

For Alumni
& Friends

NMU Construction Management

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FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

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Good Days!

Lots going on since the last issue in April

- * The summer of 2015 saw a record number of students interning
- * The 2015 Career Fair and Alumni Golf Outing set a variety of infamous records
- * One of our alums was named the 2015 Outstanding Young Alum for all of NMU
- * Our alumni and corporate donors provided the first-ever Construction Management Scholarships
- * We graduated six young adults in December, and at least ten new students will be studying construction Management—sustainable growth is a marvelous thing.
- * We (along with the help and support of many) completed the new rooms in the Jacobetti High Bay Lab.
- * We continue to build a solid relationship with the Skanska-Closner team that will be constructing the new LifePoint hospital in Marquette over the next 33—36 months
- * We plan to be engaged with the City of Marquette's new Municipal building, and the Design-Build contractor—Gundlach Champion
- * We'll have a front row seat, as NMU enters into its first P3 (public private partnership) agreement for upgrading campus housing.

Congratulations to the Graduates of December 2015

The faculty are excited to announce the following students who graduated last month.

- ⇒ Weston Bailey
- ⇒ Michael LaFleur
- ⇒ Alex Latvala
- ⇒ Jerad Patterson
- ⇒ Sam Peterson
- ⇒ Laurence Zeugner

Q: What was the CN450 Senior Project?

A: A design-build pavilion

Q: When is Homecoming 2016?

A: Saturday, 24 September (please save the date)

Q: Does that mean the Career Fair is on Thursday the 22nd?

A: Yes

NMU Alumni—Hard at work in the Windy City

During mid-July, Randy Durecka (P.M. at Walsh) organized an Alumni event at the Hopsmith Tavern, in downtown Chicago

(pictured left to right: Michael Andary, Randy Durecka, Kurt Campbell, Kerry Klausner, Adam Glover and Vince Sochacki

The original invite list was almost two-dozen. Many (unfortunately) had unavoidable conflicts.

Andary was in the neighborhood while taking a safety class—and the rest were able to make some time to hang out, catch up and share a lot of laughs



Good food & good friends getting together

Yeah—it's all about the golf 10th Annual Construction Career Fair



-- Kent Frantz created a new way to zip line...upside down with one hand

Picture to the left was before the tackle football game got underway.

The 2015 Alumni Golf Outing provided a lot of entertaining memories—and another first. By default, we had the only foursome that completed the round declared as the heavyweight champion of the world. Something happened on the 13th Tee box that “delayed” folks until everyone was late for lunch. Oddly, there were no complaints about missing the last five or six holes.

2015—NMU Outstanding Young Alumni

During the 2015 Homecoming festivities, Michael Oswald could not attend the Alumni Golf Outing or Luncheon, because he was busy being named Northern Michigan University's Outstanding Young Alumni.

Parts of his story have been told within previous versions of this newsletter, but it is noteworthy that his story gained campus-wide attention.

Michael is pictured with President Fritz Erickson.

....and, he received a cool (non-microwavable) plate too.

In addition to his professional and personal accomplishments, Michael has remained committed to leaving the NMU Construction Management program better than he found it. He, along with Jon Nehls and a host of caring alumni, got the scholarship program off the ground by making it happen.



Fast Facts

Relatively new updates (slower than Facebook & LinkedIn), but still fun:

Chris Sachs (2003) got married and moved from Minnesota to Colorado

Alan Swanson (2004) is a Project Manager with Howard Immel in Green Bay, WI

Matthew Shem (2005) got married and is a Group Manager for Hill and Wilkinson in Dallas, TX

Justin Blubaugh (2006) is a husband, father of three and a Superintendent with Mortenson in Milwaukee, WI

Nikk Glazier (2008) is a Project Manager with The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company in Baltimore, MD

Derek Nakamura (2011) started his own company (Paniolo Construction Services), and has set up shop in Texas

Tara Hernandez (2011) is a Project Manager for Miron Construction in Neenah, WI—and is also a married mother of three.

Nate Smith (2012) is the Owner of Titan Construction and Remodeling in Ishpeming, MI—and a married father of five

Jon Irby (2013) is a Project Engineer with Barton Malow in Southfield, MI

Aaron Miller (2014) is the Owner of 32 North Construction in Richmond, MI

Laurence Zeugner (2015) will be employed by M Lukas Company in Kaukauna, WI

*Below—Nikk Glazier
in 2008*



Alumni Spotlight

Derrick Pass (2012)



Derrick recently accepted an invitation to be the newest member of the NMU Construction Management Advisory Committee.

