



## NMC tests going green at sea

Results of renewable fuel tests conducted last fall aboard the T/S State of Michigan, the training ship for NMC's Great Lakes Maritime Academy, are expected later this month.

The tests of hydrotreated renewable diesel (HRD) fuel could pave the way for a greener U.S. Navy and commercial maritime operations. A joint effort by the departments of Transportation and Defense, the tests were conducted over 170 hours at sea as well as at the pier on NMC's Great Lakes Campus.

The HRD is made from algae and blended 50 percent with an ultra low-sulfur diesel and a lubricant additive. Tested in one of the State of Michigan's four engines, the fuel's emissions, efficiency and affect on engine performance and endurance are all being measured in what was launched as the largest test of its kind.

Great Lakes Maritime Academy Superintendent Jerry Achenbach said the Academy is pleased to participate in tests with important implications. The Maritime Administration provided the State of Michigan to the Academy to serve as its training ship in 2002.

"Our smaller vessels have operated on biodiesel fuels for years. We've seen the environmental benefits ourselves," Achenbach said. "It's an important consideration for the Navy, and we're happy to help provide the data to make the best decision."

▶ Test results will be posted on [www.nmc.edu](http://www.nmc.edu) when available.



Renewable fuels were tested in the T/S State of Michigan last year.



Marcus Roberts and more coming to Milliken Auditorium. P. 4.

- ▶ From the President ..... 2
- ▶ New programs at NMC ..... 3
- ▶ Keep in touch with NMC ..... 6-7
- ▶ Plan ahead calendar ..... 7

**NMC thanks the more than 570 donors to the 2011-12 Annual Campaign, including a record 138 first-time donors. There's still time to make your gift at [www.nmc.edu/give](http://www.nmc.edu/give)**



**Northwestern  
Michigan  
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](http://www.nmc.edu/alumni) or by e-mailing [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu)

For correspondence and address updates:  
1701 E. Front Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 995-1020 (877) 922-1021

Editor: Andy Dolan  
Writer: Cari Noga

**NMC Board of Trustees**  
Robert T. Brick, Chair  
William D. Myers, Vice-Chair  
Douglas S. Bishop, Secretary  
Susan K. Sheldon, Treasurer  
K. Ross Childs  
Cheryl Gore Follette  
Walter J. Hooper

**NMC President**  
Timothy J. Nelson

From the President

## A culture of continuous improvement



Timothy J. Nelson

For any college, accreditation is literally our “license to do business.” Accredited colleges produce the degrees that employers value in those they hire, and provide students the opportunity to transfer freely to other accredited colleges.

Northwestern Michigan College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. We value our accreditation, and in 2005 we were eager to join the HLC’s Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP).

AQIP represents a fundamental change in how colleges communicate with their accreditors. Under the old system, your accreditation was up for renewal every eight years. You spent two years working on a report that was very much like an audit. You proved the way you were doing things met HLC standards. You were reaccredited. Then you waited six years and started all over again.

At NMC we have a focus on continuous improvement. An organization that cannot adapt to the changes in its environment cannot survive. AQIP appealed to us because it fit into the way we were already approaching our work. With AQIP, instead

of waiting for one big report out, you have a series of ongoing action projects that operate on the PDCA – plan, do, check, adjust – cycle.

- **Plan** – establish objectives and develop the steps you need to meet them
- **Do** – follow those steps and execute your plan
- **Check** – gather data and study your actual results
- **Adjust** – modify and make improvements as needed

The Higher Learning Commission still visits, every seven years, for a check-up. They come on campus, meet with groups of faculty, administration, staff and students to review our action projects – what we’ve done, where we’re at and where we’re going.

In January, we had our check-up. While there was still work to do to prepare for the visit, the benefits of following a continuous improvement process were evident. We had, in essence, been preparing for this visit every day since 2005. Our dedication to a culture of continuous improvement is the best way we can be prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities that await Northwestern Michigan College.

Let me know what you think at [tnelson@nmc.edu](mailto:tnelson@nmc.edu).

## Festival of Foods Feb. 18

Enjoy a day of food demonstrations and discovery with NMC’s culinary instructors, area chefs like Eric Patterson of the Cook’s House, right, and specialty food businesses. Each hour offers four workshops in the Oleson Center kitchen and classrooms. You select 4 of 16 options. Cost is \$69. Register and find more info online at [www.nmc.edu/ees](http://www.nmc.edu/ees)





## New programs at NMC:

### Engineering Technology degree

NMC will offer a new degree in Engineering Technology this fall, preparing students for well-paying technical careers in four sub-specialty fields.

