



## Digneit Named NMU Director of Theatre

Northern Michigan University's Forest Roberts Theatre announces that Bill Digneit has been named the new director of theater.

Digneit said he would like to increase the program's visibility throughout the region, establish stronger relationships with other theater programs and expose students to opportunities in the entertainment field outside of traditional theater.

"Opportunities for professional development such as summer stock, study abroad, and conferences are paramount for post-graduation employment," Digneit said. "Networking is huge in this industry, so we want to help our students connect with outstanding alumni and others who are leaders in the entertainment field. I also want to see more collaboration with the talent we have in other programs on campus and the technologies we share. Video and digital content is a big part of the industry."

Digneit received his bachelor's degree in theater and entertainment arts from NMU. He obtained his Master of Fine Arts degree in technical production and design from Florida State University. Digneit is familiar in the Marquette community as co-owner of Double Trouble Entertainment with his twin brother, Pat.

"Mr. Digneit's reputation and strong national presence in theatrical design and promotion made him the ideal candidate for the position," said David Pierce, technical director and production manager for the Forest Roberts Theatre. "His national and international work with Live Design International (LDI), both in Las Vegas and in Mexico, will provide our students with practical training and opportunities in the

professional theater world outside of NMU and Marquette."

Digneit said he was motivated to apply for the position because he enjoys working with the future makers of theater and entertainment.

"I always knew that I wanted to work in higher education, but needed to have professional experience to draw from," he said. "I feel like the time is right to enter academia and impart some of my knowledge to students here at NMU. The program is ready to push and grow in new ways. I want to make sure our students are prepared for the many jobs in the entertainment arts field."

NMU professor Paul Truckey said Digneit will be a valuable addition to the Forest Roberts Theatre family.

"His vision for the future will not only be a boon for our students, but for the Marquette community as a whole. Under his guidance, the FRT will continue to forge ahead as a leader in arts and entertainment in the region."

NMU professor Shelley Russell added, "Bill's cutting-edge artistic vision and personal integrity are just what we need to grow the arts in the U.P. He's an innovator, and he's committed to the region. He's a great match for us."

Prepared By: Jill Vermeulen, Student Writer



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## FACULTY: 2016-2017 CREATIVE WORKS



### Dwight Brady:

- Completed "Boxed In," a documentary done in collaboration with his BC 300 class in the Winter '16 semester. Now he is working on revisions to develop the documentary for regional PBS distribution.
- Received the 2016 Academic Service Learning Award (Fall 2016)
- Dwight received recognition for 20 years of service
- "Boxed In" won a Michigan Emmy for Best Politics/Government Program (June 2017)



### Jim Cantrill:

- Appointed as the administrator for NMU's new General Education Program in April 2017
- Published a book chapter along with CAPS graduate Josh Ewalt: "Victims 'in' and Protectors 'of' Appalachia: Place and the Common Topic of Protection in *Missing Mountains: We Went to the Mountaintop, but It Wasn't There.*" In Derek Ross (Ed.), *Topic-Driven Environmental Rhetoric*, 2017.
- Presentations given:
  - "Home Waters Run Deep: Leveraging Cold-Water Conservation and Place Attachment to Promote Climate Change Adaptation Across Socio-Political Divides." Presented at the Conference on Communication and Environment, Leicester, England, June 2017. (co-authors Rebecca Goodman - CAPS graduate - and Bryan Burroughs - Michigan Trout Unlimited)
  - "HD.gov: A Place for Social Science Resources, Conversations, and Collaboration." Presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Umea, Sweden, June 2017. (Co-authors from the HD.gov executive committee)
  - "HD.gov and Bringing the Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management to a Variety of Publics." Presented at the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Houghton, MI, June 2016. (Co-authors from the HD.gov executive committee)
  - "Heading Off Forestry Management Conflict: Lessons from the Field of Environmental Communication." Presentation to the Michigan Society of American Foresters, Houghton, MI, November 2016.
- Appointed to the Editorial Board of *Frontiers in Science and Environmental Communication*.
- Designated as a "Roving Scholar" for the National Communication Association annual meeting in Philadelphia last November.



### Vic Holliday:

- Scenic and lighting design for: *Where A Certain Future*, directed by Michael Blatt, Panowski Black Box Theatre, October 2016; for *Scrooge*, directed by David Dagenais, Forest Roberts Theatre, December 2016 and for *The Adams Family*, directed by Shelley Russell, Forest Roberts Theatre, April 2017.
- Lighting design and execution for: the NMU Fall dance concert, directed by Jill Grundstrom, November 2016; for *A Christmas Story*, directed by Sara Perfetti, Peninsula Arts Appreciation Council, Vista Theatre, December 2016; for *Building Madness*, directed by Paul Truckey, Forest Roberts Theatre, February 2017; NMU Winter dance concert, directed by Jill Grundstrom, Forest Roberts Theatre, April 2017; for *The Beethoven Project*, produced by the Pine Mountain Music Festival, Forest Roberts Theatre, June 2017 and for *Double Doors of the Horizon; Visions in Light and Dance*, with Maria Formolo, Deborah Choszczyk, and the TaMaMa Dance Company (Tara Middleton, Maggie Barch, and Marissa Marquardson), Forest Roberts Theatre, June 2017.



### Tom Isaacson:

- Tom helped two public relations students (Abby Cook and Jami Hageboom) submit a case to the Arthur Page Corporate Communication National Case Competition
- Worked on a Sports PR book chapter that was part of a pre-conference session at AEJMC conference he attended in August. The AEJMC conference is an annual conference organized by the The Association For Education In Journalism & Mass Communication .
- Presented material at conference in April regarding how NCAA is handling concussion responses

### Pat Jerome

- Continues to advise 30-35 CAPS students and teach 3-4 classes each semester.

## FACULTY: 2016-2017 CREATIVE WORKS



### David Pierce

- Spent 11 weeks over the summer of '16 working as Technical Director/Production Manager for the Adirondack Theatre Festival where he helped to develop 4 brand new productions. Most notably, he was able to work with TV's Marc Summers (Double Dare, Family Double Dare, Unwrapped) on his one man show focusing on his battle of OCD while hosting the messiest game show on television.
- Was the lighting designer for the FRT's productions of Scrooge and Addams Family.
- Coordinated a pictures with Santa fundraiser before and after the Scrooge performances.
- With help from my Entertainment Technology 2 class, I coordinated the first ever FRT Battle of the Bands Competition.



### Sara Potter

- APPQMR Certification (2016) Selected to participate in a small cohort, through the Office of Distance Learning, in the Applying the Quality Matters Rubric. QM is a nationally recognized, faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of online course design and online components. Courses completing informal QM evaluation include; SP100, SP110, and SP200
- **Publication Contributor:** Lambert, A. (2016, May). Communication When Students are Home for the Summer. *ZBGuide*, 18-19. [https://issuu.com/goflocom/docs/2016\\_zbguide\\_may/19](https://issuu.com/goflocom/docs/2016_zbguide_may/19)
- (In Progress) **Doctor of Philosophy in Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture** at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI
- Recipient of The King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowship. A full tuition scholarship that covers 1-3 years of doctoral graduate study at Michigan Technological University (Fall 2016)
- *On-Campus Presentation:* DARTS Program Presentations (2016): Roommate Dynamics- West Hall; Speed Friend-ing- Halverson Hall; Family Relationships- Halverson Hall
- A member of the *Interdepartmental Curriculum Committee* (2016-2017)
- Representative for Responsible Debating Programming through Multicultural Education Resource Center (2016).
- Selected as the co-chair for the linguistics section of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters at Central Michigan University (MASAL) for 2018. Also mentioned: presented a paper at the MASAL conference in Kalamazoo over spring break.
- Did a comparative study on the Stanford Rape case. Paper presented at the Graduate Research Colloquium at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI, February 2017, and at the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, March 2017: ***"Using Critical Discourse Analysis to Understand Power, Hegemony, and Blame in the Stanford Rape Case."***



### Shelley Russell

- Director – *The Secret Garden* and *The Addams Family*, 2016.
- Actor – *Butterflies Are Free*, 2016.
- Costume Designer – *The Secret Garden*, *Where a Certain Future* (World Premiere), *Scrooge*, *The Addams Family*, 2016
- Playwright – *A Good Fall*, 2016. One act play, presented for Women's History Month, NMU luncheon, March, 2017.
- Playwriting – *Monsters on the Beach*, completion expected 2017.
- Research for "Recycled Season." Preparing for production season of completely recycled costumes for all main-stage and studio shows starting in 2017-2018.



