



NorWestster

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Summer 2015

Know NMC NOW

Did you know that a pastry sous chef at Chicago's exclusive Trump Hotel graduated from NMC? That's her, Leslie Farrer, at far right.

That more NMC students study abroad in more destinations, including Cuba, Brazil, South Africa and Russia, than any other Michigan community college?

That NMC automotive students repair and donate a vehicle to Goodwill's Workers on Wheels program every semester?

That NMC's five-year-old viticulture program is already placing students in internships in wine regions with much longer legacies, including Italy, California, and Washington state, where Ethan Baker (right, in snowshoes) is spending this summer?

That 500 high school students dual-enrolled in NMC last fall, and that the financial advantages of dual enrollment enable some students to graduate debt-free?

If you read NMC NOW, you will. This e-newsletter arrives in your inbox twice each month full of campus success stories, upcoming events and media mentions of the college.

► Sign up online at nmc.edu/nmcnow
Then turn to page 3 to catch up on the stories so far.



Northwestern Michigan College | Community Newsletter



Clockwise from top right: Culinary grad Leslie Farrer, in the kitchen at Chicago's Trump Hotel. NMC students studied in Cuba, Costa Rica, Brazil, Italy, Russia and South Africa this year. Unmanned aerial systems grads working as government contractors in Afghanistan. Viticulture student Ethan Baker. The Cuba study abroad contingent.



Skateboard art at The Dennos p. 4
Illustration: Jason Abraham Smith

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Northwestern
Michigan
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

Spreading the NMC secret



Timothy J. Nelson

When I'm out in the community, a conundrum I find is that NMC, while enjoying broad community support, remains a rather well-kept secret.

Most Grand Traverse residents are aware

that NMC exists, of course, providing opportunities for associate degrees and certificates, and non-credit options for personal enrichment. They know about the cultural and entertainment offerings at the Dennos Museum Center.

What many don't realize is the stature and reputation of some of our programs. NMC students get experiences here they wouldn't find elsewhere – not only at other community colleges, but at some four-year schools.

Our new e-newsletter, NMC NOW, aims to let that cat out of the bag. Every two weeks you'll find stories not just about what our students, faculty and staff and alumni are doing, but how they're *leading*. The excerpts from the first few issues on the next page are a sample.

We realize we can't do everything, and so where it makes sense, we partner with others that share our high expectations and standards. In the viticulture program, for instance, we work with Michigan State University, so our students earn both an NMC degree and a certificate from the state's premier agricultural institution.

In a less traditional example, we recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Coast Guard so that our Maritime cadets can gain broader training experiences, like the hoist maneuvers in the picture below. Thanks to state legislation passed a couple years ago, our Maritime cadets can already earn a bachelor's degree at NMC more quickly and less expensively than elsewhere. Now they'll get more comprehensive training, too.



We want to do more. When the legislation permitting community college baccalaureates was passed in 2012, it cut out nursing. NMC's nursing program is nationally accredited, and we still want to offer BSNs. Partner institutions like Munson Medical Center still want us to offer BSNs. So we're trying again with another bill, Senate Bill 98.

You can follow developments on that and much more in NMC NOW (subscribe at nmc.edu/nmcnow) Please help us spread the secret far and wide.

Alumnus appointed to fill Trustee vacancy

NMC's Board of Trustees unanimously appointed Chris M. Bott, a 1983 alumnus and practicing CPA, to fill a vacant trustee slot in April. He will serve through Dec. 31, 2016.

"I want to give back to what I consider a hidden gem in this community, and one that my nieces, nephews and grandchildren should consider as their first step in their college education," Bott said, noting that six of



Chris M. Bott

his siblings and his own three children also attended NMC.

Bott was one of ten individuals who applied to fill the vacancy created by former trustee Cheryl Gore Follette's resignation in March. Per Michigan law, Bott will serve the remainder of Follette's original term, through December

31, 2016. He will be eligible to run for election for a full, six-year trustee term in November 2016.

