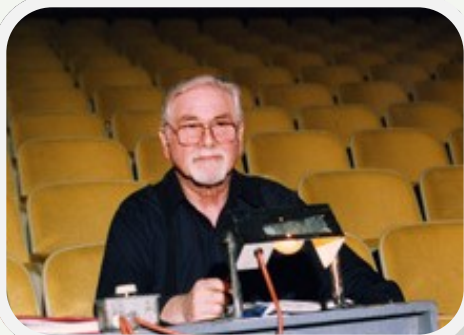


CAPS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 3

Dr. James Rapport—A legend in NMU time



Dr. Rapport joined what was then Northern Michigan College in 1958 and had a 40-year career with the university. In addition to teaching, he served several years as the director of theatre and 27 years as department head. He retired in 1998 and was awarded the distinction of professor emeritus.

As many of you may have already learned, Dr. James Rapport left this life Sunday evening August 28, 2011 after a week-long struggle against congestive heart failure. Many in the greater NMU community knew "Daddy Bear" as a passionate advocate for the arts and his home department, which he so ably championed for more than three decades.



INTEREST POINTS:

- ◆ Moving on— three CAPS faculty members retire on same day
- ◆ Changing Names and Changing Programs
- ◆ The Future of Public Broadcasting
- ◆ Theatre and Entertainment Arts at NMU

The Retiring Trio

"It was a special evening for everyone. As a student, it was so unique to get a night with all of our professors, university administrators, former students and friends all together to share memories from the past. The amount of people there was a real tribute to Don, Karyn and Wally. I was lucky enough to have classes with all three. I was constantly challenged, but I was constantly also supported. They have all played such a large part in shaping who I've grown to become academically and professionally. I was thrilled to play a part in their send-off party." —Brian Price, former Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) President and recent communication studies graduate



Pictured from Left to Right are Wally Niebauer, public relations; Karyn and Don Rybacki, entertainment and sports promotion

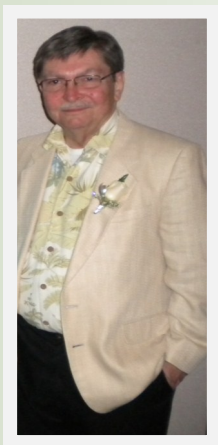
To view some special tribute videos please

visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8PQ3u9ZqVQ&feature=youtu.be> and http://www.flipshare.com/view.aspx?nRecipe=ent=&nFrame=QkQzMTNDQkYtODA0Ri00QT_hFLTk3REYtNUI3OEI1MUNBMzYx&nMedia=M0U3NTM5M0EtNDFDRS00Njk2LT-k1NjYtOElyMTRDN0Y4NThB&emailThumbnail=single&nT=

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A Tribute to Don and his “Don-isms” as told by Chuck Ganzert



One of our retirees this year was Don Rybacki, and we all know him as a faculty member and former department head. But he was also at one time chair of the Faculty Senate, a union representative, our associate dean, and did a dandy job on the CAPS Executive Committee reviewing the departmental by-laws.

Don was also, however, our “Minister of Metaphors,” and it was his job to spice up the dialogue at our departmental meetings. He was never content to employ a trite or hackneyed phrase. He was known for crafting his own cryptic similes and metaphors for every occasion. We liked to call them “Don-isms.”

For instance, with so much experience throughout the university, it was no surprise that many of his uniquely quotable phrases related to how much he enjoyed bureaucracy. At times, he referred to himself as “the chief spear catcher” for the department, or “the lawyer for the Tattaglia Family.” (*The Godfather*) He once told us, “I’m your worst nightmare, an administrator with a spreadsheet.”

When speaking about one of his colleagues, he once said, “His feet don’t quite reach the pedals.” About another, he said he wanted to “put him in a Bulgarian headlock.”

He referred to retirement as “the dinosaurs sinking into the primal ooze of the La Brea Tar Pit” and it turns out that physical therapy is actually “gym class for old farts.” And about teaching, he once said, “Before PowerPoint, I was the king of transparencies.” And what a king he was.

But now, it looks as if the Minister of Metaphors position will remain un-filled and the department will need to supply its own Don-isms. But that’s going to be hard...Hard as chicken lips. ...Hard as an IRS tax accountant’s smile.

And we’ll be busy...Busy as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. ...Busy as a Swiss admiral. ...Busy as a tree full of wood - peckers.

We’re a little up-tight about it—tight as the bark on a tree—because we know we can be inarticulate in many languages. But we’re gambling that we can carry on this tradition. It takes a little horse sense. And horse sense, of course, is the good judgment that keeps horses from betting on people. (Honestly, what’s really got us most worried is what we will do next time we have to rewrite the departmental by-laws without him.)

But after all, now that those dinosaurs are sinking into the primal ooze of the La Brea Tar Pit, our lawyer for the Tattaglia family is giving up his job as spear catcher. Don Rybacki has set the literary standard for our Department, and for that, we are grateful to our retiring Minister of Metaphors.

DON-ISMS

Don's TOP 10 List of things he will and won't miss in retirement.

Let me begin with the things I won't miss.

#10—I WON'T MISS Academic Program Review. In my lifetime, I've endured two rounds of Academic Program Review and two colonoscopies. I preferred the later. The preparation for the procedure didn't take as long, and they anesthetize you while they're looking into your business.

#9—I WON'T MISS 8 a.m. classes. Do I really need to explain this?

#8—I WON'T MISS the biennial issuing of new NMU laptops. We advise students to always do two things, backup your hard drive and use a condom. When you get to be my age the latter advice is kind of pointless, but the importance of the former was brought home two weeks ago when, as a pre-retirement present, my laptop decided to have a nervous breakdown and had to be re-imaged. Good luck with the platform shift.

#7—I WON'T MISS the faculty evaluation process, the academic equivalent of liar's poker, which always felt like a drain on my time at the least convenient moment. Maybe I'll finally read that book about time management in retirement.

#6—I WON'T MISS going to meetings. Faculty have an important role in shared governance, but my 93-year-old mother is convinced I spend more time going to meetings than anything else. I don't hate groups. Hell, I started my career teaching small group process, but I loathe the time wasted in meetings that are poorly organized and conducted. But there are also a number of things that I will miss...

