

NEXUS

THE RIPPLE EFFECT
Spreading the message that
water matters ▼

DIPLOMATIC DUO
State Dept. retirees lead
International Affairs Forum

FROM OUR KITCHENS
Boathouse chef and culinary
alumnus James Morse dishes



NEXUS

THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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This gate leads to one of my favorite spots on campus: a secluded, Japanese-style garden tucked in next to the Dennon Museum Center. Secretly, I've coveted the office beyond, whose windows overlook that secluded space.

The gate also makes an apt metaphor for the brand-new magazine you hold in your hands. With *Nexus*, we want to invite you in to everything that's growing at Northwestern Michigan College.

We're inviting you in to meet our fastest-growing student population: Dual-enrolled high school students (p. 22). We're inviting you in to the most sincere hopes of our students as they address our new president (p. 24). We're inviting you to soar with our student drone pilots (p. 2) and to taste the concoctions of our chef alumni (p. 30). We're inviting you to find out what your fellow alumni have been up to (p. 27) and to share your own accomplishments and updates.

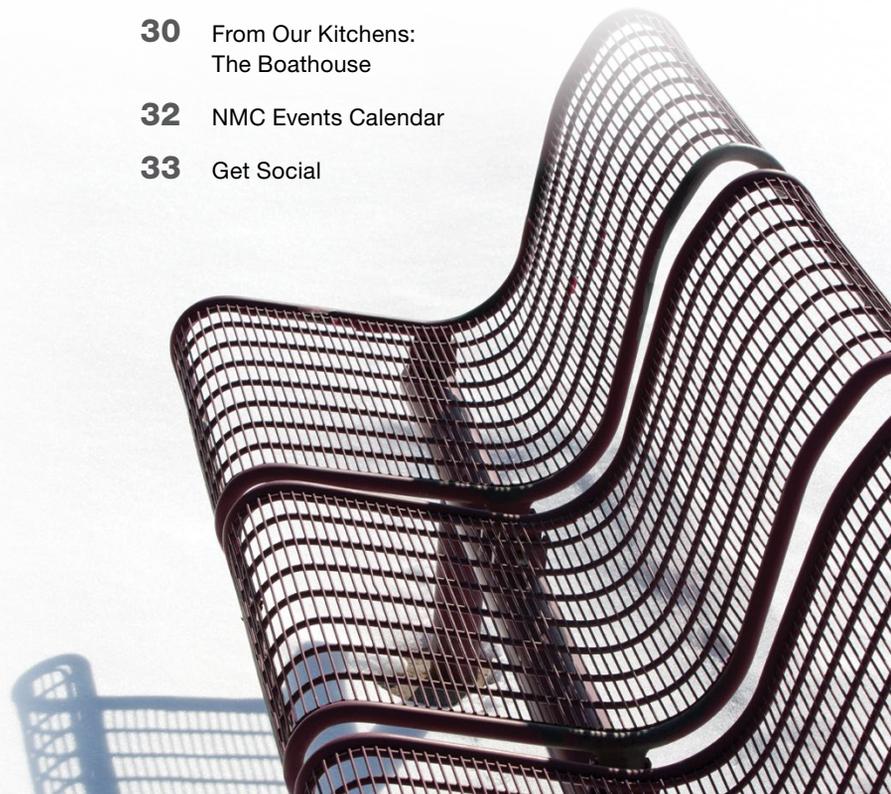
Nexus is your personal window seat. Welcome! **N**

Cari Noga

WELCOME



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HELLO HONDURAS

Assistant Chief Unmanned Aerial Systems instructor Rob Dreer took this aerial shot of workers hauling supplies for water storage, pressure relief tanks and conduction lines up a mountain in rural Honduras in June 2016. Dreer and NMC student Dennis Wiand visited Honduras to demonstrate UAS capabilities in aiding the developing world. When complete, the manually constructed project will provide clean water to 768 people, 128 homes, and three schools in El Boquerón, El Bosque and Quebrada De Oro, near the Nicaraguan border.

Visit nmc.edu/uas for program info. **N**



Making connections with Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, center, at the Aero Park campus last April.

CONNECTING NMC



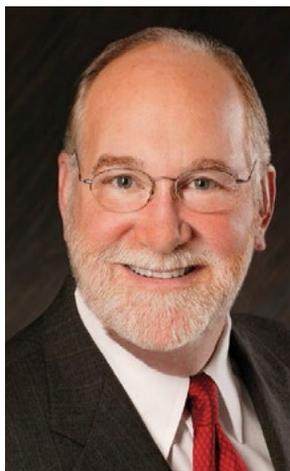
**TIMOTHY J. NELSON,
PRESIDENT**

Most college presidents today spend a lot of time striving to make connections, both on campus and between the college and broader community. These days, that community could be within Traverse City. It could be at the state Capitol in Lansing. It could be around the world at one of our partner institutions. Wherever it is, my task is to make and facilitate connections to further Northwestern Michigan College's mission and vision.

In collaboration with our faculty and staff, I think we serve as this nexus very well. This new magazine is about sharing those connections with you. As you'll read in the cover story, The Ripple Effect, our water expertise has attracted both academic institutions and industry partners to craft new degrees and credentials with us, for the benefit of our students. The profile of former dual-enrolled student Randall Wallace illustrates how we have connected with area high schools to

serve the fastest-growing segment of our enrollment. Internationally, our connections criss-cross the globe, whether it's hosting an ambassador onstage at Milliken Auditorium or sending more students to study abroad than any other community college in Michigan.

This new year ushers in exciting opportunities for more connections, internally and externally. I look forward to sharing more stories in the July issue of *Nexus*. ■



ROBERT T. BRICK



CHRIS M. BOTT



MICHAEL ESTES



RACHEL A. JOHNSON

NEW TRUSTEES JOIN BOARD

After two terms, NMC Trustee Robert T. Brick ended his service on the elected board Dec. 31, 2016.

First elected in 2004 and again in 2010, the Traverse City Realtor chose not to seek re-election in 2016. Brick was a past board chairman and most recently served as treasurer.

From a field of six candidates, Grand Traverse County voters in November

elected Chris M. Bott and Michael Estes to fill Brick's and a second seat on the seven-member board. Bott, a 1983 accounting alumnus, won a full term after being appointed to fill a vacant seat in 2015. Estes is a former Traverse City mayor. Both will serve until 2022.

Trustees also appointed Rachel A. Johnson to fill Steven Rawling's seat after he resigned immediately following the election, citing travel and increased

workload demands. Johnson garnered the third-highest vote total in the November election. She will serve until the next NMC Board of Trustees election in November, 2018. At that time, voters will choose a candidate to serve the remainder of the term to which Rawlings was originally elected, which expires December 31, 2020.

MILOCKS WIN NATIONAL BENEFACTOR AWARD

Longtime NMC supporters Richard and Diana Milock were named 2016 recipients of the Benefactor Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The award, presented in San Diego in October 2016, recognizes individuals, foundations and businesses which embody the ideals of philanthropy, leadership and volunteerism in the service of community, technical and junior colleges.

Since 2003, the couple has given more than \$2.3 million in personal contributions and gifts through the Begonia Charitable Foundation, including one \$2 million gift, the largest gift to NMC from a living donor, that was instrumental in the expansion of the Denno's Museum Center (see p. 8). A new sound system in Milliken Auditorium, which also serves as a lab for audio technology programs, was also thanks to the generosity of the Milocks, who have also supported student scholarships.