Here's a glimpse of some stories from the first few issues of NMC NOW. Subscribe at nmc.edu/nmcnow



UAS alumni lead industry as domestic opportunities expand

Back in 2012, as one of NMC's pioneer students in Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Brad Kent found himself with a job offer before he'd even finished his training, and headed overseas for six-figure work as a civilian contractor.

NMC was on the forefront of unmanned aircraft training, offering its first classes in the fall of 2010. Students like Kent (front row, second from right) and Darrell Trueblood (back row, far right) found getting in on the ground floor paid off, literally

"Before I even finished my degree I had placement in industry," said Kent, 24, of Traverse City.

Living in Afghanistan was the tradeoff. That changed a year ago when the FAA approved the first domestic use of UAS. Now, as domestic approvals rise by the week, Kent and fellow former NMC students are poised to help guide the industry's development into its second, commercial phase.

Kent anticipates returning stateside later this year, to corporate headquarters in Tucson, Ariz. He'll work on UAS research and development and train other pilots to fill the vast number of openings the industry expects as commercial permissions expand.

► More: nmc.edu/aviation

Growing past the 45th parallel

This summer, two students in NMC's viticulture program are breaking new *terrior* with their internships. Kurtis Berry is the first to intern overseas, in Marche, Italy, while Ethan Baker (right) is the first to head to the Pacific Northwest. He'll spend his summer at a vineyard management company in Washington's Yakima Valley.

Worldwide, the wine industry traces its history back centuries, so those are impressive placements for students from a program that just began in 2010. Viticulture is the newest plant science certificate option offered by Michigan State University at NMC's University Center. About 28 students are now enrolled, simultaneously pursuing an associate's degree from NMC and an MSU viticulture certificate.

► More: nmc.edu/uc



Sweet home, Chicago for culinary grad

Every industry offers pinnacles. Entertainers aspire to Oscars and Grammys, doctors and diplomats to Nobels, and chefs to Michelin stars.

Great Lakes Culinary Institute graduate Leslie Farrer has barely begun her career and has already helped collect one of those coveted stars. The Traverse City native, 27, is a pastry sous chef at Trump Hotel in Chicago. One of its restaurants, Sixteen, just earned its second Michelin star.

"It's excellent. You don't get that just by being good," said one of her NMC mentors, Chef Mike Skarupinski.

Farrer discovered her interest in pastry while working at a restaurant in high school. But she didn't want to move at age 18. Enter the Great Lakes Culinary Institute.

After graduating in 2008, it was on to Chicago where she first attended and then interned at the French Pastry School. She took an entry-level position at Trump in 2013 and has already been promoted to one of two pastry sous chefs.

Comfortably settled in the Windy City now, Farrer remembers NMC fondly.

"It gave me a couple years to grow up," she said. "I learned a lot about myself and how I handle situations and stress and work with other people in stressful situations."

► More: nmc.edu/culinary

NMC leads state peers in study abroad

NMC students, faculty and staff who spent spring break in Cuba and South Africa are the leading edge of a new distinction for the college: more study abroad students and destinations than any other Michigan community college.

Seven study abroad experiences are planned this year. About 80 students from a dozen programs will travel to six different countries including Brazil, Italy, Russia and Costa Rica. According to a survey by NMC's International Services & Service Learning office, that's more than any other community college in the state. Next year, eight study abroad trips are planned to several new destinations, including Guatemala, Ecuador, Greece and possibly Ethiopia.

► More: nmc.edu/study-abroad



At The Dennos

Through Sept. 6

Perimeter: A Contemporary Portrait of Lake Michigan - Photographs by Kevin J. Miyazaki

Perimeter crafts a diverse portrait of Lake Michigan through images of its dynamic waterscapes and the everyday people closest to them. Wisconsin-based photographer Kevin J. Miyazaki collected more than 200 portraits of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan residents with a connection to the lake during a two-week, 1,800-mile journey around its perimeter. While some of his subjects were identified in advance, he met most on his travels.

Miyazaki also asked his subjects two questions: "What draws you to Lake Michigan?" and "What about the lake matters most to you?" The exhibition and its accompanying book, in the museum store, features a selection of portraits and answers to these questions.



