

# Northern HORIZONS

WINTER 2005

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

John Truitt '85 BS  
A front row seat to history.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

## It all adds up...

At the beginning of the fall semester, the NMU Dean of Students Office helped nearly two dozen Northern students withdraw from the university because they had been called to active military duty.

If you ask around campus, you'll find that most NMU students—and probably all faculty members—know someone who is in the military and is currently serving in Iraq, has served in Iraq, or is scheduled to serve there.

NMU economics professor David Switzer did his part to support American troops serving overseas, and he invited students in his fall 2004 EC 201 Microeconomic Principles class to join him.

In the spirit of making a little go a long way, Switzer approached his students with the idea of pooling together their contributions into one, large donation to the Adopt-a-Platoon program (AAP), a non-profit organization managed by volunteer mothers to ensure that deployed U.S. service members in all branches of the military are not forgotten. Switzer asked students who were interested to contact him outside of class.

The response was more than he could have imagined. Not only did about one third of his 150-student class contribute, many more offered to take part in AAP's pen pal program. Word spread, and Switzer began getting calls from other students, asking if they, too, could participate. With donations ranging from five to 50 dollars, the students in Switzer's class donated just over 300 dollars. Switzer matched their collective contribution and used the money to purchase items for a care package that was then shipped off to a platoon stationed in Iraq.

The Adopt-a-Platoon program doesn't give contributors specifics about their platoon, but Switzer said the soldiers that he and his students had adopted were finishing up a one-year tour in Korea and were scheduled to return home when they found out they were being re-deployed to Iraq. AAP seems to select those troops who could use an added level of moral support.

Switzer said that as an undergraduate and graduate student, he had always wanted to contribute to a cause or charitable organization, but never thought he had the means. He said that if one of his teachers had ever asked him to donate five or ten dollars, he would have done it. Those who participated in Switzer's endeavor also seem glad to have been asked.

Sarah Gondek, an NMU sophomore from Painesdale, Mich., mirrors the sentiments of many of the students who helped with the project.

"When David told our class about supporting the troops that are overseas, I immediately wanted to be a part of it," she said. "I can't imagine what they are going through right now. They had to give up so much of their life in order to fight for us. I just want to show them that we care and offer any kind of support or help that I can. It might not be much, but if I can make one soldier happy by donating money or writing a letter, I am happy to do so. It's the least we can do."

—KW

**CORRECTIONS:** In the fall 2004 issue of *Horizons*, we printed the wrong photograph with the Northern Perspective column, "Leading by Example," by Greg Rathje (pg. 32). We regret the error and have corrected it in our on-line edition, which can be found at [www.nmu.edu/horizons](http://www.nmu.edu/horizons).

Also in the fall issue, we mistakenly reported that Lynn Emerick was the executive director of the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program in the article "Turning a Passion into a Profession" (pg. 26). Kathy Herralta of Negaunee is the director of that program.



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When the United States went to war in Iraq, CBS News photographer **John Truitt '85 BS** volunteered for the assignment. Even though he felt the hostile environment training he was provided didn't adequately prepare him for what he experienced, he said he'd gladly do it all over again. Truitt shares some of the images he captured in Iraq along with his commentary on the war, his experiences, his career, and the role that NMU played in his success.

### 12 Courage under fire: Expanding women's rights in Iraq

As a foreign services specialist with the U.S. State Department, **Kristi Gruizenga '99 BS** was assigned to take on humanitarian and democracy projects related to women's issues. For months she worked side by side many Iraqi women who inspired her with their bravery, but Gruizenga didn't realize the impact she had on their lives until she almost lost her own.

### 14 Bombs to building blocks: Laying the foundation for a new generation

Major Paul Phillips was deployed to Iraq shortly after he was hired as a professor in the NMU Military Science Department. Charged with overseeing the renovation of schools, Phillips and his battalion quickly discovered that the damages weren't just cosmetic or structural. These schools and the school system had suffered from years of neglect.

#### ON THE COVER AND ON THIS PAGE

John Truitt stands in front of a tank in Baghdad. On this page, Truitt stands at the Jordan/Iraq border in front of one of many bronze statues of Saddam Hussein on a galloping horse. Photographs courtesy of CBS News.



Photo of Les Wong by Jim Godell.

## 'Limitless possibilities, unparalleled opportunities'

Les Wong was officially invested with the NMU chain of office as the university's 13th president at an Oct. 16 ceremony.

In his speech, "Everybody Counts—Everybody Matters," Wong cited chronicles of the Lewis and Clark expeditions, which according to one historian exemplified "[America's] sense of limitless possibilities and unparalleled opportunities." He said higher education could take a lesson from how the explorers reacted to the possibility of encountering unknown people whose smoke trails were visible on the horizon of the Dakota prairie.

Wong said that rather than making an assumption as to whether the smoke represented

friend or foe or choosing to steer clear of the unknown, Lewis and Clark responded with curiosity. They did not lose a single person to hostile action, and they met numerous tribes of Native people.

"Their journey represents the triumph of a curious, positive engagement with the unknown," he said. "Everyone on the Corps of Discovery and everyone they met mattered."

Similarly, Wong said he envisions an NMU education as using curiosity to contain fear, minimize ignorance, and prepare students to respond to the unknown. A challenge, he added, is to begin to recognize the value of the journey and not just the rewards of the outcome.

### Northern earns another top Midwest ranking

Northern Michigan University is one of *The Princeton Review's* "Best Midwestern Colleges" for 2005. The distinction came on the heels of the August 2004 announcement that NMU ranks 13th in the top tier of Midwest public universities by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine.

*The Princeton Review* named 170 institutions—public and private—from 13 states to the "Best Midwestern Colleges" list. Each had to meet standards for academic excellence within its region. The publication also sent representatives to each campus to distribute and collect a 70-question student survey about campus life.

## Fire sparks, water works

A small fire was contained to one room in Van Antwerp Hall at Northern Michigan University on Saturday, Nov. 13.

A halogen study lamp left on for too long and left too close to bedding material caused the fire.

The evacuation of the building went smoothly, and the fire was quickly snuffed out by Northern's sprinkler system, which was installed just two years ago. This was the first real-life test of the system, and, according to university officials, the system worked exactly as it should.

No one was hurt, and the damage—mostly from smoke and water—was limited primarily to the room the lamp was in. A few items on the floor in adjacent rooms suffered some mild water damage.

Students, other than those who lived in the room where the fire was, were able to get back into their rooms about 3 1/2 hours after evacuating the residence hall. The material possessions of the students who lived in the room were covered by homeowner's insurance, and the university provided both students with replacement notebook computers.

The students were assigned to other rooms in Van Antwerp Hall while the damage to their room was repaired.

# Freshman retention rises

A greater percentage of Northern freshmen are returning to campus for their second year of college, according to Paul Duby, associate vice president of institutional research at NMU. Nearly 73 percent of first-time, full-time, baccalaureate-bound freshmen who enrolled in the fall of 2003 returned to NMU for the fall 2004 semester. This is a one percent increase over the previous year's comparison. It is also virtually equal to the all-time high in 1995, which is an especially notable achievement, given the fact that NMU now has twice as many freshmen.

Duby attributes the increase to the following factors: the success of the First Year Experience program, in which almost half of NMU freshmen are enrolled; Northern's array of student support programs such as the college transition and freshmen

probation programs, all-campus tutoring, and the writing center; and stronger academic credentials of NMU freshmen.

"The credentials of our freshmen have been increasing because of scholarships and recruitment," Duby said. "Our goal is to recruit more first-time, full-time freshmen and keep them."

NMU has been investing more in scholarships such as the National Academic Award to recruit high school students.

"Our reputation is also increasing, and if your reputation is stronger, you get better students," Duby said.

He also said that the number of students from Northern Illinois and Wisconsin has increased.

"There are a lot of good things going for the university, and the increasing numbers show that," Duby said.

## Cosby packs the Berry

Bill Cosby treated NMU students, faculty, staff, and community members to a night of improvisation, funky facial expressions, and good-natured teasing on Friday, Nov. 12, at the Berry Events Center. More than 6,800 people attended the two sold-out performances.

Cosby joked about the Upper Peninsula, college life, relationships, and parents and children during his routine.

The event was sponsored by two NMU student groups—Platform Personalities and Northern Arts and Entertainment.

## Excellence in Teaching recipients announced

NMU English professor Ray Ventre and communication and performance studies professor Wally Niebauer are the recipients of the 2005 NMU Excellence in Teaching Awards. They were recognized at the Celebration of Scholarship Ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 9.

Ventre joined the NMU English faculty in 1979. He is director of English graduate studies and has served on the American Association of University Professors executive, educational policy, and salary compensation review committees. Ventre is a past recipient of the outstanding faculty award from the NMU chapter of Mortar Board. He received a bachelor's degree from Providence College and a doctorate from Brown University.

Niebauer arrived at Northern four years ago after teaching public relations for 17 years at Iowa State University. He serves as adviser for the NMU chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, a role that earned him the 2002-03 student organization adviser of the year award. Niebauer is a member of the USOEC, academic service learning, and health promotions advisory boards. He received both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned a doctorate from Michigan State University.

Award winners were cited for their sustained record of high achievement in teaching evidenced by peer observation; student evaluations; knowledge of subject matter taught; clarity, organization, and consistency in subject presentation; enthusiasm for teaching and learning; creation of a safe and open learning environment; and experimentation with teaching and learning paradigms.



Bill Sampson

## NMU student discovers rare blood disorder

NMU student Pete Pelletier of Newberry was gaining some hands-on experience at the Portneuf Medical Center in Pocatello, Idaho, as a step toward completing his associate degree as a clinical laboratory technician, when a discovery turned his standard clinical practicum into a real resume booster.

Pelletier was testing an anemic woman's blood to find a donor for her transfusion and obtained abnormal results.

"We were thinking that I had done something incorrect in my testing, but I continued to do the work-up for more learning experience," Pelletier said. "What I found next confirmed that my work-up was probably accurate and that we were dealing with a very rare Rh blood type."

Since this occurrence was so rare, Pelletier sent the blood sample to the American Red Cross, and they forwarded it to the National Reference Lab and Rare Donor Center. The ARC listed the chance of finding a compatible unit of blood as less than 1 in 10,000.

"It is a very complex problem to solve when encountered, and it is so hard to find compatible blood that the patient could die before it would become available," said Wayne Price, Pelletier's adviser and a clinical laboratory science professor at NMU.

Pelletier described the discovery of the unusual Rh-factor as both exciting and nerveracking, especially because many technicians who work in the field of transfusion medicine have never had the chance to see a similar case.

Pelletier wrote a paper on the topic and presented it at the Wisconsin Association of Blood Banks Annual Education Seminar in Milwaukee.

## Easing sticker shock

Study shows the 'net cost' of college has decreased

The net tuition cost for the average Michigan public university student decreased over a recent five-year period, according to a study issued in November by the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan.

Results show that increases in scholarships, grants, and tuition tax credits have more than outpaced rising tuition rates after inflationary adjustments. This means that students, on average, paid a smaller percentage of the total "sticker price" for tuition and mandatory fees in fiscal year 2003 than they did in 1998.

At Northern Michigan University, for example, the annual tuition rate for resident undergraduates increased by \$1,358 over the five-year span. But the increase was offset by a combination of institutional aid, state aid, federal aid, and federal tax credits that rose by an even greater amount—\$1,411.

"This study confirms that it's important to look at both numbers," said NMU President Les Wong. "Some might assume college is out of reach because they only see reports of tuition going up. They may not realize that financial aid is compensating for that by growing at a similar or even more accelerated rate. Higher education is a significant investment, and Northern is committed to ensuring that it remains accessible to those with the greatest need. We have put more university resources into financial aid and scholarship programs every year, even when we were cutting other budgets across campus."

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Presidents Council Report  
[www.pcsum.org](http://www.pcsum.org)
- NMU Tuition and Fees  
[www.nmu.edu/facts/tuitfees](http://www.nmu.edu/facts/tuitfees)
- NMU Financial Aid (Federal and State Aid, NMU Scholarships, Grants, and Special Situation Funds)  
[www.nmu.edu/finaid](http://www.nmu.edu/finaid)

NMU awarded an average of \$556 in institutional aid per fiscal-year equated student in 1998. Five years later, the figure climbed to \$889, a 60 percent increase.

The Presidents Council report was patterned after a study done for *USA Today* and compiled by Hank Prince, a former Michigan House Fiscal Agency associate director.

Prince found that the net cost of a college education was 45 percent of the "sticker price" in fiscal year 2003, compared with 60 percent in 1998.

"Institutional aid is a significant but overlooked component of the total cost of higher education," said Mike Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council. "Political involvement, in the form of tuition caps, makes it harder for universities to provide resources to students, which may result in higher net tuition costs for many students."

The Presidents Council is a nonprofit higher education association based in Lansing. It serves Michigan's 15 public universities.

—Kristi Evans

# Taking a closer look at child's play

Psychology professor receives grant to study gender development

Most research on gender development has focused on children 3 years of age or older, but theory suggests that awareness of one's own sex and the potential for developing gender stereotypes begins even earlier in life. The challenge has been validating the theory.



istockphoto.com

Infants and toddlers do not have the same level of verbal understanding or cooperation required in previous studies, and recent attempts to establish age-appropriate measures have been thwarted by methodological problems or inconsistent results.

