



NorWester

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Fall 2010

From NMC council to U.S. Congress

Back in 1971, some NMC students, including a Yooper by the name of Bart Stupak, decided the student council was blowing its budget on the wrong student activities.

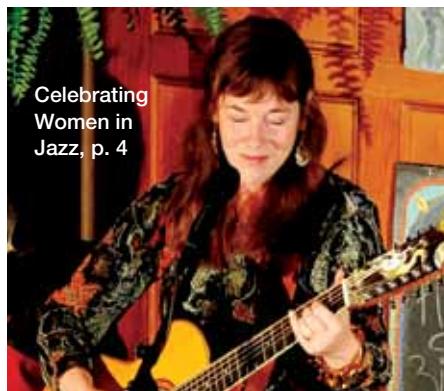
Instead of sitting around complaining, Stupak and his friends ran for the college council – and won. Stupak then was elected council president. Out went pricey concerts. In came intramural sports.

"I thought the students got the raw end of the deal," Stupak recalled. "So we sort of took over the college council."

It was a taste for politics and a make-it-happen M.O. that would shape Stupak's career – from the Michigan State Police to Michigan Legislature to Congress – after graduating from NMC.

The nine-term retiring congressman and 2010 recipient of the Michigan Community College Association Outstanding Alumni award won't be on a ballot this fall for the first time in more than 20 years. Lame duck notwithstanding, he's been in headlines most of 2010, first for his role in passing national health care legislation, and then leading the House investigation into the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The former West Hall resident adviser's reflection on his career and future continues on p. 3.

► Photo illustration above right by NMC visual communications student R.J. Raines. Bottom portrait based on a photo of Stupak as a student in 1970. Raines, from Thompsonville, plans a December graduation and to continue his studies in visual communications.



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From the President

Help us make history

**On Jan. 25, 1951,
a group of visionaries
started the NMC
Founders' Fund.**

**On Jan. 25, 2011,
NMC will celebrate
60 years of success.**



**Northwestern
Michigan
College**

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Timothy J. Nelson



Timothy J. Nelson

As NMC's 60th birthday approaches, I invite you to join us in honoring our history and heritage.

We will mark several milestones during the next 18

months. Our 60th year (2010-11) will conclude with the publishing of "NMC: The Third 20 years," covering our history from 1991 through 2011.

What from that period stands out for you? What were the significant events, dates, people and accomplishments?

Please tell us, so we can pass along your part of NMC's history to noted author Mardi Link, who will research and write this important document. Submit your story online at www.nmc.edu/mystory or e-mail me at tnelson@nmc.edu.

In re-reading "NMC: The First 20 Years" recently, I noticed that one of the most significant dates in our history occurred eight months *before* NMC's doors opened.

On Jan. 25, 1951, a group of visionaries started the NMC Founders' Fund. They had an ambitious goal: \$100,000.

Sixty years later, our annual Campaign for Scholarships and Programs has an equally ambitious goal: \$400,000 – the largest goal in our history.

We plan to honor our history by making history: Meeting this goal in order to continue to provide the support our students and programs need. I invite you to be a part of this historic endeavor. Details are below, or use the form on p. 7.

When you make your gift to NMC this year, we ask you to consider doing so in honor of someone who was central to your NMC experience. I hear every day how the efforts of individuals make the difference for the people we serve. Let's name them. Let's celebrate them.

We're planning a special event on campus Jan. 25, 2011, when we will honor and celebrate everyone who has helped make NMC possible. Save the date, watch for more information at www.nmc.edu/60, and plan to join us.

Your place in our history is important. And as we move toward NMC's "fourth" twenty years, know that you are just as important to our future.

Up for a challenge?

Join these generous people and organizations who have stepped forward to help NMC meet its most ambitious goal ever for the annual Campaign for Scholarships and Programs.

