

SPRING 2022

NEXUS

MOMENTUM OF THE MOMENT

OPPORTUNITIES
COALESCE IN 2022

PLUS:
DRAKE'S DISCIPLES
50 years on NMC's faculty
A JOYFUL NOISE
Concert Series returns to Milliken



Northwestern
Michigan
College



NEXUS

THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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CCs: A GREAT INVENTION

In the course of writing stories for *Nexus*, I talk to a lot of people at NMC. One conversation I remember well was a few years ago with Marguerite Cotto, NMC's just-retired vice president of lifelong and professional learning. A



MARGUERITE COTTO

native of Puerto Rico, Cotto said she considered the community college to be among America's greatest inventions.

Pretty bold statement, I thought. However, as I tried to come up with other candidates (Airplane flight? Jazz? Square pizza?) the truth of Cotto's choice became more and more evident. The genius of the community college is that it can

shape shift according to student needs. At NMC, we are simultaneously a flight school, a music conservatory (jazz, choral and more) and a culinary arts program (where you can learn to make square and round pizza, just for starters.)

This shapeshifting, on a higher level, amounts to an inherent ability for NMC to adapt and reinvent itself as needs and times change—while still retaining the community college's core identity as affordable and accessible, serving students of all ages and backgrounds. Driven by demographics and accelerated by the pandemic, NMC is now poised at one of those moments of reinvention, as explored in our cover story beginning on page 10.

We may not know exactly what the future holds, but as one of America's greatest inventions, we can say with confidence that NMC will be ready to meet it. **N**

Cari Noga

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NORTHWESTERN

NMC'S RESEARCH VESSEL, THE NORTHWESTERN, WAS REMOVED FROM THE GREAT LAKES CAMPUS HARBOR IN NOVEMBER FOR WINTERIZATION. GRADUATES OF NMC'S BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MARINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM HAVE 100 PERCENT EMPLOYMENT IN THE MARINE INDUSTRY.



20



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PETOBEGO SNOW

Snow and ice begin to encroach on Petobego Pond, immediately adjacent to East Grand Traverse Bay in Antrim County. The pond is part of the Petobego Creek Natural Area, recognized by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as a natural area of statewide significance. This spring, NMC's Marine Technology division will place a monitoring buoy in East Bay that includes a webcam. See p. 5. **N**

► *Photo by NMC aviation instructor Pauly Hurlbert.*

AERIAL VIEW





NICK NISSLEY, PRESIDENT

CONNECTOR-IN-CHIEF

EVERY DAY I wish more than a dozen people a happy birthday and write more than a dozen thank you and congratulations notes. Honestly, it's often the best part of my day! This habit of gratitude is something I started years ago as I first set out to define who I wanted to be as a leader. It's important to

me to connect with people and show my appreciation, that's always been true. But what has changed over the years are the ways I get to share that appreciation and make those connections. What used to be limited to only a phone call or letter may now also include a Facebook message and email. I simply have more ways than ever to quickly and easily connect with the people I care about.

Such connections have always been vital. Over the last two years of the pandemic, however, it's become more evident how significant human connection is to our well-being, and how necessary it is to cultivate that connection beyond face to face. Social media and video are two go-to ways. For instance, you'll

read in this issue about our nearly-finalized strategic plan, which will guide the entire college through 2025. That plan has been developed almost entirely in Zoom meetings, yet despite the virtual setting, the energy and enthusiasm is palpable. We've had greater levels of participation and more meaningful cross campus collaboration!

I'm proud of the dedication so many people in the college and wider community have devoted to this incredibly important effort. We have reimagined how the college will serve a changing body of learners. As the objectives and action steps unfold, bringing NMC toward our goals, that sense of connection and community, united in a common purpose, will only strengthen. It becomes a virtuous circle that began in dozens of Zoom rectangles.

Thank you for your continued support of Northwestern Michigan College. Wishing you and yours a happy new year.



PRESIDENT NISSLEY, RIGHT, CONGRATULATES MEMBERS OF PHI THETA KAPPA, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETY, AT THE 2020 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.



BUOYS TO MONITOR EAST AND WEST BAYS, NORTH MANITOU

Three monitoring buoys, including the first ever on East Grand Traverse Bay, were placed last fall in an NMC-Michigan Technological University collaboration.

Purchased with a \$48,800 grant NMC received, the buoys were removed for winter but will return in the spring outfitted with webcams. Data to be available online include wind speed and direction, wave height and direction, water temperature and video feed of the lake surface, updated every 30 minutes.

“These buoys and data will support a broader understanding of Great Lakes processes and will provide users with near real-time information,” said Hans Van Sumeren, director of NMC’s Great Lakes Water Studies Institute.