RICHARD AND DIANA MILOCK



PHOTO BY JONATHAN GURKA

Biology instructor Greg LaCross (driver's seat) accompanied NMC students on an excursion to the Shamwari Conservation Area, Eastern Cape, South Africa in May 2016.

PROGRAMS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Traverse City is no stranger to best-of lists. Northwestern Michigan College, too, receives national ranking and recognition:

VETERANS SERVICES Certified as a Gold-Level Veteran-Friendly School by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for two consecutive years (2016 and 2015)

GREAT LAKES CULINARY INSTITUTE 11th best culinary school in the nation by Best Choice Schools (2016)

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS No. 10 nationally by SuccessfulStudent.com (2015)

SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD No. 12 among community colleges nationally in 2015, up from No. 16 in 2014. NMC was the only Michigan community college to make the top 20, and among the smallest in terms of enrollment.

Study abroad trips planned for 2017 include Ecuador (Galapagos Islands and Yungilla), Sicily, Mexico and Morocco. The Galapagos, Mexico and Morocco are all new destinations for NMC.

NELSON, ALUMNUS APPOINTED TO GUBERNATORIAL COMMISSIONS

NMC President Tim Nelson has been appointed to Michigan's Building the 21st Century Economy Commission by Governor Rick Snyder.

Nelson is one of three educators on the 23-member commission, which serves as an advisory body within the Executive Office of the Governor. Members are charged with identifying priorities over

the next 20 years along with short-term and long-term action items to achieve the vision of Michigan's economic future. The commission will issue a final report to the governor by June 30, 2017.

Snyder also appointed alumnus Mark Fowler of East Jordan to a statewide Public Health Advisory Commission. Water/wastewater superintendent for

Boyer City, Fowler will represent local directors of Public Works. He received an associate's degree in business administration in 2000.

The 24-member commission will complete an assessment of the current public health service delivery system in Michigan, at both the state and local level. **N**



WOMEN OF I.T.

Technology touches everything on campus, from applying for admission to registering for classes to turning in assignments. NMC's women of I.T. help make all that happen as smoothly as possible (the occasional CTRL + ALT + DEL may still be required.)

The National Center for Women in Information Technology reports that nationally, women hold just 25 percent of professional computing positions. At NMC, women make up almost half the I.T. staff. Pictured from left to right are: Top row: Lisa Molmen, programmer/analyst; Robin Fitzgerald, desktop computer support specialist, and Eileen Vaughn, programmer/analyst. Bottom row: Lisa Boike, programmer/analyst; Laura Carmickle, senior

programmer/analyst and solution architect; Alison Thornton, coordinator of technology support services; and Beth Norconk, desktop computer support specialist.

Not pictured: Anna Bachman, senior programmer/analyst and solution architect, and Amy Klei, programmer/analyst. **N**



NEW POLYPTYCH BY MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ART PROFESSOR CLIFF MCCHESENEY



EXPANSION TO IMPROVE CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Imagine a nursing student practicing patient assessment—on a painting. Picture a police academy cadet surveying a sculpture instead of a crime scene.

As the Denmos Museum Center prepares to unveil new galleries and classroom space later this year, students from a variety of disciplines may find themselves reporting for class there. Beyond its aesthetic value, art can also serve a practical purpose: Offering observation opportunities to future nurses, police officers, teachers and others who need such skills in their profession.

Adjunct education instructor Mark DeLonge used the museum for his students the very first day of the fall semester. Classroom observation comprises the biggest chunk of his course. But with local schools not yet in session, he turned to the Denmos.

“We were able to get right into the skills and the content students would use for the rest of the semester,” DeLonge said.

The goal is that students learn to observe before interpreting. An inattentive student, for instance, could appear that way for many reasons, DeLonge said. The teacher’s job is to look for patterns, which are clues to how to best help the student, whether they need academic assistance, something to eat, or someone to talk to.

About 30 NMC classes visit the Denmos during the academic year. Currently, most of the museum’s exhibitions rotate every three months. Sociology instructor Rachel Johansen-Wilczewski has taken her classes to exhibitions that tie into her course themes, like 2016’s *The Guerrilla Girls*.

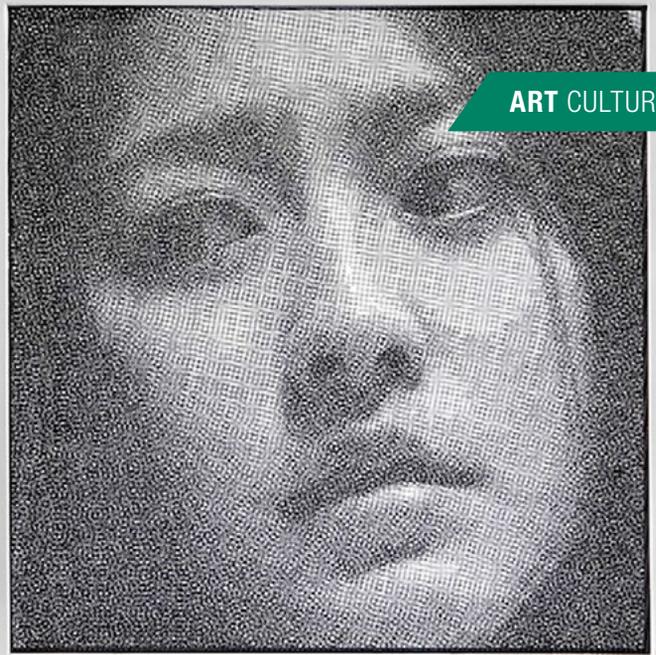
“What is art? It’s a reflection of our culture,” she said.

If the rotating exhibitions don’t dovetail with their curriculum, instructors must request a piece be brought out of storage, into less-than-ideal viewing conditions. The permanent collection gallery will solve that problem.

“We’ll be able to accommodate it more often,” Curator of Education Jason Dake said. “(Teachers) will know that a certain mix of the collection will be out there, and it will connect with their class in some way.”

The permanent collection now contains 1,500 Inuit works and 1,000 non-Inuit. **N**

Funded through major gifts from Richard and Diana Milock and Dudley and Barbara Smith, two new Denmos galleries will be dedicated to sculpture and artworks from the permanent collection.



ART CULTURE

NEW MAYA, BY KOREAN ARTIST SEUNG MO PARK

DENNOS EXHIBITS CONTINUE THROUGH JANUARY

Grandmother Power and Traverse City artist Jean Larson's exhibition of photographs and paintings inspired by Iceland will continue through January.

Schedules may change due to ongoing construction. Visit dennosmuseum.org for the most current information.

MILLIKEN REMAINS OPEN

Concerts and events in Milliken Auditorium will continue, including the next Dennos Concert Series performance, Carrie Newcomer on March 10.

Visit dennosmuseum.org/milliken for more concert dates.



CARRIE NEWCOMER MARCH 10



The 15,000 square-foot expansion of the Dennos Museum Center now underway will create new galleries, a larger space for the signature Inuit art collection, a classroom, and expanded storage.