Maya Sen, psychology professor and director of the gender studies minor at NMU, will try to make advances in this emerging area of research. She has received a two-year, \$100,000 grant from the

National Institutes of Health to develop and pilot-test measures to analyze gender development in 6- to 30-month-old children.

"We will adapt methods used in other areas of research with very young populations with the goal of designing paradigms that are both age appropriate and engaging," she said. "Specifically, we will try to measure children's understanding of what sex they are; their knowledge of gender stereotypes; and gender salience, or the attention and importance they attach to gender. The main focus is determining whether the measures themselves are feasible, but hopefully we will also obtain some results for this age group in the process."

Sen said that while there are a variety of ways to measure stereotype knowledge in older children, such as showing the subject a doll and asking whether a girl or boy is most likely to play with it or asking the subject to put a toy airplane into the hands of a female or male doll, these are not ideal activities for younger children.

"We will test kids 12-30 months old using six different measures," she said. "One is sequential touching—presenting them with a tray full of toys and observing how they play with them and associate the toys with each other. It's similar to testing category formation when

kids play with related toys. There is some evidence that children know the doll and truck distinction at 12 months. They might have stereotype knowledge at that age, or it could be a case of innate differences or parents steering them away from other things. At 12 months girls and boys prefer dolls—at 18 they show gender stereotyped preferences."

Sen's interest in the field stems from her feminist upbringing. While parenting plays a role, she said even children raised in egalitarian households learn gender stereotypes. Sen is interested in when these first develop and whether they conceivably can be changed. She is also intrigued by children who don't conform to stereotypes even when there is so much societal pressure to do so.

"Reducing stereotypes is a goal, but not the primary one," she said. "We want to provide detail for what develops and when so that hopefully we can use these measures to develop longitudinal studies of gender development from birth through adulthood. Once a better theoretical explanation of gender development is in place, it might be used for interventions that will lead to cultural change."

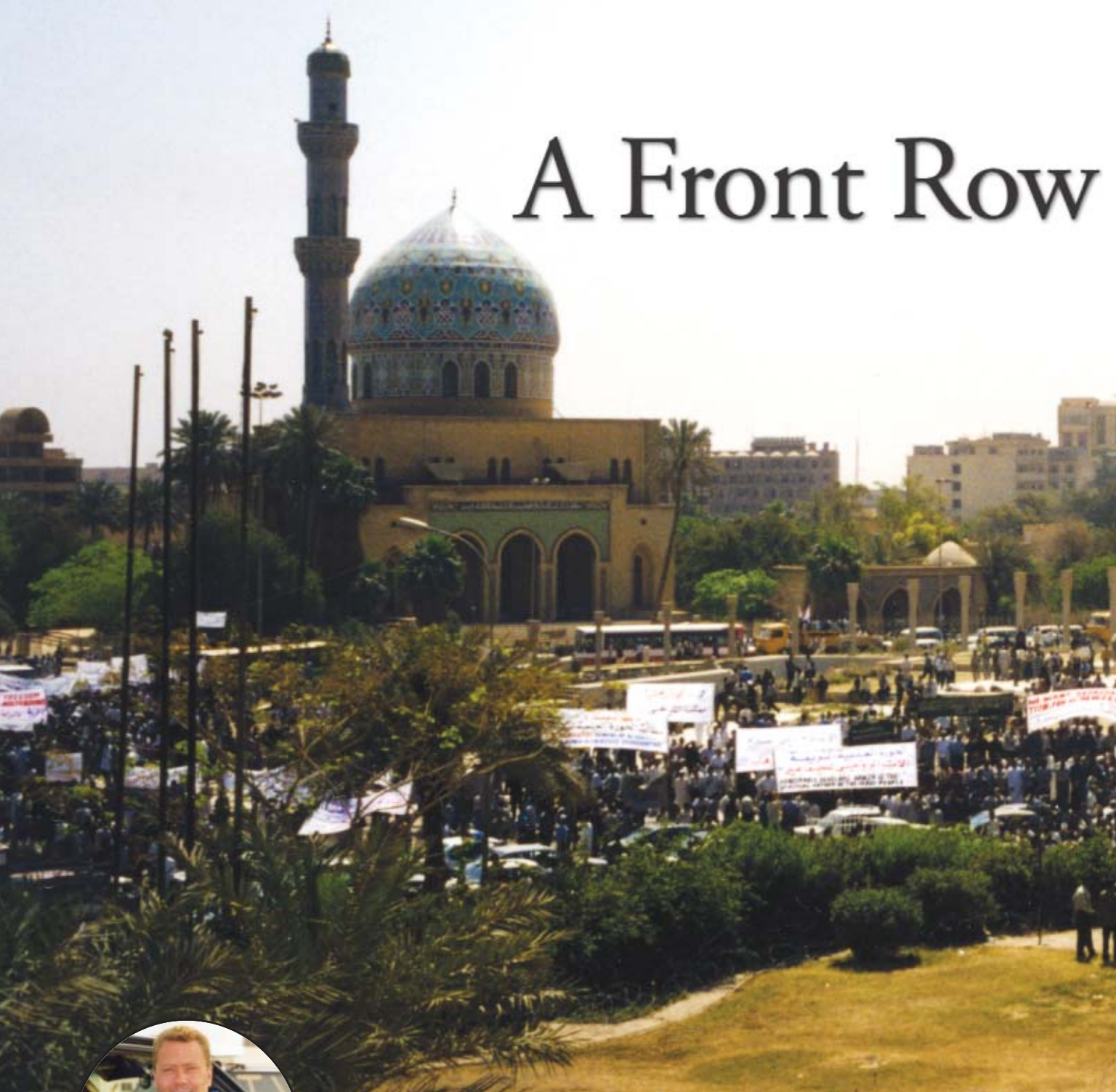
Four undergraduate students will help Sen execute the study.

"Students can read or talk about designing a study, but to actually experience the process is much more valuable and really boosts their resumes," she said.

Sen began testing young children in December.

—Kristi Evans

# A Front Row



**John Truitt '85 BS** likes to be in the thick of things. As a photographer for CBS News, he hasn't been disappointed. He has witnessed and recorded many of the major news events that have shaped contemporary history—from wars, uprisings, and national tragedies, to a few good-old-fashioned happy endings.

Despite his rise as a successful network news photographer, a career in photography was not his original goal. Truitt has always had a passion for news and grew up wanting to be a reporter. After holding several jobs as a reporter and news editor, he opted for a career as a cameraman because he said it offered more job stability. Looking at stories through a lens, however, has not dulled his journalistic instincts; it seems only to have sharpened his eye for finding a good story.

# Seat to History

Interview by KAREN WALLINGFORD '02 MA

Photography by JOHN TRUITT '85 BS



“I’m a journalist,” he said. “I just happen to carry a camera.”

One of his more recent assignments for CBS News was covering the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was in Iraq from April-June 2003 and then again for a brief period in December 2003.

I had a chance to talk to Truitt in November 2004. In addition to sharing some of the images he captured in the early days of major combat, he shared his reflections

on how he got to this point in his career, his experiences in Iraq, and his insights about the future of the country.

Pictured above: A large crowd of Shiites gather on Saddam Hussein’s former parade grounds in Baghdad to hold a demonstration. Truitt shot this image from the Palestine Hotel, where most Western journalists were lodged.

Inset photo: Truitt dons his flak jacket, one of the precautionary items supplied to journalists. Much of the time, though, he chose not to wear his protective gear, saying it made him feel like more of a target.



U.S. armored vehicles roll along the famed Iraqi parade route. The Hands of Victory monument, built in duplicate, mark the entrances to a parade ground constructed to commemorate Iraq's supposed victory in the Iran-Iraq war. Each triumphal arch consists of a pair of hands holding 140-foot crossed swords. The swords were cast from the melted-down guns of fallen Iraqi soldiers.

#### **What ignited your interest in journalism?**

I don't know. I was a janitor at Channel 6 in Marquette when I was 15 years old. I got fired from every fast food restaurant in Marquette, and that was the one place that didn't fire me. I actually love the news, and I love having a front row seat to history. So that's why I kept it up.

#### **What made you decide to attend NMU?**

I grew up in Marquette, so all I wanted to do was to be in a warm weather-climate. I applied to ridiculous places like Pepperdine, Miami University, and the University of Hawaii. When all of my friends got the giant packet of information from Michigan State and University of Michigan, and I got a tiny little 3x5 card that just said, "No. Sorry," I was crushed, but in hindsight, I think I got a much better education than anyone who has gone to any of the larger universities.

#### **What faculty members inspired you?**

You know, I eked my way through high school, and I graduated from Northern with honors. It's because my education was fostered by the people who provided it. People like Bill Buccalo (Communications and Performance Studies, retired), Barry Knight (History, retired), and Louise Bourgault (Communications and Performance Studies).

#### **What do you remember about each of them?**

Dr. Buccalo is like a member of my family. Every time I come back to Marquette, I go see him and his wife. He's just a super guy. He has knowledge of broadcasting that reaches back decades. And he knows the way broadcasting should be. Dr. Buccalo doesn't see broadcasting as a money-making endeavor. He sees it as a public concern, and a public trust, and a public utility. I've taken the tenets of journalism from what I learned from him. It's not just to make a buck, it's to inform and to educate.

Barry Knight has always been one of my favorite, favorite instructors at that entire university. He portrayed history as a current event. He portrayed history as if it were news because history and journalism go hand in hand. He was very inspirational to me.

And Louise... Louise really shared my wanderlust and my interest in international affairs. She really opened a window to international events and how broadcasting plays out in other countries.

#### **How did your career develop?**

I graduated in December of '85 and went to Kalamazoo, Michigan, at WWMT-TV, and then I went to be the bureau chief of their Grand Rapids office. From there, I moved to Philadelphia and was chief editor for FOX televi-

sion in Philadelphia. Then I went to the Discovery Channel in Philadelphia, where I was the director of photography for a travel show. For about 3 1/2 years, we traveled to 56 countries doing shows about festivals and crazy things.

I left there and went back to Chicago and worked at WBBM-TV, and then I went to CBS News. I started at CBS in 1997.

**What kind of stories have you covered for CBS?**

Well, 9/11. I was at ground zero for a month and a half. We were there when it happened. The 2004 presidential campaign, the 2000 presidential campaign, every hurricane you can imagine. I covered the miners who were trapped in Pennsylvania. I was working a camera when they pulled the miners out. I covered the first Gulf War with FOX in Philadelphia. I covered Kosovo with BBM in Chicago. I was in Panama covering Noriega. And the most important thing is the Iraq war that I just was at.

**Did you volunteer for that assignment?**

Absolutely.

**Why?**

It's where the action is. It's what's going on. We had to go to hostile environment training in Virginia for two weeks and learn how to deal with things like nerve gas and hostile takeovers and being kidnapped. We were trained by former Royal Marines.

**Did the training you received adequately prepare you for what you actually experienced?**

Not really. I mean, there was a lot of gunfire. There were people with guns everywhere. I found that the most important thing was to just smile and not be threatening. Common sense will keep you alive in Iraq. Being a cowboy will get you killed. The guy who drove me in, from Iman, Jordan, he was killed. He had his head cut off. He was a friend of mine.



The Iraqi Olympic headquarters was one of the first buildings blasted by U.S.-led warplanes and missiles. Saddam's son, Odai, who was the head of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, was said to have run a torture center in the building for athletes whose performance failed to meet his expectations.



While in Iraq, Truitt played soccer in the street outside his hotel with Abas (center) before complications from an eye infection left the boy blind. The two tanks in this picture served as the goal for their game.

### **How horrifying.**

It's awful. But it happens.

### **How did your family feel about your assignment?**

My parents didn't know I was there at first. I told them I was in Germany. But after a while I told them. It was scary for them. It's much scarier to look at Iraq from the United States point of view. But when you're there you're not afraid because you're there. It's like once you've been through something you're not afraid of it anymore. People are always more afraid of the unknown. And Iraq seems so far away.

### **Were you embedded?**

No. We were completely independent.

### **How did you decide what to cover?**

Whatever came our way. Whatever intelligence we gathered or heard about, if we deemed it as newsworthy, we covered it.

### **What was it like to cover a war zone?**

Some things were gruesome. I was the first person to shoot the storming of Saddam's son's house where we found human bones in a lion's cage. And then the mass graves in Babylon, I was the first Western journalist to go there and report on that. We were there when they

pulled Saddam's statue down. And we were at Saddam's palace and got to see his gold toilet. Crazy stuff.

But the one thing, if I were to really get one message across, is about the people of Iraq. I've been to a few places in the world. And I think some of the Iraqis that I've met, and most of the Iraqi people are some of the nicest people I've ever come across. They're incredibly warm, very friendly, very quick to smile. I was there during a time when there was a lot of hope and a lot of faith in the future. But they were suffering under a great deal of hardship.

### **Beyond just the war?**

Oh yeah. We found several stories of how kids go without proper medical care. A friend of mine's kid—beautiful little girl—she was 11 months old, and she had an infection in her mouth from teething. She died because she couldn't get antibiotics. Another little boy I know—I used to play soccer with him in the street in front of the hotel—he went blind because he had an eye infection.

