There has been an important change of guard at the college. Earlier this summer, Dean Rajib Sanyal resigned to take up the deanship of the Miller College of Business at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. In his four years here, he provided energetic and imaginative leadership, raised the profile of the college and made connecting with alumni a high priority. We wish him success in his new appointment. I am again serving as interim dean for the 2009-2010 academic year. Having served during the 2004-2005 academic year, I am well aware of the opportunities and challenges ahead. I especially look forward to working with you and moving the College of Business forward.

Together with the rest of the country, indeed the world, we at Northern Michigan University have been severely impacted by the sharp downturn in the economy. Financial markets collapsed, retirement portfolios shrank along with dreams of a secure future. Our global recession has left most of us a bit dazed and in search of answers. Hopefully, we realize that blaming our problems entirely on the Bernie Madoffs or Enrons of the world is too simple, and that we can’t fix the problem with only Sarbanes-Oxley-type legislation. This financial situation offers a unique opportunity for our business students to question and learn. It offers our faculty a unique opportunity to mentor and challenge our students to become effective business leaders equipped to deal with the uncertainties ahead.

Despite these challenges, we remain focused on providing our students a highly affordable and high-quality business education. In this issue, you will read about several programs that do just that. The second annual New Business Venture Competition, supported by prize monies provided by alumni, showcased the entrepreneurial zeal of several of our students. The college is working on a business incubator to help these creative students and others grow their nascent businesses. You will also read about the International Information Technology Student Conference, which the college hosted last year. It brought to Marquette students from several European countries for a week of hands-on team-building and learning exercises. On that theme, we showcase in this issue a few of our alumni and students who are using their education in information systems to advance their careers.

New curriculum initiatives are under way. The curriculum for the MBA program is ready and will be presented this fall for approval by the university. Thanks to the generosity of Ernie Telford ’69, we are moving forward with developing a program in insurance and actuarial science. Last year, we hosted several industry experts on campus who provided students valuable perspectives on the world of business. Gloria (Juntilla) Jackson ’69 was our Fall 2008 commencement speaker and she also announced a very generous scholarship program to support international study and travel among our students. Because of your support, we are able to help students go on field trips outside of Marquette and to participate in transformative experiential learning activities.

The college deeply values its relationship with its nearly 7,800 alumni and strives to engage all of you in its aspirations. Your support and goodwill allows us to offer our students many more opportunities than we would otherwise be able to. We always welcome your counsel and support, and look forward to strengthening these ties. Please make a point of letting us know how you are doing and stop in and visit us at anytime.

Sincerely,
Sam Graci, Interim Dean
Contents

Fall 2009

FEATURES

4 Behind Big Blue
5 A Whiz Kid in Camouflage
6 Network Ready
7 Bridging the Borders of Technology

STUDENT FOCUS

8 Students Shine in Business Plan Competition
9 Student News

COLLEGE NEWS

10 Events and programs sponsored by the College of Business
11 Faculty Facts

ALUMNI UPDATES

12 News from College of Business grads
15 Scholarships and Awards

On the cover: Students collaborate and compete in the 2009 International Information Technology Student Seminar held on the campus of NMU.

Printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified recycled paper

A sampling of the fused glass jewelry, vases and decorative items created by New Business Competition first-place winner Alysa Diebolt for her business M@M.

Page 8

United National Group President Scott Reynolds discussed opportunities available to graduates in the insurance industry, even in tough economic times.

Page 10

Barb Urbanski ’76 BSN, Nancy Pykoz and Linda Schink ’76 BS, ’80 MAE, at last year’s College of Business Homecoming Reception. This year’s will be held on September 25.
Behind Big Blue
Keeping an eye on the legal issues of technology

Being a computer programmer requires a special brand of intelligence and strategy, as does being a lawyer. **Jeff Thompson ’84** has managed to combine both into a successful career at IBM.

He has worked for the world’s largest computer technology company for nearly 25 years in and around New York City. Born and raised in New Haven, just north of Detroit, Jeff got his undergraduate degree with a major in information systems from Northern Michigan University. This provided his basis for understanding software and modern software development practices, including proprietary and open source development models. “This formed a solid foundation for my work within IBM, initially as a programmer and subsequently as an IBM software lawyer,” Jeff explains.

After graduating, he worked for IBM as a programmer supporting hardware development at its laboratory in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. During this time he obtained a master’s degree in computer science from Marist College in 1988. He subsequently transferred to IBM’s litigation support team as a programmer, obtained a law degree from Pace University and began working in IBM’s Law Department.

“We advise on legal considerations related to state-of-the-art software technologies, such as Software as a Service, emerging social networking tools and other developing technologies.”

