

SPRING 2019

# NEXUS



STUDENT EXPERTISE  
goes overseas

BAUHAUS BEAUTY  
Fine Arts building refurbished

TOP CHEF  
TC food scene transforms during Laughlin era



Northwestern  
Michigan  
College

# NEXUS

THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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STUDENT MATT GODDARD REACHES FOR A DRONE IN INDONESIA.

Learning is NMC's mission, and in its own way, *Nexus* is teaching tool just like a classroom. Here's enticement to peruse all the pages. Find the answers and win NMC swag:

- The latitude of Manado, Indonesia (pictured above) **P. 14**
- Eight different varieties of scones you can make at home **P. 30**
- The Twitter handle for the Michigan State Police northern Michigan post, set up by an alumnus **P. 27**
- How many books Osterlin Library has in its collection **P. 10**
- Which renewable energy source will power the West Hall Innovation Center when it's completed next year **P. 21**
- How much money NMC students have raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan through the Big Little Hero Race, an experiential learning project now in its fifth year **P. 5**

Email your answers to [cnoga@nmc.edu](mailto:cnoga@nmc.edu)  
All correct replies win NMC swag. (Extra points if you deliver a scone with your answers - Biederman 104, main campus!)  
Good luck and good reading to you. **N**

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# ELK LAKE ETCHINGS

Elk Lake's frozen beauty was captured on Feb. 16, 2018, when this north-looking shot was taken from one of NMC Aviation's fleet of Cessnas. Aviation students can fly as soon as their first semester, and NMC offers both traditional pilot training as well as unmanned aerial systems. ■

Find out more at [nmc.edu/aviation](http://nmc.edu/aviation)





TIMOTHY J. NELSON IS NMC'S LONGEST-SERVING PRESIDENT.

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AHEAD



TIMOTHY J. NELSON,  
PRESIDENT

With mixed emotions, last November I shared I will retire from my position as President of Northwestern Michigan College on December 31, 2019. By providing this early notification, there is sufficient time to execute a thoughtful, inclusive search for my successor. Rest assured, I will continue to give you my all during the ensuing time.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our learners, the college and the region. I am incredibly proud of what the

college has achieved during my time at NMC. We have committed ourselves to keeping learning at the center. This provides a basis to achieve our ultimate purpose, which is to provide our learners and communities with the skills, experiences and values that will help create social and economic wealth.

I have seen a lot of change in the almost 18 years I have been serving as president. Critical programs such as maritime and aviation have been redesigned. First-in-the-nation programming has been developed, including our marine tech and UAS programs. In each area of the college, people are innovating in order to assure learners' success in a global society and economy. We now view our community as the world and are recognized as a leader in study abroad and international delivery of specialty programs.

The physical, technical and data infrastructures of all our campuses have been completely rebuilt and renewed. As I look to the future, I am humbled to think that the people, programs and systems we have developed position this institution for continued success in meeting our purpose well into the future.

I will truly miss being here to continue to lead current initiatives or start new projects we have on the horizon, but at NMC there will always be great people designing and implementing new and innovative projects and practices. We are blessed with a dedicated college leadership, staff and faculty. You should have great confidence in their abilities to carry out the strategic agenda of NMC as we achieve our mission.

The Board, with more than 42 years combined experience representing the voters in leading NMC, has begun the succession process and will seek input from the college's many stakeholder groups. I look forward to this last year in my current role and will serve actively as an advisor during the transition period with support from the college's long-serving leadership team. Updates to this public process will be made available at [nmc.edu](http://nmc.edu).

My family and I intend to remain residents of Traverse City and will actively support NMC in any way we can. I'm not sure what lies ahead for us except that we will continue to work to improve our communities. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to work with you and for you, and for this amazing college. **N**



## NMC RISES TO NO. 2 IN BEST FOR VETS RANKINGS

The new, 2019 ranking improves upon the third-place position NMC achieved for 2018 among two-year colleges. NMC was also the only Michigan two-year college to make Best for Vets list, published by *Military Times* magazine.

To determine the rankings, *Military Times* evaluated five factors veteran students say are important to them: culture, student support, cost and financial aid, policies

and academic quality. Data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense departments as well as three federal education sources were also factored into the comprehensive assessment. Culture, weighted as the most significant category in all scores, was NMC's strongest category.

NMC established an office of Military and Veteran Services in 2012. Led by Point of Contact Scott Herzberg, above, left,

it works with the larger college community to foster an environment that leads to veteran success year-round.

"The men and women who have chosen to serve our country deserve our respect, our gratitude and our support," Herzberg said. "They have invested time, energy, and passion with their whole being to do a job few in our nation now do. It's our turn to serve them."



KRISTY MCDONALD

## INSTRUCTOR NAMED BIG DIFFERENCE WINNER

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan named NMC business instructor Kristy McDonald as its 2018 recipient of the Big Difference award, the organization's highest award.

It was made in appreciation of the Big Little Hero Race, an experiential learning project and fundraiser McDonald and her students run in the spring. In its four years, the race has raised more than \$80,000 for the Bigs organization, which provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally-supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better.

The fifth annual Big Little Hero Race will be held April 13, 2019. Visit [biglittleherorace.com](http://biglittleherorace.com) in February for registration information.

## TRUSTEES SLATED TO SELECT PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH CONSULTANT

NMC's Board of Trustees is expected to select a consultant to guide the search process for the college's next president at a Jan. 14 board meeting.

Last month consulting firms submitted proposals in response to an RFP, which followed current NMC president Timothy J. Nelson's announcement of his intention to retire on Dec. 31, 2019. Visit [nmc.edu/transition](http://nmc.edu/transition) for more information on the process and timetable.



**LIZ CLAUDIO, A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER IN ENGLAND, PILOTING AN NMC PLANE LAST SUMMER.**

### AVIATION REACHES INTERNATIONAL MILESTONE

Northwestern Michigan College welcomed a record number of international students to its 2018 summer aviation program.

