



NorWester

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Fall 2008

In this issue of NorWester, you'll meet three alumni who share an NMC education but have used it to pursue very different life paths.

Let us know where you've been since your NMC days, too. Go to www.nmc.edu/alumni or send back the form on p. 7.

Realizing a lifelong dream

At age 11, Ric Berlinski read James Herriot's classic, "All Creatures Great and Small" and decided he wanted to be a veterinarian, too.

Then he got sidetracked – for about 25 years. The Gaylord native earned an associate degree in business administration from NMC in 1984 and was lured west by high-paying work in the oil industry. But he hated the job and his life, he said. At a turning point in his late 30s, Berlinski turned again to NMC – this time to take pre-veterinary classes.

Now "Dr. Ric" is living his childhood dream, thanks to NMC instructors like Steve Drake, Greg LaCross, Keith Overbaugh and retirees Adam Gahn and Bob Rudd. In November 2007 he became the first chief veterinarian at the John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids.

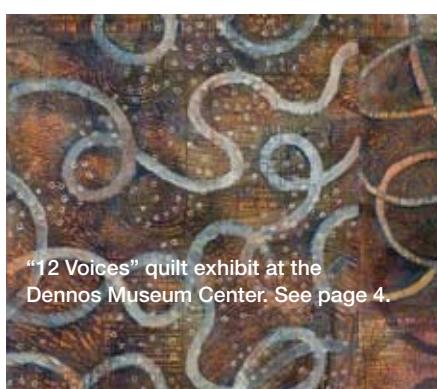
"I don't see how I would have made it through the pre-vet without them," Berlinski said of his NMC mentors. "If you had to pay them overtime for all the hours I kept them after, they'd all have retirement homes."

But Berlinski proved his determination, too, winning the W.R. Angell biology
continued on page 3



Ric Berlinski, Chief Veterinarian, John Ball Zoo

Photo by Emily Zoladz. Copyright 2008 The Grand Rapids Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



"12 Voices" quilt exhibit at the Dennen Museum Center. See page 4.

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**The NMC
Foundation
will award
more than
\$1 million
in private
scholarships
to students
this year.**



**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

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From the President

Coming full circle



Timothy J. Nelson

Whenever I meet a second- or third-generation NMC student, I always feel an extra sense of pride. It's the ultimate compliment when those who attended here themselves entrust us with their child's or grandchild's education. It creates a full circle and, at a micro level, it is the story of NMC, repeated over and over for almost 60 years now.

But that is only a part of the story. For whenever our community asks us to do something, it then generously supports our efforts.

That support takes many forms – students in our classrooms being just one. It includes volunteering, it includes advocacy, and it includes fundraising support.

For many, that support comes through the Annual Community Campaign, now under way for 2008-09. We passed our goal last year, and have set an even higher goal this year. (See below.) I know we'll achieve it because every day I see how much faith our community has in NMC.

Another example you'll read about in this NorWester: thanks to the generosity of NMC donors, the NMC Foundation will award more than \$1 million in private scholarships to students this year. That's a major milestone, and distinguishes NMC in the state.

Here on campus, we'll be working diligently to continue to earn your support and trust, keeping tuition reasonable, class sizes small, providing a top-notch academic experience and stretching every dollar to do so.

Together we can continue to meet our community's learning needs for the next 60 years. Our partnership with you and the thousands of others we serve is one of this region's enduring success stories.

Alumni giving: Exponentially important

The last time many alumni thought about the power of 10 was likely in a long-ago math class.

The NMC Foundation hopes to get you thinking about it again. As a new theme within the 2008-09 Annual Community Campaign, the "Power of 10" aims to encourage first-time alumni donors to give \$10 toward the \$350,000 goal. The campaign also seeks 100 new donors.

Completion of 32 credits at NMC, rather than formal graduation, confers alumni status. NMC has more than 10,000 alumni who meet that criteria.



Susan Sheldon



Bruce Byl

"If we can get all of them to give \$10, it'll make a huge impact," said campaign co-chair Susan Sheldon. Sharing chair duties with her is Bruce Byl.

Under their leadership, last year's Annual Community Campaign set both dollar and participant records, with more than 660 donors collectively surpassing the \$330,000 goal.

The Annual Community Campaign supports student scholarships as well as other NMC needs. Donors may direct their contribution to a scholarship or program area of their choice.

To give online, go to www.nmc.edu/foundation and click on "Give now."