As counsel for the Software Group at IBM, he provides legal support for the group’s Strategy and Technology organization, as well as for a number of product development teams. He explains, “We advise on legal considerations related to state-of-the-art software technologies, such as Software as a Service, emerging social networking tools and other developing technologies. We support IBM’s open software standards team and provide advice on the company’s participation in the development of open source projects, including IBM’s participation in the Apache and Eclipse Foundations.” (The foundations are two of the leading organizations in the open source community.)

Jeff has many fond memories of his days at Northern. “I liked the area—easy access to the outdoors—hiking, snowshoeing, skiing. Any school can give you a solid education if you work for it. What makes NMU so special is the environment and this is what drew me there.” He recalls the end-of-year picnic, participating in the ACM Programming Competition (“where we won the first round, but got crushed in the next”) and working backstage at the Forest Roberts Theatre. But it is the outdoors and weather that has left an indelible mark. “Going hiking with my friends on the only day that they closed school on account of weather during the four years I was there (temperatures of 30 below zero with 50-knot winds); riding my bicycle in the snow; and standing stunned at the beauty of the northern lights,” are a few special instances he recalls. He still maintains ties with Northern, periodically exchanging notes with old friends, such as Charley Montney and David Prychitko.

Jeff lives in Hopewell Junction, N.Y., with his wife, Beth, and children Jenny and Matt. The family loves to ski and Jeff also practices Tae Kwon Do. Although he doesn’t program for a living anymore, he still hacks from time to time, “mostly when trying to figure out things like the odds of winning a particular battle when playing Risk with Matt.” •
Going from the Army to college to work and into the National Guard says something about the fortitude of Jeffrey Martin ’03. Not to mention also being a father of three.

Born and raised in Ishpeming, after finishing high school he served on active duty in the United States Army from 1997-2001 before choosing to return home and attend Northern. Not only did he study computer information systems with specialization in networking, he applied these skills working for Computer Associates of Marquette while earning his degree.

“During this time I had the privilege of meeting a lot of people and working with many different types of businesses,” Jeff says, feeling that his choice of major was a good one. “I had spent numerous hours in front of my personal computer learning and playing with various technologies, such as servers, networking, routers, etc. I felt that if I was passionate enough about the technology in my spare time it would be a good fit to make a career out of it.”

At Northern, Jeff also built upon his military experience, completing the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. After graduation, he was commissioned in the United States Army and served in the Michigan National Guard until February 2007 as a training officer and battalion intelligence officer.

Since last fall, Jeff has been working as the information technology manager for the U.P. Catholic Credit Union, based in Marquette. He manages the credit union’s entire network/server infrastructure, provides technology support and training, analyzes technology requirements and develops specifications for system enhancements and upgrades.

One aspect of his Northern education that Jeffrey has especially come to value is his ability to speak in public. “Throughout my time at Northern, it seemed I was always having to conduct oral presentations! Just about every class I took had at least one oral presentation assignment. I have to admit that I feel very fortunate to have had to make these presentations. I was never a very strong public speaker and I feel that was one of the most positive impacts on my career.”

Despite his passion for his field of work, ironically, Jeff does not have a single computer in his home. “I occasionally bring my laptop home from work, but even then I rarely turn it on. I still enjoy working with technology at work, but focus on family time when I am at home.” With three young children—Alisyn, Lauryn and Aiden—family time is important. In his spare time, he enjoys the bike path for mountain biking and rollerblading. He also coaches Lauryn’s soccer team.

Another aspect of Jeff’s Northern education that may have contributed to his fortitude was working as a parking attendant at the Wildcat hockey games. He recalls “standing outside, almost always freezing, selling parking passes to excited hockey fans and then getting to attend the remaining two periods of play.” Another was rappelling from the center of the Superior Dome with the football game ball and performing color guard as an ROTC cadet in front of all the fans.

Jeff adds that what he learned at Northern sticks with him. “My most memorable class at NMU was systems analysis and design, taught by Professor Poindexter. It was one of the hardest classes I took for my degree, but ultimately the most realistic and rewarding. To this day, I still find myself applying numerous concepts I learned from the class.”
Christopher Hutte ’09 just completed his degree in computer information systems, concentrating in network administration, and feels very well prepared for the job market—even in ways he didn’t expect.

“The program has been great. The faculty really care about you. They are knowledgeable, provide personalized attention and are willing to stay and meet with you to get you through the classes. It is a good combination of business and computer experience.” The experiential aspects of the curriculum have been very appealing to him. “We have taken field trips to see actual IT systems at work. We are also using all different types of software, including simulations. We have software where we can develop fake IT systems with fake users,” a system that’s useful for pre-release testing.