The group included 32 students from 17 different countries including Malaysia, Nigeria, China, India, Lithuania, Thailand, Bangladesh, Portugal, Italy, Kenya, United Kingdom, Russia, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Ecuador and Uganda.

The students are studying Aerospace Engineering at three main NMC partner universities in the United Kingdom.

This partnership began in 2009 with an Innovation Grant from the NMC Foundation as a way to boost enrollment to the aviation program during the often slower summer season. Since its beginning, the international partnership has brought in an additional \$2.5 million and increased the financial viability of the aviation program.



**DANA AND CASEY COWELL**

### NMC RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT TO ADVANCE COLLEGE INITIATIVES

Traverse City residents and philanthropists Casey and Dana Cowell made the gift in August 2018 to advance the college's current work in several key areas:

- Considering the community's economic future in decision-making throughout the organization;
- Improving regional health by providing wellness opportunities and education specifically for NMC students, faculty and staff as well as for the greater community;

- Expanding career training, leading to higher-paying jobs and increased skill levels of workers in the region;
- Attracting high-paying companies to the region by leveraging NMC programs and faculty expertise;
- Reaching new and broader audiences through technology; and
- Strengthening the region as a destination for experiential and professional learning.

"I am always struck by how education is often at the core of any solution in the community," said Casey Cowell, a longtime NMC supporter. "That's why we have committed \$1 million to advance a few key initiatives that I'm most excited about at NMC."

In recent years, the Cowells have supported NMC's Annual Fund, the Dennon Museum Center and NMC's International Affairs Forum.





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# BAUHAUS BEAUTY

In 2018 the Shirley S. Okerstrom Fine Arts Building's distinctive cedar siding and windows were replaced, completely refurbishing NMC's home for the humanities, originally completed in 1972.

The building remains true to the Bauhaus school principles it celebrates, uniting music, fine arts and visual communications students under one roof.

I see it as so much more than a beautiful building," said Mella McCormick, Humanities chairperson. It is a space that is committed to elevating the human spirit through thoughtful discourse, collaborative creativity, and the critical exploration of ideas. **N**





Mary Booker  
Oakton Library  
10000 WOODBURN LANE  
MFC CHASLER 100-100  
MFC



# MY NMC

Mary Beeker / Librarian

Planning ahead of next year's move to the West Hall Innovation Center, NMC librarian Mary Beeker led a team of nine to complete a radio frequency identification tagging project of the 33,615 item print collection last summer.

Over three weeks in July, the small white tags were manually affixed to the inside back covers. Each contains a tiny antenna linked to the library's catalog that enables users to self-checkout materials, which will be necessary in West Hall since the building will be open 24/7. One self-checkout station is already available in the library's current home in the Osterlin Building, to help students adjust to the new system. When paired with security gates in the library's new, second floor home, the tags will also serve as a security system.

Most important to Beeker, shown with the tag in *Modernist Cuisine, Volume 4: Ingredients and Preparations*, the \$20,000 project enhances borrower privacy. "Librarianship is so much about helping people access reliable information for their own intellectual growth. (Now) there's a way to get good, reliable information where they don't have to go through a gatekeeper," Beeker said.

The Osterlin Library is open to all community members, not just students. Visit online at [nmc.edu/library](http://nmc.edu/library) **N**



# INSIDE MY BAG MARITIME TECHNOLOGY

Find out more about Maritime Technology degrees and certificates at [nmc.edu/maritime](http://nmc.edu/maritime)

## ALEC GIAMBOI, 25 2019 B.S. MARITIME TECHNOLOGY GRADUATE

When Alec Giamboi sails down the Detroit River, he always breathes a sigh of relief he's outside looking into the downtown office towers, not the other way around. Giamboi was studying political science at Loyola University Chicago when he decided he wanted a more hands-on career, something that tapped into the love of water he learned visiting his uncle on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, and offered a fulfilling career immediately upon graduation. Google searches led him to NMC's Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Since enrolling in 2015 he's been all over the lakes as well as the Pacific coast on an internship. "I've loved it," said the Youngstown, Ohio native. **N**



Giamboi's backpack contents are arranged atop a navigational chart of Grand Traverse Bay in the pilothouse of the Maritime Academy's training ship *State of Michigan*:

1. Navigational triangle and parallel plotter, below
2. Notebook, all-weather chart pencil, eraser
3. Challenge coin received after Pacific coast internship aboard Conoco-Phillips' Polar Tankers
4. Merchant mariner credential—an "industry passport" listing endorsements, credentials and ratings
5. GLMA portfolio—issued to all cadets in their first year. Contains a four-year curriculum map, letters of recommendation and evaluation.
6. "The Bible" of the maritime industry, this textbook is one of the few items the U.S. Coast Guard allows students to reference during licensing exams, which Giamboi will take this month.
7. Starfinder—navigational tools based on astronomy
8. Compass, flashlight, TI-84 scientific calculator (not allowed on Coast Guard exam)
9. Deck officer study guide for Coast Guard exam
10. A rules-of-the-road industry handbook
11. Heavy-duty watch, key in an industry where everything is timed and logged. "You'd be lost without a watch as a cadet," Giamboi said.

# STUDENT EXPERTISE GOES OVERSEAS

Indonesian institute enlists NMC for coral reef study  
Marine tech, drones, water studies integrated in mapping project





**H**iking through dense tropical jungle on an Indonesian island last May, NMC student Ryan Mater thought longingly of a project he and his marine technology classmates had left unfinished in a college classroom.

It was a hybrid drone, capable of taking off from and landing on water, and then dropping a submersible payload, like a camera. It would have been ideal for the work that had brought Mater and 11 fellow students to Indonesia: Conducting a study on the health of the coral reef system in a national park by integrating

their expertise in marine technology, aerial mapping, water quality testing and data collection.

