

SPECIAL

POINTS OF

INTEREST:

- Flying Performers
- Mauvais Sort
- Student Recognition
- Mystery Diagnosis
- MarquetteSocial.com

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Distinguished Faculty	2
Creative Works	3-4
Outstanding Graduates	4-5
CAPS Student Organizations	6-7
International Studies	8
Department News	9
Alumni Profile	10
CAPS Alumni Feedback	11
Giving to the Department	12

CAPS Alumni & Friends Newsletter

SUMMER 2011

An Interesting Year...

As Les Wong phrased it in a forum held back in February of this year, it's been an "interesting semester" in the world of academia here in the U.P., as well as an interesting year world-wide.

Globally in September 2010, we witnessed simultaneously the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the beginning of Operation New Dawn; the U.S. military's new advisement and training phase with the Iraqi forces. We also witnessed the beginning of the regime and form of government changes sweeping through the Middle East as the incredible events in Egypt resulted in the appointment of a new Prime Minister.

In March the world then observed the horrifying images coming out of Japan as the country was devas-

tated by the earthquake/tsunami which left thousands dead, millions homeless and a continuing nuclear crisis that affects us all.

On a more promising note, an event that the world has anticipated since 9/11, the U.S. military's Seal Team Six terminated the existence of Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011.

Here at Northern:

- From the "threat experience" on February 2nd and 3rd
- To President Obama's visit a few days later
- To the proposed budget cuts that could affect us all in one way or another
- To the largest NMU graduation in history on 4/30/11
- To the largest gift in NMU's history

The roller coaster ride continues. However, on the home front in CAPS not much has changed. But, after 32 years of dedicated service, Jan Hampton retired from Northern. In her place, Michelle Inman joined our team in October 2010 serving as the new principal secretary for CAPS.

Although not many changes have taken place this year, we do face many challenges and changes in the next couple years to come as we face the retirement of three of our long-time colleagues: Don and Karlyn Rybacki and Walter Niebauer.

In preparation for their retirements, we have to prepare ourselves for change. So stay tuned and enjoy our year in review as you read on.

President Obama Visits NMU

"We live in an interconnected world. What happens across the globe has an impact on each and every one of us... high-speed wireless is why I chose to come to NMU today" said President Obama on February 10, 2011 when he graced our community with his presence.

Commending NMU for its advancements in building a high-speed, next-generation wireless network (a.k.a. WiMAX), President Obama discussed his Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative using NMU's project and experience as his "role" model.

Pictured below are several NMU Communication and Performance Studies students (Public Relations Student Society Of America—PRSSA members)

who had the once in a lifetime opportunity to volunteer for the presidential visit.



Peter Pan & The Flying Performers



During the fall 2010 semester, the theatre program's advanced stagecraft class learned about different rigs for flying performers as they prepared for the April 2011 production of *Peter Pan*. According to Kim Hegmegee, technical director for the Forest Roberts Theatre, performance flight is growing throughout the entertainment industry and she wanted students to learn about the rigging process and how to work with a choreographer to create the desired flight patterns of the performers. Director of the play, Shelley Russell, said, "we chose to put a lot of resources into flying and make that a fun, entertaining part of the play all by itself. We're not trying to pretend that they don't have wires. We wanted to focus on making what they can do really exciting. At one point, there are four characters in the

air. It's tremendous fun to watch. And it's a challenge to put an athletic actor in harness, hand him a sword and have him flying while fighting off pirates."

"This is utterly unique and visually stunning," said Ansley Valentine, Director of the Forest Roberts Theatre. "I have

never seen or heard of an undergraduate program doing anything like this."



AND THE WINNER IS...Shelley Russell

The Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees recognizes and honors full-time faculty, including academic department heads, who have made significant professional contributions to Northern Michigan University and their Professional areas. Dr. Shelley Russell, a professor of theatre in the Communication and Performance Studies Department was one of the lucky three recipients at this spring's commencement activities.