Chris, who is from the small town of Park Falls, Wis., visited Northern Michigan University with friends who had chosen to study here and fell in love with what Marquette had to offer. “It was a city comparable to Park Falls. But it also had a lot of stuff to do outdoors and you didn’t have to travel far to do it.”

Looking back, he has no regrets about his choice, “This is a great area and the people are nice. NMU isn’t too big or small. It is affordable, the faculty and staff are very friendly and helpful. Several of my friends have left NMU to go to other schools and from what I hear from them, our school seems to have people that care much more for the students.” He also marvels, “I was able to take courses I wouldn’t have taken elsewhere, such as snowshoeing and intro to wildland firefighting—that was really interesting!”

Chris has also taken advantage of the many extracurricular opportunities that the university offers. For example, he was a DJ at the campus radio station, Radio X, and has been a member of First Aid Productions, an independent student music collective that offers concerts every semester and promotes other forms of sub-culture media.

But working at the university’s computer Help Desk for the past two years has really helped him to combine his technical knowledge with people skills. “I like that type of work—helping people. I have learned a lot about networks. But I have also learned a lot about communication. I am now a much better communicator and more confident. I knew I needed to improve, but when I look back, I see how much I have changed. I also learned a lot about working with people, customers and customer service training.”

Chris would like to stay in the Marquette area after graduation. He has come to love this place where he can network with nature—hiking, biking, going to the beach and snowshoeing. And with his many skills, he is in a good position to be the multi-talented, flexible employee sought by today’s companies.

“I have learned a lot about networks. But I have also learned a lot about communication. I am now a much better communicator and more confident.”
Bridging the Borders of Technology
Northern hosts international IT seminar, furthering student collaborative learning

I expected to meet people from countries that I have never been to nor did I know a lot about their culture,” said Eric Ferrary, a computer information systems major participating in the fourth annual International Information Technology Student Seminar hosted by the College of Business last February in Marquette.

“I also obviously expected to learn about technology and how it was used over there and what they thought about our laptop program and how they were taught in comparison to Northern Michigan University. After attending the seminar, all my expectations were pretty much met.” Five faculty members and 23 upper-division computer information systems and computer science students from NMU, Denmark, Finland and Spain participated in the weeklong event that involved learning, sharing, international team building and socializing.

The students were placed into multinational teams to learn about similarities and differences between computing programs, student life and careers in other countries. A variety of technology topics were presented during the morning sessions, followed by workshops where students worked together in their multinational teams on a wide range of IT-related topics, including robotics, programming, systems development and Web site usability. Each team presented the results of its work. Evening professional activities included a tour and informational presentation by David Ollila, president of V.I.O., Inc., producers of helmet recording gear; and a customized planetarium show demonstrating the software and programming behind the scenes. An evening of snowshoeing and Native American culture was held at the Presque Isle Pavilion and guided by Kenn Pitawananawat, a Native American instructor at Northern.

In previous years, the event was held in Madrid, Copenhagen and Helsinki. Professor Sandra Poindexter, the NMU faculty facilitator, said, “This innovative learning environment gives both students and instructors an opportunity to talk in-depth about the similarities and differences with their peers from another country. Each year, the event is slightly revised based upon feedback from the student participants.”

College of Business students have participated every year in this program. This year, they had the opportunity to host their European counterparts and introduce them to the many unique aspects of Northern Michigan University, from its universal use of laptops to the pristine natural beauty of its location.

**Students worked together in their multinational teams on a wide range of IT-related topics including robotics, programming, systems development and Web site usability.**

NMU students wrote reflections of their experience as part of the course. Two students created a Web site, [http://cob.nmu.edu/itseminar/2009](http://cob.nmu.edu/itseminar/2009), to journal the events with text and photos, preserve their experiences and encourage future students to participate. All students reflected on the one-on-one cultural exchanges and ability to share career-oriented discussion. “Working and interacting with other people from different countries was quite a fascinating experience. It offered me the possibility to learn how to relate, adapt and understand different ways of thinking and cultures,” commented Asanteeli Makundi, an NMU participant.
Students Shine in Business Plan Competition

On competition day of the second annual New Business Venture Competition, five finalists presented their business plans to a panel of judges. They had been selected from a pool of nearly two dozen budding entrepreneurs from across campus who answered the call to submit preliminary business ideas for this year’s competition. The first prize of $4,000 was won by Alysa Diebolt, a sophomore from Rock, Mich., majoring in marketing, for her business M@M (pronounced “madam”) which designs, produces and sells home decorating and jewelry products made from fusing glass. She also won the 60-second elevator pitch and her business display won the trade fair competition—each a prize of $500. The second prize of $2,500 was won by Christina Brazinski, graduate student from Lisle, Ill., majoring in elementary education, for her proposal, Hand Struck, a venture to design and sell a line of handmade clothes for winter weather wear. Brittney Alden, a senior from Lansing, Mich., majoring in entrepreneurship, won the third prize of $1,500 for her business idea “Cool Cakes”—making and selling ice cream cakes. The two other finalists were William Beacom, a freshman from Midland, Mich., who proposed an import business to distribute soft drinks from Scotland, and Justin Carlson, a freshman from Ishpeming, Mich., who proposed a business to provide environmentally sensitive lawn care service.

