



Math Center numbers add up

Where were ten percent of NMC students to be found this past fall semester?

- A) On their phones, texting
- B) Looking for a parking spot
- C) At the Math Center

Kelly Leassner can tell you that the answer is C, the Math Center. She's the manager of the drop-in tutoring center in the basement of the Tanis Building. In just the year it's been open there, the Math Center's become one of the hottest hangouts on campus.

"We've just seen an incredible increase in students," said Leassner, a former NMC student from Elk Rapids who aspires to be a math teacher. While she finishes her teaching degree through Ferris at the University Center, she spent 25 hours a week helping the 450 students who stopped by the Math Center last semester, many intimidated by the subject and ready to quit.

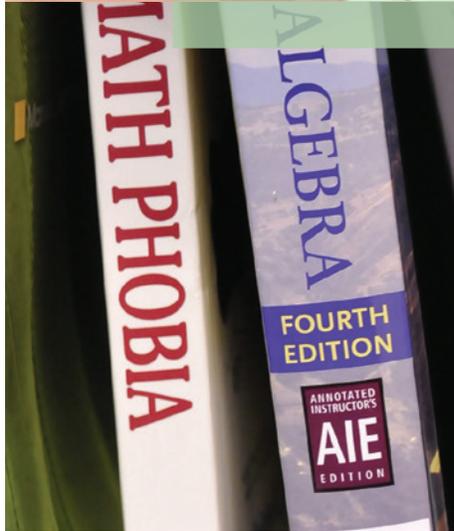
"Some students come in thinking it's hopeless. They're going to drop out of school," Leassner said.

Steve Lyons was one of them. Instructor Adam Shafer suggested he go for help with an intermediate algebra class. When he first met Leassner, Lyons said he was 60 percent sure he would have to drop the class.

"I came in and I was really frustrated, freaking out. I'm really poor at math," he said.

But Leassner was able to help him both academically and ease his stress, Lyons said. He started going two to three times a week and was feeling confident going into final exam week.

► For more on the Math Center, see p. 3



Math Center manager Kelly Leassner, above, helps one of the hundreds of students who seek math help at the drop-in center in the Tanis Building.



Contemporary Japanese bamboo art at The Dennos Feb. 22. See more p. 4

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Find and friend NMC

You can find NMC, the Dennon Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNNMC radio, student groups and more on Facebook and Twitter.



Northwestern
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College

The NorWester is published by the NMC Office of Public Relations and Marketing. 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

Reverse transfer benefits everyone involved



Timothy J. Nelson

NMC students, like community college students all over the nation, enroll with a wide variety of outcomes in mind. Some have a particular program and clear goal of earning a degree or certificate. Some have already

identified a four-year university as their eventual next step, and others are still finding their way.

Every year, hundreds of students graduate or earn certificates from NMC. Many other students transfer to a university just shy of completing. Some of them are among our biggest success stories, great students who made a positive impact on our college and our community. But in those cases, we weren't able to officially record them as a success.

After a semester or two at their new college or university, those same students have successfully completed their requirements to earn their associate degree or

certificate, but unless they took the initiative to "reverse" transfer those credits back to us, we would not have been able to award them their diploma or certificate.

That's why I'm pleased that on February 7, NMC formally signed reverse transfer agreements with seven Michigan universities, including six of our partners at the NMC University Center: Central Michigan University, Davenport University, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. These agreements with those partners and with Northern Michigan University make the process of transferring credits back to NMC a more seamless process, and we can award them their diploma or certificate.

Studies show that students who successfully complete the associate degree are more likely to persist and complete a bachelor's degree. Making the process of reverse transferring simpler is a great benefit to our students, to NMC and to our four-year partners. As always, let me know what you think at tnelson@nmc.edu

NMC to provide training to create new jobs

NMC's Board of Trustees has approved training agreements with five local companies that will lead to 62 new jobs in the region by 2016.

Under the terms of Michigan's New Jobs Training Program, NMC will provide training and professional development to the new employees at the following companies. The jobs must pay above \$12.95 per hour.

Armor Express, Central Lake - six new jobs

Century Extrusion, Traverse City - five new jobs

Moran Iron Works, Inc., Onaway - eight new jobs

Precision Edge Surgical Products LLC, Boyne City - 18 new jobs

Shoreline Fruit LLC, Traverse City - 25 new jobs

In 2008, the Michigan Legislature passed the New Jobs Training Program to provide funding for organizations to pay for staff development in new positions. The companies pay for the training and are reimbursed over time as payroll tax dollars are diverted.

