



# NorWester

A Publication for  
Alumni & Friends  
of Northwestern  
Michigan College

Fall 2007

## NMC alumni: Making a difference

As an alma mater, NMC has much to be proud of – some 17,000 alumni living, working and helping to improve their communities around the world. Wherever they call home, NMC alumni are leading meaningful lives using their personal talents and gifts. In this issue, we meet four.

**Lois Beardslee, 1974:** As a student, Beardslee was the first woman to join NMC's then-men's cross-country team. Today an adjunct Communications faculty member, her former coach, John Pahl, is her colleague, and she's still trying new things. A Native American writer and artist who lives in Leelanau County, Beardslee debuted a course in Native American literature this year and will teach it again in spring 2008.

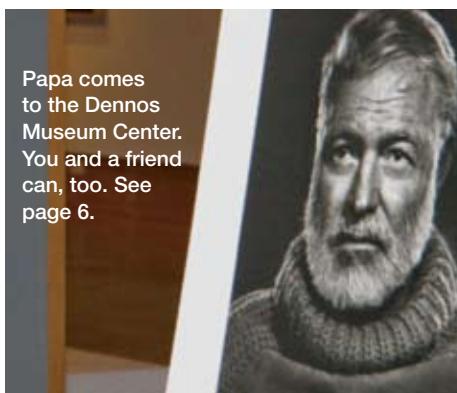
"There's a need in the community. Native American literature just barely creeps into standard literature courses," she said.

Communications Chair Bronwyn Jones said the course fits NMC well.

"NMC's service area is home to the largest Native American population east of the Mississippi River; so it makes sense we offer the best Native literature class possible," Jones said.

Beardslee also teaches introductory English and keeps up with her own writing. She's pictured at right with "A Broken Flute," the 2006 American Book Award winning reference guide to Native literature to which she contributed. "Not Far Away," a semi-fictional memoir, was published this year. A novel, "The Women's Warrior Society," is on tap for 2008.

Call (231) 995-1175 for information on the Native American literature course. For more alumni profiles, see page 4.



Papa comes to the Dennos Museum Center. You and a friend can, too. See page 6.

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**From the President**

## **How important are former students?**

### **Proud Fact:**

**For the last three years, more than 90% of NMC graduates and transfer students report accomplishing their educational goal and say that NMC is a good value for the money.**



**Northwestern Michigan College**



**Timothy J. Nelson**

At NMC we proudly tout our great faculty, small classes, affordable tuition, world-class cultural offerings, and the vast array of services and partnerships that benefit our community. We know that our work each day is important.

As important, though, is the work that occurs *after* we send a learner on his or her way.

In this NorWester you'll see many examples of meaningful work by former NMC students. We could fill volumes with the success stories and good deeds. With more than 80 percent of our alumni staying in or returning to the region to live and work, we have a profound impact on our community.

Can you tell that we are proud?

If you're a former student – or just a fan – and want to share the pride, please tell us. We ask for alumni updates because your success inspires others. Please go online to [www.nmc.edu/alumni](http://www.nmc.edu/alumni) or send in the "Keep in touch" form on p. 7 of this NorWester.

Your support matters, too. Our faculty and students take great pride in seeing the many NMC and alumni stickers on vehicles and in businesses around the area. It's a small gesture that speaks volumes.

Don't have a sticker yet? Just e-mail [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu), and we'll gladly send one your way. Better yet, come to an NMC event or just visit. We'd love to see you!

**"With more than 80 percent of our alumni staying in or returning to the region to live and work, we have a profound impact on our community."**

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

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## **Revving up for automotive students**

This 1950 Mercury owned by Larry Knight of Suttons Bay was one of 117 vehicles entered in the second annual Mike McIntosh Memorial Classic Car and 4x4 Show held in September. Entries were almost double 2006 numbers. Thanks to generous donations and community participation, the event in memory of the former NMC automotive instructor netted more than \$10,000 to benefit the department.

# Healthy collaborators: Culinary Institute, GT Pie Company

As owner of the Grand Traverse Pie Company, pie crust is a big deal to Mike Busley.

It's the foundation of the Traverse City-based company's signature product. But Busley also knew – because health-conscious customers were asking – that

he couldn't continue to use shortening with trans fats to make the crust.

So earlier this year, Busley looked down the street, literally, to NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute.

"It's a huge deal for us as a pie company to change our crust recipe," Busley said.

