



NorWestster

A Publication for
Alumni & Friends
of Northwestern
Michigan College

Winter 2016

Love is a many splendored thing

In our modern times, love is often defined only romantically, but the ancient Greeks – who also knew a thing or two about education – realized there was more than one kind of love.

So in this month of Valentine’s Day, we take a cue from the Greeks and look at three different kinds of love on campus.

Agape (selfless love)

Almost 30 years ago, Kingsley native Charles Fleis, at center in bottom photo, was a dual-enrolled NMC student before dual enrollment formally existed, studying French to prepare for a trip to France. He graduated from NMC in 1991 and while a student helped to found the college’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international community college honor society.

Fleis then went on to earn a Doctor of Modern Languages and spent more than 20 years as a tenured university professor in Virginia and Arkansas before family circumstances recently brought him back to northern Michigan in 2014.

Now he works three part-time jobs, including teaching Spanish as an adjunct instructor. The curve in his career path hasn’t diminished his love of scholarship.

“I do have a passion, I love to teach,” he said. “The most important thing for me is the classroom.”

Philea (brotherly love)

Today, philea has worked its way into many words that mean love of almost anything. Oenophiles love wine. Bibliophiles love books. Philanthropists love their fellow man, and act to benefit them.

Chef Lucy House, top right photo, loved

continued on p. 5



Clockwise from top left, Culinary alumni Sarah and Scott Adams were married by Fred Laughlin, director of the Great Lakes Culinary Institute, in 2014. The late Chef Lucy House’s love of food and teaching will be remembered in a scholarship at A Taste of Success Feb. 19. Bottom photo, NMC alumnus and adjunct Spanish instructor Charles Fleis, at center, surrounded by students at his former institution, Bridgewater College.



Dennos Inuit art gallery to expand. p. 5.

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Northwestern
Michigan
College

Find and friend NMC

You can find NMC, the Dennos Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNMC radio, student groups and more on social media.



The NorWester is published by the NMC Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Alumni news and updates may be submitted online at nmc.edu/alumni or by e-mailing alumni@nmc.edu

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From the President

Growing our campus to benefit learners



Timothy J. Nelson

on both ends of main campus.

On the west end, we'll be adding three new galleries to the Dennos Museum Center. In December, we were proud and grateful to receive a \$1 million donation from Barb and Dudley Smith III to expand the museum's signature Inuit gallery (See p. 5). That expansion will coincide with the construction on new sculpture and permanent collection galleries, funded by a \$2 million donation from Richard and Diana Milock. Plans for the entire Dennos project are nearing bid stage. When complete, the renovated Dennos will be much more suited to curriculum collaborations with NMC instructors in a variety of disciplines.

Most Grand Traverse area residents anticipate spring as the time the snow finally melts, cherry trees bloom, and we can dare to again think about summer. At Northwestern Michigan College, this year we're anticipating spring for the arrival of bulldozers

On the east end of campus, we plan to add new student housing on what is now an underutilized softball field, to the northeast of our primary residence, East Hall. The dire shortage of affordable housing in Traverse City is the driving factor behind the decision to build new facilities. In addition, NMC is drawing more students from further away for specialized programs like Maritime, Aviation, Culinary, Engineering Technology and Water Studies. We also desire to enroll more international students.

Currently campus housing is at capacity, even after leasing a former motel adjacent to campus (now the Hawk's Nest) just two years ago. In order to enable all these students to complete their educations, and as East Hall (built in 1967) and our apartments (1973) continue to age, new housing is simply necessary.

The new housing building will accommodate 144 students, and is targeted for completion in time for the Fall 2017 semester.

So when you come to campus this year, consider bringing a hard hat. And as always, let me know what you think at tnelson@nmc.edu.

Three things alumni should know in 2016

Happy 2016, fellow NMC alumni! The new Alumni Relations program has many exciting events and initiatives in the works. Here is what you need to know right now:

1. Your voice matters

The best way to ensure the Alumni Relations program addresses your wants and needs is to let us know via a short, online Alumni Interest Survey. This survey was emailed to all current alumni e-mail addresses in January, so check your inbox.

If you did not receive the e-mail, take the survey at nmc.edu/alumnisurvey. Please complete the survey by February 22 to make sure you have a voice in the Alumni Program's future planning.

If you haven't yet shared your e-mail address with Alumni Relations, you can do so by e-mailing alumni@nmc.edu. Please include your full name.