Veterinarian

continued from cover

scholarship while he pursued his pre-vet coursework. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Florida and attended vet school at Ross University in Edison, N.J. He worked at zoos in Indiana and Cincinnati and did consulting work at the now-closed Clinch Park Zoo in Traverse City before landing the Grand Rapids job.

Now 47, Berlinski loves his job and his life. He's especially challenged by the vast range of the hundreds of animals he cares for, true to the title of the book that inspired him.

"There's no way I'm going to know everything about every case I'm going to see," Berlinski said. "That creates that special challenge of always being innovative in my treatments."



Building technology to save lives

From the road, Great Lakes Maritime Academy graduate Paul Grayson's Grand Traverse County garage is nondescript.

But what's going on inside, where Grayson and a team of volunteers are working at the behest of the U.S. Department of Defense to outfit a 1954 Army supply truck with driverless vehicle technology, could be transformative.

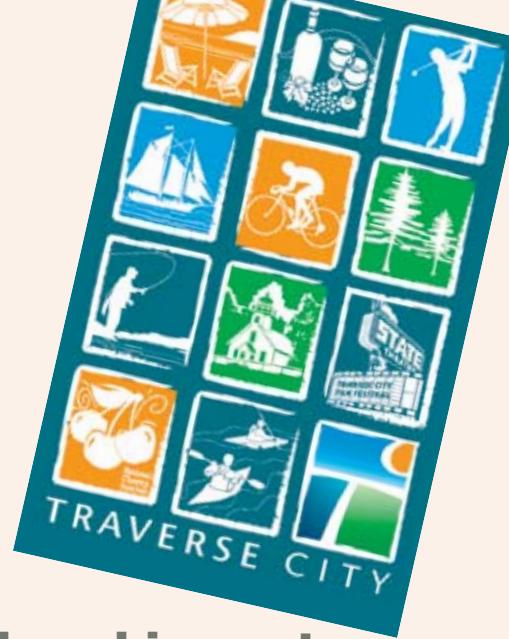
After a Navy career, Grayson, 59, attended the Maritime Academy from 1984-87 to convert his military license to civilian. He spent a decade on ships before the U.S. Naval Reserve called him up to serve in the Persian Gulf War. Then, seven years ago, back in Traverse City following his Middle East tour, Grayson got a call asking him to research driverless vehicle technology. He set to the project willingly.

"It will save lives," Grayson said, adding the technology has civilian applications as well as military.

To encourage research and development, the DoD's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, has offered million-dollar prizes in three driverless vehicles competitions. The technology has advanced significantly thanks to those races, Grayson said. The first year, 2004, no vehicles finished. In 2005, five did. While they didn't enter their own vehicle, members of Grayson's team worked on four finishers, he said.

Last year's race had six finishers. Future races and official continuity of the project itself hinge on the presidential election outcome, Grayson said. But he plans to keep plugging away regardless. Congress has said it wants a third of U.S. Army vehicles – some 400,000 units, Grayson estimates – converted to driverless operation by 2015, a deadline he hopes to beat. His mantra is finding the "money, manpower and materials" to do so.

For more information on the project, visit www.aimagic.org



Local impact

Tourism is the lifeblood of the Grand Traverse region, and visual communications graduate Laurie Schutza is helping to keep it pumping.

As part of her final VisComm project in spring 2008, the Traverse City native designed a Traverse City-themed T-shirt and tote bag now being sold exclusively at the Traverse City Convention and Visitors Bureau, where 60,000 visitors pass through annually. Incorporating the CVB's logo, the design features a grid of a dozen different illustrations of iconic Traverse City activities and attractions, including golfing, boating, bicycling, wine tasting, the National Cherry Festival, tall ship Manitou and State Theatre.

According to Visitors Center manager Kathee McCafferty, the T-shirts are "selling steadily" and could become an annual project.

"I just felt there was a market for something unusual, a limited edition t-shirt," said McCafferty.

The Bureau also used the Schutza-designed tote bags as a promotional gift at a tourism convention earlier this year. Complete with a cherry pie from the Grand Traverse Pie Company inside, they were a big success, McCafferty said.

Besides the T-shirts, Schutza also designed two billboards for the CVB, which are located on highways in suburban Chicago.