Prizes for this year’s competition were provided by Susan and Peter Reijula ’76, Douglas Menzies ’81, Northern Michigan Bank and by an endowment created by Ervin Kranberg ’71, co-founder and president of Professional Liability Brokers & Consultants, Inc., a wholesale broker in the professional liability insurance industry. The organization of the event was supported through a grant from the Michigan Initiative for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The judges for this year’s competition were: Terrence Dehring ’78, ’81, president of Quick Trophy; John Hust, CEO of Shelter Bay Tomato Company; Robert Jacquart, president of Jacquart Fabric Products; Robert Martin ’88, executive vice president of Range Bank; and Eric St. Germain ’88, president of Summit Capital Finance. They reviewed the written business plans and scored the contestants on their trade fair display, elevator pitch, and oral presentation of their business ideas.

The New Business Venture Competition is designed to encourage entrepreneurial activism among students by recognizing and rewarding those who present detailed plans for designing and creating new business enterprises, drawing on their own ideas and inventions or those of others. The competition is a complement to the academic programs in entrepreneurship offered at Northern Michigan University.

To learn more about the competition, which is organized by the College of Business, visit www.nmu.edu/bizplancompetition.

You can support the New Business Venture Competition in many ways—providing prize money, serving as a judge or a mentor, sponsoring the organizing costs or helping the winners translate their business plans into reality. Please contact Michael Nelson, development officer, at mnelson@nmu.edu for more information.
Exceptional students

Matthew J. Franti, who graduated in December 2008 with a major in accounting and a perfect 4.0 grade point average, was selected as the College of Business’s choice for several honors. A native of Bruce Crossing, Matt was the recipient of five different scholarships—NMU Merit Excellence, Michigan Robert C. Byrd, NMU Keith Forsberg Accounting, Thrivent Financial and U. P. Sports Hall of Fame. Matt worked as an intramural official for NMU and as a teller with Wells Fargo Bank while attending Northern. He is currently a staff auditor with the Marquette public accounting firm, Makela, Toutant, Hill, and Nardi, P.C.

Also honored was Sara Blomquist, who graduated in December 2008. She had a grade point average of 3.9 as an accountancy/corporate finance major. She earned a Michigan Accountancy Foundation Scholarship in a statewide competition. Sara was active in many student organizations, serving as president of Beta Alpha Psi and chair of the dean’s student advisory council. Sara now works for KPMG, a Big Four accounting firm, in Minneapolis.

Beta Alpha Psi Impresses

The Lambda Iota collegiate chapter of Beta Alpha Psi—the honors organization for financial information professionals—was recognized by the parent organization as a “Distinguished Chapter” for its successful efforts during the 2007-08 academic year. In her comments, the president of Beta Alpha Psi noted, “Under the leadership of Charles Rayhorn, the Lambda Iota has far exceeded the minimum requirements of Beta Alpha Psi, and has excelled in the areas of academics, professionalism and leadership.”

College of Business Student Profile

Number of students — 855

Where do they come from?

Michigan—78%
  Upper Peninsula—56%
  Downstate—22%

Illinois—7%

Wisconsin—7%

Minnesota—2%

Other states—4%

Outside the U.S.A.—2%

What are the most popular majors?

Management—18%

Marketing—15%

Accounting—14%

What are their gender and race?

Females—43%

Males—57%

White—88%

Black—3%

Native American—2%

How old are they?

Females—23.4

Males—21.9

Source: Institutional Research, Northern Michigan University, Fall 2008 profile
Distinguished Visitors

The college recently hosted several visitors who spoke on a wide range of subjects. Ted Baartmans, a consultant on leadership in crisis situations, spoke on the characteristics of effective leaders; Diane Crosier, executive director, Risk Management, San Diego County and Imperial County Schools, spoke about managing risk in a massive school district; John Shuler, investigator-Investigations Team, Target, Inc., discussed the nature and extent of merchandise loss and theft in the retail industry; and Scott Reynolds, president, United National Group, provided perspectives on the opportunities available in the insurance industry even in difficult economic times. John Withers ’80, vice president, North America sales and marketing, for Edwards LifeSciences, served as the Executive in Residence last fall. The college organized a reception for two guests from Brazil, who were on campus courtesy of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. They were Marcel Botelho of the Universidade Federal Rural da Amazonia and Joel Yutaka Sugano of the Universidade Federal de Lavras. Botelho is the project director for the Brazil portion of this bi-national, multi-university and multi-year grant, in which NMU is a partner. Sugano is a professor in the department of Business and Economy.

