



# NorWesterner

A Publication for  
Alumni & Friends  
of Northwestern  
Michigan College

Spring/Summer 2012

## EdD program a statewide lure

Water, wineries, sand dunes, small-town charm and – doctoral degrees?

Traverse City’s recreational reputation draws thousands of visitors annually. But for almost three years, a cohort of 15 students has converged here from as far as Detroit and the Upper Peninsula to do just one thing: Work hard.

The cohort is enrolled in Central Michigan University’s doctor of education ladder program held at NMC’s University Center. It’s an intense program that this past semester met almost every other weekend.

Markita Hall of Detroit, director of school turnaround for the Detroit Public Schools, logs the longest commute at 470 miles round trip. For her the weekend scheduling was ideal. Doctoral programs much closer to home were only offered weeknight evenings.

“That wouldn’t have worked. I would have dropped,” Hall said. “Having a family, a husband, two kids and work, this fit for me.”

Two other students cross the Mackinac Bridge for classes, and another comes from the Thumb area. In between Traverse City classes students stay in touch with technology, studying via Skype, texting, and a Facebook group.

*Continued on p. 3*



Top: CMU assistant professor Dr. Frim Ampaw, left, and her students from all over the state take a break during a recent Saturday class. Above: From left, EdD students Carl McCready of Sault Ste. Marie, Markita Hall of Detroit and A.J. Neumann of Essexville have traveled from their respective hometowns to Traverse City since 2009.



Art Quilts and more coming to The Dennos. See p. 4.

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**Escape summer's heat on NMC's shady campus. Stroll the outdoor Sculpture Walk or try the disc golf course. Bonus: No parking problems!**



**Northwestern  
Michigan  
College**

The NorWester is published by the NMC Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Alumni news and updates may be submitted online at [www.nmc.edu/alumni](http://www.nmc.edu/alumni) or by e-mailing [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu)

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From the President

## A new tradition



**Timothy J. Nelson**

Last month, one of the largest classes in our history graduated from NMC. More than 600 were honored for successful completion of a course of study. The class of 2012 was the first to partake in a new tradition. As they received their diploma case, they received an NMC challenge coin. The bronze coin has the NMC seal on one side, and our logo and 2012 on the other.

So what is the significance of a challenge coin?

The origin is in some dispute, but most tellings trace it back to the First World War. An Army lieutenant had presented custom-made bronze medallions bearing the unit insignia to his squadron mates. One of the pilots took to wearing it in a leather pouch around his neck. That pilot's plane was damaged in a firefight and he crash-landed behind enemy lines. He was captured by the Germans, who took everything he had from his pockets. On his way to a prisoner of war camp, there was a firefight and during the confusion he escaped.



He avoided German patrols by donning civilian clothes and eventually caught up with a French patrol. However the French were on the lookout for German soldiers disguised as civilians. Without any identification to prove he was an American pilot, he was set to be executed.

He produced his coin from his leather pouch, and one of the French soldiers recognized the insignia. This delayed the execution long enough to confirm his identity. Now certain that he was American, the French presented him with a bottle of wine and celebrated his escape from the German troops.

It became a tradition for all pilots to carry their coin at all times. To ensure compliance, the pilots would challenge each other to produce their coin. If the challenged couldn't produce the coin, he was required to buy a drink of choice for the challenger. If the challenged could produce the coin, the challenger would purchase the drink.

As time has passed, these coins have also become used as rewards and mementos for outstanding achievement, like what our students accomplish with their graduation from NMC. I hope our graduates keep the NMC coin as a way to remember all of the good times they have had here and as a proud reminder of all of their hard work.

## From the Archives: Spring and Summer

### Highlights by decade

**1950s** – The NMC Barbecue started in 1956. Early minutes from the planning committee suggested holding an “ox roast.”

**1960s** – Spring formals at the Traverse City Country Club were an annual event.

**1970s** – Campus Day. In May classes were cancelled for one day and students, faculty and staff participated in a general clean-up and improvement of the campus followed by a picnic lunch and often entertainment.

**1980s** – Commencement was still in June, rather than the current May date. This continued until the 1994 conversion from terms to semesters.

**1990s** – New technology was everywhere as the library ditched its old card catalog, people learned about the “World Wide Web,” and students switched from typewriters to computers.

**2000s** – Disc golfers are regularly spotted around campus – sometimes amid melting snow – working their way around the nine-basket NMC course.