#5—Oddly enough, I WILL MISS department meetings. The donuts are great and the chance to find out about the latest triumphs of colleagues and students in other subareas and, embarrassingly, often my own is even better. Bill Eadie, our external consultant for program review, chided us for not doing a better job of communicating this kind of information to external constituencies, and maybe we, oops you, can start to do a better job of this by not waiting until the third Friday of the month to share the good news with each other.

#4—I WILL MISS commencement. The seats are hard and uncomfortable, but it is rewarding to see students who have worked so hard take their first steps into "life after Northern." Come to think of it, I've missed the last two commencements.

#3—I WILL MISS seeing junior faculty grow and find their niche at Northern and in their profession. You will have two terrific new colleagues next year, who are not strangers to NMU. Many of us with aging parents are familiar with the phrase "we are always our parents' children," and how that can get in the way of helping them. Collegial relationships are different than familial ones, even though we speak of the place we graduated from as our alma mater. Mentors for new faculty are commonly drawn from the subarea in which they teach, but Paul, you've been through the "former student-current colleague" experience and can be a valuable Big Brother for our new faculty.

#2—I WILL MISS the tax deductions. When we were doing research for a pre-conference seminar on Mikhail Bakhtin and the large rhetorical texts chapter of the second edition of our criticism book, we attended the Indy 500, the Brickyard 400 NASCAR race, and the return of Formula One to the United States...and took it off our taxes. Is this a great profession, or what? Many of you have heard me say, "if we ever get audited, I hope the IRS agent has a sense of humor."

#1—I WILL MISS you, my colleagues and students. You are the best. Bill Eadie asked to have breakfast with us three retirees, and one thing he wanted to know was how things had changed in our time here. I told him we obviously had better facilities and equipment, but the most important change in 30 plus years was that we had become a department whose faculty pulled together, even though we represented diverse but related disciplines. Don't ever lose that!

Let's see, a speech should have an appropriate conclusion.

As Karyn and Don embark on their excellent adventure, they leave you with the immortal words of Bill and Ted, "Party on, dudes!"

PAYING HOMAGE TO KARYN RYBACKI

Karyn Rybacki had an outstanding academic career spanning 33 years. Her noteworthy contributions to the university included the creation of two of the most successful curricula in Communication and Performance Studies: public relations and entertainment and sports promotion. Her expertise in curriculum development and pedagogy is such that she is one of only two people invited to present their research as part of the program panels co-incident with the founding of the public relations divisions of the International Communication Association, the National Communication Association and the Central States Speech Association. Donald Rybacki is the other.

Karyn is also first author of the bestselling non-debate textbook in argumentation. *Advocacy and Opposition: An Introduction to Argumentation*, now in its 7th edition with Allyn & Bacon, is used at colleges and universities from coast to coast as well as overseas, and has been translated into Romanian and Polish. The visibility of this book and its acknowledged leadership in the field led Dr. William F. Eadie, editor of Sage Publishing's *21st Century Communication: A Reference Handbook*, to solicit a chapter entitled "Rhetorical Exigency, Strategy, and Argumentation," for volume one of this two volume work. It also led Idebate Press to ask Karyn to write the prefaces for the 7th revised edition of Richard Whatley's, *Elements of Rhetoric*, and the 8th revised edition of his *Elements of Logic*. This was a singular honor since Whatley is the 19th century theorist whose work provides the foundation for contemporary argumentation theory, and the prefaces for the previous editions had been written by the late Dr. Douglas Ehninger of the University of Iowa, one of the most highly respected scholars in the field, who began the shift away from a purely debate focus in argumentation textbooks in the 1950s and '60s.

Rybacki's research is eclectic, having been published in everything from *Journal of Collective Negotiation in the Public Sector*

to *Public Relations Review*, and she is one of the few academics doing research on motorsports. When Kenneth Burke, a leading communication theorist of the late twentieth century, passed away in 1993, the *Southern Journal of Communication* announced that it would devote a special issue to scholarship on his work. Of the over 120 submissions received, Karyn's co-authored article, "Competition in the Comic Frame: A Burkean Analysis of Vintage Sports Car Racing," was one of six accepted for publication. Her interest in motorsports extends to the contemporary fad of NASCAR, and Patrick Miller, editor of *The Sporting World of the Modern South*, University of Illinois Press, requested permission to include a revised version of a paper she presented at the joint meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association for that book's NASCAR chapter. "The King, the Young Prince, and the Last Confederate Soldier" attracted much media attention, and Karyn was interviewed by and quoted in articles in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Autoweek*.

Beyond being a pedagog and prolific scholar, Rybacki has also served Northern Michigan University in countless ways. Like many candidates for emeritus status, she has served on the Academic Senate, Athletic Council, the Committee on Undergraduate Programs, and the Faculty Review Committee, but she has also served in a number of other unique and important capacities. Then-president James Appleberry asked her to co-chair the Young Adults Task Force as part of his Commission on the Future of Northern Michigan University. Former Provost Philip Beukema tapped her for membership on the Committee on Formal Communication Studies as part of his Liberal Studies Task Force. President Judith Bailey asked her to organize and co-chair the International Conference on Sports and Society as the fourth part of the Vital Issues Forum Series that was part of NMU's Centennial Celebration. This event brought



scholars from as far away as Australia to campus for a memorable weekend of sharing, comparing and networking.

Likewise she has served her profession in exceptional ways. She is a founding member of the public relations division of the International Communication Association, for which she also served as an officer for multiple terms, and the public relations and sports communication divisions of the National Communication Association. She has been a member of the editorial boards of *The Quarterly Journal of Speech* and *Communication Studies* and served as a reviewer of proposals for new textbooks and revisions to existing textbooks for numerous publishers. Beyond that, she has willingly shared her expertise with colleagues at other universities.

Karyn Rybacki is a first-rate educator who has also served as a role model for her female students and her colleagues. A diligent teacher and textbook author, she has defended women's rights in the classroom and the work-place. For decades, NMU students have discovered through her that leadership, scholarship, and professional accomplishments are not limited by gender. For her meritorious accomplishments and extensive service, we thank her.