NMC offers students the opportunity to gain skills, knowledge and understanding of the world’s dynamic water resources by earning a bachelor’s degree in Marine Technology. Graduates of the bachelor’s program have 100 percent employment in the marine industry. Associate degrees in Engineering Technology-Marine and Freshwater Studies are also available.

➤ nmc.edu/water

\$30,000 IN PRIZES AWARDED FOR STUDENT VACCINATIONS

Two frontline adult learners got another boost toward their college goals last fall—a semester’s worth of tuition in NMC’s Big Win giveaway.

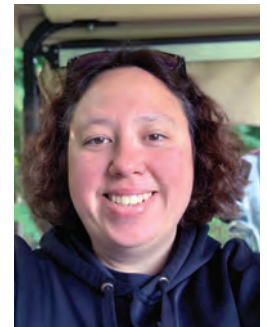
NMC awarded \$30,000 in tuition, housing and bookstore gift certificates as an incentive to students to get vaccinated against COVID-19. More than 900 students entered.

The winners of the top two prizes, tuition and fees for the spring 2022 semester up to \$10,000 in value, are: Sarah Sargent, 37, of Traverse City, a first-year student in NMC’s Marine Technology bachelor’s degree program, and Kelley Nelson, 38, of Bellaire, a Computer Information Technology student.

Throughout the pandemic, NMC has prioritized student and employee safety while minimizing the disruption to learning.



SARAH SERGENT



KELLEY NELSON

VETERANS CAN CONVERT SEA SERVICE TO CREDIT

Military veterans can now convert active duty sea service into credit toward an engineering officer bachelor’s degree at NMC’s Great Lakes Maritime Academy.

GLMA Superintendent Jerry Achenbach said the MVET program is the result of more than four years of work involving Academy faculty and staff and U.S. Coast Guard officials, who formally approved the program last September. In addition to allowing Maritime cadets to bypass redundant training, the approval allows student veterans to complete the engineering program within the constraints of GI bill benefits. Due to sea service requirements, the current GLMA program exceeds the 36 months of benefits awarded to veterans.

It is expected to improve recruitment to the Academy’s engineering program. More credentialed engineers graduating sooner will also help the merchant marine industry, whose workforce is aging.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BOTH ENGINE AND DECK BACHELOR’S PROGRAMS AT NMC.EDU/MARITIME





COLLEGE DISTRIBUTES \$5.2 MILLION IN FEDERAL COVID RELIEF FUNDS

NMC students received \$3 million in American Rescue Plan funds last September, bringing the total amount of federal COVID-19 relief funds the college has distributed to students to \$5.2 million since April 2020.

NMC has prioritized rapid disbursement of four rounds of COVID funds intended for students, as well as supplemented them with dollars raised by the NMC Foundation.

“As the pandemic persists, so do our students’ challenges,” NMC President Nick Nissley said. “We’re pleased to be able to efficiently steward these taxpayer dollars and distribute them to students who have persevered toward their goals through 18 months.”

While the COVID relief dollars are extraordinary, NMC champions affordability as a key element of college access. Besides federal financial aid and more than \$1 million in institutional scholarships annually, the college utilizes open educational resources (free and low-cost textbooks) in many classes, and has an on-campus food pantry.

NMC RECEIVES \$90,000 FAA GRANT

NMC has received a \$90,000 aviation workforce development grant to train 40 high school teachers in Unmanned Aerial Systems fundamentals, as well as equip each with a multi-rotor unit to use with their own students.

The grant is intended to address the need for operators and technicians in the growing UAS field. NMC has been a leader in UAS since 2010, with graduates currently working in all aspects of the industry. Teachers from around the state will be able to participate in the training, expected to occur this summer at NMC’s private airfield in Yuba, (pictured.)

➤ nmc.edu/uas for more info.



ANDREW ROBITSHEK CHOSEN TO FILL TRUSTEE VACANCY

NMC’s Board of Trustees unanimously appointed business owner Andrew Robitshek of Traverse City to fill a vacant trustee seat in November 2021. He will serve until the next community college election in November 2022.

The owner of Bay Motor Products, a small manufacturing company, Robitshek, 54, was one of 11 eligible candidates who applied to fill the vacancy. He cited his love of the community, business knowledge and past board experience as driving his interest in serving on the board.

