



NorWesterner

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Summer 2014

NMC nursing program earns accreditation

Nurses consistently rank as the most trusted professionals in the nation. Now, national accreditation allows NMC nursing graduates to further burnish their sterling reputation.

This spring, NMC learned that its Associate Degree in Nursing program and Practical Nursing program have been accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

National accreditation is a major accomplishment for any collegiate nursing program, especially earning it on the first try, as NMC did. The voluntary self-study and peer review process took four years. As a result, multiple aspects of the program improved, from testing procedures to goal-setting and measurement.

“I believe we have a much better program now,” said Laura Schmidt, NMC’s director of nursing.

Three levels of review were required to demonstrate competence. A site visit with four peer visitors was held in the fall 2013. An evaluation review panel followed this past January. Last came a Board of Commissioners review in March.

From a student perspective, accreditation benefits include eligibility for more student scholarships, and access to program grants designed to facilitate student success. Two years ago, NMC had to pass up an opportunity to partner with Munson on a grant due to the lack of accreditation, Schmidt said.

“It’ll give us an opportunity in the future,” she said.

Another benefit: Nursing graduates entering the military will be able to do so as officers rather than enlisted personnel.

ACEN, based in Atlanta, has scheduled NMC’s next evaluation visit for fall 2018.



Top: NMC nursing students in blue scrubs, from left, Nicole Johnson, Molly Morrison and Kristina Mason with staff at a clinic they visited in Somerset East, South Africa, this spring. Bottom: Johnston demonstrates toothbrushing technique to students with hygiene kits NMC students distributed on the trip. NMC is exploring nursing and aviation partnerships in South Africa as part of its strategic directions. See President’s column, p. 2.



Korean sculptor Seungmo Park now at The Dennon. p. 4

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Find and friend NMC

You can find NMC, the Dennon Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNMC radio, student groups and more on Facebook and Twitter.



Northwestern
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From the President

International partnerships vital for students



Timothy J. Nelson

At NMC we are guided by a set of strategic goals, one of which is to ensure that learners are prepared for success in a global society and economy. We aim to provide a set of skills and experiences that will serve

our students no matter where their careers take them.

To fulfill that goal, we have established partnerships between multiple countries and college programs, including aviation in the United Kingdom, water studies in Costa Rica, and engineering in Russia. Now, we're accelerating our pace in China.

In China, partnerships are solidified by relationships. So in March, I and a delegation of NMC administrators spent 11 days there. For our Chinese counterparts, my presence as president in particular signaled how serious we are about creating lasting agreements.

This was a continuation of discussions with Chinese institutions that began formally in fall 2012, when NMC hosted six Chinese colleges through the American Association of Community Colleges. That visit culminated with signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between NMC

and Huanggang Polytechnic College in Huangzhou and Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute in Kaifeng.

A year later, representatives of Beijing-based Weiming Education Group visited Traverse City to further relationships with both NMC and TCAPS. On the March trip, we signed an MOU with Weiming.

We also met again with representatives from Huanggang and Yellow River to elevate our discussions. They'll reciprocate with visits to Traverse City this summer. Both NMC and Yellow River have strong programs in water, and we will seek to develop partnerships to create two-way international study opportunities. Similarly, Huanggang and NMC share well-established health care programs.

I consider this some of the most important work I've done in my 13 years as president. Growing our international partnerships cannot happen without an investment of time and resources. NMC has never been shy about exploring new initiatives to provide our students with opportunities that will change their lives and the lives of others for the better. I am proud of our commitment to innovation, and proud that we are continuing that legacy by creating international opportunities and partnerships.

As always, you can write to me anytime at tnelson@nmc.edu.



Expecting extra guests?

East Hall housing is available throughout the summer. The main campus location is perfect for conference attendees, interns, students or anyone wanting a convenient and affordable place to stay. Free parking, too!

- Single Room: \$55 per night/per person + tax
- Double Room: \$35 per night/per person + tax
- Family Suite (parents and up to two children): \$80 per night/per family + tax

► More info: nmc.edu/housing

Three named Outstanding Alumni

Alumni from three different decades have been named the 2014 recipients of NMC's Outstanding Alumni award. Created in 1988, the award recognizes alumni for professional achievement and community and professional leadership. The 2014 recipients are:



Craig LaFave, class of 2001 - LaFave is president of Olmsted Products and its parent company, Oilgear Co. He began at Olmsted, a manufacturer of specialty high-flow, high-pressure industrial hydraulic valves and control systems, while still a student. From his first day there as a draftsman, LaFave demonstrated a desire to learn and contribute to every aspect of the company, from design to production to sales and customer service. His work ethic quickly propelled him through the company. Within five years he was named general manager, responsible for the strategic direction of the company along with the ownership. In 2008, when Olmsted leadership sold the company, LaFave became president.