A Tribute to Dr. Niebauer (a.k.a. Wally) as told by Dwight Brady

Walter Niebauer came to NMU in fall 2000 from Iowa State University to teach courses in public relations. He brought with him 24 years of teaching experience, a fine record of scholarship and five years of corporate public relations experience.

It was apparent from day one that “Wally,” as he is affectionately known by his students, was a passionate and engaged professor who did not simply impart knowledge, he immersed students in highly relevant experiences to enhance their learning. He accomplished this through connecting himself to community and campus organizations that could benefit from the help he and his students could render. For example, he served over five years as a board member of the U.P. Sled Dog Association. His involvement in the UPSDA helped him teach students about event planning, promotion and community relations. Our department’s PR students are now critical to the success of this mid-winter classic. He also served as the only faculty member on the organizing committees for the Olympic Trials and World Cup short track speed skating events and the China vs. USOC events. He used this position to involve other faculty and to provide students with professional experience at the national and international level.

When President Obama visited NMU in 2011, Wally was one of the first people NMU Director of Communications Cindy Paavola called because she wanted help from the public relations students. Paavola said, “I need a team of students who are professional, present themselves well, don’t get rattled and are absolutely dependable.” This request is a testament to the quality of the students and instruction in this major.

One of his greatest successes has been with the NMU chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. As faculty advisor, he introduced high standards of professionalism and community service, and the chapter has emerged from obscurity on campus to being nationally known. During his tenure, the chapter has been named campus Student Organization of the Year and has won awards for program and project of the year, and the Community Service Award for logging more than 3,000 hours through Superior Edge in one year. Also, Niebauer twice received the NMU advisor of the year award. During the same time, the NMU chapter has developed a national presence and has had three students elected vice president for National PRSSA, putting it among the elite of the more than 300 chapters at universities across the country.

Given Wally’s focus on community service and service learning, he is one of the original members of the Academic Service Learning (ASL) Advisory Committee and also helped develop Superior Edge and served on its Advisory Board. Both of those committees have received NMU’s Outstanding Team Awards. In addition to serving on these pioneering committees, he served on the Committee on Undergraduate Programs (CUP) and the Faculty Review Committee (FRC).

Wally Niebauer gave Northern his absolute best during his twelve years of service. He is a student-centered professor who chose service as his primary method of enhancing teaching and learning, and he clearly was exceptional.



CAPS academic programs

Two academic program name changes were recently approved and will take effect with the fall semester. Both majors fall under the Communication and Performance Studies department. Theatre will shift to the more expansive theatre and entertainment arts and electronic journalism will become multimedia journalism.

The new multimedia journalism major will replace our electronic journalism program and will reflect the societal and technological changes taking place in the field of journalism. Today's journalist must write and produce content across different media platforms, and this updated program will better prepare students to gain the necessary competencies in researching, writing and producing new content for print, broadcast and the web.

Theatre and entertainment arts is basically a broadening of what was our existing theatre program. In the ever changing landscape of live performance art (theatre, music, dance, opera, circus etc.) there comes a time when programs must evaluate how their majors reflect and prepare students for the world job market. The CAPS theatre faculty agreed that, for reasons of recruitment and artistic performance diversity, the current title of Theatre was too limiting thus the new name. This new curriculum expands the learning base of students in order to make them more competitive in a greatly diversified field and better reflects the focus and direction of the program.

Entertainment and sports promotion (ESPR) major suspended

Historically, about one-quarter of the students majoring in public relations (PR) wanted to pursue careers in entertainment and sports. These students were successful in becoming sports information directors, theatrical and music promoters, and media relations directors for various franchises because they made wise choices regarding their minors, the elective courses they took, and the internships they completed.

To better serve the needs of students preparing for professions and practice in these areas, the entertainment and sports promotion major was developed and first offered in 2003. Taught by three primary professors, Drs. Walter Niebauer, Donald Rybacki and Karyn Rybacki, it was modeled on the existing public relations major with core courses and a different mix of elective and designated liberal studies courses.

As the “three amigos” retire along with their expertise in the field, the entertainment and sports promotion major will be suspended and existing majors accommodated by tacking PR courses. Perhaps in time we will be able to resurrect the ESPR major.

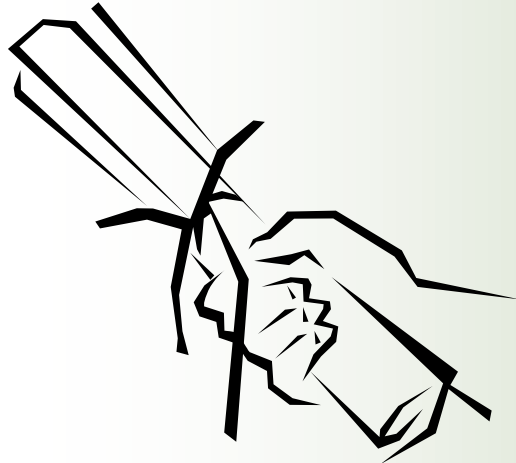


Outstanding CAPS Graduates

- ⇒ **Carolyn Tobin**—Outstanding Graduating Senior in Broadcasting.
- ⇒ **Brian Price**—Outstanding Graduating Student in Communication Studies.
Brian was also named the 2012-13 National Vice President of Chapter Development for the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)
- ⇒ **Claire Kooperman**—Outstanding Graduating Senior in Public Relations/Entertainment and Sports Promotion
- ⇒ **Tyler Welden and Aaron Sarka**—Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Theatre
- ⇒ **Pierce Huxtable**—Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. Pierce

Scholarship Recipients

- ◆ James L. Rapport Scholarship (\$1500) - **Jalina Ogren**
- ◆ Forest Roberts Family Endowment (\$700) - **Jalina Ogren and Kristy Priest**
- ◆ Karen Rademacher Scholarship (\$150) - **Alycia Heckathorn**
- ◆ Panowski Scholarship (\$1,000) - **Adam Lowe**
- ◆ Rasmussen Scholarship (\$300) - **Jackie Taves**
- ◆ John P. McGoff (\$200) - **Hillary Sundblad**



2011-2012 faculty publications and creative works

Dwight Brady, Professor

- Produced a one-hour documentary on a French-Canadian band's visit to the area with his field production class in the winter of 2011 that was broadcast four times on WNMU-TV and was made available to PBS affiliates around the nation. The premiere of *Spellbound: Mauvais Sort in Marquette* was originally televised on 9/28/11 and was part of the 2010-11 NMU International Performing Arts Series lineup.

