

NMC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

Fifty years ago this spring, Northwestern Michigan College was just an idea—but people were already busy raising money to turn that idea into a reality.

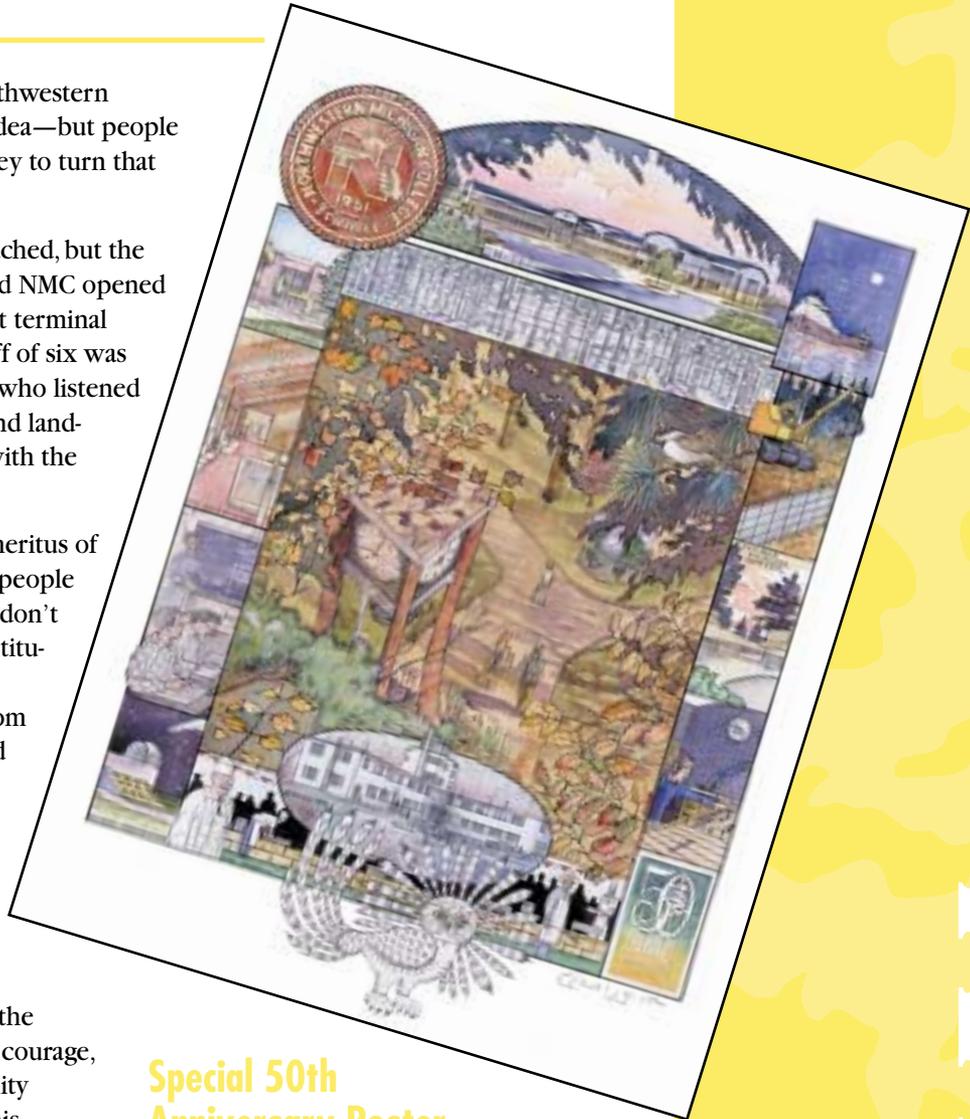
The \$100,000 goal was not reached, but the founders were undaunted—and NMC opened in the fall of 1951 at the airport terminal building in Traverse City. A staff of six was there to welcome 65 students who listened to lectures between takeoffs and landings—and shared the lounge with the passengers of Capital Airlines.

