

SPRING 2018

NEXUS

GOT YOUR 6

Creating a veteran-friendly culture on campus ▼

GOOD JOBS x4

NMC training drives TentCraft growth

FROM OUR KITCHENS

2016 Culinary alumna leads Resort's pastry team



Northwestern
Michigan
College

NEXUS

THE NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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Like more than 90 percent of Americans, I have not served in the military.

My father did, in Vietnam. But like so many veterans of that time, he didn't talk about his war service.

My husband did, stateside in the late 1980s. He says his service as a paper pusher was "like Radar O'Reilly, but the Air Force," and then changes the subject.

So until we started on this issue of *Nexus*, planned around this year's 10th anniversary of the post-9/11 GI Bill, I'd never listened to veterans talk about how their service affects the rest of their lives.

Thanks to the GI Bill's educational provisions, college is often one of the first doorways a veteran passes through when re-entering civilian life. As our cover story student, Army veteran Luke Clark, put it, "They're giving me money to go to college, so I'm going to go to college."

But on campus, the accustomed orders end. No roll calls, no uniform, no rank and hierarchy. It's a sea change for many veterans who, as Clark says, used to only "blink and breathe" without orders.

Grasping the magnitude, NMC established an office of Military and Veterans Services in 2012. It's dedicated to escorting the veterans who make up 5 percent of enrollment through that college door. Their stories are told on all pages designated with a tab of three stars, as above left, which also symbolizes NMC's ranking by *Military Times* magazine as the third-best community college in the nation for veteran's services.

They're talking now. Time to listen. **N**

LISTENING



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AERIAL VIEW



MAPPING MILFOIL

A colony of Eurasian watermilfoil (top edge of dark blue water) grows along a Crystal Lake dropoff. It was photographed in July 2017 as part of an environmental assessment for the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association conducted by NMC alumnus Dennis Wiand and assistant chief UAS instructor Rob Dreer.

Combined with maps and ground-truth data gathered from water sampling, aerial surveying offers lake associations and homeowners a way

to assess the impact of the invasive species, which can form large mats of floating vegetation that shade out native aquatic plants and interfere with recreational activities. Thick vegetation can also clog residential or industrial water intakes. ■





NELSON CONGRATULATES A 2017 VETERAN GRADUATE, WHO IS DESIGNATED BY THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE CORDS.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED



**TIMOTHY J. NELSON,
PRESIDENT**

This issue shares stories about our student veterans and our relationships with them. First, on behalf of everyone at NMC, let me thank both our student and employee veterans, and their families, for the service they have provided to keep our nation free and secure. We are honored to be able to serve those who have served, and to help them on the next leg of their life's journey.

Someone asked why we have made the commitments that result in NMC having the highest recognition category in the state (gold) and being ranked third in the nation by *Military Times* among community colleges. Was it for the accolades? Absolutely not. The men and women who have chosen to serve our country deserve our respect, our support and our thanks. They have invested time, energy, and passion with their whole being to do a job few in our nation now do.

A recent study indicates that fewer than 7.3 percent of Americans have served in the military. Further, it is likely that only one in five U.S. citizens actually knows someone who has served or is serving. Because of this lack of personal experience, we need to work together to identify and understand particular needs of this exemplary group as they pursue their education at NMC. I am confident that our community, both inside and outside of the

college, will continue to welcome, thank, embrace and support these returning soldiers.

I'm pleased that over 5 percent of our students are either veterans or family members of a veteran.

Following 9/11 NMC made the commitment to better serve our veterans. We established a Point of Contact (POC), a veterans' lounge, and a program to provide free use of NMC's Hagerty Center for an active service member's funeral. We have also implemented a process to compensate a called up NMC employee reservist with the difference between their NMC pay and their military pay (which can be significantly less), and keep their family on the college benefits plan. Why? They are dealing with enough issues without having to worry about how their family will maintain their financial footing.

We actively work to grant college credit for learning that takes place in the military. After all, it's not about the location or time spent in class; it's about what you learn. NMC is working with our state association, Michigan Community College Association, to make the military learning to college credit transcript even more robust. We want Michigan to be a destination for returning vets.

So, thank you to our veterans, to their families, to our faculty and staff, students and community members for helping to serve these special citizens. **N**



JANE T. MCNABB

ALUMNA APPOINTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jane T. McNabb was appointed to the college's Board of Trustees in June 2017, filling the seat left vacant when former trustee Marilyn Gordon Dresser resigned.

McNabb works as a consultant with Strategic Policy Consultants, specializing in workforce development policy and program development. She previously worked with the Networks Northwest workforce development system in multiple roles. She attended NMC from 1992 to '94 and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international community college honor

society, before transferring to Grand Valley State University to complete her bachelor's. She also holds a master's degree in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University via the NMC University Center.

McNabb will serve until the next NMC Board of Trustees election in November 2018. At that time, voters will choose a candidate to serve the remainder of the term held by Dresser, which expires December 31, 2020.



COURTESY OF GROW'S FEET PHOTO & DESIGN

GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY JOIN NMC STUDENTS IN AWARENESS RUN

Michigan's first couple, Gov. Rick and Sue Snyder, participated in the Northwestern Michigan College Walk, Run, Empower 5K last fall.

Sue Snyder was the keynote speaker at the event, hosted by the NMC Student Life Office and NMC student group Voices, the event's goal is raising awareness of and helping to end sexual violence.

As Michigan's first lady, Sue Snyder has dedicated herself to the health, safety and overall wellness of Michigan's women, children and students. She recently became an advocate for campus sexual assault prevention by launching the "Inform. Empower. Prevent. Let's end campus sexual assault" initiative.

Proceeds from the NMC event benefit NMC Voices for continued advocacy and support for student survivors of sexual violence.



NMC STUDENTS IN ECUADOR WITH IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT RAFAEL CORREA.

AWARD-WINNING GROWTH IN STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPATION

In October, NMC was recognized as a Generation Study Abroad (GSA) leader by the Institute of International Education for more than doubling student participation in study abroad experiences in three years.

NMC was one of just 20 schools among 800 GSA institutions worldwide to already achieve its commitment to double student participation in study abroad before the end of the decade. The GSA

initiative was launched in 2014, when NMC sent 36 students overseas. In 2016 NMC sent 74 students abroad and ranked 12th in the nation among community colleges for short-term study abroad.

Jim Bensley, executive director of International Services and Service Learning, accepted the award at an IIE conference in Washington, D.C. This year NMC expects to send students to study abroad in four destinations.



LAKE HURON SHIPWRECKS IDENTIFIED

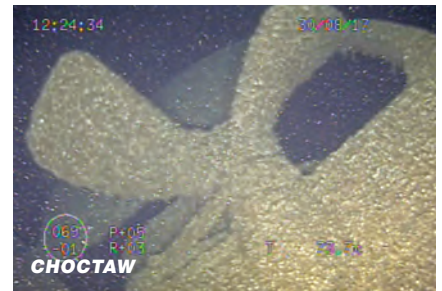
NMC Marine Technology personnel and equipment helped researchers in Lake Huron's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary identify two shipwrecks, the first discovered since 2011. The locations of the *Ohio*, sunk in 1894, and the *Choctaw*, lost in 1915, were first determined in May 2017 by a University of Delaware team conducting sonar searches for potential wreck targets. But the sanctuary lacked remotely operated equipment that could reach the depths of the two wrecks.

Enter NMC, with its long-tethered ROV capable of exploring up to a quarter-mile underwater. The August 2017 video documentation by Great Lakes Water Studies Institute director Hans VanSumeren and Marine Technology lab coordinator John Lutchko refined secondary inspections done by a Michigan Tech team with an autonomous submarine.

"We have done the most basic, investigatory work finding the features," said VanSumeren. "They want to fully capture everything about these shipwrecks. [Alpena] was one of the largest ports in all of the Great Lakes."