But the classroom was 9,000 miles, 34 hours of travel and three customs inspections away. When they'd chosen their equipment, they'd decided the hybrid was too bulky and too untested to justify shipping. Now Mater and the rest of the NMC team would have to find another way to tackle the task, one they had only a week to complete.

"We had to alter our game plan," said Mater, 20, who led the group's Unmanned Aerial Systems unit. ▶



It would become a mantra for the mission to Bunaken Island, an endeavor more than a year in the making and which exemplifies NMC's strategic agenda to establish national and international competencies, offer students global opportunities and build collaborative relationships with other institutions.

"We spent four or five months studying the island. Nothing really prepares you for when you show up," said marine technology student Clayton Harbin, 25, lead underwater technician.

The unique conditions of exactly where they showed up forced much of the adaptation. Politeknik Negeri Manado, a technical institute in Indonesia, was NMC's partner in the project. Manado is just 1.6 degrees north of the equator. For perspective, that's further south of Miami than Traverse City is north.

Tropical heat and humidity are electronics enemy No. 1, and even without the hybrid, NMC brought plenty. Drones and underwater ROVs and laptops were all needed to conduct the survey and to train their Indonesian counterparts. The idea hatched at a 2017 conference in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, where NMC Technical Division Director Ed Bailey met a colleague from Politeknik Negeri. Exploring ways they might work together, the coral reef study was conceived as an interdisciplinary capstone project for students in three NMC niches: marine technology, unmanned aerial systems and water studies.

"There's very little baseline information on some of their ecosystems," Bailey said. "Our role was to be the technical support for the work (Politeknik Negeri) does and the lead researcher does."

Being sought out for such expertise validates NMC's strategy to cultivate the three niches over the last decade, which has already attracted students from outside the college's traditional service area, like Harbin from San Diego and Mater from Kalamazoo. It also meant the project offered students international work experience, "invaluable" to the students, said Marguerite Cotto, NMC vice president for lifelong and professional learning.

But they had to earn it, with a capital E.

Harbin pulled an all-nighter the first night, cannibalizing one ROV for parts to fix another after components failed. His "MacGyvered" repair had the side effect of creating steering deficiencies. To compensate, Harbin refined a drift dive technique, relying on underwater currents to propel the ROV. That in turn offered the bonus side effect of conserving the unit's battery. The underwater team dropped the ROV 150 times at 19 sites around the island, gathering images and video from deep and shallow water.

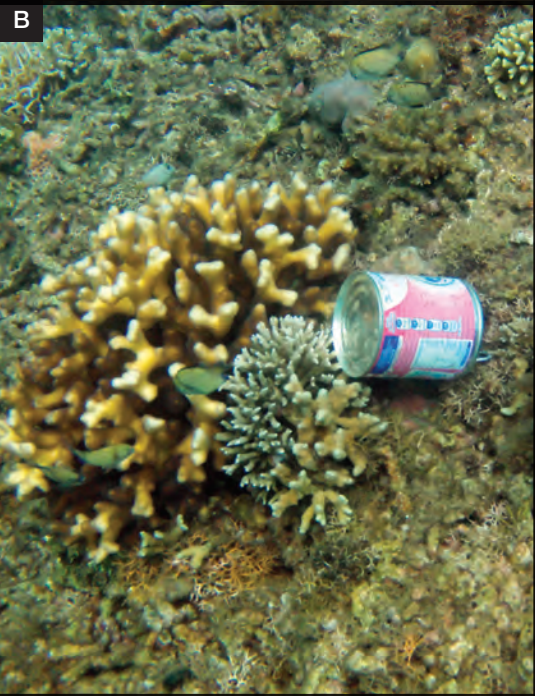
"I learned more about those (ROV) vehicles in Indonesia than the last two years," Harbin said. "It really did push everyone." ▶

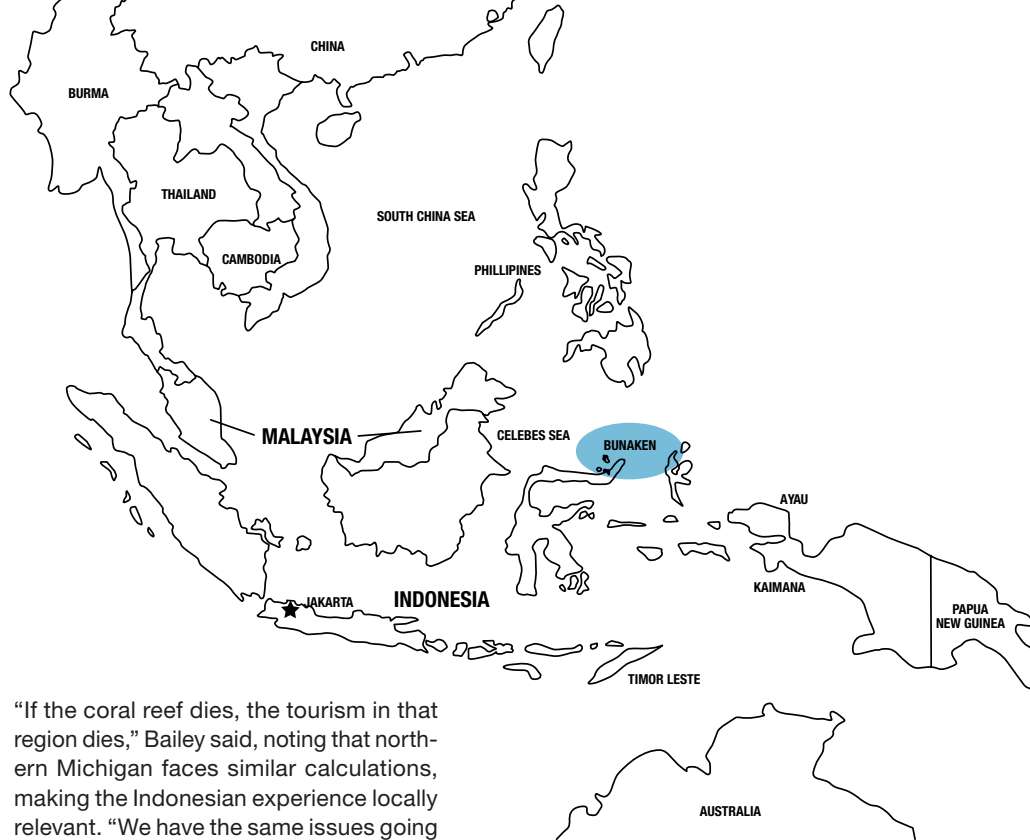
"If the coral reef dies, the tourism in that region dies. We have the same issues going on. There's a really big correlation."

