Message from the Dean

It has been a year since I took this position at Northern Michigan University and it has been a very busy, productive and fulfilling year. The college continues to grow in many different ways and we continue to receive wonderful stories of how well our graduates are doing in their professional and personal lives. That is one important measure of our success – how well we prepare the students who come to Northern to succeed in the wider world after they leave us.

Equally reassuring has been the great interest shown in the college’s activities and goals by our 7,000 plus alumni. In my travels, I have met some of you and I always appreciate the time you have taken to share with me your memories about your Northern days. At the heart of every great university is an engaged alumni and we are very fortunate that this is what we have here and I look forward to meeting many more of you this coming year. Many of you have generously supported our various fund-raising campaigns and projects and because of that you have opened doors and enhanced opportunities for a new generation of NMU students.

In particular, I should mention the creation of the Student Managed Investment Fund, which enables students to get a vital hands-on learning experience in investing and buying and selling a portfolio of stocks and bonds. Your contributions have also helped us create a Global Outlook Fund to support students to travel and study abroad. These enhancements to our curriculum and resource base means that we can... 

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Message from the Dean

deliver the sorts of learning experiences and opportunities that have not been available to our students. I cannot thank you enough for your support. It is also a living testament to the enduring bonds you forged since you came to Marquette.

As you go through this newsletter, you will read stories of internationalization, inspiration and changes at the college. I think you will agree that these are stories which we can be proud of and celebrate. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing the best possible business education that we can. I encourage you to remain actively engaged with the college – drop by to visit your favorite professor when you are in the neighborhood, volunteer to mentor a student or hire a graduating senior, arrange a student internship at your place of employment, or support our fund-raising projects, among numerous ways.

Do share with us your accomplishments and current contact information – send an e-mail to Ms. Annette Brown at abrown@nmu.edu. I also invite you to our inaugural College of Business alumni reception during the Homecoming Weekend on September 29, a Friday, in the Skyroom of the Landmark Inn in downtown Marquette at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendar!

It has been an honor leading the college and a privilege to work with you, the students, the faculty and staff. Thank you very much for your support.

—Dean Rajib Sanyal

South of the Border

The university and the college are exploring possible ties with Universidad Regional del Norte (URN), a private university in Chihuahua, Mexico. The state of Chihuahua, which borders Texas, is home to many foreign manufacturing and service firms and the city of Chihuahua has a large expatriate population. In January, a delegation from NMU that included Dean Rajib Sanyal visited URN to meet URN officials and faculty and local business-persons. Partnering with URN offers the potential for NMU students to do an international internship, take a study tour focusing on the business practices and culture of Mexico, or take a semester of courses there. The College of Business is working to translate these possibilities into reality for our students.

Dean Sanyal and Rector Daniel Garcia [right] of URN

Curriculum and Executive Education

The university has approved a new 150 credit major in accounting/corporate finance at the college. The college is currently engaged in a major review and revision of its curriculum. In spring 2006, the college delivered a certificate program in human resource management to 20 HR professionals on behalf of the Superiorland Human Resource Professionals association. The program was facilitated by a combination of college faculty and industry practitioners.

Dean Sanyal and Rector Daniel Garcia [right] of URN
Expanding Horizons
Distance Learning Takes on a Whole New Meaning: College of Business Students Travel 3,837 Miles to Learn About International Business

In January 2006, Dr. Charles Rayhorn, professor of finance, taught an International Business Seminar that took 25 students on a study tour to Costa Rica and Panama.

We met our guide in San Jose, Costa Rica, and then went to the Arenal Volcano area in La Fortuna. Although this was our first experience seeing an active volcano in the midst of a rain forest, we were more surprised with the views of a successful local entrepreneur, Luigi, at whose hotel, Luigi’s Palace, we stayed. We also visited Luigi’s ranch, another of his many enterprises, where he raises beef cattle. Many of our group participated in his canopy tour, a zip line tour of the rainforest. Luigi was originally from Monteverde, another city we visited later in the trip. He moved to La Fortuna to open these businesses because he did not want to compete with his friend who owns similar ventures in Monteverde. He shared many other useful things, taking almost two hours of his time to speak with us.

Later, we visited one of Dole’s banana plantations and a coffee plantation. At each city we visited, we found at least one person who showed the same hospitality as Luigi in speaking of their personal experiences in business. The kindness they showed and their eagerness to help really impressed us. Alex, our tour guide for a majority of the trip, was amazing. He was very knowledgeable and always willing to help and answer questions.

In Panama City we took a tour of the ruins of the old city founded in 1519 as the first Spanish settlement on the Pacific Ocean. In contrast to the old is the new high-rise metropolitan city. During our tour of the old and the new, we noticed that many utility manhole covers were missing. When asked about the reason for this dangerous situation, our guide explained it was a way for some Panamanians to earn money by selling the covers in the scrap markets! The city responded by not replacing the covers. Although to us this seemed like an invitation for litigation, we learned that lawsuits in Panama were much less common.

I cannot wait to get back to Costa Rica. I believe the country would be a perfect place to start a new business in the tourism industry. There are so many opportunities. People are laid back and friendly; most speak both Spanish and English, and the information these wonderful people were eager to share gave us a sense of who they are and how they came to be successful in their fields.

