



NorWesterner

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Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Fall 2015

Heads up downtown

Wall by wall, a small group of Traverse City art appreciators is steadily working to turn downtown Traverse City into an outdoor gallery.

As of this month, four downtown building walls are adorned with reproduction art in large-format banner display. Two are from the permanent collection of the Dennos Museum Center and a third is by an NMC alumna. Two more banners are in the works and targeted for hanging by the end of the year.

“Once you get started you might as well fly,” said Chris Dennos, a member of the Traverse City Art Banner committee and sponsor of a work from the Dennos Museum collection. Katsushika Hokusai’s “The Great Wave” will hang on the Chase Bank building, facing Park Street.

The project is the brainchild of former NMC Art Department chairman Paul Welch, whose inaugurated the idea on a building at 310 W. Front St. to re-use an art banner he originally created for Grand Rapids’ ArtPrize. As a committee, Welch, Dennos and others are seeking permission from downtown building owners to turn empty walls into outdoor galleries.

Chris Dennos said there are presently more building owners interested than art available. Eventually, the committee hopes to secure between eight and ten locations, with art changed out twice a year.

“We just want to get art up on the walls. We just want to be pretty,” she said.

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Downtown Traverse City now features reproduction art banners including, from left, “Thunderbird Man” by Aboriginal Canadian artist Norval Morrisseau; “Run Before the Wind” by NMC alumna Madonna Walters (top right); “A Space Time Continuum,” by Traverse City artist Calvin Boulter (middle right); and, forthcoming soon, “The Great Wave” by Katsushika Hokusai. Both “Thunderbird Man” and “The Great Wave” are part of the Dennos Museum Center’s collection.



On Oct. 25, celebrate NMC in Pictures at Osterlin Library. P. 8

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Northwestern
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College

Find and friend NMC

You can find NMC, the Dennos Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNMC radio, student groups and more on social media.



The NorWester is published by the NMC Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Alumni news and updates may be submitted online at nmc.edu/alumni or by e-mailing alumni@nmc.edu

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From the President

Record year for both private, public funding



Timothy J. Nelson

Last month, NMC accepted the largest single gift by living donors in college history, a \$2 million gift from longtime supporters Richard and Diana Milock to expand the Dennos Museum Center.

Then, just last week, we celebrated the installation of skilled trades program equipment on our Aero Park campus. That equipment came courtesy of the largest program equipment grant the college has ever received, also \$2 million, from the state of Michigan in February.

A good year? No question. But this same-year receipt of the college's largest gifts from both private donors and public funding isn't just coincidence. As a college we've strategically identified our priorities. Arts and culture, skilled trades, freshwater

are some of them. They were chosen because of their connection to the region's economy and assets. As the region's primary provider of higher education, we must build not only competency, but leadership in those fields.

To do so, we in turn need the best facilities and most current equipment. The Milocks' gift and skilled trades grant are a vote of confidence in NMC ability to provide that leadership. As president I'm both humbled and privileged to accept that confidence on behalf of the talented faculty and staff who deliver unparalleled excellence to our students every day.

Turn to page 5 to read more about the Dennos expansion, which includes the Milocks' intention to name one gallery after founding director Gene Jenneman. Photos and details about the new program equipment are on p. 6. Thank you for all you do in support of the college, and let me know what you think at tnelson@nmc.edu

New alumni ambassador corps wants you

Pulled an all-nighter?

Juggled classes, work and extracurricular experiences?

Darn proud of your NMC degree?

Then consider becoming an NMC Alumni Ambassador.

Launched this fall, the ambassador program trains alumni to be volunteer members of the NMC Admissions recruitment team at college nights and other special events, as well as on recruitment visits to regional high schools.

Two recent outings: Greeting high school

students at the annual College Night and offering snacks, spirit gear and prizes at the PinePalooza student fair.

"Some of us walked into our first college classroom as dual-enrolled students, or maybe we returned to college after a career. Some of us are proud to be the first from our family to go to college. Each of us has our own NMC story to tell, and really, there is no more powerful voice than those of our alumni to motivate and inspire youth in our region," said Director of Alumni Relations Betsy Coffia, Class of 2005.