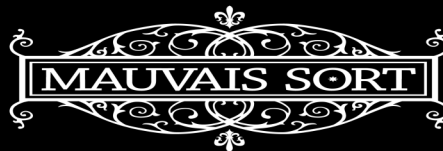
As Dr. James Cantrill put it, "Dr. Russell is a seasoned professor and scholar who has provided yeoman service to the NMU community for more than 27 years. She earned her undergraduate degree from Otterbein College, her M.A. from Miami University of Ohio, and received her doctoral degree in performance theory from Florida State University in 1983. She is an outstanding example of an engaged professor who is passionate about the role of theatre in modern society, rigorous in her directional and educational standards, and an accomplished performance artist.... Dr. Russell has taught numerous courses ranging from Introduction to Theatre to upper level courses such as Stage Combat and Directing Theory. She is an innovative educator who uses technology and active learning techniques to their full potential. Just as she has been active as a professor and theatre professional, Dr. Russell has taken on a raft of service obligations to the university and her profession including hosting Northern Notebook on WNMU TV, serving multiple terms on the Faculty Grants Committee, and founding the Lake Superior Community Theatre... Thus it is fitting that she be honored as a distinguished member of NMU's faculty."

CONGRATULATIONS SHELLEY!



Shelley Russell

Mauvais Sort, whose name translates from French to mean "to put a spell on someone," has a musical style extremely hard to define, yet unique and proper to its generation. By combining traditional lyrics with contemporary musical compositions or by mixing their own original stories with old, folk rhythms, the group will turn your perception of Québec traditional music upside-down. And thanks to the NMU International Performing Arts Series committee, the



Communication and Performance Studies Department had the opportunity to turn Marquette upside-down when the band performed at Northern.

During the winter semester NMU students and faculty had the experience of recording a live show of this band's charismatic music

which aired during commencement weekend and will be edited into a one hour documentary for everyone to see on WNMU Public Eye TV later this Fall.



2010-2011 Faculty Publications & Creative Works

Dwight Brady, Professor

- Advanced Field Production course produced a series of videos to help educate students on financial aid policies at NMU. They also produced advertisements for the Career Services department at NMU and the Forest Roberts Theatre (FRT)
- A 30 second PSA for the Marquette Waterfront Safety Taskforce was created and will be aired on local TV stations—Winter 2011

Jim Cantrill, Department Head

- “Amplifiers on the Commons: Using Indicators to Foster Place-Based Sustainability Initiatives.” *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*, in review
- “The Role of a Sense of Self-in Place and Risk Amplification in Promoting the Conservation of Wildlife.” *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 2011
- “Using Place-Based Identities to Amplify the Impulse for Sustainable Conservation Biology.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association annual Convention in San Francisco, California—November 2010

Chuck Ganzert, Professor

- Was nominated for student group adviser of the year for WUPX
- Hosted a series of Academic Service Learning workshops on campus called “Breakfast with Randy Stoecker”
- Presented a paper at the Rural Alliance for Service Learning summit in Racine, Wisconsin entitled “How to Feel Like an Olympian: Recent Developments in Academic Service Learning at NMU”
- Immediate past chairman of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation
- Coordinated the “Fait a’ Marquette” program for WNMU FM with the band Mauvais Sort from Quebec

Vic Holliday

- Scenic designs for *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Peter Pan* (FRT main stage 2010-2011 season); lighting designs for dance programs

Walter Niebauer, Professor

- Was nominated for student group adviser of the year for PRSSA

Sara Potter, Instructor

- “Speech Writing and Delivery in 30 Seconds or Less.” Paper selected as a Scholar-to-Scholar and presented at the National Communication Association annual Convention in San Francisco, California—November 2010
- Teaching and Learning Advisory Council Conference Grant Recipient—Winter 2010

Shelley Russell, Professor

- Main stage play direction *Of Mice and Men* and *Peter Pan* (FRT main stage 2010-2011 season)
- Costume designs for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (FRT main stage 2010-2011 season)
- Directed production of *Guys on Ice*, Lake Superior Theatre—June 2011
- Faculty grant recipient, “Walter, Woman: Play script on Women and the Changing Environment, as Translated through Their Art,” Russell, S.—Winter, 2011

Don and Karyn Rybacki, Professors

- *Advocacy and Opposition: An Introduction to Argumentation*, 7th edition, Allyn & Bacon 2012—Fall 2010
- Instructor's Manual to accompany 7th edition of *Advocacy and Opposition*—Fall 2010