—Business Students Kendall Sutliff and Joseph Hamel

Several students received financial aid to participate in this course and the College of Business subsidized a small portion of the expenses through the Global Student Outlook Endowment Fund.
A Professor’s Perspective on Teaching in Finland

In the 2006 winter semester, Professor Sandy Poindexter in the College’s Information Systems Program went to HAAGA University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, Finland. The College of Business has a faculty exchange agreement with HAAGA which enables faculty from both universities to spend time at each other’s campus.

I’ve traveled the world extensively, but have never had the chance to live and work in another country. This exchange met and exceeded all my hopes and expectations. I went with an open mind, intending to learn as much as I could, and share when it seemed appropriate. To have an enjoyable exchange experience, one must be willing to be alone, enjoy exploration and not be defensive of one’s own customs.

While Finland may appear similar to the U.S., many variations gave me cause to reflect. I found Finnish people to be open and jovial, helpful and accepting. Stereotypes of stoic, isolated individuals are inaccurate, though I was told that is more common in Finns older than 55. In general, Finns have a sense that there is a good for the whole and each person should do their part.

My small, one-bedroom faculty apartment was minimally furnished, clean, included high speed Internet and TV and was within walking distance to bus lines. It rented for $1,040/month. The weather approximated Green Bay or Minneapolis with less snow, more wind and more stable temperatures. Length of daylight (or lack of it) is not an issue, as there is a one hour gain every 10 days; there were 20 hours of daylight when I left. Cost of living is higher due to a 22% Value Added Tax (18% on foods), but foods, particularly produce, were fresh and of high quality. People live in apartments rather than homes, and it is not unusual for a professional household to forgo auto ownership or to share a vehicle with family or friends. I used public transportation solely; Helsinki’s system is exceptional even for a European city. Shopping is done at neighborhood stores as well as major centers, and people tend to exercise a lot. I bought a pair of used X-country skis to try out the trails and adopted a new exercise, Nordic walking.

While HAAGA does have an IT (information technology) program, it was not taught in English, so the duties assigned to me were varied. I taught three courses. In one, I partnered “virtually” with a colleague at NMU where two joint assignments allowed students at both schools to share ideas and perceptions about IT and global problems and trends. In another course, taught in a hybrid format – one intensive weekend coupled with pre- and post-assignments delivered via the Web – I had students who were from Latvia, Greece, the UK, Germany, South Africa, Kenya, Australia, Russia and Finland. This made discussion extremely interesting as views of IT based upon homeland experiences were exchanged. In the third course, my job was to help Finnish students gain business vocabulary and pronunciation of terms. In addition, I made two presentations on teaching in the U.S. and aided faculty who wanted to better use technology in teaching.

A highlight of my exchange was helping direct the International IT Student Seminar week [see related student article]. It was a quasi-professional conference environment for 28 upper division IT students from seven countries. Students were assigned to international teams for full day sessions. It was fascinating continued on next page
A Finnish Perspective on the Faculty Exchange

Professor Poindexter’s visit to Finland was part of the exchange that brought Professor Tuula Ryhänen to Marquette in the fall semester of 2005. Her visit was supported by a Fulbright grant.

My name is Tuula Ryhänen, a marketing lecturer from HAAGA Institute Polytechnic, Helsinki School of Business. I have a son called Sakari. I and my son stayed in the U.S. the fall semester 2005 and he attended Vandenboom Elementary School.

At Northern Michigan University I worked as a full-time faculty member. I taught two different courses, had office hours weekly during which I advised my students and prepared my classes. Beyond that, I had some teachers’ meetings. I also had a couple presentations: one was about Finland and the other was related to my further studies in the area of outdoor advertising.

I got a good picture of teachers’ work at NMU. For example, one big difference between your and our work is publishing. In the U.S., teachers’ main duty is to publish and attend conferences and in Finland our main work is to teach.

The experience I received teaching in English was very good for me. After returning to Finland I have recognized that it is not so difficult to speak English or teach in English. I have used my language skills a lot because one of my colleagues, Professor Poindexter from NMU, came to our Polytechnic for spring semester 2006, and I still talk with her now. I helped her with the practical things and I guess that my experience in the U.S. has taught me to understand that there are many things you need or you have to do before you can live in a foreign country for a longer period.

I have shared a part of my experiences with my students in HAAGA, using examples of American society while teaching marketing, and plan to make a new course related to cultural differences. So I have the possibility to enlarge my teaching area because I am capable to teach a totally new course after my experience.

We will continue our cooperation on the class level. I think we will take students from Finland and the U.S. and give them a common assignment. While doing assignments the students have to contact each other and make a real cooperation together. I would like to go back to NMU and teach there again. One option is to teach in the summer.

The teachers in my son Sakari’s school were very helpful and they explained things to Sakari in many ways so he could understand. After two months they thought he could speak and understand English so well that he could go from first grade to third grade. Of course there are differences between our school system and the American one but we (me and Sakari) think that if you are abroad you have to get used to the country and its habits.

Sakari made a lot of friends while we stayed in the U.S. I hope that these friendships are going to last because it is really rich if you have friends abroad. I hope that he will go and do something like this himself in the future.

