

Spring break in New York

By NIKKE NASON

All NMU theatre majors are required to have at least one field studies experience in their four-year degree program. Students have two field studies options — the Stratford Summer tour or the Theatre Field Studies Course in New York City. Nikke Nason, a junior theatre major, public relations minor from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, opted for New York. She received a full scholarship for the course from NMU's First Nighter's Club. Here's what she had to say after she returned.

My spring break in New York went beyond my expectations. All I expected to do was to see the city and a few Broadway shows, and catch some shopping deals. But I was wrong. I never imagined the trip would be fun and educational at the same time.

Not only did I see New York City for the first time, I also learned how to live in the city by going to a field studies workshop on how to survive your first year in New York. Kevin Connell, an assistant professor at Marymount Manhattan College, showed us how to get an apartment, get a job, and live in the city for the first time.

I saw six Broadway shows, but to

add to the experience, the field studies group was also able to meet with some of the actors after their shows. We met and talked with Andre de Shields from *The Full Monty* and the cast of *Dirty Blonde* including Kathy Najimy. They talked to us about theater in New York and how they got where they are today.

We also toured Music Theatre International, a play leasing company, with the president of the company, Steve Spiegel. Seeing the company showed us that there are other jobs out there for us.

And I did have some fun, too, such as being in the audience at *Live with Regis and Kelly*, seeing the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Central Park,

and the Empire State Building, and shopping at Macy's.

The most worthwhile part of the trip, though, was meeting with NMU theatre alumni. **Paul Truckey '87, Leah Hocking '80-'83, John Ogle '82, Dan Hicks '82, and Dan Roberts '96** provided us with backstage advice, information, and inspiration. They offered us a personal connection and said that they would be willing to stay in touch if we needed help in the future.

My experience cannot be found in a book or on the Internet. I saw the opportunities in New York first hand. Now I can actually see myself in New York City after graduation; before the trip, I couldn't.

Alumni Notes

By SUSI DAHLKE '63



As I begin my two-year term as president of the Alumni Association, I would like to give a special thanks to Paul

Suomi, past Alumni director and former members of the board who gave me the opportunity to become a member of this board.

We are in the process of restructuring all of our committees so they are reflective of the times and your needs. Feedback from you to our chapter chairs, our Alumni Board of

Directors, our Alumni Association executive director and the president of the university are always encouraged and welcomed.

There are two new ideas we would like to share with you. The first is "Leave a Legacy Day." Local NMU alumni who are lawyers, tax and accounting consultants, etc. in your area could give a presentation for interested alumni with suggestions on how to include NMU in their financial planning. Lori Rebhan, executive director of the NMU Development Fund said, "I worked on this program in the community where I was previously employed. It

is very beneficial for non-profits."

The second idea is an opportunity for our younger alumni with families to become more involved. You and your children would be invited to decorate and ride on your own float in the NMU Homecoming parade, which is on Friday, October 5.

Please call the Alumni Association at 906-227-2610 or e-mail them at alumni@nmu.edu if you are interested in either of these ideas.

I'm proud to be a graduate of Northern Michigan University, and I'm looking forward to working with you and representing all our alumni for the next two years.

A personal touch

Alumni mentors help students realize their leadership potential

Laurie Schmit '99 understands the value of friendship and mentoring. As an undergraduate at Northern, she participated in the Student Leader Fellowship Program and was paired with mentor **Judy Parlato '85**, a teacher in Gwinn.

"I got so much out of my relationship with Judy. It was so nice to have someone active in the community who could show me the opportunities that are available."

The SLFP is designed to give current NMU students the chance to learn leadership skills and become active community members by matching them with adult mentors in the area. The SLFP also provides students with internship opportunities.

Now Laurie is bringing her experience full circle by becoming a mentor herself. She was matched with NMU sophomore Jeanean Ghering of Fenton. The benefits of this new relationship are already apparent.

"I like the idea of having someone to talk to," Jeanean said. "I know I can count on Laurie to provide a good influence. It's nice to have someone you can turn to and really talk to about issues in your life."

In the ten years since the SLFP began, more than 300 students and mentors have participated. Many, like Laurie, are NMU alumni.

"I would certainly encourage all NMU alumni to consider the program," Laurie said. "The mentor gets so much out of it. It's the ripple effect — every person you touch, touches another. Do you have any idea how many people you can touch in a positive way by being a mentor for a student? It's a great opportunity."

If you would like more information on how you can be a part of this program, contact Dave Bonsall, director of Student Activities and Leadership Programs at 906-227-1771.

SLFP Celebrates 10th Anniversary

As a part of NMU's Summer Reunion Weekend, former SLFP participants will be getting together to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the program. Festivities are planned for Thursday through Saturday, June 28-30. If you would like more information on the SLFP reunion, contact Student Activities and Leadership Programs at 906-227-1771.

LOST ALUMNI

Do you have better contacts than we do?

We've lost track of these NMU alumni. Please help us find them.

- Marshal Stewart Eldred '50
- Andrew J. Gauthier '57, '66
- Carl Vernon Erickson '58
- Raymond Joseph Clemo '62, '67 MA
- Robert Leonard Fruik '63
- Roger John Buchanan '64
- Robert Walter Bray '65, '66 MA
- Gerald Herbert Fogt '66

Call toll free 1-877-GRAD-NMU or e-mail the Alumni Association at alumni@nmu.edu.

Cleaning House!

NMU JOBSearch Center to eliminate credential files

A resume, a list of references, and a cover letter — those are the three main documents that employers use to initially evaluate a job candidate. The days of requiring candidates to keep a credential file active with their alma mater are gone.

With this in mind, on June 1, 2001, the NMU JOBSearch Center will begin destroying all of the thousands of credential files currently stored in the university's Archives.

The following points may answer some of your questions about this process.

- You cannot send for your credential file in lieu of it being destroyed.
- Files will be destroyed safely and securely either by a company licensed and bonded to handle and destroy confidential material or by a professional staff member in the JOBSearch Center.
- The absence of a credential file will not hurt your chances of finding a job. Most of the material in the files is more than five years old.
- Verification of student teaching experience will not be destroyed. It will be pulled from your file and stored with either the JOBSearch Center or the School of Education.

If an employer still wants to see your credential file, please ask them to contact the JOBSearch Center. We will be happy to explain why we've stopped using the credential file system.

For more information or if you have questions about the process, contact the JOBSearch Center at 906-227-2800 or via e-mail at jobsearch@nmu.edu. You can also visit the JOBSearch Center's Web site at <http://jobsearch.nmu.edu>.