### Mark Shevy

- Presented a poster and organized a symposium at the International Conference of Music Perception and Cognition in San Francisco.
- Our theatre grad student Dan Zini worked with Mark Shevy, WNMU's Hans Ahlstrom, and the Music Department's Mark Flaherty to produce a radio broadcast of the NMU Jazz Bands. This is in the style of the productions that Chuck Ganzert used to do with his advanced audio classes. The broadcast aired multiple times during graduation weekend in December.
- Won a distinguished team award at NMU's annual award luncheon for the "Landslide" music video.
- Mark's student organization "Marquette Ending Hunger" won NMU's Student Organization of the Year at this spring's student leadership banquet.
- Produced the official video for the 2017 NMU Spring Dance Concert
- Received recognition for 10 years of service at NMU.

## FACULTIES' 2016-2017 CREATIVE WORKS



### Jessica Thompson

- Published two peer-reviewed articles:
  - **Thompson, J.L.**, Kaiser, A., Sparks, E.L., Shelton, M., Brunden, E., Cherry, J.A. & Cebrian, J. (2016). Ecosystem—what? Public understanding and trust in conservation science and ecosystems services. *Frontiers in Communication*, 1 (3), 1:3. DOI: 10.3389/fcomm.2016.00003
  - McGreavy, B., Druschke, C.G., Sprain, L., **Thompson, J.L.**, & Linfield, L.A. (2016). Environmental communication pedagogy for sustainability: Developing core capacities to engage with complex problems, *Applied Environmental Education & Communication*, 1-14
- Published a book chapter with colleagues: McGreavy, B., Druschke, C.G., Sprain, L., **Thompson, J.**, & Lindenfeld, L. (2017). Praxis-based environmental communication training: Innovative activities for problem solving. T. Milstein, M. Pileggi, and E. Morgan (Eds.), *Environmental Communication Pedagogy & Practice*. Routledge
- Serves as current President of the National Communication Association's Environmental Communication Division and will be hosting the organization's annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, this November.
- Served as the co-chair of the NMU Transparency Task Force and the NMU Sustainability Advisory Council. She also serves on the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Advisory committee and NMU's Strategic Resource Reallocation Academic Task Force (<https://www.nmu.edu/sra/>).
- Coordinates and directs the Northern Climate Network (<http://www.nmu.edu/northernclimatenetwork/home>) and represents NMU on the steering committee of the Marquette County Climate Adaptation Task Force.
- Currently working on a book, *America's largest classroom: What we learn from our national parks*, with co-editor, Dr. Ana Houseal (University of Wyoming) and NMU student intern Abigail Cook. The team is meeting in Wisconsin this summer to finalize the book content, layout and design. The book is scheduled to be published in early September by the Government Printing Office and will be available for free (thanks to the National Park Service) as a downloadable e-book.



### Paul Truckey

- Acted as interim theatre director for the 2016/2017 academic year.
- Director - Building Madness, which was the 2017 James Panowski Playwrighting award play.



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
COMMUNICATION AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES



## Perspectives on the arts, creativity, cross-pollination and their place in the world

*By Rebecca Tavernini '11 MA*

Where do ideas come from? How are perplexing problems ingeniously solved? How do disparate fields synergize to transform our lives in manners never imagined? What are we doing at Northern to spur innovation in the next generation? How can these thoughts apply to our own lives?

“The great ideas of the ages have come from people who weren’t paid to have great ideas,” Isaac Asimov wrote in an essay on creativity when he was asked to brainstorm with an elite group to design a ballistic missile defense system in 1959. Though he declined, he offered advice for the process. Among it: “What is needed is not only people with a good background in a particular field, but also people capable of making a connection between item 1 and item 2, which might not ordinarily seem connected.”

NMU student Nicole Garabelli is an example of such intersections of knowledge. She is a multi-talented English major with a computer science minor. After attending a computer science colloquium this fall, she said, “I am grateful that I have a mixture of math, CS and English classes under my belt. My English major has allowed me to practice thinking and approaching problems from various perspectives, which is vital in computer programming.”

In a recent survey by Adobe of Gen Z (students age 11-17) and their teachers, both felt strongly that there needs to be more of a focus on creativity in the classroom. That being creative will play an integral role in their success and in solving many of the challenges the world faces today. Ninety-four percent of teachers forecast that “my students will one day have careers that we didn’t even know would exist today.” How do we prepare for an unknown future?

Many believe that not just classical critical thinking but creative thinking across traditional boundaries —collective intelligence— provides the mindset to not only adapt but invent and engineer the unimaginable.

But first we must pass our own mental roadblocks. Asimov also stated in his essay: “The history of human thought would make it seem that there is difficulty in thinking of an idea even when all the facts are on the table.... It is only afterward that a new idea seems reasonable. To begin with, it usually seems the height of unreason.”

Invention doesn’t always start from the ground up. As Pixar Chief Creative Officer John Lasseter writes, “One of the things we love to do at Pixar is take something familiar and show it in a way people have never seen it before.”

NMU faculty, in a rather random sampling of fields, share their thoughts on how their academic programs spark creative thinking and the often intangible skills needed to navigate the mysterious voyage ahead.

Read the rest of the article and CAPS faculty perspectives at <https://www.nmu.edu/northernmagazine/creativity-blend>.

## Thompson Named to National Position

Northern Michigan University professor Jessica Thompson was inducted Nov. 12, 2016 as president of the Environmental Communication Division (ECD) of the National Communication Association (NCA). The ceremony took place at the NCA national convention in Philadelphia, Pa.

"Being able to serve my discipline's national organization at this level is great honor," Thompson said. "I have had tremendous opportunities to network and connect with scholars across the country, and I am looking forward to representing NMU on a national platform."

Thompson plans to increase digital connectivity and the ECD's social media presence during her tenure.

The NCA advances communication as the

discipline that studies all forms, modes, media and consequences of communication through humanistic, social scientific and aesthetic inquiry. The Environmental Communication Division is a multidisciplinary effort to support a broad audience of academics, professionals and practitioners in the sharing and building of theoretical, critical and applied scholarship addressing environmental communication in a variety of contexts. It is the premier scholarly environmental communication organization in the United States.

More than 5,000 scholars and practitioners attend the national convention and more than 300 belong to the Environmental Communication Division.

Prepared by: Cassidy Hinshaw  
Student Writer



Jessica Thompson

Along with her duties as a full-time mom, wife, professor and as the president of the ECD of the NCA, Jessica (Jes) is also a key leader in NMU's Sustainability Advisory Council.

Back in April, Jes and some of the key movers of the council met and shared highlights from its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (S.T.A.R.S.) inventory which evaluated NMU's environmental impact over the past three years. The inventory has earned NMU a bronze certificate from the Association of Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, which they hope to improve to silver and then to gold by the year 2020.