To quote Jim Beckett, Chair Emeritus of NMC's Board of Trustees, "The people that come 50 years later really don't understand what made this institution—grass roots, nickels and dimes." Jim's comments are from a 50th Anniversary Video called "The First Fifty Years" which is the NMC story told in the voices of its faculty, staff, students, alumni, and volunteers—including some who were here in 1951.

The 14-minute video captures the spirit of NMC—the humor, the courage, the devotion, and the community connections that distinguish this college.



Copies of "The First Fifty Years" are available for sale (see p. 4), with proceeds supporting the NMC 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund.



Special 50th Anniversary Poster

Glenn Wolff, NMC alumnus and professional artist, created this poster especially for the 50th Anniversary celebration. In Glenn's distinctive style, the poster captures the many dimensions of NMC in rich detail and vivid color. Posters are for sale for \$10 in the NMC Bookstore, UC Bookstore, and Dennos Museum Store. They may also be ordered (see p. 4). Proceeds support the NMC 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund.

Volunteers Welcome: If you're interested in getting involved with the 50th Anniversary Celebration—building the float, decorating the gym, or anything else—please call Karen Anderson at 231 995-1019 or email her at: kanderson@nmc.edu

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NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

NURSING GIFT KEEPS LOVE ALIVE



Enid and Richard Babel at their 50th wedding anniversary.



Northwestern
Michigan
College

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Tim Nelson

“Enid loved nursing,” her husband Richard Babel said, “She was proud of her profession and was very good at it.” Evidence of this passion was Enid’s generous donation, when she died in July, 2000, to support the Nursing Program at NMC.

Although Enid Babel received her nursing training at Michigan State University, she lived and worked in Traverse City most of her life—and respected the NMC Nursing Program. “We are very grateful for this support,” Nursing Instructor Laura Schmidt said. “This gift enables us to purchase needed computer equipment for our students.”

Enid Babel’s early nursing career included three years in the U.S. Army during World War II. She served as a first lieutenant in the European Theater with the 165th Hospital which landed at Omaha Beach and set up as a tent hospital in Normandy, later moving to Rheims, France. “Even in a tent hospital, Enid was proud that they never had a case of infection,” her husband said.

When the war ended, Enid worked in France for a year before returning to America as an operating room supervisor at Edgewater Hospital in Chicago

and then at Munson Hospital in Traverse City. In 1949 she married Richard Babel and retired from nursing to raise three sons. When the boys were grown, however, Enid was invited by Dr. Thirlby to help out at his office—and she stayed 20 years.

In December, 1999, Richard and Enid celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Asked for the secret of their long marriage, Richard said, “She knew what she wanted to do and so did I. We also enjoyed the same things, such as sailing and skiing.” And of course, they enjoyed their three sons and six grandchildren.

In addition to nursing, Enid had a love for the trumpet—and played in the NMC Community Band for years. “She was also a great knitter, tennis player, and cook,” Richard said, adding, “As time goes by, I realize what a wonderful person she was.”

Enid Babel’s gift was increased by a matching gift from her husband’s company, Ameritech, so it’s always worthwhile to inquire about matching gifts. For more information about how you can leave a legacy to NMC, contact our Planned Giving Officer, Kathy Lievense at 231 995-1855 or email: klievense@nmc.edu

Scholarship Endowments Are Special

Endowed scholarships are gifts that keep on giving—to the students at NMC. Over half of NMC students need financial aid to attend college and their requests always exceed our resources. Generous donors help us close the gap and support student success.

• Walt & Pat Ross Music Scholarship.

“It’s a way to give back,” Walt Ross said. “NMC is important to us. Pat was a student in the early days and I taught music at the college for 25 years.” This scholarship is being endowed and the first award is expected to be in 2002-03, with one award each year, for a full-time music student. It is open to all residents and need is only considered if there are equally qualified applicants.

• Bob & Grace Rudd Physical Science and Engineering Scholarship.