ADVISING ACCELERATES

NMC's Academic & Career Advising Center staff are key partners in helping students stay on track toward their goals. Prior to the fall semester, they doubled the students served via virtual drop-in advising. Clockwise from back left, advisers Deb Maison, Jeremy Heinlein, Katie Sommerfeld, Lisa Baldyga, Taylor Nash and Lindsey Dickinson (director) assisted 400 students with creating academic plans, registering for fall classes, course changes, transfer and career advice, and more. They are ready to help students with registration for the Fall 2022 semester, which starts March 9. **N**

► Find out more at nmc.edu/advising



DUALIE PROFILE

DUAL ENROLLED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, in which the student's school district pays the in-district tuition, are the fastest growing segment of enrollment at NMC.

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



'THE GOLDILOCKS CLASS'

TC Central senior Grady Luyt finds dual enrollment classes just right

AS A JUNIOR at Traverse City Central last year, Grady Luyt faced a dilemma. No honors English class was offered. He felt the Advanced Placement class would be too time-consuming and the standard class too boring.

Luyt found his answer at NMC. He dual-enrolled in an online English course for the spring 2021 semester, earning college credit in one semester instead of the year the AP class would require.

"The class here wound up being the Goldilocks class," said Luyt, 18.

He also liked the taste of college life. He subsequently enrolled in Calculus III last semester, and Differential Equations this semester.

"You're more responsible for your own education," said Luyt, who's also a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, a distinction based on his PSAT scores and earned by less than 1 percent of high school seniors. He will be able to transfer his NMC credits to Michigan Tech, where he's already been accepted, or the University of Michigan, his top two choices for his planned engineering major.

"You're saving a lot of money, and you're saving time," Luyt said of dual enrollment. The public school district, not the student, is responsible for paying tuition.

When not in class, Luyt spends most of his time with Central's FIRST Robotics team.

He joined the Raptors as a freshman and is now the technical lead, overseeing the build, electrical and programming leads in the endeavor to build a competitive robot.

"It's the hardest fun you'll ever have," Luyt said, adding that learning to collaborate and communicate with teammates and meet deadlines are also part of the robotics team experience.

"Those skills are as important if not more important than the mechanical skills," Luyt said.

Engineering, after all, is a natural fit for the lifelong basement tinkerer. As a middle school student he built a go-kart from a free snowblower he found at the side of the road. As an eighth grader he built a playable PacMan Halloween costume. It was hard to move in, but with the strategic choice of a friend's Slabtown yard as his base, Luyt found the trick-or-treaters came to him.

"I charged one candy per play and got all my candy that way," he said.

In the robotics off-season, he works at Brick Wheels and is involved with the Norte youth cycling group, including its youth advisory board. Whatever he's doing, he tries to focus as much on his journey as his destination, and is grateful dual enrollment was part of his high school years.

"The process is always at least half the fun," he said. **N**

GRADY LUYT DUAL ENROLLED IN THREE DIFFERENT NMC CLASSES WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL. THOSE CREDITS WILL SAVE HIM TIME AND TUITION DOLLARS WHEN HE ENTERS EITHER THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN OR MICHIGAN TECH.



MOMENT *OF THE* MOMENT

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT, THE SAYING GOES. As 2022 begins at Northwestern Michigan College, that may literally be true: Efforts and energies in strategic planning, leadership and statewide policy are poised to coalesce this year, giving the college powerful momentum and creating a unique moment of opportunity as it embarks on its eighth decade.

NMC'S STRATEGIC AREAS, 2022-25

- > Future-focused education
 - > Student engagement and success
 - > Diversity, equity and inclusion
 - > Community partnerships and engagement
 - > Institutional distinction and sustainability
- ▶ Visit nmc.edu/strategicplanning for more details.



STRATEGIC PLANNING IN FINAL STAGES

Last spring, NMC began its most comprehensive strategic planning process in decades. Meetings, focus groups and surveys have involved all college constituencies, from community to students, from trustees to faculty and staff. After final board approval, expected yet this winter, the college will begin to measure progress on the plan's twenty-some objectives and action items, which fall under five overarching pillars (see box.) Newly-installed Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jason Slade, right, will oversee the plan implementation.



"We're at a completely new time for higher education," Slade said. "Students and learners have more choices and more opportunities."

Objectives created in response to that changing learner demand are spread out from 2022 to 2025, but Slade expects a quick start. For instance, to enhance fu-

AT LEFT, STUDENTS LANDON DEHEER, VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS, AND GAIL EICKENROTH, CULINARY, STROLL PAST THE WEST HALL INNOVATION CENTER. GREAT LAKES MARITIME ACADEMY CADET FABIAN BLACHE, IV ENTERS. BELOW, SOUS CHEF LELAND NELSON CLEANS UP IN THE HAWK OWL CAFE.

ture-focused education, offer more short courses (as short as two weeks), and short programs (microcredentials, accomplished as quickly as a single semester), in some academic areas yet this year. Results will inform how future-focused education expands.