Mark Shevy, Assistant Professor

- “Five antecedents of media effects: A theoretical overview of musical multimedia.” Invited chapter for an Oxford University Press book on the psychology of musical multimedia.—March 2011
- “Semantic meanings associated with popular music: An international consideration of music genre in branding.” Poster presented at the Audio Branding Congress, November 5, Hamburg, Germany. Shevy, M. & Kristen, S.—2010
- “Cross-cultural pop music genre associations.” Paper presented at the NMU 2010 UNITED Conference, Marquette, Michigan, September 13. Presentation published on the Internet at <http://mediasite.nmu.edu/NMUMediasite/Catalog/pages/catalog.aspx?catalogId=87d13495-1d53-43c7-9e6f-6b11d5d43f9d>. Shevy, M. & Kristen, S.—2010
- “Music as international communication: A comparison of German and American meanings associated with popular music genre.” Poster presented at the International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition, August 23-27, Seattle, WA. Kristen, S. & Shevy, M.—2010
- “Popular music genre and accessibility of listeners’ self-concept of religiosity: Maybe country music really is God’s music.” Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference, August 4-7, 2010, Denver, Colorado. Shevy, M.—2010
- Completed two workshops through The Sloan Consortium: Copyright Compliance for Online Educators and Dynamic Collaboration, Discussion, and Facilitation Practices—Summer 2011

2010-2011 Faculty Publications & Creative Works

Paul Truckey, Associate Professor

- Main stage production of *A Flea in Her Ear* (FRT main stage 2010-2011 season)
- Performed in a fundraiser for the First Nighter's Club titled "Three Tenors of the UP." The event raised nearly \$10,000 for the club—February 2011
- In conjunction with the Pine Mountain Music Festival, Paul will be playing the role of Pete the Barber in the new Opera "Rockland"—Summer 2011

Ansley Valentine, Associate Professor and Director of Theatre

- Artistic direction of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 3—Winter 2011
- Directed main stage production of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (FRT main stage 2010-2011 season)
- Designed costumes for *A Flea in Her Ear* and *Peter Pan* (FRT main stage 2010-2011 season)
- Elected national co-chair of chairs for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Summer and artistic director and damp director for the new Medina Youth Theatre program at the Medina Performing Arts Center in Medina, OH—Spring 2011
- Directed and produced opening and closing videos for the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop at University of North Carolina—Summer 2011

Shuang Xie

- "'Close to Nature, Hand in Hand with Fuwa': Framing Environmental Issues in Bidding and Preparations for the Beijing Olympic Games." *International Journal of Communication*, in review. (co-authors Jacquelyn R. Lange and Shuang Xie)
- Named adviser for the newly formed Chinese student organization. Visit them on Facebook at NMU Chinese Organization—Winter 2010

Outstanding Graduates



Louis Justman—Outstanding Graduating Senior in Communication and Performance Studies Department.

In April Louis graduated with a major in electronic journalism, proving himself as an exacting student in the courses he had taken and as an outstanding team player and leader in the field production setting.

During his career at NMU, Louis had been on the Dean's List every semester since the fall 2008. Involved in

different activities and organizations throughout campus, Louis was a central figure in the continued vitality of WUPX on campus. He also worked for both commercial and non-commercial radio stations in the Marquette community. This past semester he was the recipient of three awards for excellence in broadcasting from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. Congratulations, Louis!

Other Outstanding Seniors:

- Randi Schmeltzer—Communication Studies
- Geoff Holloway—Entertainment and Sports Promotion
- Carolyn "Lizzie" Corser and Leanne Plath —Public Relations
- Elizabeth Stahl & Emily Couling—Theatre

Student Awards & Scholarships

Communication Studies

Rasmussen Scholarship: Mollie Anderson

Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB)

2011 Radio Station Activities Report—Second Place: Louis Justman and Erin Astle
 2011 Television Talk Show—Honorable Mention: Pete Francis, Brice Bruge and Sean Kelly
 2011 Television Sports Play-by-Play—Second Place: Jordan Pink, Joe Chenail and Louis Justman
 2011 Television Sports Play-by-Play—Honorable Mention: Louis Justman, Jerry Tudor and Pete Francis
 2010 Television Public Service Announcement—Honorable Mention: Jordan Graves
 2010 Television Sportscasts/Sports Play-by-Play—First Place: Pete Francis, Antoine Harris, Jordan Wyers

Theatre

James Rapport Outstanding Seniors: Elizabeth Stahl and Emily Couling
 James A. Panowski Scholarship & First Nighters Club Outstanding Junior: Aaron Sarka
 Karen Rademacher Scholarship & First Nighters Club Outstanding Sophomore: Jacob Barbot
 Forest Roberts Family Endowment Scholarship & First Nighters Club Outstanding Junior: Jahnna Olgren
 First Nighters Club Outstanding Graduating Senior: Timothy Grams and Tyler Welden