- American Waste
- Anonymous
- Art & Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation
- Fifth Third Bank
- Ford Insurance Agency
- H. Cox & Son, Inc.
- Huntington Bank
- Jordan Exploration
- NMC Foundation Board
- NMC Retirees
- TBA Credit Union

They have provided funds that will match two kinds of gifts:

- All gifts from new donors
- Increases in gifts from current donors

Whether you make your first gift or increase your giving from last year, you'll double your impact.

As always, you can designate your gift to any specific NMC program or scholarship. Gifts of \$100 or more may also be designated in honor of anyone important in the life of the college.

► Save time; give online! www.nmc.edu/give

Bart Stupak '72 alumnus reflects on Congressional career

continued from cover

In his last year, two issues dominated for Stupak, a Democrat from Menominee, Mich.: National health care and a spewing underwater oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico. His handling of both traces back to lessons learned at NMC.

Americans without health insurance were like those NMC students getting a raw deal from the activities office.

"In my 18 years you could see health care becoming more and more of a privilege," said Stupak, who considers the health care legislation his crowning achievement on a national level.

Congress had barely exhaled after health care when the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in April. As the chair of the House Oversight and Investigation subcommittee, Stupak drew on his law enforcement lessons when he faced officials from rig operator BP —

"In my 18 years you could see health care becoming more and more of a privilege."

a company with "a horrendous environmental and safety record" about the explosion and resulting months-long leak into the Gulf.

"You dig in. You know how to do an investigation. You cut through the chatter and you know how to get to the point," said Stupak, who went on to law school after NMC and became the only lawyer in the ranks of the Michigan State Police.

Stupak also held a hearing in New Orleans.

"I really wanted to get the flavor of what was happening to the people in the Gulf," he said. "Those sensitivities all come from doing investigation. Let's go and

see what's really going on. Let's go to the scene of the crime."

Logging the miles has become wearying, however, and relinquishing such travel is what Stupak anticipates most about leaving Congress. With the 2010 Census likely to cost Michigan a House seat, he anticipates his successor's district might sprawl even further than his, encompassing the entire U.P. and a chunk of the lower that stretches to Bay City.

That's not to say he'll retreat to the U.P. His most intriguing post-Congress offer so far is teaching an 8-week course at Harvard University's Institute of Politics.

But until then he'll spend the last two months as he has the previous 10, hitting motel rooms an average of five nights a week.

"If I'm going to do the job, I'm going to do it 110 percent."

Congratulations to these NMC employees who have retired since May 2010.

Dennis Beyer

Elaine Chauvin

Denny Everett

Debra Faas

Lynn Freeland

Gary Gallup

Sue Gattshall

Karen Howie

John McDonald

Connie Minster

Mary Ann Schneider

Jacqueline Shinners

Avace Wildie

Carol Zaremba

From the archives

Celebrate the past...build the future

In 1954, this sign stood on a dirt road near what is NMC's current main entrance.

As part of the college's 60th anniversary celebration in 2011, supporters are invited to honor people important in the life of NMC when making a gift of \$100 or more.

► More info: www.nmc.edu/60



Recognizing faculty excellence at NMC

Mathematics instructor Stephen Drake is NMC's 2010 Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence Award winner. Social work instructor Lisa Blackford is the 2010 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award winner.

Chosen by a student selection committee, award criteria includes teaching excellence, rapport with students, classroom innovation and dedication. Drake joined NMC's faculty in 1971. Blackford, who also serves as NMC's Director of Student Life, joined the college in 2002 and began teaching in 2006.



Stephen Drake



Lisa Blackford

► Read student comments: www.nmc.edu/cie

Drake said the award marks a high point in his 39-year career at NMC. "It is the highest honor that a faculty member can receive when students are the ones to select the recipient. I am truly honored," he said.

"I'm really humbled, with the nomination coming from people I admire so much," Blackford said. "Students are making huge sacrifices to be here. With so many stressors and hardships they managed to keep coming to class and teach each other. I learn something from every student I've ever had."



THE
dennos
MUSEUM CENTER

Coming soon to Milliken Auditorium

Rhythmic Circus Nov. 19

The underground percussive dance phenomenon has risen to an innovative live performance company with four of the most sought-after dancers in the country.