"I think you'll start seeing some very targeted approaches, and use those as a barometer to figure out year two, year three," Slade said.

The plan prioritizes and builds upon existing efforts. In the area of future-focused education, NMC already offers eight- and 12-week sessions in the summer semester, and has steadily increased the proportion of online classes year-round.

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is another plan pillar with roots in a previous statement that "NMC values all people." As DEI has grown in national prominence over the last year and a half, calling it out specifically is reflective of what many organizations from various sectors have done, such as Traverse Connect, the region's economic development agency.

"I really think you'll see the college embrace it and prove that we're serious about DEI," Slade said.

Objectives in this pillar include identifying methods to track vulnerable student populations such as BIPOC students, students with disabilities, and low income students, as well as DEI-focused onboarding, training and education for current faculty and staff.

Each of the five pillars will see activity this year, involving the whole college, Slade said.

"We'll need everybody's help in getting to those goals," he said. And when that happens, NMC will be at an even better place.

"It's a great opportunity to be in the forefront [of higher education]," Slade said.

UM

NMC NEXT
OUR COMMUNITY. OUR COLLEGE. OUR FUTURE.



MOMENTUM OF THE MOMENT



GREAT LAKES MARITIME ACADEMY CADET FABIAN BLACHE, IV, OF NEW ORLEANS, AND BUSINESS STUDENT MAHLI BRAAK, OF GRAND HAVEN, HANG OUT IN THE LIBRARY INSIDE THE WEST HALL INNOVATION CENTER.

hybrid and online class formats as well as success coaches all help mitigate that risk, and are called for in the plan.

ANOTHER BACHELOR'S DEGREE?

The pandemic has underscored the urgent need for health professionals, especially nurses. To help meet the demand, state representatives John Roth, R- Traverse City, and John Damoose, R-Harbor Springs, introduced a bill last November that would allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing (BSN).



FREE IN-DISTRICT TUITION FOR ADULTS 25+

Michigan Reconnect, which offers free, in-district tuition to adults 25 and older who don't have a college degree or certificate, will enter its second year in 2022. The scholarship is part of Michigan's effort to raise the proportion of adults with a degree or certificate to 60 percent by 2030. It's currently 49 percent, slightly below the national average.

In the Grand Traverse region, that amounts to more than 19,000 adults. Two of the pillars in the new strategic plan—future-focused education and student engagement and success—are aimed at better serving adult learners who need more flexible options due to jobs and family commitments. Those same obligations also make them more prone to pausing their education. Short courses,

Matt Jones, 34

December 2021 Maritime Technology bachelor's degree graduate

During his three and a half years at NMC, Jones weathered the COVID 19 pandemic and a divorce. That he still graduated on time, with a 3.9 grade point average, is a tribute to his own perseverance and NMC's.

Growth in the face of challenges is how I would look at my life," said Jones, who credits the relationships the Great Lakes Maritime Academy has in the shipping industry with allowing him to accrue his required sea time despite COVID restrictions.

"If I was at any other academy, I think I wouldn't be on track now," said Jones, originally of Chula

Vista, Calif. "That's not lost on me. I'm very grateful.

His Coast Guard license and bachelor's degree will afford him job security as well as the opportunity for significant time off, which he plans to use for travel and eventually, a master's degree.

"I'm getting ready to have a six figure income job," Jones said. "I'm now to that place where I can really enjoy what I've done. I'm glad I came here to NMC to make that happen.

BSNs were originally part of a 2012 bill that permitted a few community college bachelor's degrees to be awarded, but wound up being stripped due to opposition from four-year colleges and universities. A decade on, the 2022 environment is more favorable, due chiefly to the dire talent shortage.

"Now, more than ever, we need to do everything we can to encourage new students to enter the nursing profession and remove barriers for degree and career advancement," Munson Healthcare CEO Ed Ness said in video testimony supporting the legislation. Munson hires more than 100 nurses per year with an associate's degree, and wants 80 percent to earn a BSN.

"This legislation would allow our existing workforce the access and convenience they need," Ness said.

The legislation passed out of committee to the full House in early December.

"This legislation has good momentum to pass," said Gabe Schneider of Northern Strategies 360, a consulting firm that NMC works with on legislative issues.

Like Michigan Reconnect, offering a BSN dovetails with the new strategic plan.

Gail Eickenroth, 19

**Great Lakes Culinary Institute baking certificate student
2022 anticipated graduation**

After she completed high school, Eickenroth, of Leelanau County, took two years off to save money and figure out what she wanted to do next.

