



Great Lakes Campus, view from Front Street.

Great Lakes Campus Raising Walls, Raising Funds

The spectacular potential of NMC's waterfront property on West Bay is finally being fulfilled with the construction of the Great Lakes Campus. If you live in Traverse City, you can see it taking shape every day; if you live somewhere else, you can check the website: www.nmc.edu/webcam

Construction is on schedule, thanks to a mild winter up until early January...and even now, the crews are on site every day—escaping the frigid temperatures inside plastic sheeting. Opening in January 2004, the Great Lakes Campus will house the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, the Great Lakes Culinary Institute, the Great Lakes Water Studies Institute and the Great Lakes Professional Development Center.

While construction workers are raising the steel beams, another team is raising the \$2.9 million necessary to complete the project. Co-chair of the Great Lakes Campus Capital Campaign, NMC alumnus John Pelizzari said, "This is the most significant change on the Traverse City waterfront since the cherry plant went down next to the zoo." As President of FifthThird Bank of Grand Traverse, Pelizzari appreciates the importance of improving the region. "The Great Lakes Campus will have a huge impact, both visually and in the ability of the community to use that area."

Campaign co-chair Bob Brick of RE/MAX Bayshore Properties said, "I've been an advocate for awareness of freshwater and the importance of the Great Lakes for years. Working on this campaign is an opportunity to match the capabilities of higher education with the advantages of that site to create awareness in terms of education, politics, biology, recreation—for our whole region."



Bob Brick

John Pelizzari

In addition to major individual and corporate donors, community members will be invited to support the effort through a "Buy a Fish" campaign to launch this spring. Available for \$100 each, the stainless steel fish can be engraved with the donor's name and will be displayed in "schools" on mahogany panels throughout the building.

Many other giving options exist for donors who wish to name one of the rooms and spaces of the Great Lakes Campus building. "Named gifts are a wonderful way to honor or memorialize someone," Foundation Executive Director Kathleen Guy said. For more information about the Great Lakes Campus Capital Campaign, call the NMC College Relations Office at 231 995-1021 or visit the website at: www.nmc.edu/glc

"This is the most significant change on the Traverse City waterfront since the cherry plant went down next to the zoo."

West
North

A Publication of
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Spring 2004

Alumni Updates

1950's

Bays, John G., 1958-60

7828 Mulberry Bottom Lane, Springfield, VA
22153-2313 - regal1111@aol.com

Mr. Bays earned an Associate of Arts at NMC. He currently owns the largest fleet of exclusively Rolls Royces and Bentleys in America.

Kalmus, Betty L. (Larson), 1951-53

615 Melrose, Sequin, TX 78155

Ms. Larson studied early elementary education at NMC. During her career she taught school, served in the Women's Army Corp, was Training Director for Sears Credit for 22 years, was a Librarian for five years, and was listed in "Notable Women of Texas, 1984-1985 edition."

Ockert, Gerald L., 1957-58

918-17 Timber Creek Drive, Grand Ledge, MI
48837 - jkockert@quixnet.net

Dr. Ockert studied Science at NMC. He earned a B.S. from Western Michigan University, a M.A. from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M. Dr. Ockert taught from 1964-1981 and was on the Michigan Department of Education from 1985-1997.

1960's

Winarski, Thomas L., 1964-66

201 West Grout Street, Gladwin, MI 48624

Mr. Winarski was a chemistry major at NMC. He just completed four years as Chairman of Region 7B Michigan Works Workforce Development Board and was recently elected Mayor of the City of Gladwin after 20 years on the City Council and 28 years on the City Planning Commission. "Most memorable experience was the crazy roommate & suitemates in the dormitory."

1970's

Dotson, Karen M. (Mackenzie) 1971-73

2605 12th Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192
RockinMomD@hotmail.com

Ms. Dotson was in the Medical Secretary/Assistant program at NMC. She received an Associate Degree in Nursing in 1994 and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit-Mercy. Ms. Dotson works on a medical/surgical unit.

Dotson, William R., 1971-73

2605 12th Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192
wrdotson@wyan.org

Mr. Dotson was in the park ranger program at NMC. He works at Auto Alliance and "really loves genealogy."

Drayton, Vesta (Bullard), 1976-78

239 Ayer Road #44, Littleton, MA 01460
veedee1944@hotmail.com

Ms. Drayton studied psychology at NMC. She has been a recreational therapist for 23 years, currently working at a VA hospital in Massachusetts. She has spent months at a time crewing on private boats and Navy ship to Mediterranean, and recently purchased a log cabin in NH mountains.



Timothy J. Nelson

Message from the President



Northwestern Michigan College reminds me of the children's story about the "little engine that could." But we're often so busy chugging up the hill, we don't stop to celebrate all the miles we've traveled. At opening conference for spring semester, I offered our staff my congratulations on some of our achievements from the past couple of years.

