



Explore with NMC students

Chronicling life lived large—and learning while you’re at it. That’s the aim of the Explore NMC blog: explore.nmc.edu.

The first blogger is NMC Great Lakes Water Studies student Chris Horvath (pictured at right), who spent several weeks this summer aboard Columbia University’s research vessel the *R/V Langseth*, doing research on the mid-Atlantic Ridge near Iceland. Below are excerpts from his entries.

Sept. 3: “Contrary to popular discussion overheard in the galley, there is a point to all this drifting and isolation. We are here to affirm assumptions from lands far away. To stand firmly on ground never before tread upon—so to speak. To discover the secrets of a land not yet explored.

“My job is fairly straightforward. I stand watch over the scientific equipment collecting various types of data by monitoring the computers designed to record the data in real time, and help troubleshoot and launch the equipment required to retrieve said data.”

Aug. 24: “A can of Coke is worth its weight in gold on a ship at sea. You can hoard it, drink it, trade it with other crew for any number of stashed luxury items, and with a little finesse—flaunt it. Money means little out here, reduced to equals we share the same ambitions in life—eat, sleep, Coca-Cola.”

Maritime cadet Paige Jehnke is also blogging aboard ship as she completes her fall semester sea project on the *M/V Taku*, a passenger/car ferry with Alaska Marine Highway.

► Bookmark the blog explore.nmc.edu to read more from Horvath, Jehnke and future NMC explorers.



Some 600 miles south-southwest of Iceland, NMC Water Studies student Chris Horvath works with a knuckle boom crane aboard Columbia University’s research vessel the *R/V Langseth*.



History students accomplish mission. P. 3

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**Save the date:
Nov. 14, 2013
Community
Campus Tour.
nmc.edu/nmctour**



**Northwestern
Michigan
College**

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From the President

Engaging our community



Timothy J. Nelson

At the end of August, Northwestern Michigan College hosted the annual 40 Under 40 event at The Dennon Museum Center. The event honors impactful young leaders in our region as determined by a panel assembled by the Traverse City Business News. Almost 100 were nominated, including five from NMC. The panel winnowed the list, looking for those who have set themselves apart from their peers with leadership, service and innovation. We're proud to say two of our own, Rebecca Teahen, Executive Director of Resource Development and the NMC Foundation, and Aaron Cook, Director of Aviation, were among those 40.

As the college continues to grow and evolve we are looking for opportunities to gather community input. Three efforts are underway. First, we are hosting a series of Community Conversations, bringing in groups like the 40 Under 40, for a two-way dialogue. We'll update them on our current initiatives, and, most importantly, we'll hear from them about what they feel NMC should be doing, and how they can engage with us and help us get there. We'll do this with several groups, on a variety of topics.

Second, we are currently part of a group that includes local manufacturers, other colleges, local governmental units and area intermediate school districts to help educate people in our region that manufacturing is a vital, thriving industry, in need of skilled workers for good, well-paying jobs.

A third effort that I am excited about is our plan to offer a behind-the-scenes, guided tour of the college and our facilities. When we take individuals on this tour we always hear how impressed and amazed they are at the scope of our offerings and the quality of our facilities and equipment. Please save the afternoon of Nov. 14 for the inaugural event. I hope to see you there.

As always, let me know what you think at tnelson@nmc.edu



Throughout this issue you'll read how different people choose to give to NMC.:

- Photographer Greg Seman donating his prints to The Dennon, on p. 4
- Supporters of the Commitment Scholarship program, who are stepping up to more than double that program's reach. on p. 6
- Fellow recipients Dr. Don Good and Walter J. Hooper, through volunteering, leadership and philanthropy on p. 7

Consider joining them in whatever capacity is right for you. Two appeals currently underway are WNMC's fall fundraiser, and the NMC Annual Fund. Find out more about all of NMC's giving opportunities at www.nmc.edu/give, or use the enclosed remittance envelope.

Thank you.

History students accomplish mission 60 years in the making

Traverse City vet's daughter discovers dad she never knew at 82nd Airborne reunion

Traverse City resident Donna Gerhard last saw her father, World War II paratrooper Donald Fox, sixty years ago, at a restaurant in Florida.

She attended his funeral almost 40 years ago. Over the two decades in between, her only contact with the father she was named for was an annual phone call, on St. Patrick's Day.

Traumatized by his war experience, he left the family – Donna, two siblings, and her mother – when she was 3. She believes he wanted protect them from his violent outbursts. But Gerhard never stopped craving information about her father, who served in the U.S. Army's legendary 82nd Airborne Division.

Thanks to students in Jim Press' history class and NMC's office of Military & Veteran Services, her quest is over.

"I want you to help a little girl get to know her father," NMC history instructor Jim Press told area veterans.