College wasn't on her radar, until she found out about the three-semester baking certificate offered at NMC. Growing up in a family of caterers, Eickenroth aspires to open her own bakery and flower shop, helping plan events like weddings. She's even got a name picked out: Wildeflour.

Eickenroth is also a student success ambassador, working to help fellow students

engage more with NMC and each other through student events.

"I'm right where I need to be, doing what I need to be doing to get where I want to go," she said. "Everything I'm involved with in NMC is propelling me where I want to go."



NMC's associate degree nursing program is already one of the college's most competitive. Offering a bachelor's would make it more distinctive still.

"We're ready to offer that. We have a great nursing program currently in place. We have the facilities, we have the staffing," Slade said. **N**



Landon DeHeer, 20

**Visual Communications student
2023 anticipated graduation**

As a student, North Hall resident adviser, student success ambassador and member of the U.S. Army Reserve, DeHeer always has some where to be.

"I'm constantly on the move, constantly on the go," said DeHeer.

Originally from Bellaire, the homeschooled high school student was familiar with NMC thanks to two older sisters who attended. He "could draw before he could talk," leading him first to Fine Arts and then Visual Communications. Now, DeHeer's studies, extracurricular activities and military service are all helping him build skills for his future.

Internships in Traverse City are in his near-term plans. Halfway through a six-year contract in the Reserves, DeHeer plans to re-enlist, and hopes to eventually work in animation or the film industry.

MOMENTUM *OF THE* MOMENT

Rookie season is a rocket ride



HAWK OWLS LEAD ESPORTS
DEVELOPMENT IN REGION

Esports at NMC is less than a year old, but varsity team advisor Terri Gustafson already has become a sort of regional guru, with regional schools regularly reaching out about how to start their own teams.

Though brief, Gustafson and the Hawk Owls' track record is enviable: In its first semester, one of the two teams, Rocket League, made it into divisional playoffs. All student athletes get \$500 scholarships per semester. This semester, Gustafson plans to add a third team, which will share the Esports lab in the West Hall Innovation Center that "blows away" visiting students.

"Not bad for a rookie program," Gustafson said. "The varsity aspect of it has really taken off."

Electrical engineering transfer student Jordan Hunt says being on the Overwatch team benefits his overall well-being.

"The scholarship alleviates the need to work so many hours," said Hunt, 24. "It's been a good way to connect with others on campus."

Kyle Warner, a Computer Information Technology student from Cadillac who takes most of his classes online, agreed. "If not for this program I probably wouldn't have met a single student," he said.

That feeling isn't simply sentimental. It's key to students persisting semester to semester, and completing their degree.

"I think it's really helped them have a sense of belonging and community, and we know how important that is to keeping them here," Gustafson said.



TOP: ENGINEERING TRANSFER STUDENT JORDAN HUNT, LEFT, AND COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STUDENT KYLE WARNER, RIGHT, PLAY OVERWATCH IN NMC'S ESPORTS LAB. BOTTOM: OVERWATCH TEAM MEMBERS FROM LEFT, BACK ROW: SIMON WELLINGTON, HUNT, GARRETT COAN, COACH MIKE CULP; FRONT ROW MEG ALBU AND WARNER.



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DRAKE'S DISCIPLES

MATH TEACHER'S PROTÉGÉ PUPILS FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS HALF-CENTURY CAREER AT NMC

A

s the first NMC faculty member to attain the 50-year teaching milestone, you might say math instructor Steve Drake has had a multiplier effect.

At least six current NMC math faculty members had him as a teacher. So did a former math department chairman at Traverse City West High School. Even a professor who's gone on to dual positions at both Harvard and Washington University in St. Louis.

Drake's disciples tell a similar story of an instructor both respected and liked, who not only has a mastery of the material, but has mastered presenting a subject that often challenges students, and who, at 79, still enjoys going to work.

"He truly made me love math. I had a very hard time in school with math, and he changed the entire way I thought about math," says Liberty Vittert, a visiting statistics professor at Harvard University, who had Drake in 2005.

"Most people think (math) is a thing they've got to get past," says NMC adjunct instructor Jason Teichman, who first took a class from Drake in the summer of 1999.





“I TOOK THAT CLASS WITH STEVE,
AND IN THE FIRST WEEK, I KNEW
WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH THE
REST OF MY LIFE.”