NMC currently has two other NJTP agreements in place. Electro-Optics Technology of Traverse City has made 19 new hires, completing 94 percent of its training. Century Inc. of Traverse City has made 29 hires and completed 22 percent of its training.

NMC's Training Services division offers customized training opportunities including leadership and team building, Lean, advanced manufacturing and more.

Contact them at www.nmc.edu/training

International profile: Kristin Karam, K2 Edibles

As a little girl, Kristin Karam picked fresh mint, parsley, tomatoes and peppers in her grandmother's rooftop garden overlooking Detroit's City Airport and helped make hummus and tabbouleh for family gatherings.

Today, the 1999 Great Lakes Culinary Institute graduate is still making hummus and tabbouleh, plus Polish pierogi, pad Thai, Spanish paella, Indian curries and many more ethnic favorites as the proprietor of K2 Edibles, a niche caterer with a mission to bring ethnic fare to northern Michigan.

During the summer she caters up to eight events a week – everything from a Cuban lunch for a meeting at Hagerty to a wedding for 200 featuring three ethnic food stations to her weekly world dinners at

Traverse City's Left Foot Charley winery – conveniently right across from the kitchen space she rents at Underground Cheesecake Co.

Every Thursday night patrons pack Left Foot for a plate of Karam's cuisine du jour, plus a glass of wine or cider.

They also get a chance to suggest future menus.

"There's quite a void in this town for ethnic food. So when it's available, people go crazy for it," Karam said. "A small amount of residents want that, crave that. And that's where my customer base comes from."

Just inches from her bachelor's at Wayne State, Karam, now 42, came to Traverse City to take a break from the city, thinking she'd spend a summer waiting tables.

She wound up completing her degree through Davenport University at NMC's University Center and then enrolling in NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute. She then spent almost a decade planning and catering events at Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay.

In 2010 came the opportunity to go all in with K2. Now Karam hires NMC culinary students to help with her prep and serving. She also serves on the committee for the Tasters' Guild Auction, an international food and wine scholarship fundraiser for culinary students, set for Feb. 22 this year.

"I didn't know what I was going to be when I grew up, but I just love to entertain with food," Karam said. "I've tried to carve out a niche with this ethnic food, because that's where my heart is. I like the simple, rustic cooking that our ancestors did."

- Ensuring that learners are prepared for success in a global society and economy is a strategic direction for NMC. Periodically such learners and alumni will be profiled in *NorWester*. To suggest subjects, contact Cari Noga at cnoga@nmc.edu or (231) 995-1027.



Math Center

continued from p.1

Monday through Saturday, you can find between five and 25 students studying beneath a 700-decimal place printout of pi that wraps around the Math Center. They'll be taking classes ranging from developmental math all the way up to differential equations. Tutors and faculty roam the room offering assistance.

"I get to answer questions from fractions to calculus questions," Leassner said. "I have to be on my toes. All of us tutors do. It's exciting."

For students like Lyons, "exciting" isn't quite the right word to describe math. "Terrifying" is more like it. At least until they find their way to the Tanis basement.

"In my opinion, math is the hardest subject for everyone. That's a lot of the reason why people drop out," said Lyons, who is studying respiratory therapy. "It ups the chances for a lot of people to get through school."

Math Center usage statistics support Lyons' opinion. Operated through NMC's Tutoring and Support Services office, more students used the Math Center last semester than used tutoring services for all other subjects combined.

"We're very excited about the number of students that are using it," said Michelle Poertner, manager of Tutorial Services at NMC.



THE
Dennos
MUSEUM CENTER

Now at The Dennos:

THEM: Images of Separation is a traveling exhibition from the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University that showcases items from popular culture used to negatively stereotype groups by race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation. Sponsored by the DTE Energy Foundation. Through March 3.



In conjunction with THEM, don't miss:



Leslie McCurdy and the Spirit of Harriet Tubman

February 28, 7 p.m.,
Milliken Auditorium

This powerful portrayal of the life of Harriet Tubman, the nineteenth century "Moses" who led many slaves out of the American South to freedom in the North, was written and is performed by Leslie McCurdy. An inspiring, must-see performance for the whole family.

► Dennos Concert Series continues all winter.
Complete listings at www.dennosmuseum.org

Later this month:

Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art explores the innovative shape that bamboo art has taken since the mid-twentieth century, highlighting the creativity of 17 contemporary artists through a stunning collection of 37 works. Feb. 22-June 2.



Coming in March:

Rufus Snoddy: New Work (far left) Grand Traverse artist will exhibit constructions of natural material, found objects, and fabricated objects inspired by mythology and other themes, including a major installation based on the story of Icarus.

Larry Cressman: (left) Gallery installations by the professor of art at the University of Michigan's Residential College will explore three-dimensional line that incorporates cane, paper, and other materials.