College Explores Program in Insurance

Encouraged and supported by Ernie Telford ’69, the College of Business, in partnership with the Mathematics Department, is developing academic programs in insurance/risk management and in actuarial science. Telford founded Wholesale Brokerage Company, which he recently sold. David Rayome, professor of finance, is coordinating the development of the program.

Continuing Education Programs Offered for Accounting and Financial Professionals

The College of Business offers a series of seminars to meet the continuing education needs of area accounting and financial professionals. The seminars enrolled over 200 participants this year. They were facilitated by industry practitioners and College of Business faculty. If you would like to attend these seminars (which offer continuing education units), visit our Web site at www.nmu.edu/CPE.
Understanding the economy

To understand the complexity of the financial meltdown that began last fall, the college brought together a team of local financial experts to discuss the subject. Daniel Konku, assistant professor of finance, moderated the discussion. The speakers were (from left) Rich Tegge of Wealth Strategy Group, Bill Hetrick of Hetrick & Associates Insurance Agency, Mike Skytta of Northern Michigan Bank and Stu Bradley of Edward Jones.

Faculty Facts

• **Raymond Amtmann** has won a Department of Education grant of $220,000. In cooperation with Western Illinois University and two Brazilian universities, Amtmann, instructor in the college, received a four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Northern Michigan University is the lead institution for this grant, which focuses on preparing U.S. and Brazilian students for highly skilled jobs that require expertise in entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility and sustainable economic development. To achieve this goal, the partnering universities have identified six objectives relating to the creation of academic programs, collaborative projects, language courses in English and Portuguese, student exchanges and internships, faculty participation and project sustainability. Over a four-year period, it is anticipated that approximately 20 students from the United States and 20 from Brazil will participate in the exchange program.

• **Glenna Pendleton** (right) completed her doctorate in marketing from Cleveland State University and has been promoted to assistant professor.

• **David Rayome** has been promoted to the rank of professor.

• **Charles Wolfe**, instructor in entrepreneurship, was selected by the students as the College of Business Teacher of the Year.

• **Sandra Poindexter, Carol Steinhaus** and their colleagues on the academic service learning advisory board received the university’s Distinguished Team Award for 2009. The award recognizes those teams that demonstrate exemplary performance and/or innovation while working together in an open and collaborative manner to achieve a task or charge that furthers the university’s mission and goals.

• **New Appointments**
  
  Larry Stephens joined the accounting program and will teach tax courses. He holds a Master of Law (Taxation) degree from Michigan State University.

• **Years-of-Service Milestones**
  
  Three College of Business faculty members were honored by the university for reaching various years-of-service milestones. They are: 30 years, Samuel Graci, accounting; and Bruce Sherony, entrepreneurship; 20 years, Charles Rayhorn, finance. Congratulations!
Alumni updates

Please keep us informed about the changes in your career, life and address. You can easily do that by sending us the information, including pictures, by e-mail to bizdean@nmu.edu with “Alumni News” in the subject line.

2000-2008

Robley T. Carpenter II ’08 is an investment consultant with Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services in Orlando, Fla.

Kelly Kolinsky ’08 is an account manager in the personal insurance division of Hetrick & Associates Insurance Agency in Marquette. She is also a licensed agent for property and casualty insurance in Michigan.

Heather Lidbeck ’08 is an account manager in the personal insurance division at Hetrick & Associates Insurance Agency in Marquette.

Michael Ansell-Edward ’07 is a financial adviser with Edward Jones in Marquette.

Kaylie Christensen ’07 is a sales floor executive at Target in Marquette. Kaylie thanks the NMU job fair in October 2007 for landing the job; that is where she spoke with the two Northern alumni who were currently employed at the local store. “This meeting provided me with information about the company and an opportunity to set up an interview. Now I have the privilege of returning to the job fairs to recruit talented young graduates for our internship and executive opportunities at Target.”

Lukas Mullins ’07 is a district manager for Royal Canin USA, a producer of premium dog and cat food.

Molly Erin Niepeth ’07 married Kevin Roussin in September. Molly is employed by Menards in Marquette. The couple resides in Ishpeming.

Jennifer Leigh Perry ’07 is employed by Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan, in Marquette. In November 2008, she married Justin Jeffrey LePage ’07. He is employed by Wells Fargo Bank.

Adam Rebella ’07 is a credit analyst with American Community Bank & Trust in Woodstock, Ill.