► Interested? E-mail Betsy Coffia at alumni@nmc.edu or call (231) 995-2825.



Alumni Ambassadors Chris Bott, Melzar Coulter, Laurie Coulter and Kelly Westphal.

Heads up downtown

continued from p.1

Mike Anton, owner of the 310 West Front Street building, said fire code prevented windows on the east-facing wall that abuts J & S Hamburg. So when Welch asked about hanging a banner, he was happy to donate the space.

“Art on it is a great use for otherwise busting up an ugly wall,” said Anton, who is now hosting his third piece, by 1973 NMC alumna Madonna Walters.

Downtown benefits too, said Colleen Paveglio, marketing and deputy director for Traverse City’s Downtown Development Association.

“We love the project,” she said. “I think it’s just going to grow from here.”

The banners are printed at Traverse City’s Britten Banners. In 2016, the Dennon Museum’s 25th anniversary year, the committee hopes to install several more banners from the museum’s collection,

an invitation, of sorts, to venture down Front Street and see what’s inside.

“Tell people to look up!” Chris Dennon said.

Traverse City Art Banner locations:

- ▶ **Masonic Building, 109 S. Union St. (alley side):** “A Space Time Continuum,” Calvin Boulter, Traverse City
- ▶ **Building housing Talbot’s, 148 E. Front Street (alley side):** “Thunderbird Man,” Norval Morrisseau, Aboriginal Canadian artist whose works are also on exhibition at the Dennon through November 29
- ▶ **310 W. Front St. (west of J & S Hamburg):** “Run Before the Wind,” Madonna Walters, Ann Arbor, NMC alumna
- ▶ **Forthcoming: 250 E. Park St., (east wall of Chase Bank Building):** “The Great Wave,” Katsushika Hokusai, Japan, 1760-1849



Jeff Rademacher

Hole in one caps Scholarship Open

It was a win-win for golfers and students at the 35th annual NMC Scholarship Open, held at the Grand Traverse Resort in August. Golfer Jeff Rademacher, above, won the hole in one contest sponsored by Fox Motors and went home with a new Mercedes Benz valued at more than \$50,000. The winning shot came on hole 17 of The Bear course, ranked as one of the most challenging in the country by *Golf Digest*.

Officials at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa say between 15 and 20 holes in one are notched every year. Interested in trying your luck? Save the date for the 2016 tournament: August 4, 2016.

Early Alumni Program successes

NMC changes lives.

After only a few months in my role as NMC’s first director of alumni relations, that theme of transformation is my clear take-away. It’s been reinforced over and over on my Listening Tour.

Alumnus Kevin Schleuter of Kalkaska Screw Products, who attended on a scholarship and has grown his company from 20 to more than 100 employees in just five years, puts it succinctly: “I can honestly say I would not be where I am today without NMC.”

I know many of you feel the same and are paying it forward to the next generation by volunteering in our newly-launched Alumni Ambassadors program (see page 2), promoting NMC in your social networks and making charitable gifts through the NMC Foundation.

We are also looking forward to seeing alumni from the first 25 years at the upcoming open house in Osterlin Library



Betsy Coffia

Oct. 25. (see page 8). This event is a response to the desire many of you have expressed to reconnect with other alumni, teachers and other members of the early NMC community.

Our new alumni steering committee, representing a cross section of former students from across the decades

and from a variety of programs, met for the first time in August. One event we’re already looking forward to: the 2016 NMC Barbecue on May 22. More than 200 alumni stopped by this year. Next year’s alumni relations presence will include even more opportunities for alumni and retired NMC faculty and staff to connect.

We want to hear from you, too. Your input in shaping the new alumni relations program is valued. If you want more information, to volunteer or just to say hello and share some memories, please call me at (231) 995- 2825 or e-mail alumni@nmc.edu.