"There are clear areas that many [attendees] are passionate about, which is exciting," Thompson added. "That's what we wanted, so we can go to President Erickson and say, 'These are what are important to us.'" Strategies for sustainability that were clearly popular included: create a sustainability office and staff, including a coordinator; provide academic credit and payment for student "EcoReps" to conduct outreach; institute a compost system; reduce food waste and launch a food recovery network to donate to people in need; buy food from more local farms; and incorporate sustainability learning goals into general university education.

Many of the students in attendance were leaders of campus groups promoting environmental awareness and advocacy, and all attendees showed passion for the cause.

### Did You Know:

On May 5, 2017, Jes presented and proposed the University's first Sustainability Plan to NMU's Board of Trustees, which was unanimously supported by the president.

## STRATEGIC RESOURCE ALLOCATION (SRA) TASK FORCES ANNOUNCED

Faculty and staff members comprising two Strategic Resource Allocation project task forces—Academic Task Force and Support Task Force were identified in February. Members of each underwent two days of training facilitated by consultant Larry Goldstein of Campus Strategies LLC., at which time each task force was charged with analyzing and evaluating either NMU academic programs or support services based on specified criteria. Their assessments will be used to develop recommendations on university investment priorities in a report expected to be due out by the end of this year.

The academic task force is composed of 75 percent faculty and 25 percent department heads. The support services task force features a 75 percent staff/25 percent faculty mix. Fortunately for our department we have two lucky women who were chosen by their peers to serve on this prestigious committee—Associate Professor, Jessica Thompson serving on the academic task force and Principal Secretary, Michelle Inman, serving on the support task force. Other committee members include:

### Academic Task Force Members

- Carol Johnson, Business
- Mike Strahan, AIS-Library
- Jane Milkie, Art & Design
- Erich Ottem, Biology
- **Jes Thompson, Communication and Performance Studies**
- Lori Nelson, Clinical Science
- Laura Reissner, Education
- Cale Polkinghorne, Engineering Tech
- David Wood, English
- Maggy Moore, Health and Human Performance
- Rebecca Ulland, Modern Languages and Literatures
- Mark Flaherty, Music
- Michelle Johnson, Nursing
- Chris Kibit, Technology and Occupational Sciences
- Dave Donovan, Physics
- Carter Wilson, Political Science
- Keith Kendall, History
- Mike Andary, Technology and Occupational Sciences
- Paul Mann, Clinical Science
- Brent Graves, Biology

### Support Task Force Members

- Tim Schirtzinger, Facilities
- Pam Johnson, Financial Services
- Mary Brundage, Dean of Students Office
- Eric Smith, Broadcast/AV Services
- Tricia Bush, Campus Recreation
- Jeff Korpi, Housing/Residence Life
- Jingfang Niu, Biology
- Lennette Pynnonen, Registrar's Office
- **Michelle Inman, Communication and Performance Studies**
- Brad Hamel, Extended Learning/Community Engagement
- Mindy Nannestad, Extended Learning
- Virginia MacDonald, Financial Aid
- Stacey Deloose, AIS-Instructional Design Technology
- Brian Larson, Business Intelligence
- Julie Rochester, Health and Human Performance
- Michael Joy, Modern Languages and Literatures/Honors Program
- Kevin McDonough, AIS-Library
- Denise Hughes, AFSCME President/Plant Operations
- Suzy Swanson, TOPS President/Academic Information Services
- Michelle Kimball, Principal Secretary for Technology and Occupational Sciences

These forces will be helped by the **Facilitation Team**. The Facilitation Team, chaired by Associate Provost Dale Kapla, will provide support for Planning for Distinction in the form of data, template construction, and website maintenance. The Team will also provide any assistance to the co-chairs of the Coordinating Committee as requested. This team consists of: Dale Kapla, Chair - Academic Affairs, Sherri Towers - Finance & Planning, Felecia Flack - Business Intelligence, Jason Nicholas - Institutional Research, Derek Hall - Communications & Marketing, Jim Thams - Facilities, Rhea Dever - Human Resources, Kim Rotundo - Registrar and Jamie Beauchamp - Controller

The Coordinating Committee, co-chaired by Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Kerri Schuiling and Vice President for Finance & Administration Gavin Leach, will support and oversee the overall Planning for Distinction process. This committee will make the nomination recommendations to President Erickson for the two task forces, and provide any support to the task forces as necessary.

## 'Dark Store' Documentary Produced at NMU

Prepared by Kristi Evans, News Director

The Michigan Tax Tribunal's practice of "dark store assessing" is the subject of a new documentary produced by Northern Michigan University students and a faculty member. The premiere of "BOXED IN" aired on Aug. 24, 2016, at the Peter White Public Library. The film will also aired on WNMU-TV, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the widespread impact of the tax-saving practice, it may gain additional exposure throughout the state. Some major retailers have successfully argued that their valuations should be compared to older big-box stores elsewhere in Michigan that closed and remain vacant. While their property taxes have been slashed as a result, townships are left with significant revenue gaps in their budgets.

Professor Dwight Brady's advanced multimedia journalism class (BC 300) began tackling the documentary during the winter 2016 semester. Because of the depth and breadth of the issue, the work spilled over to summer, with additional interviews and editing. Brady and several students spend four days downstate and used Lansing as their home base. "It was really neat to see how excited the students were to shoot footage during some of the House and Senate sessions and to conduct interviews with state reps and other high-profile members of government," Brady said. "We did our best to gather input from both sides because it's an investigative journalism piece. We interviewed Steven Lasher, the current chief judge of the tribunal. He said he feels some empathy for townships, but they are outgunned legally and he has to make a decision based on the evidence put before him. "We also interviewed regional govern-

ment officials, local small business owners and the director of the Marquette Chamber. This is an important issue that's gone beyond big-box stores to other businesses and even homeowners' eager to save money. Everyone has a right to appeal their tax bill, but the team with a high-priced law firm behind it stands a better chance of winning."

AnnMarie Kent, a multimedia journalism major from Traverse City, said she relished the opportunity to dig into a timely and relevant topic. "The education I received was priceless," Kent said. "This project gave me an opportunity to do journalistic work inside and around the state Capitol. We had to pack so many interviews into those days. This is such a complicated topic and might not interest many people, but it affects communities across the state. The documentary is important to inform the public and bring to light this issue. Not only was it a great experience to put on a resume to show my different skill sets, but I was also able to meet several people in the broadcasting business."

Students Michael Williams and Katlyn Fleis also traveled to Lansing. They had started working on an independent documentary about the same topic and Brady recruited them to collaborate with his team. Students used "Go Fund Me" pages to raise their own support for travel expenses and Brady secured a small NMU Service Learning Grant to pay for recording and storage media.

U.P. lawmakers have formed a unified front against the "dark store" appeals and several bills have been introduced

in the House and Senate to deal with the practice. House Bill 5578, introduced in April by Rep. David Maturen of downstate Brady Township, was the first to pass one legislative body and may be taken up by the Senate this fall. "Lawyers for the big-box stores have been able to argue that the properties are deed restricted and, because they can't possibly sell them, they should be valued as if they're empty," Brady said. "This bill would remove the deed restrictions and change the legal argument, but it may not be enough to stop it. "It doesn't go nearly as far as legislation in Indiana. They shot down the dark store strategy within four months after Meijer went down there and got a tax break on a store. In Michigan, the state reimburses the schools as mandated by the School Aid Act. This process of reimbursing schools for lost revenue from local taxes due to dark store rulings by the Michigan Tax Tribunal could create a fairly sizable drain on the state budget because these tax cuts will remain intact for nearly 30 years under Proposal A. The impact of this goes deep."

Brady said he is hopeful that the documentary will be viewed statewide, similar to previous projects he led on wolves and the green energy economy. The trailer can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/IMCJ1SqJXqw>.