### Mystery Photos

Plenty of NorWester readers called and emailed to help identify subjects in the mystery photos in the last issue. The No. 1 comment has been duly noted in the archives: The 1962 Ski Club photo was taken at Holiday Hills, NOT Nubs Nob.

Several students in the Arlo Moss biology class photo and the Jack Ozegovic art class photo were identified.

You can find out who's who at [www.nmc.edu/archives](http://www.nmc.edu/archives).

## EdD students climb ladder as a cohort

*From cover*

All stressed the advantage of the ladder aspect of the program. They started in August 2009 and earned their Specialist in Education (EdS) a year ago. Now as a cohort they together are pursuing their Doctor of Education (EdD), the terminal degree for educators. Other programs would have offered both degrees, but severed the cohort connection.

“I can talk to my wife and my friends at work, and they don’t have any idea what it takes to pull this off,” said A.J. Neumann, of Essexville, an instructor with the Bay Area ISD.

“We have gone through births and deaths and divorces and marriages and cancer,” said Lisa Dohm of Traverse City, world language coordinator at NMC and a Spanish/ESL teacher at Traverse City Central High School.

Hall, in fact, had an option to take one summer class at CMU’s Mt. Pleasant main campus. Doing so would have shaved more than 200 miles off each trip, yet she chose to stay with the cohort and take the class in Traverse City.

“The cohorts really are nice for the adult students because you get that peer pressure to keep going that you’d get on a campus,” said Dr. Merodie Hancock, vice president for CMU’s global campus. “It helps with completion.”

And everyone in the cohort has etched that date in stone.

“We made a pact. We are all going to walk in December ’13,” said Jennifer Sabsook of Charlevoix, instructional services coordinator with the Char-Em ISD.



Carl McCready  
Sault Ste. Marie



A.J. Neumann  
Essexville



Markita Hall  
Detroit

## AA, BA, MA, EdD



In December 2013, Victoria Derks will complete an educational quadruple crown – four degrees, three earned through NMC and its partners.

Derks, a Traverse City native, earned

her associate’s degree from NMC in 1989. At the time the University Center didn’t exist, so she headed out of state for her bachelor’s. After returning to Traverse City she earned her master’s in curriculum and teaching from Michigan State University’s UC program in 2001. She’s now enrolled in CMU’s educational ladder program at the UC, en route to her Doctor of Education.

“This University Center is fabulous. I never dreamed I’d be able to get all this here,” said Derks, an elementary Spanish teacher in the Traverse City Area Public Schools. “I can be from Traverse City and I can get three degrees.”

Derks said increasing her skills has also proved practical. One school she taught in closed. Another program was dissolved. Pursuing the advanced degrees means she can adapt to the changing education environment. In addition to her classroom duties she is TCAPS’ district support specialist for elementary world languages.

“I just want to have more opportunities,” she said. “I love teaching and I love to have a part of how it’s changing.”



### And here’s the next challenge for you alumni sleuths.

Who’s wet and who’s dry? This photo is from the 1963 year book. The caption reads: “Last spring [1962] the College Council arranged a tug-of-war with Petoskey Junior College [now North Central Michigan College]. The students met at NMC and proceeded to Mitchell Creek. Petoskey got a dunking! Afterwards everyone enjoyed a picnic on the beach.”

► Please contact Ann Swaney with any information, [aswaney@nmc.edu](mailto:aswaney@nmc.edu), or (231) 995-1016.

# THE DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER



## Don't miss the current exhibits, closing June 16:

- Benjamin Busch's "The Art in War" wartime photography
- Harvey Gordon's paintings (above)
- Community Curators

During exhibit changeover June 17-29, explore the Discovery Gallery or Inuit gallery for half-off admission.

## Coming June 30

### Howard BenTré: The Lightness of Being – Cast Glass Sculpture

BenTré pioneered the use of cast glass for monumental indoor and outdoor sculpture. His newest body of work reflects on lightness and strength, architecture and the human form.

Employing inspirational architectural forms – spires, minarets, obelisks and stupas – each sculpture has a foot anchoring it firmly to the ground, a demarcated waist and culminates in a head that continues the upward, devotional movement of the form. They can be seen as individual figures forming a related family group.

### Art Quilts by Katie Pasquini Masopust

For nearly 30 years Katie Pasquini Masopust has produced high quality contemporary art quilts. From her



early beginnings as a painter dabbling in traditional quilt making, her work has evolved from structured Mandalas and mind-blowing dimensional pieces to very painterly landscapes and abstracts executed with the finest fabrics and most creative stitching techniques.

her a very popular teacher and lecturer and she will present several programs and workshops at The Dennos in October.