In memory



William Skinner

William Skinner, 1924-2015

Longtime faculty member William D. Skinner passed away Sept. 20, 2015. He was 91.

Skinner was an educator at NMC from 1962-88. He taught psychology and served in multiple administrative roles. In 1978 he was the Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award recipient.

Memorials may be directed to the NMC Foundation.



THE
Dennos
MUSEUM CENTER
EXHIBITIONS THROUGH NOV. 29



**International Society of Experimental Artists
24th Annual Art Exhibition**

Juried by Traverse City artist Rufus Snoddy, the ISEA's annual exhibition has become not only a showcase for ground-breaking art but also a vivid testimonial to the value and importance of exploring new avenues in a variety of media.



Liu Bolin - Hiding in Plain Sight

Liu Bolin's remarkable work asks: Can a person disappear in plain sight? The Beijing-based artist is sometimes called "The Invisible Man" because in nearly all his art, Bolin is front and center yet completely unseen, his entire body painted to match the scenery behind him. By dissolving into the background, Bolin aims to draw attention to social and political issues.

**Copper Thunderbird: Works by Norval Morrisseau
from the Museum Collections**



After establishing his visionary style of the Woodland School of Art, some call Morrisseau the "Picasso of the North." With thick black lines and bright interior patterns, Morrisseau's artwork was at first inspired by the many myths and legends of his Ojibwe culture. Later in life, the artist incorporated his personal struggles and religious imagery. Selections from the Dennos Collections are presented in association with the Indigenous Peoples Day observations in Traverse City and at NMC.

Milliken Auditorium Concert series

Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.

Barbara Furtuna and Constantinople

Barbara Furtuna is a polyphonic Corsican group whose music finds inspiration in the island's oldest traditions, yet is distinguished by contemporary creations. Instrumentalists Constantinople are inspired by the music of the Mediterranean, the classical Persian tradition, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Presented in collaboration with Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Saturday, December 5, 2015 8 p.m.

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet

In their first appearance on the Milliken stage, Grammy winners BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet will take the rich Cajun traditions of Louisiana and artfully blend elements of zydeco, New Orleans jazz, Tex Mex, country, blues and more into a satisfying musical recipe.

► Ticket information and more shows: dennosmuseum.org/milliken



Barbara Furtuna and Constantinople

Dennos to expand in 2016 thanks to Milocks' record gift

In September Northwestern Michigan College received its largest single gift by living donors, \$2 million to expand the Dennos Museum Center beginning in 2016.

The gift from longtime college supporters Diana and Richard Milock will create a nearly 9,000-square-foot expansion on the east side of the museum, which opened its doors on the NMC campus in 1991.

The expansion will include:

- Two new galleries dedicated to the museum's permanent collection and sculpture
- New classroom space
- Improved loading dock
- Increased storage area

"We saw this as an opportunity to have a major impact on a community resource that we think is really important to the life of Traverse City. We're really just so excited to be able to do this," Diana Milock said.

Art lovers and collectors themselves, the Milocks have supported both The Dennos and NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute for more than a decade. Diana Milock also serves on the board of the NMC Foundation.

The Milocks intend to name the permanent gallery the Eugene Jenneman Permanent Collection Gallery, a tribute to the museum's founding executive director. Jenneman has guided The Dennos since before the museum was even built. Under his leadership The Dennos has built an impressive permanent collection of works, but not had the space to show it.

"I am pleased to see this next step in the direction of The Dennos take place in our coming 25th year," Jenneman said. "With these permanent collection galleries we will be positioned to make our art collection more accessible on an ongoing basis and to develop more defined connections to the College's academic programs."

The intended name for the sculpture gallery is the Diana and Richard Milock Sculpture Gallery.



News digest

AAS-paramedic degree now available



Austin Groesser

A classroom may not seem like the natural habitat for a self-professed “adrenaline junkie” like Austin Groesser, but he’s in one this fall.