Both March 10-June 2.

NMC aims for maritime technology as first bachelor's degree

Following passage of legislation authorizing Michigan community colleges to offer four technical bachelor's degrees, NMC has started to investigate steps to offering a bachelor's degree in maritime technology.

The Community College Baccalaureate Authorization bill passed the Michigan Legislature in December and was subsequently signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. It authorizes community colleges to offer technical bachelor's degrees in maritime technology, cement technology, energy production technology and culinary arts.

"This is an important step for our students and the future students in Michigan," NMC President Tim Nelson said.

"This authorization, coupled with our current and continuing partnerships at the University Center, provide superior access to higher education for citizens in our region. I particularly look forward to continuing to work with Ferris State University as a partner in meeting the degree needs of our Great Lakes Maritime Academy students."

Nursing was originally part of the legislation, but stripped out of the final bill.

"We are actively pursuing other options that will meet the BSN needs of health care in our region and I am confident we can provide appropriate solutions," Nelson said.



Tasters' Guild Auction February 22

Guests will sip, sample and savor a strolling dinner of international food and wine at the annual Tasters' Guild Auction, set for Feb. 22 at NMC's Great Lakes Campus.

Featuring multiple cuisines prepared by NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute students and served at more than a dozen tasting tables, proceeds support scholarships, books and equipment. Tickets are \$60 each or \$700 for a table of ten and available online at www.nmc.edu/culinary



Jill Hinds, 1949-2013

Longtime Visual Communications instructor Jill Hinds died Jan. 6, 2013. Her family requests that remembrances be in the form of donations to the Visual Communications Program Fund at NMC for the Jill Hinds Art Scholarship. Donations may be sent to the NMC Foundation, 1701 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49686 or made online at www.nmc.edu/give

New scholarships

Clark Reynolds Aviation Scholarship:

Clare County resident Ruth Ann Reynolds established this scholarship in memory of her husband, who died in 2010.

Clark Reynolds' love of aviation started when he flew helicopters during the Vietnam War. When he returned home, Ruth Ann encouraged him to get his private pilot's license. She even found the first airplane he ever owned.

After his death, she donated his third plane, a 1958 Piper Tripacer, to NMC. The plane was restored to flying condition and sold at auction in December.

The scholarship established with the proceeds is expected to help aviation students for the next ten years, said NMC Aviation Director Aaron Cook.

Ruth Ann Reynolds said that's just what her husband would have wanted.

"I'm just so happy that it's going to be gifted and more young aviators are going to be out there doing what my husband did," she said.

Capt. Lori R. Reinhart Scholarship:

The Great Lakes have been a "boys' club" for a long time, and Capt. Lori Reinhart, GLMA Class of 1996, wants to change that. So Reinhart, the first female captain on a U.S. flag ship, established the scholarship, to be awarded annually to a female deck cadet.

The time spent at sea can make a maritime career a tough choice, she said. But advantages include good pay, considerable time off, and, as the Great Lakes shipping industry prepares for a wave of retirements in the next five years, incredible advancement opportunity.

"The advancement is going to be huge," said Reinhart, who sails for American Steamship Co. "Everyone that comes on, they're looking for future captains and chief engineers."

Through the generous gifts of community donors, more than 700 NMC students received assistance meeting their educational goals through NMC Foundation scholarships last year. For information on establishing or donating to a scholarship, contact Sarah Hemminger at the Foundation, shemminge@nmc.edu (231) 995-1030.

Other giving opportunities

Planned giving – A planned gift is a way to honor your present financial commitments while also leaving a legacy for future generations. Individuals who make a planned gift to NMC become members of the Biederman Society, named for Lester M. Biederman, whose inspiration and dedication led to the founding of NMC in 1951. Contact Rebecca Teahen at rteahen@nmc.edu or (231) 995-1855 for more information about planned giving.



Extended Ed

New: Northern Michigan Naturalist certificate

Water, shoreline, woods, rolling landscape, dunes, plentiful trees, birds, wildflowers and wildlife are part of what makes our "Up North" region so remarkable.

Take your interest and engagement to a new level by earning a continuing education certificate, the Northern Michigan Naturalist. Whether you want to increase your knowledge for personal enjoyment or possible volunteer work or employment, the Naturalist program provides classroom and hands-on encounters with the natural environment.

► Visit www.nmc.edu/ees and click "certificates" for more information.

Nominate an Outstanding Alumnus

NMC is seeking nominations for the 2013 Outstanding Alumnus award. Established in 1988, the award recognizes NMC alumni who are noteworthy for their continued donation of time, talent, resources and enthusiasm on behalf of the college, significant professional achievements, and/or exemplary leadership in community and professional activities.