John Bright, Research Coordinator and Diving Supervisor at the sanctuary, headquartered in Alpena, said access to NMC's resources was invaluable. "Hans's program has been just world-class, totally above the bar of what we would see in the broader field of oceanographic research," Bright said.

He hopes further research will make the wreck sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The identification brings to 94 the total number of known wrecks in the sanctuary. Bright estimates there are about 100 more.



SECOND CULINARY MEDICINE CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR FALL

An encore to the region's inaugural Culinary Medicine conference is already being planned for 2018.

NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute hosted the first event last September, teaming up with Munson Medical Center and the Groundwork Center. About 50 doctors and other healthcare professionals earned continuing education credits attending three days of classes aimed at combating obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease by teaching patients to live healthier lifestyles.

Institute director Fred Laughlin, left, and faculty members Bob Rodriguez, center, and Becky Tranchell, right, presented sessions along with with nutritionists, dieticians and clinicians.

"This has been a goal of mine, teaching healthy cooking to doctors," said Laughlin.

The 2018 event is again being targeted for the end of September. Grant funding and sponsors are being sought now.



SWAN, SWEENEY TEACH IN CHINA

NMC instructors pioneered NMC courses in Chinese classrooms last summer, the culmination of a partnership five years in the making. Scott Swan (above) and Brian Sweeney taught Water Studies and basic construction courses in English, with interpreter support, to about 40 students at the Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute in Kaifeng, China.

"We are delivering our courses there for the ability to augment their training with our coursework," said Hans VanSumeren, director of NMC's Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, who traveled with them. VanSumeren previously made two trips to China as NMC nurtured the partnership with the three-year technical school.

Besides connecting with a school with a growing enrollment—Yellow River's surveying program enrolls about 1,800 students—VanSumeren said the partnership could afford NMC students both a study abroad opportunity and a chance to apply their coursework in a completely different geographic environment.



WEST HALL CONSTRUCTION PLANNED FOR SUMMER

Construction on the \$14 million West Hall Innovation Center will begin this summer, with completion expected in 2019.

The project combines state investments of more than \$7 million for important renovations and modernizations of the 50-year-old building with NMC-funded investments of more than \$7 million for a new, 54,000-square-foot, multi-story library and flexible learning space.

“Creating this centralized space on campus is critical for the new community college model of providing competency-based, content-based knowledge application in the pursuit of social, economic and talent development,” said NMC President Timothy J. Nelson.

West Hall may also become NMC’s third building to use renewable energy. Testing in September 2017 indicated that geothermal energy could be a viable energy source. Architects and engineers will explore the possibility further during the next phase of the project. NMC already utilizes solar power at the Parsons-Stulen Building and wind power at the University Center.

West Hall is the third major construction project on main campus in the last two years. North Hall, a new residence hall, opened to 135 residents in August 2017. The Dennon Museum Center is set to unveil its expansion, completed mostly in 2017, later this winter.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AWARDED INITIAL ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs has awarded NMC’s Surgical Technology program initial accreditation.

The accreditation status stands for five years and is the result of an on-site peer review conducted in February 2017. It recognizes NMC’s substantial compliance with the nationally established accreditation standards. NMC’s compliance with the outcomes assessment thresholds will be regularly monitored through an annual report.

Offered in partnership with Munson Medical Center, Surgical Technology is one of NMC’s newest programs. The college awarded eight degrees in May 2017. Surgical technologists are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients. They work under the supervision of a surgeon.

STUDENTS TAKE ON CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS RESTORATION

Some NMC welding students are getting a dose of American history on top of their arcs, spots and tacks by helping to restore cast iron Civil War markers in northern Michigan cemeteries.

Adjunct electrical instructor Jeff Morse is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a national group that works to honor the memory of the soldiers killed between 1861-65. Their graves are adorned with a cast iron star flag-holder, inserted into the ground with double spikes. Over the years, many had fallen into disrepair.

Morse mentioned it to colleague and welding instructor Devan DePauw, who agreed to take on repair as an extracurricular project with student volunteers. Students

cut off the double legs, grind and prepare the stars for welding, and then weld one spike in a new, center position.

It’s an opportunity to learn new techniques from the typical steel-to-steel welding they do in class. It’s also an opportunity to apply their knowledge for a greater good.

“I like doing stuff that matters. This epitomizes that,” said Michael Stolarczyk, 18, of Traverse City, pictured at right.

The project is ongoing. About 30 stars have already been returned to Oakwood Cemetery near main campus, where about 300 Union veterans are buried. Morse’s group estimates that more than 1,000 Union veterans are buried in the five-county Grand Traverse region.



FINE ARTS



JAMES BURGE, 46 2017 FINE ARTS GRADUATE

Going from military retirement to art school is an unusual trajectory, but it's a kind of homecoming for James Burge.

He first enrolled in art school more than two decades ago at Indiana University. Realizing the difficulty of making a living as an artist, two years in he switched to political science, then joined the U.S. Army. He put down his paintbrushes for 17 years.

Then in 2008, on his last deployment to Iraq, Burge brought along some paints.

"I used it to kind of decompress and wind down. I really enjoyed it," he said. "Afterwards, I tried to stay with it as much as I could."

With retirement looming, Burge decided he was ready to pick up where he left off at IU. His criteria

for a retirement location included an art and culture scene, nightlife, and a community with outdoor recreation, especially skiing. He'd been to Camp Grayling once. He called up NMC's Military and Veterans Services office and found a perfect fit, moving to Kalkaska in 2016.

In his fine arts classes, the veteran with 26 years of service discovered ceramics. He now sells his work on social media and has been shown in Traverse City venues including Grand Traverse Distillery and The Botanic Garden.

"I absolutely love it," Burge said. "Going back to school at 40 was so much better than at 20. It's so much more fun." **N**

INSIDE MY BAG

James Burge carries his clay tools in an old Army day rucksack.

1. White clay—kiln-fired
2. Spray bottle to keep clay moist
3. Calipers to measure models and work in progress—for example, the length of an ear on a model, and the ear on the bust he's working on.
4. Sponge—yellow natural sponge to keep clay moist and to smooth surfaces
5. Clay tools. Knives, wire loops and paintbrushes are used for carving, smoothing, cutting and building a piece.