Nearly a year ago, Gerhard, 65, visited the Grand Traverse History Center seeking information about the 82nd Airborne. There she met Press, who invited her to campus to meet with two students, Nikoline Sanderson and Tim Siciliano. As a class project, the pair began tracking down Donald Fox's military history, tapping primarily into online resources.

"They ran with it and began to build up this military biography. They really did a nice job," Press said.

Along with learning Fox received the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, they found out the 82nd Airborne was holding a national reunion this summer in Indianapolis. The mission became clear: Get Gerhard to Indy.



Donna Gerhard, second from left, at a family birthday celebration. Traumatized by his World War II experiences, her father Donald Fox, at far right, left the family not long after.

It wouldn't be easy. Gerhard couldn't afford such a trip and she uses a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis. So she would require an escort, too. Scott Herzberg of Military & Veterans Services volunteered. Between NMC, local veterans groups and individuals, \$1,500 was raised. Press went with Herzberg to appeal to the Grand Traverse Veteran's Coalition.

"I want you to help a little girl get to know her father," Press said he told the group.

They contributed \$700. And on a mid-August weekend, Gerhard met Werner Speer, a veteran in his 90s, who remembered her father.

"There was a Fox in my platoon, and he had red hair," she recalled Speer telling her. "It was so exciting, just to know that he would know that."

The students felt the same way.

"This has been an amazing experience for me. I discovered a wonderful story about love and sacrifice," said Sanderson, a consortium student between NMC and Ferris State University.



Donna Gerhard

Gerhard also received copies of her father's military records, which she keeps in a thick binder. Though scorched in a fire, they still provide an intimate look at his daily life, from enlistment to discharge. And she has contacts all over the U.S. who can fill in pieces of those missing years.

"It's awesome to talk to those people. I can really get into their brain and find out what daily life was like," Gerhard said.

Press and Herzberg expect the military to issue replacement medals and citations as well. After so many years of wondering about her daddy, a little girl finally has peace of mind – and a story to tell his grandchildren.





Traverse City photographer Greg Seman’s evocative, black and white photographs of northern Michigan will hang at The Dennos until January 5. But when the images come down January 6, they won’t go far.

Seman is making a gift unprecedented by any artist to previously exhibit at The Dennos. He will donate all of the silver gelatin prints from his current exhibit, “Shine On,” to the museum. Added to the prints he’s donated since 2004, The Dennos will have about 40 of his works.

A CPA by day, Seman, 54, studied photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology but put it on the shelf for several years in the 1990s as work, family and trout fishing took over. The Flint native rediscovered photography when he moved to Traverse City and took Sheila Stafford’s class to gain access to NMC’s darkroom.

“I just wanted to be able to get into a darkroom again, to see if I really wanted to commit to it,” Seman said. “A lot of colleges no longer do traditional darkroom photography. I think NMC should be really proud of that program.”

Tracey McVicar did the graphic design work for the exhibit’s companion book, also titled *Shine On*. She also studied photography and graphic design at NMC.

His passion confirmed, Seman did build his own home darkroom in 1998. “He’s been creating the portfolio shown in the exhibit and book ever since.”

Above left, Traverse City photographer Greg Seman. (Photo: Tracey McVicar) Above right, Benzie County’s Arcadia Dunes, one of images from “Shine On.” Below, Whaleback II, Leland, also from “Shine On.”

“I’m very selective in the images I finalize and print in the darkroom,” Seman said.

“He’s been creating the portfolio shown in the exhibit and book ever since.” Among those that made the cut: a Williamsburg orchard in winter; snow melting in Clinch Park; the rescue boat at NMC’s Great Lakes Maritime Academy; a Kalkaska County barn and several images from

the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Seman’s work is also in the collections of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Toledo Institute of Arts. He said he’s especially pleased to be part of The Dennos collection, which includes works from some of photography’s most notable names, including Edward Weston, Minor White, Misha Gordin, Arnold Newman, Berenice Abbott, Imogen Cunningham and Yousef Karsh.

“I was really impressed from the get-go with their commitment to photography,” Seman said.

A former member of NMC’s Foundation Board, the exhibit and donation also allow Seman the opportunity to fuse his professional and artistic lives.

“I really wanted to build out that main body at the museum. I was really honored they felt it worthy to have in their collection,” he said. “Maybe in some day, in 50 years or 100 years, my great-grandchildren can go and see those prints.”





Art of the Sleeping Bear Dunes

Top left, Susanne S. Wilson's untitled oil on canvass graces the cover of *Art of the Sleeping Bear Dunes: Transforming Nature into Art*. In conjunction with its publication by Leelanau Press, the Dennos Museum Center presents an exhibition of selected original works from the book. Be transported to the Lake Michigan shoreline, the sandy dunes and the surrounding farmland by more than 100 works in a variety of media including acrylic, oil, watercolor, and fabric, from some the region's most versatile artists. Top right, Judith Tommino's oil on canvas is titled *View of the Platte*. At left is Mary Brodbeck's woodcut print.