► Visit [www.dennosmuseum.org](http://www.dennosmuseum.org) for details.



## Congratulations

The following employees retired this year. Collectively they provided more than 300 years of service to NMC. They are listed with their titles upon retirement.

- Judy Albers, Assistant to the Museum Director, 25 years
- Jay Beery, Technical Instructor, 30 years
- Sonia Clem, Annual Giving Officer, 10 years
- Jim Crockett, Communications Adjunct Instructor, 11 years
- Carol Danly, Event Scheduler, 10 years
- Dorothy Dunham, Custodian, 14 years
- Bea Gauthier, Office Manager – Technical Division, 18 years
- Kathy Gordon, Groundskeeper, 27 years
- Jean Johnson, Office Manager – Maritime Academy, 12 years
- Chris Keenan, Director of Human Resources, 25 years
- Charlene Lutes, Director – Bridge Program, 23 years
- Natalie Miller, Custodian, 5 years
- Mary Norris, Business Instructor, 30 years
- Mark Puchala, Humanities Instructor, 25 years
- Linda Rea, Secretary – Center for Instructional Excellence, 19 years
- Ann Swaney, Librarian, 28 years

## March with NMC in the Cherry Royale Parade

Join in celebrating the college by marching in the 2012 National Cherry Festival's Cherry Royale Parade through downtown Traverse City on July 14.

NMC will provide banners from the various academic programs as well as NMC T-shirts for participants. Participants will convene at 9:30 a.m. on July 14 on State Street. Exact location TBD.

Alumni interested in participating should contact Kay Hall at [khall@nmc.edu](mailto:khall@nmc.edu) or (231) 995-1119 to provide a shirt size and be informed of further details.





At left, NMC student Ian Connick drives NMC's vehicle at the annual SAE Baja race held at Auburn University in April. Top right, the NMC team buckles in Matt Kowalkowski as the competition begins. Lower right, Connick leads the vehicle from Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez in the endurance race.

## Engineering Club's Alabama Baja odyssey

Measured by odometer, the NMC Engineering Club's road to the annual SAE Baja endurance race and its best finish ever clocked in at just under 1,000 miles.

But measured by other yardsticks – including the personal growth and maturity of the students, the slope of their learning curve and the collaboration of NMC faculty – the April trip to Auburn University was an odyssey.

Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Baja race has been a tradition of the Engineering Club and adviser Jim Coughlin for several years. Teams design, build and race cars over a tough dirt course.

The club was fresh off the winter race, the Blizzard Baja held in February at Michigan Tech, when Coughlin's son Chris, a former NMC student and Baja racer himself, was diagnosed with a rare strain of cancer.

Accompanying his son for treatment in Indianapolis meant students were on their own to design the car, literally from the wheels up. SAE provides teams with an engine, some design specs and a rule book. The rest is up to them.

"You start with nothing," said club member Doug Grunder.

In years past, the team spent more time building the car than designing it. This year, design got equal attention. The team felt they had built their best car ever.

"I had the most autonomous group of kids ever for Baja," Coughlin said. "I was so proud. These kids rose to the occasion and built the car."

Then, with 48 hours before departure, they hit a roadblock: in Coughlin's absence, they had to find to other NMC faculty to make the trip.

Communications instructor Mark Howell and math and science instructor Steve Drake stepped up. Howell spent three years working on a NASCAR pit crew and writes a weekly column for a NASCAR website. But on this trip he was able to see the race track from a new perspective.

"From a professor's standpoint, it really was a very fulfilling experience to see NMC students not only bring their ideas into reality, and not just make them functional but competitive," Howell said.

"This was an amazing piece of design, a really smart piece of engineering. These kids had really done their homework."

Nicknamed Daisy, the car lived up to the team's expectations. They finished 35th overall, their best finish ever, ahead of schools like the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Georgia Tech. In the suspension and traction category, their self-designed and fabricated components finished in 15th place.

In Indiana, Coughlin got good news, too. Tests in early May showed no evidence of cancer in his son, Chris. Treatment continues.

"That was spectacular news. There's every evidence he'll be cured now," Coughlin said.

And the Baja 2013 team may have found some ringers. Howell has ideas how to improve the design report, their lowest-scoring area this year.

"I think Steve and I were both adopted," Howell said. "I'd like to think I'm part of the team."