The Whitfield Company



An Da Union

A smorgasbord of sound

From acoustic to zydeco, the 2008-09 Milliken Auditorium concert series is a multi-genre musical feast drawn from around the globe, featuring a dose of audience favorites plus newcomers whose talents promise to resound long after the applause ends. Some highlights:

- WNMC benefit featuring Jeff Haas Little Big Band with Betty Joplin. Support NMC's volunteer-run community public radio station (91.5 FM) and enjoy an evening of jazz and soul classics and original compositions featuring the Jeff Haas Little Big Band with special guest Grammy-nominated vocalist Betty Joplin. Nov. 29.
- Celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King in a concert of gospel music with Detroit's The Whitfield Company. Presented in collaboration with NMC Diversity Services and the Traverse City Human Rights Commission. With eight albums to its credit, the Whitfield Company travels extensively and is a member of the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Jan. 16, 2009.
- Like nothing you've ever heard before. An Da Union features ten young and dynamic musicians from Inner Mongolia who bring power, excitement, and the haunting beauty of their homeland and culture to each and every performance. Feb. 21, 2009.

All performances are at 8 p.m. See the full concert season schedule at www.dennosmuseum.org. Tickets are available online.

Now at the Dennos

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc.'s "12 Voices" exhibition, on display through Jan. 4, 2009, gives viewers a rare, in-depth look at a dozen of the best quilt artists working today. Some are internationally known. Others are fresh faces displaying strong and promising talent. Curated by PBS host and author Penny McMorris.



Clockwise: "Secret Diary" by Angela Moll, "Detour" by Deidre Adams, and "Anxiety Won" by Ginny Smith are on display through Jan. 4.

Next at the Dennos

The paintings of former NMC adjunct art instructor Fred Petroskey will be on exhibit Jan. 18-April 5, 2009. A Leelanau County native, Petroskey spent years teaching in Boston before returning to the area. He taught at NMC in the 1990s and was the 2007 artist-in-residence at The Old Art Building in Leland.



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.edu

1950s

John Delanty (1955-1956) earned a BBA from Western Michigan University after graduating from NMC. He has worked more than 50 years in the paper industry in various capacities, and continues to represent manufacturers of papermill packaging today. He is married with six children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild due soon.

1960s

Bonnie Neitzke (1965-1967) went on to earn a MSN and is an Advanced Practice Nurse at Family Practice & Urgent Care in Forks, Wash. She is looking forward to traveling when her assignment there is done. She misses the snow and four definite seasons of Michigan weather.

1970s

Duane Beeman (1974-1976) graduated from the University of Michigan and Detroit College of Law. He currently practices law at Roncelli, Inc. in the Detroit area and has three children in college.

Frank Glowacki (1975-1977) is currently Chief Engineer for NBC News Channel. He credits his strong background in electronics obtained at NMC for his ability to work his way from part-time employment with WPBN to his current position where he is in charge of live events, such as political news and Olympic coverage. He lives in Charlotte, N.C. with his wife and daughter, where he enjoys the short winters.

Marc Hooper (1969-1972) served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1972-74. He then continued his education, earning BS and MBA degrees from Michigan State University. He spent five years in consulting sales for FMC Corporation in western New York, and 17 years in various positions for United Agri Products, Inc. He is currently a consultant and pest control advisor for AgUnlimited, The Lyman Group, Inc. in Lakeport, Cal., and is married to Brenda Starr.

Charles Lord (1972-1974) has served as women's basketball coach at Delta College for 13 years and athletic director for 6 years. He has been on staff at Delta for a total of 32 years.

Jennifer Johnson Steiner (1974-1977) earned a BS in nursing at the University of Michigan following her graduation from NMC. She has worked for the University of Michigan Health System in pediatric infectious diseases, adult cancer, arthritis, plastic surgery and is currently Clinical Nurse II in pediatric ambulatory care.

1980s

Tracie (Doering) Hardy (1984-1986) Tracie is a certified medical assistant, working as Financial Coordinator for Robert Portenga, DDS, MS. She is vice president of the Michigan Society of Medical

Assistants, and president-elect of the Northwest chapter of MSMA. She and her husband are the parents of two daughters and recently opened The El Dorado, a new restaurant located in downtown Traverse City.

Lorie Pitts (1985-1988) moved to Grand Rapids and earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Grand Valley State University. She currently works at Foremost Insurance in Grand Rapids. She shared that she is very glad she chose to attend NMC and had a great time living on campus while attending.

Brenda (Greenlee) Pylkas (1983-1985) is a CPA for Baird, Cotter and Bishop PC, a public accounting firm in Cadillac.

Tamara Santana (1986-1988) After graduating from NMC's Commercial Art program in 1988, she continued her studies, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in photographic sciences from Brooks Institute of Photography in California. She is currently a self-employed photographer in the Los Angeles area, where she lives with her husband and two sons.