INSIDE MY BAG

DENTAL ASSISTANT



**SAMANTHA FURZE, 26
AAS, 2017**

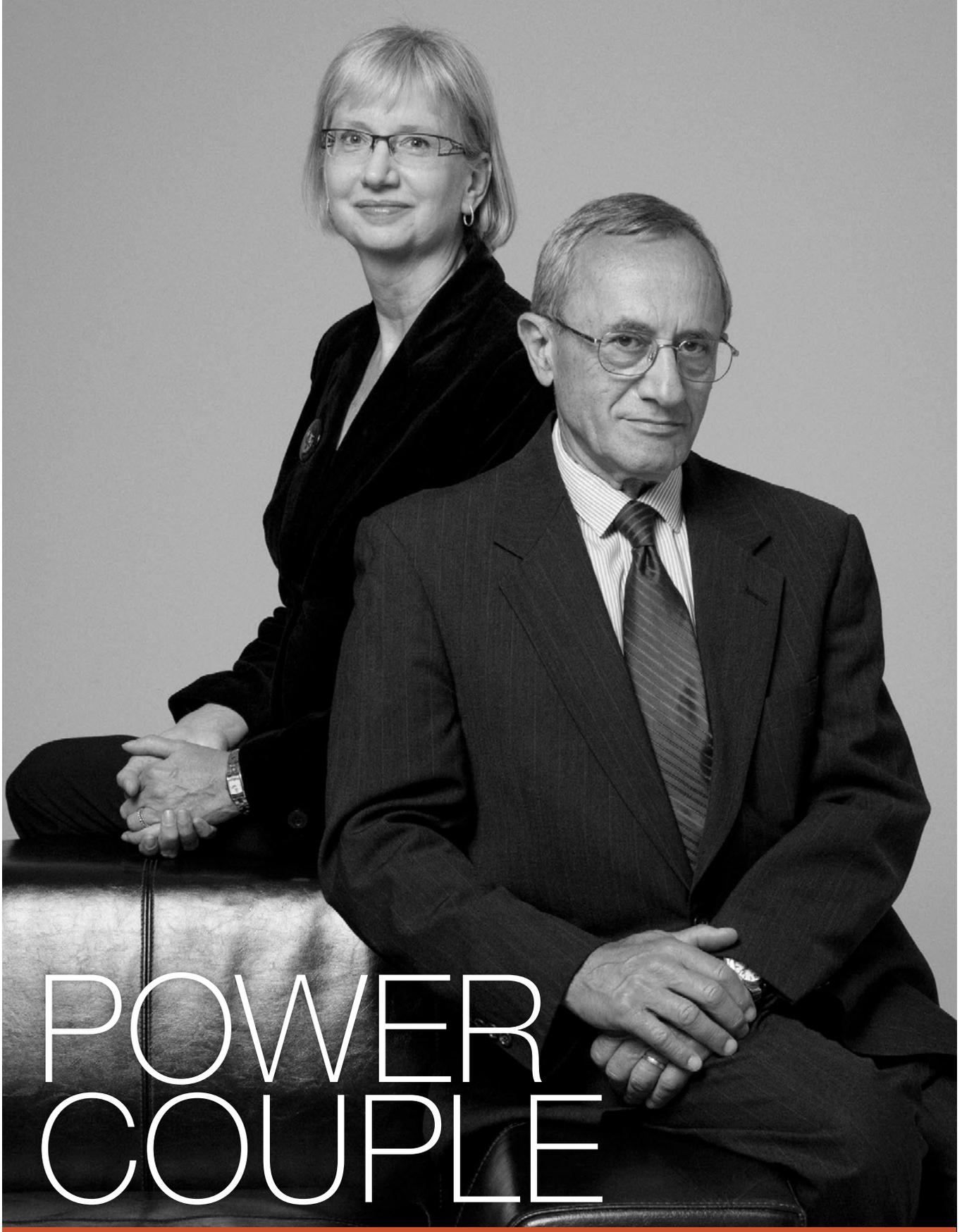
Dental assisting student Samantha Furze, 26, of Mesick, likes the hands-on nature of the program, from which her mother also graduated.

“There isn’t a day that goes by that I go home without having learned something new, and that’s really cool,” Furze said. She hopes to land a job as a dental assistant after she graduates this summer. Her long-term goal is to one day manage a dental office.

Visit nmc.edu/dental for program information. **N**

SAMANTHA’S BACKPACK INCLUDES:

1. Study flashcards
2. Basic instrument set-up, including forceps, explorer and mouth mirror
3. Practice mouth model used in Registered Dental Assistant state exam
4. Dental X-rays
5. Pencil case—highlighters and colored pens allow color-coded notes
6. Clips to organize flashcards and other study materials. “Organization and efficiency are my key.”
7. Dental assistant personal protection equipment including safety glasses and face mask
8. Fluoride tray
9. Oral hygiene puppet used at schools



POWER COUPLE

Retired diplomats Jack Segal and Karen Puschel shake up IAF to suit turbulent world times.



Charles Duelfer, who led the early 2000s investigation into whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, has been one of many high-profile guests to visit the International Affairs Forum.

After careers that led them to carry gas masks in Tel Aviv and to establish the first diplomatic mission in post-Soviet Russia, Karen Puschel and Jack Segal made a 180-degree turn when they moved to Traverse City in 2010.

The retired foreign service officers came for family reasons. They could be near Puschel's mother, who lives in Northport, and daughter Maya could attend Interlochen Arts Academy. As a Michigan native, it was a bit of a homecoming for Puschel, 56. But Segal, 70, had doubts. Being Jewish, from the East Coast and used to "big stage" politics, he wondered whether northern Michigan might feel even more foreign than the couple's sojourns in Israel, Russia and the Netherlands.

"It was a very difficult decision to move back to the U.S. after living in Europe for so many years," agreed Puschel.

Seven years later, their risk has been rewarded. In fact they find themselves awestruck by the community in which they spend fulfilling—and often very busy—days.

The couple was immediately welcomed into the International Affairs Forum, a tight-knit group of locals engaged in world issues. IAF is affiliated with both NMC and the World Affairs Councils of America, a nonpartisan network dedicated to enriching Americans in international affairs and global issues. IAF's flagship program is a monthly lecture series, held in the Dennon Museum Center's Milliken Auditorium for the last 24 years.

Segal also discovered teaching opportunities at NMC, allowing him to continue

one of his loves and connect with the educational community. Concerns about fitting in started to fade, and the couple's natural networking tendencies started to kick in.

Today, as co-chairs of the IAF, their experiences in places from war zones to Washington, D.C., and connections to people sporting political stripes of every color have helped double membership in the monthly lecture series. They've brought leading thinkers on global issues and influencers of worldwide stories before local sold-out audiences—both bolstering IAF's presence and broadening its impact.

"We are workaholics," Puschel said. "We have to remain intellectually engaged. This is the next best thing to our careers."

A STRONG BENCH

Eighteen fellow board members—including retired U.S. Air Force Major General Brian Bishop, retired foreign service officer Ted Curran, and Bob Giles, an award-winning journalist and former head of Harvard University's Nieman Foundation—help the couple steer the IAF.

"This is an exceptionally different community," said Segal, of the peers he has found in Traverse City after a career working for the U.S. Department of State, the National Security Council and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The NATO post required 40 visits to Afghanistan as chief political advisor between 2002 and 2010.

"We have to remain intellectually engaged. This is the next best thing to our careers."

— Karen Puschel

"One of our most important contacts is NMC professor Dr. Amjad Khan, a native of Pakistan," Puschel said. "The U.S. ambassador to Oman summers on the Old Mission Peninsula. There are over 200 former members of the Peace Corps living in the TC area ... and the director of the Peace Corps has a home in Frankfort."