1

2

3

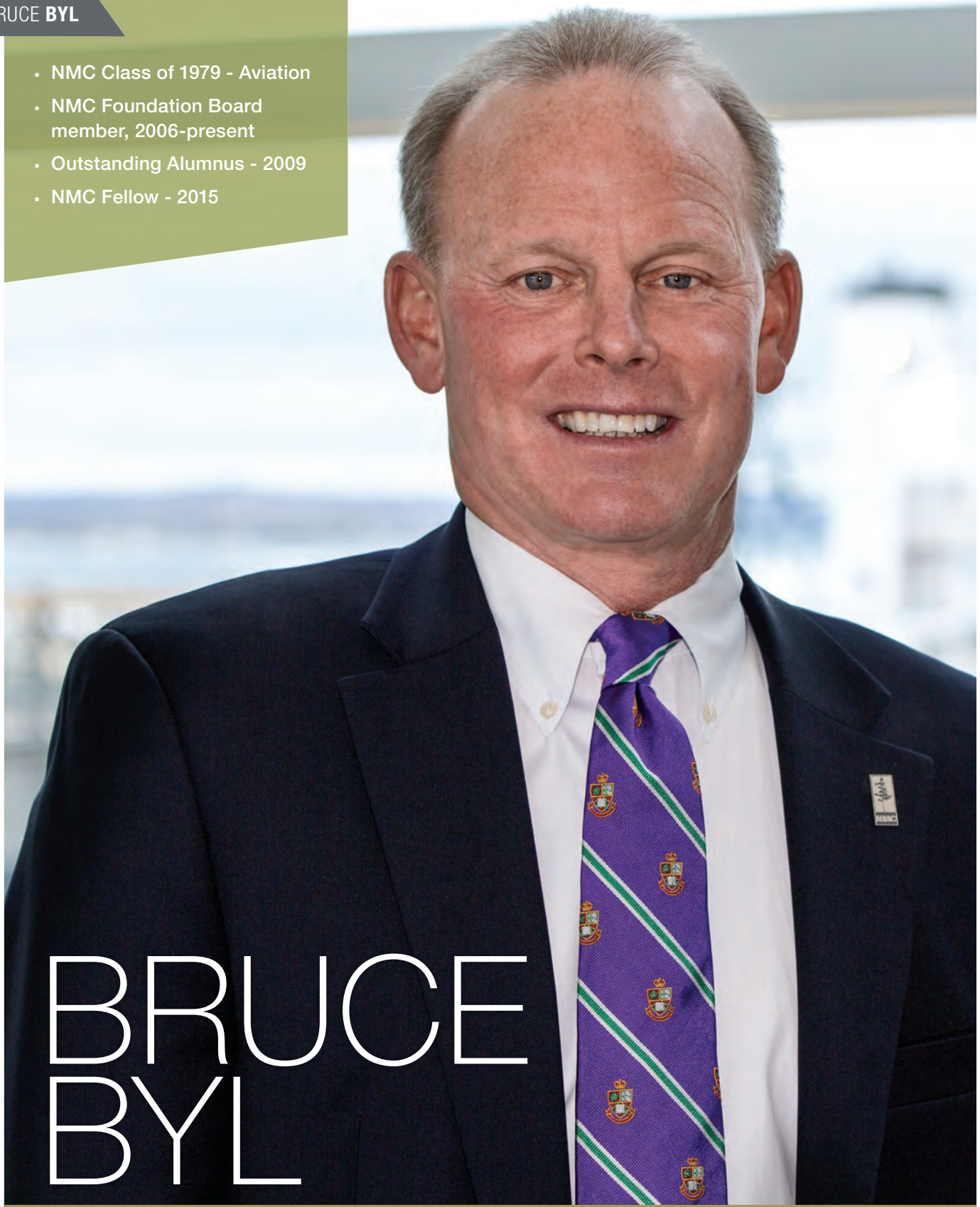
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4



★★★ BRUCE BYL

- NMC Class of 1979 - Aviation
- NMC Foundation Board member, 2006-present
- Outstanding Alumnus - 2009
- NMC Fellow - 2015



BRUCE BYL

Marine, student, businessman, philanthropist



“Somehow,
someday,
I’m going to
find a way to
repay that.”

– Bruce Byl on the generosity
that helped him attend NMC



TOP: BRUCE BYL, THIRD FROM RIGHT, PARTICIPATES IN AN NMC VETERANS DAY CEREMONY.

BOTTOM: BYL, HIS WIFE, MARY AND THEIR SON, JEFF ANNOUNCED A \$2 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP GIFT TO NMC LAST YEAR.

It was 1974 and Bruce Byl had one year of college under his belt. It was enough to know he wanted more. But while his parents supported his pursuit of higher education, the money just wasn't there.

So Byl combined admiration for his country with his desire for a college degree and joined the Marines, following in his father's footsteps.

“I joined the military for two reasons: to serve our country and for the GI Bill,” Byl said. The 1979 NMC alumnus was also one of the last of the two-year enlistments to get full GI Bill benefits.

While stationed at Camp Courtney in Okinawa, Japan, Byl was involved in Operation Frequent Wind in Saigon—the final evacuation phase of American civilians and “at risk” South Vietnamese and the largest helicopter evacuation in history. The Spring Lake native also took part in Operation Eagle Pull, the air evacuation of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

From there he was transferred to Subic Bay, Philippines, where he worked in the Marine liaison office. There was also a Navy flight program on the base. It all sparked an interest in flying, so he started taking lessons.

“My instructor was a fighter pilot ... and we flew a Cessna 150,” Byl recalled. “It was a thrill, just being around military pilots all of the time.”

He was early released in August of '76 so he could return to his college education. He knew of Traverse City from childhood vacations. When he found out NMC had a flight program, he enrolled and ultimately earned his instrument commercial rating. While at NMC, he earned the \$1,500 Imogene Wise Memorial Scholarship, which helped to cover expenses not covered by GI benefits.

He recalled thinking at the time, “Somehow, someday, I’m going to find a way to repay that.”

After NMC, he went on to Michigan State, received a degree in marketing and subsequently launched his successful business career with a Steelcase distributor.

Byl and his family returned to Traverse City in 1994. He began to reconnect with the college through the NMC Foundation. That connection has only deepened since. Last year with his wife Mary and son Jeff, Byl announced a \$2 million commitment to benefit the Tucker Byl Memorial Scholarship for students from Grand Traverse County – in memory of the son and brother the family lost in 2007. With his family's gift, Byl made good on an important promise to himself, more than compensating for any obligation he might have felt for the \$1,500 scholarship that helped him so many years ago. **N**



2017 NMC VETERAN GRADUATE LUKE CLARK AND BAILEE MAE, HIS SERVICE DOG.

GOT YOUR 6

Creating a veteran-friendly culture campus-wide

Voice breaking, the NMC student talking in the video is a veteran telling a tragic story. Clad in camouflage though he's sitting in West Hall, far from the Middle East wars, he describes seeing a fellow soldier killed in Iraq by an improvised explosive device. As he talks, his eyes look off, away from the aim of the camera's lens.

The video frame switches to a young woman student, formerly an Army truck driver, who explains that in Iraq, even an empty pop can on the roadside must be assessed as a potential threat.

A third student veteran describes how in the classroom, his ingrained hypervigilance and anxiety might mean he has to sit apart from the rest of the class, near a door, or he might even have to leave abruptly. Acronyms pepper all their sentences—IEDs, PTSD, TBI.

That video, *Veteran Voices*, shown at an all-employee conference in 2013, marked a “tipping point” in campus culture, said Scott

Herzberg, point of contact for Military and Veteran Affairs at NMC. At the time, his position was new, prioritized by NMC President Timothy J. Nelson in 2012 to better meet the needs of the increasing number of students using the education benefits of the post-9/11 GI Bill.

“Veterans have served us, and we have a responsibility to serve them,” Nelson said.

But Herzberg knew his own determination wouldn't be enough. “If they just left my office and there wasn't a military-friendly culture out there, it wouldn't matter how good a job I did,” he said. So he enlisted five veterans to share their stories in the video. Afterward, Herzberg

remembers being flooded with emails from faculty and staff, all wanting to show students that, in military jargon, NMC's “got your six”—or got your back.

Since then, NMC has significantly increased the services it offers student veterans.

- An annual Veterans Day commemoration, in which students and faculty are excused from class and line campus sidewalks as a band leads student veterans in a “walk of honor” and flag-raising ceremony.
- A student veteran lounge was created in West Hall. Plates of homemade treats often appear, dropped off by anonymous faculty and staff, including biscuits for veterans' service dogs.
- A chapter of the national Student Veterans of America formed on campus. SVA activities range from social, such as an annual chili cook-off, to solemn, like 2016's 22-mile walk to raise awareness for the 22 veterans who commit suicide each day.
- Fee waivers, interest-free loans, a textbook lending library and more enable veterans to stretch their education dollars further.

At professional development seminars, Herzberg shared the story of how NMC has earned the respect of veterans services groups nationwide. *Military Times* magazine currently ranks NMC third in the nation for services to veterans at community colleges.

“The things we do have been a best-practice model for other schools,” said Herzberg, who in fact chaired the Best Practices committee for the Michigan Consortium of Veteran Educators for several years.

NMC's student veterans verify the quality of that service. “I can't say how fortunate I was to land here,” said Scott Frederick, a Navy veteran

“Veterans have served us, and we have a responsibility to serve them.”

– TIM NELSON



VETERANS ARE DESIGNATED AT COMMENCEMENT BY RED, WHITE AND BLUE CORDS.

and former SVA president. He entered NMC in 2014 and experienced Herzberg's "personal, walk-in, open-door policy" as the norm. He learned otherwise on his first visit to the downstate university campus where he plans to transfer this spring. "I immediately got the herding of the cattle, take a number thing," Frederick, 30, said.

