



Stars shine above at TC's State Theatre

Audiences in downtown Traverse City's restored State Theatre can see stars both on the screen and overhead, thanks to the efforts of NMC instructor and astronomer Jerry Dobek.

In advance of the theater's grand re-opening by the Traverse City Film Festival last November, Dobek dedicated hundreds of hours to designing and installing a 60-by-60 foot starry night sky in the State's ceiling. More than 2,000 fiber optic "stars" replicate the northern Michigan sky in mid-August.

Completed in only two weeks, the project was "an adventure and a chore," Dobek said. He's still tweaking, adjusting the luminosity of various stars to mimic their real level of brightness in the sky. Some twinkle and certain constellations, like the Big and Little Dipper, stand out. Dobek, who also runs NMC's Rogers Observatory, plans to create a sky guide, available in the lobby, so patrons can navigate the ceiling.

Starry theater skies are not a new idea, but the State's is believed to be the first true depiction. Dobek, a 1998 NMC alumnus as well as a 10-year veteran of the faculty, hopes to eventually use it as a stationary planetarium, bringing in school groups during the theater's off hours.

NMC's connections to Traverse City's newest hot spot continue in the lobby. Artist Glenn Wolff, a 1973 alumnus, painted two murals there, depicting the theater's two previous opening nights: as the Lyric in 1916 and the State in 1949. *See p. 4 for photo and further details.*



Starry nights are in the State Theatre's forecast thanks to NMC alumnus and instructor Jerry Dobek.



New lightpaintings exhibit at the Dennon Museum Center. See page 6.

- ▷ Insurance Certificates..... 3
- ▷ Alumni Updates..... 4
- ▷ Win a scholarship at BBQ..... 5
- ▷ Plan ahead calendar 7

Gifts to the NMC Foundation each year allow us to award more scholarship dollars to more students than any other community college in Michigan.



**Northwestern
Michigan
College**

The NorWester is published by the NMC Office of Institutional Advancement. Alumni news and updates may be submitted online at www.nmc.edu/alumni or by e-mailing alumni@nmc.edu

For correspondence and address updates:
1701 E. Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 995-1021 (877) 922-1021

Editor: Paul Heaton
Writer: Cari Noga

NMC Board of Trustees:
Walter J. Hooper, Chair
K. Ross Childs, Vice-Chair
Robert T. Brick, Secretary
William D. Myers, Treasurer
Douglas S. Bishop
Cheryl Gore Follette
Elaine C. Wood

NMC President
Timothy J. Nelson

From the President

Weathering the storm



Timothy J. Nelson

Despite Michigan's economic doldrums – and the ensuing impact on funding for community colleges – NMC has been diligently weathering the storm.

NMC will receive \$8.8 million from the state this year – basically the same amount we received *eight years ago*. Yet NMC has expanded its services and programs while keeping tuition and fee increases modest. Our 3.2 percent tuition increase last year was fourth lowest in Michigan, and far below that of most four-year schools.

During those same eight years the number of people we served increased dramatically, yet our cost per student remained about the same. That's a significant increase in productivity.

Our average class size also remains impressive – 20 students.

Our NMC Foundation is a national leader in funds raised. Gifts to the NMC Foundation each year allow us to award more scholarship dollars to more students than any other community college in Michigan. *See p. 3 for more on the Foundation's scholarship giving.*

These are remarkable accomplishments, especially considering the bleak state funding picture. NMC's faculty and staff work diligently to be good stewards of the tax dollars we receive and the tuition and fees we charge.

Also impressive are the results of a new independent survey about community attitudes and awareness of NMC. Findings from the random phone surveys conducted throughout our six-county service area by EPIC-MRA of Lansing include:

- Overall academic reputation: 93% positive rating
- Value of an NMC education: 95% positive
- Overall reputation: 96% positive

Thank you for this incredible vote of confidence. Know, however, that NMC always looks for new ways to improve and to meet the learning needs of the communities we serve. As always, your dedication and participation help make this success possible.