Jim Cantrill, Department Head

- Published 2 articles: "Amplifiers on the Commons: Using Indicators to Foster Place-Based Sustainability Initiatives." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*, 2011. "The Role of a Sense of Self-in-Place and Risk Amplification in Promoting the Conservation of Wildlife." *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 2011.
- Produced conference paper: "Using Cultural Identifications and Place-Based Sustainability Initiatives to Promote Land-Use Conservation Practices." Paper presented at the 17th International Symposium on Society and Natural Resources, June, 2011.
- Engaged in consultation: invited Informant, scientist-to-scientist workshop to develop a behavioral sciences research agenda for the Office of Research and Development - United States Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C., June, 2011.

Chuck Ganzert, Professor

- In April, after three years and hundreds of thousands of dollars, the WUPX new digital/analog 1700 watt Morgan Meadow transmitter equipment was brought online with Chuck's help.
- Produced "The North Coast Trio," an hour-long radio program of music and interviews for WNMU Public Radio, March 29, 2012.
- Recorded and produced in the NMU McClintock audio studio "Mauvais Sort: Fait a' Marquette." A program with visiting Canadian musicians on campus as part of the International Performing Arts Series. , March 28, 2011.
- Presented "Latest Developments in Rural Service Learning" with R. Stoecker, H. Stevenson, and N. Holton at Michigan Campus Compact Institute for Service Learning and Civic Engagement in Lansing, Michigan, 2012.
- Presented "Creating a Culture of Civic Engagement" with D. Bonsall, R. Harris, and J. Barch at Michigan Campus Compact Institute for Service Learning and Civic Engagement in Lansing, Michigan, 2012.
- Presented "ASL Data Collection and Assessment" with P. Duby and D. Brandreth. Michigan Campus Compact Institute for Service Learning and Civic Engagement in Lansing, Michigan, 2012.
- Invited Instructor for a week-long session at the Ohio Oral History Institute at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Funded by the Ohio Humanities Council.

Vic Holliday, Associate Professor

- Coordinated the development of a major revision of the theatre curriculum.
- Completed the scenic design for the Forest Roberts Theatre (FRT) main stage productions of "Compleat Female Stage Beauty" and the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" FRT Productions and designed lighting for "The Near East" FRT production.
- Completed two scenic and two lighting designs for the Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council's productions at the Vista Theatre in Negaunee; created and executed two lighting designs for the dance program of the HPER Department at NMU; and designed and executed lighting for both the fall and winter semester dance performances.

Sara Potter, Instructor

- Reviewer for a book by Simond, Hunt, Simond a public speaking and contributed instructor resource for their website. (Review)
- Presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in April her Paper "Assessing Speaking, Writing, Delivery Skill, and Communication Apprehension in the Basic Course" which was selected as a competitive paper in the basic course division.
- Gave two presentations for the Multicultural Education Resource Center on public speaking skills and reducing communication barriers.
- Submitted to *Communication Teacher* "Teaching Public Address with 10 mini speeches."
- Gave a seminar for the McNair Scholars on Presentation Skills for Presenting Your Conference Paper.

2011-2012 faculty publications and creative works

Shelley Russell, Professor

- Won a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Certificate of merit for directing the production of the "Compleat Female Stage Beauty," January
- Completed: "Water, Woman," a full-length play script with six characters in a contemporary setting. A staged reading was directed by professional New York director Judith Stephens-Ly, in the Black Box Theatre in March.
- Did costume designs for "Near East" in NMU's Black Box Theater, February.
- Directed "The Compleat Female Stage Beauty" at the Forest Roberts Theatre in October.
- Has a new script in process, "Game," along with a grant application.

Mark Shevy, Associate Professor (shown in the middle in the picture below)

- Mark was one of the five NMU faculty members recognized at the annual Celebration of Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship Ceremony in December 2011. Mark was the 2011-2012 recipient of the Technology Innovation Award
- "A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Listeners' Extra-Musical Associations with Popular Music Genres," was accepted for publication in Psychology of Music.



- Wrote a paper called "Story, Music, and Disposition Theory" that was accepted and presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference in Chicago.
- Wrote a chapter for book entitled "Music in advertising and other persuasive media." that was accepted for publishing by Oxford University Press.
- Wrote another chapter for a book called "A media effects approach to music in multimedia." that has been submitted publishing by Oxford University Press.

Paul Truckey, Associate Professor

- Won a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Region III Faculty Service Award—January
- Directed "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," Forest Roberts Theatre, April

Ansley Valentine, Associate Professor and Director of Theatre

- Won two Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Certificates of merit for "A Year with Frog and Toad" choreography and "Compleat Female Stage Beauty" costume, January
- Directed "The Near East," Forest Roberts Theatre, February

Shuang Xie, Assistant Professor

- Appointed as a faculty member of the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee of NMU, October 2011
- Presented papers: *How Neo-Liberal Imperialism is Expressed by Programming Strategies of Phoenix TV: A Critical Case Study* and *Similarity and Difference or Similarity in Difference?: China's TV Programming in Global Trend of Neoliberal Imperialism*. Papers presented at the 2012 International Communication Association, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Submitted Paper: "News programs of Phoenix TV: Dancing in the tension of the global and national," to the *Global Communication and Media*.

NMU students get hands-on with mobile studios system



Since the transition to digital technology almost a half decade ago, Northern Michigan University's WNMU-TV, affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Service, has gained even more recognition in the broadcasting world.

Not only have they won a respectful array of awards, among them the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Award for Best Student Sportscast, NMU students were also hired to work and were involved in every aspect of producing the 2009 U.S. Olympic Speed Skating Trials and Speed Skating World Cup for image magnification throughout the arena. The

Portacast® live production system that WNMU-TV used both on campus and on location at events was engineered and designed by south-Florida-based integration company Mobile Studios.

Mobile Studios built the Portacast® for Northern Michigan University with a plethora of features and it has become an indispensable tool for NMU students that provided opportunities to apply course lessons in a real-world, team setting with the common goal of creating high quality programming for live streaming.