"What NMC is doing for the veteran community is phenomenal. I will be forever grateful," agreed Luke Clark, a 2017 alumnus who is now pursuing his bachelor's in social work through Ferris State University at NMC's University Center.

After deployment in Afghanistan, Clark, 28, returned home to Rapid City in 2011. Suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after being injured in three separate IED explosions, he found another hurdle in re-entry to civilian life.

His attitude was, "they're giving me free college, so I'm going to go to college," but

Clark had no idea how to manage the relative freedom of student life after the rigid structure of the military, where soldiers only "blink and breathe" without orders. "It was a completely foreign place," Clark recalled of his first semester on campus.

"Self-regulating is really hard when you've been told what to do pretty much your entire life," agreed Sarah Bean, the Army truck driver in the video. Beyond the relative lack of structure, the "mission" of college can feel vague and slow compared to a military mission.

"It felt like I had a sense of purpose," Bean said of her deployment in Iraq, where she drove the lead gun truck in a security platoon.

After her 2008 discharge, she struggled to replace that sense of purpose, and even lived at Traverse City's Goodwill Inn homeless shelter for six months. It was there, watching the staff help residents, that she finally found the inspiration to go

to college. "I kind of want to do that, help people," said Bean, now 30.

Bean entered NMC in 2013 and transferred to Central Michigan University in 2015. She graduated from CMU with a bachelor's in psychology in 2017. This month, she's starting Western Michigan's

master's program in clinical psychology. However, without Herzberg, who "pretty much held my hand through the whole process," she doubts she would have made it even through enrollment.

"What NMC is doing for the veteran community is phenomenal. I will be forever grateful."

– Luke Clark



DK-5K MEMORIAL TOUGH RUN, SEPT. 2017



DK-5K



SCOTT HERZBERG



LUKE CLARK



SARAH BEAN

That front-end, early assistance is critical for veterans, Frederick said. “When you screw up in college, it’s cumulative,” he noted. “It’s paramount to have success early, the first time.”

That investment also pays off for society, since veterans bring back valuable skills and experience. Like Bean, both Frederick and Clark chose to enter helping professions. Frederick is pursuing a bachelor’s in nursing. His four-year program is specifically for student veterans and would lead to employment at VA hospitals.

Clark aspires to a master’s in social work, which he hopes to complete through Ferris at the UC by 2020. Last year he completed an internship at Reining Liberty Ranch, a Traverse City non-profit that offers equine therapy to a mostly veteran clientele. “Luke has a wonderful, automatic understanding that people need welcoming,” said Becky Bigelow,

Reining Liberty’s director. “He’s been where they’ve been.”

And Clark knows he could be again. Even with all NMC’s support, he dropped out for a year. He was “in a bad place,” he said. That’s why he says it’s so important to have NMC dedicated to veteran support.

“It’s a hill,” Clark said of the transition. “You are your own chain of command now, and it’s very difficult to make yourself stay motivated and positive. That’s what NMC faculty and staff and students do.” **N**

Watch the Vereran Voices video at nmc.edu/veterans

POST-9/11 GI BILL MARKS 10 YEARS

2008: Adopted by Congress, providing three years of education benefits to veterans who served after Sept. 10, 2001.

2012: Office of Military and Veterans Services established at NMC to better serve veterans, who make up 5 percent of enrollment. NMC ranks third in the nation among community colleges for services to veterans.

2017: Bill renewed. To date, 623 veterans have attended NMC using the benefits. More than 5 million veterans are expected to transition out of the military by 2020.



“If they just left my office and there wasn’t a military-friendly culture out there, it wouldn’t matter how good a job I did.”

– Scott Herzberg / POC, Military and Veterans Affairs



SVA 22 TO NONE SUICIDE AWARENESS HIKE



STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA CHILI COOK-OFF



SVA DUNK TANK AT BEQ



FROM LEFT, NMC FACULTY AND STAFF MEGAN WARD, JUDY CHU, MARY BURGET AND ANN GEHT RAN IN THE DK 5K MEMORIAL TOUGH RUN IN SEPTEMBER 2017. CHU AND BURGET BOTH TAUGHT THE EVENT'S NAMESAKE, THE LATE DREW KOSTIC.



A TEACHER'S JOURNEY

STUDENT'S SUICIDE PROMPTS ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR TO DELVE DEEPER INTO VETERAN TRANSITION

Throughout two semesters in 2016, student veteran Drew Kostic sat in NMC English instructor Judy Chu's classroom, completing writing assignments, helping fellow students and appearing to be transitioning well to civilian life. At the end of the second semester, however, in December 2016, Chu found herself sitting at Kostic's funeral, stunned by the apparent enormity of the internal strife that the dean's list student and campus leader kept hidden.

As she grieved through the subsequent spring 2017 semester, Chu realized that despite teaching dozens of student veterans during 16 years on the faculty, she needed to become a student herself, learning more about the magnitude of the student veteran transition.

"[Drew] showed up for my classes, he showed up for everybody's classes, he worked for Scott [Herzberg]. In the end, he still took his own life," Chu said. "What can I do to understand that transition even more, as a teacher, as a civilian who has no direct [military] connection?"

For Chu, a first step to answering that question was to incorporate military topics into her class reading list. "This semester, in all my comp classes, I brought in at least one essay," Chu said.

She's also started the Student Veterans in Transition learning community, a voluntary group of nine faculty and staff who, at present, represent the library, English, math and business academic

offices. Fellow English instructor Ryan Wilson co-facilitates.

The group is focused on the points—both big and small—in veterans lives where they face struggles in the college environment. For example, the length of classes: the two-hour timeframe of a typical college class may be too long for veteran students. "Veterans often need more time and space and freedom to walk around," Wilson said.

Piggybacking on Chu's reading list idea, the transition group took student veterans to the November 2017 National Writers Series appearance by authors Sebastian Junger (*Tribe*) and Phil Caputo (*Rumor of War*), whose books were chosen as NWS Community Reads. Chu has assigned Junger's essays in her class.

Wilson and Chu are also exploring the idea of publishing student veteran writing. "Most of my veteran students are always going to that deeper level," Wilson said. He sees it as "a shame" that veterans' writing typically goes no further than his desk, never finding the broader audience the stories deserve.

Ultimately, all the projects pay tribute to the effort Kostic made, and that his fellow veterans continue to make, to show up in class every day.

"I'm showing up now," Chu said. **N**

"What can I do to understand that transition even more, as a teacher, as a civilian who has no direct [military] connection?"

— Judy Chu



MILITARY SERVICES POC SCOTT HERZBERG (IN BLUE) ASSISTS A STUDENT VETERAN.



JOBS FOR VETS CAREER FAIR

NMC BEST PRACTICES

ON CAMPUS

- Veteran-specific application and orientation, personal campus tour
- Red white and blue cords to wear at Commencement, diplomas granted to service dogs
- Veterans lounge in West Hall
- Active chapter of Student Veterans of America
- Mindfulness practice group
- Professional development offered to faculty, staff and advisers on how best to work with veterans
- Operation Santa—Campus staff 'adopt' a student veteran and his/her family for Christmas
- Veterans Resource section in Osterlin Library—to educate civilians as well

FINANCIAL

- Waive transcript fee for veterans
- In-state tuition for all veterans and spouses/dependents (regardless of VA benefits)
- Interest-free emergency loan for qualifying veterans
- Veteran Lending Library (save textbook costs)
- Free NMC Fitness Center membership
- Conversion of military service into academic credit—approval pending in Maritime engineering, shorter law enforcement certificate available to military police officers

COMMUNITY

- Spring Jobs for Vets Hiring Fair at the Hagerty Center—including résumé/cover letter assistance and education for community HR directors
- Partnership with local veteran service agencies and businesses (monthly gathering at VFW)
- Working with MiWorks Veteran Services division to create apprenticeships, internships and other 'occupational bridge' programming
- Free amenities ranging from Detroit Red Wings training camp tickets to tax preparation services



MY NMC

Don Cunningham and Julie Hansen

U.S. Air Force retiree Don Cunningham was one of the first veterans to use post-9/11 GI benefits at NMC when the legislation was approved in 2008. Back then he worked in IT support at the University Center. Today, after earning 48 NMC credits and an executive MBA from Davenport University, he directs the University Center and NMC's Extended Educational Services division. "The 9/11 GI Bill was tremendous," he said.