Michael Reed ’07 is employed by Hetrick & Associates Insurance Agency. Last August, he married Lauren Hosworth ’07. The couple resides in Marquette.

Brad Dahl ’06 has joined DSTECH, Inc. of Escanaba as a network technician.

Holly Greenamyre ’06 of Littleton, Colo. owns a Farmers Insurance Group agency.

Michele Lee Kipling ’06 married Jon DeVold in August 2008. Michele is employed by Bell Medical Center in Ishpeming.

Nicole M. Klenc ’06 is a staff accountant with Makela, Toutant, Hill & Nardi, P.C., an accounting firm in Marquette.


Kerry Bairski ’05 is employed as a department manager at Menards in South Haven. In November 2008, he married Sara Helppi. The couple live in Holland.

Marcus Doxey ’05 of Holt, has been promoted to senior accountant in the firm of Andrews Hooper & Pavlik.

Holly Sorensen ’05 is a sales account executive at WLUC TV6, out of the Iron Mountain/Kingsford bureau office.

James Francis Tasson ’05 married Nicole Gugin last September and the couple lives in Appleton, Wis. James is a systems administrator with eLoyalty Corp.

Ross M. Anthony ’04 is a home mortgage consultant with Wells Fargo Bank and is based in Marquette.

Daniel Blondeau ’04 is economic development coordinator at Lake Superior Community Partnership in Marquette. Before this move, he held the position of marketing and product manager with Pettibone/Traverse Lift LLC in Baraga.

John Fitzgerald ’04 is a financial analyst with Morgan Stanley, based in Vineland, N.J.

Robert Rustman ’04 completed his MBA specializing in human resource management from the University of Phoenix and has been promoted to area HR manager for the State of Wisconsin for Securitas Security Services U.S.A. He is based in West Allis, Wis.

Timothy Tanis ’04 is compensation manager at the head office of Cabela’s, an outdoors equipment retail chain. He recently passed the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) exam. Tim lives in Sidney, Neb., with his wife, Angela Graves ’06, who is an administrative assistant at Cabela’s.

Jessica Hockenson ’03 wed Daniel Stevenson ’05 last June. The couple resides in Marquette.

Melissa Prudom ’01 is the local sales manager for the Upper Peninsula for Charter Media. She is based in Marquette.

1990-1999

Deborah Byerley ’99 is the secretary for the MBA program at the Doermer School of Business and Management Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Worth, Ind.

Daniel Wentarmini ’98 married Melissa Shorkey in December. Daniel is employed by Champion, Inc. as chief financial officer. The newlyweds live in Iron Mountain.
Michael Bell ’97 is an assistant engineer with the Vanguard Group. He lives in Downingtown, Pa.

Renee Garbett ’97 is employed as a registration specialist in the Admitting Department of Marquette General Health Systems in Marquette.

Bryan Hyska ’95 is the Wells Fargo Bank business banking manager for Michigan and North Central Wisconsin, based in Escanaba. Bryan also is a coach for the Escanaba Area Junior Hockey Association.

Trish (Garrette) Robinson ’97 is the store manager of the University Office of Wells Fargo Bank in Marquette. Trish is celebrating her 20th year with the bank. She is married to Dan Robinson ’82 Voc., ’94 85.

Jodi L. (Davis) Golisek ’94, ’95 works in the Development and Accounting Department of the Sigma One Group in Neenah, Wis.

Kristen Portale ’94, benefits manager at Northern Michigan University, married K. C. Bjorne ’01 in December. KC is the branch manager for Superior Iron Range community Federal Credit Union in Marquette. (pictured above)

Ron H. Bennetts ’93 was promoted to vice president of commercial lending (Northern District) at Northern Michigan Bank & Trust in Marquette. Ron joined the bank in 1995 as a branch manager. He lives in Harvey with his wife and son.

Hong Shao ’93 was inducted into the NMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. She competed in swimming and currently lives in California.

E. J. Kostreva ’93 is promoted to president of the Northern District of Northern Michigan Bank & Trust, based in Marquette.

Ken Liimatta ’92 is the training and development manager with Schneider National, Inc. in Green Bay, Wis.

Michael J. Lee ’91 is director of national accounts for Bard Urological Division, a unit of C.R. Bard, Inc. He is based in West Bend, Wis.

Joel Schultz ’91 is regional director of Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, based in Escanaba.

Angela Knauss ’90 is vice president at Range Bank. She resides in Marquette with her husband Eric and son Jacob.

1980-1989

Beth Swanson ’89 is an administrative assistant for the firm’s executive management team of Hetrick & Associates Insurance Agency in Marquette and is also responsible for the management of human resources.