Nominations are due by Feb. 28 and can be made online at www.nmc.edu/alumni.

Registration for the popular one-week classes held June through August begins April 12. Designed for children and teens age 4 to 17, there's something for everyone: Art, music, science, technology, dance, outdoor adventures and more.

Most classes are formatted in a week of four or five half days. Classes are designed for motivated students who want to explore an area of interest.

► To find the best fit, read descriptions posted at www.nmc.edu/ees



Plan ahead...

February 15, 22

FAFSA Fridays

NMC Financial Aid staff will assist high school seniors and families with filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every Friday in February. 3-6 p.m., Osterlin Building

February 17

NMC Children's Choirs performance

3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium
Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students and available at the door.

February 21

International Affairs Forum lecture on National Security and the Politics of Intelligence

Speaker Dr. Joshua Rovner is an adjunct professor at Columbia University
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium.
Tickets \$10, free to students and educators.
Available at the door or call (231) 995-1700.
Series continues third Thursday of the month through June

- Topics and speaker bios: www.nmc.edu/ees

March 1

NMC Concert Band

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students and available at the door.

March 1 and 16

Public Viewing Night

9-11 p.m., Rogers Observatory
Admission \$2/person, \$5/family

- All 2013 dates: www.nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

March 7

Free Night at the Museum

Free Community Cinema: "Wonder Women"

Free admission to the Dennos Museum from 5-8 p.m. Film at 7 p.m. Offered in partnership with WCMU Public Television and continuing the first Thursday of the month through May.

March 14

Vagina Monologues performance

Sponsored by NMC Student Life
7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

April 26

NMC Concert Band

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students and available at the door.

April 27

NMC Children's Choirs performance

3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium

Spring Jazz Ensemble Showcase

8 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

Tickets \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students and available at the door.

May 4

NMC Commencement

2 p.m., Traverse City Central High School

May 19

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>

Alumni Notes



Maurice A. Borden

Maurice A. Borden, '77, has been elected President of the National Cherry Festival. He has served as a director on the non-profit organization's board of governors since 2009, and has been a volunteer ambassa-

dor since 1995. The festival's mission is to celebrate and promote cherries, community involvement, and the Grand Traverse Region. Mr. Borden is a member of the law firm of Sondee, Racine & Doren, PLC in Traverse City Michigan.

Tyler Benson, '04, '09-'12, has published the Adventures of Onyx and the Guardians of the Straits. It is the first in a series of children's books about the U.S. Coast Guard, as told through the eyes of Onyx, a rescue dog. Benson is currently stationed with the Coast Guard in Buffalo, N.Y.

If you're an NMC alumnus, let us know what you've been up to. Tell us about your new job, your relocation, the book you've published, the honors you've earned.

E-mail to alumni@nmc.edu or post at www.nmc.edu/alumni. The first three alumni who submit updates will win one of the NMC prizes from the bookstore.

Let's all do the BBQ – May 19

Advance ticket prices for the annual picnic under the pines on main campus are \$6, \$2 less than the \$8 price on Barbecue Day.

The late Gerald W. Oleson and his wife Frances, founders of Oleson's Food Stores in Traverse City, started the annual fundraiser picnic in 1956. Oleson's continues to donate the food. About 10,000 people attend every year, raising more than \$1.5 million for college programs and equipment.

The traditional menu including a choice of buffalo steakette or hot dog, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, ice cream and a beverage will be served from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on main campus May 19. The day also includes live entertainment and children's games and activities. Both the Dennos Museum Center and Rogers Observatory on Birmley Road are open to the public free of charge.

- Tickets are available online at www.nmc.edu/bbq. For more information, call (231) 995-1020.





NorWestester

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Winter 2013



Let's all do the BBQ! | May 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. | Tickets: nmc.edu/bbq



From the Archives

Do you know the people, places or dates these photos were taken? Two utter mysteries from the NMC Archives. If you can provide any identifications or details, contact Ann Swaney in the NMC Archives: aswaney@nmc.edu, (231) 995-1016.

Fall mystery photo update: Most of the students pictured at Gov. George Romney's 1964 campus lecture were identified. Visit www.nmc.edu/archives and click on "Fall 2012 mystery photo report" in the blue box to find out.

Love these archival photos? We do, too. This month, NMC is starting Throwback Thursday on Facebook. Each Thursday we'll post a vintage photo – some mystery, some not. Like NMC on Facebook (www.facebook.com/Northwestern-MichiganCollege) and get ready for a walk down Memory Lane each Thursday.