2. You can get involved

Since last summer, the new Alumni Relations Steering Committee has been shaping a multi-year strategic plan and helping to craft



Betsy Coffia

the Alumni Interest Survey. A special thanks goes out to committee chair Chris Branson (GLMA '76), and committee members Ruthy Ransom ('10), current GLCI student Iris Bock, Paul Maurer ('73), Janet Taylor ('53), current student Caleb Kase, Kevin Schlueter ('89), Marty Watts ('77), Mary Vasquez ('15), Dr. Nicole Runyon (GLMA '95), and Mara Penfil ('14).

Many volunteer opportunities are available to you, too. Contact me at bcoffia@nmc.edu or (231) 995-2825.

3. NMC wants to support you

In my first year at NMC, you told me that access to career support is a top priority. Now, as NMC alumni, you have access to one-on-one assistance from NMC's Student Success Coach Dana Laursen. Dana can assist you with resumes and cover letters, interview preparation and more. For more information or to set up an appointment at her office in Osterlin Library, e-mail dlaursen@nmc.edu.

It is an honor to serve you on behalf of NMC. I'm looking forward to working with you to make 2016 the best yet.

Alumni Notes



Tucker Bailey, above, far right, was part of a six-week search for *El Faro*, a sunken cargo ship found 15,000 feet beneath the Atlantic Ocean. The ship was sunk in the Bermuda Triangle in October 2015 during Hurricane Joaquin, with 33 men and women aboard. Its loss has been featured in two *60 Minutes* episodes. Bailey graduated from the Great Lakes Maritime Academy in 2012 and is employed by Phoenix Holdings International as an ROV technician.



Alex Bloye

Alex Bloye accepted the position of Director of Aviation at NMC in 2015. He is a 2003 alumnus of the aviation program and lives in Williamsburg, Mich.

Automotive alumnus **Eric Dies** put his training on hybrid vehicles to good use at

his position at Charlotte/Concord (N.C.) Public Transit, according to his former instructor Wayne Moody. "(Eric) diagnosed, repaired and placed back in service a hybrid bus that had been out of commission for a lengthy period of time," Moody notes. "Even the 20 year veterans in the shop lacked the training to tackle the job." Moody also notes another NMC alumnus who's found his training in alternative energy-fueled vehicles helpful professionally – **Andy Medley** is working outside of Chicago as a service tech for electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla Motors.

Jaden Drews is a first officer with United Airlines. He is a 2004 alumnus of the aviation program and lives in Traverse City.

Ryan Ferris is a first officer and pilot recruiter with Envoy Airlines. He lives in North Carolina.

Marc Hall is first officer for NetJets Charter and a reservist working as a crew chief on the "Warthog" A10. He lives in Traverse City.

Capt. Paul J. Joaquin is Vice President of Operations for Rand Logistics, Inc.'s U.S. fleet as of January 2016. He will have executive responsibility for the coordination, execution and optimization of vessel operations to fulfill annual operating plan commitments. Capt. Joaquin joined Rand Logistics in 2001 and graduated from the Great Lakes Maritime Academy with a degree in Marine Technology in 1994.

Emily Wagner was nominated by her peers and selected to speak at her graduation with a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, the nation's top ranked school of social work. She delivered her speech in late July, 2015 at the Ann Arbor campus. Formerly the NMC Student Life office manager, Wagner recently accepted a position at the Michigan Environmental Council. She graduated with her associate's degree in 2008.

Shane McClure is a first officer for American Airlines, flying the Airbus 321. A 2003 aviation alumnus, he lives in Lake Ann, Mich.

John Militello accepted a position as Director, Marketing, Innovation and Strategy for Swedish automaker Volvo in June 2015. Formerly the Executive Creative Director Google ZOO for seven years, Militello graduated from NMC in 1990. He was selected as a 2014 Outstanding Alumnus and was a



John Militello

speaker at TEDx Traverse City in 2014.



Laura Oblinger

Laura Oblinger was named the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce's first female executive director in the organization's 100-year history in April, 2015. Oblinger has been with the TC Chamber for 12 years, most recently as its

chief operating officer. She graduated from NMC in 1997.

Thom Rancour recently published a children's book, "Legend of the Hartwick Pines." It blends legend with facts with a focus on "how traditional logging, overfishing, and the stocking of non-native fish impacted one of Michigan's beautiful native fish, the Arctic Grayling." Rancour, class of 1990, was proud to share that his daughters Savannah and Sierra both are now attending NMC.



Timothy Young

Alumnus and NMC Foundation Board member **Timothy Young** celebrated the 20-year anniversary of his business Food For Thought, Inc. in Honor, Mich. in 2015. Young is founder, president and chef at Food for Thought, Inc., creators

of organic and wild-harvested gourmet specialty foods. He is a 1982 alumnus and 2012 recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus award.