1990s

Sally L. Baker (1989-1991) is currently a Corporate Account Manager for Sara Lee Foodservice. She lives in Arizona with her 12-year-old daughter, and loves being a mom and working in corporate America.

Dr. Nicole Runyon (1992-1995) graduated from NMC in 1995 as a Great Lakes Maritime Academy Deck Officer. She continued her studies earning a BA in Political Science at Ohio State University, a MSA in Administration at CMU and PhD in Education from Walden University. She writes, "I credit

the Great Lakes Maritime Academy with providing a strong and unique foundation that has allowed me to have a career teaching online."

2000s

Robert Mark Bursian (1996-2003) received certification in January 2008 from the China Ministry of Education to teach English as a foreign language, as well as a Foreign Expert Card from the China Ministry of Foreign Experts Affairs. He is teaching English language classes at one of seven locations of the Handan Chuang Foreign Languages School, with a student enrollment of 10,000 students ages 6 to 17 years old. He is a resident of Handan, a city in the Hebei Province of China, population 1.8 million.

Brian William Gahsman (1999-2001) earned a BBA in Quantitative Financial Analysis from Western Michigan University. He currently lives in downtown Minneapolis and works for The Leuthold Group, LLC as a Securities Analyst/Trader. He is pursuing a CFA for Portfolio Management.

Linus Parr (2002-2005) graduated in December 2005 from NMC's Visual Communications Department, then continued his studies and earned a BFA from the College for Creative Studies in May 2008. He says "NMC was a great stepping stone to my new career as an Art Director!" He would love to hear from former NMC classmates.

Mike Pringle (1998-2000) attended Central Michigan University following his time at NMC, majoring in psychology. He was recently appointed as sales associate for Ironkeep Technologies, LLC in Traverse City, where he'll be marketing their ISP, as well as services like storage, data backup and co-location.

From the archives

NMC students rake leaves on campus during one of the first campus-wide cleanups in the mid-1950s. The annual event has since been moved to spring.



Starting a scholarship at NMC

NMC offers two types of donor-funded scholarships. Both allow donors to name the scholarship and establish recipient criteria. Donors are also invited to the annual spring Scholarship Luncheon, where they may meet their scholarship recipient.

- **Unendowed:** Donors make a \$5,000 commitment over five years. \$1,000 is awarded each year, either to one or two recipients. At the end of the five-year period, the donor may renew the scholarship.
- **Endowed:** Donors contribute \$15,000 initially. Only the earnings are awarded, allowing the scholarship to continue in perpetuity. Donors – both the original and others – may also add to the original endowed amount.

Why do donors establish scholarships? Chris Studenka, NMC Director of Planned Giving, says it's a desire to leave a legacy combined with a desire to help someone else. Some donors may see scholarships as a way to give back for opportunities they received. Others want to provide opportunities that they may have missed. Still others want to honor or memorialize a family member or someone important in their lives. But whatever the specific motivation, the end result is the same.

"They really want to help the students," Studenka said. "It's their chance to help students attain higher education."

For more information on establishing or donating to scholarships, contact Chris Studenka at cstudenka@nmc.edu or (231) 995-1855.

Scholarships: Turning promise into possible

Thanks to generous donors who have established more than 400 scholarships, NMC is proud to award more scholarship dollars to more students than any other community college in Michigan – an expected \$1 million in 2008-09. A snapshot of some recent scholarships and recipients:

- **Excellence in IT Scholarship:** Established in 2007 by Safety Net, a Traverse City IT services and consulting firm. The company hopes the \$1,000/year scholarship cultivates a talent pool of future employees, said principal Beth Holmes-Bozung, who founded Safety Net with her husband Kevin Bozung in 2003. They now employ a dozen people, including one graduate of NMC's Computer Information Technology program and another currently enrolled. "We'd like to have more people on staff like them," Holmes-Bozung said. "We want to help (NMC) turn out more great candidates that we need to hire in the years to come."

- **Margaret Furney Scholarship:** A retired teacher who wholeheartedly valued higher education, Mrs. Furney in 2007 left NMC a \$1.1 million estate to be used as scholarships for single parents – the largest single gift by an individual in the Foundation's history. Sarah Jewell was one of the 2007-08 recipients. Mother of a 14-year-old son, she plans to complete her associate's degree at NMC this December and then pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology. Besides the Furney Scholarship, she's also received the Benzie County Women's Historical Society Scholarship.
- **Barbecue Scholarship:** In honor of serving the 500,000th guest at the 2008 NMC Barbecue, the NMC Foundation awarded a full-tuition scholarship chosen by a random drawing. Ashley Nauman of Traverse City was the lucky winner whose ticket was pulled on Barbecue Day. She can choose to use or give away the scholarship for up to 10 years. The Foundation will again award a full-tuition scholarship to a randomly-chosen ticket holder at the 2009 Barbecue, set for May 17, 2009.



