

## Lost Alumni

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

Ronald Abel '78  
 Vivian Abercrombie '48  
 Kevin Bath '00  
 John Bauer '67  
 Douglas Bray '86  
 David Brewster '97  
 Hector Chavez '80  
 Kathryn Chenier '96  
 Julie Child '90  
 Mark Dyson '81  
 Rueben Eckardt '68  
 James Edberg '76  
 Brian Lakari '90  
 Alissa Landen '86  
 Peter Oczus '53

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.

Joseph H. Patterson '62  
 M. Ann (Aldrich) Patterson, '68  
 Gregory '85 and Carol (Koski) '77 Schwemin  
 Jeffrey J. Short '78  
 Nancy M. (Hanna) Berner, '79  
 Robert J. Deppen Jr., '79  
 Michael '88 and Aileen (Tibor) '82 Hoover  
 Tina (Keffer) Lewis '84  
 Lynnette M. (Brutsche) West '84  
 Shirley A. (Gedvillas) Timberman '85  
 Rebecca A. (Rogers) Burns '89  
 Benjamin '00 and Nicole (Stone) '00 and '02 Bates

## Join the Board

Would you like to be considered for the Alumni Association Board of Directors? Our organization relies on member participation!

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S NOTE

# Lessons of the Black Rocks

When you were in college, did you ever do anything crazy? I don't mean the foolish, sometimes dangerous types of things. We all have those stories (most are better off never discussed again). I mean did you ever do anything totally scary that took a lot of courage? Something you look back on now and say, "I can't believe I did that"? Like moving to a new place without having a job or a place to live? Changing majors in the first semester of your senior year? Taking that first "real" job in a field only loosely tied to your degree (and having to keep explaining the connection to your mom), but jumping in with everything you had? Choosing the Peace Corps instead of grad school?

Taking chances seemed so much easier when I was younger. Why is it that as we age we become less willing to take a risk; less willing to try something that may provide us the best experiences we'll ever have?

One thing that strikes me about the alumni featured in this issue of *Horizons* is what confident individuals they are and how that self-assurance has played a large role in their successes.

Is there something you've been dying to do, but can't get up the courage? Maybe it's time to take that risk; put yourself out there. Northern gave us the confidence to believe in ourselves. If there's anything that I have learned over the years, it's that those of us who had the Northern experience can do just about anything we put our minds to.



Thinking of going back to school? Considering a job or career change? Considering a life change? Remember how you felt when you were in college, when the attitude was, "I can do anything," and we pretty much did!

As you ponder taking that leap into a new adventure, remember what we learned as NMU students jumping off the Black Rocks. Looking down never helped. You couldn't worry about form or how cold the water might be or you'd never leave the cliff. We just simply had to jump. But do you remember that rush as you came up for air—your fear left at the bottom of Lake Superior?

Sometimes you have to close your eyes and just take one step in the right direction to have a chance to experience that kind of exhilarating, triumphant moment again.

—Garnet Lewis '86 MA  
 President, NMU Alumni Association

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.

### THREE JOIN ALUMNI STAFF

**Maryellen "Mel" (Poutanen) Charbonneau '02** has been hired as assistant director of alumni operations at NMU. Charbonneau (mcharbon@nmu.edu) is responsible for managing membership and other revenue-generating programs such as the NMU license plate, the affinity credit card, alumni travel and merchandising.

Before joining NMU, she worked for the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Business as an outreach specialist. Prior to that, she was a junior associate at a Madison-based communications firm. She is currently working



Mel Charbonneau

Charbonneau was a member of the women's varsity basketball team, the Public Relations Student Society of America, and an active participant in the Washington Center Intern Program. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

on her master's degree at UW-Madison in strategic communication.

As a student at NMU,

Two other new alumni staff members are senior secretaries Erin Carlson and Julie Djupe.

Carlson (ecarlson@nmu.edu) is responsible for managing the monetary aspects of the NMU Alumni Association. She handles the membership benefits and free e-mail for life program. She also is a junior working on a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in journalism.

Djupe (jdjupe@nmu.edu) handles communications with the alumni board, serves as the primary office contact for alumni events and activities, and coordinates day-to-day office administrative details.

All three can be reached by calling 906-227-2610.

### ALUMNI CONSTITUENT SOCIETIES

The NMU Alumni Association board has approved a new policy on alumni constituent societies (ACS). An alumni constituent society or club would consist of alumni and friends of Northern Michigan University who have common interests due to their academic affiliation, former student groups and/or employment; their cultural, geographical or professional interests; and their desire to meet on a regular basis.

"Over the years there have been numerous discussions as to whether the Alumni Association should support the creation of small alumni groups—called alumni clubs, chapters or societies," said Deanna Hemmila, director of alumni operations. "Obviously, there are many positives to having NMU alumni societies around the country, but there were also some concerns and challenges we needed to work through, in particular how to sustain involvement for the long term, and ensure that groups are not taking any action that conflicts with the mission of the Alumni Association or the university. I think the board committee that worked on this proposal came up with a way to address these questions."

The policy states that 20 dues-paying NMU Alumni Association members must sign a petition in order to form an alumni constituent society. The peti-

tion must then be submitted to the Alumni Association board and, if approved, would grant recognition of the ACS for a two-year period. Formal recognition of the group would be granted after the initial two years if the club continued to meet the ACS guidelines.

The guidelines include such things as actively cultivating new members for the Alumni Association, supporting and helping to fulfill the mission of the NMU Alumni Association and NMU, and conducting at least one meeting or event each year for club members that shows support for the university.

"These clubs would bring people who care about Northern together on a regular basis. They could be organized based on geographical location, such as the NMU Alumni Society of Southeast Michigan, or on some other commonality such as the NMU Political Science Alumni Society," said **David Gregory '92 BS**, chair of the board's alumni involvement committee.

For complete ACS guidelines or an application, e-mail alumni@nmu.edu or go to [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni).

#### In the Detroit area? Looking to meet alumni?

Look for a society meeting coming up as early as November. If you would like to help make this club active, contact David Wirth '72 at [wirth1201@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wirth1201@sbcglobal.net) or 313-539-8101.