Michael Kolasa ’87 is vice president and wealth management specialist at Wells Fargo Bank in Marquette.

Douglas Anderson ’86 is a vice president at City Insurance Agency in Marquette.

Mark A. Kolesar ’86 is senior vice president of investments with UBS Financial Services, Inc., in Minneapolis. He lives with his wife, Mari Anne, in Golden Valley, Minn.

Dale Summers ’84 is a senior financial analyst with JP Morgan Chase in Ann Arbor.

Barry C. West ’85 is an executive vice president with Strategic Enterprise (SE) Solutions, Inc., based in Reston, Va.

John List ’84 is vice president of wealth management consulting with US Bank, based in Cincinnati.

Linda Rippel ’83 is chief financial officer of Traski Inc. and Ice Masters Inc. She is based in Independence, Mo. Linda, who is a Certified Public Accountant, is also active in the Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Society of CPAs, of which she is a past president.

Jamie Speaker ’82 is co-president of J.W. Speaker Corporation, a third generation family-owned business manufacturing custom lighting products for vehicles. He is based in Germantown, Wis.

Lori Rupert-Juntila ’81 was inducted into the NMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. She competed in basketball. She is currently an academic adviser at Oklahoma Wesleyan University and an adjunct instructor there. Lori lives in Tulsa, Okla., with her husband, Tim.

Robert G. Caudill ’80 is a senior vice president with Grubb & Ellis Company in Orange, Calif.

Thomas O. Fillman ’80 is vice president of Bay Bank in Escanaba. His most recent appointment was as the business relationship manager at DuTrac Community Credit Union in Platteville, Wis., from 2002 to 2008.

Ben Shanley ’80 is vice president, East Region, for Coca-Cola North America Foodservice Division, with responsibility for 20 East Coast states. Ben is also on the board of directors for the Southern Amateur Hockey Association and coaches youth hockey in Atlanta. He is married to JoAnn Shanley, and they have two sons, Brett and Bryan.

1970-1979

Anthony Stuppnig ’79 is an account manager for the Quaker-Tropicana-Gatorade division of Pepsico. He is based in Burnsville, Minn.

Thomas E. Zavitz ’79 is the chief operating officer of the Michigan State University/Kalamazoo Center for Medical
Studies in Kalamazoo. Tom recently completed a master of science in administration degree from Central Michigan University. Tom is married to Mary (Neault) Zavitz ’79. They live in Battle Creek.

Eric Hollerbach ’77 is the owner and president of Engineered Component Products Inc. (ECPI), headquartered in Troy.

Karl Elles ’75 is the president of Caster Technology Corporation in Garden Grove, Calif.

Kim Van Osdol ’75 is vice president of Community First Credit Union in Appleton, Wis.

Joseph Farrell ’73 has retired as a partner with PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Atlanta.

Robert J. Leroux ’73 has retired from Cliffs Natural Resources (formerly Cleveland-Cliffs) after 35 years with the company.

Joycelin Sager Denstone ’72 of Dorr has joined LeanLogistics, Inc. as customer support manager. The company provides on-demand network complete daily planning, execution and settlement functions in addition to the periodic strategic procurement functions.

Nicholas Joseph ’71 sold his full-service supermarket store in Ishpeming in early 2009. Nick said it was time to retire. He and his wife will stay on in Ishpeming to remain close to their family.

Gary Lewinski ’71 is a FedEx ground contractor for the central upper Michigan and celebrated the first anniversary of his new venture.

1950-1959

John Knauss ’57 retired as security operations manager for Ford Motor Company and resides in Vero Beach, Fla.

IN MEMORY


David W. Slick, ’56, of Marquette, December 19, 2008.

Comments? Story ideas? Exciting news? Address change? Drop us a note at bizdean@nmu.edu or call 906-227-2900.

Save the Date!

Homecoming 2009
College of Business Alumni Reception
Friday, September 25

You are invited to our annual College of Business Alumni Reception at the Skyroom of the Landmark Inn in Marquette. Bring your family and friends. The reception starts at 6:30 p.m., just after the Homecoming parade, and continues until 9 p.m. Snacks will be provided, along with door prizes and a cash bar. Come, reconnect and recapture that Wildcat Spirit. Mark your calendar!