- *Because of our solid fiscal planning, we are well prepared to make the decisions required to weather the State's budget crisis;*
- *We've leveraged the \$34.7 million in bond funds with federal, state, and private dollars to provide a \$66 million investment in our campus and facilities—which positions us strongly for the future;*
- *We're partnering with Munson Healthcare in a workforce development taskforce—an undertaking which will be a model for future NMC partnerships;*
- *We're transforming our Great Lakes Campus into a world-class facility and waterfront asset for our region;*
- *We're keeping learning at the center of everything we do—and communicating with each other about the journey.*

All good wishes to our alumni and friends for 2003. Keep in touch!

Timothy J. Nelson, NMC President

NMC Student is a "Youth Friend"

When Shannon Brady isn't going to school at NMC, she's going to school at Sabin Elementary—as a volunteer. "I work with seven third graders as a reading tutor," she said, "and I help out in the classroom or for indoor recess."

The goal of the "Youth Friends" program in Traverse City is to connect volunteers with students—to provide tutoring and companionship. "They just need help to get over the hump," Brady says about her struggling readers. "Then I see huge grins on their faces."

As a single mother of two elementary students, Brady has experience as a tutor. "I really believe in the importance of reading," she said, "and my children are top readers." Going back to school herself was another challenge. "I started in the Bridge Program at NMC," she said, "and it boosted my self-esteem. This semester I'll complete my first year and I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (the honor society for community colleges)."

Brady wants to become a Special Education teacher. "Those kids are awesome," she says, speaking of her volunteer work with the Special Olympics. "If I can make a difference in just one kid's life, it will be worth it."



Shannon Brady with children Sarah and Shane.

Alumni Updates

Foote, Betsy, 1977-80

8400 Pine Cross Lane, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Ms. Foote is a certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and loves it! She completed her Associate Degree in Nursing at NMC, BSN at the University of Michigan, and a MS in Anesthesia at Wayne State University. Her favorite memories: "Kate Donnelly's wealth of experience and 'practicalness.' Being with 25 other nursing students for 2 years was enriching and fulfilling. The sensitivity training course given us before the first week of class set the tone of the 2 years. I have great memories and acquired excellent skills."

Kennedy, Michelle (Van Hoesen), 1971-75
109 Bahrt Circle, Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Kennedy studied art and nursing at NMC. She has lived in Sitka, Alaska for 16 years and has worked as an itinerant public health nurse for the past 4 years, flying in floatplanes to villages in southeast Alaska. "I have many treasured memories from NMC where I was known as 'Uds.'"



**Northwestern
Michigan
College**

The Nor'Wester is published by the NMC College Relations Office. Alumni news and updates should be sent to:

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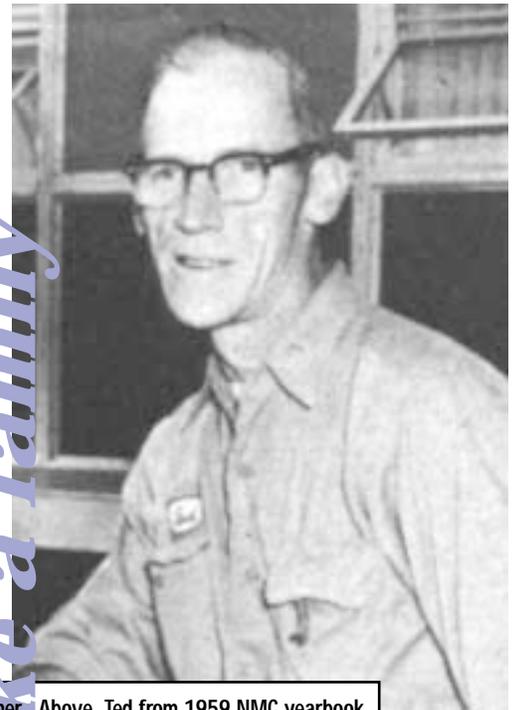
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Ted Durga Gives Back to NMC

Even before there was a Northwestern Michigan College, there was a Ted Durga ready to help. "I was involved with the remodeling at the airport," he says, describing the terminal building that became NMC's first home in 1951. "At first, I was working half-time at the high school and half-time at NMC; then President Tanis asked me to come to the college full time and I stayed 26 years."

In charge of facilities, Durga did just about everything that needed doing in the early years. He describes "going over to campus on Saturdays and Sundays to plough snow and keep the furnace going" and polishing the "birds eye maple" floor in the Coast Guard barracks that became NMC's first main campus building.



Below, Ted Durga and wife, Elaine Reamer. Above, Ted from 1959 NMC yearbook.



