



NorWesterner

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Spring 2009

NMC gets greener

Starting this summer, the smelly black clouds that trailed the wake of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy's small boats will be no more.

Using funds from a new NMC Innovation Grant program, three small Maritime Academy vessels are being retrofitted to operate on 100 percent biodiesel fuels instead of diesel. As a result, emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants are expected to drop by at least half, benefitting both the waters and the sailors on Grand Traverse Bay.

Since 2007, NMC's solar array has kept more than 40,000 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

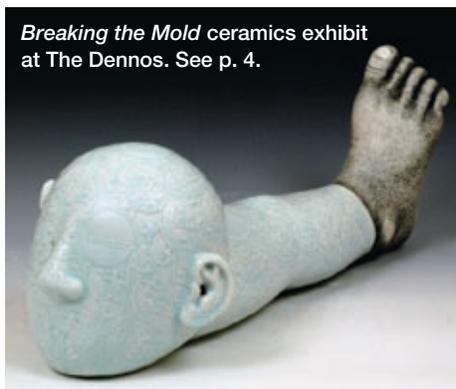
Clean, green energy initiatives suddenly seem everywhere after last summer's \$4/gallon gas prices. But NMC was several years ahead of the crowd, dating to its first renewable energy class offerings in 2001. Now through the arm of Extended Educational Services, NMC's community and continuing education division, the college is helping others get green while stepping up its own efforts.

Find out more on p. 4.

Pictured clockwise from top left are some of NMC's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint: Small Great Lakes Maritime Academy boats are being converted to operate on biodiesel instead of diesel; the wind tower at the University Center campus and solar panels at the Aero Park campus.



Breaking the Mold ceramics exhibit at The Dennos. See p. 4.



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In 2005, NMC received \$500,000 in state grant funds to build its Michigan Energy Demonstration Center.

www.nmc.edu/energy



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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

Supporting Innovation



Timothy J. Nelson

Innovation has been a hallmark of Northwestern Michigan College since before we were founded. Community leaders, seeking a new model for higher education, obtained legislation that helped make NMC the first community college in Michigan.

Innovation remains central to how we operate today, and was formally articulated in our Values by the Board of Trustees in 2007: “We will continuously improve the learning experience and its relevance to those we serve through innovation, agility and thoughtful risk-taking.”

To help encourage and support innovation, last fall the NMC Board of Trustees asked the NMC Foundation to establish Innovation Grant Funds for faculty, staff and students. In addition to receiving Foundation dollars, student grants are also supported by the NMC Barbecue and Student Government Association.

It’s an innovative approach to funding that has been met with enthusiasm. Already \$50,000 has been awarded to a dozen different projects, such as the Great Lakes Maritime Academy biodiesel conversion project described on page 1. Two other projects, which have measurably improved student success, include a tutoring project for biology students, and computer software that easily records lectures for publishing online.

Community colleges are the “first responders” for business and industry. It’s our job to anticipate and respond to workforce needs, which is why we continuously evaluate our programs and seek innovative ways to meet your learning needs. It’s also why, during these unprecedented economic times, NMC is an increasingly vital resource for the communities we serve.



The Dennos Museum Center debuted its new website in March. Changes include more comprehensive photos, a user-friendly calendar of events and Museum Store merchandise.

Check out the look up-close at the same address:
www.dennosmuseum.org

Construction Technology certificates begin Fall '09

New Construction Technology certificates in carpentry, electrical, HVAC/R and facilities management debut at NMC next semester.

Demand for these skilled workers is expected to rise by more than 15 percent in northern Michigan during the next decade.

NMC's construction technology certificates allow those already working in the fields to advance their skills. The curriculum is also appropriate for those without previous experience. Among the program highlights:

- Attend class one night per week
- Maximum class size of 15 insures individual attention
- Building sciences lab for hands-on learning
- Learn from instructors experienced in industry
- Industry-designed curriculum aligned with national competency standards
- Financial aid available

For more information, contact Steve Morse at smorse@nmc.edu or (231) 995-2007.



NMC will offer four new construction technology certificates beginning in fall 2009.

NMC names NISOD winners

Art instructor Doug Domine, a member of the NMC faculty for more than 20 years, and business instructor Jeff Straw, who joined the faculty in 2002, are the 2008-09 winners of NISOD teaching excellence awards at Northwestern Michigan College.

NMC is one of more than 700 community college members of NISOD,

the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development. Affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin, NISOD nominees are judged on criteria including commitment to learning, professionalism and relationships with both students and colleagues.