**LEFT, JASON TEICHMAN,
WHO HAD STEVE DRAKE,
RIGHT, AS AN NMC STU
DENT IN 1999, FOLLOWED
HIS MENTOR ONTO THE
FACULTY. TEICHMAN JOKES
DRAKE “EVEN TAUGHT ME
HOW TO DRESS.**



**LIBERTY VITTERT
DRAKE STUDENT 2005**



“I THINK ABOUT PROFESSOR DRAKE
AND REMEMBER THAT THERE IS
ALWAYS A WAY TO TEACH SOMEONE.”

“You have to change the thinking. Drake did that a lot for us.”

Back in 1999, Teichman was enrolled in NMC’s Police Academy and aspired to a career in high-level law enforcement, like the FBI or the DEA.

“My whole goal was to be a federal agent,” Teichman says. “I took that class with Steve, and in the first week, I knew what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.”

Law enforcement was out. Teaching was in. Teichman went on to earn a bachelor’s in math from Ferris State University and taught as an adjunct at NMC from 2001-2012. In 2007 he won the Adjunct Faculty Excellence award, the counterpart to a faculty excellence award that Drake’s received twice. Teichman left NMC for a few years and earned his master’s in physics, then rejoined the adjunct faculty in 2018. Now 50, he still considers himself a protégé of Drake.

“I always hoped I’d have the kind of effect that Steve had on me,” he says.

“He was just so good,” agrees Diana Lyon-Schumacher, the retired Traverse City West High School math instructor. She had Drake when she attended NMC between 1975-78. At the time she thought she might become an accountant, but Drake helped change her trajectory, too.

“I like to think that I followed in his footsteps, of being that type of teacher that the kids always talked about,” Lyon-Schumacher says. “Steve was so well-liked by his students, but it was because he earned their respect.”

In her 39-year career, Lyon-Schumacher taught everything from remedial math to advanced placement classes. Drake, she says, modeled making math accessible for all students.

“Everybody can do math,” she says. “The best teachers can reach all kids, not just teach to the high-level kids that are good in math.”

“Whenever a student doesn’t understand what I am teaching, I think about Professor Drake and remember that there is always a way to teach someone,” said Vittert, who is also editor of the *Harvard Data Science Review* and a visiting

assistant professor at Washington University in St. Louis. “He allowed me to think about a problem the way I was able to think about it, found different ways for me to understand it and inevitably solve it.”

Drake will complete his 51st year in an NMC classroom this spring. **N**

**DIANA LYON SCHUMACHER
DRAKE STUDENT 1975**



“STEVE WAS SO WELL-LIKED BY
HIS STUDENTS, BUT IT WAS BECAUSE
HE EARNED THEIR RESPECT.”

MUSIC RETURNS TO MILLIKEN

AFTER 686 DAYS, live performances will return to Milliken Auditorium this winter with a six-part Dennon Concert Series.

“We are so excited to welcome back visitors to Milliken Auditorium and the Dennon concert series after nearly two years without performances. In 2022, we’ll be returning to the jazz, folk, soul, and blues music our community loves,” said Chelsie Niemi, audience engagement and communications manager at the Dennon. **N**



Wednesday, January 26, Sweetwater Warblers, 8 PM

Michigan songbirds Rachael Davis, Lindsay Lou, and May Erlewine’s organic vocal harmonies and seamlessly interwoven instrumentation leaves listeners breathless. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 advance, \$28 at the door, and \$50 for VIPs.

Saturday, February 12, Toronzo Cannon, 8 PM

The Chicago bluesman defies all expectations. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$30 advance, and \$33 at the door.

Saturday, March 5, Thornetta Davis, 8 PM

Crowned “Detroit’s Queen of the Blues” in 2015, singer-songwriter Davis swept the 2017 and 2018 Detroit Music Awards. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$30 advance, and \$33 at the door.

Saturday, March 19, Bassel & The Supernaturals, 8 PM

Using soulful melodies, funk inspired rhythms, and captivating lyrics, this group tells the story of leader Bassel Almadani’s experience as a first generation Syrian-American. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 advance, at \$28 at the door.

Friday, April 15, Loudon Wainwright III, 8 PM

Wainwright’s long and illustrious career is highlighted by more than two dozen album releases, movie and TV credits, and his autobiography, *Liner Notes*. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$30 advance, and \$33 at the door.

Per NMC campus policy, concert safety measures include masks for all attendees, as well as following any state-mandated guidelines. Buy tickets online at: dennosmuseumcenter.simplertix.com



'BUILDING OUR DREAMS TOGETHER'

2012 GLCI grad opens
two Frankfort restaurants
in four years

CHEF NATALIE CRAWFORD and her sommelier husband Nick were trying to choose a name for their first restaurant together while hiking in Benzie County's Green Point Dunes.