The firefighter and EMT is one of the first students in a new associate degree-paramedic program offered jointly by NMC and Munson Regional EMS. This semester he’s taking English, biology, and psychology while continuing to accrue work experience as an EMT. Once the 19-year-old has two years of EMT experience, he’ll be eligible to enroll in Munson’s paramedic program. NMC will accept the coursework he completes in that program as transfer credit. And by September 2017, Groesser expects to earn both his associate degree and his paramedic license.

“If I’m going to spend the time doing it, I’d much rather have a paper degree plus my license,” said the 2013 graduate of Traverse City West High School.

Daryl Case, manager of Regional EMS Education for Munson, said the new degree is important in the context of a career lifetime.

“Being a paramedic is a young person’s game,” Case said. “They look to move up the line to management, education.”

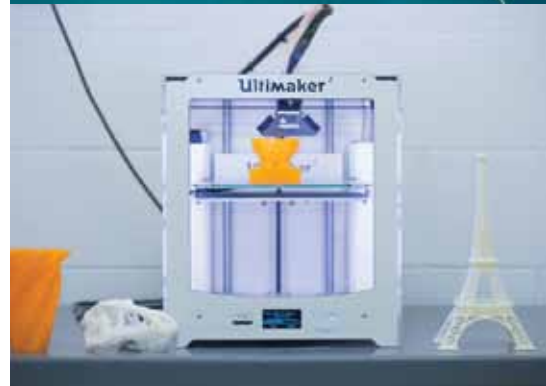
NMC students may access Early Assurance med school program at MSU

Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine and NMC in August established a cooperative program of premedical education by which NMC students who transfer as undergraduate premedical students to MSU may be granted an enhanced opportunity for admission to the College of Human Medicine.

Known as Early Assurance Program admission, preference will be given to those former Northwestern Michigan College students who have applied to Michigan State University and meet one or more criteria including being a first-generation college student; graduating from an underserved (health professional shortage) urban or rural area; or demonstrating interest in a high-need medical specialty or practicing in a medically underserved community

Medical school admission is highly competitive. This year, MSU received more than 6,800 applicants for 190 available first-year student seats. That included 18 students entering through EAP.

“Michigan State is committed to bringing well-qualified premedical students from Northwestern Michigan College to our university and the College of Human Medicine,” MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said. “This is a long-term vision for enhancing health care in this community and beyond. Local students may wish to return home for MSU clinical education at Munson Medical Center, and possibly one day to practice in Traverse City.”



Water tanks and 3-D printers and simulators, oh my!

If you’re headed to NMC’s Parsons-Stulen Building, bring sunglasses.

Over the summer the college installed \$2.7 million of bright, shiny new skilled trades equipment to be used in engineering technology, marine technology, nursing, computer technology and welding. The equipment was purchased with a \$2 million state grant dedicated to skilled trades equipment, plus a 25 percent NMC match.

The grant, the largest program equipment grant in NMC’s history, was part of a \$50 million fund offered by the state of Michigan to build and retain workforce talent.

“This new, state-of-the-art laboratory and simulation equipment will be integrated into competency, content and skill-based curriculums designed to meet employer demands for skilled talent,” said Ed Bailey, NMC’s director of technical programs.

NMC offers more than a dozen associate degrees, a bachelor’s degree and multiple certificates in the programs associated with the equipment.

Veterans Day Nov. 11

NMC will again mark Veterans Day with a breakfast for all student and employee veterans, followed by a 9:30 a.m. Walk of Honor from West Hall to the main campus flag poles. Here, campus veterans salute as the colors are presented at the 2014 event.





Lobdell's open for lunch

NMC's student-run teaching restaurant is now serving lunch for the fall semester. Reservations are highly suggested and available from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call (231) 995-3120. See the menu at nmc.edu/lobdells.

Plan ahead...

October 15

International Affairs Forum lecture

"Thieves of State: Why corruption threatens global security"

Author Sarah Chayes speaks in this partnership event with the National Writers Series.

7 p.m., City Opera House, Tickets prices vary, nationalwritersseries.org

October 22-25

Holiday Art Fair

Dennos Museum Center, free admission.