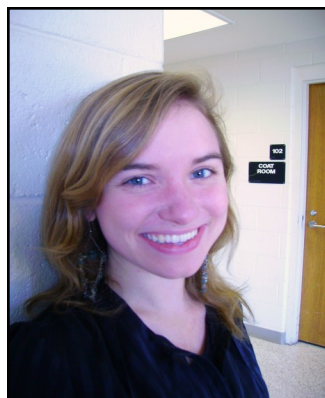
C
O
N
G
R
A
T
U
L
A
T
I
O
N
S

THEATRE STUDENT STUDIES IN ENGLAND

Emily (Emma) Couling found herself immersed in the history and heritage of London, England, when she traveled there as part of NMU's study abroad program this past fall.

While there, Couling was able to take a Shakespeare reading and performance class and in her free time saw several Shakespearean plays such as *Titus Andronicus*, *Henry IV* and *Comedy of Errors*.

Emma who majored in theatre here at NMU worked as an employee at The Forest Roberts Theatre since 2007. Working in the box office, as well as on stage, Emma played the



lead female role in both *The Mousetrap* and *A Flea in Her Ear*, and worked on/assisted with other

performances such as *The Tempest* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. More recently, she directed William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Black Box Theatre.

Outside of campus Couling also directed *Sweeney Todd* at the Vista Theatre in Negaunee.

This fall Emma plans to attend graduate school with her fiancé.



Michael Skrobeck

MYSTERY DIAGNOSIS

During the fall semester, two of NMU's Communication and Performance Studies students, Alyssa Fenske and Michael Skrobeck, had a rare opportunity to work on the crew of a nationally televised program, *Mystery Diagnosis*.

Alyssa, a junior from Portage, Wisconsin, majoring in electronic journalism with a minor in political science, earned the role of production assistant for the episode. She said "my job mainly consisted of having to get food, make-up, and drinks for the crew."

Michael Skrobeck, a junior from Dallas, Texas majoring in theatre and art and design, played the part of an ER doctor for the episode filmed at Marquette General Hospital. Although his first time in front of the camera, Skrobeck is used to acting on the stage. He has appeared in two performances (*Of Mice and Men* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*) at NMU's Forest Roberts Theatre and two performances (*The Nutcracker* and *Little Women*) at the Marquette Arts and Culture Center.



Alyssa Fenske

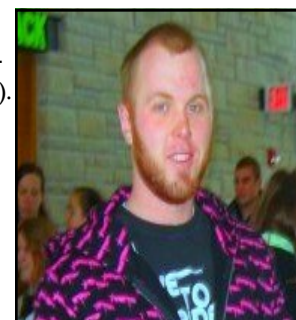
Spotlight on Ian Astle

Ian Astle just graduated with a degree in Entertainment and Sport Promotion. But, before graduating, Ian had completed nearly 1,000 hours in Superior Edge—a leadership program that packs community engagement, diversity awareness, leadership development and real-world experience into one life-changing program.

To complete these hours, Ian was very active in Public Relations Students Society of America (PRSSA)

and First Aid Productions. He also volunteered with PRSSA at the U.P. 200 dog sled races and helped coordinate "Jam for Love," a snowboarding competition that raised money for Lake Superior Village Youth and Family Center. As the promotions director of First Aid Productions, he also promoted and organized a number of concerts on campus including Hello Goodbye and more recently Mustard Plug. These activities counted towards

both his Leadership and Real World Edges (two of the four edges that make up the Superior Edge).



Ian Astle

Ian had his edge, do you?

Public
Relations
Student
Society
Of
America

CAPS Student Organizations

In February 2011, the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) was named the Student Organization of the Month. In only one month PRSSA accomplished a great deal. It set up a fundraising event called "Jam for Love, Ski and Snowboard Competition," an event where all the proceeds went to the Lake Superior Village Youth and Family Center to help fund its after-school program. Next, PRSSA had the honor of assisting with President Obama's visit, the students helped set up, usher guests and direct media the evening before and the day of the Presi-



NMU with the most number of volunteer hours—3007.5 hours (1145.75 more hours than the next closest organization on campus). The students also won

the Student Organization Logging Competition sponsored by the Superior Edge, earning the Leadership Edge with 356.5 hours. PRSSA is the only organization that has won four of the six student organization awards given by NMU.