The two-year associate degree program will offer all students a broad base of science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses. Students would also choose one of four area of specialization: environmental testing technology, photonics (laser) technology, marine technology or electronics engineering technology.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, environmental testing offers the greatest job growth, projected at 30 percent by 2018. Photonics is projected to grow by 10 percent, and the other fields 5 percent each. Median salaries in Michigan and the U.S. are above \$57,000.

The new program will be among those showcased at Career Technical Day March 15 at the Parsons-Stulen Building. The public is invited to the open house starting at 5 p.m.

- For more information, visit [www.nmc.edu/technical](http://www.nmc.edu/technical) or call (231) 995-2007.

### CNA training now available

Job growth for Certified Nurse Assistants in Michigan is projected at 18 percent. NMC is now offering an 8-week certification preparation program for prospective CNAs.

Through classroom, lab, and supervised clinical experience, students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to take the Michigan Nurse Aide Competency Evaluation Test. By passing this test, students earn the state CNA certification necessary to work in a variety of settings, including home healthcare agencies, nursing homes, retirement communities and hospitals.

Interested students must first attend an initial 90-minute information session. The next sessions are scheduled for **February 28 and March 8**, both from 6-7:30 p.m. at NMC's University Center Campus, off Cass Road. Call (231) 995-1700 to register.

- Program information and applications will be available. The next program session runs April 14 - June 10. More information at [www.nmc.edu/cna](http://www.nmc.edu/cna)



## Buy BBQ tickets online & early

There's extra incentive to get your tickets for the annual NMC Barbecue early this year.

Advance ticket prices for the May 20 picnic under the pines on main campus are \$6, \$2 less than the \$8 price on Barbecue Day. Previously, advance ticket prices were \$1 less than day-of. The goal of the change is to encourage advance sales for better planning purposes.

For the fifth year in a row, all ticket holders may enter a raffle to win a scholarship good for two years of general tuition. The winner is drawn at random 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 cumulatively 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 20. The day also includes live entertainment and children's games and activities. The Dennon Museum Center will be open to the public and free of charge.

- Tickets now available online at [www.nmc.edu/bbq](http://www.nmc.edu/bbq). For more information, call (231) 995-1020.

# THE Dennos MUSEUM CENTER



## **Marcus Roberts Trio – February 25, Milliken Auditorium**

Longtime Milliken Concert Series patrons will remember Roberts well. His highly innovative and original piano style reflects his passion for great music of every genre, from the masters of jazz and classical music to his mother's gospel singing. Blind since the age of 5, the self-taught prodigy studied classical piano and later toured and recorded with Wynton Marsalis.

## **Also at Milliken:**

**Feb. 18 – violinist Stanislav Pronin**  
**March 3 – Larry Garner Blues Band**  
**March 17 – bluesman Tab Benoit**

► Tickets and information on all at  
[www.dennosmuseum.org](http://www.dennosmuseum.org)



## **Happiness is a Target**

Traverse City portraitist Eric Daigh presents a collection of works spanning his career to date. Claiming to be a photographer sometimes and a painter at others, Daigh is probably best placed in the category of mosaic. His works often include an arrangement of small pixels, most notably pushpins, which form a larger picture.

In 2009 Daigh won acclaim by taking third place in Grand Rapids' inaugural ArtPrize competition. Since then he has gone on to group and solo shows nationwide, commissions, collections and larger works. The Dennos show features works from the very beginning of Daigh's career in pushpins as well as recent work, including the installation above, exclusive to The Dennos. Through April 1.

## **Welcome to Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan**

Located in Lake County, Idlewild holds a special place in the nation's segregated history. For many years, this "Black Eden" was one of only a few resorts in the country where African-Americans could vacation and purchase property. From 1912 through the mid-1960s, Idlewild was an active year-round community. At its peak it was the most popular resort in the Midwest, drawing up to 25,000 summertime guests to enjoy camping, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, roller skating and night-time entertainment. Through March 13.



## Tasters' Guild Auction February 24

Guests will sip, sample and savor a strolling dinner of international food and wine at the annual Tasters' Guild Auction, set for Feb. 24 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. Auction items include unique culinary experiences. Tickets are \$50 each or \$600 for a table of ten and available online at [www.nmc.edu/culinary](http://www.nmc.edu/culinary)



## NISOD award winners



Kathy Fischer



Dianne Owens

Nursing instructor Kathy Fischer and communications instructor Dianne Owens are NMC's 2012 recipients of the NISOD award.

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, which has made the teaching excellence awards to faculty at member institutions since 1989. Nominees are judged on criteria including commitment to learning, professionalism and relationships with both students and colleagues.