We went to a lot of orphanages. I saw a lot of displaced kids because their parents were killed or rounded up by Saddam. A very bleak place, but with people who have heart. Wonderful, gorgeous people. They had a great deal of hope. I think their hope is waning now.

### In what way?

I put it like this: It's like going to a dentist and having him drill and get rid of cavity in your tooth, but he doesn't fill it in. This is what we've done in Iraq, I think. We got rid of an evil dictator, but we haven't patched the hole yet.

### Where there times when you were in imminent danger?

You mean like when a guy runs out from behind an alleyway and points an AK-47 at my head?

### How did you deal with that?

I just smiled at him. I pointed the camera at him. He didn't want to hurt me. We were there right after the war started, and he had never seen a Western journalist. All he wanted to do was show me his new gun. He fired it off.

### How has your experience in Iraq changed the way you look at your profession and your life?

It basically made me realize that people are people. No matter where you go in this world—whether it's in Mandarin China, Viet Nam, Africa, Iraq—people want the same thing out of life. They want to be happy. They want to be free, and they want to be free of an evil dictator. How it's changed me is that I could never ever judge another human being as long as I live.

### What do you think of the situation in Iraq currently?

I'm very close with a lot of people who are still there, and it's just getting worse. The reconstruction is wonderful, but the country and the people can't progress until they have their own free elections and get to govern themselves. They have to make sure that it's a democracy before anything.

You know the three colors of the Iraqi flag represent the three striations of the culture—the rural Shiites, the urban Sunni's, and the Kurds up to the north. They are politically bound together, but socially and philosophically, they're so different. I don't think they'll ever have one unified country. It's a mess.

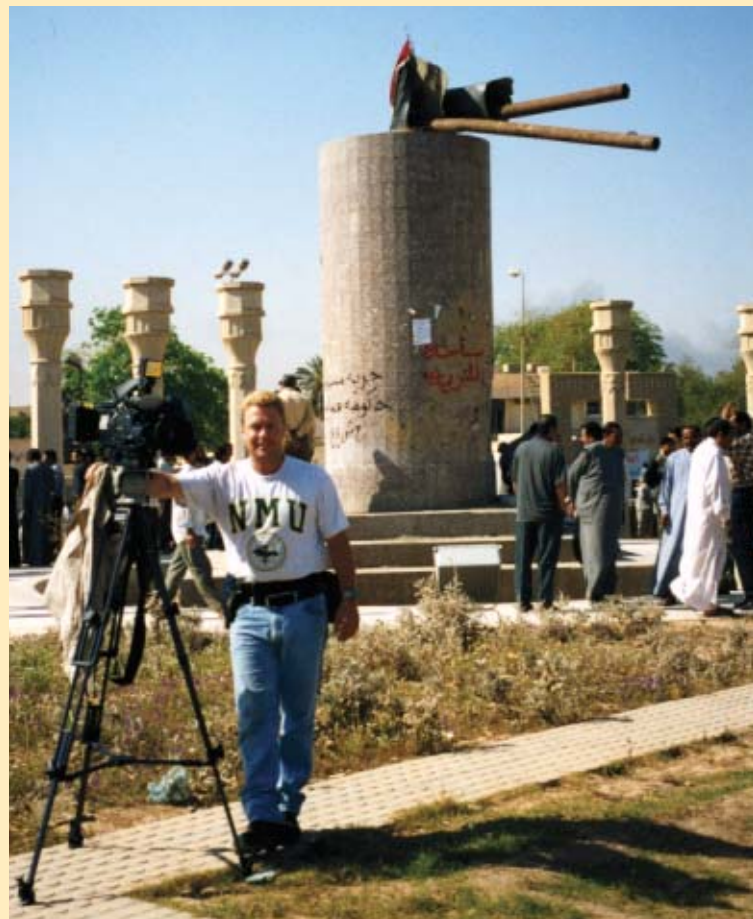
### Would you go back into a war zone?

Sure. It's what I do. You gotta have the front row seat to history. And with that comes a tremendous amount of responsibility. It's an absolute honor to be able to photograph world events that shape our lives. It's not a privilege; it's nothing more than an honor.

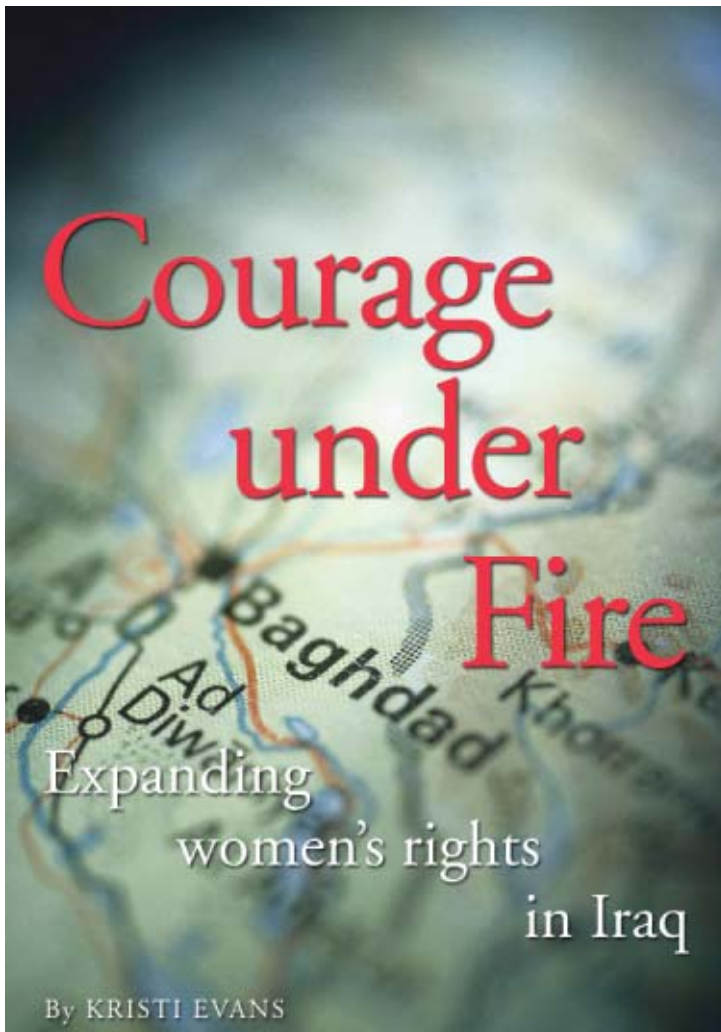
### What role did your NMU education play in your success?

There are opportunities that exist where you least expect them. There are places to learn and things to listen to if you would just take the time to look around and exploit opportunities that might not be blatant. Because in my profession, academic learning is a very minimal part of the education process. It's more hands on, so the more you can actually do, the better off you'll be.

At Northern, we're able to do that. As a freshman, I was able to work at WBKX (now WUPX) on the air and at WNMU. At Michigan State, I would have been stuck in a lecture hall. So Northern afforded me the opportunity to apply my trade early on, and actually have experience, rather than read about it in a book. I found my niche at NMU, and I liked it. ■



Truitt poses in front of the pedestal which used to support the 40-foot bronze statue of Saddam Hussein in central Baghdad's Al-Firdos Square shortly after a U.S. Marine armored recovery vehicle helped topple the monument. Photograph courtesy of CBS News.



Many Iraqi women are risking their lives in order to take a role in the country's new government. The top photo shows Kristi Gruizenga with the director of the Assyrian Christian Women's Union, Ban Jamil Katto, and her daughter. The bottom photo shows Gruizenga with Fatima, a member of the Baghdad City Council.

**D**anger managed to penetrate the heavily fortified Baghdad Green Zone just days before **Kristi Gruizenga '99 BS** was scheduled to leave Iraq. She was at a café having lunch with a friend when a suicide bomb detonated nearby.

"It happened so fast I don't remember hearing a boom," she recalled. "In the time it takes to blink, I went from sitting in a chair to lying on the ground. I have a lot of bad burns and deep shrapnel wounds on my legs. My arms and face were also cut up. My right eardrum was 70 percent ruptured, and I will need surgery to get my hearing back."

Moments earlier, another bomb blast within the zone killed four American security workers. They were friends of Gruizenga's. She later learned the men were in the process of buying a gift for her going-away party that evening.

At the time of the bombing, Gruizenga was at the end of her nine-month tour in Iraq as a foreign services specialist with the U.S. State Department. She worked with the Coalition Provisional Authority and was responsible for implementing human rights and democracy projects that focused on women's issues.

She said she is humbled by the courage of Iraqi women who are eager to play a more active role in the new government, even at the risk of losing favor with their families or becoming a target for terrorists. Some of those Gruizenga assisted were among the first to offer support as she lay physically and emotionally wounded.

“After the explosion, a group of them came to see me,” she said. “They told me how much I had helped them and how brave I was. I couldn’t accept that because, for me, it was just a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But they put themselves out there every day knowing they could be killed. That takes a lot more bravery.”

When she began her tour in February 2004, Gruizenga initially helped with grant-writing requests to secure funding for programs ranging from language, sewing, and cosmetology classes to a women’s shelter. The latter is not only a refuge for victims of abuse; it protects women who have been raped and risk retaliation from family members for “shaming” them.

“There are a lot of highly motivated, well-educated, and ambitious Iraqi women who want to see their country do well and want to take some ownership of that,” she said. “They were treated like second-class citizens under Saddam, but now they see an opportunity for change. But there are still challenges. Some of the Islamic fundamentalists in positions of power are opposed to female involvement, and the Ministry of the Interior is requiring women to have permission from their father, husband, or brother in order to receive a passport.”

Gruizenga also served as an adviser to a Kurdish woman who was the Minister of State for Women’s Affairs. She said it was a positive step that such a position was created by the interim Iraqi government, but because there were individuals within the government who perceived it as “somewhat of a joke,” Gruizenga tried to help gain legiti-

macy for the organization and obtain funding for programs. Several initiatives were geared toward the elections slated for January—from educating women on how to vote and what to expect come election day to encouraging them to run for office.

“It was a mixed response,” she explained. “Most women thought it was a great idea, but they were very hesitant to get involved. They didn’t know how their families would approve of taking a visible role in the new government. It was also a security issue. Outspoken, educated women leaders were targeted by the terrorists. The last thing the terrorists want are strong women. Because of that, some were inclined to back off and not be too high profile.”

Energized by those who wanted to forge ahead as active participants, Gruizenga nominated a few Iraqi women to travel to Washington, D.C., for various training programs. One was able to observe the U.S. elections so that she could share her observations with Iraqis and help with the balloting in her own country.

“I think we made a lot of progress there,” she added. “Even if there weren’t measurable results, I think the Iraqi women seeing American professional women doing the type of work we were doing to help them may have inspired them to do the same. There’s certainly much more left to be done. I just don’t know if it can happen at this point because the security situation has made it difficult.”

Back in February, Gruizenga could travel around Baghdad with an Iraqi driver to interact with civilians in their homes. When the insurgency escalated two months

later, she was confined to the Green Zone around Saddam Hussein’s former palace. Her capacity for outreach was severely limited.

“It’s frustrating because you can’t build a democracy from inside your office in the Green Zone. If you leave, there’s a risk you’ll be shot or kidnapped. Working in the presidential palace was interesting, but very depressing. It had beautiful crystal chandeliers and golden doors, but you realize how much money was wasted on the fancy décor while most residents suffered in poverty. It was like a Third World country in many ways. We were able to leave the zone sometimes, but it was with a convoy of armored vehicles and tanks and lots of security guards.”

Gruizenga was recuperating at her parents’ Kalamazoo home when interviewed by phone in November. She was planning to make a delayed return to Kiev, Ukraine, where she was stationed prior to volunteering for duty in Iraq. In June, she will begin her next assignment at The Hague in the Netherlands.

No matter where her job takes her, Gruizenga will never forget the Iraqi women she befriended. Despite the traumatic ending—which could have easily spawned bitterness and regret—Gruizenga remains upbeat. She still considers Iraq the experience of a lifetime.

“I was exposed to a culture I will never be able to experience again in that way—a whole new society built after years of oppression. Experiencing it first hand taught me so much about how good we have it in the United States. It also taught me about the human spirit and how strong people can be in the face of adversity.” ■



# Bombs to Building Blocks

Laying the foundation for a new generation

By KRISTI EVANS



**M**ajor Paul Phillips never questioned the necessity or value of the U.S. military presence in Iraq. But if he had any doubts about his personal contributions to the reconstruction efforts, they were quickly erased the moment a \$30,000 bounty was placed on his head.

"Most officers had bounties on their heads because the insurgents realized we were the money men, and if they took us out, the money might stop flowing toward measures to help people or improve things," he said. "It was kind of disheartening until you found out others were in the same boat."

Phillips (pictured above, center) had recently been hired as a professor in the military science department at NMU when his Green Bay-based 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion was deployed in March 2003. They spent 14 months in Iraq. The first six were in Diwanyah, about 100 miles south of Baghdad. Phillips said the time flew by with few problems. But when they moved to Al Qaim, a mile from the Syrian border, the pace slowed and the situation worsened.

