

## Lifetime Members

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

Kathleen J. and Richard L. Bowersox '77  
 Linda J. (Richards) Diebolt '82  
 Bridget L. (Mitchell) Dodson '00  
 Patti J. (Matchett) Effertz '89  
 Diane M. (Hon) Gothard '75  
 Amy L. (Emery) '97 and Jason C. Graunke '97  
 Thomas S. Hegerich '69  
 Joseph H. Helms '72  
 Roni R. (Carlson) '95 and Reade L. Hubert '93  
 Stephen G. Lakotish '81  
 Ann Marie (Mickalich) '78 and Dr. Dale Larson '76  
 Keriann M. Oertell '06  
 Tricia (Simo) Kush '90  
 Allison M. Watkins '99

*Did you know benefits of being a member of the Alumni Association include discounts on:*

- Group insurance
- Lodging and car rental
- NMU merchandise and events
- Office supplies
- Cellular phone service
- PEIF recreation passes

*To learn more 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.*

# Alumni Awards

Four Northern Michigan University alumni are recipients of the 2007 Alumni Awards. They are: **Peggy Sue Barber '89 BS** of Bay City, Mich., alumni achievement; **Nicole Meloche '94 BS** of San Clemente, Calif., outstanding young alumni; **Frederick "Fritz" Nelson '73 BS** of Newark, Del., distinguished alumni; and **Mel Vaara '55 BS** of Clarkston, Mich., alumni service.

Barber is a professor of health and wellness at Delta College, where she is also the lifelong wellness discipline coordinator. She is the co-author of Delta College's required lifelong wellness textbook and a personal trainer and strength and conditioning consultant for area high schools. She is involved in Michigan's National Strength and Conditioning Association and is in her second year as state director. She was the 2002 Amateur Team Universe national fitness champion. Barber is an International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness professional and is certified as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist and by the American College of Sports Medicine. She graduated from NMU in 1989.

Meloche, a Marquette native and mother of five, is a highly successful entrepreneur and community activist. Through merging and purchasing local companies, she created one of the strongest Internet development companies in the San Clemente, Calif., area. She helped to grow the business to several million dollars in sales. Meloche is president of a real estate company and has



*The recipients are shown with NMU President Les Wong. Pictured, left to right, are Frederick "Fritz" Nelson, Peggy Sue Barber, Nicole Meloche, and Mel Vaara.*

helped the company grow to \$50 million in sales since 2004. The 1994 NMU graduate was honored last year by California's first lady, Maria Shriver, for her volunteer work in the pioneering program Samantha's Pride.

Nelson is a geography professor, specializing in permafrost science, at the University of Delaware. His research has been published in the world's leading scientific publications and has taken him to Alaska, Siberia, Mongolia and Tibet. In 2004, he was elected as a national fellow of the Explorers Club of New York City—a status reserved for individuals who have made great contributions to exploration and science. Last year, Nelson served as president of the U.S. Permafrost Association. He has been involved in a great deal of service work on behalf of geographical and scientific professions. His most recent project involved the creation of the Huron Mountain Climate Observation Network near Big Bay. Nelson graduated from NMU in 1973.

Vaara, a 1955 NMU graduate,

is a retired assistant superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools in Clarkston, Mich. He has been highly committed to and involved with NMU for many years. Vaara never hesitates to take the opportunity to introduce Clarkston students to the Northern experience and has helped students and student athletes secure financial resources to attend college. He has served on the Independence Township Board of Trustees, is an active member of the Detroit area alumni club, and has served on the NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors for seven years.

The NMU Alumni Association Awards are presented to individuals who have received an associate, bachelor's, master's or educational specialist degree from NMU.



Check out our new Web site—at [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni)—and all of its easy-to-find-and-use features. We'd love to hear what you think about it!

## Welcoming our new board members



Five new Alumni Association Board of Directors members began their terms at the annual meeting in October. Shown with President **Joe Evans '81 BS, '83 MA** (center, front row) are **Dennis Ware '84 BS** and **Dr. Robert Archibald '70 BA, '72 MA** (front) and **Mary Snyder '98,**

**Kelly Wagner '98 BS** and **Nicole Kreis '01 BS** (back row).

**Garn Lewis '86 MA, Don Hartman '65 BS, '71 MAE** and **Kelly Goldman '94 BS** all finished their board terms at the annual meeting. They were honored for their contributions at the Alumni Awards Brunch.

## The Northern Network keeps growing!

More than 3,600 NMU alumni are registered in the online professional site, the Northern Network.

As it continues to grow, many improvements have been made to the site. New this month, users can request exclusive referrals from trusted members of the NMU community who post open positions in their company. NMU referrals can help the job seeker get his or her resume to the top of the pile.

The Northern Network can also help members plan an event or reunion. After an event is created, members are able to RSVP, add a comment or even let the planner know how many guests they're bringing. Alumni can also view who is attending and change their response if plans change.

Several other modifications have been made to the searching capabilities. It's now even easier to find that long-lost friend or dream job.

The Alumni Association would love to hear about your Northern Network success story. If you or someone you know has landed a dream job or reconnected with former roommates or classmates as a result of the Northern Network, please let us know.

Visit the NMU Alumni Association Web site to log in.

## What's New NMU?

The Alumni Association's weekly e-update, *What's New, NMU?*, is a great way to receive the latest news and updates about Northern, along with details about alumni events in your area.

Subscriptions are free. All you need is an e-mail address and Internet access. Updates arrive in your e-mail inbox each Monday.

*What's New, NMU?* is just one of the many benefits made possible by Alumni Association membership.

Stay connected to Northern. Subscribe today at [www.nmu.edu/alumni](http://www.nmu.edu/alumni).