Celebrating Women in Jazz Nov. 27

Laurie Sears on sax and flute and singer Claudia Schmidt add local flavor to this all-female quintet. See the whole concert series schedule and buy tickets online at www.dennosmuseum.org



New at NMC



Unmanned Aerial Systems

NMC is one of only a handful of collegiate programs nationwide to offer training in a technology expected to reshape the aviation industry when regulations change in 2012. A three-course sequence under the direction of chief flight instructor Tony Sauerbrey, at left in photo above, began this fall.

Linked to ground-based computers and equipped with cameras, GIS systems and other specialized equipment, an unmanned aerial vehicle becomes a real-time data delivery device, streaming information to decision makers on the ground.

"The market for UAS is exploding. To be a viable in aviation education we have to provide this training," NMC aviation director Aaron Cook said. He added that NMC students will be on the leading edge of the U.S. job market and ready to enter other markets. More info: www.nmc.edu/aviation

Aero Park Laboratories

The newest building on NMC's Aero Park campus will open for classes in January 2011, housing NMC's Renewable Energy and Construction Technology programs.

Fittingly, renovation of the building meets LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification standards. Highlights include a 45-foot wind tower and solar panels on the property, recycling construction waste, highly efficient insulation in roof and walls, renewable and locally-sourced finish materials.

Hybrid Auto Technology

Maintenance and repair of hybrid electric vehicles requires special training and equipment. Beginning January 2011, at the request of regional auto dealers and repair shops, NMC will offer a Hybrid Technology Specialist certificate that provides students with the skills to service this growing sector of the vehicle market.

"It's encouraging to see our local community college get involved in these types of things. It's encouraging for our industry," said Rich King of the Bill Marsh Automotive Group, which operates six locations in Traverse City and Kalkaska. Three Marsh service managers sit on NMC's Automotive Technology advisory board.

"This is the wave of our future, and to get prepared now is better for everyone," King said. "I foresee the hybrid market growing year after year." More info: www.nmc.edu/hybrid

A catalog cover for the NMC University Center, 2010-2011 Catalog. The cover features a woman smiling and the text "Start here. Stay here." Below the catalog title, it lists "More than 80 degree-completion and advanced degree programs offered by these partners:" followed by a list of nine universities. At the bottom, there is the NMC University Center logo and the website address www.nmc.edu/uc.

Start here, stay here

Planning to transfer? NMC's nine University Center partners offer 50 degree-completion and advanced degree programs in business, education and health and human services. You can complete your education without leaving your job, family, and community. Request a catalog by e-mailing ucinfo@nmc.edu or calling (231) 995-1777.

Environmental leaders wanted

NMC University Center partner Grand Valley State University is offering an Environmental Leadership degree pathway in Traverse City. Students pursuing GVSU's BA/BS in Liberal Studies can now choose an Environmental Leadership emphasis. With coursework focused on problem-solving, communication skills and critical thinking, it is envisioned as a seamless four-year degree for students pursuing NMC's Freshwater Studies associate degree or preparing for careers in environmental law, public policy, natural resource management and environmental protection. For more information, e-mail water@nmc.edu or nminfo@gvsu.edu

Alumni Notes

1960s

Richard "Joe" Nachazel attended NMC 1959-61. He is currently CEO and owner of Vista Electronics Company. He says, "the fundamentals learned at NMC served as the foundation for an exciting and productive career in applied and basic research. The spectrum of staff and students enriched and broadened my vision and opened my mind to the diversity of human conditions and experience."

1970s

Steve Miller learned to fly at NMC 1972-1975. He has flown for Pentastar Aviation in Waterford, Michigan since 1995. Pentastar also has several other pilots who were trained at NMC.

Robert E. Woodward, Nursing 1978, retired from the state of Michigan on June 1, 2010 after a 31-year career as a registered nurse. He says he "will forever be grateful to my two wonderful instructors, Mrs.(Hettie) Molvang and Mrs. (Kathleen) Donnelly" for preparing him so well for his career.