► Read more about NMC's response after Chris Coughlin's diagnosis: [www.nmc.edu](http://www.nmc.edu)

## Campus briefs

### Bond refinancing saves \$250,000

NMC will save nearly \$250,000 through the refinancing of college improvement bonds.

In January, college trustees authorized the college to seek bids to refinance \$1.6 million in bonds initially issued in 2002 and used to fund capital improvements on campus. The lower interest rate – 2.05 percent vs. the original rate of 5.05 percent – means that over the maturation period, the college will save \$249,880 in interest.

“NMC enjoys a very positive credit rating. Refinancing the bonds allows us to take advantage of that,” said Vicki Cook, interim vice president for finance and administration.

► Read more: [www.nmc.edu](http://www.nmc.edu)

### Culinary boot camp begins



In an effort to increase student completion and success, NMC’s Great Lakes Culinary Institute has introduced a “boot camp” course for new students.

The two-week class, Culinary 100, meets for four hours a day. Students must pass with a 2.0 before they can move on to their first semester-long class, Culinary 111.

Currently, culinary has about a 40 percent attrition rate between the first and second years of the program. Fees and costs for Culinary 111, formerly the introductory course, are relatively high, including multiple uniforms and a \$400 knife kit. Laughlin hopes the boot camp, which requires just one \$70 uniform, will ultimately save students time and expense by providing a taste of the next two years.

“The boot camp was designed to filter people out that shouldn’t be there,” said Laughlin.

Culinary 100 was piloted in January with a class of 10. One student dropped and a second did not pass, Laughlin said.

“Hopefully it will increase the success rate of students in the program,” he said. “It’s better for everybody.”

Students with two years of experience in a table-service restaurant or coming from a career-tech center can waive Culinary 100.

► Visit [www.nmc.edu/culinary](http://www.nmc.edu/culinary) for more information on culinary programs.

### Early College agreement approved between Suttons Bay, NMC

Beginning this fall, Suttons Bay High School students will have the opportunity to graduate with an associate’s degree or technical certificate from NMC in addition to their diploma – and do so on the state’s dime.

Approved by the Michigan Department of Education in April, the new “Early College” program allows academically capable Suttons Bay students who commit to a five-year high school program to begin taking college classes in grade 10. They can take up to 66 college credits during their high school career, replacing typical high school courses with college courses.

After what’s being called “grade 13,” students could transfer to a four-year college as juniors.

► Read more: [www.nmc.edu](http://www.nmc.edu)

► NMC offers dual enrollment to any qualifying high school student. Visit [www.nmc.edu/dualenroll](http://www.nmc.edu/dualenroll) for more information.

### NMC investigates aviation opportunities in China



NMC President Tim Nelson, above right, signed a memorandum of understanding with Beijing Channel Consulting CEO Xuyang Yao to mutually investigate a study abroad program and potential development of a flight training and aviation academy in China.

Both organizations will assess options and courses for NMC students and employees to study and gain cultural experience in China. BCC and NMC will collaborate to assess the potential of a new flight training and aviation academy in China and, if viable for both parties, bring forward development of such a facility.

Beijing Channel Consulting is an organization that facilitates international exchange programs for high school students, college students, teachers and faculty.

► Visit [www.nmc.edu/aviation](http://www.nmc.edu/aviation) for more aviation program information.

### More than 100 get Dressed for Success



More than 100 job hunters intent on climbing the career ladder attended the inaugural Dress for Success event organized by students from NMC’s Professional Communications class in April.

Students planned, publicized and executed the free event as a class project.

“I am thrilled about how motivated the students were to learn in this real-life situation. The overall grades went up and the students reported feeling like they belonged to our community – a part of something bigger,” said instructor Kristy McDonald.

Dress for Success offered professional clothing, networking and interview preparation, including resume writing tips and critiques and mock interviews conducted by local human resource professionals.

“I need to get myself spruced up,” said Sue Parker of Fife Lake, above in red jacket, who left with a closet full of new clothes to pursue her goal of a job in a salon. A former hospital housekeeper and home care aide, Parker earned a cosmetology license in December and hopes to find a position cutting and coloring hair.

## Plan ahead...

**June 16**

### **Kids' Free Fishing Day**

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

- Info: Becky Ewing,  
**[bewing@rotarycharities.org](mailto:bewing@rotarycharities.org)**,  
 (231) 941-4010.