From the archives

Graduates of the class of 1973 accept their diplomas at commencement ceremonies held under the pines on NMC's campus 35 years ago. This year NMC graduated some 450 students. Ceremonies were held at Traverse City Central High School May 3.



Foundation to award \$1 million in scholarships

Thanks to hundreds of generous donors, the NMC Foundation is proud to award more scholarship dollars to more students than any community college in Michigan.

In the 2008-09 school year, the Foundation will achieve several momentous milestones:

- Awarding \$1 million in scholarship dollars to students in all 60 NMC program areas.
- Awarding the first scholarships from the Margaret Furney estate. A retired teacher who believed wholeheartedly in the value of higher education, Mrs. Furney passed away in 2007, leaving NMC a \$1.1 million estate to be used for scholarships for single parents.
- Awarding a two-year full tuition scholarship in celebration of the 500,000th guest at the NMC Barbecue May 18. The benefit picnic will mark its 53rd year this year. *Call (231) 995-1020 for tickets.*

Scholarship giving draws donors from all walks of life. NMC scholarships come from the famous – singer Gordon Lightfoot established scholarships for Great Lakes Maritime cadets back in 1976 – to the not-so-famous, including many memorial scholarships honoring former NMC instructors and students. *See p. 5 for two of the newest.*

A major source of scholarship funding is NMC's Annual Campaign, which this year reached its largest goal ever – \$330,000 – and attracted more than 70 new donors. Another dedicated source is the annual NMC Scholarship Open, this year scheduled for August 7 at Crystal Mountain. Sponsors and players are needed for this annual event, which raised more than \$76,000 for scholarships last year. *Call (231) 995-1021 for more information.*

This year, NMC's Annual Campaign raised \$330,000 – its largest goal ever – and attracted 70 new donors.



Grateful recipients of NMC scholarships lend a hand at the 2007 NMC Scholarship Open, which raised more than \$76,000. Sponsors and players are wanted for this year's tournament – call (231) 995-1021.

Whatever the origin, however, all scholarships mean the same thing to the grateful student recipients:

A chance to focus on their future. "For many, scholarships may be the first expression that someone believes in their potential," said Chris Studenka, NMC's Director of

Development. For others, scholarships eliminate the need for part-time jobs, allowing them to concentrate exclusively on their studies.

To find out more about giving to the NMC Foundation, whether through scholarships, a planned gift, golf tournament participation or annual fund contributions, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (231) 995-1021.

Insurance certificates coming this fall

In response to requests from area employers, NMC will add a program in insurance studies this fall.

The new business program will offer three certificates, with a concentration in each of these areas:

- Personal Insurance
- Life and Health Insurance
- Commercial Insurance

"Careers in the insurance industry offer competitive entry-level positions that will reward people who aspire to positions with almost unlimited earning potential," said Mark Priskorn of the Fawcett Dopke Agency, adding that the industry has had a shortage of high quality younger employees in recent years.

The three certificates are designed to build on one another. The program also is designed as an area of concentration for students seeking an Associate's Degree in Business Administration.

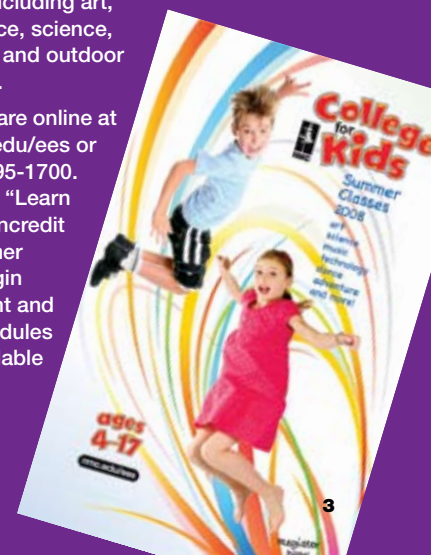
Several area insurance agencies worked with business faculty member Mary Ann Linsell to develop the curriculum. They also have committed more than \$4,500 in scholarships to assist students entering the program.

For details, visit www.nmc.edu/business or call (231) 995-1169.

College for Kids starts June 16

NMC's Extended Education division is now registering kids 4-17 summer classes on topics including art, music, dance, science, technology and outdoor adventures.

