



NMU Awards First Doctorate Degrees

NMU's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program (and first doctorate degree) was represented for the first time at commencement at May's ceremony. Theresa Durley 'XX XX of Marquette (also an NMU nursing faculty member), Myrth Condon 'XX XX of Munising and Lacey Crabb 'XX XX of Escanaba completed the post-master's track of the degree, which is three years in length. The post-baccalaureate track requires an additional year, so the first cohort of 16 students from that track will graduate in summer 2018.

Northern's DNP courses are delivered on a part-time basis, using a hybrid of on-campus and online teaching/learning methods. Clinical practicum hours may be completed in the student's local community with an approved preceptor. **Learn more at nmu.edu/nursing.**

Planning for Distinction

NMU has launched a campus-wide assessment project where all NMU academic programs and support services will be evaluated based on specified criteria to determine investment priorities.

A consultant from Campus Strategies LLC was on campus in February to launch the program and provide training on an adaptation of the Dickeson Model, a data-driven approach to reallocating resources to achieve strategic balance. The model is designed to empower faculty and staff most impacted by the outcomes to analyze the data and make recommendations. Two task forces of approximately 25 members each will play an active role in making recommendations of which academic programs and university services warrant enhanced, stable or reduced resources and which could potentially be phased out.

"Our challenge is adequately allocating our limited university resources ... so that these great ideas can become reality." – NMU President Fritz Erickson

After considering the Strategic Resource Allocation task forces' recommendations—which are expected to be completed in the fall semester—and providing opportunities for feedback, President Erickson will consult with his executive team and make the final decisions.

"In 2016, NMU began the first phases of strategic planning. Our challenge is adequately allocating our limited university resources— especially those of people, time and money—so that these great ideas can become reality," said Erickson. "To do this, we must fully understand how and to what level programs and services contribute to our success so we can make additional investments in those that are, or have the potential, to perform exceptionally well." **Learn more at nmu.edu/sra.**



School of Art and Design Partners with Romanian School

The School of Art and Design has established a bilateral partnership with the University of Art and Design Cluj-Napoca in Romania. The agreement includes student and faculty exchanges. Other objectives include collaborations with art institutions worldwide and enhanced international visibility for NMU.

Representatives of UAD can make direct contact with the trends and directions of contemporary art today, yet leave a personal touch of creativity and authenticity that is Transylvanian or Romanian."

– NMU ceramics professor Brian Kakas



"The University of Art and Design is one of the most dynamic institutions of its kind in Romania," said Brian Kakas, an NMU ceramics professor who organized the program. "UAD offers exceptional opportunities for artistic expression and creation, both by providing exhibition spaces of its own and through internal and international partnerships with museums, academies, universities and art institutions. Representatives of UAD can make direct contact with the trends and directions of contemporary art today, yet leave a personal touch of creativity and authenticity that is Transylvanian or Romanian."



NMU Breaks World Record on National TV

In case you missed it, NBC's *Today Show* broadcast live from NMU on March 28. Northern was selected as one of five universities to be featured in "Rokerthon," a week where weatherman Al Roker helped students break world records and put the spotlight on their campuses. NMU students set a new Guinness World Record for the largest game of freeze tag, with 634 student participants (who had to show up at 4 a.m.!).

In addition to the live broadcast from the Superior Dome, NMU received additional media exposure through footage of Roker touring various campus locations and interacting with students, faculty and staff, including playing cowbell with NMU's symphonic band performing "You Can Call Me Al."

Video available at today.com/series/rokerthon/rokerthon-3-al-roker-brings-big-freeze-north-michigan-university-t109689

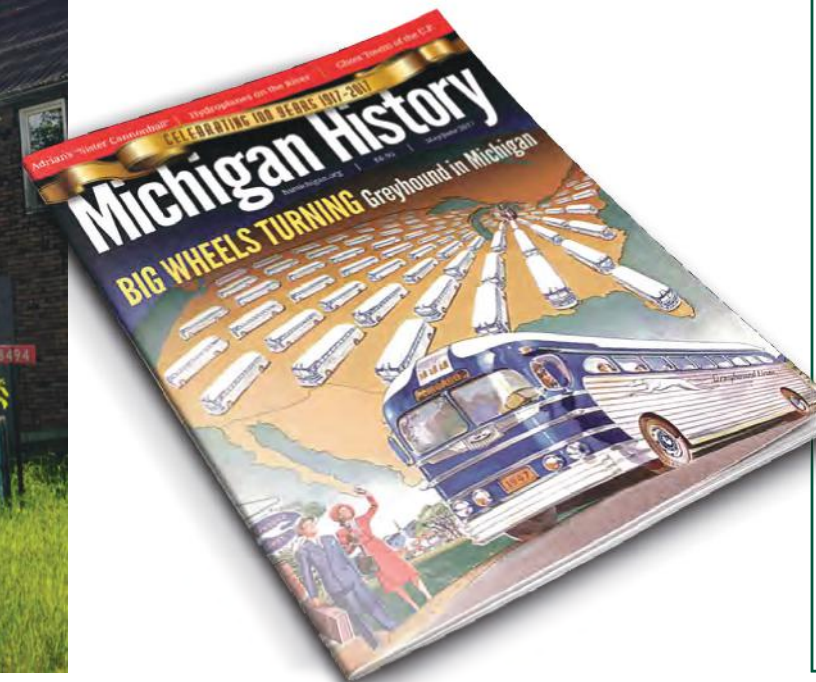
'Cats Pride!