### **John Lewis Veterans for Peace Scholarship benefit**

7-10 p.m., Dennon Museum

Music, food, silent auction to benefit the scholarship award to veteran or child of veteran attending NMC.

Tickets \$20 available at [treatickets.com](http://treatickets.com) or at the door.

**June 21**

### **International Affairs Forum lecture**

6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

“The Role of Women as Peace Makers” with presenter Dr. Susanne Riveles, a longtime advocate for justice and human rights internationally.

### **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.

- [www.magnumhospitality.com](http://www.magnumhospitality.com)

**June 23**

### **Public viewing night, Rogers Observatory**

9-11 p.m.

Also July 6 and 21, Aug. 3 and 25.

- For a complete list of 2012 dates, visit [www.nmc.edu/observatory](http://www.nmc.edu/observatory)

**June 28**

### **Maritime Spring Cruise returns to Traverse City**

Follow the *T/S State of Michigan* around the Great Lakes at [www.nmc.edu/maritime](http://www.nmc.edu/maritime)

### **NMC Concert Band**

Music of the Civil War

7:30 p.m., Music House Museum, Acme

- More summer concert dates: [www.nmc.edu/music](http://www.nmc.edu/music)

**August 25**

### **Fall semester begins**

- Get customized NMC news and information via e-mail at [www.nmc.edu/news](http://www.nmc.edu/news)
- Follow NMC on Twitter to find free events on campus: <http://twitter.com/NMCFree>

## Keep in touch with NMC

Please help us stay in touch with you by providing your current contact information. (Please note that NMC does not sell or share your personal contact information.)

Last: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Initial: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

What years did you attend NMC?: \_\_\_\_\_

Programs of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional and personal accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_  
Information provided below may be included on the “Alumni Updates” section of our website, and in a future NorWester.

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Three ways to reply:

- 1) Return in enclosed envelope
- 2) E-mail to [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu)
- 3) Submit online, [www.nmc.edu/alumni](http://www.nmc.edu/alumni)



## Tee it up August 2

The annual Scholarship Open, to be held Aug. 2 at Crystal Mountain Resort, raises funds for merit scholarships including honors and presidential. More than 200 golfers raised more than \$60,000 in 2011. To sponsor or play, email [lcooper@nmc.edu](mailto:lcooper@nmc.edu), visit [www.nmc.edu/golf](http://www.nmc.edu/golf), or call (231) 995-1021.



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## College for Kids starts June 18

Stimulate and nurture the minds of kids ages 4-17 all summer long with dozens of classes in art, science, music, technology, adventure and more. Registration is going on now.



► See the schedule at [www.nmc.edu/ees](http://www.nmc.edu/ees) or call (231) 995-1700.



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## Three named Outstanding Alumni

Alumni from three different decades have been named as NMC's 2012 Outstanding Alumni.

Kathleen McManus, who earned a nursing degree in 1974, is now executive vice president and chief operating officer at Munson Medical Center

Steven Rawlings, a 1991 aviation alumnus, is now regional manager of corporate and government affairs for DTE Energy

Timothy Young, a 1982 graduate, is founder, president and chef of Food For Thought, Benzie County-based creators of organic and wild-harvested gourmet specialty foods.

McManus, of Traverse City, said she considers her nursing education and the patient care she went on to do post-graduation "foundational" to the leadership position she now holds.

As an alumnus, McManus has served on NMC's nursing advisory board. She and Munson have also actively supported NMC's advocacy for legislation to allow Michigan community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing.

Rawlings, of Kingsley, is a second-generation NMC student. He has secured DTE support for NMC's Water Studies program, the Dennon Museum Center, and scholarships and programs. He is halfway through a two-year commitment as co-chair of NMC's Annual Campaign.

"I take the community service seriously, and I'm very grateful I have an employer that not only encourages its employees to become engaged but supports its employees to connect with the communities in which we live," he said.

Young, of Honor, recalled being enrolled at the University of Detroit school of



Kathleen McManus  
Class of '74



Steven Rawlings  
Class of '91



Timothy Young  
Class of '82

architecture when he decided he didn't really want to study architecture.

"What I really got out of NMC was a space to grow and mature," Young said. While he went on to study internationally and earn advanced degrees, "I look back most fondly at NMC as the most formative years of my life." Young is currently a member of both NMC's Foundation Board and Barbecue Board.

Created in 1988, the Outstanding Alumnus award recognizes alumni for professional achievement, community and professional leadership and/or donations of time, talent and resources to NMC.