More than a third of the 2015 Traverse City Business News' 40 Under 40 award recipients are former NMC students, including **Paul Bussey, Warren Call, Matt Classens, Marie-Chantal Dalese, Nate Griswold, Lars Kelto, Sarah Lucas, Benjamin Marentette, Bradley Matson, Alison Metiva, Jon Plummer, Frank Siepker** and **Trevor Tkach**. More than 100 individuals were nominated for the 40 Under 40 award, given based on nominees' professional and community efforts in the preceding year.

► Got a new job? Win an award? Let us know. Please send alumni accomplishments to alumni@nmc.edu.

THE Dennos MUSEUM CENTER

Through March 6:

Extreme Fibers: Textile Icons and the New Edge

The 136 artworks from established and emerging textile artists from around the world reveal the diversity of the fine art textile and fiber movement, and its transformation into a multi-media and discipline-spanning phenomenon. Viewers will find tapestries, quilts, weavings, sculpture, basketry, and a host of other forms on display, from functional works to fully abstracted shapes.

Organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, Michigan and Guest Curator Geary Jones.

In conjunction with Extreme Fibers, the Dennos is also exhibiting **Northwoods Awakening**, pictured below, the 2015 ArtPrize People's Choice winner by Ann and Steve Loveless of Frankfort. The 5x25 foot work blending photography and quilting took more than 1,000 hours to create and won the couple a \$250,000 prize.

Steve Loveless says, "I had the idea for Northwood Awakening after several shows that presented some of my photographs hanging with Ann's quilts which were inspired from the photos. Because we are

accustomed to perceiving photography as a medium of realism and we see a textile as a process of interpretation, I had the idea to create an actual photographic print that would morph into a quilt in a process we call photofiber™. The photo I chose was a spring woods in Benzie County with trillium in full blossom because spring is a very inspiring season for us both and symbolic of rebirth."



Fiber artist Tom Lundberg



At Milliken Auditorium

From Irish to Brazilian to blues, there's something for every musical taste at Milliken through the rest of the winter and spring. See the full lineup at dennosmuseum.org/milliken

HANGGAI

Saturday, April 9, 8 p.m.

Since first appearing on the Milliken stage in 2009 and again in 2012, Hanggai has emerged on the international stage as one of the outstanding touring bands from China. They perform Mongolian folk music with traditional and western instruments combined with raspy deep throat singing and a loosely rock-based structure, creating music that will make you "homesick for a place you've never been."
- *Rhapsody*

\$1 million gift will fund expanded Inuit gallery



Dudley and Barbara Smith

The Denmos Museum Center will gain not one, not two, but three new galleries in its twenty-fifth year.

In December, NMC announced a \$1 million gift to expand The Denmos' signature Inuit art gallery

from longtime NMC supporters and Inuit art collectors Barbara and Dudley Smith III. The expansion will add about 2,650 square feet to wrap around the existing Inuit Gallery as well as additional storage space for the growing collection, which now stands at nearly 1,500 works.

Construction will occur at the same time as two new galleries are added to the east side of the museum. That project, funded by a \$2 million gift from Diana and Richard Milock, was announced in September. Those galleries

will be dedicated to sculpture and display of art from the museum's permanent collection.

NMC's Inuit collection was started by librarian Bernie Rink in 1960. Its growth was a driving force behind the creation of the Denmos Museum Center in 1991. The expansion will also allow more opportunities for NMC instructors to incorporate the collection into their curriculum.

"It is hard to beat what we have at the museum," Barb Smith said. "It'll be nice to see more of it."

"What a fitting way to celebrate our anniversary by honoring the very artwork that built a reputation for the Denmos as an international leader," said Denmos Executive Director Eugene Jenneman. "This expansion will allow us to grow and refine our collection, securing the Denmos as one of the noted museums worldwide for Inuit art."

It was at the Denmos that the Smiths first saw and fell in love with Inuit art. The expanded gallery will one day house their personal collection of about a dozen prints and 40 sculptures, bequeathed to the Denmos in their estate plans.

The entire expansion project is targeted for bid in early 2016, with groundbreaking later this year.



This drawing shows an aerial perspective of the expanded Inuit Gallery at the Denmos Museum Center.

Nominate an Outstanding Alumnus

2016 nominations are due by Feb. 20 and can be made online at nmc.edu/alumni.

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. The 2015 recipients were Sally Rogers, class of 1981; Gary Seabrook, M.D., class of 1972; and Al Zelinski, class of 1983.