— Professor Tuula Ryhänen

Professor’s Perspective

from page 4

to watch this mixture of cultures share ideas and derive solutions to workshop problems. I would like to see NMU continue to participate in this event in the future. Though it may directly impact 28 students and a handful of faculty, the indirect impact on where these people take that experience cannot be measured.

Written communication skills are heavily emphasized in Finland. Students impressed me as being more aware of world events, and most spoke four languages: Finnish, Swedish, English and another.

HAAGA faculty were very accepting of me. In my building, faculty had a common office which increased faculty interaction. Colleagues ate lunch together in the cafeteria, with discussions ranging from current events to school politics. It was common for faculty to leave for one week to guest lecture in another country, and for others to visit HAAGA for one week.

Now that I am back in Marquette, I plan more “virtual” exchanges with my counterparts in HAAGA. There are also many opportunities for our students. New doors to research opportunities and collaboration opened for me on e-banking, e-commerce and international education. It’s hard to measure the benefit of expanding professional, cultural and personal horizons, but this exchange was at the top of my career activities.

—Professor Sandra Poindexter

To read more about Professor Poindexter’s Finland visit, check out her Web site at www.cob.nmu.edu/finlandjournal.
Broadening Outlook
Students Participate in International Conference

Thanks to financial support from the College of Business, we were able to participate in the International IT (Information Technology) Student Seminar held March 20-24, 2006 in Helsinki, Finland. The seminar was attended by 28 students from seven countries. Attending a conference highlighting the newest technologies and methodologies in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) field is a goal sought by any CIS student. However, attending a conference that not only presented these new technologies but also allowed us to interact in a professional business atmosphere with colleagues from other countries is an achievement most would only dream of accomplishing.

At the conference during the morning session, presentations were made by speakers; each afternoon five- or six-member student teams (with at least three nationalities per team) were assigned problems or topics to research. Teams prepared and presented their work at the end of each day.

The greatest lesson we learned was not the newest and upcoming technologies in the IT field; it was our newfound understanding for the sensitivity of international business and teamwork. In our international problem solving teams, we faced many challenges that had to be overcome, including language barriers and cross-cultural teamwork. Even though all of our teammates spoke English, their individual interpretations of some English words were completely different from ours. The knowledge we gained from working with these different nationalities will last us throughout our professional careers.

It was amazing to see the cultural differences and similarities of these countries not only in the business world but also in life. Understanding how these differences affect business relationships is the key to international business everywhere. This understanding can never be taught or learned from a textbook; it is something that a person must experience firsthand to really grasp its importance and complexity. From language issues to best business practices, our worlds are very different.

We have been making plans to present our experiences in Finland to several of our classes here at NMU, as this trip has sparked a lot of interest from students.

As we look back on our international experience we realize how much we gained in such a short amount of time. Our entire perspective on the world of business and IT changed drastically. It was truly an honor to present to our European counterparts a U.S. view on technology in the world of business.

—Computer Information Students Chris Osterhout and David Manor

If you would like to help students such as Chris and David broaden their horizons by being able to travel outside the Upper Peninsula you can do so by supporting the Student Global Outlook Fund. To make a tax-deductible contribution please contact Michael Nelson at the NMU Foundation at mnelson@nmu.edu.

Marketing Students Go on a Study Tour

The campus chapter of the American Marketing Association traveled to Green Bay, Wisc., Naperville and Chicago, Ill. to meet senior managers and visit facilities such as the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Resch Center. They also met NMU alumnus and restaurateur Stephen Lahaie ’75 at Shaw’s Crab House in Chicago. Each business visit gives the members a different perspective on business and various opportunities available to NMU graduates.

Student participation in this program was funded by the College of Business. If you would like to host a visit, please contact the AMA at ama@nmu.edu.
A New Graduate: Against the Odds

It may have taken Dawn Stonerock 10 years to graduate from Northern, but she’s not ashamed to admit it. It’s not easy to be a good student, work a full-time job, raise a daughter and be a good spouse—all at the same time. It’s all paid off. Currently, Dawn works at Pioneer Surgical Technology as a business services coordinator, where she has been employed since graduating this May. The expertise she gained from NMU helps her with prioritizing, goal setting, business communications, implementing marketing strategies and mixes, strategic management, implementing training, and understanding financial documents and discussions. A large influence came from her classes in Small Business Management, Strategic Management and Methods of Training.

Currently, Dawn works at Pioneer Surgical Technology as a business services coordinator, where she has been employed since graduating this May.

Dawn Stonerock graduated summa cum laude in May 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in management.

Some honors she received were: Outstanding Graduating Senior Award for the College of Business, The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award, and selection for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma honor society.