As the youngest member (by nearly a decade), Derrick's quality-driven entrepreneurial approach to building a local business will be welcomed. Mr. Pass owns North Pass Builders in Marquette.

Student Spotlight

Gabriella Garza received NMU's Student-Athlete of the Month for September.

She has performed exceptionally well in the classroom (maintaining a 3.3 g.p.a.), and had a stellar season for NMU's Varsity Soccer team last fall. In the photo, Gabby is standing with Mr. Forest Karr, NMU's Athletic Director, while receiving



her award at halftime of the NMU vs Ferris State football game.

Gabby's resiliency was necessary after her 2014 season was shortened due to injury.

Through perseverance and hard work, she rehabilitated her knee, and was named a captain this past season.

She spent the summer of 2015 as an intern with Hill & Wilkinson in Dallas, TX, and plans to spend the summer of 2016 with Barton Malow out of the Southfield, MI office.



We need your pictures and stories for future issues!!!

From all of us to all of you: Thank You!!

The Northern Michigan Constructors have completed their new space within the Jacobetti High Bay lab.

With an outstanding effort from the NMC of 2014 and 2015, wall finishes were applied, systems were completed and the final inspection by Michigan's Office of the Fire Marshall yielded a Certificate of Occupancy earlier this month.

The local apprentices and their respective Business Managers and instructors (thanks to Mr. Mick Vonck and Mr. John Prince), delivered an amazing set of systems for the new rooms, and **your** (corporate and individual alumni) assistance made the project financially feasible.

Furnishings will be purchased and installed at the beginning of 2016, and the big wall of the big room will have a really big flat screen television that will be able to provide announcements to the students, thank yous to the many who have helped us through the years and a welcome to new students that are contemplating attending NMU to study Construction Management.

Without alumni, none of it could have been done—thank you all very much!





Something New and Awesome

The Construction Management program (and friends) had a goal to start a scholarship program. The results have been great, and we recognize that there is much more to do. More than two-dozen students applied, and seven were selected by the Advisory Committee. For an inaugural offering, it was viewed as a huge success!

A.C. members (standing left to right): Alan Swanson, Joel Klahn, Kevin Bredeson, David Allie, Amber Burden, Jon Nehls, Paul Bentley, Ken Kasten and Andy Sikkema.

Student scholarship recipients (sitting left to right): Stuart Nielsen, Kent Frantz, Sophie Park, Drew Wudtke, Daniel Kennard, Patrick Fehlberg and Patrick McFadden.



Above—first ever
Construction
Scholarship
recipients

Senior Project 2015

This year's Senior project was a design-build pavilion for the President of NMU, Dr. Fritz Erickson. The class seized an opportunity to leave their stamp on the campus for the next couple of decades. They were able to complete what very few people (outside the classroom) thought could be completed in one semester. After nine-plus weeks of preconstruction, nine design, scope and budget revisions, the class moved to the build stage. The last of the cleanup was completed on Friday, 20 November.

Please see the Construction Management Facebook page for a photo journal

Left to right: Rob Sparks, Daniel Kennard, Sam Paterson, Weston Bailey, Jared Wales, Michael LaFleur, Jerad Patterson, Trevor LaCombe, Alex Latvala, NMU President Dr. Fritz Erickson, Trevor Poupore, Shawn Greening, Levi Perry, Patrick Fehlberg and Drew Wudtke



A Tragic Loss



As some of you may already know, our community suffered a terrible loss on Wednesday, 16 December. Dr. David Lucas, long-time head of the Physics Department passed away unexpectedly.

It is truly rare in life that you come across someone that is universally loved and respected..., but we did.

Dr. Lucas had an incredible career (although way too short):

As a husband

As a father

And as an educator, administrator, coach, ambassador, adviser, musician and friend.

His son, Evan, is an alum from NMU's Construction Management program (2011), and is employed by Rockford Construction Company in Grand Rapids, MI.

We have a sincere and heartfelt sorrow for Evan, his wife (Ashley), his mother (Marsha) and his brothers—Alex and Adam (wife Kelsey).

There are very few students (over the last 15 years) from Construction Management that did not have some form of positive interaction with Dr. Lucas. He treated every student, from every major, with dignity and respect. And...he was willing to do anything he could to inspire them, and help them achieve their goals. That's not to say Physics magically became easy, but he did everything he could to help every student. He understood that Physics was not a strength for a lot of our students, and he continued to help them until the 16th of December,

Multiply his impact by the thousands of students he has helped through the years, and you have a man that gave so much more than he ever received. He has taught construction professionals, dentists, doctors, physicists, veterinarians and countless other scientists.

The NMU Community has lost a gem. He exemplified leaving things better than he found them.