Ed Bailey, NMC Technical Division Director, on the economic and environmental trade-offs found in both northern Michigan and Indonesia.

RYAN MATER PREPARES TO LAUNCH  
AN NMC DRONE IN INDONESIA'S  
BUNAKEN NATIONAL PARK.







Conditions meant Mater’s UAS team also had only one usable unit. Bushwhacking through the mangroves to get to beaches, they were able to launch just four drone flights the first two days. They had covered only a quarter mile of the reef. Time was ticking away on the mission clock.

“That third morning, we got a boat.” Mater snapped his fingers and smiled as he recalled the game-changer. It meant standing in the boats, literally launching and catching the drone by hand (further substantiating that the project back at Parsons-Stulen had real potential—see p. 20.) But flights per day quadrupled. They went from one-quarter mile of reef data to 13 miles.

“Finding a routine with the sun, the wind and the boat was where the UAS crew clicked,” Mater said. “We basically invented that method.”

A third team was crunching all the numbers. Data management lead Renate Schmidt, 26, processed 250 gigabytes of aerial and underwater data to generate a final report to help guide Indonesia as it seeks to balance the environmental health of the coral reef with its economic value as a tourist magnet.

“That’s their entire livelihood on that island,” Mater said.

“If the coral reef dies, the tourism in that region dies,” Bailey said, noting that northern Michigan faces similar calculations, making the Indonesian experience locally relevant. “We have the same issues going on. There’s a really big correlation.”

In addition to the constant problem-solving and trouble-shooting, the NMC students trained Indonesia students studying engineering and marine ecotourism to use the NMC equipment.

“We made really beautiful connections with the people,” Harbin said.

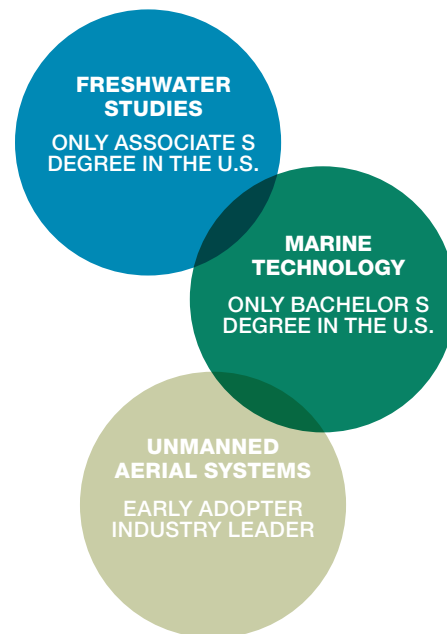
“I have never felt that much stress,” Mater said. “I sat on the beach, watched the sun come up every morning, and that was my de-stressing time.”

While the mission lasted only a week, word about it spread quickly. On the last night, they were invited to dinner at the major general’s palace. The appreciation took students by surprise but validated the sweat and stress of the experience.

“We were like rock stars over there,” Harbin said. “We left with such a huge impact.”

The NMC survey report and any action it may prompt now rests with Politeknik Negeri in Indonesia. NMC is planning a return trip this year. **N**