Schedules are online at www.nmc.edu/ees or call (231) 995-1700. Meanwhile, "Learn for Life" noncredit adult summer classes begin June 9. Print and online schedules will be available May 22.





Attention to detail

Artist and 1973 NMC alumnus Glen Wolff works on one of the two murals he painted in the lobby of Traverse City's State Theater. To complete the murals in a five-week time frame, he was assisted by a crew of six painters including NMC adjunct instructor Joan Richmond and student Keith Karp. The murals are Wolff's most visible, permanent work. "To be in that tradition of public art is great," he said.

Alumni updates

Receive the latest alumni news right in your inbox. Go to www.nmc.edu/alumni and click on "Alumni E-mail List." You'll receive one or two messages per month, and NMC does not sell or share your personal contact information. Also on the alumni web page you can submit updates about yourself or send them to alumni@nmc.

1960s

Patricia K. Batta (1959-1961) studied liberal arts at NMC and now lives in Traverse City. She recently published a mystery, "What Did You Do Before Dying?" and has a second in the series, "Why Did You Die in the Park?" coming out in 2008.

Janet (Vaughn) Pierce (1963-1965) lives in Hermitage, Tenn., where she is employed with Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville. She also contracts for nursing jobs across the country, frequently visiting Boston, Houston and Denver, where her children and grandchildren live. She also enjoys reading, gardening and riding her motorcycle.

Jacquelyn (Jackie) Freeman (1964-1966) studied Humanities at NMC and now lives in Suttons Bay serving as a Village Council Trustee. She owns and operates Michigan Debt Settlement, a summer wedding business, and a summer consignment shop, "The Madwoman's Attic." She holds BFA and master's degrees.

1970s

Michael A. Pearson (1968-1970) lives in Springfield, Va., and is the Assistant Director, U.S. Marshals Service. He previously obtained his BS in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University in 1972 and his Master's of Forensic Science from George Washington University in 1979.

See old friends and faculty at the Alumni Reception at the

Gary L. Bender (1973-1974) studied Liberal Arts at NMC. He now lives in East Lansing and works as an attorney with the firm of Murphy, Brenton & Spagnuolo, P.C., specializing in business transactions, corporate governance, commercial litigation, securities, entertainment and art law.

Gary & Barb (Bowman) Lundquist (1973-1975) Gary graduated from NMC in Parks and Recreation & Art. Barb graduated from the University of Iowa in Computer Science. The couple moved to Iowa City where Gary bought the family business, Lundy Hallmark Store, and Barb works in programming at the University. They have 3 children.

Patrick Reay (1973-1975) graduated from NMC and earned a BS in Marketing from Northern Michigan University in 1977. Now a sales vice president with AT&T's Enterprise Business Division, Patrick resides in Shorewood, Wis., and one of his two sons currently attends NMC.

Sherry Burley (1974-1976) Sherry graduated from NMC as a Licensed Practical Nurse, and works for the Detroit Medical Center-Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital as a R.N. in the operating room. She returned to school and graduated with an Associate of Science in Nursing in 2002. Sherry and her husband Dave (NMC grad 1975) have two grown sons and have just finished their "retirement cottage" near Gaylord.

David Schultz (1974-1976) currently lives in Bloomfield Hills after retiring from 30 years as a Police officer. He studied Criminal Justice at NMC and is a self-employed security consultant.

Maureen O'Connor Nugent (1974-1977) resides in Gaylord where she opened her own yarn shop, Imaginait. She studied Aviation Science and spent 15 years as a court reporter.

Steve Trupiano (1977-1979) is self-employed, working as an independent engineer for a pharmaceutical company. He studied Electronics Technology at NMC and now lives in Marblehead, Mass.

Timothy Nixon (1979) studied Maritime Science at NMC and now lives and practices law in Green Bay, Wis. He has been named to the American Bankruptcy Law Journal's 2008 Editorial Advisory Board. He is a team leader of Godfrey & Kahn's Business Finance and Restructuring Practice group.