## “BOXED IN” AWARDED MICHIGAN EMMY

BY KELSIE THOMPSON AT THE MINING JOURNAL

MARQUETTE — When “Boxed In” was announced as a winner at the 39th annual Michigan Emmy Awards in Detroit Saturday, Dwight Brady said he let out an audible gasp. I was so surprised,” said Brady, a Northern Michigan University professor.

Brady, along with 14 NMU students, put together the award-winning documentary detailing the “dark store” loophole in Michigan that allows big box stores to significantly reduce their property taxes, and its impact on local municipalities.

It took the Emmy in the politics/government program special category.

“It’s a huge issue in small, rural areas,” Brady said. “It impacts the tax base so much — tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue statewide.”

The 24-minute film, which debuted last summer and later aired on WNMU-TV, features interviews with representatives from both sides of the aisle, including former Tax Tribunal judge Jack Van Coevering and Tricia Kinley of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

State Rep. David Maturen, who introduced legislation that would ensure sound appraisal practices by the tribunal, was also prominently featured, as well as local officials, including Marquette Township Manager Randy Girard and former Peter White Public Library Director Pam Christensen.

When accepting the award at the Motor City Casino, Brady said he was thinking mainly about his students and their dedication to the project.

“I’m just so thankful for the students that helped with this

project,” he said. “Considering the time and effort we put into this, it’s really gratifying.”

Michael Williams, a recent NMU graduate who served as assistant producer on the film, said he began following the dark store issue when he realized the potential threat it had on public revenue.

In 2015, the PWPL was forced to curtail hours and close the facility on Sundays due to a loss of funding from local dark store appeals. The Marquette County Youth Home

also closed its doors last year, a move that county officials have attributed to the loss of funds from dark store appeals.

Williams, who majored in environmental studies and sustainability, said he’s hoping the award will bring the documentary back into the spotlight and create enough momentum to resolve the issue.

“It’s something that shouldn’t be watched and viewed as only being relevant when it debuted,” he said. “Everything about it is still relevant — more now than ever.”

Williams said he’s celebrated the win, and is happy to see

the film receiving the recognition it deserves.

“I’m ecstatic — we spent all summer working on it,” he said. This is Brady’s second Emmy. He received an award in 2006 for the documentary “Michigan’s Green Energy Economy.”

He recently announced his plans to run for Michigan’s 1st Congressional District.

For more information on dark stores, or to view the full documentary, visit [boxedin.news](http://boxedin.news).



## DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AND PROSPECTIVE CONGRESSMAN

STORY BY TREVOR DREW, OPINION EDITOR OF THE NORTH WIND



On Monday April 24, 2017, Northern Michigan University communication and performance studies professor Dwight Brady announced his candidacy as a democrat for 1st District congressional seat.

Along with announcing his candidacy, the NMU professor added that he is displeased with current representative Jack Bergman and feels Bergman lacks the proper perspective to represent the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan.

"We need someone who will give us more than just two hours of his time every four months," Brady said to the crowd of friends, family, campaign staff and members of the media. "But most off all we need someone who is actually from this district."

As a native of the U.P. and a self-described outdoorsman, Brady said he has a passion for his home of Northern Michigan, which he feels is necessary to be an effective representative of the area.

Another point Brady brought against Bergman was his support of the Republican health care bill. Although the bill was ultimately voted down, Brady said that had it passed, it could have put rural hospitals in the district at risk. "The rule of thumb in congress is not to vote the party line but to vote your district," he said. "You always vote your district first and Jack Bergman was not prepared to do that."

Brady said he will push to protect health care for Michiganders who are fearful of losing their coverage. Along with that, he added he would also focus on the national debt and decreasing the number of tax breaks given to corporations.

"I know we have to cut spending, but Republicans want to cut spending and turn around and give huge tax breaks to billionaires. The numbers just don't add up," Brady said. "It's fine to spend \$1 trillion on infrastructure but you can't give \$3 trillion in tax cuts to corporations and expect to balance a budget."

Brady praised former 1st District Representative Bart Stupak, who he said would take any free moment he had from Washington to spend back in his district and added that he hopes to represent northern Michigan the same way.

As for the road ahead, the NMU professor sees the large size of the district to be an issue as far as campaigning.

"I look forward to driving to places in northern lower Michigan that I've never been to, Brady said. "There are so many cool little peninsulas that stick out of the big peninsula that it would be just so much fun to visit some of these smaller towns and get to know people all across the district."

Brady said he will continue to teach at NMU and added that instead of his campaign splitting his time, he thinks of it as doubling his work load.



## EMPLOYEE GROUP AWARDS

**Chorale “Landslide” Video:** This video performance was shared more than 600,000 times on social media and raised the visibility of NMU and its music department. Team members are: Director of Choirs Erin Colwitz (not pictured), NMU photographer/videographer Josh LeClair, NMU President Fritz Erickson, CAPS professor Mark Shevy, and music public-marketing liaison Rusty Bowers.

View the video at:

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthernMichiganU/videos/10154833190539419/?pnref=s>



## MARQUETTE ENDING HUNGER

The student organization “Marquette Ending Hunger” was presented with NMU’s Organization of the Year at the 2017 Student Leadership Banquette in April. Marquette Ending Hunger started when student Lauren Larsen chose the topic of food insecurity in the Upper Peninsula for her presentation in a CAPS class taught by Sara Potter. When Lauren’s research revealed that a large number U.P. residents have food insecurity, Sara encouraged Lauren to pursue the topic further and find a way to take some action. Lauren then started a student organization called “Marquette Ending Hunger,” with the goals of raising awareness of hunger issues and raising support to meet the needs of local people who do not have enough food or have other poverty-related conditions.

Since its inception four years ago, Marquette Ending Hunger has collected and donated thousands of pounds of food for local food pantries, and it has raised and donated thousands of dollars for local charities. It took a leading role in organizing Marquette’s Empty Bowls fundraiser in April, which alone raised nearly \$4,000. Marquette Ending Hunger has received awards from NMU for three consecutive years, including NMU’s Event of the Year award in 2016 and NMU’s Program of the Year award in 2015. CAPS professor Mark Shevy has been the faculty adviser for Marquette Ending Hunger since fall 2014, and Rory Conn, a Pre-Med student, is the current president.



## CARTER WINS MABF SCHOLARSHIP

Prepared by: Cassidy Hinshaw, Student Writer

Northern Michigan University student Samantha Carter of Marquette was recently awarded a Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation (MABF) Scholarship. Carter is a sophomore media production and new technology major with a minor in political science. She received the scholarship at the Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference and Expo in Lansing.

The MABF awarded \$26,500 this year to students from Michigan colleges and universities with active broadcasting programs. Recipients were nominated by faculty or the sponsoring station and ratified by the MABF Board of Directors.

Carter received the WBKB-TV, WBKP-TV, WBUP-TV, WOLV-FM, WCCY-AM, WHKB-FM & The Stephan A. Marks Foundation Scholarship.

"I was delighted to hear that I was awarded this scholarship," Carter said. "I love working at

WNMU TV-13 because my mentors help me grow as a media professional and learn new skills. Being a member of the media community has been an exciting experience, and I am looking forward to learning as much as I can during my time at NMU."

Eric Smith, director of broadcast and AV services at NMU, nominated Carter along with WNMU-TV producer/director Bob Thomson.

"Samantha was nominated not only for her skills as a member of the production crew, but also because she takes the initiative to continually involve herself in areas such as producing, directing, camera work and instant replay," Smith said. "Students who graduate from NMU's multimedia program consistently do well in the broadcast industry and we believe Ms. Carter has a very bright future in this field."