Puschel turned a teenage fascination with communism and a political science degree into an internship with the State Department and a career as a diplomat, including working "on the

Soviet desk" in the 1980s.

"These were the Gorbachev years," said Puschel. "It was very exciting."

During that time she met Segal; they married in 1989 and were on to Israel. At the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv from 1988 to 1991, Segal coordinated U.S. policy during the Palestinian *intifada* (uprising against Israeli occupation) and the Gulf War. The couple lived with the constant threat of missile attacks, carried gas masks and followed a dusk curfew.

"Everyone had to be home by 4 p.m. ... and sometimes I was the last car on the street," recalled Segal.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the couple was sent to Yekaterinburg, Russia, to establish a U.S. consulate.

"We were the first Westerners," Puschel said. As U.S. Consulate General, Segal worked with American and Russian firms in the high technology, oil, gas and minerals



NOT JUST FOR ADULTS

Looking to get more young people interested in global affairs, IAF has introduced Academic WorldQuest. Working in teams, nearly 100 area high school students test their knowledge of world affairs and foreign policy. The winning team earns a chance to go to Washington, D.C., in April to represent northern Michigan in the national finals. In 2016, Traverse City Central High School was the final contender.

Want to see how you rate against these students? Attend the local competition Friday, Feb. 3 at the Hagerty Center. Check tciaf.com for details.

WINTER/SPRING LECTURES THEME:

Challenges for the New Administration – Are We Ready?

February 16: Going Viral: Countering the New Face of Terror on Social Media
Humaira Wakili, Executive Director, Gen Next Foundation

March 16: Keeping up with the Drones: Challenges and Opportunities for the U.S.
USAF Major General (ret.) Marke "Hoot" Gibson, Senior Advisor, FAA

April 20: Turkey at the Crossroads
Lawrence Mandel, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, Turkey, 2014-16

All lectures held at 6 p.m. in Milliken Auditorium. Students and educators free; tickets \$10 others and available at the door.

sectors to explore opportunities—work acknowledged by then-President Bill Clinton as a critical step forward in U.S.-Russian relations.

IAF: BIGGER, BETTER, STRONGER

Recently, IAF leadership has sought to expand its reach through new audiences, and Puschel and Segal have helped the organization take big strides in this direction. One of the first people Segal met in Traverse City was Doug Stanton, a native who had landed on the international stage in his own right as a bestselling author.

The connection grew into a close relationship—Stanton, whose second book, *Horse Soldiers*, is set in Afghanistan, ended up accompanying Segal on a trip there. And IAF has since forged a partnership with the National Writers Series, co-founded by Stanton. In joint presentations, Segal has taken the IAF audience downtown, interviewing guests like political activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali and former NPR correspondent Sarah Chayes at the City Opera House, the NWS home venue. More collaborations are in the works.

The co-chairs have also pushed IAF to be more responsive than the monthly

lectures allow by hosting periodic “Global Hot Spot” events as world events unfold. Recent topics included the Syrian refugee crisis, the Ebola epidemic and press freedoms following the deadly attack directed at French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, in Paris.

Puschel and Segal never guessed the extent to which their international careers would carry on in retirement, but being a vital part of an organization that brings “great conversations” from around the world to the local stage clearly energizes them. Their 180-degree turn back in 2010 has actually brought them full circle. **N**

CATCH UP

Watch IAF lectures on YouTube. Recent topics have included:

- National security risks of a changing climate
- Future of the U.S.-Israel alliance
- The Muslim experience
- Syria's future

Search YouTube for “Traverse City International Affairs Forum.”

START HERE, STAY HERE.



Fifty advanced degree programs from A to S—Accountancy to Social Work.

TRAVERSE CITY // NMC.EDU/UC

CONGRATULATIONS

to the NMC students who have chosen to continue their education at Grand Valley State University!

Individuals from all over Northern Michigan take advantage of the education opportunities at Grand Valley, including the convenience of completing a degree at GVSU's Traverse City Regional Center. Located in the NMC University Center, GVSU in Traverse City offers career-centered programs, personalized advising, and diverse financial aid options. Learn more at gvsu.edu/traverse.

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Instructor Constanza Hazelwood, center, and students Chelsea Cooper, left, and Jessica Rhodes, right, examine conditions in West Grand Traverse Bay.



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

For 45 years, attorney Jim Olson has stood up for the environment, winning landmark fresh water cases in the courts.

But the founder of the Traverse City–based environmental law firm Olson, Bzdok & Howard has a new strategy for spreading his message: teaching. This month, he embarks on his third semester teaching Water Policy & Sustainability as an adjunct instructor at NMC’s Great Lakes Water Studies Institute.

“We don’t have time for decade-long legal cases,” Olson, 71, said. “I’m more excited about being able to develop this course with Hans (VanSumeren), Constanza (Hazelwood) and the college than court cases. This is what we need to be doing.”

That’s because each student has the potential to go forth and spread the gospel of Olson, VanSumeren, Hazelwood and many more: Water matters. The science of water matters. The public interest in water as a common, collectively owned good, matters. Not just in Traverse City. Not just in the Great Lakes, the Midwest or the United States. With worldwide demand for potable, fresh water projected to exceed supply by 30 percent by 2050, water matters urgently and globally.

“What (students) are learning can be applied everywhere. The local issues are also global issues,” said Olson, who ticks off a list without missing a beat: invasive species, impact of development, climate change, energy choices and more.

“If you can understand water, the world is your oyster,” agreed VanSumeren, a Traverse City native who joined NMC in 2008 as the first full-time employee of the Water Studies Institute. Hazelwood came aboard six months later.

But before the duo arrived on scene, the stage had to be set. Less than 20 years ago, industrial relics still dotted the West Bay shoreline, including the Cherry Growers “freezer building” on the site of the current Great Lakes campus, the former Light & Power coal-burning power plant at the Open Space and the coal dock in Greilickville. Go back another 20 years, and railroad tracks lay where today’s TART recreational trail runs. Go back 20 more, to the 1950s, and cherry processors and wood-turning plants dumped their industrial byproduct straight into the bay.

“We used to play on the pilings and the sawdust and the cherry pits.”

– John Nelson

“We used to play on the pilings and the sawdust and the cherry pits,” recalled John Nelson, 73, a Traverse City native and recently retired Grand Traverse Baykeeper. “From (Great Lakes) campus to West End beach was pretty industrial.”

Nelson spent 30 years in Maine before returning to Traverse City in 1997. He brought with him the idea of a Baykeeper, a dual advocacy and research role. The Watershed Center, a local nonprofit, agreed to launch the program, and in





NMC's Great Lakes Campus offers unmatched assets for water research and the marine industry.

2002 Nelson embarked on what would be a 14-year stint as Baykeeper, walking and boating all 132 miles of Grand Traverse Bay shoreline. (As Baykeeper, Nelson would, like Olson, also take a turn as teacher, leading NMC students on an annual walking field trip along the Boardman River to observe water quality protection measures.)

Other events around the turn of the new millennium increased the region's momentum to steward and protect the bay and the Grand Traverse environment in general:

- In addition to the Watershed Center, non-profits like the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Inland Seas Education Association and TART Trails, all founded in the 1990s, were maturing in their capabilities and vision.
- Threats like zebra mussels, beach grooming, shoreline erosion and development became more frequent and publicized.
- NMC began construction of the Great Lakes campus in 2001, including the long-awaited demolition of the freezer

building that loomed over Front Street and blocked the bay view.