Sideways: Exploring Skateboard Art + Culture

Working in collaboration with local designers, artists and skaters, the exhibition features art and design, photography, and original decks designed by artists for jury consideration.



Aaron Draplin

Aaron Draplin graduated from NMC's Visual Communications program in 1993. His Portland, Ore.-based Draplin Design Co. has worked

with clients ranging from Ford Motor Company to the Obama Administration. Here's what he says about NMC: "I picked the Visual Communications program as it offered a pragmatic way to learn a trade and still get dirty with some fun art classes. And I did just that: I learned how to take a photo, draw naked bodies, paint, build a portfolio, sculpt, draw in rigid perspective, write a paper, get lost in Roman architecture, and, design a logo in this new stuff called "design software." And this was in just under two years! I packed in so much. It took me a couple years to realize how much they unlocked in me. Everyone escapes their home town. I did as soon as I could, but did it armed. Armed with a great foundation. And I'm thankful to NMC for that privilege."

June 19 - Tall Tales from a Large Man

Aaron Draplin will present his popular lecture. 7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium. Tickets available online at dennosmuseum.org or by calling (231) 995-1573.

June 20 - Traverse City Park Jam

The Dennos and Civic Center Skate Park, noon-5 p.m. Free.

Bring your skateboard and test your talent at the Civic Center Skate Park. Enjoy the Sideways exhibition, musical performances, dancing, and food. Bid on the original skateboard decks in the silent auction to support Dennos and Third Level Crisis Intervention programming.

June 21 - Go Skateboarding Day

Join skaters worldwide by gathering at the Civic Center Skate Park for an informal jam.



Paging NMC alumni

New program sets down roots

Former NMC students now have the chance to offer input and help build their alma mater's first official Alumni Relations program from the ground up.



Betsy Coffia

NMC's newly-appointed Director of Alumni Relations Betsy Coffia, a 2005 graduate, is conducting a Listening Tour to gather alumni input as well as seeking representatives to serve on an Alumni Committee. Programming under consideration include mentoring opportunities, professional development and career services, learning opportunities featuring favorite professors and stand-out alumni, networking events, professional webinars and discounts to on- and off-campus services.

"The ultimate goal is a slate of alumni relations offerings and initiatives that

inspires pride and engagement, and adds value to our former students' lives," Coffia said.

NMC has more than 44,000 alumni, with a significant concentration in the Grand Traverse area.

Nursing alumni aim to help their own

For years, Health Occupations instructor Linda Walter spent at least 20 hours per semester going to bat for financially-strapped nursing students, "just calling, asking, begging for help" from community support organizations, whether the need was gas, books, uniforms, or exam fees.

Thanks to the efforts of NMC nursing alumni, Walter now only has to make one call. The Barbra Griner Mikowski NMC Student Nurse Resource Fund, created

in 2013 by the 1963 nursing grad and other alumni, provides financial assistance to students facing a hardship that could prevent them from graduating.

"Many of our students are working full time, plus attending school full time and maybe 80 percent are parents on top of that. We have students who work midnight shifts and then are in class all day," Walter said. With time, energy and money so stretched something like a car breakdown – which could leave a student without transportation to clinicals, say – can spiral into a threat to graduation.

Last year the Student Nurse Resource Fund got a further boost with the generosity of community donors who, inspired by the effort, established an endowment to ensure that it is funded in perpetuity.

- ▶ Got ideas? Want to learn more about alumni programming in general or for nurses? Contact Betsy Coffia at (231) 995-2825, bcoffia@nmc.edu or 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686.
- ▶ On social media, join the NMC Alumni LinkedIn page for valuable professional contacts and "like" the Northwestern Michigan College Alumni Facebook page to stay in touch.

Alumnus shepherds runners through Congo

Imagine nine women, each running the equivalent of a marathon. Imagine repeating that for seven straight days. In the tropical heat of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in May.