Julie Hansen is NMC's school certifying official—a liaison between NMC and the Veterans Administration. She has walked more than 620 student veterans through the fine print of the GI Bill, which provides three years of educational benefits. "There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work," said Hansen, a member of NMC's Enrollment Services team. **N**

“Once I become a doctor, I can go anywhere in the world and be able to have my hands fix people.”

– Victoria Garrow



HAIL TO THE EARLY COLLEGE STUDENT

Victoria Garrow was always the kid who wanted to get the splinter out.

- High school students are the fastest-growing segment of NMC's enrollment.
- In 2016, the families of area high school students saved more than \$1,000 each through dual-enrollment and Early College programs. Home school-districts pay the tuition, fees and book costs at NMC.
- Collectively, 497 high school students saved more than \$500,000 through the two programs in 2016.
- Comparing average 2017–18 tuition at a four-year Michigan university (\$429 per credit hour) to NMC's (\$104 per contact hour, in-district) shows a quadrupling of savings for individual families and collectively, keeping more than \$2 million in regional household budgets.

Find out more at nmc.edu/dualenroll

The 2017 Elk Rapids High School graduate still aims to help people, but has ratcheted up her ambition—she wants to be a surgeon. And she's got a head start on that goal, thanks to Early College credits she earned at NMC while still in high school. Garrow entered the University of Michigan last fall as a "sophomore and a half."

Her decision to enroll in Early College, which also included classes at the Career Tech Center, run by the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, has been pivotal in pointing her toward the future. After a tour of the Career Tech Center, she chose to focus on the Allied Health course sequence. She joined a student group, Health Occupations Students of America, becoming a local and then state officer. Through Rotary, she traveled to Haiti in November 2016, installing water filters on behalf of a group called Pure Water for the World.

"That just really verified that I wanted to be a doctor," Garrow, 18, said of the Haiti trip. "Once I become a doctor, I can go anywhere in the world and be able to have my hands fix people."

Her favorite instructor at NMC was Lisa Blackford, from whom she took Abnormal Psychology.

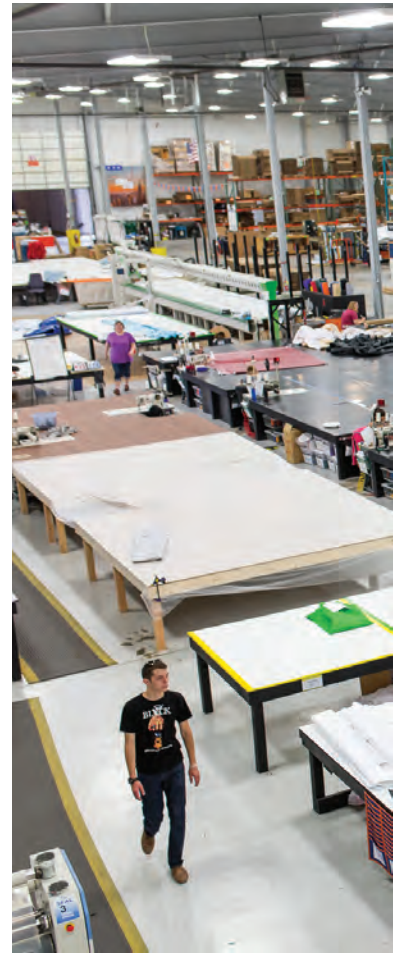
"She had a level of self-confidence that she could hold her own in the class, as far as the other age ranges and life experiences in the class," Blackford said.

Early College is designed for students to start taking college classes in high school. Students then earn an associate degree in a 13th year of high school. Garrow was planning to follow that path until she won a HAIL scholarship—a full ride—to the University of Michigan.

"It worked out so beautifully, I couldn't say no," she said. She also credits the Early College experience for making it possible.

"I don't think I would have flourished in that (high school) environment my last two years," she said. "This just opened up so many avenues." **N**





GOOD JOBS x4

NMC training drives TentCraft's growth



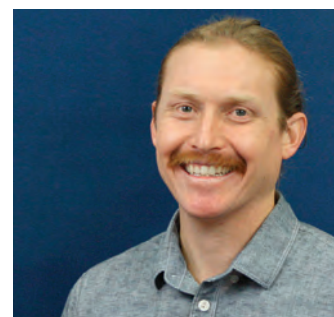
“We’ve beaten every timeline regarding job creation.”

– Matt Bulloch
CEO TentCraft



“Our success demonstrates success for NMC. It’s been a pretty amazing partnership.”

– Rob Hanel
People Manager
at TentCraft



IT’S ONE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN’S RALLYING CRIES: HOW DO WE GET MORE GOOD JOBS HERE?

Ask Matt Bulloch. In nearly five years, the CEO of Traverse City-headquartered TentCraft has dramatically grown his workforce with jobs that far exceed minimum wage, and he’s been able to enhance his employees’ skill sets at little to no cost to the company.

Back in 2013, Bulloch had about two dozen employees “all working harder, not smarter, all the time.”

This year, TentCraft will cross the 100-employee mark. All are working just as hard manufacturing the company’s promotional tents and accessories, but also so much smarter.

The surge in number of employees “is a quadrupling of our workforce—with good jobs,” Bulloch said of the Michigan manufacturer of custom promotional tents and other structures, event signage and more.

Those good jobs—and the explosive growth—are thanks in large part to the Michigan New Jobs Training Act, administered regionally by Northwestern Michigan College’s Training Services,

the corporate training arm of the college. The statewide program, which grew out of a 2008 bi-partisan effort to stimulate job creation, allows companies to divert payroll taxes into a fund to train new hires.

“This grant [program], and specifically the lean training, has been transformative for our company,” Bulloch said.

What does it take to qualify? Any company that is expanding and adding to its workforce is eligible to receive financial assistance for customized training. The new positions must pay 175 percent of the current Michigan minimum hourly wage.

At the time of TentCraft’s 2013 five-year grant agreement, the starting wage had to be \$12.95 per hour. The company promised to hire eight people, but ended up hiring 49.

“With these dollars, people I’d said we’d hire in three years we hired in nine months,” said Bulloch. “We’ve beaten every timeline regarding job creation.”

IMAGES COURTESY TENTCRAFT



That's not only good for TentCraft, it's good for the region. Wages from positions growing out of a 2017 agreement translates to \$15.58 per hour, or approximately \$32,000 annually for a full-time position. TentCraft plans to hire at least 27 at this rate.

More than \$533,000 in training funds (less administrative costs) has been applied to more than half of the TentCraft workforce over the last four years. Another \$350,000 will be spent under a new five-year agreement that will take the company to 2023.

Not only did TentCraft utilize the grant program to hire brand-new staff, but it was also able to create new positions within

the company as a result of the growth, and promote people internally.

For TentCraft, this has meant training for a chief technology officer, a vice president of manufacturing, a systems administrator and a sewing specialist, just to name a few.

"This program has made us think more critically about hiring," said Rob Hanel, People Manager at TentCraft. Potential new jobs in 2018 include a continuous improvement engineer and more project managers.