GREAT JOB, ladies and gentlemen!

dent's speech. Lastly, this outstanding organization helped out with the UP 200 and the Midnight Run. The students manned the Carp River crossing and directed teams out in the cold for five hours!

In addition to all these accomplishments, PRSSA was recognized in 2010-2011 as being the student organization at

The First Nighters Club is made up of persons, organizations, and businesses who love the theatre and want the student artists of the Forest Roberts Theatre (FRT) program to receive first-class professional training on stage, backstage and in the classroom.

Their purpose is to support the FRT program at NMU, ensuring that it continues to provide the student body with a quality and progressive education in theatre arts, and the community with innovative and high quality university theatre productions. Their goal is to ensure and maintain the artistic quality of FRT productions for NMU, Marquette and the surrounding region.

2010-2011 Award Recipients

- First Nighters Club Outstanding Freshman: Taylor Kulju
- First Nighters Club Outstanding Newcomer: Daniel Wray
- First Nighters Club Award for Academic Achievement: Meghan Marquardt and Pierce Huxtable

Theater



Happy 40th Birthday —WUPX

**W
U
P
X
91.5**



In 2010, WUPX celebrated its 40th year as a student organization on the NMU campus. Beginning in 1970 as WBKX—an AM broadcasting outlet, it later became a cable-only station.

In September of 1993, after years of hard work and savings by NMU students, WBKX successfully became an over-the-air station at 91.5 on the FM dial. However, during the process of applying for licenses the FCC informed NMU that they were no longer able to identify their station as WBKX and as a result the station letters were changed to WUPX.

Since the first day of airing, WUPX has been an active organization contributing to the quality of life on (and off) the NMU campus. The station is on air twelve months out of the year.

**Happy Birthday
Radio X!**

WUPX FM—The Pulse of the U.P.



**WNMU—TV
Public Eye
News
13**



**PUBLIC EYE NEWS
TV 13**

Public Eye News is a live, 15-minute newscast airing weekdays at 4 p.m. on Public TV 13 throughout the entire Upper Peninsula and the northern Wisconsin region. Public Eye News gives students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of TV news production and writing for broadcast. Students gain hands-on experience as they learn to operate studio cameras, audio mixing, electronic graphics, and video editing.

**WMNU-FM
PUBLIC
Radio 90**

WMNU-FM—Public Radio 90

A listener supported public service of Northern Michigan University.

Found on your FM dial at:

Marquette 90.1

Manistique 91.9

Escanaba/Gladstone 96.5

Offers unique internship opportunities for students studying in CAPS.

**Public
Radio**

90

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

With support of a \$165,000 federal Title VI grant designed to strengthen Northern's international studies and language curricula, a 14-member delegation visited Israel and Turkey during one of the most historic periods in history of the Middle East.

The group visited key sites, got a first-hand feel for the region and its people and made numerous contacts for future collaborations.

The purpose of the project was to develop curriculum related to the Middle East to further internationalize the student experience at NMU. Over time, their efforts will culminate with added or revised courses relevant to this key region of the world.



Two of the members of the delegation were our very own
Ansley Valentine and Shuang Xie .

TRIP TO BELIZE



During spring break, with the leadership of Miriam Moeller, program officer for International Programs and Jim Cantrill, head of the Communication and Performance Studies Department, 26 students participated in NMU's first volunteer abroad opportunity in Belize.

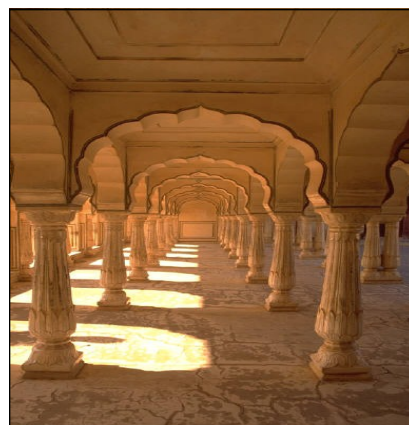
Students painted the school in the town of El Progreso, built a picnic table, assembled a basketball hoop, taught art and environmental lessons and played games with children. NMU Students also brought along an encyclopedia donated by the Lydia Olson Library.

STUDY ABROAD

Northern Michigan University offers international programs in 55 countries where students can study abroad on summer, semester, or year-long programs.