In his nomination, NMC colleagues cited Domine's "tireless effort" as the art

department chair for nearly a decade, and also as "instrumental in casting vision for the college as a whole" as the co-chair of NMC's Strategic Planning committee. Straw was commended for his "dedication, desire and commitment to teach" as well as his "commitment to learning for his students (and himself)."



Jeff Straw, far right, consults with business students.

Doug Domine reviews a student's print-making project.



Bill Queen is program coordinator for NMC's Energy Demonstration Center, which operates this mobile classroom.

NMC gets greener

From page 1

Greening the community

In a partnership with Traverse City Light & Power, customers interested in taking a non-credit renewable energy class can get a rebate from the utility that could cover the entire cost.

TCL&P's Jim Cooper said it's a way to work toward the state requirement that utility energy portfolios contain 10 percent renewable sources by 2015. TCL&P has set its own more aggressive target: 30 percent by 2020.

"It was just educating the public about what's out there, to do something, be proactive," Cooper said. "Maybe someone will be inspired to put some solar panels up on the roof."

In addition to the consumer-oriented classes, NMC also offers workforce development courses, training professionals how to install solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and wind power. Students have come from as far as Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

"It's really taken off, the word's out we're offering these courses," said Bill Queen, program coordinator at EES. "Enrollments have pretty much doubled, in some cases tripled, since the fall."

NMC's own green efforts

The maritime biofuel initiative is among several green endeavors underway at NMC. Two of the more visible are the solar power system at the Aero Park campus and a wind tower at the University Center campus.

While both systems were designed to be used by students, rather than for power generation, they do lighten the college's carbon footprint. Since 2007, the solar system alone has kept more than 40,000 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, Queen said. Then, through a process called net metering, both solar and wind power go back into the grid, helping lower NMC's utility bills.

College-wide energy conservation efforts also help with the utility bills. NMC purchased smaller, high-efficiency boilers in 2008 and began adjusting building thermostats to season and occupancy – colder on winter nights and weekends, warmer on summer nights and weekends.

"That was something we had never done before, tying our building utilization to the class schedules," said Ed Bailey, director of Campus Services. One result: This winter, despite a 30 percent jump in natural gas prices and much colder weather, NMC held its natural gas costs flat.

Many more projects also are planned, from green cleaning products to a preference for electronic documents over paper to water conservation in campus landscaping. It's all part of an NMC effort to weave sustainability into its entire enterprise, said Marguerite Cotto, vice president for Lifelong and Professional Learning. As an educational institution, NMC can then turn the lessons it learns to the benefit of students and the community.

"We're trying to do more of the right thing in a visible way, and make our learning experiences something that becomes available to the community to learn from as well," she said.

New at The Dennos

See the current exhibit **Breaking the Mold: Contemporary Chinese and Japanese Ceramic Sculpture**, on loan from the Dai Ichi Gallery in New York through Sept. 27.



In Memory

NMC lost several members of its extended community this winter, including:



Helen Core
Oct. 27, 2008

A teacher for 40 years, she was one of NMC's original five instructors, and taught until she retired in 1974.



Alex Galligan
Nov. 12, 2008

A member of NMC's first graduating class of 1953, Galligan spent his career in public education. He was named NMC's Outstanding Alumnus in

1991. He lived in Deckerville, Mich. at the time of his death.



Ernie Gaunt
Jan. 24, 2009

Served as NMC's first business director for 25 years until his retirement in 1977. He lived in Largo, Fla., at the time of his death.



Jack Stegenga
Oct. 31, 2008

Elected to NMC Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2005. He helped form the NMC Foundation and served as its chair for several years. In 1988

he was named an NMC Fellow, the college's highest honor.



Dr. Harry L. Weitz
Feb. 5, 2009

The first radiologist to practice north of Grand Rapids, Dr. Weitz was a member of NMC's Board of Trustees from 1960-72. He was named an NMC Fellow in 1973.

Memorial contributions for all may be directed to the Northwestern Michigan College Foundation. Give online at www.nmc.edu/foundation or call (231) 995-1021.

Alumni Updates

See old friends and faculty at the **Alumni Reception at the 54th annual NMC BBQ, noon- 2 p.m. May 17, Health & Science Bldg., Room 101**

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Andrea Kritcher (2001-2002) had her research on high energy lasers published in the Oct. 3, 2008 issue of the journal *Science*, a prestigious peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Kritcher is a fellow and research scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Cal., and works at the National Ignition Facility (NIF). The technique used in her experiment serves as a precursor to an inertial confinement fusion experiment at NIF planned for 2010. This experiment will fire 192 lasers with the anticipation of starting a nuclear fusion reaction, a miniature star in the laboratory. When successful and commercially viable, nuclear fusion will produce an endless supply of safe, clean energy.