- Residents overwhelmingly voted to reach into their own pockets by approving the joint Traverse City-Garfield Township Recreational Authority in 2004, which led to the demolition of the Smith-Barney building, making West Bay publicly accessible from the Holiday Inn to M-22.

A guiding hand behind many of those organizations and projects was Rotary Charities of Traverse City. As the pro-bay groundswell grew, Rotary International was encouraging its member chapters to take on large local projects in honor of the organization's upcoming 100-year anniversary.

"We thought deeply. What's going to have a hundred-year impact?" said Marsha Smith, Rotary executive director. The answer was the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, which received a

\$1 million Rotary grant in 2004. "It was that whole idea, sustainability and stewardship," Smith said.

"We thought deeply. What's going to have a hundred-year impact?"

– Marsha Smith

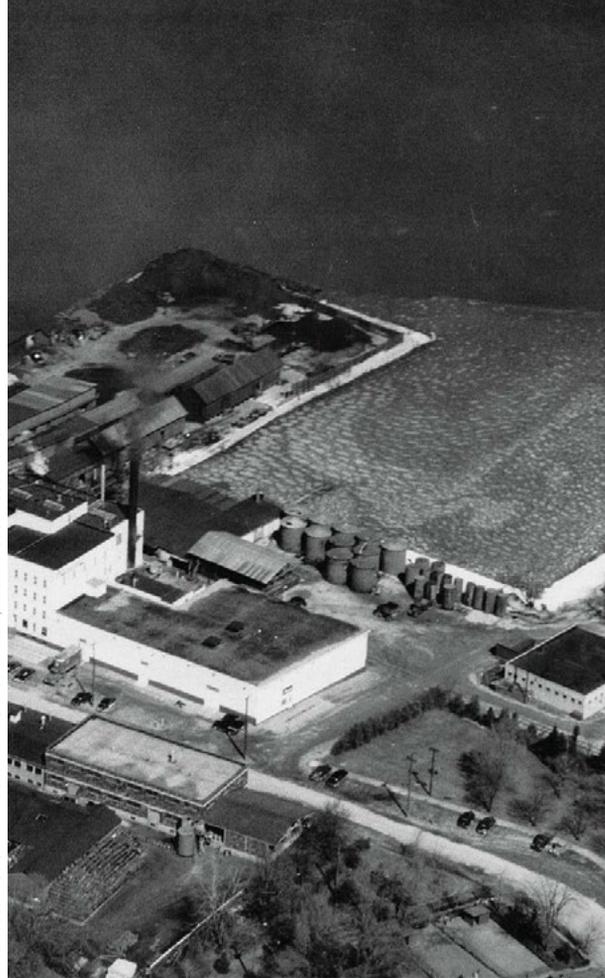
VanSumeren would add another pair of 'S'es: Science, and scholarship. Degrees were not part of the original Water Studies Institute plan. But a "degree platform" maximized the college's existing assets, including waterfront location and curriculum. Solid science classes, like

oceanography, meteorology and climatology were already available. So was the *Northwestern*, the Great Lakes Maritime Academy's former training ship, which has found a second life as a research vessel and is conveniently moored two minutes from classrooms.

"This water synergy was already here. We looked at what we didn't have, and filled those gaps," said VanSumeren, who spent 20 years at the University of Michigan but was drawn home by the opportunity to build something new, something that lived up to the value of the Great Lakes.



IMAGE COURTESY OF TRAVERSE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY, LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION



West Bay, Traverse City, 1950s



HANS VANSUMEREN



JIM OLSON



MARSHA SMITH

“These lakes are important, and we’ve got to act like it. Our livelihoods depend on it,” VanSumeren said. “Being grandiose in what we do, how we train, how we engage, is critical.”

An opportunity to be grandiose arose in 2012, when the Michigan Legislature passed a bill allowing community colleges to offer limited bachelor’s degrees. In 2013 NMC became the first in the state to take advantage, offering a bachelor’s degree in maritime technology. A new specialty in marine technology followed in 2015. With Western Michigan University, NMC also offers a joint bachelor’s degree program in freshwater science and sustainability. Presently, about 350 students are enrolled in degree programs that didn’t exist even eight years ago.

David Bearss was the first graduate of NMC’s Freshwater Studies program, in 2011. Now a marine geophysical technician based in Buffalo, N.Y., he’s fulfilling VanSumeren’s oyster prophecy. His skill

“Being grandiose in what we do, how we train, how we engage, is critical.”

– Hans VanSumeren

at underwater sonar imaging has taken the one-time photography major to all five Great Lakes, British Columbia, Hawaii, central and South America and Scotland. “Still making images, it’s just sound rather than light now,” said Bearss, 29, whose typical workday involves inspections of infrastructure like power plants and water treatment plants.

Traveling to those destinations has also given him firsthand evidence of Olson’s mantra that water matters. He recalled visiting Arizona to work on the Central Arizona Project, or CAP. Five million southern Arizona residents depend on CAP, a 336-mile-long system of aqueducts, tunnels, pumping plants and pipelines, to bring Colorado River water to their faucets. “It’s pretty wild,” Bearss said. “Certainly not something you think about when you’re in Michigan, or Buffalo, or anything on the Great Lakes.”

Regardless of particular degree path, getting students to think about things just like that is at the heart of the programs’

design. “There is a policy framework where this science is used,” said Olson, the lawyer and adjunct.

So whether the issue is quenching thirst in the American West, defending New Orleans from a second submerging, or stabilizing drought-sparked political unrest as exists in Syria, students are prepared to tackle it by applying both science and theory. “We embed critical thinking, contemporary ethical dilemmas, courses that would be core communication and humanities at the college,” VanSumeren said.

Top all that off with an early emphasis on careers—students create a 100-job outlook in their very first introductory freshwater course—and it’s an attractive package. Lauren Hucek, for one, is sold. The 28-year-old from the Chicago suburbs spent a decade as a competitive figure skater and coach before deciding she wanted a new direction in life. In 2014 she enrolled at NMC and ultimately found herself led back to water—only this time, not frozen.

“It clicked,” said Hucek, who enrolled in the joint NMC-WMU Freshwater Science and Sustainability bachelor’s program





NMC WATER PARTNER NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NMC students have conducted research in four Great Lakes national parks: Sleeping Bear Dunes, Pictured Rocks, Isle Royale, and the Apostle Islands, in Wisconsin.

Brenda LaFrancois, regional aquatic ecologist for NPS, said interns from NMC, the *R/V Northwestern* and the gear it carries, including ROVs and multi-beamed sonar equipment, have helped NPS to understand the impact of invasive species in the parks and to map coastal habitats. At Sleeping Bear in particular, they've been instrumental in identifying "toxin hotspots" in the park's waters, which threaten birds and fish, LaFrancois said.

"The skill set that we need for the mapping work is actually pretty unusual," she said. "If we didn't have access to our interns, we would have to train our own, which would be difficult and more time-consuming."

West Bay looking north from the Great Lakes campus pier.

in fall 2015. Its science focus, interdisciplinary structure and career emphasis all attracted her.