Such programs are currently offered in certain areas of Central America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands, Europe and the Middle East, North America and South America. In 2010, two majors in CAPS interned in Dublin, Ireland.

Please visit www.nmu.edu/studyabroad for more details.



Other Department News:

- An articulation agreement in Electronic Media Broadcasting between NMU and Delta College has been finalized. Its completion has sparked interest in NMU's CAPS department programming by Lansing Community College and Macomb Community College, both of which now have articulation agreements in draft form.
- The Financial Aid and Communications and Marketing offices collaborated with Communication and Performance Studies during the winter 2010 semester to develop student-created videos describing the Satisfactory Academic Progress policies and appeals process using student athletes. See the videos at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2Sq4SaDxhc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=098z-77Zp-A>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GPl4SnkCRM>

Forest Roberts Theatre Season 2011–2012

- *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, the historical tale of that moment in history when women were first allowed on the Shakespearean stage.
- *A Year with Frog and Toad*, the children's book comes to life as a musical.
- *The Near East*, a brand new play dealing with political, social, and religious subject matter in the Middle East.
- *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a musical comedy based on what happens during a local spelling bee.



Layla Wright-Contreras

Created by Jason White, an NMU student back in 2008 and Layla Wright-Contreras, a 2002 NMU graduate, a new social networking site was launched back in April 2010, and is looked at as an ultra-local resource, similar to Facebook. Wright-Contreras describes it as “our own private peninsula on the Internet.” She says “As the U.P. community embraces new social media technologies, I see MarquetteSocial as an online tool that will help facilitate face-to-face interactions among residents of the area.”

The U.P. FaceBook: MarquetteSocial.com

Beyond the casual and personal-members can post photos, videos, music, events and comments—there’s also the socio-economical. The site “provides local artists and businesses a unique platform to integrate, or create, e-commerce interfaces for their local businesses. Because of the local focus, the site promises to bring visibility to local talent, and is expanding to attract tourists to the area,” she adds.

Needless to say, Wright-Contreras is no ingénue when it comes to media. Building on her early experiences with WNMU FM and TV 13, she has worked as a media relations manager for Reading Is Fundamental and as a senior producer for the Hispanic Radio Network.

White on the other hand is your stereotypical technical wizard behind the scenes. While a student at NMU, he served as the

Student Webmaster/Network Administrator for the JOBSearch Center.

So, whether you live in the U.P. or clear across the country, this new website can keep you connected with what’s going on in the region and not only make you feel like you’re a part of it, but invite you to be a part of it.



What are other CAPS alumni doing these days?

Dayna (Haddock) Baitinger (2008): Community Relations Manager for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers baseball team.

Nicole Boyko (2009): Manages temporary labor contracts for Baxter Healthcare

Jaclyn Calamaro (2009): Marketing Consultant for Catamount Radio In Vermont. She just won the award for Most Creative Spec Ad from the Vermont Association of Broadcasters.

David Celeskey (2006): Director of Media/Electronic Arts at Lake Superior Christian Church

Mame, Croze (2006): Public Relations and Marketing Manager for the White House Historical Association

Megan DelBello (2007): McNair Scholars Program Coordinator for NMU

Joe Dexter (2009): News and Sports Director for five stations in Marquette (WDMJ/WIAN, WNGE and WJPD)

Jordan Gaither (2009): Owner of Swank Banana Productions (his own media-creation business) and partner in a small programming company called Icarus Wings, LLC.

Kara Holmes (2009): Account Executive for Porter Novelli serving pharmaceutical and medical device clients

Malina Hoehn-Martin (2010): Special Events Planner for the Crisis Center for South Suburbia in Chicago

Cheryl McCain (2007): PR Representative for The Fine Arts Museum of San

Francisco, the de Young Museums and the Legion of Honor

Bethany Pearson (2010): Program and Membership Manager for the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce

Jessica Revard (2005): Works for The University of Michigan’s Dental School making educational videos used in lectures and presentations

Jeron Schmidt (2008): Senior Admissions Counselor for NMU in Minneapolis

Keith Shelton (2009): Sports Reporter for Escanaba Daily Press

Katherine Stelmazek (2009): Digital Marketing Manager for Bottom Line Marketing

Regina Van Henkelum (2007): Marketing Manager for the Charlotte Stone Crabs baseball team

Jamie Waters (2008): Logistics Executive at Target

Out of the Mouths of CAPS Alumni

“Throughout earning my degree, I had many chances to help me become a better-rounded person thanks to NMU. I am glad that NMU had so many great relationships with many local businesses, and on-campus departments, such as Public TV 13, Public Eye News, and 100.3 The Point, where I worked while attending full time. While balancing challenging course work, I was getting hands-on job training that helped me gain an advantage to help me in my future path. It is an honor that NMU has these opportunities that help students out, which many other colleges do not even give their students these types of options available to them or just do not have the resources that could help them out.