After graduating from NMC, Kritcher transferred to the University of Michigan where she graduated with a degree in nuclear engineering. She completed her master's and Ph.D at the University of California at Berkeley.

Thanks for keeping in touch! NMC's alumni updates have increased significantly. Go to www.nmc.edu/alumni to read updates from former students including:

1960s

Mary Lou Rigg (1965-1966)

1970s

Karl L. Sporck (1969-1973)

Beverly B. Sporck (1971-1973)

David Timmons (1971-1973)

William Summons (1971-1973)

Randall L. Milstein (1974-1976)

Bruce L. Byl (1977-1979)

Also one of NMC's Outstanding Alumni – see p. 8

1980s

Bill Connolly (1984-1986)

Scott Elliott (1985-1986)

Dr. Craig Derror (1986-1988)

Len Empie (1987-1989)

1990s

Eric J. Fant (1998-2000)

Ross Helmick (1993-1995)

Joshua Pearson (1994-1996)

Crystal Poniatowski (1999-2001)

Molly Travin (1999-2000)

2000s

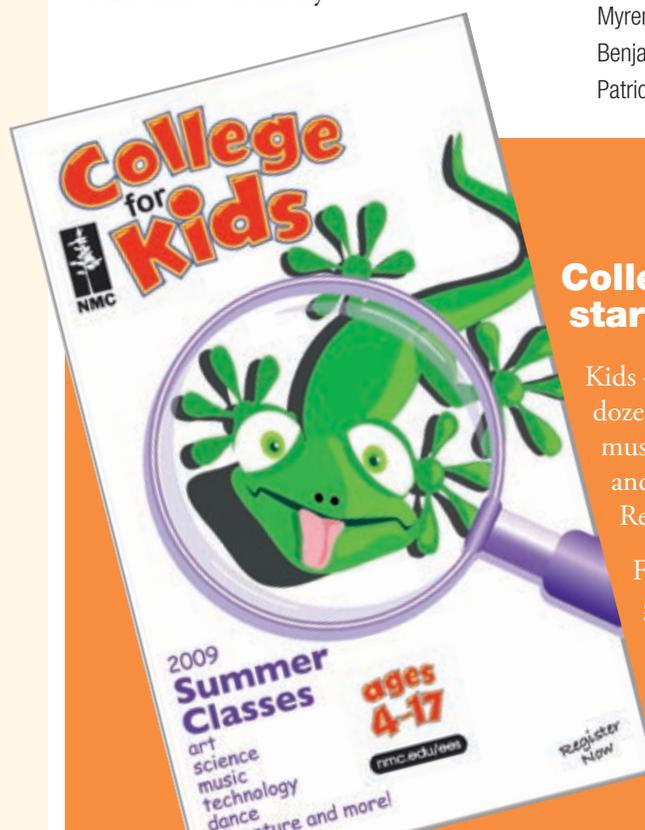
Todd Hoffman (2004-2006)

Linus Parr (2002-2005)

Myrene Perkins (2002-2004)

Benjamin J. Puchala (2002-2005)

Patrick Rinckey (2001-2004)



College for Kids starts June 15

Kids 4-17 can choose from dozens of classes in art, science, music, technology, adventure and more all summer long. Registration is going on now.

For a copy of the schedule go to www.nmc.edu/ees or call (231) 995-1700.

Scholarships help stretch family budgets

Scholarships are supported with funds raised in NMC's Annual Community Campaign, as well as special events like the upcoming Scholarship Open, to be held Aug. 6 at Crystal Mountain Resort.

To sponsor or play, e-mail cpaul@nmc.edu or call (231) 995-1021.



Congratulations NMC retirees

Judy Izard
Assistant, Business Office29 years

Dan Karres
Custodian, NMC Facilities
Office12 years

Ruth Ann LaMott
Office Manager, Humanities
Academic Area26 years

Sharon Kelley
Office Manager, Educational
Media Technologies22 years

Carolyn Risk
Adjunct Art Instructor19 years

Lauren Keinath
Coordinator, Flexible Learning
& Instructional Design14 years

Family budgets are tight these days, meaning financial aid has never been more important. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the NMC Foundation is proud to award more scholarship dollars to more students than any other community college in Michigan – almost \$1 million to more than 1,000 students in 2008-09. Meet two of those donors, one of whom invites you to contribute to the cause and enjoy a night on the town, too.