Those are the conditions 1982 alumnus Timothy Young, right, had to prepare for as the Run Across Congo in-country logistics coordinator. From maps to water to bandages for blisters, the all-female team relied on the Honor resident, president of Benzie-based Food for Thought, member of the NMC Foundation Board as well as the Traverse City-based nonprofit On The Ground, sponsor of the run.

The Congo team ran to raise awareness and funds for female coffee farmers, farming families and cooperatives working toward gender equality in the central African nation. The Congo was the third "run across" initiative organized by On The Ground, and had a special focus to support female victims of sexual aggression, a problem of epidemic proportions in the DRC.

As a runner in On The Ground's 2011 Run Across Ethiopia, Young was uniquely aware of the physical, mental and emotional needs the runners faced. His task during the week was to take care of everything but running, so the runners could focus on logging miles and connecting with Congolese communities on the route.

The Congo team has wrapped up its run on the shore of Lake Kivu, one of Africa's Great Lakes, but efforts to support the women of the DRC are ongoing. Young invites his fellow NMC alumni to learn more at runacrosscongo.org



Timothy Young, class of 1982

Three named 2015 Outstanding Alumni

Created in 1988, the award recognizes alumni for professional achievement and community and professional leadership. The 2015 recipients are:



Sally Rogers

Sally Rogers, class of 1981 - Rogers took her first art class on campus at the age of 15, and knew immediately that visual arts were her passion. She graduated in 1981 with her associate's degree and went on to

earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in art. Her career took her to North Carolina, where she built a studio and till lives and works today, focusing on large scale sculptures of steel, glass, stone and wood. In 2004 her sculpture, "Nexus," was installed on the east side of the Health and Science building. Rogers is also the daughter of the late Joe Rogers, a longtime math and science instructor and the namesake of NMC's Joseph H. Rogers Observatory.



Gary Seabrook, MD

Gary Seabrook, MD class of 1972 - After NMC Seabrook attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University medical school. He is now chief of the department of vascular surgery

at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Education was a value deeply instilled in Seabrook by his mother, Joanne, and in her memory he has created an endowed fund to support service learning programs in the Business program area.



Al Zelinski

Al Zelinski, class of 1983 - Zelinski is a member of the commercial lending team at Honor Bank. He has served on the NMC Foundation Board's Scholarship Open committee since 2005. He

chaired the event, the college's largest single-day fundraiser, for two years, more than doubling its net profit. Zelinski joined the Foundation Board in 2014 and has expanded his fundraising activities still further.

Congratulations to these 2015 retirees who contributed more than 450 years of service to NMC.

NAME	NMC Years
Jerry Beatty	13
Jim Coughlin**	28
Jerry Cook	16
Diane Emling**	28
Carol Evans	19
Tim Fader	31
Cheri Garvin	18
Kay Hall	6
Tony Hansen	16
Al Hart**	16
Lucy House**	24
Mike Hunter	23
Mike Maasberg	19
Regis McCord**	29
Jan McKinnon	12
Patty Olson	18
Bob Pierson	18
Gail Reeves	21
Terri Reisig	23
Dave Sobolewski	21
Jeff Straw	13
Frank Snyder**	41

** Faculty Emeritus

Dobek, Heffner win Faculty Excellence awards

A science instructor and a social science instructor are the 2015 winners of NMC's annual Faculty Excellence awards.

Dr. Jerry Dobek, who teaches math and astronomy and also heads NMC's Joseph H. Rogers Observatory is the Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award winner. Brian Heffner 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.



Dr. Jerry Dobek



Brian Heffner

Dobek began at NMC in 1989 as an adjunct instructor, and in 2002 won the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award. He is also an NMC alumnus.

Heffner began in 2007 as an adjunct instructor as well, and was hired as director of NMC's Police Academy this past January.

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.

Skilled trades grant is largest program equipment grant in NMC history

In February, NMC learned it will receive the largest program equipment grant in college history from the state of Michigan: \$2.07 million for Engineering Technology, Marine Technology, Welding Technology, Nursing and Computer Information Technology programs.