Samantha Carter

## NMU Student wins two Broadcast Excellence Awards



Chelsea Birdsall

Students in NMU's multimedia journalism major are finding full-time jobs before they graduate. Chelsea Birdsall was hired near the end of her senior year at ABC10 in Ishpeming, and she recently won two professional awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. Birdsall won a Merit Award for News Anchoring and a Merit Award for Investigative reporting. "I started working for ABC10 as a multimedia journalist in March 2016, and it is incredibly humbling to receive such amazing recognition only a year into my career. With graduation coming in a few short weeks, I feel extremely prepared to leave Marquette thanks to my time at the station and all of my professors in Communication and Performance Studies, English and Political Science who have helped shape my in the last four years. I cannot express enough gratitude to each and everyone of them," said Birdsall.

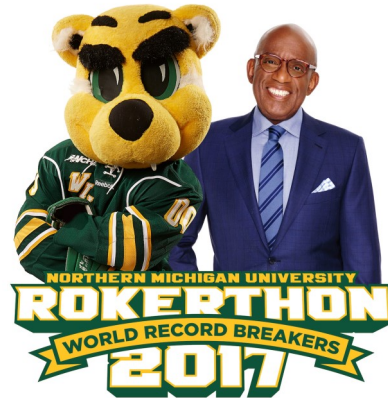
Birdsall is one of several multimedia journalism students working at ABC10 while they attend classes at NMU. According to NMU Professor Dwight Brady, other local and regional media outlets are snapping up

his multimedia journalism graduates as 24/7 demand for content continues to drive the business. Birdsall plans to continue working at ABC10 while she pursues a master's degree in Public Administration at NMU.

Birdsall is currently the evening anchor for the 10 and 11 o'clock newscasts and is responsible for monthly features and daily stories. She works 40 hours at the station plus another part-time job on campus as a Personnel Supervisor for the MP. "It has certainly been a challenge learning to balance all of my activities, but I feel strongly that it will better prepare me for the real world, which has a tendency to come at you with full force when you least expect it," said Birdsall. At some point, Birdsall plans on moving to somewhere she can escape the snow.

## Outstanding CAPS Graduates

- ◆ **Communication Studies:** Sarah Zidek and Kara Wixtrom
- ◆ **Public Relations:** Sophie Schimpl
- ◆ **Theatre and Entertainment Arts:** Elizabeth Trueblood



### Jacques Serves as “Face” of Rokerthon at NMU

Northern Michigan University student Jared Jacques played a highly visible role in NMU’s successful bid to bring the *Today* show’s “Rokerthon 3” to campus. He was recommended for the starring role in an NMU-produced, light-hearted video urging Al Roker to broadcast live from the Superior Dome. Jacques also appeared in the follow-up video announcing NMU was one of five schools nationwide selected to host a televised world record attempt. He even put his experience as a campus visit staff member to use leading Roker on a tour of NMU Monday afternoon.

“It’s been nothing short of amazing,” Jacques said during a break in the tour. “I was honored to be recommended for this and it’s exciting that Northern was picked from more than 100 universities that applied for Rokerthon. We had a lot of fun with it and NBC obviously liked what we had to offer. It’s definitely something special for NMU and one of the highlights of my time here as a student.”

Jacques routinely gives campus tours as a student employee with NMU Admissions. He joked that this one was different in that that “Al is not a prospective student. He doesn’t need to be convinced to come here; we already got him.” Jacques also said he’s not

used to being surrounded by TV cameras and crew while showing people around.

“There’s definitely more pressure than a typical tour, but I wasn’t too nervous about it; I looked forward to it,” Jacques said. “Al seems really fun and it’s awesome to meet him.”

The criminal justice major and communication studies minor from Ashwaubenon, Wis., will graduate in May. He plans to attend the NMU Regional Police Academy in the hope of securing a law enforcement position in lower Michigan.

During his time at NMU, Jacques served as a teaching assistant for NMU’s first-year experience program. He has also been involved in the following organizations: South Superior Climbing Club, House Government, Tree Musketeers and Marquette Ending Hunger.

Prepared By: Kristi Evans,  
News Director



## BUILDING MADNESS



Northern Michigan University's Forest Roberts Theatre presented the U.S. premiere of *Building Madness* by Kate Danley, winner of the Panowski Playwriting Competition.

The slapstick comedy is about an architecture firm that is struggling to stay afloat in the business world of 1930. President Max and Chief Designer Paul only have a week to pay the bank \$7,000 and, with the help of their not-so-bright secretary Trixie, they get tangled up in a mob deal while thinking it will solve all their problems.

"I really wanted to do an upbeat comedy and *Building Madness* was hands down the funniest play submitted for the competition," said Director Paul Truckey. "It also was the best play written in terms of plot and structure. In addition to having a great play, rehearsals have been a joy. The cast is very clever and witty."

Truckey and Danley workshopped the play over the summer on campus and were able to tweak minor problems in the script.

"The summer development process led to

some of my favorite rewrites," said Danley. "For the workshop, I accidentally sent the very first version of *Building Madness*, which was almost a year old. The next day, we were able to read the most recent version of the script, which had undergone massive changes.

"As a playwright, you never know how your writing will sound off the page and this serendipitous accident allowed me to hear what I actually got right the first time and where I had gone off the rails. *Building Madness* would not be the play it is today without the Panowski prize and those summer workshop days."

Carly Bellock was one of six actors cast in the production. She performed as "Trixie", which was her first lead role in a play.

"The characters that Danley has created are bigger than life," Bellock said. "They all have unique, individual personalities. It is hard to be onstage and not laugh during rehearsals because the writing of the play is so funny."

## U.S. INSTITUTE FOR THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

Seven Northern Michigan University students attended the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology's (USITT) Annual Conference & Stage Expo March 8-11 in St. Louis, Mo. The group was led by Assistant Professor David Pierce, who said USITT is the technical theater industry's "largest and most respected conference." Students attended sessions and workshops led by some of the industry's leading professionals and talked with exhibitors about the latest innovations and services.

"In addition to the conference, I arranged for them to get a backstage tour and have a Q&A session with the national touring company of *Cabaret*, which was in town at the Fox Theatre," said Pierce, technical director and production manager for the Forest Roberts Theatre. It was a great experience for our stu-

dents to get an idea of what it's like to work on a professional tour and how to find employment after graduation."

The trip was supported by student travel funds provided through the NMU Foundation. Student Anna LaBrecht described the conference as a "wonderful, hands-on learning opportunity. We were able to talk to professional theater companies such as Cirque du Soleil and gain knowledge of different unions within the theater world," LaBrecht wrote. "We networked with businesses, not only to learn about products that our theater owns or could own, but also to learn of possible job opportunities in the future. And we had the chance to shake the hands of people who were once in our position as students, but are now industry professionals."



## Battle of the Band Winners:

### FIRST PLACE \$800— LUMI

Lumi is a psychedelic, funk, progressive rock fusion band from Marquette, MI. Their music is influenced by: Grateful Dead, Phish, Allman Brothers, STS9, Lotus, Umphrey's, Papadosio, and Herbie Hancock.

### SECOND PLACE \$200 —OUR LAST VISION

Based out of Marinette, WI this band is a Metal/Rock band that crosses multiple genres including metal, funk, and rock.

### THIRD PLACE—HEEL CLICK

Based out of Marquette, MI. Elijah Claucherty is the sole artist who plays alternative folk/indie rock music.

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**DID YOU KNOW:** The concept of a Fringe Festival can be traced back to Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1947, when eight theatre groups were shunned from the Edinburgh International Festival because they were not part of the official program. The eight snubbed actors decided to stage their productions anyway, right on the 'fringe' of the official festival.