"Our success demonstrates success for NMC," said Hanel. "It's been a pretty amazing partnership." **N**

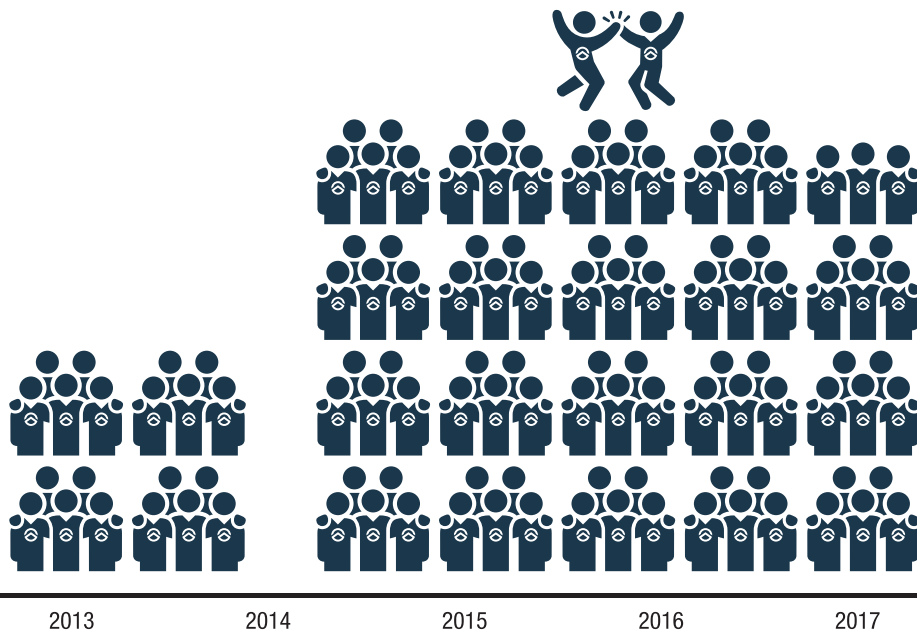
MICHIGAN NEW JOBS TRAINING ACT & NMC

- 663 jobs created since 2010, paying at least 175 percent of minimum wage
- 39 manufacturer participants
- Other employer sectors include healthcare, insurance, building/construction and food processing
- Employers located in Grand Traverse, Antrim, Charlevoix and other counties
- \$4.7 million in training contracts remains in region instead of being paid in payroll taxes
- Continues through 2023

Visit nmc.edu/training for more information.

5 YEARS, QUADRUPLE THE WORKFORCE

TentCraft will soon cross the 100-employee mark, thanks in large part to customized training NMC offers through the Michigan New Jobs Training Program.





1



2



3



4



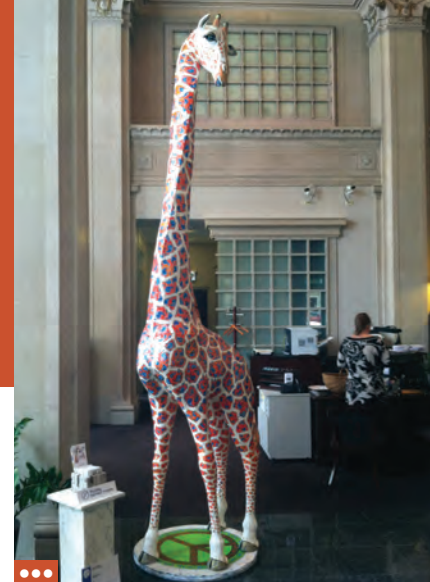
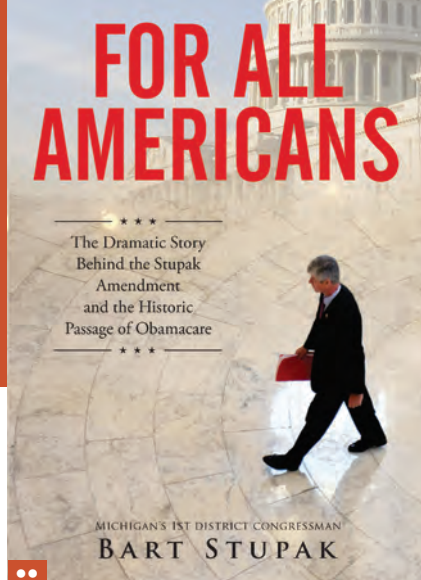
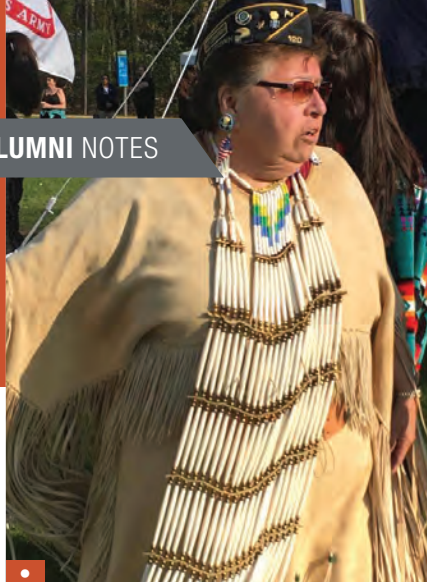
CULINARY

Five decades brings many changes, some full circle.

Pivotal moments include the 1992 arrival of director Fred Laughlin (2), who led the shift in focus from food service management—Culinary’s predecessor program—to the craft of cooking. Laughlin says the biggest milestone was the 2004 move from the Oleson Center (3) to the Great Lakes Campus, which offers Lobdell’s Teaching Restaurant (4) on-site and allowed the program to grow from 70 students to a peak of 232. The opportunity to learn from working guest chefs remains a priority today as it was back when students took a practicum at the Park Place Hotel (1). **N**



ALUMNI NOTES



ALUMNI NOTES

■ **MIKKI PINO**, 1960, and Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa member, was one of 22 Native American alumni to participate in a powwow, alumni brunch and other events hosted by the Native American Student Organization on campus in May 2017. More than 300 people attended the traditional dance.

●● **BART STUPAK**, 1972, has published *For All Americans*, a book chronicling his role in the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 while serving as congressman for Michigan's First District. Stupak received the NMC Fellow award, the college's highest honor, in 2001.

JERRY JALOSZYNSKI, 1973, was inducted into the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Hall of Fame. He went on to Central Michigan University where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in parks and recreation administration.

His accomplishments include activities leading to the acquisition and development of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail in northeast Isabella County and the Fred Meijer CIS Trail in Shiawassee, Clinton and Ionia counties.

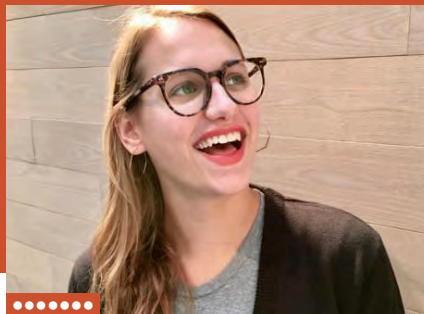
●●● **MARK ALEXANDER KALIS**, 1982, sculpted and displayed a 13-foot papier mache giraffe sculpture at the Ecorse Public Library in 2017. He conducted art lessons with elementary students in the library in conjunction with its display.

JASON ALLEN, 1983, has been appointed the new state director for USDA Rural Development in Michigan by the Trump Administration. Prior to his appointment, Allen was a development specialist with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A resident of Traverse City, he was elected to two terms in both the Michigan House of

Representatives and Senate. He was named an NMC Outstanding Alumnus in 2003.

Landscape paintings by **SUE GODWIN**, 1984, were featured in a 2017 exhibit titled, "Sunrises, Sunsets, and Time In Between" at the McPherson Public Library in McPherson, Kan. Godwin's artwork has been purchased and commissioned for both private and corporate collections.

●●● **CAPT. DAN RENTSCHLER**, 1990, recently became a United States Federal Registered Pilot on the Great Lakes, one of approximately 50 people worldwide who hold that distinction. Rentschler completed a two-year apprentice program to earn the credential, which allows him to move foreign-flag vessels on the waterways above Port Huron District 3.



SAVE THESE DATES!