“NMC was really good to me and my family,” Bob Rudd said. “We just wanted to give something back.” This fully-endowed scholarship is for full-time students in the physical science or engineering programs with a GPA greater than 2.5, residing in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, or Wexford counties. Students do not need to demonstrate financial need.

50TH ANNIVERSARY LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

Since the fall of 2000, a 50th Anniversary Steering Committee has been working to organize a schedule of activities for the year. This lively, talented group of community and college volunteers is co-chaired by Jackie Baase, Geoff Johnson, and Beth Karczewski, with a dozen sub-committees working on:

NMC Commencement on May 5 will honor the Class of 1953; Co-chairs: Jan Gasnik and Joy Smeltekop

NMC Barbecue on May 20 will have special 1950s displays, a birthday cake, and more; Co-chairs: Margaret Fox and Rod Koehler

Cherry Festival Parades, July 6-14, will feature a NMC Float! Co-chairs: Geoff Johnson, Carol Taberski, Jan Warren

Friday Night Live on August 31 is "Happy Birthday NMC!" Co-chairs: Robin Ahart and Cathy Muma

The Big Five-Oh! Homecoming Sock Hop is Saturday, September 15! Co-chairs: Jackie Baase, Ron Jolly, Colleen Wares

Founders' Day and the time capsules are Monday, September 17. Co-chairs: Beth Karczewski, Jill Hinds, Marilyn Jaquish

Another dimension of the 50th Anniversary Celebration is the "Curriculum Connection," co-chaired by NMC instructors Mark Howell and Jim Valovick. The goal is to have NMC faculty rediscover what was being taught in their discipline in 1951—and share that with students this next fall. Mark Howell is so enthusiastic about this idea that he's teaching his "Popular Culture" class as a study of the 1950s, complete with a "Fifties Film Festival," open to the public, free of charge.

Thus, every Tuesday night during Fall Semester, a great fifties film will be shown in the Milliken Auditorium, complete with vintage news reels and instructor-led discussions. Some of the films include "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," "High Noon," "Rebel Without a Cause," "On the Waterfront," and "Anatomy of a Murder."

ALUMNI MEMORIES

Vrondran, Susan A. (Olstrom), 1966-1968

00551 Snyder Road North, Boyne City, MI 49712; svrondran@hotmail.com — After studying Education at NMC, Ms. Vrondran transferred to Michigan State University. She graduated from MSU in 1970, and has been teaching Life Management and Social Studies for the last 30 years. **Favorite NMC Memories:** "Cleaning up campus in the morning and collecting non-refund bottles for competition using my Uncle's 1949 pick-up (filled to over-flowing), on Old Mission Peninsula before Earth Day ever started."

Woodrow, Robert (Bob), 1959-60 & 1965

4891 Roll Ridge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49004; bmwoodrow@prodigy.com — Mr. Woodrow studied Education at NMC. In 1998, he retired from Kalamazoo Public Schools as a physical education teacher and coach, and works as an account representative for Royal Publishing. **Favorite NMC Memories:** "Nick Rajkovich's Government Test! Did you say favorite? All kidding aside—it was meeting my future bride, Barb Novak (64-65)."

Miller, David W., 1970-72

Mr. Miller studied Park Management while at NMC. He earned a Masters in Recreation Administration from Northern Texas State and earned a second B.S. in Gerontology from the University of Texas S.W. Medical.

Favorite NMC Memories: "My wife Gail and I were in Traverse City for our 30th wedding anniversary in August. We walked around the NMC campus and were very impressed with the preservation of the original campus structure and delighted with the expanded areas of the campus."

Geer, Judith A. (Galla), 1980-1983 & 1996-present

1935 Hummingbird Lane, Traverse City, MI 49686; judyg623@aol.com — Ms. Geer studies business and accounting at NMC and is an office manager for Air Services, Inc., an airplane charter company in Traverse City.

Favorite NMC Memories: "Mr. Studinger was my favorite and still is after 15 years, when I returned back to NMC to finish my degree."