"Reporters and others have called it 'The Wild West' because it was like something out of the 1800s, with bandits, thugs, thieves, and smugglers," he explained. "We called it the main rat line between the Syrian border and Fallujah and Baghdad. That's where the insurgents funneled through. We were attacked every two or three days. Fortunately, I didn't lose anyone."

Phillips' responsibilities during the combat phase were to keep Iraqi civilians away from the battlefield, provide humanitarian assistance for those displaced to refugee camps, and offer guidance to commanders regarding cultural matters.

During the reconstruction period, the duties shifted. One of the biggest missions was to oversee the renovation of schools, which Phillips described as dilapidated.

“Saddam did not put much money into education,” he said. “We brought in new desks and chalkboards. We provided supplies because most students didn’t have much. We also replaced the textbooks because they were inaccurate, outdated, and glorified Saddam. It was amazing some of the things you would see in elementary and nursery schools. There were murals on the walls and drawings by young students that showed war, bombs blowing up, people dying (pictured at left). They were teaching these kids to hate from the get-go. We removed the propaganda and made the schools more proper learning environments.”

A fellow officer, who was an elementary school principal in Wisconsin, took the lead in training teachers and setting up administrative systems. Phillips said Iraqi children were not required to attend school previously, and many opted out in favor of trying to raise money for their poor families. When his battalion left, he said attendance had climbed to about 80 percent.

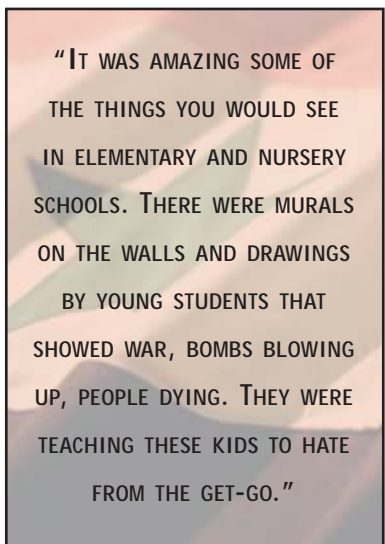
Phillips and his battalion were also charged with establishing city and provincial councils, bringing in bankers to help with the country’s financial systems, training new police forces, and arranging for contractors to fix power plants and water sanitation facilities.

“Before, sewage was flowing down the streets, and kids were playing in it,” he said. “Now, we’re trying to fix sewage treatment facilities and getting rid of garbage.

“Electricity is coming back on

line,” he added. “Saddam kept most of the power for himself and his followers. Baghdad was consuming 60 percent of available electricity originally. Saddam would rotate power to the rest of his country, but would use it as a tool to control his people. Now we’ve made it more equitable so Baghdad gets only 27 percent.”

Phillips contends that the media-filtered view of Iraq tilts toward the negative and too often ignores the positive signs of progress.



“Their economy is up, which you can tell by the number of imports coming in—cars, cell phones, and other products,” he said. “Salaries have improved from \$17 per month for a family when we got there to about \$400 per month. The Iraqis can communicate with the outside world through telephone service and Internet access. In a town I was in, the child mortality rate due to dysentery was about 30 per month. We came in and fixed a couple of pumps for about \$2,000 and dropped the mortality rate to three per month.”

Phillips said Iraqi citizens, particularly the Shia in the south, have

been responsive to the coalition efforts, even holding public demonstrations expressing thanks.

“In the Sunni region near the Syrian border, I think they are glad we’re there, but they only express it privately. They are fearful of showing any public support because they could end up dead. There were 30 murders in 30 days toward the end of my tour in one town. Apparently they were people showing support for the coalition forces. The Shia are trying to take power, and the Sunnis don’t want to give it up. The United States is in it for the long haul now because if we left there would be a major civil war.”

Phillips is able to share some of his “eye-opening” experiences with the cadets in the NMU Wildcat Battalion. He said anyone serving in the military these days is likely to spend at least some time in either Iraq or Afghanistan, so they should be prepared for modern facets of war such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs)—roadside bombs—and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). “I wish I had training on those before I left because I had my share of encounters with both.”

He left for Iraq with lofty ambitions of facilitating substantial and immediate change, but Phillips said he received a reality check near the Syrian border.

“Things were tougher than I thought they would be, and people weren’t reacting the way we wanted them to. Sometimes you wanted to beat your head against the wall. But then you look back and see that you did make at least some little changes, which combined with others to create bigger change. I’m proud of what we accomplished, but there’s still a lot to do.” ■

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

# NMU and the rest of the world

**W**hen does one begin to learn to be a good citizen? Where does one learn to become a participant in the world community? For many people, that process truly begins to take shape during their college years.

I was thinking about these questions while back on campus in October for Homecoming weekend—first when I attended our Alumni Awards and Sports Hall of Fame banquets and listened to the testimonials given about the volunteer and community service efforts of all of our award winners, and again when President Les Wong discussed the “Curriculum for the 21st Century” in his investiture address. In the latter, Dr. Wong challenged students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Northern not to be afraid of change and to be active participants in the discussion about what skills NMU graduates need to be

successful in both life and their professions in today’s global society.

I believe that the NMU student should have a global perspective in order to prosper. Many of the companies I do business with today are headquartered in cities around the world. Are Northern students ready to be worldwide community members? Just the fact that there are about 200 student organizations on campus today leads me to believe they are on the right track. When I hear that about 900 NMU students turned out for Make A Difference Day, I’m even more optimistic.

Dr. Wong has challenged NMU alumni to get involved in this very important discussion and planning process for the “Curriculum for the 21st Century.” What from your professional or personal experiences would you bring to this discussion? If you have ideas, e-mail them to [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu). They will be



passed along to the various committees that are examining such things as international experiences and leadership and ethics training.

Let’s all get involved. Doing so can help Northern, its students, faculty, and alumni in taking an even greater place in the nation and the world. And that is something that can make all of us proud.

**Barry Axelrod '69 BA, President  
NMU Alumni Association**

## ALUMNI FAST FACT... NORTHERN BY THE NUMBERS

When asked about your alma mater, do you have current information right at hand? Now, you do. Below are 10 frequently asked questions and answers that can help alumni provide accurate information about Northern Michigan University.

1. Number of students? About 9,400.
  2. Number of freshmen? About 2,000.
  3. Number of full-time undergraduate students? About 8,400—90 percent of student body.
  4. Number of students who live on campus? About 2,600—just over 25 percent of the student body (2,300 in the residence halls and about 350 students in the university apartments).
  5. Male-female ratio of student body? Nearly even, with women having a slight edge (male 46%, women 54%).
  6. Average class size? About 25-30 students.
  7. Number of faculty and staff members? Faculty, about 350. Staff, about 700.
  8. Number of academic programs? About 200 (includes programs at all levels). This is the same rounded number as student groups on campus in any given year.
  9. NMU's graduation rate? Fifty percent—about the same as the national average for comprehensive universities.
- And last but not least...
10. Number of NMU alumni? More than 50,000 and counting!

*Numbers listed are as of fall 2004.*

# Can't come to NMU?

Bring NMU to you with Mediasite Live

Just weeks before the 2004 presidential election, **Steve Mitchell '67 BS**, CEO of Mitchell Research and Communications and one of the most respected political pollsters in the business, came to campus and gave a presentation on leadership and the upcoming election. A woman in Virginia watched Mitchell's presentation and afterward asked him what he thought about negative campaigning. What made that interaction possible? Mediasite Live.

Mediasite Live is a real-time presentation system that can serve up live, interactive, Web-based broadcasts while also allowing users to store and replay presentations on demand. The NMU Alumni Association is hoping to use this technology to help keep you connected to your alma mater.

"We have so many faculty, staff, and alumni who are excellent resources. Mediasite will allow us to provide some real life-long learning opportunities," said Deanna Hemmila, director of alumni operations.

"We could feature investment specialists, history professors, readings by our English writing faculty, and current students and their research projects. The possibilities are endless. The real task for us now is determining what topics are of interest to alumni," Hemmila added.

Previous NMU Mediasite presentations are archived and ready for you to view. Visit [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni) for details. If you have an idea for a Mediasite presentation, let us know. Send an e-mail to [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu), or call us at 1-877-GRAD NMU.

## Upcoming Alumni and Marquette Area Events

DATE	EVENT
Jan. 21	Chicago Area Alumni Reception, Glascott's in Lincoln Park
Jan. 22	NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors Winter Meeting, Chicago
Jan. 28	Wildcat Night Across the Country, NMU vs. Michigan at Ann Arbor, Various Locations
Feb. 15	DeVos Art Museum Grand Opening, Marquette
Feb. 18-19	U.P. 200 and Winter Fest, Marquette
March 17-19	CCHA Super Six Tournament, Detroit, Joe Louis Arena
April 19	Reynolds Recital Hall Dedication, Marquette
June 23	Wildcat Club/Alumni Association Golf Outing, Marquette
June 24	NMU Alumni Association Spring Meeting, Marquette
August 10-14	Finn Grand Fest 2005, Marquette
Sept. 16-17	NMU Homecoming 2005, Marquette

For more information on any of the above events, contact the NMU Alumni Association at 1-877-GRAD-NMU or [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu).

## LOST ALUMNI

We know they're out there. Can you help us locate these people?

Floyd Cassidy '64 MA  
 Kenneth LaMar '72 BS  
 Peter LaVoy '72 BS  
 Darwin Wendt '75 BS  
 Julia Pitcher '79 BS  
 Esther Serfas '79 BS  
 Nancy Franco '80 BS  
 Deborah Wright '81 BSN  
 Donnell Elwood '82 BS  
 Diane Turchan '82 BSN  
 Mark Levelius '86 BS  
 Gerry Sandahl '86 BS  
 Philip Johns '90 BS  
 Barbara Ferguson '91 BS  
 Linda Hill '97 BS

If you can help us, please drop us a note at [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu) or call us toll free at 1-877-GRAD NMU.

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

We'd like to thank the following people who have recently joined as lifetime members of the NMU Alumni Association.

Raymond Hirvonen '48 BS  
 Betty Dahlquist '75 BA  
 Larry Inman '76 BS  
 Theresa (Vallina) Adams '83 BSN  
 Richard Droelle '84 BS  
 Kurt '86 BS and Susan Lindow  
 James Hundrieser '87 BS  
 Linda Swenson '90 BS  
 Jodi Golisek-Nelc '96 BS and Francis Nelc  
 Tiffany Menard '95 AS, '96 BS  
 Craig '98 BS and Amy (Johnson) Jones '98 BS  
 Jeremy '98 AS, '00 BS and Nichole (McMahon) '00 AA Stover  
 Bruce Herr Jr. '99 BSN

To learn about the benefits of membership, visit our Web site at [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni), e-mail us at [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu), or call us toll free at 1-877-GRAD NMU.



Bill and Lois Cohodas.

**“My mother and father found out early in their lives what it meant to be a minority in the Upper Peninsula. They spent a good deal of their lives promoting the idea that interpersonal understanding is vital to a peaceful and productive world.”**

**—Lynn Stahl**

## Talking about tolerance

Cohodas endowment brings speakers to campus

**W**hen Lois and Willard (Bill) Cohodas married on December 25, 1939, the young Upper Peninsula couple did so at a time when American Jews were forced to reflect on their heritage in light of the world events taking place.

Over the six decades since that day, the Marquette couple would devote themselves and significant personal resources toward helping the U.P. community study and understand multicultural, societal, and religious issues. Among their many efforts was the development of the area's Holocaust Awareness Program more than 50 years ago. The program brings speakers to Marquette to present on topics related to Jewish culture, religion, and historical events.

The couple, along with other members of the Cohodas family, also provided the materials for NMU's Lydia Olson Library to establish a Holocaust section.

In honor of Lois and Willard's 65th wedding anniversary in 2004, their daughters Lynn Stahl of San Antonio, Texas, and Nancy Oberman of Denver, Colorado, and their husbands, Rabbi Samuel Stahl and Paul Oberman, have created the Lois and Willard Cohodas Endowment Speakers Series Fund for Interpersonal Reconciliation.

The fund will help NMU engage one nationally recognized speaker annually to address the campus and general community on societal issues related to prejudice and bias reduction, tolerance education, cultural and religious understanding, hatred and racism elimination, or Holocaust awareness. Platform Personalities, the student group currently responsible for NMU's major speaker program, will be charged with selecting the speaker.

“My mother and father found out early in their lives what it meant to be a minority in the Upper Peninsula,” said Stahl. “They spent a good deal of their lives promoting the idea that interpersonal understanding is vital to a peaceful and productive world.”

“Understanding cultural and religious differences, erasing hatred and racism, and learning to be tolerant of those different than you are incredibly important values to my parents. This gift to Northern is a way for my sister and me, and our families, to honor their efforts and to ensure the continuance of their work in the Marquette area.”

While neither Lois nor Bill Cohodas is an NMU alumnus, Stahl said that Northern's presence in the community where her parents reside has had a profound impact on the couple.

“I know they feel they have been culturally, socially, and intellectually enriched by their involvement in NMU,” Stahl said.