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Dawn, an Ypsilanti native, was 27 when she first attended NMU. She says her greatest challenge in juggling work, school and family was, “getting it all done and doing it well! I found that being organized and prioritizing was not just helpful, it was a necessity. I also had a helpful support network of friends, in addition to my husband who would help.” With a four-year-old daughter and working full-time as a secretary at Marquette General Hospital, a typical day at NMU for Dawn was long, to say the least. She tried to take evening and weekend classes or ones that began at the start of the day. However, at times she had flexible work schedules that allowed her to work a few hours, go to class, then go back to work. Dawn found that it was most difficult to raise a family and go to school when her daughter, Jessica, was young, but as she got older the two were able to do homework together, which Dawn hoped set a good example for her daughter. She also hoped her daughter would learn how to achieve goals she had set for herself and do well at school. Her husband, Mark, was also a wonderful motivator, for he believed that she could do anything she wanted to and that he would help in any way possible to make it happen. Dawn’s other motivator was herself; in trying to achieve the life she had always wanted.

Dawn was an outstanding student during her time at NMU. Some honors she received were: Outstanding Graduating Senior Award for the College of Business, The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award, and selection for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma honor society. For Dawn, it was a very pleasant surprise. “I was not expecting anything of the sort, and actually felt silly at first being so much older than many of the other award recipients, but honestly, when I got beyond that, I felt sincere pride.”

While attending the university, Dawn progressed in her career: starting as a secretary, then accepting promotions to administrative assistant, buyer in the purchasing department, and supervisor of Medical Records. Her last year of work while a student was as business manager for a local radiology group. She believes that the successful progression in her work not only had to do with her experience and drive, but also largely because of the education she was receiving. “It was fantastic to practice hands-on what I was learning in the classroom. I was able to share my experiences from the work force with my classmates, and put to use the skills I was obtaining in the classroom at my work,” she recalls.

Dawn takes great pride in her achievements at work and school, but most importantly she takes great pride in her family, as they do in her. She has focused much of her time and energy to achieve her goals and be a good example. Dawn’s story is not just a story of a strong-willed woman; it’s a story of faith and hope for those who feel they cannot achieve their dreams.
definitely consider myself one of the lucky ones. Lucky that is to be able to live and work in Marquette, Michigan, a town I fell in love with while attending NMU. I never expected things to turn out this way, but it is hard to predict the path that our life might lead us down.

My exposure to Marquette and Northern started as a child. My dad, Denham Lord, graduated from NMU in 1959 and was active throughout the 1970s and 1980s with the Alumni Association and Golden Wildcat Club. What a thrill it was for me when he took my brother Dave and I to the home football and hockey games.

After graduating from Escanaba High School, I knew I wanted to pursue a business major, but wasn’t sure in what. Like most typical teenagers, I wanted to get as far away from home as possible. I spent my freshman year at Western Michigan University. Western was a good school, but it just didn’t seem to be the right fit for me. I transferred to Northern for what I thought would only be a year while I figured out what I wanted to do next. It seemed like a convenient choice as it was only one hour away from my hometown. What I didn’t expect was to find such a quality school that felt like the right fit for me. I liked it so much my sophomore year, I never considered transferring.

It was during my sophomore year that I took my first accounting classes. I remember really struggling at first. But with the help of some fellow students and Professors Joel Thompson and Carol Buchl, things fell into place, I chose my major, found my profession in life and met my husband.

While I was a senior at NMU, my older brother John was working at Coopers & Lybrand in Milwaukee, one of the Big 6 public accounting firms at the time. After graduating with honors in May 1992 I started working as an auditor with Coopers & Lybrand. It would have been easy to be intimidated working at a big firm in a big city, but my education at NMU had prepared me as well as anyone.

I enjoyed working at Coopers and gained a wealth of experience. However, after several years of traveling and working long hours, I decided I was ready for a change. My brother saw an advertisement in the Marquette paper for a senior accountant with a local architectural/engineering firm. As fate would have it, I got the job and was able to move back to Marquette.

Since 1998, I have worked for Satellite Services, Inc., a base operations and maintenance services contractor for the federal government. We are headquartered in Marquette, Michigan, with over 10 operating locations from California to New York. As the chief financial officer, I oversee the payroll of over 400 employees, the processing of 400-500 vendor invoices per week and ensure compliance with various contractual issues and federal and state regulations.

On the home front, my husband John and I are busy raising our two daughters, Amanda, age 4, and Delaney, age 1. One of my biggest daily challenges is trying to balance a full-time working career while raising a family, keeping up a household, and leaving some downtime. Many days I’m not sure I’m succeeding at it, but I try to keep it all in perspective and put family first, as I know these years when the kids are young will fly by soon enough. We enjoy spending time outdoors and taking advantage of all the natural beauty the Marquette area has to offer. We are proud members of the NMU Blue Line Club and enjoy cheering on the hockey Wildcats at the Berry Events Center. We are hopeful that a national championship will happen again soon, as we were both lucky enough to be students at NMU when it happened the first time in 1991.

I really believe that my education at Northern has greatly influenced who I am today both personally and professionally. I feel fortunate to live close to my alma mater and take advantage of the things it has to offer. There’s no place I’d rather be.

—Mary Lord Diddams ’92
“I slept and dreamed that life was joy. I awoke and found that life was but service. I served and discovered that service was joy”
—R. Tagore, 1913 Nobel Laureate in literature

S
o it is with joy that serving and giving back is what motivated Francesca Sarvello, a 1977 graduate of the College of Business, to accept an invitation in 1988 to be a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council to the College of Business. Educated at NMU, her degree in office and business administration opened many doors for her. Francesca has spent most of her business career in human resources working for Fortune 100 companies where she learned how to meet the demands of various positions, including compensation, benefits, employees relations, recruiting, succession planning and performance management.