50th Anniversary Co-Chairs:



Jackie Baase graduated from NMC's Medical Assisting Program in 1972 and worked for local physicians for eight years before changing careers. For the past 20 years, she's worked for

Michigan State University at the horticultural research station in Leelanau County. Jackie has been a board member of NMC's Alumni Association since 1985 and has helped with various college projects and events over the years. As a co-chair of the 50th Anniversary, she's heading up the Homecoming Sock Hop and invites everyone to an evening of 50s fun!



Geoff Johnson has been Vice President for Marketing at the TBA Education Credit Union for almost five years and has worked for financial institutions for nine years. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University,

he has been a volunteer with the NMC Barbecue Board and now heads up the Cherry Festival subcommittee for the 50th Anniversary. Geoff has a "lovely wife and two children" and enjoys the great outdoors in his free time.



Beth Karczewski is the Business Development & Customer Relations Manager for Munson Home Health. A lifelong resident of Traverse City, Beth attended NMC prior to obtaining a BS degree at Michigan State

University and also prior to receiving an MBA from Lake Superior State University. Beth is involved with the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Traverse City Area Public Schools District Advisory Council, the Rotary Club of Traverse City and participated in the successful NMC bond election in 1999.

THE BIG FIVE-OH!



HOMEcomings Sock Hop

At Northwestern Michigan College
Traverse City, Michigan

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 15
2001**

8:00 - 12:00 PM

NMC Physical Education Center

\$25 General Admission

\$15 Per NMC Student

- Refreshments From The Fifties:
Mini-Burgers, Pizza, Sodas
& Sundaes!
- DJ Music and WCCW
Personalities Michael O'Shea
& Charlie D. with all your
favorites from the fifties
and beyond!
- Contests: Hula Hoops and
Fifties Costumes!
- Door Prizes!
- Fifties Dancing Demos!
- Photo Ops with Vintage Cars!
- Cash Bar

Tell us about yourself and receive an
official NMC 50th Anniversary Lapel pin!



Last _____ First _____ Initial _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Work () _____

email address _____

May we print your address? Yes No

What years did you attend NMC? _____

What programs of study? _____

Social Security Number _____

Tell us about other educational opportunities, occupations and recent activities.

A favorite NMC Memory...

Anniversary Order Blank

Homecoming • Poster • Video

I would like to purchase:

_____ Tickets to the NMC Homecoming Sock Hop at
\$25 per ticket for a total of \$ _____

_____ NMC 50th Anniversary Posters at \$10.00
each (plus \$5 shipping/handling) for a total of \$ _____

_____ NMC 50th Video at \$10.00 each
(plus \$5 shipping/handling) for a total of \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

- My check is enclosed (payable to NMC Foundation).
- Please charge to: VISA MasterCard Discover

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Please mail tickets/posters/videos to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail your entire form to: NMC Foundation
1701 East Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686

TIM NELSON SELECTED



“I realize there’s a large trust between the college and the community, its alumni and its supporters, I’ll do everything I can to preserve that trust.”

At a special meeting on January 17, 2001 the NMC Board of Trustees voted unanimously to authorize board chair Mike McManus to begin negotiations for a contract agreement with Timothy Nelson for the position of president of the college. The decision came after a national search and a series of open forums with three finalists.

The Board praised the “breadth and depth of experience” which Nelson brings to the NMC presidency. He moves into his new role from a position as Executive Director of Administrative Services at the college, a post he assumed in April of 2000. On February 26, the Board approved the negotiated contract and Nelson became president. Ilse Burke will remain as an internal advisor through June of 2001.

“I am honored to serve as NMC’s President as we begin our second 50 years,” Tim Nelson said. “It’s important to me as we go forward and serve the needs of our community that we build on the traditions and values that are important to the college.”

Reading the two histories of NMC, “The First Twenty Years” and “The Second Twenty Years,” Nelson said, “I see our link with the past in our commitment to the community and to learning, our spirit of innovation. These must be retained and nurtured as we continue our journey.”