A pair of young BBQ-goers check out the growing pile of tickets entered to win the full-tuition scholarship given away at the 2008 event in honor of serving the 500,000th guest. Ashley Nauman of Traverse City was the randomly-drawn winner. The 2009 Barbecue will also feature a scholarship drawing.

Plan ahead...

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming NMC events:

Nov. 1

Fall Family Day

10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dennos Museum Center
Info: www.dennosmuseum.org/education

Nov. 1

Reinventing the Rest of Your Life: A Conference for Women

9 a.m.-6 p.m., Hagerty Conference Center
Info: www.nmc.edu/ees

Nov. 7

Lifelong Learning Campus Day for 50+

9:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., University Center
Info: www.nmc.edu/ees

Nov. 8, Dec. 20

Free Public Viewing Nights

8-10 p.m., Rogers Observatory
Info: www.nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

November 20

International Affairs Forum lecture

"U.S. Foreign Policy Under a New President"
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
Info: www.nmc.edu/ees

Nov. 21

NMC Community Band Concert

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
Tickets: (231) 995-1553

December 12

NMC Jazz Band concert

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
Tickets: (231) 995-1553

2009

Feb. 27

Tasters Guild Auction to benefit the Great Lakes Culinary Institute

Hagerty Conference Center
Tickets: (231) 995-1376

May 17

NMC Barbecue

11 a.m.-5 p.m., Main Campus

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

Faculty Excellence Award Winners

NMC students selected communications instructor Connie Jason as NMC's 2008 Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award winner, and math instructor Stephen Lockman as the 2008 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award winner.



Connie Jason



Stephen Lockman

Lockman, of Williamsburg, first taught at NMC in the summer of 1991 as a computer instructor for the Upward Bound summer program, and returned each summer through

1996. In August 2000 he started teaching math as an academic adjunct. He follows in the footsteps of his mother, Loretta Lockman, who taught in NMC's licensed practical nursing program for 20 years in the 1950s and 60s.

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

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



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Reinventing the Rest of Your Life: A one-day conference for women

Give yourself a day to explore your life now and how you might shape the next chapters:
Who do you want to be?
What's in your way?
How do you get started?

Saturday, Nov. 1
Hagerty Conference Center
Details: www.nmc.edu/ees



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NMC Fellows announced

Longtime NMC supporters Barbara and Chuck Benson, Louise Hagerty, and Terry and Wayne Lobdell are the 2008 recipients of the college's highest honor, the NMC Fellow award.

NMC has named Fellows since 1964. The award recognizes and thanks those who have made special contributions to the college – whether through creative counsel, monetary resources or inspiring leadership.

- **Barbara and Chuck Benson** – Among their many activities, Barbara and Chuck have established an endowed scholarship at NMC and sponsored the NMC Scholarship Open golf outing for more than 10 years. Barbara is the immediate past chair of the NMC Foundation Board and also served NMC as Annual Community Campaign co-chair for three years.
- **Louise Hagerty** – Louise's championship of NMC goes back to the 1970s, when she was a member of the Development Fund Committee – a group of volunteer advocates which preceded the NMC Foundation. In 2004, she and her family made a significant commitment to the Great Lakes Campus, resulting in the naming of the Hagerty Center.
- **Terry and Wayne Lobdell** – Longtime NMC friends, in recent years the Lobdells have made sustaining philanthropic gifts to help create the Great Lakes Campus and scholarship assistance for students enrolled in the Great Lakes Culinary Institute. In making their gift, the Lobdells said they wanted to demonstrate philanthropy to their children and give back to the community.

New Water Studies director

Traverse City native Hans W. VanSumeren was named director of NMC's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute in July.



Hans W. VanSumeren

NMC formed the Institute in 2003 with a vision of inspiring lifelong stewardship of freshwater through education and partnership. As its new leader, VanSumeren said he wants to enhance the Institute's relationship with other NMC programs and departments, including Maritime, Aviation, Osterlin Library and Energy. He has already initiated using the Aviation sea plane to conduct research projects and deploy gear on regional inland lakes.

A 1987 graduate of Traverse City High School, VanSumeren spent the last two decades studying and working at the University of Michigan Marine Hydrodynamics Laboratory, most recently as its Associate Director.