Dennos Concert Series

Among the many artists not to miss during the 22nd annual Dennos Concert Series at Milliken Auditorium are percussive dance performers Rhythmic Circus Oct. 26, below left, and Tuvan throat singers Alash Nov. 16, below right. Tickets and more info: www.dennosmuseum.org.



Extended Education

Courting the Muse: 2013 Writer's Conference Nov. 1

Create your own learning experience by selecting two workshops from six options highlighting different genres—fiction, blogging, creative non-fiction, poetry, book proposals and more. The day concludes with short readings by several presenters.

Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Oleson Center, Main Campus. \$125 includes lunch. Call (231) 995-1700 to register.

Lifelong Learning Campus Day Nov. 8

Learners 50 and older, create your own day of learning by selecting three sessions from options including current events, technology, area attractions and businesses, computer skills, wellness, travel, arts, energy topics and more. Well-known community leaders and experts and NMC faculty present these insightful sessions. Visit www.nmc.edu/ees to choose from session offerings.

Nov. 8, 9:20 a.m.-2:30 p.m., University Center campus. \$20. Box lunch an additional \$9. Call (231) 995-1700 to register.

News digest

Second solar array powers up at NMC

Six solar instructors from around the state converged on campus last spring to build NMC's second solar array, intended to serve as both a teaching tool and to lighten the college's carbon footprint.

The workshop helped the instructors update skills, share best practices, and align training programs to national standards.

NMC has been a leader in solar education in Michigan since 2006. Now, the college is a key player as the solar industry seeks to fill a growing need for workers.

The National Solar Jobs Census projects the overall solar workforce will expand by more than 17 percent in the next year. Sales and installation jobs will lead the growth. That's where the new, 3.8 kilowatt, grid-connected solar array, located at NMC's Aero Park Laboratories Building, comes in.

Students will learn to dismantle and reassemble the array in new courses like Solar Design and Installation Training, being offered this month through NMC Extended Education Services.

When not being used in class, the new array expands NMC's solar power capacity by 40 percent. The original, built in 2006, is at the Parsons-Stulen Building.

Northwestern Michigan College now produces over 12,000 kilowatt hours of solar electric power annually, resulting in a reduction of approximately 12 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

- For more information on solar and other renewable energy offerings at NMC, visit www.nmc.edu/energy.



An NMC Aviation unmanned aerial vehicle flies above Grand Traverse Bay.

Unmanned Systems enrollment soars

Student enrollment in NMC's new unmanned systems and robotics program nearly doubled expectations in its first semester.

Nearly 50 students enrolled in the program this fall. About 25 were expected when the program was introduced in early 2013, said Ed Bailey, director of NMC's Technical Division.

Students can now earn an associate's degree in Engineering Technology with a specialization in one of seven high tech fields: Automation & Robotics Technology, Computer Technology, Electronics, Photonics, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Marine Technology and Unmanned Ground Vehicles.

NMC is one of the few colleges in the nation offering a degree path in all three unmanned areas: aerial, ground and marine. The Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) projects the field to grow by 100,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

"I think the spike in enrollment is really tied to the uniqueness of the program," Bailey said. "With the upturn in employment opportunities in this field, it represents great opportunity for our students."

Commitment Scholarship program more than doubles reach

An NMC scholarship program is entering its third decade aiming to more than double the first-generation, socioeconomically disadvantaged high school students it serves.

Founded in 1993, the Commitment Scholarship program has offered more than 900 northern Michigan students the promise of a college scholarship upon high school graduation. Students are chosen to participate in the mentoring and peer support program in eighth grade, in the hope they will successfully complete high school and subsequently enroll in college, turning around statistics like these:

- 89 percent of low-income first-generation students leave college within six years without a degree
- More than a quarter leave after their first year, four times the dropout rate of higher-income second-generation students

The program has been extraordinarily successful, with more than 90 percent of participants completing high school and 82 percent enrolling at NMC. But it has served about 40 students per year – not enough to noticeably change those statistics, said Nicholeen Frusti, program coordinator.

With funding for an AmeriCorps member, that's changing. This year, 100 ninth grade students—the Commitment class of 2017—were inducted to the program. They will also receive significantly more contact and support during their high school years, Frusti said, positioning the students for an even greater likelihood of success in college.

"Commitment has worked for 20 years. The changes we're making now will allow it to work even better, and for more students to take advantage," she said.