NMC is one of 18 community colleges around the state to share \$50 million in skilled trade equipment funds. Gov. Rick Snyder said the program represents "an

effort to help close a talent gap and meet a demand for good-paying jobs."

NMC will match 25 percent of the grant funds, or \$697,061, to bring the total cost to \$2.77 million.

"This investment by both the state and NMC is substantial, and indicative of the significant role community colleges play in their local economies," said NMC President Timothy J. Nelson.

Plan ahead...

June 20

Kids' Free Fishing Day

Fishing gear provided or bring your own.

10 a.m.-2 p.m., Great Lakes Campus

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 22

Great Lakes water levels: What does the future hold?

Public seminar, 1 p.m., Hagerty Center

June 24

NMC Concert Band

7:30 p.m., Traverse City Senior Center

An outdoor performance of your band favorites.

July 3

Public viewing night, Rogers Observatory

9-11 p.m.

Also Aug. 7 and Sept. 4.

For a complete list of 2015 dates, visit nmc.edu/observatory

July 4

NMC Concert Band

Northport Marina, time TBA.

An outdoor performance of your band favorites.

July 11

National Cherry Festival Cherry Royale Parade

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

Contact Anne Varga, (231) 995-1020 or avarga@nmc.edu, if you would like to march with NMC's parade contingent.

August 6

NMC Scholarship Open

Grand Traverse Resort

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

NMC Concert Band

7 p.m., The Pavilions

The finale outdoor performance of your band favorites.

August 29

Fall semester begins

- ▶ Get customized NMC news and information via e-mail at nmc.edu/news
- ▶ Follow NMC on Twitter to find free events on campus: twitter.com/NMCdotEDU

'79 alumnus receives NMC's highest honor

NMC alumnus and current Foundation board member Bruce Byl has been named the 2015 recipient of NMC's highest honor, the NMC Fellow award.

A 1979 aviation alumnus, Byl received a scholarship during his student days.

He said he promised himself then that he would eventually return the favor.

"It made the difference on whether I could continue in college or not," said Byl, 60, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in marketing from Michigan State University and a business career as eventual president and CEO of Office Concepts, a Chicago-based Steelcase commercial furniture distributor.

"As a past scholarship recipient, I'm passionate about giving back to NMC so that other students may experience the same opportunity that I was afforded. By raising



Bruce Byl

scholarship funds through my efforts at the Foundation, I'm able to assist many individuals in our region realize their educational and career dreams. To me, that's a very satisfying way of giving back," Byl said.

By any estimate, Byl has paid it back and then some. A native of

Spring Lake, Mich., he enrolled in NMC following his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. He made his first financial gift to NMC in 1984. Byl and his family moved to Traverse City, his wife Mary's hometown, in 1994 and he joined the NMC Foundation Board in 2006. He has since served as Foundation board chair and on multiple Foundation committees, including his current role as chair of its Major Gifts committee. He remains active in the local business community, and in 2013 founded Taste Bud Branding, a specialty marketing firm focused on Michigan-made food and beverage items.



Scholarship Open set for August 6

Gather your foursome for NMC's annual Scholarship Open, set for Aug. 6 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. Here, Joseph McCarthy, Keely Trombly, Brian Heffner and Mark Southby take a break between holes. Sponsorships are also available. Register and find out more at nmc.edu/golf



College for Kids

Beginning June 15, 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.



From the Archives

NMC's iconic clock tower, photographed in 1990 in its original location, where the Health and Science Building now stands. It was moved east to its present location in 2001 and remains a popular meeting and studying spot on campus.

Love these archival photos? We do, too. Like NMC on Facebook to enjoy Throwback Thursdays, vintage photos posted each week – some mystery, some not.

Make summer sizzle with cooking classes

NMC's Extended Educational Services division offers 10 cooking classes in June, July and August. From a catch and cook fishing charter to Indian or Korean cuisine to canning, freezing and preserving, there's something for every cook (or cook-wanna be.) Got a young chef in the house? Decorating Cupcakes & Cooking with Kids are for adults and kids together.

► Visit nmc.edu/ees and choose "culinary" under the "Find a class" menu.