Membership on the council has offered her the opportunity to provide guidance to students and the College of Business. She draws on her experience and expertise to enhance the student curriculum to make students better prepared and marketable to employers, more articulate, strategic thinkers, team players and leaders.

“Being a member of the Advisory Council is an honor,” states Francesca. “It is an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing success of the College of Business to ensure that students receive the best possible education, especially for Upper Peninsula students whose choice of colleges may be limited due to family financial constraints.”

In addition, she witnesses the synergy that occurs between educators and business people that results in exploring, developing and implementing changes to advance the College of Business. Membership also affords an opportunity to network with other council members, students, faculty and former classmates and to visit the NMU campus on a regular basis.

The Advisory Council of the College of Business at Northern Michigan University provides guidance, advice and support to the dean to help the college achieve its goals. The council, comprising business leaders, builds and sustains a strong foundation for collaboration and communication between the business community and the College of Business. It serves as an advocate for the college’s mission, values and academic programs, as an ambassador extending the college’s reach into the wider community and as an enthusiastic fund raiser and “friend raiser” for the institution. The council members represent a wide variety of businesses, small and large, privately owned and publicly traded, regional and national. If you would like to join the Advisory Council, send a note to Dean Sanyal at rsanyal@nmu.edu.

Dean’s Advisory Council — Why I Serve

Dean’s Advisory Council Members 2006
Paul Argall, President, PCBM Management Company
Paul Essinger, President, Hiawatha Log Homes, Inc.
Richard Glenn, CEO, RWC Inc.
Scott Holman, President, Bay Cast, Inc.
Eve Lewis, Executive Editor, Southwestern/Thomson Learning
Linda Lindroth, President/Partner, Acceptance Alarms, LLC
Phyllis Maki, Chief Financial Officer, Public Service Garage
Robert Marquardt, Executive Vice President, Transwestern Commercial Services
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Tami Seavoy, Attorney, Kendricks, Bordeaux, Adamini, Chilman, Greenlee, PC
Michael Skytta, President, Community Banking, Wells Fargo Bank
Scott Stephens, Vice President, Ironwood Plastics
Thomas Ungrodt, President & CEO, Ideation, Inc.
Mark Verlinden, Senior Vice President, Comerica Bank
Lee Warner, Representative, Edward D. Jones & Co.

Two-Year Advisory Council Members
Joseph Esbrook, Director of Business Development, Michigan Works!
Pam Grundstrom, Administrative Assistant, President’s Office, NMU
Al Hendra, Assistant Administrator of Human Resources, Marquette General Hospital
Brent B. Nault, Information Systems Manager, County of Marquette
Mary Nurmi, Senior Trust Officer, Wells Fargo Bank
Kristin Portale, Benefits Manager, NMU
Patty Ryan, Collections Clerk, Marquette Board of Light & Power
Alumni Honors

Of the seven alumni who were inducted into Northern Michigan University’s Sports Hall of Fame in the fall of 2006, two are graduates of the College of Business. **Steve Avery ’89** was a four-year letter winner with the football Wildcats and holds the NMU record for yards rushing in a career with 3,842. In 1987, he was named the GLIAC Player of the Year and an All-American honorable mention. **Keith Nelson ’86** was also a four-year letter winner in football and for two years was a starter as quarterback for the Wildcats. He was team captain in 1985 and holds a number of records, including total offense in a season and total offense in a game. Congratulations!

Milestones

2000-2006

**Brooke Beckmann ’05** has joined the staff of the assurance department at Plante Moran, an accounting firm, in Grand Rapids.

**Kimberly DePetro ’03** and Ryan Poupore were married on August 12, 2006. Kim is a leasing consultant at Gables Residential in Gaithersburg, Md. Ryan is a U.S. Secret Service uniformed officer at the White House in Washington, D.C.

**Sarah English ’03** is the marketing coordinator for Pioneer Surgical Technology in Marquette.

**Angela Gardner ’00** and **James Hytinen ’02** were married on September 17, 2005. Angela is an administrative assistant with Makela, Toutant, Hill & Nardi, P.C., an accounting firm in Marquette and James is a business manager in the Learning Services Division at NMU.

**Nicholas Hill ’03** was named the district executive for the Clear Water District of the Boy Scouts of America Chippewa Valley Council in December 2005. He received his MBA from UW-Eau Claire in May 2005. He is a Phi Kappa Phi member and UW-EC College of Business student representative for the graduate council. His wife, Anna, transferred from NMU and is working on her bachelor’s degree in special education at UW-EC.

**Jessica Hokenson ’03** is a business development coordinator at Hetrick & Associates, an insurance agency in Marquette.

**Angela Kruger ’06** has been named project administrator in the Marquette office of STS Consultants Ltd., an engineering consulting firm.

**Jeff Martin ’03** has returned to Computer Associates of Marquette as a computer consultant after serving in active duty with the Michigan National Guard.

**David Ollila** is CEO of V.I.O. Inc., in Marquette, which has been named one of the “Michigan 50 Companies to Watch” in 2006.