Hal Dorf celebrated

Several alumni held an informal reunion with former instructor Hal Dorf, retired faculty member in marketing and international business, and his wife Arlene, in September in Green Bay, Wis. A great many stories of the past were revisited and personal updates were shared among old friends. The group recognized Hal for his positive impact and inspiration. A tribute to Hal Dorf has been planned for September 25 in Marquette. Pictured are, from left to right, Ken Liimatta, Jim Wickstrom, Arlene and Hal Dorf, Stephanie (Ramseth) Smith, Jeannie Jafolla, Mark Bonetti and Haroon Syed. Not pictured is Jodi (Davis) Golisek.
In 2008-09, over $58,000 was awarded in scholarships to 74 College of Business students at the annual student scholarship breakfast in April. These scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the college’s alumni and friends. A faculty committee led by Professor Carol Johnson chose the winners. The breakfast event was attended by donors, award recipients, faculty, staff, university administrators and community leaders. The recipients were:

Scholar Award Recipients

**Accounting Scholar Award**
Matthew Franti

**Associate of Business Scholar Award**
Ashley Hardie

**Computer Information Systems Scholar Award**
Asanteeli Makundi

**Business Education Scholar Award**
Jonathan Young

**Entrepreneurship Scholar Award**
Derek May

**Finance Scholar Award**
Nattamard Podimuang

**Finance Scholar Award**
Benjamin VanderHart

**Management Scholar Award**
Rachel Shellum

**Marketing Scholar Award**
Kerry Black

**Marketing Scholar Award**
Erin Carlson

**Ski Area Business Management Scholar Award**
Julie Jackson

**The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award**
Brennan Van Effen

**College of Business Outstanding Graduating Senior**
Sara Blomquist

Kenneth J. and Virginia A. Bureau Scholarship
Ashley Russell

Dr. George Carnahan Scholarship
Gray Turek

Sam M. Cohodas College of Business Scholarship
Geri Daquette, Kayla Lahti, Melissa LaPointe, Mary Jeanne Rajala, Ashley Russell, Terra Smith, Brennan Van Effen

Sam and Evelyn Cohodas Scholarship
Megan Griffin, Devon Kobylnitski, Justine Koehler, Elizabeth Riccio, Jonathon Smetters, Scott Stewart, Christina Tucker, Christine Zidlicky

John and Susi Dahlke Scholarship
Leandra Dzieinski

Keith Forsberg Accounting Award
Devon Kobylnitski

Burton G. Frick Endowed Scholarship in Business
Jonathon Smetters

Columbia Hansen Scholarship
Mary Jeanne Rajala

Columbia Hansen Scholarship
Terra Smith

Hetrick & Associates Scholarship
Devon Kobylnitski

Gloria and William Jackson Scholarship
Kurt Brandly, Michael Head, Kayla Lahti, Jason Povey, Brennan Van Effen

Yolanda Kline Memorial Scholarship
Katelyn Artley

David E. Lahti College of Business Scholarship
James Buggy, Ryan Finni, Michael Head, Craig Koski, Lorelei Peanosky, Jessica Perry, Jason Povey

Kenneth A. Larsen Accounting Scholarship
Kristi Oliver

John M. Longyear Scholarship
Danielle Gerdes

Ludlow Family Scholarship
Tony Plemmonts

Makela, Toutant, Hill and Nardi Scholarship
Angela Neumann

James T. Malsack Scholarship
Adam Barkle

Michigan U.P. Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants Scholarship
Kristi Oliver

Robert S. Myefski Memorial Scholarship
Erik Paveglio

Albert L. Quaal Scholarship
Jessica Beaver, Maria Cook, Eric Schmoldt, Cody Staley

Range Bank Scholarship
Erin Sikkema

Fred C. and Jane B. Sabin Scholarship
Erin Sikkema

Lorna Weddle Scholarship
Carolyn Rubin

Peter White Student Scholarship
Candace Ayotte, Andrew Foster, Lindsay Hagner, Rebecca Jarosch, Amanda McMaster, Kyle O’Donnell, Suzy Gurdeep Santok, Rachel Shellum, Risa Unterberger and Christine Zidlicky

Honors Society Inductees

The following students were inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for the top students in an AACSB-accredited college:

Ryan Ayotte, Andrew Foster, Lindsay Hagner, Rebecca Jarosch, Amanda McMaster, Kyle O’Donnell, Suzy Gurdeep Santok, Rachel Shellum, Risa Unterberger and Christine Zidlicky.
Business@Northern

Together we can retain that Superior Edge

Through numerous gifts, big and small, from so many of you, the College of Business provided that invaluable “extra” to a student’s education. This “extra”—whether used to support finance students to attend seminars run by Wall Street professionals, assist students of the Business Professionals of America club to compete in Texas, host the annual international IT seminar, bring senior executives and experts to campus, or help with recruiting students from far-away places—ensures that we remain, even in these trying economic times, a vital, dynamic business school, giving students a high-quality, hands-on education, unmatched in value, and in a setting beyond compare.

We invite you to join those who have already made an investment in the future of Northern Michigan University and its students.

Please visit www.nmu.edu/foundation/give and make your gift that keeps us sharp!