February 20: 2018 Outstanding Alumni Award nominations due, nmc.edu/alumni

March 1: Networking Reception, 6–8 p.m., Lobdell's Teaching Restaurant

Immediately following the annual NMC Career Fair, free and open to all former NMC students who have earned academic credit, plus spouses/significant others. Cash bar, heavy appetizers and door prizes. Business casual attire. Registration is encouraged, but not required, alumni@nmc.edu.

He began his career as a third mate sailing on tankers. Since then, most of his time at sea has been on Great Lakes dry bulk carriers.

PATRICK DRAYER, 2003, took the position of executive officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Duluth, Minn. in July 2017. Drayer has served in the U.S. Coast Guard since 2005, in various positions and locations around the United States.

●●●● **CAPT. RORY GRANT**, 2006, earned the title of United States Federal Registered Pilot on the Great Lakes in May 2017, becoming one of approximately 50 people worldwide who hold that distinction. Also in 2017, Grant became a full partner in the business Western Great Lakes Pilots Association, which pilots foreign ships that come into Saint Lawrence Seaway.

Grant met his wife, Jenny (Peschel) Grant, while both lived in the dorms at NMC as cadets at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy.

●●●●● **CHEF DUSTIN IGNASH**, 2008, was named dining service sous chef for Michigan State University. From 2010–14 Ignash served as catering chef and then executive chef for Sodexo at NMC. He then became executive chef at Northwood University in Midland. At MSU, Ignash will

be in charge of Wilson Hall, featuring strictly dinner and late-night dining. Wilson is the largest late-night venue on campus, with over 1,000 diners during late night hours.

PAUL SCHOPPE, 2009, celebrated the one-year anniversary of his promotion to the position of financial assistant at the Northwestern Michigan College Foundation. He has been at Foundation since October 2014, where he began as development assistant.

U.S. Air Force **STAFF SGT. REBECCA STILLIN**, 2013, was awarded the John L. Levitow award in August 2017, after completing the Airman Leadership Course.

The John L. Levitow award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a graduate at any level of Enlisted Professional Military Education in the United States Air Force.

CHEF LANCE GRIFFUS, 2015, has joined the culinary team at Black Star Farms. Following his graduation from the Great Lakes Culinary Institute, Griffus worked under Chef Jim Morse at the Boathouse Restaurant, rising to the position of sous chef.

●●●●●● **OLIVIA FLEET**, 2015–16, began an internship in fall 2017 with the Gracie Award-winning “Terrible, Thanks for

Asking” podcast. She is part of the team at the Minneapolis-based non-profit Still Kickin, which was inspired by podcast host and author Nora McInerney’s late husband, Aaron.

Available from American Public Media, it is a “funny/sad/uncomfortable podcast about talking honestly about our pain, our awkwardness, and our humanness.”

BENNETT PAUL, 2016, is the newest patrolman with the St. Ignace City Police. He previously was employed as a seasonal police officer on Mackinac Island.

●●●●●● **KATHRYN KILLINGBECK**, 2017, joined the Otsego County Sheriff’s office as a deputy. In her position she is stationed two days a week in Gaylord High School.

VOLKAN YILDIRIM, 2017, recently completed an internship in the chemical sciences division of the United States Department of Energy, Oak Ridge office in Oak Ridge, Tenn. He was invited to return for an additional 12-week assignment at the U.S. Department of Energy, which will take place in summer 2018. **N**

Share your alumni news by emailing alumni@nmc.edu.



FROM OUR KITCHENS



COURTESY OF GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA

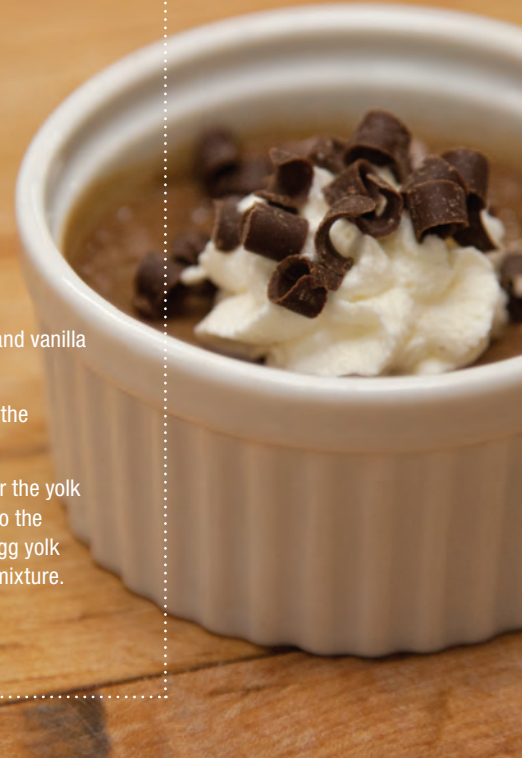
CHOCOLATE POT DE CRÈME

YIELD 23 MOLDS // OVEN TEMP 225 degrees

- 1 quart heavy cream
- 8 ounces sugar
- pinch salt
- 1 ounce vanilla
- 10 ounces egg yolks
- 3 ounces 64% chocolate

STEPS:

1. Combine cream, half the sugar, salt and vanilla in a sauce pot and bring to a boil.
2. Combine the other half of sugar with the egg yolks, and whisk to combine.
3. Once the cream mixture boils, temper the yolk mixture by slowly adding hot cream to the chocolate and whisk. Then add the egg yolk mixture and chocolate to the cream mixture.
4. Strain, pour into molds and bake at 225 degrees until set.



CONFECTIONAIRE EXTRAORDINAIRE

2016 GLCI graduate leads Resort's pastry team

Pastry chef Katie Ianni has been training for her career for as long as she can remember. The first childhood memory of the *pâtissière* at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa was baking Christmas cookies with her grandmother and great-grandmother. While her vocation was never in doubt, the location was. The New Jersey native passed over East Coast culinary schools in favor of the Great Lakes Culinary Institute, for both its quality

instruction and its value. She attended from 2014 through 2016. During that time she had an internship at the Grand Traverse Resort's Aerie Restaurant, which opened the door to her full-time position.

The Pot de Crème (above) is the most popular brunch dessert at the resort. Chef Ianni and her team can make up to 100 per brunch. **N**





PASTRY CHEF KATIE IANNI





COURTESY OF RAQUEL LAUREN

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 01 Academic World Quest**
High school teams compete for best knowledge of world affairs.
Hagerty Center // tciaf.com
- 02 Public Viewing Night**
9–11 p.m., Rogers Observatory
Admission \$2/person, \$5/family
- 07 Lobdell's opens for lunch**
Tues., Wed., Thurs.
Great Lakes Campus
(231) 995-3120 for reservations
nmc.edu/lobdells for menu
- 15 International Affairs Forum lecture series: U.S.-China Trade: The Economics Behind the Politics**
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
- 23 NMC Concert Band and Grand Traverse Chorale present music for band and choir**
7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church
Tickets available at the door or at MyNorthTickets.com.
(800) 836-0717

- 25 NMC Choral performance – featuring the NMC Chamber Singers, Canticum Novum and the NMC Children's Choirs**
3 p.m., Lars Hockstad Auditorium
Tickets available at the door or at MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717

MARCH

- 01 Career Fair**
4–6 p.m., Hagerty Center
Open to the public as well as NMC students
nmc.edu/careerfair
- 02 Public Viewing Night**
9–11 p.m., Rogers Observatory
Admission \$2/person, \$5/family
- 15 International Affairs Forum lecture series: The Rohingya Refugees: A Crisis Long in the Making**
6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium

APRIL

- 06 A Taste of Success**
6:30 p.m., Great Lakes Campus
Tickets \$100, available at nmc.edu/tasteofsuccess



COURTESY OF BETH PRICE

06 Public Viewing Night

9–11 p.m., Rogers Observatory
 Admission \$2/person, \$5/family
*Remaining 2018 dates:
 nmc.edu/rogersobservatory*