## FIRST ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Local and out-of-town bands and DJs came together for the first ever Forest Roberts Theatre Battle of the Bands competition, in collaboration with Double Trouble entertainment. The battle took place at on April 22 at the Forest Robert Theatre (FRT).

Seven bands competed in this event. Those who attended heard a taste of folk, indie rock, funk and metal while at the show. DJs performed in between sets, said David Pierce, the technical director and production manager for the FRT.

"Not only did we showcase a lot of the local bands from the U.P. but we also helped to showcase a few of the local DJs that are in the area as well," Pierce said.

Judging was based on stage presence, entertainment value and audience reaction. Judges included Dan Truckey of the Beaumier Heritage Center, Mollie Hollebeke from WJMN Local 3 News and David Pierce, technical director of the Forest Roberts Theatre. Raffles and

prizes included cakes, gift certificates and a raffle for a \$500 scholarship. Proceeds from this event benefited the First Nighters Club, an NMU Fund that creates opportunities for student artists and supports the FRT and its productions.

"This was the first time we've ever done an event like this, so I think we're just kind of excited to see where it goes from here."

"We used this as a learning tool for some of our theater majors. I'm incorporating this event into my Entertainment Technologies II class, they are able to learn things like focusing an instrument, programming the light board and setting up a sound system, now they are able to learn that stuff and apply it to an actual event. It really opens doors and really opens their eyes to the possibilities they have outside of Northern once they graduate."

## FOREST ROBERT THEATRE'S 2ND ANNUAL FRINGE FESTIVAL

Prepared By: Jill Vermeulen, Student Writer

Northern Michigan University's Forest Roberts Theatre presented its second annual Fringe Festival Jan. 26–Feb. 4 in the Panowski Black Box Theatre to showcase the seniors capstone projects. Four different theatrical pieces were performed, produced and directed by the students in the theater and entertainment arts program. The *Fringe Festival* featured *Proof*, *Painted Rain*, *The Myths and Bricks Project* and *In a Mason Jar*.

*Proof* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Auburn was a story about fathers and daughters, mental stability and mathematical genius.

Janet Allard's *Painted Rain* explored the relationship between two boys in an orphanage who are on the verge of separation due to adoption.

*The Myths and Bricks Project* by Dustin Robert Blakeman features a man who sits in a room, where his only companion is a brick that refuses to speak.

NMU student Coop Bicknell's *In a Mason Jar* also premiered at the Fringe Festival. *In a Mason Jar* was a narrative in which a young bartender shares stories about his father and the bar that he owned for more than 40 years.



Shelley Russell (above)

and Taylor Ehle (at right)

## SUSTAINABILITY EXTENDS TO COSTUMING



The fall production of *Scrooge*, like most Northern Michigan University shows in recent years, featured costumes made from repurposed fabric and other items. Apron pockets are cut from a holiday blanket. Petticoats were made from a wedding dress. Collar and cuff trim once graced pillows and bedspreads. In an effort to be more sustainable and cost-conscious, Professor Shelley Russell has adopted a “do more with less” approach to costume design.

With each show, Russell incorporates a new technique that students might not have been exposed to elsewhere. For *The Addams Family* musical in April, she and her crew gave fabric a gilded appearance with metallic paint. The tech lesson on *She Kills Monsters* was substructures, or repurposing odd materials. For *Secret Garden*, Russell taught her staff to create a rich, layered design with a minimal palette and to repurpose curtains for period costumes (Scarlett O’Hara would be proud). The *Into the Woods* crew learned how to recycle fabric scraps using patchwork and quilting.

“We have racks of costumes from previous shows and boxes of donated fabric, contemporary clothing and miscellaneous items,” Russell said. “The challenge is figuring out how to give them a new and different life. It’s problem-solving that goes with the territory of creating theater. Everyone involved in each production has to solve issues of how you create a particular world in a particular time. We reuse both set and costume pieces. My goal is to create an all-recycled season next year in the costume shop. I’m not sure how, but trying to be economical and environmental forces us to come up with creative ideas.”

Russell’s approach is indicative of a broader trend. For example, the Broadway Green Alliance (BGA) is an industry-wide initiative that educates and motivates the theater community and its patrons to adopt environmentally friendlier practices.

“Too often people say it’s just a seasonal show, so we should pull everything back out of the closet and make minor adjustments,” Russell said. “That’s not right. To call it a Forest Roberts Theatre production and make it a teaching experience for students, we need to have artistic goals. Our staff is strong and I don’t want them to feel it’s okay to basically pull whatever fits the 60 people on stage. I understand when people need to do that, but we have the luxury of putting more thought into the production process.”

Prepared by: Kristi Evans, News Director

## ECO-FRIENDLY FASHION

BY ELLEN LINDBLOM

The Marquette Regional History Center hosted its eighth Annual (re)Design Fashion Show back in mid-March.

The (re)Design Fashion Show is the largest gathering of artists who create upcycled artwork in the Upper Peninsula, focusing on eco-friendly and sustainable fashions created with salvaged or second-hand fabrics and materials.

This year the show featured five designers, Ann Rutkoske, JoAnn Shelby, Cindy Hallum, Libby Buchler and Taylor Ehle, who upcycled and redesigned old fashions into new pieces. Ehle is an environmental studies and sustainability major at NMU, and has a passion for redesign and sustainable fashion practices.

Her line tells the story of the cotton industry. Right now, 80 percent of the cotton worn is GMO and is RoundUp-Ready, meaning that it is resistant to harmful pesticides. The use of pesticides isn’t good for the communities that grow cotton, the land or the consumer, Ehle said.

“The fashion industry is the second most polluting industry in the world, after oil,” Ehle said.

“Her line started out with the first model wearing all white, and slowly progressed by adding black accents until the last model was wearing all black. Ehle wanted this to provide a visual to the audience of to show that the fashion industry has a dark and unclean side.

To read more visit: <http://www.thenorthwindonline.com/eco-friendly-fashion-flaunts-for-a-message/>

# NMU'S FOREST ROBERTS THEATRE 2017-2018 SEASON ANNOUNCED

BY: KRISTI EVANS, NEWS DIRECTOR

Northern Michigan University's Forest Roberts Theatre will present a full slate of plays, dance, local music and special events during the 2017-18 season. Details will be announced closer to each event, but an overview of the schedule follows. Those with an asterisk are part of the mainstage season ticket package. For updated information, visit [nmu.edu/frt](http://nmu.edu/frt).

**Season Premiere Party, Aug. 31:** A red-carpet season kickoff featuring Alpha Psi Omega, the First Nighters Club, Forest Roberts Theatre faculty and an ice cream social sponsored by Jilbert's Dairy. This free event is designed for students and community members to learn more about the opportunities available at Forest Roberts Theatre (FRT).

**Noises Off, \* Sept. 29–Oct. 7:** Called the funniest farce ever written, *Noises Off* presents a manic cast of itinerant actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing's On*. Doors slamming, on and offstage intrigue and errant sardines all figure in the plot of this hilarious and classically comic play. Features senior capstone students.

**Rock the FRT, Oct. 14:** A Battle of the Bands that celebrates local music coming together to compete for a cash prize. Featuring entertainment design by theater program students

**Haunted Theatre, Oct. 26-28:** The Forest Roberts Theatre stage is transformed into a fun and spooky haunted house for a First Nighters Club fundraiser to benefit the FRT. (Rated PG-13)

**Constellations, \* Nov. 9-18:** This futuristic romance by Nick Payne begins with a simple encounter between a man and a woman. But what happens next defies the boundaries of the world we think we know—delving into infinite possibilities and raising questions about the difference between choice and destiny.

**Shrek, The Musical, Jr., Nov. 17-19:** This Superior Arts Youth Theater production will take place on the FRT stage and feature local talent from grades K-8.