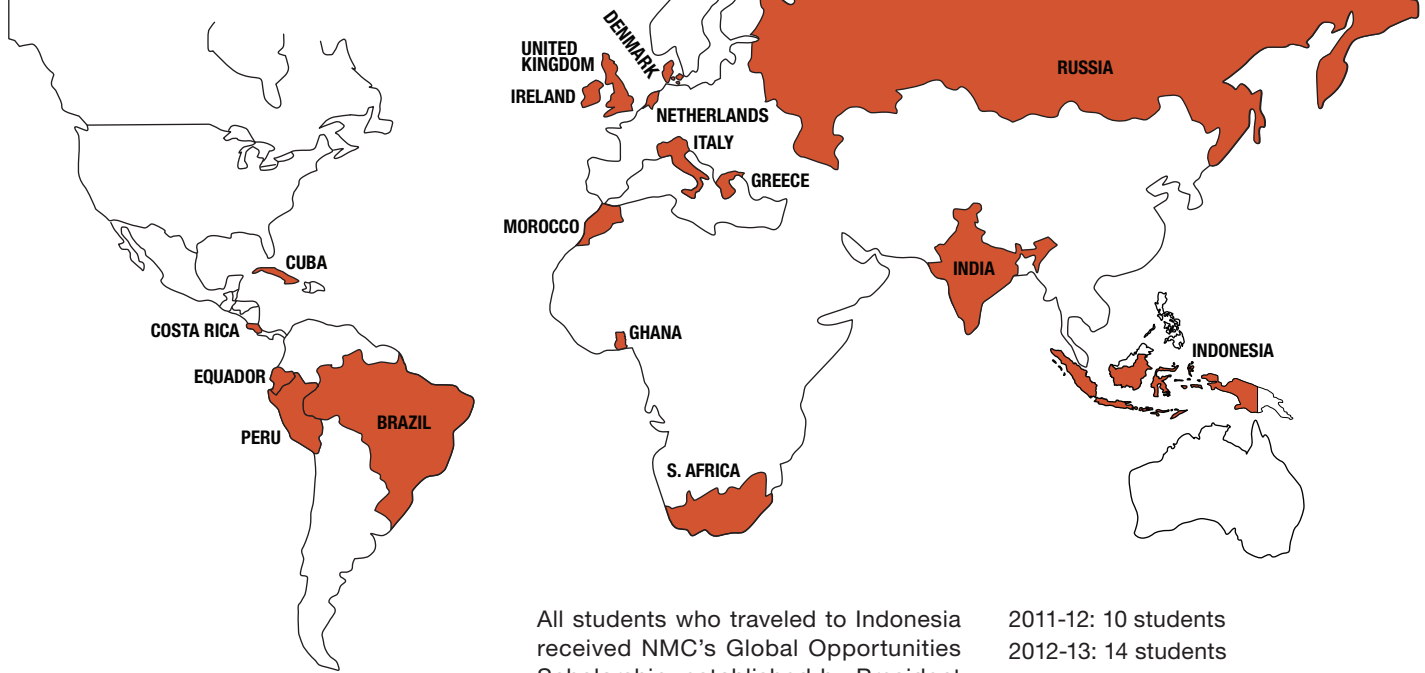
## NMC'S EXPERTISE TRIAD



### PICTURED, OPPOSITE PAGE:

**A) BOATS PREPARE TO DEPART FOR A DAY OF SURVEYING BUNAKEN NATIONAL PARK IN INDONESIA. B) TRASH IS A THREAT TO THE PARK'S CORAL REEF, PART OF THE CORAL TRIANGLE, THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY-DIVERSE CORAL REEF SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. C) NMC STUDENT AND PROJECT MANAGER SHANE PERKINS REVIEWS STRATEGY BEFORE A MAP OF THE ISLAND. D) INDONESIAN STUDENTS PRACTICE PILOTING THE NMC DRONE. E) DRONE'S-EYE VIEW OF BOAT AND REEF. F) NMC STUDENTS RYAN MATER, SITTING IN WHITE T-SHIRT, AND CLAYTON HARBIN, STANDING IN WHITE T-SHIRT, AND INDONESIAN STUDENTS PREPARING TO SEND THE ROV ON A DIVE.**





## GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP = GLOBAL CITIZENS

All students who traveled to Indonesia received NMC's Global Opportunities Scholarship, established by President Timothy J. Nelson in 2011 to celebrate both the college's 60th anniversary and his tenth as president.

NMC is ranked first among Michigan community colleges for short-term study abroad, and the scholarship drives that rank: More than 70 percent of the 350 students who have traveled to 17 countries since 2013 have received Global Opportunities funding.

2011-12: 10 students  
 2012-13: 14 students  
 2013-14: 44 students  
 2014-15: 65 students  
 2015-16: 49 students  
 2016-17: 33 students/44 total\*  
 2017-18: 36 students/47 total\*

251	Global Opportunities
+ 22	Tanis Adventure Fund
<hr/>	
273	Total Students Funded

*\* Beginning in 2016-17, an additional scholarship, the Tanis Adventure Fund, was established specifically to send culinary students abroad. It helped 11 students in each year, numbers added into the totals.*

## NMC-INCUBATED INNOVATION ON THE CUSP OF PROTOTYPE

Hybrid Robotics CEO and NMC student Matt Goodard was standing on stage at the City Opera House in downtown Traverse City, but his mind was 9,000 miles away, recalling the difficulty of launching a drone in Indonesia's dense tropical jungle.

That real world experience meant Goodard, at left, wasn't just theorizing there was a market for the hybrid drone he was pitching to potential investors in the audience for TC New Tech's monthly pitch night. *He knew it.*

Hybrid Robotics won the competition that night last October. But the roots of the victory went back months earlier and half a world away, when three of the four student partners traveled to Indonesia to complete an aerial and underwater mapping project.

Before the trip, they had begun concepting the idea in an engineering technology

class by customizing an off the shelf drone with everything from unique parts manufactured in the college's 3 D printers to foam balls from JoAnn Fabrics. In Indonesia where conditions forced them to manually catch and release a drone from a boat they realized its utility. They are now refining the unit and concept.

"We're trying to make a hybrid platform for the marine inspection industry," Goodard said.

Hybrid Robotics is shaping up to be the second viable company to emerge from NMC's Maker Space. Begun in 2014 at the Parsons Stulen Building, the Maker Space offers both a place and a process for team based, project learning that, when evolved to its highest level, can turn students into entrepreneurs. Interactive Aerial, a Traverse City company that specializes in drone inspections of interior,

confined spaces, is the first.

Instructor Keith Kelly, who taught the class in which the Hybrid Robotics team formed, wants to see more.

"How can we make the transition with these teams from the college classrooms into startups?" Kelly asked. "That's really the exciting stuff."



MATT GODDARD AND RYAN MATER

# WEST HALL

A third life awaits the main campus mainstay, as the West Hall Innovation Center.

Originally a student residence hall, West Hall opened in September 1963. After serving four decades of students, its outdated residential wings were demolished in 2010. Until fall 2018 it was a student center, home to radio station WNMC, the bookstore, International Services, the student veteran lounge and Hawk Owl Cafe.

All were relocated last year for construction of the West Hall Innovation Center. When complete next year, the \$14.4 million project, shown in the bottom three artist renderings, will include a multi-story library and flexible learning space accommodating experiential learning, simulation instruction and traditional lectures.

Fittingly, NMC has chosen to use an innovative renewable energy source: geothermal energy, which offers both long-term cost savings to the college and has a positive environmental impact.