John Militello, class of 1990 - After studying commercial art at NMC, Militello went on to earn a BFA in Fine Arts from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. He then moved to New York City where he founded a boutique design agency and led the creative effort for brands like Volvo and Mercedes Benz. Presently he is head of creative for Google's agency-like Zoo team. Based in New York, he leads a 14-person creative team and represents the company at prominent industry events. In addition to his day job, Militello is also an adjunct professor at New York's School of Visual Arts, where he teaches a class in digital advertising.



Angela Nahikian, class of 1981 - Nahikian went on to graduate from Lawrence Technological University with a bachelor's of science in electrical engineering. After graduating she worked in a full-service architectural firm until 1990, when she joined the Steelcase family of companies in Grand Rapids. She presently serves as director of Global Environmental Sustainability at Steelcase, heading a global, cross-functional effort to advance the company's business fitness through sustainability and insure Steelcase achieves its sustainability leadership goals.

► To see previous Outstanding Alumni, visit nmc.edu/alumni.

Congratulations to the following retirees, who cumulatively dedicated 281 years of service to NMC.

Jo Bullis	18
Janet B. Gasnik.....	41
Debra A. Kalchik	35
Carol A. Kasper	14
Susan J. Kopka.....	23
Mary Ann S. Linsell**	35
Jan T. Neumann	16
Cheryl L. Paul.....	9
Shelley L. Rollin	22
Richard K. Spires	3
Marvin D. Studinger**.....	33
Carol J. Taberski	32

** Faculty Emeritus

Northern Naturalist classes all summer

Water, shoreline, woods, rolling landscape, dunes, plentiful trees, birds, wildflowers, and wildlife are part of what makes "up north" so remarkable.

Take your interest and engagement to a new level by earning a continuing education certificate, the Northern Michigan Naturalist. Whether you want to increase your knowledge for personal enjoyment, volunteer work or employment, the Naturalist program provides classroom and hands-on encounters with the natural environment. Classes offered this summer include:

- Identifying Edible and Medicinal Plants
- Understanding Northern Michigan Wetlands
- Animal Tracking: Mammals of Northern Michigan
- Summer Wildflowers & Plants
- Northern Michigan Geology
- Lake Michigan Shoreline Habitat

► Browse and register for classes at nmc.edu/ees or call (231) 995-1700

College for Kids

Beginning June 16, kids ages 3-17 can explore art, music, dance, science, computers, technology, astronomy, sports, aviation and much more. The emphasis is on fun and learning in a hands-on environment. Nearly 200 classes to choose from, most lasting one week.

► Browse and register for classes at nmc.edu/kids or call (231) 995-1700.





THE
Dennos
MUSEUM CENTER

dennosmuseum.org

Now at The Dennos

Seungomo Park: Meticulously Snipped and Wrapped

A pair of exhibitions from Asia will grace the galleries this summer, in addition to the permanent Discover Gallery and Inuit Gallery.

In his first U.S. exhibition, sculptor Seungmo Park from Seoul, Korea creates giant ephemeral portraits and landscape scenes by meticulously cutting layer after layer of wire mesh to create his Maya (meaning “illusion” in Sanskrit) and wrapping cast forms to create aluminum wire sculptures.

Park’s sculptural works are drawn from models found around him, be that a person, a piano or a motorcycle. He treats them all the same without distinction as to their nature, living or inanimate. Taken into his world, they become a form cast in fiberglass and wrapped in wire to become transformed into his work of art. Depending on the viewer’s standpoint, the images may look transparent, illusory or shadowy.





“ 如何回归 - How to Return?” - Images by Contemporary Chinese Photographers

As China settles into its post-boom years, exhibition curator Steven Harris of Shanghai’s M97 Gallery suggests a more contemplative period is setting in. We are entering a time where the general pulse of society has seen through the veil of glittery consumerism and all it promised, and now artists and thinkers are looking in many ways how to return to find what’s left of their roots.

In the exhibition, six Chinese artists present contemporary images of their people and their environment (below), reflecting tradition and change and offering social commentary.



News digest



Dual degree opens new doors

Three years ago, as a freshman at Traverse City Central High School, Jami Chung decided to take a summer math class at NMC, in order to enroll in calculus during her sophomore year.

Her counselor, Don Freed, suggested that rather than just one class, she take a few more. Maybe even enough to earn her associate's degree while still in high school, in fact.