Having the Culinary Institute and Director Fred Laughlin to consult with was like having a food scientist on call. For culinary students, it also presented a real-world learning opportunity.

"We got the general direction set, and we did some early-on experimentation in (Laughlin's) kitchen and in our kitchen," Busley said.

The Pie Company has now settled on new, trans fat-free recipes for its bottom crust and crumb topping, and is refining the top crust.

They've been rolled out in 11 Pie Company bakery-cafes, a number Busley expects to double by the end of 2008. The company recently started franchising, and one of the newest owners is NMC alumnus Brent Standfest (1997). In June, he and twin brother Mark – sons of longtime NMC telephone operator Rosemary Standfest – opened the first of what will be four Pie Company stores in the Grand Rapids area. "So far, it's going great," Brent Standfest said.

Grand Traverse Pie Company owner Mike Busley, left, and Great Lakes Culinary Institute Director Fred Laughlin in the GLCI kitchen on NMC's Great Lakes Campus.



## Learn. Grow. Give.

NMC Foundation Board member Bruce Byl, a 1979 aviation alumnus, and Susan Sheldon are co-chairing the College's 2007-08 Annual Community Campaign. Now underway, the Annual Campaign is the best time to make a gift to NMC, because gifts from first-time donors will be matched by these generous organizations:

- H. Cox & Son, Inc.
- Fifth Third Bank
- Huntington Bank
- Jordan Exploration Company
- National City Bank
- NMC Foundation board members
- Oleson Foundation
- Art & Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation
- TBA Credit Union



Bruce Byl



Susan Sheldon

An investment in NMC opens doors to deserving students, broadens horizons by bringing art and culture from around the world to our community, and inspires others to give, too. The 2007-08 campaign seeks to raise \$330,000 and inspire 55 first-time donors to NMC.

**Make your gift online at  
[www.nmc.edu/foundation](http://www.nmc.edu/foundation)**



## From the archives

A DJ at WNMC spins 45s at the radio station in this image from NMC's 1969 yearbook. The station turns 40 years old this year. Originally broadcasting only on campus, this fall WNMC will begin broadcasting on a new, more reliable transmitter. The transmitter was purchased with funds from the NMC Barbecue as well as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Go to [www.wnmc.org](http://www.wnmc.org) for more information on the station.

# NMC alumni: Making a difference

## Running for clean water

**David Christof, 2001:** A Czech native involved in student government while at NMC, Christof was one of 20 international runners chosen for Blue Planet Run, a fundraising odyssey for clean water projects worldwide.

Starting and finishing in New York City, Christof and his teammates ran 15,000 miles through 16 countries between June and September to raise awareness about the 1.1 billion people worldwide who lack clean, safe drinking water. Held around the clock, each runner completed a 10-mile leg daily.



David Christof

According to Christof's blog, memorable runs included a 3:30 a.m. sprint through the downtown Prague neighborhood where he grew up, over the Volga River in Russia, and

up to the Continental Divide in Colorado, the run's highest elevation.

"The sun was just arising when we arrived. I was standing on the top of the world, beyond myself, in disbelief that I just ran, with no sleep, 10 miles uphill, into 12,095 (feet) elevation, and that this feat could actually help someone get access to safe drinking water," he wrote about the run up Independence Pass.

Post-run, Christof returned to his position as a residence hall adviser at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

## New career via UC

**Dale Dankert, NMC '02, UC '04:** About 10 years ago, Dankert's wife encouraged him to take a voracious reading habit to the next level and enroll at NMC. Just in case it didn't work out, Dankert didn't tell many people.

"I just didn't think of myself as college material," said Dankert, who worked for 30 years as a farrier, traveling to barns



Dale Dankert

around the region shoeing and trimming horses' hooves.

He proved himself wrong, earning first his associate's degree from NMC and then a BA from Grand Valley

State through the University Center. Next year the 48-year-old Kingsley resident plans to complete his master's in counseling from Western Michigan, also through the UC.

He's now interning with the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, facilitating group therapy for men convicted of domestic violence. After graduation he hopes to make a major career change, though his farrier experience has been unexpectedly valuable.

"Oddly enough, shoeing horses was good preparation," Dankert said, noting how being attuned to animals helps him understand his counseling clients' nonverbal communication cues.

Dankert's encouraging his two teenage sons to attend NMC and said he feels fortunate to have the range of educational options NMC offers in Traverse City.

"I didn't have the option of relocating my family to get an education," he said. "It's been a very personal, wonderful thing."