“Northern Michigan University has been the greatest asset Marquette has ever had,” said Bill, who added that he and Lois are extremely pleased that their family has chosen this way to honor them.

Platform Personalities plans to announce the first Cohodas Speaker sometime during the winter 2005 semester.

**—Cindy Paavola '84 BS**

## Development Fund changes name

The fundraising branch of the university has changed its name from the Northern Michigan University Development Fund to the Northern Michigan University Foundation. The organization's Board of Trustees approved the name change at its September 2004 meeting.

The change better reflects the organization's purpose and mission, according to Martha Van Der Kamp, executive director of alumni and development.

"Our former name, the Development Fund, described only a small part of what we do. We acquire, steward, and disburse private gifts for Northern, so NMU Foundation is a more accurate description of our operations. The new name also is in keeping with the industry standard," said Van Der Kamp.

In addition to the name change, the foundation and the university have entered into a legal agreement that recognizes the foundation as a separate entity. Within the agreement, the university's contribution to the foundation's operations serves as a management fee for fundraising efforts on NMU's behalf.

"While operationally little has changed, we have been advised that this type of formal agreement helps to ensure the highest level of privacy for our donors," Van Der Kamp said.

The new name will begin appearing on materials in January 2005.

## Bertoline creates scholarship



**G**ary Bertoline '74 BS, who received an honorary doctor of technology degree from NMU in December 2003, and his family have established the Robert Bertoline Scholarship in honor of Gary's father. Robert Bertoline, who died in March 2003, was born in Vulcan, Michigan, and resided in the Detroit area following World War II. He and his family moved to Norway, Michigan, in 1961, where he worked in shipping and as an auto mechanic.

The \$2,500 annual award will be given to a student pursuing a baccalaureate degree in the School of Technology and Applied Sciences. Some of the preferences for the award are that the student be an Upper Peninsula high school graduate, a student showing financial need, and/or a freshman who is the first in his or her family to attend college.

While receiving his honorary degree, Bertoline also gave the mid-year commencement address. Bertoline is a professor of computer graphics technology and associate vice president for information technology at Purdue University. He also serves as director of the Envision Center for Data Perceptualization and is the author of eight books.

## Northern professor pays tribute to former profession

**H**oward Nicholson, an associate history professor at Northern Michigan University, has set up a scholarship program to cover the cost of the one (resident) credit student teaching seminar required of NMU student teachers.

The idea for the Dr. Howard Nicholson Student Teaching Scholarship gift came to Nicholson as a way to honor his former profession.

"Today, I am in charge of the secondary education advising for the School of Education, but I spent 25 years in the secondary classroom myself. I wanted to do something to contribute to the next generation of secondary education history teachers," said Nicholson, who came to Northern in 2000.

The Nicholson scholarships will be awarded to two students each year who are pursuing teaching certificates in secondary education and majoring in economics, geography, history, political science, or social studies. The awards will be provided during the recipients' semester of student teaching.

"This is just my way of helping students and, at the same time, reminding colleagues, alumni, and friends of NMU that you don't always have to make a huge gift to have a significant impact on a student," Nicholson said. "I wanted to make this gift while I am still working with students and could see that impact firsthand."

True to its roots as a normal school, education remains Northern's most popular major with about 1,000 education majors enrolled each year, including about 600-700 who are in secondary education programs.



## Wildcats back on track (and field)

**A**fter an 11-year absence, track and field has returned as a varsity program at Northern Michigan University—although this time the program consists solely of a women's squad.

Northern made the decision in the spring of 2003 to add the program, in part, to meet the NCAA requirement that all Division II schools have at least one men's and one women's team that competes in the spring. Northern's men's spring sport is golf. The track and field squad saw its first season of action last year, competing unofficially during the indoor season and officially during the outdoor season. This year, the 'Cats have declared NCAA teams for both the indoor and outdoor season, and they get under way with indoor action this month.

"With the Superior Dome as our indoor facility, I see a lot of potential for us to be a premier indoor program down the road," said Coach **Sten Fjeldheim '86 BS, '93 MA**. "Being declared as both an indoor and outdoor program puts us

in the rotation to host the conference championships in the future. We've even started discussions about the possibility of bidding to host a national indoor championship here someday, which would be great for our program, Northern, and the general Marquette community."

During the four years NMU last supported track and field—1988-92—the Wildcats finished sixth of six teams in both men's and women's indoor and outdoor competition at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Championships, except for the 1991 indoor meet when both were fifth. Twenty-five NMU men and 22 women earned all-conference status during that span.

Part of the reason for Northern's point struggles in league competition back then was the limited number of participants. The men's team averaged about a dozen members and the women's, six to 10. The subsequent impact was the inability to have entrants in all events.

History has not repeated itself

yet this time around the track. In its return season last year, the Wildcat women's team had 30 members, which was a bit of a surprise to the coaching staff. This year, the squad has 36 members.

"We are very pleased with the numbers, especially considering we had almost no time to recruit prior to last season," said Fjeldheim, who also guided the previous track program. "Last year, we had a good cross section of an entire team, being able to compete in every event except the hammer."

Northern also surpassed expectations in performance during its first campaign. Jennifer Lahr, an All-America cross-country runner, provisionally qualified for the NCAA Division II Championships in the 1,500 and 3,000 meters. She finished 14th in the 3,000 at the national meet.

"To have an NCAA qualifier in the first year as well as some of our women beating Division I athletes at meets was phenomenal," said Tom Barnes, assistant coach and coordi-

nator of the day-to-day training.

Other top performers last year included Stephanie Boyer in sprints and the long jump; Stephanie Mishica in the 400 intermediate hurdles and pole vault; Wildcat basketball player Tiffany Grubaugh in the discus, shot put, and javelin; and Breanna Riedel in the triple jump. Boyer and Mishica are now sophomores and Grubaugh is a senior. Riedel was a senior last season.

While most of the team's meets were non-scoring competitions, it finished fourth of 20 teams at the Wheaton Invitational and competed well in the non-scoring Division I Notre Dame Invitational. At the GLIAC outdoor championships, the 'Cats finished seventh of ten teams.

"It was a very solid team, and I know the women really enjoyed the experience. We set goals, and we accomplished many of them," Barnes said. "This year we want to continue to build our numbers and increase our depth. Eventually we'd like to have between 40-50 team members."

**Jenny Ryan '02 MA** is the other assistant coach. She is also the assistant to the women's cross country and men's and women's Nordic ski teams. She works primarily with the middle and distance events.

"I think Tom and Jenny have done a great job," said Fjeldheim. "Each of us was able to focus on different aspects of growing the program, and because of that we are ahead of schedule on the team's development and success."

—**Cindy Paavola '84 BS**

## Two Wildcat teams post top 10 NCAA finishes

The cross country team placed seventh at the national meet for a fifth consecutive top 8 finish. It was also the program's fifth consecutive appearance at the meet. Junior Stephanie Howe of Forest Lake, Minn., earned All-America status, finishing 20th overall. She ran the 5-kilometer course in 22:40.5. Northern advanced to the meet as the NCAA II Great Lakes Regional runner-up.

The volleyball squad bowed out of the national tournament with a 3-1 loss to Minnesota-Duluth at the NCAA Elite Eight Tournament. It was NMU's first Elite Eight appearance since 1997.

The 'Cats went 24-7 for the year. While Northern bowed out of the GLIAC Tournament in the quarterfinals, it rebounded to win the NCAA Great Lakes Regional with victories over Hillsdale College, Grand Valley State University, and Northwood University.

Senior outside hitter Aimee Dewitte of St. Charles, Ill., was selected to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America Second Team. She led NMU with 406 kills. She had a .306 hitting percentage, 47 service aces, 375 digs, three block solos, 71 block assists for 74 total blocks, and had a team-high 491.5 points.



Stephanie Howe



Aimee Dewitte

## USOEC adds women's wrestling

In September, 13 women freestyle wrestlers took to the mat as the newest student-athletes of the U.S. Olympic Education Center. Women's freestyle wrestling joins the USOEC's residential teams for men in Greco-Roman wrestling and for men and women in boxing, speedskating, and weightlifting.

"The program has gotten off to a great start at the USOEC and NMU. Things are really going well, both athletically and academically," said Coach Shannyn Gillespie. "In October, we started competition, and we were raring to go."

Two of the women wrestlers, Mary Kelly (105.5 pounds) of Mahomet, Ill., and Debbie Sakai (112.5 lbs.) of Miliani, Hawaii, are also members of the U.S. National Team based on their current top-three national ranking at the senior level in their respective weight categories.

Three others—Linse Meadows (Katy, Texas; 130 lbs.), Elena Mena (St. Paul, Minn.; 158.5 lbs.), and Donnell Bradley (Aiea, Hawaii; 158.5 lbs.)—have placed at past U.S. National meets.

As part of the USOEC program, all of the women are also enrolled at Northern. All but two are college transfers, having competed on collegiate teams at various universities around the country prior to the start of the USOEC program.

Future plans by USA Wrestling include growing the program to 30 athletes, with an additional eight athletes next year and another nine in the third year.

"We are excited to have this new team here," said Jeff Kleinschmidt, director of the USOEC. "Shannyn is a great coach, and we've been very impressed with the athletes. We believe there is a very strong possibility that some of these women will be members of the U.S. Olympic Team at the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, China."

## Tell us what's happening in your life

Keeping Track is generated by your submissions and is open to all alumni. Send your submission to the NMU Alumni Association, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855; e-mail to [horizons@nmu.edu](mailto:horizons@nmu.edu); or send via the Web at [www.nmu.edu/horizons](http://www.nmu.edu/horizons). If you would like to include a picture with your submission, please send a print or digital photograph with a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

[WWW.NMU.EDU/HORIZONS](http://WWW.NMU.EDU/HORIZONS) ■ [HORIZONS@NMU.EDU](mailto:HORIZONS@NMU.EDU)

## Pre-1960s

**Sarah Bottrell '24 LC '29 BA** of Marquette celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 22, 2004. She was the adviser for the NMU chapter of Alpha Xi Delta and wrote the chapter song. She taught social studies at Newberry High School for 27 years and at Marquette Senior High School for 16 years. Sarah retired in 1972.

**Dorothy (Lindstrom) Austin '42 BS** of Santa Clara, Calif., and her husband, **Ray '47 BS**, celebrated 60 years of marriage on July 30, 2004.

## 60s

**Gary Nepper '65 BS** of Snover operates Nepper's Martial Sciences Academy and keeps busy with his classic car hobby. He retired in 2000 after 34 years of teaching in the Marlette Community Schools. [washido@avci.net](mailto:washido@avci.net)

**Robert Witte '66 BS** of Hudsonville is finishing the fourth and final year of a \$727,000 federally funded academic and behavior grant that has been shared by four other state elementary schools. The grant focuses on effective behavior support for students and the use of a school-wide information system developed by the University of Oregon. Rob has been a principal with the Hudsonville Elementary Public Schools for nine years. [RobJRW@aol.com](mailto:RobJRW@aol.com)

**James Hartman '67 BS** of Metamora retired in June 2004 from the Port

Huron Area School District. James also had taught in Oxford, Mich., and Superior, Mont. He and his wife, Linda, are enjoying retirement with their seven grandchildren.

**Thomas Waclawski '68 BS '70 MAE** of Traverse City is a part-time substitute teacher and is certified as a GLOBE Teacher Trainer. GLOBE is a worldwide, hands-on, primary-and secondary-school based education and science program. He had previously taught elementary school for 30 years and worked with the Grand Traverse Regional Math, Science, and Technology Center for four years. "I would enjoy hearing from any NMU alumni from 1966-69, especially those from the northern lower peninsula area. GO WILDCATS!" [ka8ylktom@chartermi.net](mailto:ka8ylktom@chartermi.net).

**Tom Fish '69 BS** of Powell, Ohio, completed his doctorate in rehabilitation counseling from The Ohio State University in 2003. He received a Mary Switzer Research Fellowship from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in 1999. Tom is the director of family and employment services at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center. [fish.1@osu.edu](mailto:fish.1@osu.edu)

## 70s

**Robert Roehrig '70 BS** of Fenton retired in June 2004 from the Beecher Community School District in Flint after 34 years as an industrial education and special education teacher and

guidance counselor. [roehrig@gfn.org](mailto:roehrig@gfn.org)

**Linda (Wirtanen) Fitzgerald '73 BA** of Dexter recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of Fitzgerald Communications. Located in Ann Arbor, the firm specializes in writing and consulting services for marketing communication projects. Linda's work, which has garnered numerous awards, spans both print and electronic media and ranges from ad campaigns, direct mail, brochures, and annual reports to Web sites and enriched e-mail.

