

# Alumni challenge

Northern alumni, you have been challenged...

**T**o do what? Make a difference at NMU through *This Decisive Season: The Campaign for Northern Michigan University*.

Who has made the challenge?

**David Haynes '72 BS** and **Janet (Soderberg) Haynes '68 BA, '72 BS;** **Gil Ziegler '60 BS;** and **Pat Lentell '72 BS**. These four have used creativity, humor, vision, and a little bit of competition to dream up two innovative campaign projects: the Baby Grand Scholarship and the NMU Alumni Association Endowment Fund.

"Many of us owe so much to NMU," said Lentell. "I think it's an honor to help it grow and prosper."

## The Baby Grand Scholarship

The scholarship does not have anything to do with playing a piano, according to Ziegler — although he added that it is possible the recipient may be a music major.

The Baby Grand is actually about "grandbabies," said Ziegler, former chair of the NMU Board of Control and president of Alken Ziegler Inc. of Kalkaska, Mich.

"Both my daughter and [David] Haynes' daughter were expecting babies around the same time. Leave it to the grandfathers to turn having babies into a contest, but jokingly we



David Haynes spends some quality time with his granddaughter, Eva.

bet that whichever one of us had the bigger grandchild would contribute \$1,000 to a scholarship," Ziegler said.

"Somewhere in all the joking we turned to each other and said, 'Hey, that's a great idea. Let's challenge all NMU alumni to honor their grandchildren by making a donation to a scholarship.'"

Currently five grandbabies — the Haynes' grandchild and Ziegler's four grandchildren — help each year to financially assist an NMU student who is a single parent with school-aged children or a non-traditional student with school-aged children.

"We would love to see 100 alumni take up this challenge to both help a Northern student while doing a little grandparent bragging — two things that are sure to make a person feel good," said David Haynes, a partner with Public Affairs Associates, a governmental lobbying agency in Lansing. Janet is a probate judge in Kent County and a member of the NMU Development Board of Trustees.

## Alumni Association Endowment Fund

Lentell was flying from Marquette to Chicago last September after attending his first meeting as a member of the NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors when he was hit with the idea for an Alumni Association Endowment.

The mission of such an endowment, said Lentell, is to help the Alumni Association enhance its programs and services to graduates and friends of NMU as well as current students.

"One of my goals as a board member is to help expand the awareness of



Gil Ziegler's grandchildren (clockwise from top left): Matthew James Robertson, Conner Ziegler Robertson, Hunter Patrick McHugh, and Emily Susan Michelle McHugh.

the quality of the school with all the people I have contact with," said Lentell, vice president of investments with Paine Webber in Sandwich, Mass.

According to Martha Van Der Kamp, executive director of the Alumni Association, funds from the endowment may be used for such things as new program development, alumni-student recruitment efforts, hosting alumni speakers on campus, chapter development, *Horizons* magazine enhancement, alumni career services, and other projects approved by the Alumni Association Board.

At its May meeting, the board challenged the attending members to make a contribution to the fund before they adjourned.

"That moment reminded us that if we each give a little, as a group, we can do a lot," Alumni Association President Susi Dahlke said as she reported the results of the collection, which came to a gift of \$2,035 from 15 board members.

If you are a Northern alumnus/alumna who wants to rise to either challenge, please contact the NMU development office through mail at 1401 Presque Isle, Marquette, MI 49855, by e-mail at [devfund@nmu.edu](mailto:devfund@nmu.edu), or by phone at 906-227-2676. You can also make an on-line gift to either project at [www.nmu.edu/development](http://www.nmu.edu/development).