**Colin O’Malley ’04** is a Director of Business Development for the U.S. market with Foxconn International Holdings, a manufacturer of electronics and computer components, and lives in Chicago.

**Mark Pynnonen ’03** is the owner of Signs Now in Marquette.

**Shay Simmons ’03** has been hired as a network technician for Lasco, a computer services firm in Marquette.

**Mark Smith ’03** is currently employed as a maintenance supervisor in the fossil operations of the Presque Isle Power Plant of WE Energies in Marquette.

**Dawn Stonerock ’06** is a Business Services Coordinator at Pioneer Surgical Technology, a medical device firm, in Marquette.

**Minori Tanooka ’02** is on the staff of the Business Risk Service group of Ernst and Young Financial Services Co., Ltd., in Tokyo, Japan. She conducts non-audit work for the SEC and other foreign financial institutions.

**Kara Toutant ’05** and **Christopher Katona ’02** were married on June 25, 2005. Kara is employed by Makela, Toutant, Hill & Nardi P.C., an accounting firm, in Marquette. Christopher is employed by U.P. Insurance Agency in Negaunee.

**Katie Vadnais ’01** is employed as a research assistant in the Office of Institutional Research at NMU. She married on July 22, 2006 and lives in Marquette.

**Eric Wakkuri ’04** has been named a Network Consultant with Delcom/Softek, a broadband Internet services firm, in Escanaba.
Alumni News continued

Stacy Welling ’00 received her master in public administration from NMU and is currently the Northern Michigan representative for Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm.

1990-1999
Darlene Arseneau ’92 was promoted to vice president/head of operations and information technology at Peninsula Bank in Ishpeming.

Amy Clickner ’92 was named executive director of the Lake Superior Community Partnership in Marquette.

Scott Herioux ’92 is the chief financial officer at Chip-In’s Island Resort and Casino, Harris. He recently hosted NMU student members of the Institute of Management Accountants for a tour of the casino.

Jeannie Jaffola ’91 is currently the training and development coordinator for Schneider National, Inc. in Green Bay, Wisc, a leading provider of transportation, logistics, and related services.

Susan Kitti ’93 is the chief executive officer of Resource Management Associates, Inc., a Marquette firm specializing in business investigative services.

Angela Knauss ’90 has joined Range Bank as mortgage loan officer and is based in the Marquette Township office. Knauss is also a certified construction lender and has a vast knowledge of secondary markets and government-backed mortgage programs.

Andrew H. Peterson ’99 is teaching classes in computer network security at West Shore Community College in Ludington.

Greg St. Martin ’93 married Katie Hamm on February 18, 2006. Greg is employed by Thilmany LLC, Kaukauna, Wisc.

1980-1989
Steve Avery ’89 is a regional marketing director for The Hartford/PLANCO, a financial services firm, in Pennsylvania.

Brad Bennett ’85 is vice president of business operations at Applied Textiles, a fabric supplier to the furniture industry, in Byron Center.

Nanette Biang ’82 is an EMT for Garfield Township and a seamstress in Engadine.

Craig (Donald) Godfrey ’84 has moved his business, Godfrey Financial Partners, LLC, an accounting firm, to new offices in East Lansing, Michigan.

Keith Nelsen ’86 is the chief administrative officer and general counsel at Danka Business Systems PLC, a provider of office printing solutions and services, in Tampa, Fla.

1970-1979
Joseph Huss ’76 has been promoted to vice president and relationship manager with Wells Fargo Institutional Trust Services in Marquette.

Mary Lauren ’74 is employed in software risk management at Mosaic, Inc. in Chicago, after eight years developing software to support the Space Shuttle program at the Kennedy Space Center.

Robert Marquardt, Jr. ’78 moved this summer to Transwestern Commercial Services in Chicago where he is an executive vice president. Transwestern is one of the largest privately held, full service real estate firms in the U.S.

John Okonkowski ’70 is first vice president – investments at Smith Barney in Marquette.

Joycelin Sager Denstone ’72 has recently been promoted to team leader – product support for the Finance Support Group at SSA Global, an international software and support corporation. Joyceline was also recently appointed to the Dorr Township Planning Commission, Dorr.

Gary Wierzbicki ’72 is an agent for State Farm Insurance Companies in Roseville.

David Wirth ’72 is the Mid-West regional vice president for Flexible Foam Products, Inc. in Redford.

1960-1969
Don Valenti ’65 is the owner of Valenti Classics Inc., a dealership that buys, trades, and sells classic cars, muscle cars, antique cars, collector cars and special interest cars. Valenti Classics is located in Caledonia, Wisc.

In Memoriam
Andrea Watts ’01 passed away in a drowning accident on January 24, 2006 while on a business trip in Mexico for the Coca Cola Company.

Stay in Touch…
Update your records
We would like to know what you have been doing since you graduated from NMU. So tell us of—

Name changes
Change of employer and/or job responsibilities
Address, phone number, and e-mail changes
Birth of children
Other events (e.g., awards, community service, travels)

Please e-mail Annette Brown in the College at abrown@nmu.edu with your current information. Thank you.
Commencement Speaker Wishes “Sisu” on New Graduates

Peter O. Reijula ’76 was honored with an honorary degree of doctor of business and spoke at NMU’s mid-year commencement ceremony. A native of Finland, Peter came to the U.S. to attend college. An avid skier in his youth, he placed fifth in the World Junior Skiing Championships. He was NCAA Champion in Nordic skiing while at NMU in 1973 and was elected to NMU’s Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.