**Rick Hull '73 BS** of Sioux Falls, S.D., and his wife, Glenys, own the Sioux Falls, S.D., and Fargo, N.D., branches of Johnstone Supply, a wholesale cooperative that specializes in HVACR supplies and equipment. At the 2004 Johnstone Supply annual convention, Rick and Glenys received the branch of the year award for small market. [rick.hull@johnstonesupply.com](mailto:rick.hull@johnstonesupply.com)

**Tony Marasco '73 BS** of Royal Oak is the assistant superintendent for human resources and labor relations with the West Bloomfield School District. [atmteacher@wowway.com](mailto:atmteacher@wowway.com)

**Dave Belanger '76 BME '79 MM** of Chicago, Ill., a music department coordinator and music teacher in the Chicago public school system, just completed an administrative endorsement and hopes to work as a public school administrator. [Dabel76@netscape.net](mailto:Dabel76@netscape.net)

**Michael Greer '76 BA** of Arlington, Mass., is working with OmniProMusica

to develop the new Zoon model wooden flute. He previously worked at two major flute companies for many years. [magreerflutes@msn.com](mailto:magreerflutes@msn.com)

**Reed Grimes '76 BS** of The Woodlands, Texas, was named corporate real estate executive of the year by the Houston Chapter of CoreNet Global. The award recognizes success in meeting corporate real estate objectives, innovation, project development, leadership, impact, and contributions to the real estate industry. Reed is responsible for managing Exxon Mobil's worldwide commercial real estate services.

**Linda (Ruprich) Reynolds '76 BS** of Hancock is a behavior specialist and autism teacher/coordinator for the Copper Country Intermediate School District. [Ireynold@ccisd.k12.mi.us](mailto:Ireynold@ccisd.k12.mi.us)

**Timothy Evans '77 BS** of Marysville was recently selected as the 2004 Gilder Lehrman Preserve American History Teacher of the Year for Michigan. He has taught for 28th years at Marysville Public School. Tim has been active with the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association's Maritime Heritage Education Workshop, is president elect of the Michigan Council for History Education, and is a volunteer deckhand and education and training committee member on the tall ship Highlander Sea. He also is an adjunct instructor at St. Clair County Community College. Tim's daughter Megan is currently a sophomore at NMU. [timevans@advnet.net](mailto:timevans@advnet.net)

**Charles Hawes '77 BS** of Lansing has joined Yeo & Yeo, a certified public accounting and consulting firm, as a principal in their Lansing office. Charles is a CPA and will serve business and individual clients, with a special emphasis on audit, workers compensation, business consulting, and tax services for not-for-profit organizations and trade associations. Charles is a past member of the NMU Alumni Association board of directors.



## Heart Building

**Ron Revello '95 AS** is filling two roles while stationed in Iraq—one that capitalizes on his professional expertise and another that is much more personal in nature. Revello, who is serving with the Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, National Guard Unit HHC 264th Engineer Group, has been stationed at

Forward Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit since February 2004.

In his primary role as the technical engineering supervisor and lead CAD designer, he and his unit have designed more than 175 projects ranging from roads and buildings to fences, guard posts, and control posts.

"We have designed over \$60 million worth of projects that are just waiting to be built," Revello wrote in an e-mail to *Horizons* in November.

In addition to designing new building projects, Revello's unit has repaired all of the runways at the airfield, rebuilt many of the area's clinics, hospitals, and schools, and worked to get running water to these facilities.

Not all of his unit's assignments have involved physical buildings and construction projects. Revello said that some have been "heart building." He and his unit helped with Operation Backpack, in which troops went to local schools and handed out free backpacks and school supplies to all of the students.

"All of the supplies were donated by families in the U.S., and to see the smiles of the children, well, there is nothing better," he wrote.

In his second role, Revello serves as the chaplain's assistant. He sets up the chapel for two services each Sunday and helps prepare memorial services for fallen soldiers.

Revello said that his time in Iraq has actually made him to grow closer to his family through mail and e-mail. If all goes well, he wrote, he and his unit should return home to Wisconsin in February.

Revello is nearing the end of his 20 years of service in the Army. He was recently promoted to sergeant and received an Army Commendation Medal for his work in Korea, Italy, and Cambodia.

—Karen Wallingford '02 MA

**Patty (Carroll) Mason '77 BS** of East Tawas is the office manager for Tawas Pathologists. She has been the figure skating director for the Huron Hockey and Skating Association for eight years. Patty and her husband have two sons. [pmason@charter.net](mailto:pmason@charter.net)

**Ramon Castro '78 AT** of Boca Raton, Fla., is a test engineer for Siemens Information and Communication

Networks. [rcastr0559@aol.com](mailto:rcastr0559@aol.com)

**Jesse Luttenton '78 BS** of Baraga is a community economic developer for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. [jlutten@up.net](mailto:jlutten@up.net)

**Jill (Walker) Taylor '78 BS** of Shelby Township is a high school special education teacher for Richmond Community Schools. [jtaylor@richmond.k12.mi.us](mailto:jtaylor@richmond.k12.mi.us)

# Friends in Need Become a Family Indeed

BILL SAVOLA '54 BME AND BURL JORDAN '00 BS

“People keep telling me I should write about my life,” said Bill Savola. “I have all kinds of stories.” He’s not exaggerating. A seasoned world traveler, Savola has been to Nepal, India, Honduras, Japan, Thailand, Spain, and New Guinea. He’s hunted in Africa, gone scuba diving off the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, and trekked through the jungles of South America.

Gregarious, talkative, and inquisitive, Savola easily engages people in conversation and is quick to make friends—something Burl Jordan can readily attest to.

“I’ve listened to every story Bill has told for eight years, and I know ‘em all,” said Jordan.

Jordan was an NMU student when he met Savola in 1995. He was studying across from Bookbinders in the NMU Learning Resources Center when Savola, a regular patron of the snack shop, struck up a conversation with him. Over time the two got to be good friends. When Jordan discovered that for several years this retired high school band teacher had been financially supporting a young Indonesian man, he was impressed with Savola’s generosity.

For more than a decade, Savola has been making yearly trips to Indonesia and has informally adopted several young men to whom he refers as his “children.” During his first trip to Indonesia in 1994, he met Baliarta (Bali), who was supporting himself by waiting tables at a local restaurant.

True to his nature, Savola befriended the young man. And



Savola with his “adopted sons” Lalu (left) and Ishak. Savola has promised to send Lalu to police officer’s school next year.



Ozy (left) and Am share a meal in their new home with their benefactors, Anne and Burl Jordan.

when he discovered that Bali had a perforated eardrum, he took him to the hospital and paid for all of his medical expenses. The two have stayed in touch ever since. Bali is now 30 years old and lives with his wife and two daughters on the island of Sumatra, where he farms *singkong*, or cassava, which is most commonly associated with tapioca.

Since meeting Bali, Savola has helped three more young men in Indonesia. Ishak, who could not afford to go to school when Savola met him, is now 18 and in ninth grade. Lalu, who was a police cadet

when Savola met him, is now a police officer and studies law six nights per week. Yusuf was a troubled homeless boy who encountered Savola when he helped another boy steal Savola’s camera. Now 21, Yusuf is taking accounting classes at a local university. He sends his report cards stateside to Savola.

Almost all of these young men, Savola explained, come from a troubled domestic background or one in which they lost parents. Savola sees himself as a kind of surrogate father figure. It’s a role Jordan conferred upon him as well.

Coming from what he described as a rough childhood, Jordan wanted to follow in Savola’s footsteps, but Savola insisted that Jordan finish college before “adopting” any Indonesian children.

“The day I [graduated], Bill came up to me and said, ‘Okay. Now you can help,’” Jordan said.

In January 2003, Jordan and his wife **Anne '00 BA** traveled to Indonesia to meet their adopted children, Am, 16, and Ozy, 18. Jordan, who now owns and operates the largest landscaping business in California’s San Diego County, was stunned by the living conditions on Lombok Island. Am had been living with his family under a thatched roof with a dirt floor and no walls. The Jordans purchased a two-bedroom house for the family for one thousand dollars.

To ensure a steady income for his adoptees, Jordan has established Treasures from Bali, a nonprofit on-



Shelters such as this are all some Indonesian families have to protect themselves from the elements.

line export business that he hopes will become the largest in the world. Savola is also participating in the venture.

While all of the proceeds from the business will benefit Indonesian children, Jordan said there is much that needs to be done in many other countries.

Savola feels the same way, and while he can provide endless emotional support for his Indonesian family, his financial resources are wearing thin.

"I can think of more who should go to school, and they need help, but I can't afford it," he said.

One of Jordan's goals is to learn how Savola does what he does so that he can continue Savola's dream of helping those less fortunate than himself.

Savola plans to return to Indonesia this month. When he does, he'll be taking on a project that capitalizes on his professional expertise. After visiting his children, he will try to put together a national philharmonic orchestra for Indonesia, one that he hopes will be the largest in Southeast Asia. A quick side trip to Manila is also on his itinerary. When he returns, he's sure to have many more stories—if only there were time to tell them all.

—**Matthew Schneider '04 BA**

**Robert Holmstrom '79 BS** of Daleville, Ala., is an executive officer with the 1-14th Aviation Regiment of the U.S. Army. roholmstrom@yahoo.com

**Shelagh Williams '79 BS** of Redford studied at Harvard University last summer. Shelagh is a principal in the Detroit Public School System. Swilli425@aol.com

## 80s

**Edward Cook '80 BS** of Zion, Ill., was promoted to police sergeant at the Northwestern University Police Department in Chicago last February. e-cook@northwestern.edu

**Linda (Parkkonen) Hosking '80 AB** of Green Bay, Wis., is a group controller for the retail lending division of US Bank. In 2003, she obtained a bachelor of arts degree in accounting from Lakeland College in Wisconsin. She then went on to earn the certified management accounting designation. Linda and her husband, **Barry '84 BS**, have two daughters and a grandson. yoooper78@hotmail.com

**Colleen Maki '81 BA** of Port Huron teaches French in the Croswell-Lexington Schools.

**David Sevick '81 BFA** of Lakewood, Colo., is the principal and creative director of D. Sevick Communications. "I just moved and wanted to keep friends and classmates updated with my new information." dsevick@comcast.net

**David Forsberg '82 BS** of Lansing has been hired as the community and government affairs leader for the Upper Peninsula Power Company. For the past three years, David's firm, Forsberg Golenda Communications and Government Relations, had been UPPCO's lobbyist at the Michigan state capitol. David is a past recipient of Northern's Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

**James Jeakle '82 BS** of Kalamazoo has served for the past 10 years as

director of research and development for KDF Fluid Treatment. James and his wife, Lorraine, hope to move to New Mexico and start a consultancy. varkie@chartermi.net

**Eileen McGill '82 BS** of Clarkston is a regional director for the Carlson Marketing Group. erabbit@comcast.net

**Curt Tucker '82 AT** of Saginaw is the president of Teamtech Motorsports Safety, which internationally distributes patented race car driver safety restraints and related products. Curt.Tucker@TEAMTECHMotorsports.com

**Bren Bildner '83 BS** of Waterford is a senior buyer for General Motors. bren.bildner@gm.com

**Edward Buchynski '83 BS** of Ypsilanti has been the principal of Harry S. Truman High School for six years.

**Bill Slough '84 BS, '90 MAE** of Gladstone has been selected as the middle school principal in Gladstone.

**Craig De Damos '85 BS** of Rockford coaches Rockford "RAM" Rocket Football and is president of the Rockford Wrestling Club. He works as a senior program manager for Altacor. He and his wife, Lisa, have two sons, Dominic, 13, and Anthony, 10.

**Andre Driver '85 BS** of Chicago, Ill., graduated from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management with a master of business administration degree in June 2004. He works in purchasing for W.W. Grainger. andredriver@yahoo.com

**Donald Meyer '85 AB** of Ishpeming has owned and operated Meyer Transit for almost 19 years. His company hauls forest products to area mills. He is actively involved in several organizations that restore, maintain, and fly World War II era aircraft. "Traveling on board a 60+ year-old aircraft to an event is incredible! You meet some wonderful people—including many veterans and their families. It never gets old."

**Kurt Person '85 BS** of Farmington Hills was promoted to vice president

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of engineering at the Robert Bosch Corporation.

**Charles Roberts '86 BS** of Lansing is operations manager for construction, maintenance, and interior design at Michigan State University.

**Lisa (Yax) Sayers '86 BS** of Girard, Pa., is a self-employed independent consultant with Arbonne International. [botanicalyou@adelphia.net](mailto:botanicalyou@adelphia.net)

**Todd Sliktas '86 Dipl., '97 BS** of Fraser teaches woodworking and coaches football at Fraser High School. [Todd.Sliktas@fraser.misd.net](mailto:Todd.Sliktas@fraser.misd.net)

**Treacy Duerfeldt '88 BA** of Olympia, Wash., recently launched an independent alumni site for the Gamma Delta

brothers of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity at [www.gammadeltanmu.com](http://www.gammadeltanmu.com). Treacy hopes that folks visit the site and remember the fun times they had. Treacy works as a manager for Olympic Advisors. [Treacy2@comcast.net](mailto:Treacy2@comcast.net)

**Ian Jellis '88 BS** of Roseville graduated in May 2004 from Wayne State University with a master of arts in teaching. He teaches 5th grade in the Roseville School District. [jellisi@hotmail.com](mailto:jellisi@hotmail.com)

**Marcia Mufti '88 BSW** of Granite Falls, Minn., became the director of financial aid at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in November 2004. [mmufti@gf.mnwest.mnscu.edu](mailto:mmufti@gf.mnwest.mnscu.edu)

**Michael Schopieray '88 BS** of Mansfield, Ohio, was named the housing coordinator at The Ohio State University-Mansfield campus. Michael is a former associate director of housing and residence life at NMU.