The author of what Olson calls a "cutting edge" paper for his policy class, Hucek also traveled to Costa Rica, where her group studied how banana growers are coping with a fungus, and conducted water sampling on East Lake in Kalkaska. "In the year alone that I've done the program at NMC, I've gained so much knowledge," she said.

Set to graduate in 2018, Hucek's unsure whether her future lies in the realm of

science or policy, domestically or internationally, but feels confident about heading toward any of them. "It proves the versatility of the program," she said.

For VanSumeren, the opportunities keep flowing, too: Chinese students who want to enroll here and have NMC courses offered in their home country. Industry associations who want to create new credentials (See right sidebar.) And a bay that still tantalizes with questions. Why are

water levels up the last four years? How can invasive species be harnessed for beneficial purposes? What precedent did authorization of the Waukesha,

Wisconsin, drinking water diversion set?

"There's an opportunity for better science, better modeling, better decision-making," VanSumeren said. And NMC is perfectly positioned to meet those opportunities. "We are

the center of the water universe in the Great Lakes." **N**

"We are the center of the water universe in the Great Lakes."

– Hans VanSumeren



NMC WATER PARTNER ASSOCIATION OF DIVING CONTRACTORS

For nearly three months in 2010, an underwater video of oil spewing nonstop from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico transfixed the world. Finally, a remotely operated vehicle capped the well more than 4,000 feet below the surface of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, ending the active phase of the disaster.

Without an ROV, the cap “wouldn’t have happened,” said Phil Newsum, executive director of the Association of Diving Contractors International.

Based in Houston, 250 miles from Deepwater Horizon’s Gulf perch, Newsum’s association of more than 600 diving companies now wants to work with NMC to offer a credential certifying that ROV pilots have the training to accomplish tasks like capping deep wells. ADCI once certified ROV pilots, but lacking a way to vet or assess applicants’ training and experience, Newsum stopped the practice in 2006. That created a problem.

“Clients and oil and gas producers are looking for ways to engineer out diving,” due to the risks of such deepwater work, Newsum said. “(Thus) we have a huge void in the underwater industry, especially here in the United States, where we do not have formal training programs for ROV pilots.”

Last year, however, an industry contact tipped Newsum off to the marine technology programs at NMC. He visited campus in September, and realized that NMC’s curriculum could fill that void.

“I get to see different training programs globally. By far, this is one of the most impressive,” said Newsum, who hopes to have the credential ready for this year’s graduates. ADCI’s recognition by organizations like OSHA, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy will boost students’ résumés, he said. “This will be something that complements the great education they’re going to get.”

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GREAT LAKES CAMPUS WATER CALENDAR

March 6–May 9
ROV pilot training school*

April
West Grand Traverse Bay
monitoring buoy dropped
for season
greatlakesbuoys.org
- click on buoy 45020

April 22
T/S State of Michigan
open house
nmc.edu/maritime

May 21–27
Marine Technology Camp*

June 4–8
Sonar for Search and Recovery
professionals training*

June 11–14
Sonar for Marine Engineering
professional training program*

June 12–25 (tentative)
Nautical Archaeology Society’s
international field school
nasnmc.com

*More info at nmc.edu/water



Dual enrollment helped Randall Wallace clear hurdles on the way to his life goal of becoming a doctor.



FAST-TRACK TO A DREAM

When you spend 19 years running for your life, you get accustomed to a fast pace.

So Randall Wallace has learned. The medical technology to save him barely existed when he was born with multiple severe heart conditions in 1997. Yet through eight heart surgeries, the Kingsley resident has set a breakneck pace including dual-enrollment at NMC and entering Grand Valley State University as a sophomore, where he's now aimed at medical school and a future saving patients like himself.

"My mom always told me, you work your butt off now, and in the long run, it will pay off," said Wallace, who earned 56 credits at NMC in 2013–15 while also taking a full load at Kingsley High School, working at a pizza parlor and completing an internship.

Even with finishing his freshman year of college in high school, Wallace knew he faced a long—and expensive—academic road to achieve his dream of becoming a pediatric cardiologist.

Enter Make-A-Wish Michigan, a nonprofit that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. The organization had contacted Wallace's mother, Renae, years ago, but she chose to bank the offer.

"I'm going to wait until you're older, so you can make a wise decision," Wallace recalls his mother telling him.

Recovery from his last heart surgery, in 2014, was particularly grueling and included some cognitive complications and memory loss. Wallace still had to work to pay for the gas to get to classes at NMC and the Manufacturing

Technology Academy housed on the Aero Park campus. Depleted both mentally and physically, he didn't get to apply for scholarships as he'd intended. It seemed like it might be time to call in his wish.

"I wouldn't mind using it toward college," he said. Within that week, (Make-a-Wish) asked how much money he'd need.

In February 2016, Make-A-Wish and an anonymous GVSU donor combined to pledge the rest of Wallace's undergraduate tuition.

Renae Wallace said she's never tried to curtail her son's full-throttle approach to life, whether it's snowboarding or school.

"I've never limited him from doing anything, ever," she said. "From home school into public school, he's just been on a dead run. He was the best person to tell himself if it was interfering with his heart or breathing."

Wallace said that he focuses on one goal at a time. "I've got milestones in my life, little goals that lead to my dream," he said.

Getting accepted as a dual-enrolled student was one milestone. Graduating high school was another. Next is to graduate GVSU and enter the University of Michigan medical school, where he's been treated all his life.

"They kind of saved my life," he said.

"There's no doubt he'll complete everything," Renae Wallace said. "He has the passion and drive for it."

Not to mention the heart. ■



IMAGE COURTESY OF MAKE-A-WISH MICHIGAN

From left, Renae Wallace, U-M cardiologist Dr. Donald Malcolm, who has treated Randall Wallace, right, since birth, at the tuition wish grant ceremony at Grand Valley last year.

Dual-enrolled students are the fastest-growing segment of NMC's enrollment.



DEAR PRESIDENT

Last November, NMC students joined their fellow Americans to elect the 45th president of the United States. Prior to the election we asked three students voting for the first time to share some of their priorities for the new president.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

To the President-Elect of the United States of America,

I want to congratulate you: you are about to become the president of the United States. Leading this great country for the next four years won't be easy, but I hope that your time as president is successful and productive.

There is much I hope you accomplish during your presidency, in unifying our country and working toward education reform. Most of all, I hope that you work to protect the environment. Living in beautiful Northern Michigan, I appreciate the nature all around me. Whether it is the lake or the woods, I cannot imagine the loss of these natural treasures.

It's not just about me; the rest of the U.S. needs your protection, too. Northern Michigan is just one of countless natural wonders. Nothing is more time-sensitive than nature. In recent years, climate change, invasive species, and pollution have become major adversaries in the battle to sustain the environment as we know it. While these forces are at work here in Northern Michigan, we are but one of many ecosystems in our nation and world facing similar challenges.

I hope you are the one to implement the necessary legislation to keep the environment as it is for generations to come.



LAURA JOHNSON, 19
*Business administration
Traverse City*

FREE TUITION

To the President-Elect of the United States of America,

The greatest goal of the president-elect should be to ensure that all citizens are granted a paid higher education.

One flaw within society is the inequality of our educational system toward students with the desire to learn and become productive members of our country, and the inability of some to pay for the opportunity. This seems anathema to the "American Dream," whereby any citizen can excel to one's level of mastery of goals that can provide a good living for the individual, the individual's family, and the community through service. How can the educational system stop after high school, when today's jobs require more skill than those even a decade ago?