The future is looking bright for Northern's Sports and Special Events program at WNMU-TV. Now, with the demand for portable live streaming ever growing, Mobile Studios seems capable of meeting the video production and broadcasting industry's need for powerful yet easy-to-operate live streaming options. This is only the beginning for both Northern Michigan's WNMU-TV and Mobile Studios. For these two entities, the platform for progress to take off is rightfully solid.



Students' documentary aired on WNMU-TV

Students in Dwight Brady's advanced field production class produced a documentary on a French-Canadian band's visit to the area that was broadcast on WNMU-TV. The premiere of *Spellbound: Mauvais Sort in Marquette* was held during homecoming week in September 2011.

Mauvais Sort was part of the

2010-11 NMU International Performing Arts Series lineup. Brady said he was initially asked by Dan Truckey, series director, if he would be interested in shooting video footage of the concert. "After viewing a live performance video online, I knew this would be a great project for the students," Brady said. "The band deliv-

ered an incredible show for the crowd and our cameras. Also, because Mauvais Sort was going to be in town for a week, we had the opportunity to do more than just set up and videotape a concert. We were able to get shots of them in the community and enjoying their stay in Marquette."

CAPS students travel to Grand Rapids

Two CAPS students had the unique opportunity to see the rough edit of a film and speak with the director at an invitation-only screening in Grand Rapids in October. The experience gave these students a useful look into the production processes and audience analysis used in independent filmmaking.

At the screening, Steve Taylor, the film's director, and co-writer and Donald Miller, the author of the *New York Times* bestselling book *Blue Like Jazz*, introduced the film and talked about their screening the night before in Los Angeles.

Shevy and students Heidi Robitaille and Charlie Steen then saw the film on a big screen before it had gone through final processes such as color correction and audio post-production. After the movie, Taylor and Miller handed out questionnaires and lead a discussion to get feedback about the film's characters, storylines and other elements.

Pictured from left to right are Dr. Mark Shevy, Steve Taylor, Heidi Robitaille and Charlie Steen.



Student research, creative works and academic service learning

In April 2012 some of our students were given the opportunity to present their creative works and research in the following areas:

Sara Debold, a communication studies major, had the chance to discuss her findings related to “Assessing Writing and Delivery Skills in the Basic Course in Public Speaking: The Use of Ten 30-Second Speeches.”

- ◆ Repeated exposure has long been regarded as a positive teaching component in developing understanding. At NMU, a prior pretest/posttest study demonstrated that changes made in teaching methodology of the basic communication course (SP 100), to include student presentations of ten 30-second speeches resulted in significant improvement of students’ writing and delivery skills, and lessened their communication apprehension. The current pretest/posttest study, completed in the spring 2011, further supported the significance of a continued use of repeated exposure in the basic

communication course. A significant increase in students’ knowledge of speech writing components, delivery skills and reduction in communication apprehension were demonstrated. The present study also explored student satisfaction with their classroom experience. Pedagogical implications and suggestions for future research were discussed.

Aubrey Kall, Lauren Larsen and Carolyn Tobin, all students majoring within the Communication and Performance Studies department in turn discussed the topic of “Film Disposition and Enjoyment.”

- ◆ According to their studies, one of the most common reasons people watch movies, videos, and TV is to experience enjoyment. The affective disposition theory of enjoyment states that enjoyment is a function of viewers’ evaluation of characters and the positive and negative events that those characters experience. Literature in the psychology of film music suggests that music can influence viewers’ evaluation of characters and the inter-

pretation of their motives. The current study integrates disposition theory and music psychology to test whether music can influence the disposition that viewers form toward a character and whether that influence alters viewers’ enjoyment as the character experiences positive or negative events. A 3x2 between-subjects experimental design was constructed, in which viewers saw a one minute video and then rated their disposition toward the character and their enjoyment of the story. The beginning of the video was identical in all conditions, consisting of a girl finding a dog. However, the musical soundtrack differed, presenting either a positive or negative feeling or no music at all. The story ending was also manipulated to show the girl being rewarded or punished. Disposition theory, the Congruence Associationist Model, initial findings and suggestions for future research were discussed.

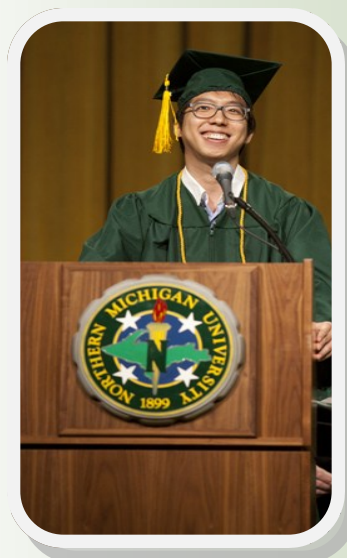
NMU spring commencement speaker

Lee Young-Jong of Seoul, South Korea, was selected as the student speaker for Northern Michigan University’s spring commencement held on Saturday, May 5.

Lee, a media production major with a minor in art and design, came to NMU to expand his global experience and his practical knowledge in the broadcasting field. He worked for the Korean Broadcasting System and a cable company as an assistant producer for two years before coming to NMU. He is focused mainly on documentary and sports broadcasting production.

Lee said his commencement speech will mention the advantages of coming to Northern, including the personalized attention from faculty and staff. He was heavily influenced by Charles Ganzert and Dwight Brady, professors in the communication and performance studies department.

“NMU professors and staff are open-minded and pretty kind to international students,” Lee said. “It is significant that NMU makes advances into the world and the global community by understanding humanity and diversity. After graduating from NMU, my job is to spread the values and spirit of NMU throughout the world.”



Lee Young-Jong

New WNMU-TV control room helps CAPS

WNMU-TV has a new, all-digital production room and recently obtained a portable audio/video field production unit for use at campus activities, including commencement.

The state-of-the-art facility in the learning resource center was designed by Grant Guston, pictured behind Mike Lakenen (WNMU-TV), and was funded by the Rural Utilities Service grant through the U.S. Agriculture Department.

The new production facility enhances the quality of local programs originating at the station and enhanced the hands-on experience that the CAPS BC 272—Studio TV Production class received during the winter 2012 semester.