They hung up their hammocks to take a break. While talking it over, they noticed they'd chosen a birch and a maple tree for their hammocks.

Thus was born Birch & Maple, the Frankfort establishment where Natalie's created a menu of "elevated comfort food" and Nick handles all things beverage. Customers have responded so enthusiastically since the doors opened in 2018 that the couple is now poised to open a second restaurant, Dos Arboles, a taco and tequila bar, next door.

Crawford, 34, who worked at three different restaurants in Colorado, where she met Nick, uses lessons from the Great Lakes Culinary Institute daily. Keeping an immaculate kitchen, as preached by former director Fred Laughlin, and the recipe template from Chef Joel Papcun, are two foundational ones.

YUM YUM SAUCE ▶

- 1 1/4 cup tamari
- 1 1/2 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup scallions sliced as circle
- 1 tbsp red pepper flakes
- 1 1/4 fl oz sweet Thai chili sauce
- 1 1/4 sesame oil
- 1/2 tbsp fish sauce
- 6 cloves garlic, minced fine
- 2 tbsp cilantro, chiffonade fine
- 3 tbsp ginger, peeled and minced fine

Mix all ingredients together in Cambro. Let sit overnight before portioning into quarts.

Make sure to portion all the goodies evenly when putting into quarts.



OPPOSITE: 2012 GREAT LAKES CULINARY INSTITUTE GRADUATE NATALIE CRAWFORD AND HER HUSBAND NICK OPENED BIRCH & MAPLE IN FRANKFORT IN 2018. THIS PAGE: ABOVE RIGHT, CHEF NATALIE HANDLES THE MENU WHILE NICK, ABOVE LEFT, HANDLES BEVERAGES. TOP, THE YUM YUM SAUCE APPEARS HERE OVER BRAISED SHORT RIBS, BUT IS VERSATILE OVER MANY PROTEINS.

“I try to take kind of humble ingredients and turn it into something exquisite,” she said. The menu changes four times a year, to take advantage of seasonal ingredients. Meanwhile, Nick, 36, crafts cocktails and a wine list that complements his wife’s menu.

They’ve thrown themselves into serving Frankfort. That’s meant sleeping on Birch & Maple booths and opening at 4 a.m. to serve Ironman competitors, adapting their menu to be takeaway-friendly during COVID-19, and cultivating an employee-driven culture that includes one fellow GLCI alumnus and even staff housing inside Dos Arboles.

“We want to be in this industry. We love hospitality. We’re lifers,” Crawford said. **N**



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ALUMNI NOTES

2021 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI SELECTED

Established in 1988, Outstanding Alumni are chosen for their professional achievements and/or leadership in the local or global community.

1 ALEX BRACE, Engineering 2017: Since NMC, Brace earned his bachelor's in engineering at the University of Michigan and has begun PhD studies at the University of Chicago. As part of research teams at Oak Ridge and Argonne National Laboratories, he has been applying artificial intelligence to molecular biophysics. This work led to his team winning the 2020 Gordon Bell Prize for discoveries related to the infection of human cells by the COVID-19 virus, bridging computational studies with experimental biology.

2 DR. AMANDA KIESSEL, 1995: Post-NMC, Kiessel studied at Boston University, Brandeis and the University of California, Santa Cruz, completing her PhD in

agroecology and sustainable food systems. Kiessel helped co-create the Good Market, a platform of social enterprises and responsible businesses that started in Sri Lanka and moved online in 2016. It now features businesses, cooperatives and community organizations from more than 70 countries, including many from northern Michigan. goodmarket.global

3 DR. CLIFFORD MCCLAIN, Associate in Arts 1971: Following NMC, McClain received degrees from the University of Idaho and a PhD from the University of Nebraska. As a career and technical educator, he taught and led state programs in Wyoming, Nebraska and Idaho, and was on the faculty of University of Nevada-Las Vegas from 1988-2015. He authored nearly 150 publications and presentations, and was honored as the 2015-16 Career and Technical Postsecondary Educator of the Year.

4 CINDY WARNER, 1980-1983: An executive technology leader, Warner has spent her career applying technologies to solve operational challenges in global enterprises. She has worked at IBM and FedEx and has served as an advisor to GE, Microsoft and HP, among other Global 1000 clients. Throughout her career, Warner has maintained a commitment to get women into technology. She currently serves on the Michigan Strategic Fund within the Michigan Economic Development Corp., investing in the future of work in Michigan.

Know someone you would like to nominate? Visit nmc.edu/alumni for more information and a nomination form. Nominations received by March 1, 2022 will be considered for 2022 recognition.