- The Commitment Scholarship program is one of many supported by the NMC Foundation. The Foundation, in turn, relies on support from the community—in particular, of its Annual Fund campaign, going on now. To make a donation, visit www.nmc.edu/give.

China: Competitor or Partner? Find out June 5-6, 2014

America's most important relationship in the 21st century will be with China. NMC's International Affairs Forum will wrap up its 20th anniversary year with a conference that goes beyond IAF's usual focus on political issues to explore business, cultural, educational, and social aspects of northern Michigan's engagement with the world's fastest growing economy.

- Visit www.nmc.edu/iaf for more details.



Plan ahead...

October 17

International Affairs Forum lecture

Iran and the United States: Time for a Reset?

6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium. Tickets \$10, call (231) 995-1700

► Complete 2013-14 speaker schedule: www.nmc.edu/ees

October 24

NMC Concert Band fall concert*

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

Through Nov. 15

Food for Thought food drive sponsored by NMC Business students.

Like "NMC's Food for Thought" on Facebook to find out donation drop-off locations

Nov. 1, 9

Public Viewing Nights

9-11 p.m., Rogers Observatory

Suggested donation \$2/person, \$5/family

► Future dates: www.nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

November 7

Community Cinema: The State of Arizona

Co-sponsored with WCMU Public Television.

7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium. Free, ongoing first Thursday of the month.

► Future dates and film summaries: www.dennosmuseum.org

November 8

Mariners Memorial

Noon, Great Lakes Maritime Academy courtyard

► www.nmc.edu/maritime

December 6

NMC Chamber Singers and NMC Canticum Novum holiday concert*

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

December 7

NMC Children's Choirs holiday concert*

2 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church

NMC Winter Jazz Ensemble Showcase*

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

December 8

NMC Concert Band presents traditional music of the holiday season*

3 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

*For all NMC music department concerts, tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 for seniors 62 and over and children 12 and under. NMC students free with ID.

(231) 995-1553, www.dennosmuseum.org

► Visit www.nmc.edu/news for more events and details.

► Follow NMC on Twitter: twitter.com/NMCdotEDU or Facebook.

Doctor, former trustee named Fellows



Don Good, MD



Walter J. Hooper

Physician Dr. Don Good and former NMC trustee Walter J. Hooper have been named the 2013 recipients of the NMC Fellow award, the college's highest honor, in recognition of the leadership, time and philanthropy both have dedicated to the college for nearly three decades.

Good, who practices gynecology and surgery with Grand Traverse Women's Clinic, joined the Board in 1984 and served as Annual Fund co-chair in 1986. Hooper, a partner with Great Northern Benefits Insurance, was an elected member of NMC's Board of Trustees from 2000-2012, and served as board chair for three of those years. He also served as a member of the NMC Foundation from 1992-2000. Hooper is also a 1968 graduate of NMC and received the **Outstanding Alumnus award** in 1999.

Both have been key supporters of the **NMC Scholarship Open**, between them chairing the volunteer committee that hosts the event five times since 1980. Today, the golf event is one of the top tournaments in the region, cumulatively raising more than \$1.3 million for merit-based scholarships.

NMC has named Fellows each year since 1964 as a way of recognizing and thanking those individuals who have made special contributions to the college.

2013 Faculty Excellence winners



Sonja Olshove



Jim Szczechowski

Social Science teacher Sonja Olshove has been named the 2013 Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award recipient, her second time receiving the honor. Math instructor Jim Szczechowski is the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award recipient.

Olshove has taught at NMC since 1991 and previously won the teaching excellence award in 2001. Chosen by a student selection committee, award criteria includes teaching excellence, rapport with students, innovation in the classroom and a sense of dedication. In nomination comments, students said of her:

"Teaching is done in a way that reaches students with different learning styles. This instructor also continuously brings in new reports, research and ideas from the field."

Szczechowski has taught at NMC since 2006. Students said of him that he "makes the subject relevant and challenging," and that "the instructor never gave up on any of the students, even those who are unable to attend every class."

Awarded at Commencement, the Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award was initiated by a contribution from longtime NMC benefactors Harold and Imogene Wise in 1970 and first awarded to a full-time faculty member in 1971. The Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award was created as a companion in 1999.



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Fall 2013



Find and friend NMC

You can find NMC, the Denno Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNMC radio, student groups and more on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Lobdell's open for lunch

NMC's student-run teaching restaurant is now serving lunch for the fall semester. Reservations are highly suggested and available from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through Dec. 11. Call (231) 995-3120. See the menu at www.nmc.edu/lobdells.

From the archives: Mystery photos



Anyone know the students above, cleaning up campus in the 1960s? How about the real identities of the Miss NMCs at right, attending a Halloween party in 1957? If you can identify anyone, please contact Ann Swaney in the NMC Archives: aswaney@nmc.edu, (231) 995-1016.