1990s

Cathy Stathakis, ASA 1993, joined Lutheran Social Services of Michigan as Director of Marketing and Census Development for its senior adult residential communities.

2000s

Patrick Symons, law enforcement, 2009, was hired Feb 1, 2010, as an officer by the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians.

Andrew Riutta's essay, "The Myths of Manhood" was selected for inclusion in an upcoming anthology to be published in Spring 2011 in conjunction with the National Public Radio series "This I Believe." The anthology has a theme of fatherhood. Riutta wrote the essay on his own experiences as a father while a student at NMC in 2008.

► Let us know what you've been up to and what NMC means to you now. Submit alumni notes and updates at www.nmc.edu/alumni or email alumni@nmc.edu



Celebrating Women

This Indian Kali Puja icon celebrates women as warriors. It's among 42 vibrant color photographs by Paolo Gianturco featuring festivals that honor women's roles, rites of passage, attributes, accomplishments and spiritual lives. Her photography is just one part of the multi-media *Celebrating Women* exhibit at the Dennos through Jan. 2, 2011. More info: www.dennosmuseum.org

Inuit art hits Motown

Dennos Museum volunteer Ted Foley packs up some of the 80 Inuit prints, sculptures and artifacts that will be on display at the Detroit Zoo through Jan. 16, 2011. The Dennos boasts one of the country's largest and most historically complete collections of contemporary Inuit art. This traveling exhibition, initially curated in 1993, has journeyed as far as Bermuda.



Plan ahead...

Mark your calendar for these upcoming NMC events.

Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Public Viewing Nights

8-10 p.m., Rogers Observatory
Suggested donation \$2/person, \$5/family
2011 dates:
www.nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

November 13-14

Independent Lens: Women Who Change the World

Five compelling stories about women in Israel, Liberia, Kenya, Egypt and the United States.
Co-sponsored with WCMU Public Television.
10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Nov. 13;
2 p.m. Nov. 14
Film summaries: www.dennosmuseum.org

November 18

International Affairs Forum lecture

"Afghanistan: An Insider's View" with speaker Jack Segal, recent top NATO advisor on Afghanistan
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium. Tickets: (231) 995-1700
2011 IAF speakers: www.nmc.edu/ees

December 10

NMC Jazz Band concert

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

December 12

St. Lucia celebration

The celebration of the Swedish festival of light is part of the "Celebrating Women" exhibit
Dennos Museum Center
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

December 17

NMC Community Band holiday concert

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

2011

Feb. 25

Tasters Guild Auction to benefit the Great Lakes Culinary Institute
Hagerty Conference Center