Education is also the main solution to the terrifying problems we face at this point in history: national security, within and without, bigotry and overreaction.

Northwestern Michigan College is a good model of opportunities, but not everyone can afford to avail themselves of these advantages. A national policy of free tuition to all would lessen

the feelings in some individuals that some are "haves" and others "have-nots."

I look forward to a future in which a policy of higher educational equality may serve to create equal opportunities for all of our citizens.



INGA DOLINSKI, 19
*Chemistry student
Indian River*

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

To the President-Elect of the United States of America,

Growing up, I was taught that one element that makes America a nation to be proud of is the focus and celebration of the vast diversity in this country. An understanding that regardless of what languages we might speak, or what we might believe in, or where we came from, we are all Americans. Yet when I look to the news, when I hear or read what is occurring in this country of ours, I am troubled by lines of division that groups and individuals of this country have drawn in an effort to create "Us vs. Them" dynamics. It is my hope that during your term you will help to heal the divisions that now make their mark across our great country. I hope through words and action during your presidency, that diversity will be an aspect to be celebrated, not something to be used to divide. Our diversity is our strength; our individualism is our exceptionalism. The great American novelist Herman Melville wrote, "You cannot spill a drop

of American blood without spilling the blood of the whole world We are not a nation, so much as a world." Despite a difference of 167 years, those words still ring true. **N**



CONNOR BEBB, 21
Traverse City



EAST HALL, 1975



EAST HALL, 1969



EAST HALL, TODAY



HOUSING AT NMC

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE IS ONE OF THE ONLY COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN MICHIGAN TO OFFER ON-CAMPUS HOUSING.

Constructed in 1967 and remodeled in 2002, East Hall is home to about 200 students. Later this year it will get a new neighbor to the north. NMC built its newest residence hall because campus housing—which also includes apartment buildings and a leased former motel near campus—has been at capacity for three years. The new, \$8.8 million, 140-bed North Hall will also include a fitness center. **N**



NORTH HALL



COURTESY OF FOX

ALUMNI NOTES

Alumna **KATERINA "KATYA" CHEKHOVSKIY (2012–13)** has been named a Fulbright Scholar for 2016–17. Only 800 individuals are selected annually for the Fulbright, the United States flagship international educational exchange program. After NMC, Chekhovskiy went on to the University of Michigan, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biomolecular science and French and a minor in Ukrainian language, literature and culture. Her Fulbright Teaching Assistantship assignment is as an English teaching assistant to school children in Ukraine. She plans to return to the United States to

attend medical school, with an emphasis on pediatric health.

■ Nursing alumna **NARGILYA GASANOVA (2012)** is a recent recipient of the Chevening Scholarship, a United Kingdom governmental award for students from across the globe. Gasanova, of Turkmenistan, is pursuing her master's degree in bioethics and society (Department of Global Health and Social Medicine) at the King's College in London, England.

TINA KNEISEL (1999) was selected by the faculty of the Spanish department at Grand Valley State University to receive

the academic excellence award at an honors convocation in April 2016. Kneisel went on to graduate summa cum laude from GVSU with a bachelor's degree in Spanish. "I am a non-traditional student as I am 52, but very proud of my degrees from NMC as well as GVSU," she said.

■ Culinary alumnus **AARON SMOCK (2011–12)**, second from right, was among chefs competing on the current season of *Hell's Kitchen*, a reality TV cooking contest in which 18 competitors are split into two teams and perform a series of high-pressure culinary challenges. The

KNOW AN OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS?

Nominate one (or more!) at nmc.edu/alumni by Feb. 20.

Established in 1988, the Outstanding Alumni award recognizes NMC alumni who are noteworthy for their significant professional achievements; and/or exemplary leadership in the local or global community



GOT GOOD NEWS?

New job? Earned a professional award, new credential or notched a personal accomplishment? Married or had a child? Share your alumni news by emailing alumni@nmc.edu.



MORE ALUMNI NOTES

last chef standing earns a head chef position at a restaurant in the The Venetian Resort in Las Vegas. A Frankenmuth native, Smock is currently a chef at The Homestead in Glen Arbor.

... Culinary alumnus **LARRY STEFFES (2002)** has been promoted to the position of resort executive chef at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. A 2002 graduate of NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute, he oversees all culinary operations, kitchens, and a culinary staff of more than 30 year-round chefs and cooks that expands to more than 50 in summer.

KEVIN STOTTS (1992) has been appointed to Michigan's 21st Century Education Commission. The 25-member commission is charged with making recommendations to position Michigan's education system as one of the nation's best in talent development. Stotts is president of Talent2025, a Grand Rapids-based employer effort to improve quality and quantity of talent in west Michigan.

... Nursing alumna **MICHELLE WITKOP, DNP, FNP-BC, (1977)** became the first RN to be inducted into the Traverse City Central High School Hall of Fame in June 2016.

From NMC Witkop went on to earn multiple degrees, most recently her doctorate in nursing practice from Oakland University. She is one of NMC's 2016 Outstanding Alumni and the lead clinician in Munson Medical Center's Northern Regional Bleeding Disorder Center.



“NMC was a pivot point in my life; which I am grateful for and proud to have attended.”

– Myron Lewis



..... MYRON (RON) LEWIS, 1986-87, is the president of Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital, in Zeeland, Mich., and a fellow of the American College of Health Care Association. He writes of his appreciation for NMC, after which he earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Michigan State University, a master’s degree in social work from Western Michigan University and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University:

“I graduated from high school academically average at best, and had undeveloped studying skills and neither of my parents graduated from college. My father was a cook at a local prison and my mother was a bus driver. I was unaware of what I wanted in a job or a career when I graduated high school, but I did know I needed to start somewhere ... NMC was a pivot point in my life; which I am grateful for and proud to have attended.”

..... MAX ANDERSON (2004-06) has been named the executive director of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce effective January 2017. A Suttons Bay native, Anderson went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University. Prior to joining the Chamber, he worked in a variety of customer service and banking positions. Anderson, who lives in Kingsley, succeeds former executive director Laura Oblinger, a 1997 NMC alumna. **N**

Career

Melissa is a certified medical biller and coder with a degree in biology. When she wanted a career with a non-profit organization, she turned to Munson Medical Center.

“I love it. We advocate for patients with insurance companies to help get their bills paid without them ever knowing it. I get a lot of satisfaction knowing I helped make everything better for the patient. If this job is right for you, you will spend the rest of your life doing it.”

What will your reason be for working at Munson Medical Center? Go to munsonhealthcare.org/yourreason.

 **MUNSON MEDICAL CENTER**
MUNSON HEALTHCARE



SAVE THE DATE:

March 10, 2017

The Boathouse will host the Culinary Student Showcase, a fundraiser for scholarships.

FIVE SPICE POWDER

This Chinese-style seasoning pairs very well with duck. Pork, chicken and tofu are great alternatives as well.

Yield: ¼ cup

- 8 cinnamon sticks
- 8 star anise pods
- 2 teaspoons fennel seed
- 2 teaspoons black peppercorns
- 1 teaspoon whole clove

Combine spices and toast in a dry pan, over medium flame, until aromatic. For best results, grind only as needed or in small batches—once spices are ground, the flavor dissipates over time. A spice grinder, coffee grinder or mortar and pestle will work. Store in airtight container.