In 2005, he became president of Foodservice Business for McCain Foods USA. The company has $1.2 billion in annual sales. McCain Foods is the leading provider of frozen potato and appetizer products to the food service industry.

In his inspiring address, he reminded the graduating students that they must “learn to embrace change, to expect it, to encourage, and affect it and to prepare and deal positively with change.” He noted that as an employer he looks for people who are passionate about their jobs, who are self starters and willing to take initiative, and who can work effectively with other people. He ended his talk by wishing all “sisu” – a Finnish word that “cannot be translated but it embodies the spirit that you can feel. The spirit of overcoming difficult obstacles … with confidence and great belief in yourself. Go forth with ‘sisu’!"

Peter and his wife, Susan, have three daughters and they live in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

An Entrepreneur as Executive in Residence

Paul Essinger, president and owner of Hiawatha Log Homes, based in Munising, served as the college’s executive in residence last semester. His company designs and manufactures custom log home packages. In 2005, the company was named one of the “Michigan 50 Companies to Watch.” Paul, who graduated from Michigan Technological University with undergraduate and graduate degrees in forestry, is very active in his industry where he has been the president of the Log Homes Council and was a 2005 recipient of the Shorebank Founder’s Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence.

During his residency, he spoke about entrepreneurship and leadership in several classes and discussed business issues with faculty, student leaders and senior administrators. In a speech at a reception in his honor, Mr. Essinger stressed the role of philanthropy in the conduct of business and how he and his company work to benefit the community through numerous socially responsible actions, such as sponsoring sporting events and youth-oriented projects. He noted that to give back to the community, his business needed to be successful.

The executive in residence program, started in 1979, brings senior business executives and successful entrepreneurs to campus for a few days. The program provides students and faculty an upfront and personal opportunity to learn from an accomplished business practitioner.

If you would like to serve as an Executive in Residence at the college or would like to learn more about the program, send an e-mail to abrown@nmu.edu.
Three new faculty are joining the college this fall as assistant professors. Abhijit (Abhi) Jain will teach in the information systems program. He received his Ph.D. from Temple University in Philadelphia. Daniel Konku will teach in the finance program; he received his Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Fla., and his MBA from Alcorn University in Mississippi. Sue Sondergelt is joining the accounting program. She has a master of science degree in accounting from the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Linda Cleary, longtime secretary to the Dean of the College, left on indefinite medical leave at the beginning of 2006. Her successor is Annette Brown. The college also has a new receptionist, Julie Downs, who replaced Tina Vandezande.

Larry Pagel has been promoted to the rank of full professor. Sandra Poindexter received the university-wide Teaching, Learning and Communication Award for developing an online advising program for students. James Camerius was a member of the organizing committee for the 2006 World Association for Case Method Research & Application Conference in Brisbane, Australia.

Brian Gnauck received the College of Business Faculty of the Year Award. Following an organizational restructuring, Margaret Sklar is the associate dean and Charles Rayhorn has part-time administrative duties as coordinator of student internships and student services.

31st Annual Scholarships and Awards

A big event on the college calendar is the day when students are recognized for their outstanding academic achievements. This year, we celebrated the following students. More than $46,000 was given away in scholarships, ranging from $200 to $5,000. These monies have come as gifts and endowments from the college’s many alumni and friends. We congratulate these students for their achievement and thank the donors for their generosity and foresight. More than 75 donors, university administrators, college faculty and students attended the event.

**Scholar Award Recipients**
- Michigan Business Education Outstanding Student Teacher Award
  - Sabina Austin
- National Business Education Association Award of Merit
  - Justin Cowen
- Accounting Scholar Award
  - Melissa Samuelson
- Accounting/Computer Information Systems Scholar Award
  - Marcus Doxey
- Business Education Scholar Award
  - Sabina Austin
- Business Computer Information Systems Scholar Award
  - Eric Wakkuri
- Finance Scholar Award
  - Anthony Bertucci

**Management Scholar Award**
- Leanna Ketola

**Marketing Scholar Award**
- Sara Jane English
- Amber Wozniak
- Associate of Business Scholar Award
  - Shaina Truscott
- Ski Area Business Management Scholar Award
  - Jeff Domras
- The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award
  - Dawn Stonerock