**The Bold, The Young, and the Murdered, Dec. 7-9:** Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honors Society, presents a comedy featuring the work of students. The soap opera *The Bold and the Young* is in its last days. The producer gives the cast an ultimatum: Complete one episode overnight or the show dies. But when the director ends up murdered, it seems like his threat might actually come true.

**Scrooge! \* Dec. 14-17:** The long-standing FRT tradition continues with this musical adaptation designed for the whole family. Bitter miser Scrooge is transformed by a frightening night of ghosts that open his eyes to the possibilities of Christmas cheer. Based on the Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

**Halfway Party, Jan. 19:** A mid-season gathering of those involved in the FRT to touch base, enjoy food together and get ready to start the new semester by learning about unique opportunities and exciting upcoming events.

**Fringe Festival 2018\*, Feb. 8-10:** The following pieces performed, produced and directed by NMU students will be featured each night: *The Valentine Fairy*, an anti-romance in which a woman who's decided to give up on love arrives home to find a man in a white tutu, who shows where she went wrong in previous romantic encounters; *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*, an irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays; and *Antigone*, an adaptation of Sophocles by a student Lundin Honors Research Fellow.

**NMU Dance Concert\*, Feb. 23-24:** Students in the NMU dance minor perform all styles, from ballet to hip hop to improvisation, in this annual showcase.

**Peter Pan, March 15-18:** This Superior Arts Youth Theater production will take place on the FRT stage and feature local talent in grades K-12.

**Tarzan\*, April 13-21:** Based on Disney's animated musical and Edgar Rice Burrough's *Tarzan of the Apes*, this classic comes to life. The FRT is proud to present *Tarzan* as a part of its "green season" of re-purposed costumes. Audiences can also enjoy a dramaturgical lobby display on the rainforest of *Tarzan* produced in partnership with NMU Zoology and Environmental Science students.

**Miss Upper Peninsula and Miss Teen Upper Peninsula Pageant, April 27-28:** JLSW Designs presents the official preliminary round to the Miss Michigan Pageant, a Miss USA preliminary.

**Drama Prom and Jimmy Awards, May 3:** This end-of-the-season formal event celebrates the hard work of theater students throughout the year.

**Dancing With Our Stars, May 23-24:** This annual fundraiser for the U.P. Home Health and Hospice Foundation features local celebrities dancing for a good cause, Marquette style.

To view more information please go to: [www.nmu.edu/frt](http://www.nmu.edu/frt).

## ALUMNI NEWS

### A CLASS ACT—NATIONAL PRESIDENT EMMA FINKBEINER ON LEADING PRSSA

EXCERPTS FROM THE PERIODICAL *PUBLIC RELATIONS TACTICS*; NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE

Though Emma Finkbeiner hadn't heard of public relations in high school, she had a great adviser when she started college who was a PR professor. "I felt lost in the big, general communications major and he suggested I consider public relations by inviting me to a PRSSA meeting. The rest is history," says the DePaul University graduate student.

Now, Finkbeiner is the PRSSA National President for the 2016-2017 academic year, and is pursuing a master's degree in public relations and advertising. She is an alumna of Northern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in public relations and journalism.

Finkbeiner previously served as publications editor-in-chief and initiated a redesign of the tri-annual newspaper *FORUM*, while simultaneously running the national blog *Progressions*.

"I still have a lot to learn and I'm looking forward to that first entry-level full-time position and building steadily from there," she says. "I'm also looking forward to getting involved in the professional Society. I can see myself running for Chapter positions, then board positions and, someday, I hope to receive the tremendous honor of being a PRSA Fellow."

#### **What advice do you have for others for success in PRSSA?**

I believe that you get out of PRSSA what you put into it. What's so great about PRSSA is that, at the end of the day, anyone has the chance to sit where I'm sitting. I came from one of the smallest Chapters in the country and climbed the leadership ladder. How involved you want to get and how far you go in the Society is up to you, but you have to want it, you have to love it and you have to work hard to get it.

PRSSA adds so much value to your college or graduate-school experience. Just being a part of the largest pre-professional public relations organization is saying something, but what matters is what you do with all of the opportunities PRSSA has to offer.

#### **Why do you think there is a growing interest in public relations these days?**

Public relations is something more students are becoming interested in as they discover that it is an option. Once I learned about it, I knew it was what I had been looking for in a career path all along.

The explosion of social media is a big factor in why so many students are interested in public relations, though that is just one small portion of what a professional might do in the workplace. And as public relations grows and more industries and organizations find themselves hiring PR firms or in-house PR professionals, the breadth of options for a career in public relations is showing itself to the masses. I see it as a major and profession choice that is growing among those my age.

#### **What experiences at DePaul have prepared you best for the real world?**

In my graduate classes at DePaul, working in teams to solve problems is common, not only as a large assignment but also as a regular in-class activity. Many students groan at group projects, but in the workplace, working as a team to solve a client's problem through creative, effective communication is the job. Really, there is no better way to prepare students for the real world than that.

#### **What have you learned from your own internships and what advice do you have for others to make the most of theirs?**

I've mostly completed nontraditional internships due primarily to my previous place of residence, but it taught me to seek out opportunities that may not be so obvious and, when necessary, create my own opportunities. I completed a research internship with the Northern Michigan Office of the Governor that was the first of its kind — I scored a meeting with the director through my mentor and proposed the idea to him myself.

Though I've never interned at a large agency or major company, my experiences are diverse. You can make the most of any internship by remembering that it is a learning experience. Even if you work on a client you aren't particularly interested in or feel you are out of your comfort zone, remember you are there to learn and try new things. Big or small, it's all about adding value to an organization and being able to show that once you move on.

#### **What makes a good leader? And why did you pursue a role in PRSSA leadership?**

I'm a believer in the servant-leader style of leadership. Great leaders start as people who have a desire to serve others. As the definition of this leadership style reads, "It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead."

I had such an incredible experience reaping the benefits of PRSSA — and specifically writing for the publications — that I wanted to be able to provide that experience to others. In simpler terms, I had a desire to serve others in the Society.

#### **How do you think we can best strengthen the bond between PRSA and PRSSA?**

It's important to show the closeness between PRSA and PRSSA from the top, down. I'm looking forward to partnering with PRSA this year in outreach efforts to help grow our Chapter base. Our National Professional Adviser Kelly Davis, APR, has also been working hard to make sure that all PRSSA Chapters have proper professional advisers in place. Advisers help support Chapters and keep the communication channels open between PRSSA and PRSA members, which can lead to a more smooth transition for a student into the professional Society.



## SHOW NOTE: KEEPING IT REAL IN LA LA LAND

BY REBECCA TAVERNINI '11 MA

### ALUMNI NEWS

"I was delivering payroll for a previous job and I kept seeing this guy in the elevator and struck up conversations with him. It turned out he worked at "So You Think You Can Dance." He sent my resume to the staff, which got me an interview and a job as assistant to the co-executive producer. That proved you should never underestimate any interaction with anyone or assume they have nothing to offer."

NMU alumnus Danny Digneit's first job in Los Angeles was with a commercial production company, made possible through his connection with NMU alumna Ashley Kihlmire Hempel '09 BA (see related story on right).

It was not a full-time position, but Digneit got his proverbial foot in the door. Assignments ranged from one day to a couple of months because most companies hire production staff on an as-needed basis. He described it as a rocky initiation to the business.

"I had no idea what I was doing on that first shoot; it was so different from anything I had done before," said Digneit. "On set, there are safety and union regulations you have to abide by. I even got in trouble for moving a lifeguard's car at the beach. A lot of what you do in this field you learn on site. Every commercial, TV show and movie is different and the people you work for want things done differently. It's hard to prepare for that, so you adapt as you go." Read more at: [Northernmagazine.nmu.edu/northernmagazine/exit-stage-left](http://Northernmagazine.nmu.edu/northernmagazine/exit-stage-left)



Ben Hempel and  
Ashley Kihlmire Hempel

"This is a big city but it's a small world. Out here it's like two degrees of separation."