The new audio board offers 5.1 surround sound, Pro Tools soft-

ware that handles editing/mixing and an interconnected audio/video server accessible from multiple points, which provides program storage and file transfer capabilities.

“We also have the ability to save and recall equalizer and effects settings so the sound is consistent,” said Lakenen. “That works well for our show hosts or for guests who appear regularly.”

The room is completed with high-end graphics unit and a Ross Carbonite switcher which mixes all video resources, facilitates transitions such as cuts, dissolves and wipes and creates digital effects.



Michigan Association of Broadcasters awards

In March of this year Drs Brady, Shevy and Ganzert took a group of students to the Michigan Association of Broadcasters conference in Lansing, Michigan for seminars on finding jobs and current broadcasting news. They came back with the following awards:

- **Mollie Anderson** took first place in the category of College Radio—Daily Newscast/News Feature
- **Brad Gicopoulos, Young-Jong Lee, William Olesak and Joel Vendittelli** all received an honorable mention in the category of College Television—Sports Play-by-Play

Radio X—The Pulse of the U.P.

Recently celebrating its 40th birthday, this student-run station geared up this past summer to take on more power to last another 40 plus years.

Better known as the “transmitter project,” the station moved its antenna to a new location, built a digital transmitter, increased its power by 1340 watts (from 360 to 1700 watts) and on April 6, 2012 flipped the switch turning off the old Presque Isle transmitter and powering up the new digital/analog 1700 watt Morgan Meadows equipment.

Kevin Boyle '81 BS, who now works as an attorney in Washington, DC., recalls when there were hardly any listeners beyond the disc jockeys spinning vinyl and reading news copy ripped from the Associated Press wire.

“The station wasn’t really on the air,” says Boyle, who parlayed his experience into a job at the former Stereo 100 in Marquette. “It was a cable-only station and didn’t reach many people.” However, In September 1993 the former WBKX became an over-the-air station at 91.5

FM, at which time it was required by the FCC to change its call letters (now WUPX).

According to Charles Ganzert, “it was Kevin Boyle who helped renew our license and obtain the permits to upgrade the power, move the tower and get the new transmitter and I don’t know that the station would be where it is today without Kevin.” The new space at the top of a hill at Morgan Meadows, southwest of town, is taller and offers better reach for the station. In fact, Radio X now reaches all of Marquette County.

WUPX continues to program an eclectic mix of music to match the diverse taste of its listeners 24/7.



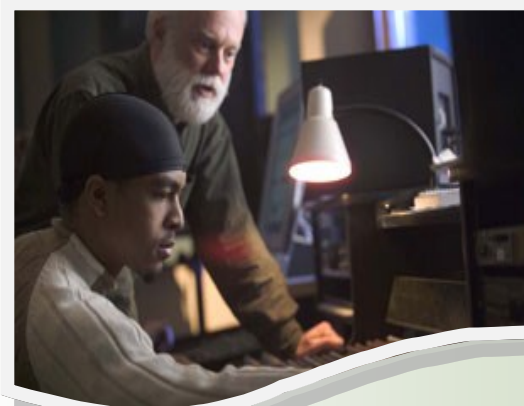
The future of public broadcasting

NMU’s public radio and television stations could be in for a rude awakening come the end of 2013. For now, however, they are safe.

According to **Eric Smith '95 MA**, director of broadcast services, funding for public broadcasting has been approved through the end of 2013. But what will happen after that, we don’t know.

NMU’s public radio and TV stations have been on campus since 1963. Today, WNMU radio and TV receive about 38% in federal funding, 35% from the

university, 23% from individual donors and underwriters, and the rest from other sources. Along with the national public broadcasting programs, WNMU provides local programming, serves as the primary emergency management services facility for the central Upper Peninsula and provides high quality learning media labs for students that “are a training ground that’s on par with some of the best stations in the country,” said Smith.



Theater: Stage Beauties

When artists are stripped of the only thing they know how to do, what comes next can be a complex journey of self-discovery and inner strength. This was the story of “Compleat Female Stage Beauty,” the Forest Robert Theatre’s opening play in the 2011-2012 season.

Shelley Russell, director of the play, said she chose to do it because of what the play represented...the questions on artistic, individual and sexual identity.

The play told a story set in the 1660s in London, where the most famous actor to play leading female roles was a man by the name of Edward Kynaston, during a time when women were not allowed to act.

Patrick Bradley, a freshman theatre major, played the role of Kynaston.

Kynaston was known for his roles as some of the most famous lady characters such as Ophelia, Cleopatra, and most importantly, Desdemona in Othello.

He was an orphan who at a young age was trained how to portray females on stage. However, after the law was passed allowing women to act on stage, Kynaston goes through an identity crisis and he is left with the problem of discovering who he is without his female roles to play.

Bradley stated that even though this was a period piece, it did a good job representing the struggles that some people have with their own sexuality.

Taylor Kulju, a sophomore theatre major played the role of Margaret Hughes,

who was the first English female actress.

Hughes was a strong-willed female character who started off as a mediocre actress but grew mature in her acting style by the end of the play. Hughes then single-handedly threatened Kynaston’s livelihood when she played Desdemona in an illegal theatre production of the play.

After witnessing one of the performances, an aspiring actress, Nell Gwynn, mistress of Charles II King of England, seduces the king to change the law and allow women to act...and the rest is history.

Theater: The Near East

“The Near East,” a play written by Alex Lewin, is a beautiful portrait of love, loss, terror and hope and was produced in connection with The Players Guild Theatre in Canton, Ohio, in mid-February of this year by our very own theatre department.

It is not by chance that director Ansley Valentine selected Lewin’s play. When “NMU received a grant to expand their Middle East studies curriculum across campus last year, Valentine said he started searching for a new play that would raise some questions about that part of the world.” Receiving the Quest for Peace Prize from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival “The Near East” seemed like a perfect fit.