Today, Durga is "pushing 92," but his memory and wit are keen. "That first fall, we had a Halloween dance," he said, "and there was cider left over. We stored it in the terminal tower and forgot about it until Christmas when the corks blew. We had a whooping good New Year's Eve party."

"On the night after Barbecue, we worked til 1 a.m. to get the campus ready for classes the next day," Durga recalls. "I took pride in my work and I hated like the dickens to retire."

Deciding to include NMC in his will, Durga said, "I quit school in tenth grade, but NMC treated me as well as the instructors who went to college. I remember the coffee lounge in the basement of the library. We were like a family."

"We were like a family"

Did You Know?

- About half (47%) of college-bound Traverse City Area Public School graduates come to NMC. This past fall, 293 of NMC's new students were Traverse City Central and West graduates. A recent issue of the TC West student newspaper, the "Occidental," listed the top four college choices for the 2002 graduating class:
 1. Northwestern Michigan College, 179 grads
 2. Michigan State University, 33 grads
 3. Western Michigan University, 14 grads
 4. University of Michigan, 12 grads

- NMC has 98 percent placement, which means, NMC's latest graduate report (2001) shows that 98% of graduates are working, continuing their education or not seeking employment;
- During the 2002-03 academic year, 489 Michigan Competitive Scholarship recipients and 490 Michigan Merit Award Scholarship recipients attended NMC;
- Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society for community colleges and NMC has a very active chapter with over 100 students participating.

Thirty-Seven Years and Counting

NMC's two senior faculty members are John Pahl, Communications, and Fred Tank, Biology—both arriving at NMC in 1966. "I was teaching at a high school in Oak Park, Illinois at the time," Pahl said, "and met Jack McChrystal (NMC academic dean) in the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago. We had an interview over a beer."

Fred Tank was finishing up his master's degree at Michigan State University when he met some guys from a new college in Traverse City who said there was an opening. Those guys turned out to be science instructors Arlo Moss, Bill Scharf and Pete Nelson who invited Tank for an interview.

"I was impressed by the people and intrigued by the facilities," Pahl said when he came to campus to meet Al Shumsky, Harry Oliver and Bill Shaw. "There was a sense of being on the frontier but Interlochen was just down the road."

"Everybody did everything," Tank said of the early college years, "and that was the fun of it." Pahl found himself coaching cross-country running and tennis, in

addition to teaching English. "I didn't even know how to keep score in tennis, but I learned and our team came in second in the State."



John Pahl

Fred Tank

How has the college changed in 37 years? "NMC is better," Tank said. "There's an openness and transparency of finances and decision-making. And, of course, the new Health and Science Building is great." Pahl said, "We've grown in many good ways and have a lot more to offer the community. We're even stronger in the liberal arts and there's more emphasis on making sure students learn."

Why haven't these two veterans retired, like so many of their colleagues?

"I'm here because I need to feel I'm doing something important," Tank said, "and education influences how people's lives turn out." "I really like teaching," Pahl said, "It's such a big part of my life and I'm still perplexed about the best way to get the concepts across."

Still teaching, still learning... lucky for NMC.

Quotes from the 2002 Imogene Wise Winner

Speaking at Faculty Development Day in the fall, 2002 Imogene Wise Winner Mike Surgalski compared being a ship's captain to being an instructor. Before coming to the Maritime Academy, Surgalski piloted a passenger vessel in the Detroit River. His guidelines include:

"Don't damage the vessel; do maintain crew morale; do attend to ship's business." Or, in educational language, "Don't do damage in the classroom (the students' chance of success); maintain student morale (as distinct from student satisfaction); and attend to classroom business (cover the material)."

"When you safely make a number of docks and complete a successful season, it is a feeling of complete satisfaction," Surgalski concludes. "When you finish teaching a semester and everything is accomplished, this is most certainly equally satisfying."

Annual Campaign Nears Goal

At press time, the NMC 2002 Annual Community Campaign was at 90 percent of its \$247,000 goal. "We thank the 472 donors who have contributed gifts to date," said Annual Campaign Coordinator Teri Hedrich. "This includes retirees, alums, faculty and staff, and the community at large. We also thank our co-chairs Barb Benson and Mark Ribel for leading this effort and all our Matching Gift donors—Art Schmuckal, Fifth Third Bank, H. Cox & Son, Huntington National Bank, Traverse City State Bank, and our NMC Foundation Board Members."

Gifts are still welcome; contact Teri Hedrich at 231-995-1027 or: thedrich@nmc.edu

NMC.

Find it here.

With input from students and community members—and a goal of reaching all NMC learners—the college created a new "positioning statement" or slogan in Fall 2002 which has been turned into six testimonial advertisements for print and television—and is beginning to appear on all publications, including this one. Whatever your learning goals, you can "Find it here" at NMC.