**Dan Pilarski '89 BS** of Rockford is a systems analyst at Calvin College. [dpilarsk@calvin.edu](mailto:dpilarsk@calvin.edu)

**Michelle Vinoski '89 BS** of Superior, Wis., recently earned a master's degree in educational administration with an emphasis in K-12 principalship from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She is a middle school mathematics teacher and assistant principal at Cathedral School in Superior. [mmvinoski@aol.com](mailto:mmvinoski@aol.com)

## 90s

**Tom Baranowski '90 BS** of Birmingham is a regional sales manager for Terminal Supply Company. [tbaranowski@comcast.net](mailto:tbaranowski@comcast.net)

**Laurie (Geniesse) Bruce '90 BS** of Mansfield, Pa., has been the assistant women's basketball coach at Mansfield University for six seasons. Last season her team had the best record in the school's history. Laurie has been married to her husband, Bobby, for 13 years and has two children. [lbruce@mnsfld.edu](mailto:lbruce@mnsfld.edu)

**Tammie (Anderson) Mrachek '90 BS** of Merrill, Wis., started TM Training and Consulting two years ago. She specializes in training for Cisco phone systems and computers. Tammie has been married for seven years to her husband, Darin, with whom she has two daughters: Rylee, 4, and Reese, 2 1/2.

**William Bowerman '91 MA** of Central, S.C., has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at Clemson University. He is a wildlife ecologist/toxicologist with the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. He has been researching bald eagles in the Great Lakes region for 20 years. Bill is a past recipient of

an NMU Outstanding Young Alumni Award. wbowerm@clemsun.edu

**Christian Johanneson '91 BS** of Duvall, Wash., works for Microsoft as a global business development manager. He and his wife, Alice, have two sons, Jack and Finn. cjohanneson@yahoo.com

**Sheila Kirt '91 BS** of Concord is a veterinarian. She owns Kibby Park Animal Hospital in Jackson. timansheila@frontiernet.net

**Ken Mercier '91 BS** of Manitowoc, Wis., teaches science at Kewaunee High School in Kewaunee, Wis., and has coached baseball and softball for several years. His wife, **Julie (Birkle) '92 BSN**, is a midwife. kmercier@lakefield.net

**Michelle (Zochowski) Sanchez '91 BA** of Brownsville, Texas, works for Customs and Border Protection as a supervisory entry specialist. msanchez@sc2000.net

**Veronica (Graves) Scrimshaw '91 BA** of Grand Rapids and her husband, John, celebrated the birth of their son, John Henry, in September 2004. Veronica is the director of corporate communications at National Personnel Associates in Grand Rapids. vskrimshaw@comcast.net

**Dave Danis '92 BS** of Marquette is the sports director for Northern Star Broadcasting, WNGE 99.5-FM. He announces the play-by-play for NMU football, hockey, and volleyball. davyd1983@aol.com

**John Hand '92 BS** of Sanford, N.C., is the program director of cardiac rehabilitation at the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

**Eric Bastian '93 BS** of Grand Ledge is a parole/probation officer with the Michigan Department of Corrections. BassRipRock@aol.com

**Laura (Lutz) Lonergan '93 BS '98 MPA** of Novi is a project technical adviser for TriMedia Consultants. llonergan@trimediaconsultants.com

**Bob Morin '93 BS** of Macomb Township has been hired as a science



## For Kids' Sake

**Al Behnke '98 BS** is nearing the end of his scheduled one-year tour in Iraq. When contacted via e-mail in November, he was stationed at the Logistical Support Area Anaconda, about 45 miles north of Baghdad. As headquarters commander, Behnke is responsible for administrative and logistical functions of the 126th Finance Battalion.

Like Major Paul Phillips, whose story is featured on page 14, Behnke was involved in supervising the renovation of a school. His battalion also distributes supplies and visits with the children.

"The building was very dilapidated," he explained. "There were no renovations or major repairs done since it was built in the 1960s, and it lacked indoor plumbing. Most of the textbooks were written by the Baath Party and made Saddam out to be a great Iraqi hero. The students are very excited and happy to see us. Whenever we visit, they come running up to greet us as we arrive."

Behnke said the vast majority of Iraqis are friendly toward Americans and are happy that Saddam Hussein is no longer in power. "As always, there's a small portion of the population that isn't happy because they are not in charge," he added.

When asked how he would respond to those who object to the U.S. military presence in Iraq, Behnke replied: "Regardless of how they feel, the important thing is that they continue to support the troops that are over there."

—Kristi Evans

teacher at Utica High School. He will also be coaching varsity hockey at Utica Eisenhower High School. Rm22mucs@ucs.misd.net

**Shawn (Ketchum) Nowicki '93 BS** of Marquette is a fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. snowicki@nmu.edu

**Anthony Caduto '94 BS** of Oak Creek, Wis., is a senior programmer with M&I Trust and Investment Management in Milwaukee. tony.caduto@amsoftwaredesign.com

**Matthew Driscoll '94 BS** of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., is the principal of James Madison Elementary School in the Sheboygan Area School District. mdriscoll@sheboygan.k12.wi.us

**Patrick Wercinski '94 BS** of Payson, Ariz., works for the U.S. Forest Service as a forest protection officer. He has completed assignments in Arizona, Nevada, and New Hampshire. pwercinski@yahoo.com

**Mike '95 BS and Melinda (Carlson) Long '97 BS** of Hopkinsville, Ky., welcomed their daughter, Avery Katherine, into the world on Dec. 12, 2003. longatc@msn.com

**Kari (Kibin) Szczechowski '95 BSN** of Wyandotte gave birth to her second child, Nickolas Robert, in May 2004. Kari is a registered nurse and works part-time in the critical care area at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn. klszcz@yahoo.com

## ALUMNI IN PRINT

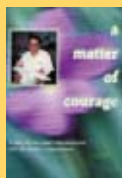
### Settlement



1st Books Library, 2002  
**Donald Giesen '56 BS, '64 MA**

In response to the national sex-abuse scandal in the Catholic church, Donald Giesen explores what can happen in an organization when there is too much secrecy. His book centers on a fictional Upper Peninsula Catholic parish; a priest who abuses his power, his office, and his vows; and a bishop who allows it to go on despite complaints from parishioners.

### A Matter of Courage

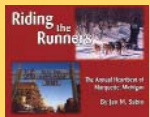


Beaver's Pond Press, 2004

**Joann (Austin) Hakala '73 BS, '75 MAE, '88 Ed.S**

At a gathering of high school friends, a wrestling accident changed **Gerry Hakala's '87 BS** life forever. His neck was broken, and there was a 95 percent chance he would never walk again. But Gerry was not about to sit quietly and watch life pass him by. In this book, Joann recounts the story of her son's determination and her family's commitment to him.

### Riding the Runners



Oak River Publishing, 2003

**Jan Sabin '74 BS, '86 MAE**

Jan Sabin compiled this photo essay to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the U.P. 200 Sled Dog Race in Marquette. The photos, which chronicle the first 13 races, capture the community spirit of the race and show the motivation and drive of the mushers and their sled-dog teams.

**Stephanie (Andrzejewski) Boytim '96 BS** of Canton is taking a year off from teaching to spend time with her new daughter, Allison, who was born in July 2004. Stephanie has been a math consultant in Wayne-Westland Schools as well as a classroom teacher for the last four years. s22374@comcast.net

**Matt McLachlan '96 BS** of St. Petersburg, Fla., recently accepted a newly created position with the City of Bradenton, Florida, as assistant director of the department of development services. Matt and his wife, Christine, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Amelia Rose, in September 2004.

**Gregory Wood '96 BS** of Urbana, Ill., is an Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellow in the University of Pittsburgh's History Department. Gwood182@yahoo.com

**Scott Frappier '97 BS** of St. Louis, Mo., is an embedded software engineer with the Boeing Company. He has been selected to participate in an executive learning development program for the next two years. Scott is married with two children and recently completed his master's in engineering management from Washington University.

**Brandy Burns '98 BS** of Dunn, N.C., is a community services coordinator for RHA Health Services. She graduated with a master of public administration degree from NMU in May 2004. bburns@intrstar.net

**Heather May '98 BS** of Johnson, Vt., is attending graduate school at Johnson State College, where she works as the director for two residence halls. mayh@jsc.vsc.edu

**Michael Rochon '98 BA** of Manistique has completed a master's degree in school guidance counseling and plans to teach part time and counsel part time. Michael is a Spanish teacher and guidance counselor in the Manistique area schools. mrochon@alumni.nmu.edu

**Jeremy Stover '98 AS, '00 BS** of Green Bay, Wis., is a corrections officer with the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department. jpstover@hotmail.com

**Danielle (Tasson) Stupsky '98 BS** of Minneapolis, Minn., and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their baby girl, Teagan Rose, to the world on May 18, 2004. dstupsky@comcast.net

**Marianne (Bissett) Donoghue '99 BS** of Lake Orion works in the Pontiac Community Schools as a math teacher. MBISSETT48817@YAHOO.COM

**Braden Graham '99 BS** of Ferndale is the national promotions and events manager for Carlson Marketing Group. bradengraham@yahoo.com

**Bruce Herr, Jr. '99 BSN** of Newport has completed requirements for a master of science in anesthesia degree at Wayne State University and is now eligible for board certification as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). He is now working as a CRNA at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. simbakahn@chartermi.net

## 00s

**Brian Gibson '00 BS** has been employed with the United States Secret Service for three years. He is a special agent.

**William Moore '00 BS** of Chicago, Ill., graduated from John Marshall Law School in June 2004. He accepted an associate position at the law firm Adler, Murphy, and McQuillen in June and was admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois in November. wmoore@amm-law.com

**Toby Soboleski '00 BS** of Redford is a worker's compensation claims specialist with Crawford & Company. He is assigned to a seven-state region for which he detects fraudulent claims. TOBYSoboleski@hotmail.com

**Toby Kilbourn '01 BS** of Deford recently graduated from the Damage

Control Assistant Course (DCA) at Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, R.I. The DCA course is designed to provide shipboard DCAs with training that includes in-depth study in damage control administration and training, systems, equipment, maintenance procedures, battle damage evaluation and containment, fire-fighting, and chemical, biological, and radiological defense procedures. Toby is an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard.

**Jamal Nazir '01 MPA** of Murree, Pakistan, recently completed his judicial clerkship with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Colorado. He plans to return to Pakistan to work as an adviser to the prime minister and to set up a private law firm dedicated to constitutional reforms and promoting animal rights. jamal@alumni.nmu.edu

**Tara (Savage) Pipkorn '01 BSN** of Gladstone is a registered nurse at Marquette General Hospital Home Health in Escanaba. Tarasav@msn.com

**Randy Carlisle '03 BS** of Marquette is a master control operator with Lake Superior Broadcasting.

**Jennifer Giangrasso '03 BS** of Chicago, Ill., is an online specialist account manager for CareerBuilder.com. jennifergiangrasso@alumni.nmu.edu

**Jason Henderson '03 BS** of Iron Mountain is a maintenance engineer for the American Transmission Company. His duties include contracting services from Cable Constructors in Iron Mountain to obtain data pertaining to structures in the transmission system located in the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin municipals.

**George Jackson '03 BS** of Big Rapids is a land use agent for the Michigan State University Extension. gjackson@alumni.nmu.edu

**Shelley Jiles '03 BS** of Charlotte, N.C., is a theater arts teacher for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

**Patricia Williams '04 BS** of Marquette was recently named pro-

gram director at The Crayon Club childcare center and preschool. Patricia has worked for Mister McGregor's Garden, Inc., The Crayon Club's parent company, for five years.

## Marriages

**Charles Vader '67 BS** to Judith Moore.

**Tina Simula '77 BS** to Donald Weiland.

**Rodney Bolton '81 BS** to Linda Laffler.

**John Bleckiner '82 Dipl.** to Jennifer Radcliffe.

**James Jeakle '82 BS** to Lorraine Marais.

**Charles Roberts '86 BS** to Jennifer Hart.

**Darlene Wiese '86 BSN** to T. Tracy Young.

**Blaine Sprague '92 BS** to Amanda Lompre.

**Beth Lullo '93 BA** to Jeremy Bolen.

**Kyle T. David '94 BS** to Christine Kullander.

**Cynthia LaPenna '95 BS** to Vincent Felicella.

**Dale Powell '95 BS** to Sarah Clark.

**Amanda Smith '95 BS** to Andrew Stroth.

**Matt Wiitala '95 BS '98 MPA** to Sheila Freeman.

**Roxanne Kapalla '96 BS** to Greg Thorpe.

**Craig Mallett '96 AS '96 BS to Amy Manninen '97 BS '02 MPA.**

**Gregory Wood '96 BS** to Mihaela Gainusa.

**Melissa Lukach '97 BS** to Nicholas Adams.

**Kimi Fosco '98 BSN** to Frederick Steinberg.

**Kimberly LaMere '98 Dipl., '03 Cert.** to Chad Kakkuri.

**Todd Waurio '98 BS** to Lisa Wiitala.

**Mark Balisi '99 BS '00 BS to Jennifer Yatchak '03 BS.**

**Krystal Koskey '99 AB** to Gilbert Hoffer, Jr.

## ALUMNI IN PRINT

### Daniel's Final Chapter



PublishAmerica, 2004

**John Smith '77 BS**

The murder of Nicholas Doss's girlfriend and his subsequent discovery of an extant version of the original prophetic biblical book, *Daniel*, garners worldwide attention. Accused of his girlfriend's murder, Nick must prove his innocence by identifying the killer and in doing so protect the priceless scroll and its divine message.