Shawn Kasner

## Started E Waste Recycling

**Shawn Kasner, 2006:** Ready to reboot an old computer to the junkyard? Send it to Kasner for recycling instead.

This spring, Kasner, 35, launched E Waste Electronic Recycling in Traverse City, a business that strips computers and other electronic gear of their components for reuse.

E Waste grew out of a chance observation on clean-up day at Kasner's other business, Prodigy Graphics. Drawing upon his visual communications studies at NMC, he works with local bands to package, design and duplicate their CDs.

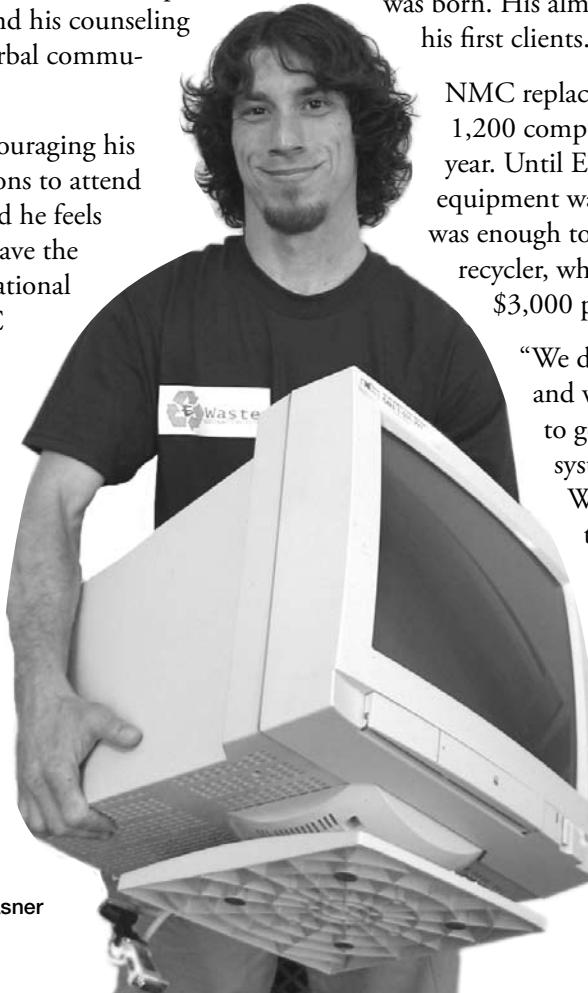
"We were cleaning up our shop and taking some junk to the landfill," he recalled. "And I saw all of these old computers, right in the landfill, being bulldozed into the ground."

Some online research followed. "I saw that people were starting to recycle computers – separating the parts, like the metal, wiring and components," Kasner said. He decided to try it, and E Waste was born. His alma mater was among his first clients.

NMC replaces about half of its 1,200 computers every other year. Until E Waste, obsolete equipment was stored until there was enough to justify calling a recycler, which cost up to \$3,000 per truckload.

"We don't have to store it and we don't have to pay to get rid of it," said IT systems director Dan Wasson. "They can take it and dispose of it properly by recycling it. It's a huge win for the college."

Contact  
E Waste at  
(231) 947-7436.  
His story was originally published in Northern Express and edited by Cari Noga.



# Alumni updates

Receive the latest alumni news right in your inbox. Go to [www.nmc.edu/alumni](http://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.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu). When you sign up for the e-mail list or send us an update by Dec. 31, you'll receive an NMC alumni sticker (at right).

## 1950s

**Marjorie (Underhill) Kerr** (1951-53) retired from the Lansing School System in 1986.

## 1960s

**Mary (Schildroth) Sarar** (1959-61) retired in 2001 after teaching for 37 years; served as director of an art gallery for three years. Mary now lives in Tennessee and is engaged in award-winning artistic pursuits.

## 1970s

**Daniel Weiser** (1978 graduate) has been a B-767 captain for the past five years. Now living in Loveland Ohio, he has been an active pilot union member, retirement committee chair, and 401(k) fiduciary trustee.

## 1980s

**Don Adams** (1978-80) attained his bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University prior to serving in the Air Force for more than seven years as an F-15 pilot. Working for UPS since 1994, he currently serves as a captain and OIE instructor. He lives in Edinburgh, Ind.

**Kenneth "Andy" Repke II** (1986-87) is the senior captain for JW Childs Associates in Boston, Mass. His position allows him to fly a G-IV and LR-60 throughout the world.