Aviation Program Gets New Wings

With three new “Cessna 172” planes on the tarmac and a new “Frasca Level Six Simulator” on its way, the NMC Aviation Program is making some important improvements. “We’re moving toward a simulator-based training,” Aviation Instructor Bob Buttleman said. “This will enable us to train every day, regardless of weather, and keep students on schedule.”

Further, the Frasca Level Six is based on industry standards so that graduates will know this equipment when they do their upgrades and check rides.

“I can run it ten hours a day and it won’t use a gallon of gas,” Buttleman said. At the same time, the new Cessna planes have state-of-the-art technology to handle the four-season training that distinguishes NMC’s program.



“Our goal is to bring in 50 new students for fall 2003,” Buttleman said. “There are great job opportunities in the commuter field, along with corporate and freight pilot openings. For more information, call the NMC Aviation Department at 231 995-1220.

Alumni Updates

Nagelkerk, Tom, 1975-76

Mr. Nagelkerk earned an A.A. from NMC and a B.S. from Northern Michigan University. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer in El Salvador from 1976-1977. He is currently the Postmaster in Sextonville, Wisconsin.

Rink, Thomas E., 1977-79

240 West 18th Street #213, Tulsa, OK 74119
trink@ionet.net

Mr. Rink studied Liberal Arts at NMC and earned a BA in Criminal Justice/Psychology from MSU. He’s been a police officer with the City of Tulsa since 1982. In 1992 Mr. Rink earned his Master’s in Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

Tolas, Petro J., 1972-74

405 West Grand Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Mr. Tolas studied liberal arts at NMC and earned a BA at Central Michigan University. He is busy running 4 companies—Tolas Oil & Gas Exploration Company, Inc.; Tolas Brothers Excavating, Inc.; Tolas Auto Sales, Inc.; and Tolas Land Development, Inc. In addition, he is Zoning Board Administrator/Vice Chair for the City of Mt. Pleasant and Union Township Treasurer.

1980’s

Cary, Dawn A. (Hearns), 1982-84

10145 County Road 117, Oxford, FL 34484
us6carys@aol.com

Ms. Cary studied business administration at NMC and earned a bachelor’s degree in Marketing and Management from Northwood Institute. She is raising four children and is the comptroller in the family flooring business.

Geer, Judith A. (Galla), 1980-82 / 1997-present

3480 Manchester Road, Traverse City, MI 49686
judyg623@chartermi.net

Ms. Geer studied business management at NMC. She is the office manager for Air Services, Inc. in Traverse City, and was the Leland township clerk from 1992-1996.

Sapulski, Wayne S., 1978-81

Mr. Sapulski was in the Great Lakes Maritime Academy at NMC. He is a published author and photographer.

1990’s

Middleton, Amy L., 1997-2000

4440 Hemmingway Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Ms. Middleton studied music at NMC and is currently majoring in elementary education at Western Michigan University.

Nepper, Debra A. (Koch), 1987-91

111 Judy Drive, Seneca, SC 29678
debneppe@hotmail.com

Ms. Nepper studied Hospitality Management at NMC, and is currently studying medical transcription.

2000’s

Gahsman, Brian W., 1999-2001

4440 Hemmingway Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
gahsman@hotmail.com

Mr. Gahsman studied business and psychology at NMC, and is currently a student at Western Michigan University majoring in Finance. He is a member of WMU Student Government and was accepted to the National Dean’s List. Mr. Gahsman is planning to attend law school.

Bob and Grace Rudd Give Time and Support

“We give because we can and because NMC has been good to us,” Grace Rudd said about why she and Bob have established two scholarships at NMC and been generous donors in other areas of the college. “Why doesn’t everyone?”

After teaching Chemistry for 35 years, Bob Rudd retired in 1998 and has stayed connected to NMC by volunteering at the Museum Center. “I paint,” he says when asked what he does and if pressed, will add that he also “builds.” The advantage of volunteering, Rudd says, is that “in two weeks I’ll be done... but, it’s not as good as working.” While working, he said, “I’d meet 120 new kids every semester, but the first year I was retired I met five new people—and they were all old guys like me.”

The Rudds have established scholarships for Physical Science/Engineering students and for Culinary students. “The Culinary Program has provided a special niche for students,” Grace said, describing a young friend who graduated from the program. “He had hardscrabble parents and might not have had a chance to succeed if it weren’t for the Culinary Program,” Bob said.

“It’s neat to think that the scholarships will be there long after we’re gone,” Grace said. The Rudds have three grown children and four grandchildren.



The Rudds experience art at the Dennos Museum Center.

Giving

Tell us about yourself for publication in Nor'Wester

Last	First	Initial
Maiden Name		
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City	State	Zip
Phone ()	Work ()	
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May we print your address?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
What years did you attend NMC?		
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Tell us about other educational opportunities, occupations and recent activities.		

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