The play tells the story of American

archaeologist Ken Schneider, hired by a female Arab scholar to locate the elusive *Umm Al-Kitab*, the “Mother of Books.” Reportedly, the *Umm Al-Kitab* was written by the hand of God. After the death of his son and loss of wife, Ken must confront his beliefs in God. The controversial mission affects other characters as well, including an Arab with ties to radical Islam, a British spy, and a unique young boy that accompanies Ken on his journey. “The Near East” reverberates with reminders of the Arab-American conflicts. “I believe that the play had a lot to say about American preconceived ideas of Islam and faith in general,” said Valentine. “It was an exciting story, a ghost story in fact, that raised more

questions than it answered and I hope that our audiences found it to be as compelling as I did.”

In the end of March/beginning of April, Ansley took the show on the road and directed it in Ohio at The Players Guild. And, according to their artistic director, Jeremy Lewis, our association with them won’t end with “The Near East.” Based on the stats from the show, we scored the highest of any new play conservatory project since the program began.

According to Valentine, as a continuing collaboration, Lewis will be dramaturg-in-residence for a week at NMU and will work with our Panowski Play Prize winner for 2012.

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival region III awards presentation 2012

KCACTF Region III Faculty Service Award

Paul Truckey—Northern Michigan University

STUDENT AWARDS

The Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas / Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival / Association for Theatre in Higher Education

Student Dramaturgy Award

Recipient

Abigail Ropp

A Year With Frog and Toad

The KCACTF/Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Student Directing Award

Most Improved

Jacob Barbot

The Design Storm Award

Honorable Mention Team 3: *Marisol*

Scene Designer: **Stephanie Baugher**

The Games of the Technological Olympiad

First Place

Jalina Olgren & Tyler Welden

Second Place

Charlie Jauquet & Andrea Knoll



Panowski playwriting award

The 2012 winner of the Albert and Mildred Panowski Playwriting Award goes to *Bears* by Mark Rigney! *Bears* first appeared as a staged reading in NMU's James A. Panowski Black Box theatre in March. The play will have its world premier at the FRT in the 2012-2013 season — directed by Keli Truckey.

In 2004, Rigney won the Panowski Award for his play *Burning Mona Lisa in the Reptile House*, which premiered on the FRT stage that same year. Rigney will receive a \$2,000 cash prize and a free flight to Marquette to serve as artist-in-residence for the week of the production.

Theater shows and events for 2012-2013

- ◇ **1776. October 10-13, Forest Roberts Theatre. Music and Lyrics by Sherman Edwards. Book by Peter Stone. Directed by Paul Truckey. Music Director – Rob Engelhart.**

The seminal event in American history blazes to vivid life in this most unconventional of Broadway hits. It's the summer of 1776, and the nation is ready to declare independence... if only our founding fathers can agree to do it! Winner of three of Tony Awards including Best Musical, 1776 follows John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Richard Henry Lee and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia as they attempt to convince the members of the second Continental Congress to vote for independence from the shackles of the British monarchy by signing the Declaration of Independence.
- ◇ **Haunted Theatre. October 25-27, Forest Roberts Theatre. Directed by Marty Martello.**

Late October means Halloween, and for the past few years Halloween has been another excuse for Marquette resident and First Nighter's Club board member Marty Martello to terrify the community. The First Nighter's Club and Northern Michigan University will present the 3rd Annual Haunted Theatre. The haunted house style adventure guides visitors through a spooky and theatrically redressed Forest Roberts Theatre stage. Shows are designed for all ages with a child-friendly and PG-13 version.
- ◇ **Bears. November 14-17, Forest Roberts Theatre. By Mark Rigney. Directed by Keli Truckey.**

In a world where human society is almost nonexistent, Growl Bear and Timmy Bear are living peacefully in their zoo exhibit until a new, independent and wild bear named Susie arrives at their enclosure and turns their world upside down. She convinces them to leave the safety of the zoo, and go out into the strange new wilderness. There, Growl, Timmy, and Susie have to discover who they are, how to survive the wild (and each other), and find within themselves what it truly means to be a bear.
- ◇ **Santaland Diaries. December 7-8, James A. Panowski Black Box Theatre. By David Sedaris. Directed By Ansley Valentine.**

A hilarious one-man play about the author's experiences working as an elf in Santaland at Macy's department store in New York City. David Sedaris chronicles everything from his dismay at having to choose an "elf name," to his questionable co-workers, the quality of visitors, and his final relief at the end of the season. Great holiday cheer for mature audiences!
- ◇ **NMU Dance Recital. December 8, Forest Roberts Theatre.**

An exciting dance concert with samplings from the semester's course offerings, as well as faculty and student directed pieces. Dance styles and genres to be explored include: belly dance, ballet, contemporary, modern, traditional, commercial, and theater jazz, hip-hop, tap, and various folk dances.

Theater shows and events for 2012-2013 continued...

- ◇ **Fallujah. February 20-23, Forest Roberts Theatre. By Evan Sanderson. Directed by Ansley Valentine.**
After an American journalist is chosen to be embedded in a combat troop in Iraq, he befriends the Marines he is working with and is immediately captivated by their stories of combat and home life. After tragedy strikes, the journalist is forced to return home, but the echoes of his time in Iraq reverberate too strongly for him to bear as he struggles to reconcile his experiences and to make a difference in a war that he doesn't fully know, but cannot truly leave.

- ◇ **How He Lied to Her Husband. April 3-6. James A. Panowski Black Box Theatre. By George Bernard Shaw. Directed by Pierce Huxtable.**
Will a woman and her lover get away with their secret life, or will it prove too much for them? George Bernard Shaw puts a hilarious twist on the classic bedroom farce. British humor, satire, and confusion abound in this fast-paced comedy that's sure to leave you laughing.

- ◇ **Sorry, Wrong Number. April 3-6. James A Panowski Black Box Theatre. By Lucille Fletcher. Directed by Jackie Wiles.**
Leona Stevenson, who has been trying to make a call from her bedroom telephone, gets her wires crossed and unintentionally overhears two men plotting a murder. Anxiously, Leona wades through operator after operator to trace the call, never catching on, until it's too late...that the murder being planned is hers.