That's what Ashley Kihlmire Hempel '09 BA has discovered in the land of television, Burbank, California, and the epicenter of entertainment, greater Los Angeles. "You have to really behave, because everyone knows someone in this town," she added, with a bit of sarcasm. After all, her career is built around other people's bad behavior.

Hempel has worked as a production manager for such reality shows as "Hell's Kitchen," "MasterChef" and "Married at First Sight." Without the outbursts of chef Gordon Ramsey, the catfights of Real Housewives, or the meltdown of contestants, TV would be, well, boring.

And maybe real life would be, too. "With Gordon, what you see on TV is real, he has a real passion for food and when people screw up he can't hold it in. He's super friendly though," Hempel said. And truly unpredictable. "One time we went out to shoot on location to a National Preserve desert and we could only go in designated areas. But he got a 4 x 4 and we all had to chase after him."

Hempel, who was a broadcast journalism major at NMU and interned at TV 6, has just been promoted to line producer. That means she is in charge of the budget and many logistics for shows that operate on about \$6 to \$7 million. "Safety is our #1 concern," she said. "We had to do psych evaluations for all contestants on Married at First Sight. Pretty much everything that goes on behind the scenes is my responsibility—from getting insurance for the show, to travel arrangements for the contestants."

No pressure there.

Matchmaking is not new to Hempel, who has also worked on "The Bachelor," and is herself married to her high school sweetheart, Ben Hempel '10 BS. A quarterback at Northern, he was the reason Ashley attended NMU. While he's not in the entertainment business, Ben said his job as a middle school physical education teacher who coaches high school football "felt like a movie at first." It was a struggle when the couple first moved out to L.A., a week after Ashley graduated, but they did it with a bit of U.P. by their side: their first dog, adopted from Marquette's UPAWS (animal shelter)—a cause still near and dear to their hearts. Ashley also lured Danny Digneit to LA with the promise of a job offer. There's that two degrees.

While Ashley often doesn't make it home until 9 pm to what locals consider the boondocks, about 15 minutes outside of Burbank, and Ben goes in at 5 am, they feel they're living a version of their own perfect reality show. And it shows.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### NHSC SCHOLAR AND WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT RETURNS TO HER RURAL ROOTS

NMU alumna **Cara Crawford-Bartle** '13 BS has demonstrated a commitment to providing quality healthcare in underserved rural areas, much like her hometown of West Branch. She completed her undergraduate degree as part of MedStart, a selective program that guarantees admission to the Wayne State University School of Medicine. At WSU, Crawford-Bartle is a National Health Service Corps Scholar. She also has engaged with the local community through her work with a student-run free clinic, a medicine and political action program and ROCK (Raising our Community's Knowledge), a group she helped coordinate. ***For the full feature story on her posted by WSU's Michigan Area Health Education Center, please continue reading to your right...***



*Photo: Cara Crawford-Bartle (left) speaks at the 2016 NHSC Community Day along with Rachel Ruddock (right) from the Michigan Center for Rural Health*

At the on-set of writing this article, **Cara Crawford-Bartle**, a fourth-year student in Wayne State University's School of Medicine, grew up in West Branch, a small town located in Northern Michigan where she developed a strong awareness about the need for medical professionals in rural communities. She became interested in a possible healthcare career in middle school, but was a bit daunted by the additional years of school required by a medical degree. "My hometown wasn't known for producing physicians and I wasn't sure I could handle the additional four years of schooling after undergrad," said Crawford-Bartle.

Doubts about attending medical school began to diminish when she applied for and was selected as a candidate to attend the WSU School of Medicine's Medstart program upon completion of her undergraduate degree in communication studies at Northern Michigan University. MedStart is a selective program which guarantees admission to the WSU School of Medicine after completing undergraduate studies.

After earning her undergraduate degree, Crawford-Bartle applied to become a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholar and was accepted to the program. The NHSC is a federally funded program that provides scholarships and loans in exchange for practicing in rural and urban communities with limited access to health care. "I was excited about the idea of securing employment in an underserved area upon completion of medical school, in addition to the obvious financial benefits of the scholarship," said Crawford-Bartle. As an NHSC Scholar, she receives a full-tuition scholarship, a monthly stipend and an additional stipend for textbooks, supplies and travel. In exchange for four years of financial support, she will work for four years in a facility located in a medically underserved area.

Crawford-Bartle recently shared her NHSC Scholar experience with a group of WSU Medical Students at the 2016 NHSC Community

Day, a program sponsored by Michigan Area Health Education Center and presented by the Michigan Center for Rural Health that educates healthcare students about the NHSC Loan Repayment Program. The NHSC Loan Repayment Program is similar to the NHSC Scholar program except that students apply for the program after school and the NHSC repays student's tuition loans up to a certain amount yearly in exchange for practicing in underserved areas.

During her years as a medical student, Crawford-Bartle has excelled in her studies but has also engaged with the local community through her work with the Robert R. Frank Student Run Free Clinic, the co-curricular Medicine and Political Action in the Community (MPAC) Program and ROCK (Raising Our Community's Knowledge), a group she helped coordinate during her first two years of medical school.

Upon graduation, Cara's plans were practice Family Medicine in a rural setting and address the unique healthcare needs of those living in more isolated areas with limited access to primary care physicians. Well, Cara got her wish...Earning her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine in June, Cara is now officially a doctor and was one of six new incoming residents for the Marquette Family Medicine Residency Program that began on July 1, 2017.

The MSU College of Human Medicine Upper Peninsula Region Campus works in conjunction with the UP Health System-Marquette to coordinate the training of family medicine residents and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine medical students.

It is clear that Dr. Cara Crawford-Bartle will remain committed to providing quality healthcare to the underserved and will have a positive impact on her local community.

Prepared by Kristi Evans, News Director



James Howard Carr

## ALUMNI NEWS...

### *Where a Certain Future*

*Where a Certain Future* is a historical drama by NMU alumnus **James Howard Carr** focuses on events that occurred on November 9, 1938, throughout Nazi-occupied Europe. Kristallnacht, or “*The Night of the Broken Glass*,” is one of the first manifestations of the Holocaust for a Jewish family in Austria. The story portrays two generations in conflict over whether or not to flee Europe to the safety of the United States.

The production of *Where a Certain Future* held here in the fall of 2016 in The Black Box Theatre was dedicated to the memory of Carr’s long-time friend and mentor, Evan Keliher. A successful playwright in his own right, and a published author of nearly twenty books, Mr. Keliher was a bold, outspoken, creative critic of American public education and American society. Evan’s sardonic wit and thought-provoking insights into life will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Our production of it was directed by New York-based guest director Michael Blatt.

The playwright himself, James Howard Carr, is an award-winning playwright and author of the children’s book, *Will My Daddy Ever Work Again?*, and the young reader’s novel, *The Beverly Hills Monster*. He has also written numerous screenplays, film treatments, television sitcom and drama proposals, and short stories. Carr developed a children’s educational science story series, entitled, *Have You Ever?* He occasionally acts onstage or in music videos, films, and TV series, portraying unusual characters.

### Hillary (Haskins) Vamstad

NMU 2007 Media Production alumnus (and former student employee in Admissions and TV-13), Hillary officially began employment with NMU on February 13, 2017. In her new position she is serving as a senior admissions counselor, based in the Minnesota Twin Cities area. She came back to NMU from working in admissions at Northeast Iowa Community College and also worked in admissions and media at Luther College. Welcome back , Hillary!

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