Project Engineer with Barton Malow.



No picture, but **Brett Pietila** (2010) hailed from Baraga, MI. He was the first and only Pietila for quite a few years. We are not certain about the relation, but he shares the same last name....so, he counts! Last we knew, he was living and teaching in Alaska.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

Nick Allers (2014) is a Project Manager with Gilbane Building Company in Grand Rapids, MI

David Bertucci (2010) is an Estimator for Airoom Architects, Builders and Remodelers in the Chicagoland area.

Michael Beuschel (2006) is the Director of Construction at Wolverine Building Group in Grand Rapids, MI

Christian Biolchini (2020) is an Assistant Project Manager at Thomas Sebold and Associates in Detroit, MI

Derrick Carter (2017) is a Superintendent with The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company near Tampa, FL

Thomas Forester (2019) is an Assistant Project Manager for RK Mechanical in Denver, CO

Ryan Gauthier (2007) is a Project Manager for Dimeo Construction Company in Providence, RI

Shawn Greening (2016) is a Superintendent with Turner Construction in Chicago, IL

John Hamacher MBA (2013) is a Project Manager at Northbank Civil and Marine in Portland, OR

Sean Hart (2011) is a Project Manager for Daniels General Contractors in Madison, WI

Quinn Hupy (2022) is a Project Engineer with Walsh Construction & Archer Western in Kaukauna, WI

Daniel Hunter (2018) was promoted to Project Manager with Barton Malow

Jon Irby (2013) is a Project Manager for the Maryland Stadium Authority in Washington, DC / Baltimore, MD area.

Rick Johnson (2007) is a Project Manager for Dahme Mechanical Industries in Wauconda, IL

Noah Jutis (2018) is a Project Manager for Brasfield & Gorrie in Nashville, TN

Luke Kantola (2013) is a Field Manager II at Pulte Homes in Detroit, MI

Darrin Koivisto (2018) is an Estimator for Minkinen Iron in Cokato, MN

Ryan Lucas (2010) is the Owner / Operator of Rhino Construction Services in the greater Kalamazoo, MI area

Travis Mellon (2007) is a Senior Superintendent for Mortenson's Data Solutions Group in Aurora, IL

Nathan Menighini (2014) is a Project Superintendent with Miron Construction. He moved back to the Midwest from the Mid-Atlantic area after eight and a half years. He now lives in Appleton, WI. He and his wife have two daughters (Harlow is three, and Madison is a couple months).

Adam Michaud (2019) is an Assistant Engineer with Turner Construction Company around Charlevoix, MI

Nick Moore (2007) is a Senior Project Manager with the Boldt Company in Appleton, WI

Jorge Rios (2017) is an Area Superintendent with Kemp Bros. Construction, Inc. around the Los Angeles, CA metro area.

Rich Schneider (2006) is a Senior Project Manager for La Macchia Group in Green Bay, WI

Kurt Thiele (2019) is a Project Manager with Hill & Wilkinson in Dallas, TX.

Max Watrous (2016) is a Project Manager for Rockford Construction Company.

Frank Williams (2012) is a Project Manager for INTREN, LLC in the Chicago, IL area

Drew Wudtke (2016) is a Project Manager for The Boldt Company in Appleton, WI

Mark Zielinski (2019) is an Area Manager for CMF Group's Midwest operations in Illinois.



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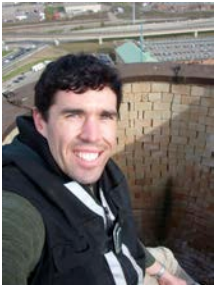


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THROWBACK

A couple of pics from yesteryear. Please send along pictures from your time at NMU any time. Our inventory is pretty low.



Alan Swanson ▶ (2005) hanging out

with his father during NMU Hockey awards banquet in 2005.

Jess Tarr ▼ (2006) in the hub of a tower in 2008.



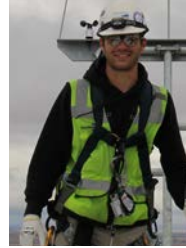
Jamie Martin ▼ (2008) at an internship on a power plant in 2007



Jeremy Bubb, Chris Cardinal, and Adam Glover ▶ at Graduation in 2008.



Steve Hunter ▼ (2011) climbing towers in 2013



Bob Mantz ▶ (2010) building a new hangar in Denver in 2014



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