— Chef James Morse





THE BOATHOUSE

A fine dining restaurant located on West Grand Traverse Bay,

The Boathouse has strong ties to NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute and is proud to employ many of its graduates to create the elegant dishes diners enjoy.

Executive Chef James Morse shares elements of his acclaimed Five Spice Duck Breast, an elevated version of the soul food classic Chicken and Waffles. **N**



JAMES MORSE, EXECUTIVE CHEF

Chef Morse is a fourth-generation northern Michigan native and 2000 graduate of the Great Lakes Culinary Institute. He has served in his current role since 2013 and also teaches part-time at GLCI.

He has a particular interest in world cuisine, blending Asian flavors with Western techniques and highlighting seasonal and local ingredients to create dishes that are simultaneously exotic and familiar.



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 3** **Academic World Quest**
 High school teams compete for best knowledge of world affairs.
 Hagerty Center tciaf.com

Public Viewing Night
 9–11 p.m., Rogers Observatory
 Admission \$2/person, \$5/family
 March 3, April 7 & 29.
 For all 2017 dates:
nmc.edu/rogersobservatory
- 8** **Lobdell's Opens for Lunch**
 Tues., Wed., Thurs., Great Lakes Campus
 (231) 995-3120 for reservations
- 24** **A Taste of Success: Sip, Savor, Support**
 6:30 p.m., Great Lakes Campus
 Tickets \$100, available at nmc.edu/tasteofsuccess

NMC Concert Band and Grand Traverse Chorale present "Home Sweet Home."
 7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
 Tickets available at the door or at MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717

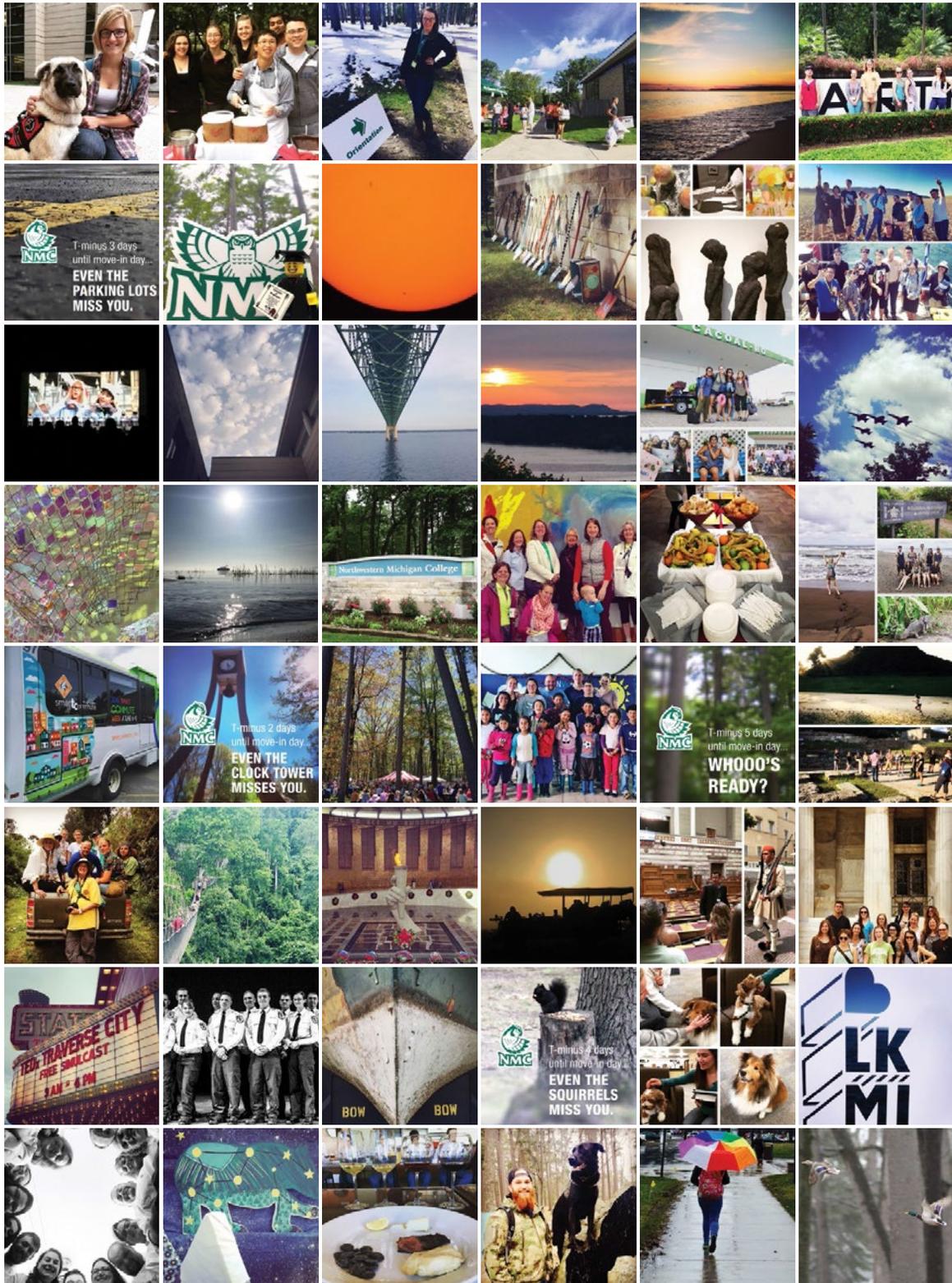
- 26** **NMC Choral performance—featuring the NMC Chamber Singers, Canticum Novum and the NMC Children's Choirs.**
 3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium
 Tickets available at the door or at MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717

MARCH

- 2** **Career Fair**
 4–5:30 p.m, Hagerty Center
 Open to the public as well as NMC students

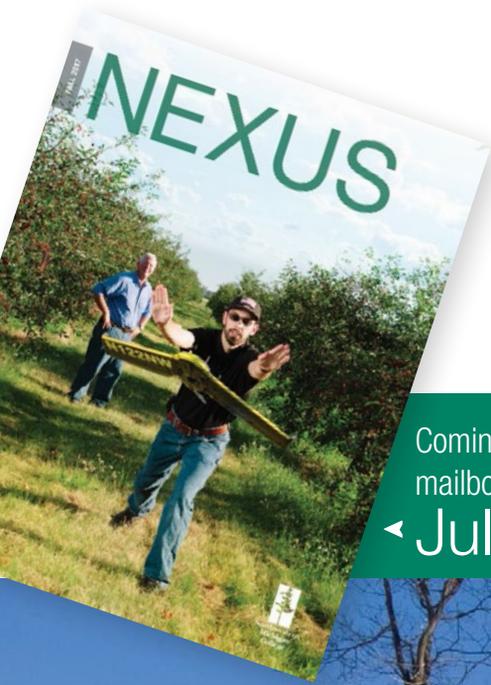
MAY

- 6** **Commencement**
 2 p.m., Traverse City Central High School
- 17** **TEDx Traverse City**
 Milliken Auditorium
tedxtravercity.com
- 21** **NMC Barbecue**
 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Main Campus



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A walking tour of NMC's outdoor sculptures is a great way to spend a winter afternoon. Nexus, by 1981 alumna Sally Rogers, was created from stainless steel and granite as a visual metaphor for an integrated approach to education.

Find a guide to all outdoor sculptures at dennosmuseum.org/exhibitions.