Back then, Chung was planning on medical school, so getting a head start on college credits sounded appealing. She took Freed's advice and enrolled in a few more classes at NMC. Enough to earn her associate's degree while still in high school, in fact. Now 17, Chung was awarded both her high school diploma and her associate's from NMC in January.

But a funny thing happened to the daughter of a doctor's med school plans on the way to her diploma and degree.

"Three years later I am no longer sure of that path," Chung said. "Trying to get this associate's degree exposed me to classes and experiences I wouldn't have had otherwise."

She cited two NMC classes as particularly pivotal: Underwater Archaeology with Mark Holley, and World Literature with Michael Emerson.

With the underwater archaeology class, Chung traveled to Wales last summer and headed a survey project.

"It was completely non-medicine related and I had a lot of fun," she said. She calls World Lit "one of the most interesting classes I've ever taken."

Chung was considering multiple college options. Wherever she winds up and whatever she chooses to study, her former counselor is confident she'll continue her track record of accomplishment.

"She's an incredibly bright young lady, incredibly motivated, and a really neat kid," said Freed.

Now retired from Central, Freed said during his 15-year career Chung was the fourth student who simultaneously earned a high school diploma and an NMC degree. He said he's a "big proponent" of dual enrollment. Earning a degree like Chung may be rare, but by taking even a few college classes in high school, many students can trim their tuition bill later.

"It was a good opportunity for some students to make sure they continue on a college track," Freed said.

NMC, WMU team up to offer Freshwater Studies

NMC and Western Michigan University are expanding opportunities to study fresh water—a critical natural resource in limited supply and under threat.

NMC and WMU have jointly developed an interdisciplinary curriculum that leads from an associate's degree in Freshwater Studies at NMC to a Bachelor of Science in Freshwater Science and Sustainability at Western. The new bachelor's degree has a unique curriculum focusing on freshwater ecosystems and environmental, social and economic issues related to their sustainable use and management.

Students wishing to conduct all of their freshwater science and sustainability studies in Traverse City now may enroll at NMC and earn an associate degree, then seamlessly transfer to the WMU's regional location in Traverse City to complete the final two years of coursework required for the bachelor's degree. Students also may enroll in the bachelor's-only version of the program offered on WMU's main campus in Kalamazoo.

Global Endorsement debuts this fall

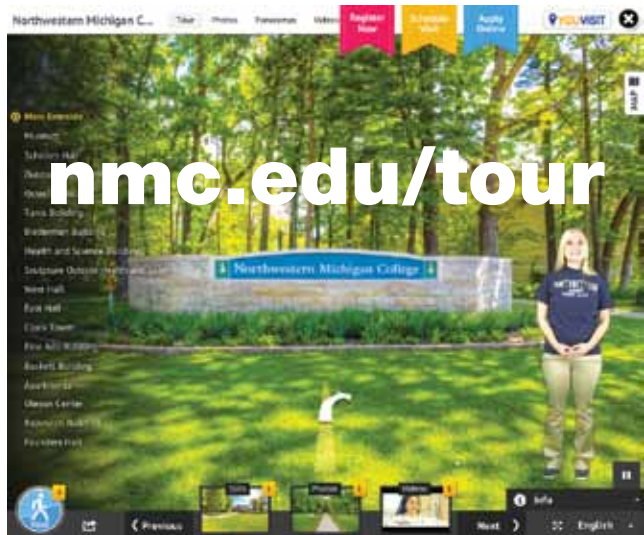
Starting this fall, students have the opportunity to earn a Global Endorsement, a voluntary, official endorsement attached to the NMC study transcript certifying a student has gone beyond normal expectations to analyze, interact and develop a global awareness and understanding.

To obtain the endorsement, students accumulate a minimum of 100 points earned through academic and experiential learning, activities and event participation, and prepare a final capstone presentation. Examples of activities include:

- Study abroad experiences (short and long-term)
- Teaching English as a second language
- Leadership roles in the NMC International Club student group

The Global Endorsement provides a springboard to success in industry, commerce and further education. In an increasingly interconnected world. Employers around the world value and hire employees who understand different cultural contexts and viewpoints. Employees with these skills bring in new clients, are able to think on their feet and are able to work with diverse teams.

Tour campus from anywhere!



► For information on dual enrollment, visit nmc.edu/dual-enroll or call (231) 995-1054.

Plan ahead...

June 21

Public viewing night, Rogers Observatory
9-11 p.m. Also July 11 and 19, Aug. 1 and 16.