1980s

Allan P. Chrenka (1979-1982) studied in NMC's Maritime program and is now working on the Lake Michigan Car Ferry- SS Badger as a Mate, Pilot and Alternate Captain. He lives in Traverse City.

Daniel J. Farrier (1983-1985) studied Engineering at NMC and earned both a B.S. and M.S. in Geological Engineering at Michigan Technological University. In 1990 he was hired by Shell Oil as a Hydrogeologist. Since then, he has had various assignments with Shell and currently resides in Tomball, Texas, where he is an elder in his church and is raising three sons with his wife Shannon.

John Haeussler (1985-1987) lives in Hancock with his wife Megan and two children. He telecommutes to the University of Michigan's Survey Research center and is also a stay-at-home dad.

In memory: NMC mourns losses

NMC suffered the unexpected, untimely loss of two longtime faculty members, Gordon Niemi and Jim Valovick, as well as Writing Center reader Roxanne Boursaw in recent months.

Niemi, 56, an accounting instructor for more than 20 years, passed away Dec. 12, 2007. He was the current chair of Faculty Council, a former chair of the Business Academic Area, and also taught regularly through Extended Educational Services. His family created a business scholarship in his memory at the NMC Foundation.



Gordon Niemi

Valovick, 62, passed away Dec. 18, 2007. He joined NMC as an adjunct instructor in 1988, and received a regular full-time faculty appoint-

ment in 1996 as a philosophy instructor. He was slated to become the Humanities Division Chair this fall. His family requests donations be made to NMC's Safe Passage group, which works to assist families living and working in the Guatemala City dump.



Jim Valovick

Boursaw, 48, passed away Feb. 9. She joined the Writing Center in 1998 as a student employee. In 2000 she earned her associate's degree at NMC and was hired as a supplemental employee. Most recently she was a teaching assistant for English 99 as well as a Writing Center reader. Her family also established a scholarship in her memory at the NMC Foundation.

Win a scholarship

NMC's 53rd annual barbecue is May 18. To celebrate the 500,000th guest to attend the annual community picnic, the NMC Foundation is awarding a two-year full tuition and fees scholarship. Anyone who buys a barbecue ticket is eligible to enter the random drawing. The offer is good for 10 years and may be redeemed by anyone the winner chooses.



NMC BBQ, noon-2 p.m. May 18, Health & Science Bldg., Room 101

Barbara Ann Perry (1985-1987) studied Business Administration at NMC and then graduated with a Master's in Social Work from the University of Michigan in 1997. She now resides in Pasadena, Calif., working at Huntington Hospital's Cancer Center. She is also the Community Outreach Education Coordinator and Group Facilitator.

Derk F. Pronger (1985-1987) studied Business Administration at NMC. He graduated from Purdue University in 1991 with a BS in Accounting and from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1994 with a Master's in Health Services Administration. He lives in Pontiac and is the Administrative Director for Beaumont Hospitals in Troy.

1990s

Kimberly A. Womack (1988-1990) graduated from NMC in Nursing with an ADN and earned a Doctorate in Health Sciences in 2007. She lives in Gulf Breeze, Fla., where she is employed with Emergency Physicians of Pensacola and also serves as the Sexual Assault Examiner/ Coordinator at Baptist Emergency Trauma Center.

Christie (Hadder) Highlander (1990-1992) earned her AA from NMC, BA from the College of William and Mary, and law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law. She is now a professor of business law at Southwestern Illinois College and has three children with her husband Reid.

Mike Moore (1990-1992) resides in Holland with his wife and two children. After studying Aviation at NMC he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration (MBA). He is a licensed builder and a private pilot. He is also the manager of cost segregation services for a Big 5 accounting firm.

Merilee Dodson (1993-1994) studied Sign Language at NMC. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Family Education and a Master's in Counseling. She has a private practice in Lansing and has published a children's book called "The Kids from Critter Cove."

Stacy Larsen-Kelly (1993-1996) received a BS from Sullivan University in Louisville Ken., after graduating from NMC with an AAS in business. She is now a Financial Analyst for ConAgra Foods in West Chester, Ohio and plans to receive her MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University in August 2008.