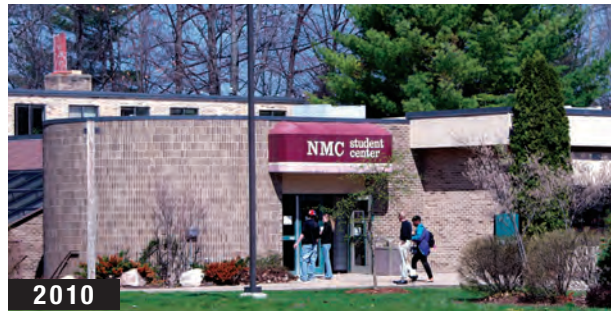
Learn more: [nmc.edu/innovation](http://nmc.edu/innovation) **N**



1963



2001



2010



2018







Dual enrolled high school students are the fastest growing segment of enrollment at NMC. Find out more at [nmc.edu/dualenroll](http://nmc.edu/dualenroll)

# HALFWAY TO B.A.

## Dual enrollment gets TC West HS grad halfway to degree

Brooke Ostrowski didn't get just a head start on her degree at NMC. She got a head, neck and shoulders start, earning more than 50 credits at NMC while still in high school. The 2018 Traverse City West graduate shares what she learned while completing half her undergraduate work during high school:

**Dual-enrollment was transformative.** Ostrowski craves a challenge and found the autonomy of the college experience was just what she needed to thrive. During both her junior and senior years, she took most of her classes at NMC, everything from English to Spanish and microbiology to abnormal psychology. Mom Barb Ostrowski agrees: "The dual enrollment program has been just awesome. It reignited her love for learning. I just cannot say enough."

**There's more to college than academics.** During the summer of 2017, in between her two years of dual enrollment, Ostrowski took a two-week intensive class in neuroscience at Harvard University. She loved Boston and found the idea of attending a highly-selective school appealing. Yet in the late winter months, her desires began to tack toward wanting a broader experience, including one where she could continue her love of sailing. (Her summer job is teaching classes for the Traverse Area Community Sailing program.)

**(Salt) water's fine, too.** Located on Florida's Tampa Bay, Eckerd College is one of the nation's top 20 sailing schools and Ostrowski will sail on the Tritons varsity team her second semester. She plans to major in math and also plans to study abroad, potentially in Central America. She's more than ready for a break from northern Michigan winters, and thanks to the credits she earned at NMC, she'll save up to two years of Eckerd's five-figure tuition, too.

**The NMC greenhouse is her favorite place on campus.** She keeps a four-by-two grow light in her Lake Ann bedroom, and has a particular affinity for succulents. She'll take some of the dozens of varieties with her to Florida. Eckerd offers a student greenhouse, but she plans to keep some in her dorm. Plants' determination to grow is therapeutic to her.

**Words of wisdom: Forget conventional wisdom.** Ostrowski advises high school students to follow their own desires, whether that means foregoing an Ivy League school or something else. "Carve your own path. You don't have to do high school or college the way you think you have to," she said. **N**



# TOP CHEF

REGION'S FOOD SCENE TRANSFORMS DURING LAUGHLIN ERA

When Traverse City gets another national ranking, locals nod knowingly. No. 1 foodie destination in the Midwest. Top 10 foodie city. Best beer town. Emerging wine region.

What's less well-known is a man instrumental in accumulating those accolades, Fred Laughlin, who in December hung up his chef's whites as NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute director after a 27-year career.

Nearly 500 students earned culinary degrees or certificates during Laughlin's tenure. An impressive number now work for successful restaurants, have started new ones or work in other food-related careers, inextricably linking the region's food destination reputation to the now 15-year-old Culinary Institute, recognized as one of the best culinary schools in the nation. Though Laughlin is quick to deflect accolades to his staff, students and a supportive community, it's his unassuming leadership that created GLCI as it exists today.

Traverse City's food scene now bears little resemblance to what it was when Laughlin arrived at NMC in January 1992 from Paul Smith's College in New York's Adirondacks, where he was a chef instructor.

NMC then had a food service management program, focused on how to run a restaurant with very little instruction on the culinary side. But Laughlin had a charge to build a true culinary program, focusing on the art and craft of food and cooking, while integrating the business and hospitality elements.

For Laughlin, the work began with community outreach. Shortly after he arrived, a partnership was forged with Rotary of Traverse City, which had recently rescued the Park Place Hotel from bankruptcy, and connected the food service program with the hotel. Later, he worked closely with community leaders interested in creating something special at NMC centered on the culinary arts.

"We got involved with anything local dealing with food," said Laughlin, of the early days. From special event dinners to the Cherry Festival, the Epicurean Classic and more recently the Traverse City Film Festival, the community outreach helped elevate both the awareness of the program and the public's expectations.

Through the 1990s, enrollment in the program steadily rose, growing from 14 to 75 students in six years. In 1998 came a vision for NMC's Great Lakes Campus and a new home for the program. In 2004, the Great Lakes Culinary Institute and Lobdell's Teaching Restaurant opened on the campus overlooking West Bay. Buzz and student numbers continued to grow.

Harlan "Pete" Peterson, founder of the former Tapawingo restaurant in Ellsworth and member of the Great Lakes Culinary Institute advisory committee, recalled hosting student field trips to his highly-acclaimed restaurant. Peterson was also a conduit to prominent guest chefs from outside the area who worked with culinary students.

# LAUGHLIN HAD A CHARGE TO BUILD A TRUE CULINARY PROGRAM, FOCUSING ON THE ART AND CRAFT OF COOKING.

"Geographically, it's such an idyllic place and an obvious place for chefs to want to come visit," said Peterson of northern Michigan. "It's very impressive ... Traverse City being recognized in Michigan and nationally as a food destination. We should be proud."

The Institute has also been a huge proponent of the local food and beverage movement, both by showcasing local products on Lobdell's menus and by the instructors connecting students with the people behind them.

Lifelong journalist and Traverse City resident Janice Binkert enrolled in the culinary program in 2008.

"The degree I got and the contacts I made paved the way for my second career as a food writer and private chef," said Binkert. "There are people of all ages and backgrounds. It's a very inclusive program, and I think that's because it's associated with a community college."