(231) 995-1587

October 30

NMC Concert Band fall concert*

7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

November 5, December 10

Indie Lens Pop-Up movies

Co-sponsored with WCMU Public Television.

7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium. Free, ongoing.

Future dates and film summaries:

dennosmuseum.org

Nov. 6, Dec. 4

Public Viewing Nights

9-11 p.m., Rogers Observatory

Suggested donation \$2/person, \$5/family

Future dates: www.nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

November 10

Mariners Memorial

Noon, Great Lakes Maritime Academy courtyard

nmc.edu/maritime

November 19

International Affairs Forum lecture

"Diplomacy in an Election Year: What's at stake?"

Thomas R. Pickering, diplomat, former ambassador

6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium. Tickets \$10.

(231) 995-1700

November 20

Lifelong Learning Campus Day

Pick three options for a customized day of learning at the University Center campus.

\$25, nmc.edu/ees, (231) 995-1700

November 22

NMC Children's Choirs holiday concert*

3 p.m. Lars Hockstad Auditorium

December 4

NMC Chamber Singers and NMC Vocal Jazz

Ensemble present "Sounds of the Season."

7:30 p.m., Central United Methodist Church

December 6

NMC Winter Jazz Ensemble Showcase*

7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

December 15

NMC Concert Band presents traditional music of the holiday season*

7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

*Tickets for all NMC music department performances available at MyNorthTickets.com

Prices vary. More information: (231) 995-1338

► Visit nmc.edu/news for more events and details.

► Follow NMC on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/nmcdotedu> or Facebook.

An engineering dynasty

New instructor Chris Coughlin follows father Jim's footsteps

When you're a first-year faculty member, not to mention a new father and newly-returned to Traverse City, built-in mentoring can be a handy thing.

That's what new NMC engineering instructor Chris Coughlin is discovering. One of eight new faculty members this fall, Coughlin has the advantage of his father Jim, who retired from the same position in May, after 28 years.

"Being able to follow him here is huge," said Coughlin, 29, who also attended NMC. He took all the necessary math classes for engineering starting in eighth grade and spent the 2004-05 academic year here before going on to earn both bachelor and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University.

"Sixteen years I've been eyeing this job," he quipped.

The positive relationships between NMC faculty and students, both in and outside the classroom, that he experienced himself were what drew Coughlin from industry to the Biederman building.

"Wherever they go, they succeed. And that's why I wanted to come back," he said while settling into his basement office.

He particularly wants to emulate his father's ability to reach students daunted by the difficult math and science classes required for engineering.



Chris Coughlin

"He could take students that may have struggled to lean in a traditional method, connect with them, and turn them into some of the most impressive professionals across the globe," Coughlin said. "Continuing his teaching philosophy with the students and adding my own flair," is his goal.

He's also eager to apply his experience in the electrical power distribution industry, where he worked for six years.

"How can I relate my experiences to what the students are learning?" he said.

Outside the classroom, he and his wife are adjusting to life as parents. Come the fall semester of 2043, look for Liam Coughlin's office in the Biederman building. He might be only two months old, but if destiny has any role to play, it's almost inevitable.



Northwestern
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Traverse City, Michigan 49686

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Traverse City, MI
Permit No. 170

\$2.7 million
in new
equipment
installed - p. 6.



Celebrating NMC in Pictures – the First 25 Years

Did you study or work at Northwestern Michigan College between 1951 and 1976?

Come celebrate the first 25 years of the College's history in photos and help build the NMC Archives' knowledge of memorabilia at an open house from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at Osterlin Library.

Reconnect with former classmates and professors and share NMC memories while enjoying light refreshments, historic video viewings and a special presentation at 2 p.m.

Photos with unidentified subjects from 1951-76 will be on hand for review and captioning. Donated NMC photos are also welcome.

RSVP: (231) 995-1021 or e-mail alumni@nmc.edu



Celebrating

NMC

IN PICTURES
THE FIRST **25** YEARS