Some advice I would give current and future students in the CAPS Department would be to take advantage of all of the opportunities that are available to you now, such as Public Eye News, Standing O, and Radio X. These programs will help you gain valuable job experience, make your resume stand out from others, meet friends that will last a long time, and will help you network with others and help you find bigger and better opportunities when the time comes.” **Sam McGraw (2010)**

“On December 13th, 2009 (7 months after graduation), I opened Swank Banana Productions, my own media-creation business. I began writing articles for eHow, ApartmentRatings, CVTips and other high-profile sources of internet wisdom. From there, I expanded into video creation and my personal favorite, voice overs. Since then I’ve created feature-length movie trailers, voiced video game characters and narrated DoD audio books and written copy for nationally known retailers and internet radio stations. In addition to Swank Banana, I’ve also helped start and run a small programming company with some friends, called Icarus Wings, LLC...I wouldn’t have been able to do half the things I’ve done, business-wise, without my Communications education at NMU.” **Jordan Gaither (2009)**

Internships can get you far... “I am currently the Chamber Program and Membership Manager for the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce. I interned here the summer between my junior and senior year and when I graduated was offered a full-time position.” **Bethany Pearson (2010)**

“The degree I received really prepared me for all lines of work, and although one immediately may not think that there are parallels between admissions and my entertainment and sports promotion degree I have found it to be completely opposite. The writing skills, interpersonal communication, critical thinking and attention to detail I learned have all been able to apply to my current job. I feel I am well prepared with my degree to take on any role, in any organization, that demands time management, organization and the ability to communicate effectively with people from all backgrounds.” **Jeron Schmidt (2008)**

“I graduated with a PR degree from the CAPS department last year. Although the job hunt has been difficult over the last year, I have been fortunate enough to land a communications/PR position working for the city's Arts and Culture department after graduation. Recently I was hired to be the Guest/Public Relations director for 5-star Hotel and Lodges Tanzania LTD and I will be starting this position in the immediate future. I hope this will offer some inspiration to those students yet to graduate. I know that the search for jobs can be very discouraging but being persistent and not giving up defiantly pays off. I've managed to land an amazing, well paying PR job traveling the world.” **Moire Embley (2010)**

We invite you to tell us what you have been doing since graduation by visiting
our website at:
www.nmu.edu/update



Communication and Performance Studies

1401 Presque Isle Ave.
Thomas Fine Arts Room 203
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-227-2045
Fax: 906-227-2071
E-mail: caps@nmu.edu

Effective communication starts with listening.
—Robert Gately

CAPS Mission Statement

The disciplines represented in the Communication and Performance Studies (CAPS) Department share a focus upon understanding how messages are used to manage relationships with others in contexts ranging from "one-to-one" to "one-to-many" using personal, public and mass-mediated channels of communication. Although the goals for different majors may flow from specific arenas and methods of social interaction or performance, graduates of CAPS programs share a fundamental appreciation for what it means to live in a symbolic world, to engage in life-long learning, and acquire a suite of skills that can be transferred to a wide array of career options. Thus, students majoring in CAPS learn to critically examine the role communication plays in daily life, to embrace the multicultural foundations for human discourse, to work in teams as well as independently regarding the application of communication concepts to practical situations, and to use what they have learned in the practice of civic engagement.



GIVING TO THE DEPARTMENT

The Communication and Performance Studies Department has several initiatives to give our students hands-on learning and research experiences. We invite you to support the department's fundraising initiatives. To find out more about the various initiatives and how you can help make a tangible difference in the quality of education that we can provide NMU students, please contact:

Mary Crampton, Development Officer of the College of Arts and Sciences
Phone: 906-227-2627
E-mail: mcrampto@nmu.edu

For additional information, go to www.nmu.edu/foundation or contact the NMU Foundation office at 906-227-2627 or foundtn@nmu.edu.