Also unique to GLCI, Binkert said, are the opportunities for students beyond being a chef—from the business side of running an operation to food and beverage sales to someone like herself. ▶





## A SAMPLING OF LOCAL ALUMNI RESTAURANTS

Harry Bisson, Smoke and Porter  
 James Bloomfield, Alliance  
 Michael Evans, The Good Bowl  
 Patty Hickman, The Dish  
 Chris Hoffman, The Towne Plaza  
 Jim Morse, The Boathouse  
 Becky Tranchell, Rose and Fern  
 Stephanie Wiitala, S2S



The strong ties the Institute has created with local industry through internships and in creating a talent pool is another indication of its critical role in the region, Binkert added.

Graduate Becky Tranchell said the relationships she built with the program and the mentoring from Laughlin has been critical in advancing her to where she is today—on the verge of opening her own restaurant.

“The way the school has impacted this region is by cultivating a community of support and understanding,” said Tranchell, who also is a former adjunct instructor. “The school is like a rock for some of us. It’s a hard industry to stick with. But, it’s not so scary knowing you have a large body of people who get it, can listen, and encourage you to keep searching for your individual path.”

Tranchell started Rose and Fern as a pop-up breakfast and lunch spot last fall at Potter’s Bakery in Traverse City with a goal to make it a permanent establishment.

“The program has influenced my new business venture by providing me with confidence, professionalism, and respect for my own abilities,” added Tranchell. “I’m proud to say I have two young women from GLCI as employees.”

Added Laughlin, “The college has made a huge impact on the local food scene and I’m very proud of that.”

Laughlin and his wife Linda—who also recently retired as an adjunct culinary instructor—are staying in Traverse City, where he plans to stay involved with culinary initiatives. What will he miss most? That’s easy.

“The students,” he said. **N**

## NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LAUGHLINS

In honor of Fred and Linda Laughlin, local residents Diana and Richard Milock have announced a new scholarship for culinary students.

Meeting Laughlin years ago over lunch at Lobdell’s spurred the couple to add culinary educational opportunities to the long list of college programs they support, for which they were named NMC Fellows in 2014.

“We know it’s a high-quality program,” said Diana Milock. “What we really connected with was Fred’s devotion to and support of students.”

With their \$25,000 commitment, the Chef Fred and Linda Laughlin Scholarship is fully endowed, though additional support is welcome. Contact the NMC Foundation at (231) 995-1021.



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## SAVE THESE DATES!

**February 28:** 2019 Outstanding Alumni Award nominations due, [nmc.edu/alumni](http://nmc.edu/alumni)

**March 7:** Networking Reception, 6 - 8 p.m., Lobdell's Teaching Restaurant

Immediately following the annual NMC Career Fair, free and open to all former NMC students who have earned academic credit, plus spouses/significant others. Cash bar, heavy appetizers and door prizes. Business casual attire. Registration is encouraged, but not required, [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu)

# ALUMNI NOTES

**TERRY BEIA** 1980, 1983 was named the 2018 recipient of the Downtown Traverse City Association's 26th annual Lyle DeYoung Award, presented to a community member who made a significant contribution to the vitality of downtown Traverse City. Beia has been a community investor and supporter since 1998, buying and updating buildings including the Arcade, serving on multiple boards and volunteering.

**PATRICIA NIEPOTH**, 1985 was reappointed to the state Electronic Recording Commission by Gov. Rick Snyder for a two-year term through 2020. Niepoth is the Antrim County register of deeds, a position she was elected to in 2001. The commission is charged with keeping the standards, practices and technology of Michigan registers of deeds in harmony and compatible with those of other states.

**JULIE WOOD-CARROLL**, 1988, has been promoted to general manager of the award-winning community newspapers *Iosco County News-Herald*, the newspaper of record for Iosco County, and its sister newspaper, the *Oscoda Press*. She lives in Tawas City.

\***LARRY INMAN**, 1988, was re-elected to represent the 104th district in the Michigan House of Representatives.

\***WAYNE A. SCHMIDT**, 1995, was re-elected to represent Michigan's 37th State Senate district.

**1 TRAVIS HOUSE**, 1997, was promoted to lieutenant by the Michigan State Police. He serves as public information officer and spokesperson for the Seventh District headquarters in Gaylord and established a Twitter feed, @MSPNorthernMI. House enlisted with the MSP in 1998.

**AARON COOK**, 1999, joined Pentastar Aviation as Director of Corporate Training and Development in June 2018. He will oversee flight crew training and other training programs for Pentastar, based in Oakland County. A former director of aviation at NMC, Cook helped lead NMC's pioneering efforts in the field of Unmanned Aircraft Systems credentials. He was the recipient of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Award of Excellence in 2013.

**2 MIKE SHEA**, 2005, was appointed Grand Traverse County Undersheriff in October of 2018. In his 13 years with Sheriff's office, Shea has served as a deputy, field training officer, dive team member, community police officer for East Bay Township, and detective.

**3 BETSY COFFIA**, 2008, was elected to serve as a Grand Traverse County commissioner.



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**4 DEREK WOODRUFF**, 2009, was a finalist in the florists' America's Cup, held last summer in Washington DC. The event was the national qualifying competition to determine the U.S. competitor in the "floral Olympics"—the FTD World Cup. Woodruff launched his Traverse City business, Floral Underground, in 2008. He has been named the Michigan Floral Association's Designer of the Year twice and was second runner-up on a national television floral design competition, The Arrangement, in 2010.

**5 AUSTIN GROESSER'S** (2015-16) Big Dipper Cookie Dough won the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Emerging Business Award. Big Dipper's product is available in more than 800 stores in a dozen Midwest states.

**6 SCOTT POWELL**, 1998, joined the Great Lakes Maritime Academy as a deck instructor.

**7 BECCA RICHARDSON**, 2007, joined the NMC math faculty. She earned her bachelor's in math from Ferris State University

in 2012, and a master's from the University of Idaho in 2015. She also taught as an NMC adjunct for five years.

Several other alumni joined NMC's adjunct faculty: **Cory Dean**, HVAC 2006, 2016; **Robin Debusca**, nursing 2014; **Karl Hardesty**, maritime 2009, 2017; **Callie Leaman**, nursing 2015, 2016; **Logan Smith**, aviation 2018. **N**

Share your alumni news by emailing [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu).