Christine Bazzett (1996) resides in Traverse City where she owns and operates Joyful Noise Daycare.

Cari Burke (1997-1999) works as an accountant at Plante Moran in Traverse City.

2000s

Chris J. Franklin (1997-2000) studied Theatre at NMC. He now lives in Howell and works for Art of Combat, Inc. as a Fight Director, bringing historically correct representations of combat to the stage and screen.

Megan McMullen (1998-2000) studied liberal arts at NMC and received her B.A. in Art History from Western Michigan University. She received her M.A. in Arts Administration and Policy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004. She currently lives in Chicago working for Dig as a Producer.

Crystal T. Poniatowski (1999-2001) studied Arts and Sciences at NMC and earned her B.A. in Interior Design from Michigan State University. She lives in Traverse City and works for Excel Office Interiors as an Interior Designer. Crystal is an American Society of Interior Designers allied member and won second place in a statewide ASID competition.

Bill Potter (1998-2002) studied Resort Management at NMC. He is the Area Coordinator & Assistant Director of Student Activities at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie.

Jeffery Sandman (graduated 2003) has published two books: "Soaring and Gliding: The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Area," a 75-year history of the sport in northwestern Michigan, and "If You Haven't Played Frankfort, You Haven't Played Football," a detailed story of his hometown's 107-year history of football. He graduated from Central Michigan University in 2006 and is currently working on his master's in history at CMU. He is the youngest County Commissioner ever elected in Benzie County.

Tony Kitchen (2002-2004) studied Journalism at NMC and graduated from the University of Missouri in 2007 with a B.A. in English. He plans to attend law school and wants to use his degree to be a sports agent.

James Lijewski (2004-2006) studied Business Administration at NMC. He is currently attending Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, and completed a 90-mile non-stop bike ride last summer.

Carlos Pinzon (2004-2006) Carlos graduated from NMC in the Culinary Arts Program. He is now attending the French Pastry School in Chicago.

NMC names NISOD winners

Science instructors Dr. Keith Overbaugh and Mary Jo Elliott were named the 2007-08 winners of NISOD teaching excellence awards at Northwestern Michigan College.

Dr. Keith Overbaugh

"I am honored to help so many



people that are hoping to make a better life for themselves and their family. Many are under incredible pressure to balance school, family

and work," said Overbaugh, a biology instructor since 1989, of the award.

Mary Jo Elliott

"The students appreciate my staying current with the technology available that allows increased student interaction,"



said Elliott, who joined the chemistry faculty in 2001.

NMC is one of more than 700 community college members of

NISOD, the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development. Affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin, NISOD nominees are judged on criteria include commitment to learning, professionalism and relationships with both students and colleagues.

Fantastic light



The Dennon Museum Center showcases the *Lightpaintings of Stephen Knapp* through Aug. 31. Knapp fills the walls with vibrant color using only mirrors, dichroic filters and focused light sources. The exhibition will feature a broad selection of his stunning creations. Visit www.dennosmuseum.org or call (231) 995-1055 for more information.

NMC congratulates these 2008 retirees, and thanks them for their years of service.

- **Debby Disch**, Coordinator of Business Plan Development, 6 years
- **Karen Giddis**, Writing Center Coordinator, 23 years
- **Ann Ivers**, Health Occupations instructor, 16 years
- **Anne Patrick**, Health Occupations instructor, 23 years
- **Margery Taylor**, Health Occupations instructor, 13 years

Plan ahead...

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming NMC events:

May 15

International Affairs Forum lecture
Ambassador Ernest H. Preeg speaks on
"India and China in the Global Economy"
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

May 18

53rd annual NMC Barbecue
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Main Campus



May 19

Stories, Scribbles and Wiggles toddler program
CANVAS: Exploring a 3D environment
10:30-11:30 a.m., Dennon Museum Center

May 23, June 7 & 27, July 12 & 25, Aug. 9 & 29, Sept. 6 & 26

Free Public Viewing Nights
9-11 p.m., Rogers Observatory

June 14

Kids' Free Fishing Day
10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Great Lakes campus