14 Big Little Hero Race

Experiential learning project to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters
 1 mile, 5K and 10K options
 9 a.m., NMC main campus
*Registration details at
 nmc.edu/hero-race after
 March 15*

15 NMC Dance Department Concert

7 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
*Tickets available at the door or at
 MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717*

**19 International Affairs Forum
 lecture Series: America and Iran:
 Confrontation or Coexistence?**

6 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
*Continues third Thursday of each month
 through June. tciaf.com for speakers*

27 NMC Concert Band

7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
*Tickets available at the door or at
 MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717*

**28 Spring Jazz Ensemble Showcase
 featuring NMC Jazz Band
 and Vocal Jazz Ensemble**

7:30 p.m., Milliken Auditorium
*Tickets available at the door or at
 MyNorthTickets.com. (800) 836-0717*

MAY Commencement

05 2 p.m., Traverse City
 Central High School

16 TEDxTraverseCity

Milliken Auditorium
Tickets and info: tedxtraversecity.com

20 NMC Barbecue

11 a.m.–5 p.m., main campus
Tickets and info: nmc.edu/bbq



DENNOS CONCERTS KEEP THE WINTER BLAHS AT BAY

FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE, VISIT DENNOSMUSEUM.ORG.

TORONZO CANNON SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 8 p.m.

Blues is Cannon's (below, left) calling, and he's battled his way to the top of Chicago's ultra-competitive blues scene, played multiple tours of Europe and delivered roof-raising performances around the U.S.

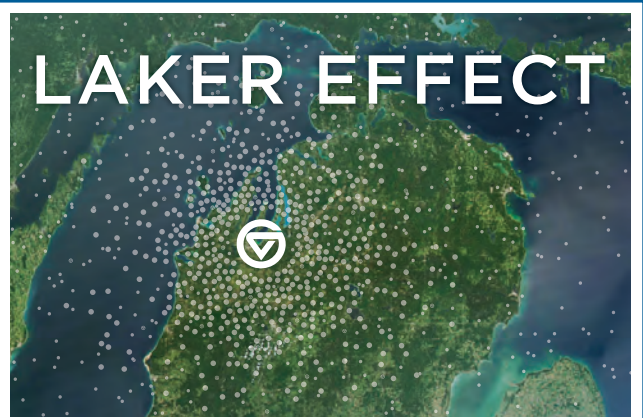
LE VENT DU NORD FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 8 p.m.

Quebec's Le Vent du Nord (above) knows how to turn the lost past into intense and beautiful performances that push in strikingly global directions. The group is blazing a path that connects their Québécois roots to the wider world with rich and varied instrumentation, well-polished musical arrangements, and wonderful vocals.

DAVY KNOWLES SATURDAY, MAY 5, 8 p.m.

Growing up in the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, Davy Knowles (below, right) learned to play guitar from listening to Gallagher, Clapton and others in his father's record collection. He started his professional career with a bang, arriving in America at age 19 with his band Back Door Slam, an acclaimed debut album, and rave reviews.

Tickets for all shows are \$27 in advance, \$30 at the door and \$24 for museum members. Tickets can be purchased during regular museum hours, Monday–Friday, and one hour prior to a concert. For tickets call the museum at (231) 995-1055 or MyNorth Tickets at (800) 836-0717, or purchase online at mynorhtickets.com.



Opportunity.

Education is about creating opportunities — for career growth, job satisfaction, and personal development. That's why we've been offering in-demand bachelor's, master's, and certificate programs in Northern Michigan for more than 20 years. So no matter what opportunity you seek, we'll give you the education support you need to achieve your goals. That's the Laker Effect.

Learn more about the programs, people, and opportunities at our Traverse City Regional Center. Visit us at gvsu.edu/traverse or call Jackie Abeya at (231) 995-1785.



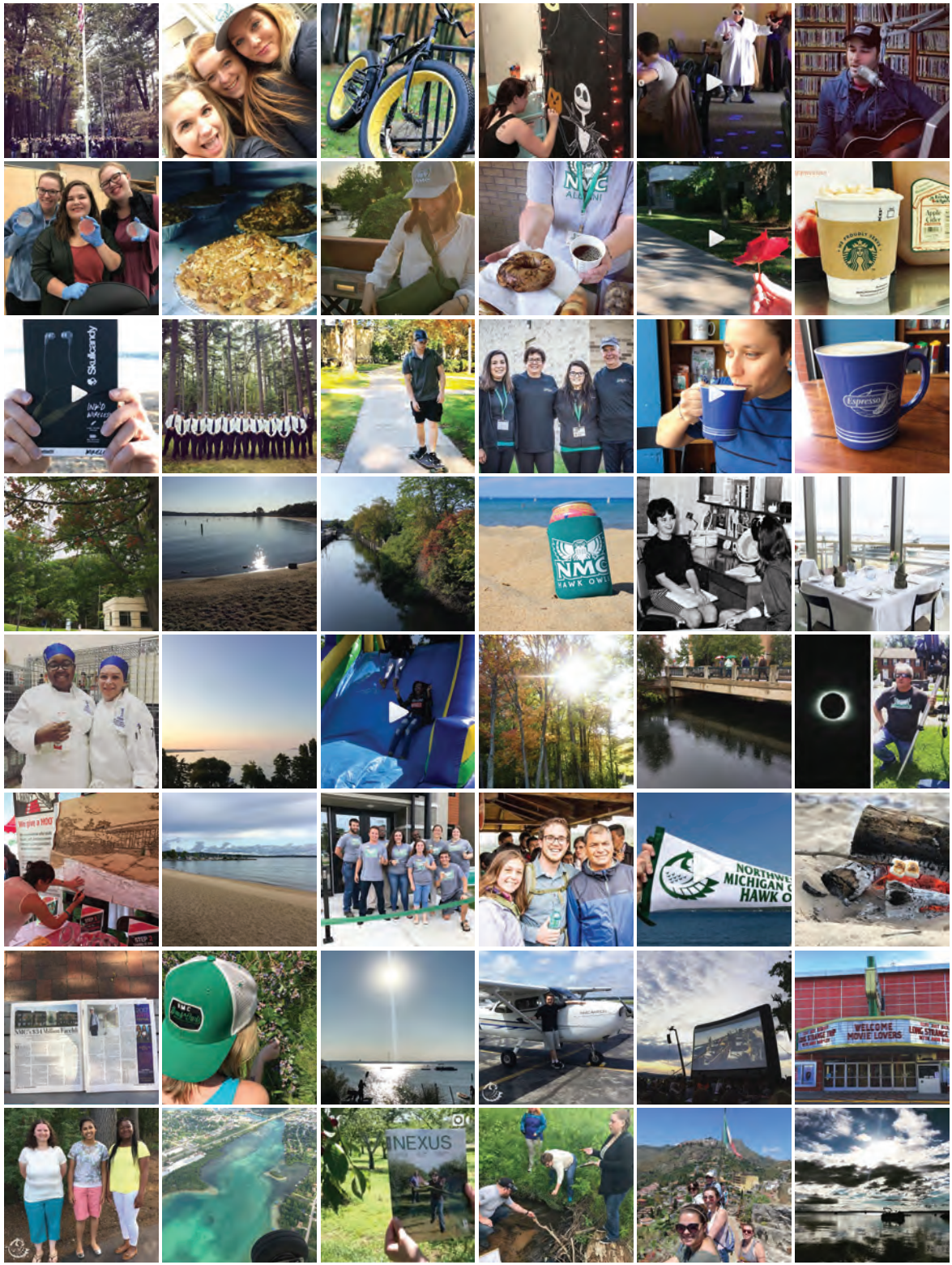
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ferris.edu/traversecity

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◀ June



AFTER A YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION, THE DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER WILL OPEN ITS NEW GALLERIES TO THE PUBLIC ON JAN. 21.
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE DEBUT EXHIBITIONS IN THE NEARLY DOUBLED SPACE AT DENNOSMUSEUM.ORG.