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ALUMNI NOTES

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5 TODD REED, Arts 1969, published *Todd Reed: 50 Years Seeing Michigan Through A Lens*. In his half-century of photography, Reed has shot more than one million photos all over the state and his retrospective photography art book explores Michigan's beauty through his eyes. Reed's work can be seen everywhere from ArtPrize in Grand Rapids (he has exhibited 10 times) to Pure Michigan billboards throughout the Midwest to the gallery he operates with son Brad Reed in Ludington.

6 TRAVIS HOUSE, Law Enforcement 1997, was appointed commander of the Michigan State Police Cadillac post. He will also be responsible for the Traverse City Detachment. The two regions jointly serve the people of Wexford, Manistee, Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties. House joined the MSP in 1998 and has held the ranks of trooper, sergeant, detective sergeant, specialist lieutenant, and first lieutenant.

7 DR. ANDREA KRITCHER, 2001-02, was the team lead at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Cal., which in summer 2021 made an important fusion breakthrough that could open up the possibility of limitless, clean energy. Her team yielded a record-breaking burst of energy of more than 10 quadrillion watts using a ground-breaking method of creating nuclear fusion.

After NMC, Kritcher earned a degree in nuclear engineering and radiological science from the University of Michigan.

She completed her masters and PhD at the University of California at Berkeley in nuclear engineering and high-energy density plasma physics.

8 ELIAS DE ANDRADE JR., Arts & Sciences 2008, was named executive director of the Texas-based Institute of Space Commerce. Originally from Recife, Brazil, de Andrade's career in space started in 2012 as Brazilian diplomatic delegate at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. After NMC, he graduated from the University of Vienna and International Space University.

9 NATALIE HOLLABAUGH, Education 2010, earned a law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore., in May 2021 and passed the Oregon bar exam in July 2021. She was named as a 2021 fellow by Equal Justice Works, a Washington DC-based organization that facilitates opportunities for law students and lawyers to engage in public service. Hollabaugh will work in Oregon to reduce youth entanglement in the criminal justice system by providing tools for self-advocacy, empowering system-involved youth, and ensuring pro bono access to reduce barriers.

10 KRISTA FRYCZYNSKI, Law Enforcement 2019, an officer with the Traverse City Police Department, was named the LGBTQ liaison as part of a proactive effort to build on and strengthen the relationship between the LGBTQ community and the department. She is pictured with Traverse City Police Chief Jeff O'Brien, a 1991 alumnus.



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11 NOAH BYTWERK AND TIA LEHMANN, both Maritime 2021, were hired as engineers aboard the R/V Oceanus, a research vessel owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by Oregon State University. Equipped for up to 30 days at sea, Oceanus covers the eastern Pacific Ocean, with trips ranging from the Bering Sea in the north to the equator in the south and as far west as Hawaii. **N**

► Share your alumni news by emailing alumni@nmc.edu



CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 24 **1** **Lobdell's reservation line opens: (231) 995-3120**
Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. starting Feb. 9

FEBRUARY

- 17 **Academic World Quest**
World affairs quiz bowl event for high school students, Hagerty Center

International Affairs Forum lecture series: 
China: Is Détente Possible?
Continues third Thursday of each month through June. tciaf.com for speakers and topics.

- 25 **NMC Concert Band**
7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

- 27 **2** **NMC Choral performance**
featuring the NMC Chamber Singers, Grand Traverse Chorale and the NMC Children's Choirs
3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium*

MARCH

- 03 **Career Fair**
3:30–5:30 p.m., tentatively Hagerty Center
Check nmc.edu/careerfair for updates on in person vs. virtual status. Open to the public as well as NMC students

APRIL

- 23 **Big Little Hero Race**
Experiential learning project to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters
Registration details at nmc.edu/hero-race after about March 15

Spring Jazz Ensemble Showcase
featuring NMC Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

- 24 **NMC Children's Choir performance**
3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium*.

- 29 **NMC Concert Band**
7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

A Taste of Success To Go *A Taste of Success*
Tickets \$100 
nmc.edu/tasteofsuccess

MAY

- 01 **NMC Dance department concert**
7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium*

- 07 **3** **Commencement**
2 p.m., Traverse City Central High School

- 09-15 **Northern Michigan Start Up Week**
A week of events promoting entrepreneurship, including student pitch competitions. nmsw.co

* Tickets available at the door or at MyNorthTickets.com / (800) 836-0717



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 MICHIGAN
RECONNECT

OVER 25? NO DEGREE?
You're likely eligible for free in-district tuition.

➤ nmc.edu/reconnect

LOOKING TO PROPEL YOUR FUTURE?
Spring semester classes start Jan. 14

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