- ◇ **Legally Blonde. April 17-20. Forest Roberts Theatre. Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin. Book by Heather Hach. Directed by Shelley Russell. Choreography by Jill Grundstrom.**
When college sorority girl Elle Woods is dumped by her boyfriend, Warner, she grabs her chihuahua, Bruiser, and enrolls at Harvard Law School in order to win him back. In the process, her knowledge of the law helps her successfully defend exercise queen Brooke Wyndham in a murder trial, and ultimately proves to her peers, and herself, that being yourself and going after what you want never goes out of style. Based on Amanda Brown's novel *Legally Blonde* and the 2001 film of the same name.

- ◇ **NMU Dance Recital. April 27. Forest Roberts Theater.**
A wonderful spectacle of a variety of dance styles.

Gift Certificates and Theatre Tickets

Treat someone special to a night out at the theatre.

Gift certificates are now available for the Forest Roberts Theatre.

Consider purchasing one for your friend or loved one for the holidays or other special occasions.

Purchase them online at www.nmu.edu/tickets, at NMU EZ ticket outlets or at the Forest Roberts Theatre Box Office.



CAPS alumni in the spotlight

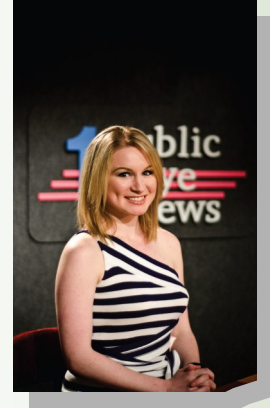
Jennifer Skogman '11 BS a media production new technology major and performance theatre minor from Escanaba, has dreams of becoming a lead TV news anchor in New York, N.Y.. However, she knows newbies just don't walk into such positions.

While studying at Northern, Jennifer worked on both sides of the camera for Public Eye News, the student-run daily newscast, and had a show on WUPX, NMU's student radio station.

She also worked at WNMU she ran the camera, television equipment, developed TV graphics and assisted with the stations'

fundraising efforts.

Jennifer originally chose NMU because it was inexpensive and close to home. However, what she didn't realize at the time was "all the opportunities there are for students interested in media careers." Now that's she's graduated she's on her way to New York. And she's "not unrealistic about the challenges" ahead of her. "I don't expect it to be easy, but I'm ready to test myself."



Jennifer Skogman

Working with the White House



Dylan Ebbers

Dylan Ebbers received the opportunity of a lifetime during President Obama's visit to NMU in February 2011.

Ebbers, who earned his bachelors of science degree in entertainment and sports promotion in May '11, was placed in charge of coordinating all of the student volunteer activities with a White House Advance Team staff member. Learning of the opportunities this unique visit would pro-

vide, Dylan said he started thinking about which students and student groups he would target. He said he first targeted Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) members so they could get event management experience, and then moved on to any other group he thought would represent both NMU and the President of the United States in the most

professional manner. Reliving the day, Ebbers commented, "I vaguely remember what the President said...in what seemed like a minute-long speech, President Obama was off the stage, shaking hands and out of the building. I couldn't believe how well everything went."

Ron Burton scholarship

The Ron Burton Scholarship is a full-ride scholarship to attend NMU and the recipients of it have to be a "Burton program" graduate.

The Burton Program a.k.a. The Ron Burton Training Village is a program named after the 1960s pro football player Ron Burton that works with inner city youth. Part of the program is a summer camp in Massachusetts, where participants work on strategies

for building character and successful futures. It's at this camp that **Cory Cameron '10 BS** first heard about the scholarship and decided to apply.

Cameron enrolled at NMU several years ago as an art and design major, but would later become a media production major and art minor. During his studies at NMU, he worked with Public Eye News, NMU's student-produced daily TV newscast; did some

technical directing at WNMU and overall just learned what he liked and disliked. As he put it himself, "that self realization gave me a better grasp of who I am."

Today Cameron is a soundboard operator for Cox Media Group radio stations in his hometown of Dayton, Ohio.

Other alumni and CAPS majors in the spotlight

- ◆ **Carolyn Tobin '12 BS** in communication studies was accepted into the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program and headed to Argentina this summer
- ◆ **Brian Price '12 BS** in communication studies accepted an internship with Taylor Global, Inc. in their Charlotte, N.C. office this summer. Taylor is rated the 15th best PR agency in the country and Brian will be working on their Allstate account, which includes: NFL Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, college football and the NCAA's Southeastern Conference in all sports.
- ◆ **Hannah Irving '12 BS** in theatre accepted an internship with the Young Actors Theatre.
- ◆ **Kristen Halsey '12 BS** in theatre will be a fire dancer in the show "Trumpet in the Land."
- ◆ **Abigail Ropp '12 BS** in theatre is a production fellow/understudy at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA.
- ◆ **Aaron Sarka '12 BS** in theatre and theatre majors **Jim Vincent** and **Jacob Barbot** are doing "Tecumseh!" in Chillicothe, Ohio.
- ◆ **Amanda Bazemore '11 BS** was just accepted into a master's program for interior design at the University of Florida.
- ◆ **Adam Lowe**, a current theatre major is doing a new musical in Ohio Amish country called "The Confession."
- ◆ **Jennifer Michaud** (formerly Jennifer Johnson) a theatre graduate from the early 1990s, is the development director at the Sol Theatre Company in Carbondale, Colorado, a new children's theatre.
- ◆ **Andrew Mellen '84 BS** in theatre today resides in New York City and after 20 years in the theatre business as a successful actor and director, is now a professional organizer, author and speaker. He has appeared on shows such as "The Nate Berkus Show," "Martha Stewart Living" and "Oprah." He has also written the best selling book *Unstuff Your Life*. Mellen said recently NMU helped create the stepping stones to the successful life he has today. His words of advice are to "Work hard. Enjoy yourself. Look for the possibility in every opportunity. Stay open to whatever is in front of you because you never know what could happen. Embrace life and stay open. Temper your expectations with a willingness to participate in whatever is in front of you because it could change your life."





2011-2012 NMU PRSSA organization

To view highlights from this year's PRSSA adventures please visit this You Tube video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnboMqwyPJo&feature=player_detailpage



NMU Chinese organization

The NMU Chinese Organization is a newly established student organization here at Northern run by our faculty adviser Shuang Xie. It is open to anyone and everyone who is interested in learning about the Chinese culture, the Chinese language and in establishing friendships with the Chinese people.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

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Our Mission: 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.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.NMU.EDU/CAPS