“I realize there’s a large trust between the college and the community, its alumni and its supporters,” Nelson said. “I’ll do everything I can to preserve that trust.”

Nelson came to NMC from Olivet College where he served in the senior administration for 11 years, most recently as Vice President for Finance and Administration. Prior to his work at Olivet, Nelson held an executive position at Great Lakes Capital Management Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was president and founder of Access Technologies Corporation of Houghton, Michigan.

He has also taught in the School of Business and Engineering Administration at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. Nelson has a Master of Science Degree in business administration from Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

ILSE BURKE REFLECTS



Ilse Burke came to NMC in August of 1995 as the Vice President for Educational Services and was named President a year later when Tim Quinn left. “It’s more complex when you’re sitting in the President’s chair,” she said, “because you have to balance all the needs, not just think about your own department.”

After five years in the President’s chair, Ilse Burke is leaving this spring and turning the chair over to Tim Nelson. Burke expects a very smooth transition.

Asked about her proudest achievement during the past five years, Burke said, “Strategic planning.” She added, “I inherited a stable financial situation but we weren’t sure where we were going. Now we have

a strategic plan but it must become a mindset; we can’t think we’re done when the initiatives are completed.”

Furthermore, the successful bond request was a major success. “Without it, we couldn’t have implemented the strategic plan,” she said.

Summing up her experience in the President’s chair, Ilse said, “It’s been very enjoyable and rewarding—and also very intense in terms of energy. You can’t step out of the job.” When she does step out, however, she plans to take a year off to travel and “do the things I’ve postponed.” Then, she’ll look for volunteer opportunities outside education, “to broaden my experience.”

CRITICAL THINKING IS A NEW TEAM-TAUGHT CLASS

When employers describe the qualities they want in employees, “critical thinking” is always near the top of the list... but what is it? “People who know how to think,” one employer said. “People who can sort out facts from opinions—and make good decisions,” said another.

While many classes at NMC use critical thinking skills to address issues related to writing or chemistry or math or government, now there is a class that focuses on “Critical Thinking” as a topic in itself—and it’s being team-taught by philosopher Jim Valovick and attorney Gary Klotzbach.

Using examples taken from professional situations such as law, medicine, and politics—as well as everyday life—these two instructors invite students to learn the difference between valid arguments and strong arguments and false arguments. Their first essay, in fact, asked students to argue both for and against counting “hanging and dimpled chads!”



During a recent class, Gary Klotzbach was leading students through the familiar formula which goes: “All men are mammals; Joe is a man; therefore, Joe is a mammal.” Then he said, “All men are from Jupiter; Joe is a man; therefore, Joe is from Jupiter.” While the argument is still technically valid, it’s also false... and students began to

understand how false information can be very persuasive when presented logically.

Because we are all living in the “Information Age,” we must be able to separate facts from fantasies, persuasion from promotion. NMC’s “Critical Thinking” class offers students a whole new way of evaluating their discussions and decisions—which will not only make them better employees but better people.

To find out when “Critical Thinking” is offered, see the NMC Schedule of Classes on our website: www.nmc.edu

SPECIAL CONCERT WITH COMMISSIONED WORK

April 27, 2001 is a very special date for NMC and the Music Department. With grant assistance from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Music Department will premiere a new composition for Symphonic Wind Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. in the Milliken Auditorium.

Dr. Scott Sorenson’s “From Cancun to Playa del Carmen” is a musical travelogue which describes a brief personal journey along the coast of Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula. Composed for full concert band, this twelve minute programmatic work has been orchestrated to feature the diverse capabilities of the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections in a symphonic setting.

“We are fortunate to have not only a talented conductor in Scott Sorenson, but also an accomplished composer. His gift is part of our year long celebration of our 50th Anniversary and a gift for communities well beyond ours to enjoy as well,” said Mark Puchala, NMC Music Department head.