### Swapping Lies! Deception in the Workplace



Trafford Publishing, 2004

**Marc Bringman '78 MA**

This book takes on the issue of deception in the workplace. Using a blend of academic research, common sense business advice, and home-spun tales, the author presents a case for change. In doing so, he offers more than 80 tips designed to help the reader navigate today's complex work environment.

### Fatal Network



iBooks, 2004

**Trevor Scott, aka Scott Schmidt '93 MA**

When a tech rep in charge of an avionics outfit at a U.S. Air Force Base in Germany comes up missing, Jake Adams, former Air Force intelligence and CIA officer, is hired to find him. Was the man selling vital technology for the new joint strike fighter? This mystery leads Jake from an aircraft carrier off the coast of Italy to the chilly banks of the Rhine.

## KEEPING TRACK

Lisa Russell '99 BS to Christopher Riccobono.

Heidi Turri '99 BS to Scott Neil Jensema.

Mark Fuller '00 AAS '00 BS to Maria Mendini '01 BS.

Jason Kangas '00 BS to Jodi Reiten.

Christopher Kimpel '00 BS to Tammy Ott.

Casey L. Reidy '00 Cert. to Paul Richards.

Leigh Schout '00 BSN to Daniel Freberg.

Lindsey Villa '00 BS to Lee Ringuette.

Robby Baumgartner '01 BS to Sarah Winquist.

Melisa Head '01 BS to Adam Gleason.

Danielle LaForest '01 AB to Justin Dove.

Bobbi Nault '01 Cert. to Jason Arsenault.

Michael Picotte '01 BS to Hannah Cuddie '03 BFA.

Justin Schultz '01 BS to Anne Schneider.

Kristy Stevenson '01 BS to Joshua Burt.

Jessica Brown '02 BS to Chris Kovala '02 BS.

Kelly Freberg '02 BS to B.J. Ash.

Steven Johnson '02 BS to Jamie Ziller '04 BS.

Jeffrey Morgan '02 BFA to Christi Smith '02 BS.

Sarah Rousseau '02 BS to Scott Tyler '02 BS.

Laura Guizzetti '03 AAS to Gary Sovey.

Joseph Neumann '03 BS to Alison Granlund '04 BS.

Nathan Plescher '03 BS to Alisha Murphy '04 BS.

Michelle Tass '03 BS to Thomas Phelps, Jr.

Amy Durocher '04 BS to Wade Isham.

Kelly Fulsher '04 BSW to Dean Schultz.

Elizabeth Hubert '04 BSN to Adam Gillis.

Andrea Sherwood '04 BS to Joshua Maxwell.

## Deaths

Sylvia Lescelius '35 LC '46 BS, Sept. 15, 2004, Mass City.

Lila (Liimakka) Elliott '36 LC, Sept. 29, 2004, Ypsilanti.

Roy Brigman '37 BS, May 11, 2004, Traverse City.

Madelyn (Eggert) Dennis '38 BS, June 3, 2004, El Centro, Calif.

Clara (Teague) Gourd '38 BA, Dec. 29, 2003, Dearborn.

Albert Mercure '38 BA, Aug. 14, 2004, Milwaukee, Wis.

Arthur Kortesoja '39 BS, June 30, 2004, Ann Arbor.

Ford Borema '41 BA, Sept. 9, 2003, Melbourne, Fla.

Russell Christian '41 BA, June 29, 2004, Marquette.

Shirley (Blumquist) Nyquist '41, April 12, 2004, Marquette.

Harriet Goodman '43 BS, Oct. 1, 2004, Escanaba.

Kenneth Brami '48 BS, May 26, 2004, Marquette.

Donlin Pangborn '48 BA, July 26, 2004, Munising.

Peter Ghiardi '49 BA, Aug. 20, 2004, Three Lakes.

Harold Schoch '49 BS, Oct. 8, 2004, Ann Arbor.

Michael Anuta '50 BA, Sept. 9, 2004, Marinette, Wis.

Sally (Wood) Roth '50 BS, Aug. 15, 2004, Flushing.

Roland Sandell '50 BA, Aug. 25, 2004, Dearborn.

Laura Parsons '53 BS, May 23, 2004, Leesville, S.C.

Edward Guindon '55 BS, July 23, 2004, Escanaba.

Raymond Smith '56 BS, June 19, 2004, Dearborn.

Glenda (Paris) Robinson '57 BA, May 27, 2004, Marquette.

Bernard Givens '58 BS '62 MA, Oct. 23, 2003, Hancock.

Allan Hackmann '58 BS, July 17, 2004, Chassell.

Barry Torreano, Sr. '58 BS '60 MA, N.D., Chocoday Township.

John Bianchi '60 BS, Oct. 17, 2004, Negaunee.

Gerald Sturvist '61 BS, June 23, 2004, Jacobsville.

Theodore Anderson '62 BME '68 MA, July 23, 2004, Torch Lake.

Nancy Rantanen '63 BS, May 5, 2004, Munising.

John Isaacson '67 BS, June 5, 2004, Iron River.

Aleta (Bell) Arenz '69 BS '75 MAE, Aug. 22, 2004, Marquette.

Ronald Bolenz '69 MA, May 24, 2004, Battle Creek.

Carla (Chartier) Bonner '69 BA, Sept. 7, 2004, Grand Haven.

Al Prideaux '69 BS, Sept. 13, 2004, Ishpeming.

C. Alexander Moll '71 BS, Sept. 2, 2004, Paulding.

Herbert Boyle '72 BS, June 12, 2004, Marquette.

Richard Loomis, Jr. '72 BS, July 31, 2004, Otter Lake.

Michele (Ogea) Millimaki '72 BSN, Oct. 15, 2004, Ishpeming.

Darryl Dobrzanski, Sr. '73 BS '83 MS, Aug. 6, 2004, Gwinn.

Ronald Hill '73 BS, June 6, 2004, Jamestown, R.I.

Douglas Smith '75 MAE, Aug. 9, 2004, Hawkins, Wis.

Linda (Nykanen) Zimmerman '77 BS, April 24, 2004, Livonia.

Margaret (Peaden) Yelland '78 Cert., Sept. 26, 2004, Harvey.

Judith Miller '82 BSN, Sept. 7, 2004, Marquette.

Terry Schuller '82 BS, Oct. 5, 2004, Marquette.

Francine Malindzak '83 BS, Sept. 28, 2004, Marquette.

Ken Quinn '83 Dipl., May 10, 2004, Green Bay, Wis.

Sean Sullivan '83 Dipl., Sept. 9, 2004, L'Anse.

Gregory Revord '86 BS, May 25, 2004, Munising.

Elmer Heidtman, Jr. '90 Cert., May 12, 2004, Skandia.

JoAnne (Norie) Pietro '91 BS '02 MPA, Aug. 21, 2004, Negaunee.

David Rautiola '96 AS, July 18, 2004, Belmont.

Thomas Katona '00 MPA, June 12, 2004, Cornell.

Joseph Lesner III '00 BS, March 11, 2004, Ishpeming.

James Ruddy '03 BFA, Sept. 19, 2004, Flint.

Noah McNamara '04 AAS, July 3, 2004, Marquette.

## Friends

John Fassbender, June 24, 2004, Marquette. John worked in the Operations and Maintenance department at NMU for 20 years.

Gottfried Hogh, July 30, 2004, Ann Arbor. Gottfried taught biology at NMU from the mid 1960s until 1972.

Evelyn Nystrom, Aug. 28, 2004, Marquette. Evelyn worked in the Financial and Student Employment office at NMU for many years until her retirement in 1995.

Thomas Uhlinger, Sept. 22, 2004, Traverse City. Thomas was a professor in the Music Department at NMU from 1947-65. He conducted church choirs in addition to band, orchestra, and choral ensembles at NMU.

## Stay connected. Join today.

By becoming a member of the NMU Alumni Association, not only will you maintain your connection with your alma mater and receive a host of member-only benefits, you also will help provide valuable programs and services for current students and alumni. Memberships begin for as little as \$35 a year. For more information or to join, contact us at 1-877-GRAD-NMU, e-mail us at alumni@nmu.edu, or fill out our online membership form at [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni).



## Tell us what's new in your life

Stay in touch with your alma mater! Tell us your exciting news or personal updates so we can put it in Keeping Track. (Attach a separate page if you have a lot to say or don't want to write this small.) Include a recent photo if you have one—we may be able to use it.

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# The laws of complacency

By MARC BRINGMAN '78 MA



Marc Bringman and his grandson, Dante, discussing the flight characteristics of Superman. Marc is an author and freelance business management consultant in north Texas.

I remember while serving in the U.S. Air Force (K.I. Sawyer AFB), we lost a giant B-52 just a few miles south of Marquette. Perhaps some of the older alumni and residents of the Upper Peninsula will recall that day. The accident investigation found no mechanical problems, and all of us protested any thought of pilot error. We knew the crew members. They were good, very good. In fact, this crew was designated as the best in the Wing. They had logged countless flying hours, all were instructors, and some had even survived many flights over Hanoi. Surely, such talented and highly skilled people couldn't make such a fatal mistake. But they did.

Many times, there is a correlation between experience and mistakes, meaning, the better you are at your job, the more likely it is that you will get complacent.

One dictionary defines "complacent" as "contented to a fault." Complacency is an unintended and natural—albeit unfortunate—product of success. It happens to the most experienced people, and it is not limited to certain professions or skill sets. When pilots make a mistake, they are at work, just like you and me.

Complacency is a natural human flaw. It is not limited just to individuals; complacency occurs in teams, businesses and, yes, even nations. To understand complacency, one must accept it as an integral part of oneself.

Just as fish discover water last, so it is with humans and complacency.

Denial is the most significant problem with complacency. It grows out of the impression that we are infallible; things have gone so well for so long that we let our guard down. We become so sure of ourselves, we don't even prepare for trouble.

To properly combat complacency, one must plan for it. Put processes and procedures in place that force you to "see and avoid." I've learned a few things about complacency and compiled the following rules. I'll borrow from a familiar title and call them, "The Immutable Laws of Complacency:"

- Complacency is governed by natural law.
- Complacency is a by-product of success.
- Complacency occurs when you least expect it.
- Complacency can result in a positive reading of negative signals.
- Crisis management is not the solution to complacency.
- The better you are at what you do, the more likely it will happen to you.

Do not deny the existence of complacency in your life. It can and probably will happen to you, but with awareness (first step), acceptance, and preparation, complacency can be challenged and the effects can be substantially lessened. ■

NORTHERN PERSPECTIVE is a guest column open to all alumni, friends, faculty, and current students of Northern Michigan University. We welcome your personal essays, anecdotes, opinion pieces, short-short fiction or fiction excerpts, poetry, or images. Not all submissions will make it into the magazine, and *Horizons* will not return submissions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Text may be edited for space and clarity. If you would like to make a submission to Northern Perspective, send it by e-mail to horizons@nmu.edu, through the *Horizons* Web site at [www.nmu.edu/horizons](http://www.nmu.edu/horizons), or by mail to Editor, *Horizons*, Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855. Photographs should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

Live from Yost Arena in Ann Arbor, Michigan  
**NMU vs. Michigan Hockey**

Friday, January 28, 2005 • 7:35 pm EST

FOX Sports

The NMU Alumni  
Association brings you  
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Get together with your friends  
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face off against the Michigan  
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Last year, alumni held  
parties in Chicago, Battle Creek,  
St. Louis, Traverse City, and more.

For details on how to have a Wildcat Night  
in your area, contact the NMU Alumni Association  
at 1-877-GRAD NMU or e-mail us at [alumni@nmu.edu](mailto:alumni@nmu.edu).

**Start planning your  
Wildcat party today.**

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## I have so many wonderful memories of NMU.

I remember when I walked across the stage at graduation, a thousand things flashed through my mind. Every professor who had helped me along the way, every friend I had made, every test I had taken, the many "all nighters" I had pulled. They all led up to this moment. I was so proud to walk across the stage with all my friends and know that even though I was leaving Marquette, I could call Northern home for the rest of my life!

I joined the Alumni Association because it allows me to stay in touch with friends from near and far. And since I graduated so recently, it allows me never to lose touch in the first place.

Events like Wildcat Night Across the Country give everyone in the area a reason to come together. And the second I get my weekly edition of "What's New, NMU?" my phone starts ringing.

Without my participation in the Alumni Association, many of the activities and updates I get about Northern couldn't exist. I am so thankful for all that NMU has given me. This is just my small way of giving something back.

**Jennifer Giangrasso '03 BS. Member of the NMU Alumni Association since 2003.**

## Of course I'm a member.

**Are you? Consider joining the NMU Alumni Association today.**

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Photograph of Jennifer Giangrasso by Kim Marsh '80 BS.



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