**Suzann (Marvin) Rubin** (1978-80) lives near Baltimore, Maryland, and is working as a pediatric nurse practitioner in a high risk nursery at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

**Aaron Stoliker** (1988 graduate) received a degree in Aviation Technology and Operations Management from Western Michigan University in 1992. Since then, he has worked for Mesaba Airlines, Northwest Airlines and Kalitta Air. He is currently a DC-9 first officer for Northwest Airlines, based at Detroit's Metropolitan Airport. He lives in Ann Arbor.

**Jeanne (Finkel) Strathman** (1978-80) of Honor started a hearing aid business, Advanced Hearing Center, P.C., in 1993 in Benzonia, and opened a second office in Traverse City in 2006.

## 1990s

**Chris Garvin** (1997-1999) is co-producer and co-writer of Western New York Living, airing on WGRZ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Buffalo, N.Y. The program showcases places, products and events unique to western New York. Chris lives in Buffalo with his wife, Alysha Palumbo, whom he met when they worked together in Traverse City at TV 7 & 4.

**Lisa Griggs** (1988-90) graduated from the University of Michigan in 1993. Now living in Traverse City, Lisa is the marketing/administrative manager for KAMARCA, LLC and Artisan Retreat.

**Troy Partlo** (1997 graduate) flew one year for Air Service before flying a Saab 340 for nine years with Mesaba Airlines. He is currently with Southwest Airlines.

**Michael Prince** (1989-91) flies an Embraer Legacy for a private individual in Las Vegas.



**Know an Outstanding Alumnus? Go to [www.nmc.edu/alumni](http://www.nmc.edu/alumni) by Feb. 22, 2008, to nominate them for the annual award presented at commencement.**



## A family tradition

When James Kratky (black shirt) spoke to Presidential Scholarship recipients this fall, he welcomed them on behalf of all current and former Presidential Scholars – whose ranks include his father. Jim Kratky (floral shirt) was in the inaugural group of Presidential Scholars, and received an AAS in Design Engineering Technology in 1985. James Kratky received an ASA in Education from NMC in 2003 and a Bachelor's Degree from Ferris State. The family's NMC roots go one generation deeper. James C. Kratky, father and grandfather to those photographed, also attended NMC, starting in 1960.



## In memory

Dr. George T. Miller, Jr., President of NMC from 1981-86, passed away on June 7, 2007 in Houston, Texas. He was 68.

Among the achievements during his presidency were the creation of the NMC Foundation, and planning and fundraising for the Dennos Museum Center.

# Students earn generous scholarships



Hayley Avery

The NMC Foundation is proud to award more scholarship dollars than any other community college in Michigan. We're also proud that our students

earn the generosity of elite scholarship programs around the country. Here are just two recent examples:

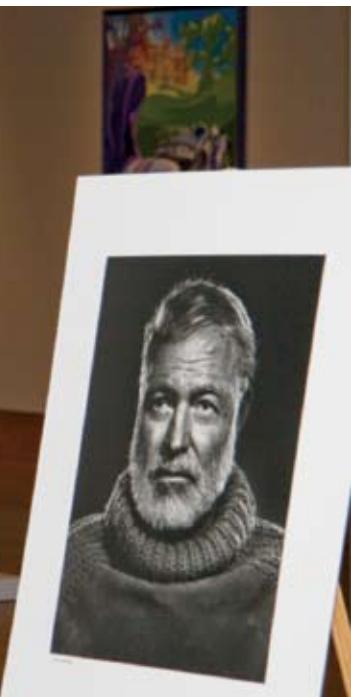
- 2007 NMC graduate Alexey Morozov, an international student from St. Petersburg, Russia, was named one of 51 winners nationwide of a Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The largest scholarship offered in the U.S. to community college transfer students, the awards can total up to \$30,000 per year for up to three years. Morozov chose to use

his scholarship to continue his engineering studies at Michigan Technological University in Houghton.

- Incoming fall semester student Hayley Avery of Traverse City is one of 100 recipients nationwide of a \$5,000 service scholarship from Coca-Cola Enterprises, the company's bottling division and her father's employer. A 2007 graduate of St. Francis High School in Traverse City, Avery and a friend started a weekly community meal served at St. Francis on Saturdays. The meal is served to up to 75 people on a \$100 budget and helps fill the weekend void that existed in the Traverse City soup kitchen schedule. Avery also works at a Traverse City veterinary clinic and plans to pursue "the basics" at NMC with an eye toward a medical career.