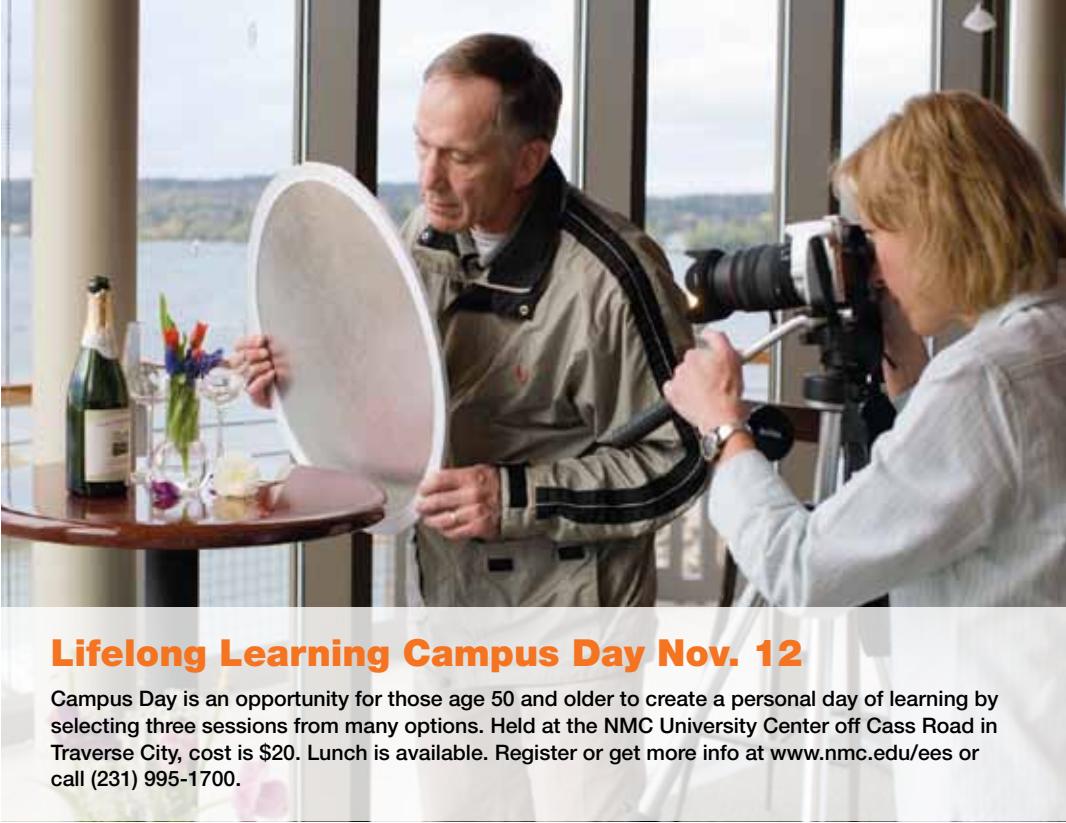
May 22

NMC Barbecue

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

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

► Follow NMC on Twitter to find free events on campus:
<http://twitter.com/NMCFree>



Lifelong Learning Campus Day Nov. 12

Campus Day is an opportunity for those age 50 and older to create a personal day of learning by selecting three sessions from many options. Held at the NMC University Center off Cass Road in Traverse City, cost is \$20. Lunch is available. Register or get more info at www.nmc.edu/ees or call (231) 995-1700.

Yes!

I/We will contribute to NMC's annual Campaign for Scholarships and Programs with a gift of:

\$ _____

Payment Options:

A check is enclosed (payable to NMC Foundation)

Please charge to: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____

CCV Code: _____

(3-digit code on back of card)

Signature: _____

Donor Information:

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please return to:

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Give online: www.nmc.edu/give



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Fall 2010

SAVE THE DATE
January 25, 2011,
for a special event
celebrating the
people who made
NMC possible.



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MacInnes, Wood named 2010 NMC Fellows

Longtime NMC volunteers and supporters James MacInnes and Elaine Wood have been named the 2010 recipients of the college's highest honor, the NMC Fellow.

MacInnes, co-owner of Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, is a former member and chair of the NMC Foundation board. He first joined in 2003 and culminated his service as chair in 2008-09. During his chairmanship NMC set successively higher records for both dollars

raised and donors contributing to the Annual Community Campaign. He also continues to volunteer his service to raise operating funds for the Dennos Museum Center.

Thanks to MacInnes, Crystal Mountain has also served as the host of the NMC Scholarship Open, the college's largest single-day fundraiser, for the past several years.



James MacInnes



Elaine Wood

Wood, director of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, is a former member of NMC's publicly-elected Board of Trustees. First elected in 1990, she served for 18 years and filled roles as board secretary, vice chair and chair. One of her most satisfying accomplishments was the creation of the University Center, which enables residents to earn bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees while remaining in Traverse City – a significant boost to the region's economic development.

Since 1995 the UC partners have awarded thousands of degrees to northern Michigan residents. Last fall, more than 1,700 students were enrolled in about 200 courses.

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



Friend, follow and find NMC More than a dozen NMC departments and divisions are now on Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites. Search social sites for NMC alumni, the Dennos Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNMC, Osterlin Library and more, or visit www.nmc.edu/news and click on "social media" for a complete list.