June 15

Arctic Travelogue
4 p.m., Dutmers Theater

June 19

International Affairs Forum lecture
Former Canadian ambassador and Michigan
governor James J. Blanchard speaks on
"U.S. –Canadian Relations"
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

June 23

Stories, Scribbles and Wiggles toddler program
Light and Color
10:30-11:30 a.m., Dennon Museum Center

August 7

NMC Scholarship Open (see p. 3)
Crystal Mountain

Visit www.nmc.edu for regular news and
calendar updates. Sign up to receive
customized news and information via
e-mail at www.nmc.edu/news

Visit the land of the Inuit

The Dennon Museum Center
is sponsoring a cruise tour
of the Canadian Arctic,
hometown of its signature
Inuit art collection, in August
or September 2009 in partner-
ship with Adventure Canada
Tours.

Museum store manager
Terry Tarnow has made the
trip twice before and will
present a travelogue at
4 p.m. Sunday, June 15,
in the Dutmers Theatre.

Right, former NMC employee
Ruth Rague, museum docent
Evelyn Johnson, Tarnow and
docent Chad Tufts are pic-
tured on the Hudson Straits
in 2005.

Also aboard the 100-pas-
senger ship will be a resource
team made up of Inuit artists
and scholars, botanists,
biologists, photographers
and geologists.

For more information,
contact Tarnow at
ttarnow@nmc.edu or
(231) 995-1587.



Keep in touch with NMC

Please help us stay in touch with you by providing your current contact information.
(Please note that NMC does not sell or share your personal contact information.)

Last: _____ First: _____ Initial: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Work: () _____

E-mail address: _____

What years did you attend NMC?: _____

Programs of study: _____

Professional and personal accomplishments: _____

Information provided below may be included on the "Alumni
Updates" section of our website, and in a future NorWester.

Mail to: Northwestern Michigan College
Office of Institutional Advancement
1701 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686

E-mail to: alumni@nmc.edu
Alumni news and updates may also be
submitted online at www.nmc.edu/alumni



NorWester

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Spring 2008

Let's all do the BBQ!
May 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Win a full tuition
scholarship.**

See p. 5.



Northwestern
Michigan
College

1701 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686
Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Traverse City, MI
Permit No. 170

NMC's 2008 Outstanding Alumnus: Todd McMillen

Traverse City business owner Todd McMillen, owner of McMillen's Creative Custom Framing, is NMC's 2008 Outstanding Alumnus.

Now in its 20th year, NMC's Outstanding Alumnus award recognizes alumni who donate their time, talent and resources to NMC in addition to significant professional achievements and community and professional leadership.

Owner of the downtown shop formerly know at the Instant Frammer since 1988, McMillen graduated from NMC in 1985 and subsequently studied graphic design at Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids.

"I always said the education I got at NMC far outweighed the education I got at the private school," said McMillen, a Gaylord native who lived in East Hall on campus.

He particularly remembers the "lifelong friends" he made at NMC as well as

longtime instructors including Paul Welch, Jill Hinds, Jack Osegovic and Walt Beardslee. While a student he served as the art director for the NMC Magazine, which continues to publish today.

Since returning to Traverse City he has remained an active, ardent supporter of NMC and particularly the Dennon Museum Center.

Among McMillen's contributions to the college:

- Supporting NMC's Scholarship Open golf tournament since 1995
- Involved in Dennon strategic planning
- In 2007, installed the Dennon-curated exhibit of Michigan artwork in Governor Jennifer Granholm's home
- Major donor for the outdoor sculpture Nexus, created by fellow alumna Sally



Todd McMillen

Rogers and displayed east of NMC's Health & Science Building

McMillen was working with the nonprofit Traverse Area Arts Council when the initial planning for the museum began. It was a natural fit, he said.

"I'm a very big advocate for the arts, and public art in public places. You kind of

gravitate toward things that hit home," McMillen said.

His community involvements include serving as vice president of the Downtown Traverse City Association. He is also active with the Goodwill Inn, receiving its volunteer of the year award in 2007.

A dinner in McMillen's honor will be held later this year.