NISOD endeavors to reinforce the primacy of teaching and to celebrate both instructors and programs that make good on the community college promise of the open door and completion.

In nominating Fischer, colleagues said:

"Kathy creates enthusiasm for learning by developing learning experiences that address a variety of learning needs and styles."

Owens' colleagues said:

"In her tenure here, Ms. Owens has made a powerful impact on hundreds and hundreds of students, many of whom struggle significantly to find their way to academic success."

► For more on the award and past winners, visit [www.nmc.edu/cie](http://www.nmc.edu/cie)

## Winter Health & Fitness Day March 10

Add a generous dose of self-care and pick-me-up to your winter by creating your own wellness event. Select three 60-minute sessions from a dozen options from yoga and strength training to healthy foods and back care. Cost is \$49. Register and find more info online at [www.nmc.edu/ees](http://www.nmc.edu/ees)





Pinocchio in the snow (1958).

## From the Archives: Winters past at NMC

**1957** – Excavators were getting ready to break ground on a new college building, the current Tanis Administration Building

**1958** – The library instituted a new fine policy of 2 cents/day for overdue library books. Current rate is \$1/book after a five-day grace period.

**1959** – A violent snow storm dumped 25 inches of snow, closing NMC for two days while it dug out.

**1964** – Governor George Romney – father of current presidential candidate Mitt Romney – spoke to a student group on campus.

**1970** – Two NMC students were forced to make an emergency landing on the ice of Lake Leelanau. The plane was hauled off the ice by about 20 snowmobilers.

**1974** - WNMC broadcast from 11 am until midnight on AM 570. This was for the dorms only and was by “carrier current” through the electrical system.

**1985** – The old laundry area in the lower level of West Hall was converted to a game room offering pool, ping pong, foosball and pinball and video games.

**1995** – Voters in Grand Traverse County grant NMC 2.5 mills tax revenue in perpetuity.

Sources: Student publications



## Alumni Notes

**Rich Brauer**, 1974, debuted his latest feature film, *Dogman*, filmed in Benzie County, at Traverse City’s State Theatre in December. The movie, his 10th, is expected to go into wider release this winter and spring. See the trailer at [brauer.com](http://brauer.com)

**Jason Backlund**, (above), a 2005 Great Lakes Culinary Institute graduate, is a sous chef working at McMurdo Research Station in Antarctica. He moved to the bottom of the world in October 2011 and will be cooking for the continent’s 1,200-strong science researchers through mid-February.

If you’re an NMC alumnus, let us know what you’ve been up to (or, like Jason, down to.)

## Stay in touch, win NMC prizes

Tell us about your new job, your relocation, the book you’ve published, the honors you’ve earned. E-mail to [alumni@nmc.edu](mailto:alumni@nmc.edu), post at [www.nmc.edu/alumni](http://www.nmc.edu/alumni) or use the form on the opposite page. The first three alumni who submit updates will win one of the NMC prizes at right. Get typing!



Do you know any of these 1962 members of the NMC Ski Club, pictured at Nubs’ Nob? Send IDs to contact on back cover.





# NorWester

A Publication for  
Alumni & Friends  
of Northwestern  
Michigan College

Winter 2012

## Find, friend and follow NMC on social media



Search Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites for NMC, the Denno Museum Center, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, WNMC radio and Osterlin Library. Or visit [www.nmc.edu/social](http://www.nmc.edu/social)



Northwestern  
Michigan  
College

1701 East Front Street • Traverse City, Michigan 49686

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Traverse City, MI  
Permit No. 170

## Mystery solved!

Thanks to the feedback from readers, everyone in the painting photo published in the Fall NorWester (below) has been identified. From left are NMC's first president, Preston Tanis, and students Gary Fort, Barbara Hostman, Renny Hawkes, Nyles Miller, and Glenn "Charles" Ball, all from the classes of 1955 and 1956.



Barbara (Hostman) Fort wrote: "imagine our surprise when we looked at the back page of the Fall 2011 NorWester and saw ourselves looking back – the paint crew!" She reported that she and Gary Fort married in 1957. Gary went on to Michigan

Tech after receiving his associates degree at NMC. He recently retired from General Motors. The Forts currently live in Kokomo, Indiana.



We're hoping our reader sleuths have similar success with these two classroom photos from the 1970s. The teacher at right in the photo above is biology teacher Arlo Moss, and the teacher with pipe in the photo below is Jack Ozegovic. Contact Ann Swaney in the NMC Archives with any additional information, [aswaney@nmc.edu](mailto:aswaney@nmc.edu), or (231) 995-1016.

► Turn to p. 6 inside for another mystery photo.



Northwestern Michigan College