Love at NMC

continued from p.1

food and loved teaching at NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute. She combined both overseeing the Grand Traverse Tasters Guild Auction for many years. Sadly, she passed away Dec. 29 at the age of 59. Now called A Taste of Success, the Feb. 19 event is the largest source of financial support for culinary students and will include a scholarship awarded in Chef Lucy's name.

Eros (romantic love)

Culinary careers are notorious for night and weekend hours. But when your sweetheart works across the kitchen counter, that can serve as a plus.

So culinary alumni Scott and Sarah Adams discovered. They met at NMC and worked together at the Hagerty Center for three years. When they planned their wedding in Holland, Scott's hometown, they wanted someone special to them to perform the service. Their choice: Culinary Institute director Fred Laughlin.

"The people that were really important to us were at the school," said Scott Adams.

"Fred's been a good mentor. He helped guide Scott and I onto the path we're on," agreed Sarah Adams.



Scott and Sarah Adams

Laughlin performed the May 25, 2014 ceremony at – where else? – a restaurant. Scott now works as a sous chef in Holland while Sarah works at a bakery.

"We really love what we do," Scott Adams said.

They're also new parents. Their one-year-old daughter, Sophie, has added a new dimension to love.

Adding Y to the ADN program



Mac Beeker

With NMC's male nursing enrollment well ahead of national averages, new medical-surgical instructor Mac Beeker is a fitting addition to the faculty.

NMC's associate degree nursing program enrollment is 21 percent male and male enrollment has

climbed for the last two years, both in terms of actual students and percentages. National averages for male student nurse enrollment stand at around 15 percent. Among practicing nurses, only about 10 percent are men. NMC graduates, like the father-son duo of Jerry and Ted Stevenson (at right), are helping to change that. Both graduated in December.

Director of Nursing Laura Schmidt said NMC has had male adjuncts, but Beeker, also a 2010 alumnus of the program, is a pioneer in terms of full-time status.

"I think it's very positive that there's a male instructor," said Brandon Thompson, a Traverse City nursing student who will graduate this spring. Beeker is the first male instructor he's had.

"It's a female-dominated profession, and I don't think that's going to change," said Beeker, a 2010 alumnus himself. "(But) it's not necessarily a female field they're entering. It's the nursing field."

Beeker, 50, entered nursing after careers in radio and non-profit management. He came to the field at 40, "half-accidentally, half intentionally" after his parents got sick. In terms of their hands-on care, Beeker discovered that nurses were the providers who truly made a difference.

"My own involvement with my parents' health, it was pretty clear to me," he said.

As Beeker did, many men find their way into nursing at older ages and after caregiving experiences, often as a parent or for a parent.

"Those barriers really get broken down for men as they get a bit older," Beeker said. "There's no way I could have done this at 18."



Father-son duo Jerry, right, and Ted Stevenson graduated from NMC's nursing program in December 2015. Photo Courtesy of Munson Medical Center

Textbook heroes save students six figures in a single semester

NMC students pocketed an extra \$137,000 in the fall semester thanks to instructors using free and low-cost textbooks.

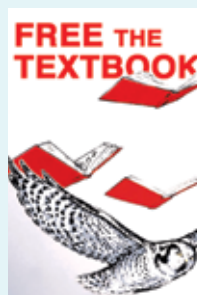
Led by Osterlin Library director Tina Ulrich, NMC is piloting an experiment in Open Educational Resources this semester. Ten instructors were selected to receive a stipend of either \$500 or an iPad — provided by an NMC Foundation innovation grant — as an incentive to redesign their courses using free textbooks and other resources, often found online.

In the process, Ulrich discovered other instructors already using OERs or low-cost textbooks. In total, NMC has 17 instructors she calls "textbook heroes" teaching 880 students in subjects ranging from math to English to history to social work.

The hero label is no exaggeration for students in Brian Sweeney's physics class, who each saved \$198 thanks to his choice of an OER.

"I wouldn't have bought it," physics student Eli Seal, 31, said.

Students said prices for online books and book rentals are still inflated and rigged with late fees, and end-of-semester book buy backs



Tina Ulrich



Brian Sweeney



Lisa Blackford

don't offer enough return. Many said they like the online nature of OERs like the one Sweeney chose, which can easily be searched for specific content and linked to supplementary material.

Besides the cost savings, instructors said going off-book allowed them to reinvigorate their courses with newer material.

"Our computers are outdated as soon as we buy them. Our textbooks are, too," said social work instructor Lisa Blackford. Now she's consciously choosing materials as varied as TED talks

and podcasts and believes students are more engaged.