**Scholarship Recipients**
- The Arthur Andersen Scholarship
  - Sara Blomquist
  - Andy Cisneros
  - Stephen Koinis

continued on next page
Awards

The Andrew and Theresa Brunswick Marketing Scholarship
Cristina Corey
The Carol E. and Thomas V. Buchl Scholarship
Jessica Peterson
The Kenneth J. and Virginia A. Bureau Scholarship
Jennifer Sejbl
The Russell and Ella Christian Scholarship
Jeffrey Olsen
The Sam M. Cohodas College of Business Scholarship
Sarah Badini
Cristina Corey
Carla Foster
Anne-Marie Gibbs
Carl Heinonen
Steve Kass
Jeffrey Olsen
Christopher Windberg
The Sam and Evelyn Cohodas Scholarship
Carl Heinonen
Heather Lidbeck
The Columbia Hansen Scholarship
Heather Nelsen
The Hetrick & Associates Scholarship
Maturin Martinson
The Fred C. and Jane B. Sabin Scholarship
Jennifer Pikka
The David E. Lahti College of Business Scholarship
Sue Cobb
Kimberly Hallfrisch
Kenneth Holman
Steve Mattis
Justin Wroblewski
The Kenneth A. Larsen Accounting Scholarship
Jennifer Pikka
The David E. Lahti College of Business Scholarship
Robert Klean
The John M. Longyear Scholarship
Tanya Sickels
The Ludlow Scholarship
Katie Hedrick
Heather Nelson
The Makela, Toutant, Hill & Nardi Scholarship
Scott Kovtun
The Robert S. Myefski Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Meyskens
The Anne and Robert Pecotte Scholarship
Christopher Winberg
The Albert L. Quaal Scholarship
Kenneth Holman
Geoffrey Lasich
Jeffrey Olsen
Jessica Peterson
The Range Bank Scholarship
Anne-Marie Gibbs
The Sherman Nebel Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Meyskens
The Colby Trinka Scholarship
Jennifer Pikka
The Lorna Weddle Scholarship
Steve Kass
The Peter White Student Scholarship
Sara Blomquist
Heather Lidbeck

Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society Inductees

Seniors
Heather L. Hendrickson
Lindsey L. Pepin
Melissa Samuelson
Dawn Stonerock
Eric Wakkuri
Juniors
Sara A. Blomquist
Carl P. Heinonen
Kelly M. Kolinsky
Michael D. Miller
Heather J. Nelsen
Tanya N. Sickels
Zachary F. Tarkir
Amber M. Tryan
Jamie R. VanBuren
Faith Wilson

If you would like to establish a scholarship or an award for a College of Business student, you can easily do so. Please contact Michael Nelson in the NMU Foundation at mnelson@nmu.edu to learn how.

Outstanding Graduating Seniors

Three College of Business students were recognized at the NMU 2006 Honors Banquet:

Christopher Osterhout (Computer Information Systems), Lindsey Pepin (Accounting) and Dawn Stonerock (Management) were all honored as Outstanding Graduating Seniors for their academic work, campus leadership and personal qualities.
As the university prepares to embark on a capital campaign, it has hired Michael Nelson as a development officer for the College of Business. He will work closely with the dean to identify projects that need financial support and cultivate friends and alumni towards that end.

Last year, the college embarked on several fund-raising initiatives to provide our students with distinctive learning opportunities. We have made much progress with two of them, discussed here.

**Student Managed Investment Fund**

Many of you contributed to these initiatives and thanks to your generosity, we have been able to create a Student Managed Investment Fund. This fall, students in a finance course will learn firsthand how to invest real money in a portfolio of stocks and bonds, research and select investment opportunities, develop an investment policy and increase the value of the fund. The fund will continue from semester to semester, being managed by successive groups of students. The fund is a major curriculum enhancement and provides our students the sort of enhanced learning experience that will prepare them for jobs in the country’s leading financial firms. The students will have managed real money, experienced the highs and lows of investing, researched firms and industries, and learned to use the tools and software of the profession.

Since part of the return on the investment will be used to support students in the college, we want to increase the size of the fund. We invite you to build up the fund and provide a gift that will keep on giving.

With the creation of this fund, the college joins a select group of universities around the country that has this learning tool.

**Student Global Outlook Fund**

As you have read in this newsletter, the college is emphasizing internationalization in its curriculum. In this age, having a global perspective and an appreciation for the variety of the human condition is essential. To assist more of our students to travel and study abroad, we have been raising resources and many of you have contributed to this effort. This year, the College of Business was able to support the course trip to Costa Rica, help two students go to Finland to participate in a conference, and facilitate a faculty exchange. With some of the contributions many of you have made so generously, we have now created an endowment of $25,000, income from which will be able to support the travels of at least two students annually. We invite you to join with the college to build up the Student Global Outlook Fund. This will allow many more students to travel outside of the Upper Peninsula to attend workshops and conferences, take a course, do an internship, or work on a project.

To contribute to the Student Managed Investment Fund or the Student Outlook Global Fund, please contact Michael Nelson at mnelson@nmu.edu. The college has other needs as well, or you may wish to make a contribution and leave it to the discretion of the dean on how to spend it.
Let us know what is happening in your life!

One of the objectives of *Superior Horizons* is to keep all of you informed about the graduates of the College of Business. We can do this only with your help. Please provide us with information about you, your career, and your family. We will include your information in a future issue of *Superior Horizons*.

Name: ____________________________ Year of Graduation: ________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Description of Professional Activities: ___________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Awards, Honors, and Accomplishments: ________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

General: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Return to: Dr. Rajib Sanyal, Dean  
College of Business  
Northern Michigan University  
1401 Presque Isle Ave.  
Marquette, MI 49855-5301  

You can receive *Superior Horizons* earlier and help the environment at the same time. If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to abrown@nmu.edu.