To establish or donate to an NMC scholarship, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (231) 995-1021.

Alexey Morozov, right, will use his scholarship to continue his engineering studies.



## Get two for one at the Dennos

Through January 6, 2008, bring this edition of NorWester to the Dennos Museum Center and receive two-for-one admission to two fabulous exhibits. Above left, Executive Director Eugene Jenneman accepted a gift of this Ernest Hemingway photograph from the Yousuf Karsh family at the September opening reception. The Karsh exhibit, "Portraying

Greatness," features 30 black-and-white photographs of world-famous faces in politics, royalty and the arts and sciences. Running concurrently is "Romancing the Automobile," a nostalgic journey and tribute to the automobile, one of the most powerful design images of our time. Among the exhibit's featured works is this 1956 Buick Centurion concept car, above right.

## Plan ahead...

**Mark your calendar for the following upcoming NMC events:**

**Nov. 9**

Campus Day for 50+  
9:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., University Center Campus

**Nov. 10**

Mariners Memorial Service  
Noon, Great Lakes Maritime Academy

**Nov. 15**

International Affairs Forum lecture  
Journalist Richard Halloran speaking on China  
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

**Nov. 17**

Fall Family Day  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Dennos Museum Center

**Nov. 17, Dec. 1**

Free Public Viewing Nights  
8-10 p.m., Rogers Observatory

**Nov. 28**

Free Film Series showing of "American Graffiti"  
7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

**Dec. 5**

Free Film Series showing of "Tucker: The Man and His Dream"  
7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

**Dec. 7**

NMC Jazz Band concert  
8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

**Dec. 14**

NMC Community Concert Band concert  
8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

## 2008

**Jan. 12, Feb. 9, 20, Mar. 1**

Free Public Viewing Nights  
8-10 p.m., Rogers Observatory

**Jan. 25**

NMC dance performance  
8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

**May 3**

NMC Commencement  
Traverse City Central High School

**May 18**

53rd annual NMC Barbecue, Main Campus

Visit [www.nmc.edu](http://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](http://www.nmc.edu/news)

## Honoring an inspiring instructor

Regional historian Kathleen Firestone took her first writing class from NMC instructor John Pahl back in 1979. She wanted to write a book.



John Pahl

When the class was over, the book wasn't finished. So she took another class. Then a third.

"They Came to South Fox Island," Firestone's history

of the island in northern Lake Michigan, was published in 1983. Now out of print, she updated a retitled version,

"The Fox Islands, North and South" in 1996. In between came "An Island in Grand Traverse Bay" in 1992.

Though no longer her instructor, Pahl remained a mentor and editor, reading all of them. In thanks, Firestone has established the Pahl Literary Prize at NMC.

"I just feel like he's been supportive through years of my writing, and I know I'm not the only one," said Firestone, adding she and Pahl both hope the prize will also inspire students to write.

"I wanted to reward students for good writing. I know John appreciates good writing and encourages those who want to do it."

The \$100 cash prize will be awarded to one student per semester for writing done as a class assignment, published in the White Pine Press or in the NMC Magazine. For more information, call 995-1175.

**"I wanted to reward students for good writing."**

- Kathleen Firestone, author

## 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.

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

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Non-credit classes to enhance your life  
are always enrolling. Visit [nmc.edu/ees](http://nmc.edu/ees)  
or call 995-1700 for a schedule.

## NMC bestows highest honor on Oleson second generation

Brothers Donald W. Oleson Sr. and Gerald E. Oleson Jr. are the 2007 recipients of NMC's highest honor, the NMC Fellow.

NMC has named "Fellows" since 1964 as a way of recognizing and thanking those who have made special contributions to the college, whether through creative counsel, monetary resources or inspiring leadership.

The brothers have carried on the NMC Barbecue tradition started in 1956 by their parents, Gerald and Frances Oleson – who were among the first class of NMC Fellows in 1964.

Each year, Oleson's Food Stores donates all of the food for the Barbecue. Now retired, the brothers have inspired their children to become the third generation to continue the proud Oleson family tradition. They also still volunteer every year, and plan to be on duty again at the 53rd annual Barbecue May 18, 2008.



Jerry Oleson, Jr. left, and Don Oleson, right, pictured here at the 2006 NMC Barbecue, are the 2007 recipients of NMC's highest honor, the NMC Fellow.