Students who prefer printed materials can download and print OER materials, Ulrich noted.

In terms of student performance, most instructors said students did as well or better on tests as they did with traditional textbooks. Sweeney said every test and lab score is better this fall.

The pilot project also aligns NMC with national trends. Earlier this month two U.S. senators introduced the Affordable College Textbook Act, which would expand the use of OERs.

Electronics instructor, Veterans POC win awards

Electronics instructor Jason Slade and Veterans Services POC Scott Herzberg have been named NMC's recipients of annual excellence awards.



Jason Slade

Slade, an electronics instructor since 2014, is the 2015-16 recipient of the NISOD award for teaching excellence. Affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin, NISOD is committed to promoting and celebrating excellence

in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges. Criteria include professionalism, relationships with students and colleagues, and commitment to learning



Scott Herzberg

Herzberg is the recipient of a 2015 John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award from the League for Innovation in the Community College. The award celebrates outstanding contributions and

leadership by community college faculty and staff. Herzberg has been an NMC staff member since 1996 and in 2012 was assigned to his current position to ensure NMC's compliance with the post 9/11 GI Bill. NMC is currently ranked the fifth-best community college in the nation for its services to veterans, who comprise about 5 percent of the student body.

New surgical technology program

NMC has added another offering to its allied health division, partnering with Munson Medical Center to offer an associate degree surgical technology program.

Cohorts of up to 10 students will be offered each year. The Surgical Technology courses will take 4 semesters to complete (one of those during the summer). Classes are offered either at NMC or at Munson Medical Center. The clinical component will be held at Munson and its affiliates or at the Surgery Center.

Plan ahead...

February 11

Academic World Quest

High school teams compete for best knowledge of world affairs.

Noon, Hagerty Center, tciaf.com

Indie Lens Pop-Up

Feb. 11: *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*

April 7: *Peace Officer*

7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

Free movie screening and panel discussion, 995-1029

February 18

International Affairs Forum

"Germany: Merkel's High-Stakes Gamble"

March 17: "Is ISIS a Threat to Central Asia?"

6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium.

Tickets \$10, free for students and educators. (231) 995-1700, tciaf.com

February 19

A Taste of Success

6:30 p.m., Great Lakes Campus

Tickets \$100, available at nmc.edu/culinary

February 21

NMC Choral performance – featuring Canticum Novum and the NMC Children's Choirs.

3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium

Tickets available at the door or through MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717

February 23

NMC Concert Band

"Feathers, Fins and Fangs": A Salute to Animals in Music.

7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

Tickets available at the door or through MyNorthTickets.com. (231) 995-1553

March 4 and April 1

Public Viewing Night

9-11 p.m., Rogers Observatory

Admission \$2/person, \$5/family

All 2016 dates: nmc.edu/rogersobservatory

World Cuisine Dinners

March 18 - Caribbean Dinner

April 15 - French Dinner

\$30/person plus tax and service

April 22 - Garde manger reception, \$25

All at Lobdell's. Reservations and credit card guarantee required, (231) 995-3120

May 22

NMC Barbecue

11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Main Campus

August 4

NMC Scholarship Open

Grand Traverse Resort

nmc.edu/golf

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

► Follow NMC on Twitter to find free events on campus: twitter.com/NMCdotEDU



A Taste of Success February 19

Sip, sample and savor a strolling dinner of international food and wine at the annual A Taste of Success (formerly Tasters Guild Auction) set for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at NMC's Great Lakes Campus.

Featuring multiple cuisines prepared by NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute students, proceeds support scholarships, books and equipment. This year's event will include a scholarship awarded in memory of beloved faculty member Chef Lucy House, who taught at NMC from 1991-2015 and passed away Dec. 29, 2015.

Snowbird or otherwise can't attend? You can still bid on items online nmc.edu/culinary



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Let's all do the BBQ – May 22

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. Several thousand people attend every year, raising more than \$1.8 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 22. 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 nmc.edu/bbq. For more information, call (231) 995-1020.

From the Archives

Back in the 1960s, storage was obviously already an issue for former NMC Librarian Bernie Rink, who started the collection. Appropriate storage and display of the collection was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Dennos Museum Center in 1991. Now, as the museum enters its twenty-fifth year, the Inuit Gallery is expanding yet again. See p. 5.

Below, East Hall under construction in 1967. NMC hopes to have a new residence hall complete in time for East Hall's 50th anniversary next year. See p. 2.

Love these archival photos? We do, too. Like NMC on Facebook to enjoy Throwback Thursdays, vintage photos posted each week – some mystery, some not.