Magnum Hospitality's "Missy Memorial" Endowed Scholarship

Created in 2005 in memory of Missy Kamyszek, a manager at the company's Red Mesa Grill restaurant in Boyne City whose life was tragically cut short in 2004. On her birthday, June 21, the company dedicates sales of Missy's favorite menu items and drinks at its three restaurants to funding the scholarship it established for NMC Great Lakes Culinary students.

Magnum co-owner Jim Cartwright said the company wanted to support the culinary program since its two other restaurants – Red Mesa Grill in Traverse City and Pearl's in Elk Rapids – fall into NMC's service area.

"The program was a strong program and something we wanted to back," he said. "It was a great way to keep her spirit alive."

Four students who embody the spirit of hospitality that Missy exemplified have received the scholarship to date. Magnum will hold its fifth annual scholarship fundraiser June 21, 2009, at all three restaurants.

Bobby L. and Karen J. Thompson Veterans Scholarship

Established in 2008 by NMC alumna Karen (Dolan) Thompson and her husband, Bobby. Karen received an associate's degree in 1971. She then transferred to MSU for her bachelor's degree and took a job with UPS out of college, where she met her husband. Both retired since 1995, they now live in Tennessee.

Karen Thompson said they established the scholarship due to her son, U.S. Marine Cpl. Greg Buhr, who spent eight years in the military including a six-month stint in Iraq in 2003.

"From that point on I've had this bonding with military people, knowing the sacrifice they have to make," Karen Thompson said.



Watch an online video of NMC scholarship recipients at www.nmc.edu/media/thank-you

Some 135 veterans currently attend NMC. While veterans have federal financial aid available, many often have additional financial need.

"Military people really don't get paid all that much," Thompson said, especially those who are in the reserves.

"People get pulled out of their jobs and sent over there," she said. "If it helps someone, I'm really, really happy to do that."

For more information on establishing or donating to scholarships, contact Sonia Clem at sclm@nmc.edu or (231) 995-1030.

Plan ahead...

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming NMC events:

May 15

Small Works Exhibition, Sale and Reception
5:30-8 p.m., Dennon Museum Center

May 17

54th annual NMC Barbecue
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Main Campus



May 21

International Affairs Forum lecture
Washington Post columnist David Broder speaks on "U.S. Foreign Policy Under an Obama Administration"
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

May 22, 30, June 5, 13

Free Public Viewing Nights
9-11 p.m., Rogers Observatory
For more dates, see
www.nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

June 18

International Affairs Forum lecture
John R. Price, president and CEO of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh speaks on "The World Turned Upside Down"
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

June 21 - September 6

Up Stream: Fly Fishing in the American West
Photography exhibit by Charles Lindsay,
Dennon Museum Center

June 27

Kids' Free Fishing Day
10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Great Lakes Campus

August 6

NMC Scholarship Open
Crystal Mountain Resort

Visit 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



From the archives

NMC students spend a spring day studying by the Harold & Imogene Wise Clock Tower in 1990, when it was in its original location where the Health & Science Building is now.

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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Let's all do the BBQ!
May 17, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.



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Three named as Outstanding Alumni

An artist, a businessman and a mariner have been named as NMC's 2009 Outstanding Alumni. They were recognized at NMC's Commencement on May 2.

Verna Bartnick



The owner of Old Mission Tavern-Bella Galleria, a restaurant and gallery space near the tip of Old Mission Peninsula, Bartnick studied

sculpture at NMC in the 1960s. She was an early supporter of the Dennon Museum Center and the arts in the Grand Traverse region. Many former NMC students have exhibited at her gallery. Her own sculpture can be seen at St. Francis Catholic Church in Traverse City, at Clinch Park on West Bay, and in the Tanis Building lobby on main campus.

Bruce Byl



Byl received his Associate's Degree in Aviation from NMC in 1979. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Michigan State and subsequently became

president and CEO of a Chicago-based Steelcase commercial furniture distributor. Now director of real estate and special projects for Northwestern Bank, his community involvements include the NMC Foundation board. He is also a founder of Food Rescue of Northwest Michigan which "rescues" soon-to-expire fresh food from grocery stores and restaurants and redistributes it to non-profits.

Tim Dunn



Dunn graduated from the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in 1992. He subsequently earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees at Ferris State University.

A registered pilot on the Great Lakes since 1998, in 2002 he was part of the volunteer crew which delivered the training ship *State of Michigan* from New York to Traverse City. He is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve and has done six tours of duty in Kuwait supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. A past president of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy Alumni Association, he also does volunteer work for seniors and senior veterans.