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## S2S SIGNATURE SCONES

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsps baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar (more if you are making a sweet scone/less if you are going savory)
- 4 ounces (1 stick) cold unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup heavy cream, plus more for brushing
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (or up to 1/2 teaspoon if you are making savory)

Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and granulated sugar in a bowl. Cut the butter into small pieces and add to the flour mixture with your hands, incorporating the butter until it makes a coarse mix. A few small butter chunks are OK.

Combine and whisk together the heavy cream and egg in a separate bowl and add any other wet ingredients (from the mix ins below) until you have about a half cup of a mix. Pour into the dry flour and butter mix and use a fork to bring together.

Gently add your choice of dry ingredient mix ins. Try not to over mix.

Mound the dough on the work surface and, using the heel of your hand or a pastry scraper, push it together. Press it into a

8 10 inch round, smoothing the top. Press the sides of your hands against the sides of the dough to straighten the edges.

Using a chef s knife, cut the round block of dough into quarters and then crosswise into quarters to make 8 pieces.

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (convection) or 350 degrees F (standard). Line a sheet pan with parchment paper. Arrange scones 1 inch apart. Bake for 20 to 23 minutes in a convec tion oven, or 28 to 30 minutes in a standard oven, until golden brown.

Scone dough may also be frozen up to one month. Baking time may be slightly longer when baking from frozen.



### MIX INS TO TRY:

- Potato-bacon with cheddar and chives
- Apple carrot cinnamon with raisins and walnuts
- Pear parsnip with vanilla and walnut
- Chocolate pecan with sea salted caramel
- Garden herb with caramelized onions and parmesan
- Pumpkin, apple, bacon
- Blueberry sage with lemon glaze
- Sundried tomato, basil, mozzarella





# PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE

**Chef Stephanie Wiitala of S2S  
dishes on GLCI and restaurant life**

Her education gave Wiitala, a 2011 graduate, “a fast-forward surge of information and knowledge” about cooking professionally, but nothing replaces the heat of a real kitchen.

For the last year and a half, that’s been at S2S, Sugar 2 Salt, a breakfast restaurant Wiitala runs with her partner, Jonathan Dayton, in the Grand Traverse Commons. They focus on creating seasonally-driven menus emphasizing local ingredients.

Wiitala, who was selected GLCI’s 2018 Alumna of the Year, said the ethos of expectations and the expectation of hard work is the lesson she values most.

“Chefs work in a world of expectations all the time,” whether it’s their own, customers, or critics, said Wiitala. As a restaurant owner in a world where one meal can now be heard around the world via social media, it’s critical to remember.

“From the moment they sit down until they walk out the door, we try to discern whether we’ve met our customers’ marks,” she said. “I’m so thankful (GLCI) impressed that upon me from the beginning.” **N**





# CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

- 01** **Public Viewing Night**  
 9–11 p.m., Rogers Observatory  
 Admission \$2/person, \$5/family  
*Continues first Friday of most months. All 2019 dates: [nmc.edu/observatory](http://nmc.edu/observatory)*
- 06** **Lobdell's opens for lunch**  
 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 11:30 am.-1 p.m.  
*Reservations required, (231) 995-3120*
- 17** **NMC Choral performance**  
 featuring the NMC Chamber Singers, Canticum Novum and the NMC Children's Choirs.  
 3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium\*
- 21** **International Affairs Forum lecture series:** Trashing the Planet: Mountains of Garbage with no Place to Go.  
 6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium  
*Continues third Thursday of each month through June. [ciaf.com](http://ciaf.com) for speakers and topics.*
- 22** **NMC Concert Band**  
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium\*

## MARCH

- 07** **Career Fair**  
 3:30–5:30 p.m., Hagerty Center  
 Open to the public as well as NMC students.  
[nmc.edu/careerfair](http://nmc.edu/careerfair)

## APRIL

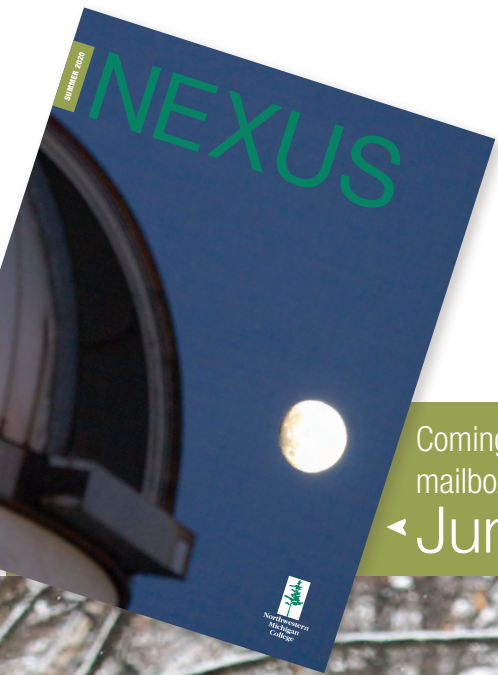
- 12** **A Taste of Success**  
 6:30 p.m., Great Lakes Campus  
*Tickets \$100, available at [nmc.edu/tasteofsuccess](http://nmc.edu/tasteofsuccess)*
- 20** **Spring Jazz Ensemble Showcase**  
 featuring NMC Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble.  
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium\*
- 23** **NMC Concert Band**  
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium\*

## MAY

- 04** **Commencement**  
 2 p.m., Traverse City Central High School
- 05** **NMC Dance department concert**  
 7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium\*
- 19** **NMC Barbecue**  
 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Main Campus  
*Tickets and info: [nmc.edu/bbq](http://nmc.edu/bbq)*

\* Tickets available at the door or at [MyNorthTickets.com](http://MyNorthTickets.com) / (800) 836-0717





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