For a complete list of 2014 dates, visit nmc.edu/observatory

June 21

Missy Memorial Scholarship fundraiser
Magnum Hospitality will donate a portion of proceeds from sales at Red Mesa Grill restaurants in Traverse City and Boyne City and Pearl's in Elk Rapids to a scholarship in memory of the late Magnum employee.

magnumhospitality.com

June 26

NMC Concert Band outdoor performance
7 p.m., Music House Museum

Join the NMC Concert Band for a summer evening of your favorite band music. Admission is free. Bring your own lawn chair. More info: (231) 995-1338.

July 12

National Cherry Festival Cherry Royale Parade

Brats along the route, free T-shirt and fun!

Contact Kay Hall, (231) 995-1119 or khall@nmc.edu, if you would like to march with NMC's parade contingent.

July 17

NMC Concert Band outdoor performance
7:30 p.m., Traverse City Senior Center

Admission is free. Bring your own lawn chair. More info: (231) 995-1338.

August 7

NMC Scholarship Open
Grand Traverse Resort

More info: nmc.edu/golf, (231) 995-1021.

August 23

Fall semester begins

- ▶ Get customized NMC news and information via e-mail at nmc.edu/news
- ▶ Follow NMC on Twitter <http://twitter.com/NMCdotEDU>



Blackford, Puckett named 2014 Faculty Excellence award winners

A social science instructor and a math instructor were named the 2014 winners of NMC's annual Faculty Excellence awards.

Lisa Blackford, who teaches social work and psychology, is the Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award winner. Julie Puckett, who teaches beginning and intermediate algebra, is the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award winner. Chosen by a student selection committee, criteria for both awards include teaching excellence, rapport with students, innovation in the classroom and a sense of dedication.

Blackford joined NMC in a staff position in 2002. She began teaching as an adjunct in 2006, winning the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award in 2010. She moved to a full-time faculty position in 2011.

A community college graduate herself, Blackford said she believes the community college environment fosters more engage-



Lisa Blackford



Julie Puckett

ment between teachers and students.

"It's awesome to get a chance to excite students about their learning and their whole academic path," she said.

"It's nice to

challenge them, and at the same time they challenge me."

Puckett began teaching as an adjunct in 2001.

"A lot of my job is cheerleading and helping students convince themselves they can do it," Puckett said. "They're apprehensive about math, (but) everybody's going to get there at their own pace."

The Faculty Excellence award was initiated by a contribution from longtime NMC benefactors Harold and Imogene Wise in 1970 and first awarded to a full-time faculty member in 1971. The Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award was created in 1999 as a companion.

▶ See previous winners at nmc.edu/cie

Fore! >

Gather your foursome for NMC's annual Scholarship Open, set for Aug. 7 at the Grand Traverse Resort. The largest tournament in northern Michigan, the Open has raised more than \$1.3 million for merit-based scholarships since it began in 1980.

Pictured clockwise from upper left are 2013 tournament players Laura Oblinger and Laura Galbraith, both from the Chamber, Valarie Cramer from Grotenhuis and Rachel Roe from Munson.

Sponsorships are also available. Register and find out more at nmc.edu/golf.

< March!

What do you get when you put together Chip, NMC's life-size faux buffalo, a mobile grill with sizzling brats, marching military students, President Tim Nelson and a float? Why, NMC's entry in the 2014 National Cherry Festival Cherry Royale Parade. Interested in joining the fun July 12? NMC is seeking a few volunteers to help hand out the brats this year. Call Kay Hall at (231) 995-1119 or email khall@nmc.edu by July 1.





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other new logo gear
at nmc.edu/bookstore

Visit Spain with EES this October

Love Picasso? Tapas? Architecture? Rioja? Then join two popular Extended Education instructors on a 10-day trip to experience firsthand the sights, sounds, and tastes of Spain. Two renowned cities are highlights of the Oct. 10-19 trip, with three nights in Madrid followed by a high-speed rail trip to Barcelona for five nights. Art, architecture, music, culture, the old and new, nice hotels, fun people, excellent leaders – combine to create a memorable journey.

► Find out more at nmc.edu/ees
or call (231) 995-1705.



The Palacio de Cibeles, a landmark in Madrid, Spain.

From the Archives: Down by the bay

West Bay is the backdrop for both our images. At left are Coach Keith Evans and members of NMC's 1965 tennis team, which practiced on courts at the Traverse City Senior Center. At right is a mystery: two unknown Great Lakes Maritime Academy cadets participating in training on the site of the current Great Lakes Campus. Maritime cadets are currently aboard the State of Michigan on their spring cruise. To see a map of their itinerary and images from past voyages, visit nmc.edu/maritime. If you can identify the cadets, contact Ann Swaney at aswaney@nmc.edu, or (231) 995-1016.