- Professor David Wood has been recognized as one of three recipients of the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions and dedication exhibited by the faculty from Michigan's 15 public universities. Wood is an English professor and director of NMU's Honors Program.
- Education professor Sandra Imdieke is chair of the 2018 Theodor Seuss Geisel Award selection committee, given to authors and illustrators of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers.
- Student Christopher Abbott won third place in the 2017 Cyber Security Challenge at the Association of Information Technology National Collegiate Conference.
- The Sundance Institute's Native Program, which supports indigenous filmmakers, selected NMU student Kayla Bell as one of its Full Circle Fellows. As part of the yearlong fellowship she takes part in workshops and training at the Sundance Film Festival, an internship in New Mexico and film studio tours and industry networking in Los Angeles.
- ▼ Three NMU students circumnavigated Lake Superior by bike this summer to gain an understanding of the impact that the lake has on its surrounding communities while creating a platform of education about ways to keep it pristine. Follow the results of their Great Lakes Great Stories journey on Facebook.



◀ U.P. Ghost Towns in *Michigan History*

The May/June issue of *Michigan History* magazine includes a feature related to a recent Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center exhibition. The article is titled "Ghost Towns of the Upper Peninsula: A Photographic Journey." It was co-authored by Dan Truckey 'XX XX, Beaumier Center director, who did the fieldwork of taking photos and collecting historic images, and student assistant Elizabeth Fust, who did most of the research and writing. Pictured at left is the Dollarville ghost town, featured in the exhibition. Check out the exhibit website at archives.nmu.edu/beaumier/ghosttowns



Wildcat Among Top New Sports Logos

NMU's Wildcat ranks as the 32nd best sports logo from among more than 250 unveiled in 2016, according to the annual Creamer Awards. A judging panel led by Chris Creamer, founder of SportsLogos.net, determines the best and worst designs from eligible entries representing amateur and professional sports teams.





Left page photos by
student Corey Robinson



Clockwise: Willy and Al Ro-
ker parading in before the
(successful!) attempt by 634
NMU students to break the
record for the world's largest
game of freeze tag; A student
working on a medicinal plant
lab; Hands-on learning in the
Art & Design lighting studio;
Students walking to class on a
beautiful day

Right page photos by
Josh LeClair '09 BFA



Campus Captured



NATIONAL CHAMP! NATIONAL CHAMP! NATIONAL CHAMP!

YET RACHEL HELM KEEPS AIMING FOR MORE

When Rachel Helm’s head broke the surface of the water, she didn’t know if she had touched the wall fast enough.

A national title in the 100-yard backstroke was on the line, and she waited anxiously for the results to be announced, unsure if she had made history or fallen just short.

“Being at the national championship swim meet, everything has to be perfect, and she just was amazing and did everything right.”

“The results took forever to come through,” Helm said. “Then, I realized I had won, and it was just an unbelievable feeling.”

Helm’s winning time was 53.79, a Northern Michigan record. With it, she became the first Wildcat swimmer to be crowned a national champion since Erin Vostad ‘01 in 1999.

Between Vostad’s victory in the 100-yard butterfly and Helm’s in her signature event, Northern Michigan had many close calls at the NCAA championships. Most recently, Debi Lawrence was beaten to the wall in the 50-yard freestyle by less than a second at the 2014 edition.

The close calls only made head coach Heidi Voigt more appreciative of Helm’s accomplishment.

“We’ve had some close calls for sure, and it takes a lot,” Voigt said. “Being at the national championship swim meet,

everything has to be perfect, and she just was amazing and did everything right.”

Helm had been amazing throughout her freshman season, and her performance at the GLIAC championships showed that she was more than ready to swim with the best the country had to offer.

There, she took gold in all four individual events she raced: the 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard IM. She would have won the 200-yard backstroke too, but she swam it as a time trial.

“She’d been really coming on in those last weeks before conference,” Voigt said. “We always knew that Rachel had potential, and we knew this would be a big year.”

And Helm expects next year will be even bigger. Asked what her goals are for her sophomore season, she responded without hesitation.

“Double national champion, 200 back, 100 back,” she said. “If I train my 200 back more, I ought to be double national champion.”

Helm isn’t the only Wildcat ready to have a memorable 2017-18 campaign. Her achievement has motivated her teammates to strive to reach the pinnacle of their sport.

“To have a national champion, I think it’s so inspiring for everyone,” said fellow freshman Nicola Pasquire. “It’s certainly my aim to qualify in individual events next year, to get the All-American honors and then maybe one day even live up to Rachel’s standard. I think she’s really set the bar high.”

HELM’S HITS

All-American Swims

100 backstroke (1st, 53.79)
200 backstroke (3rd, 1:57.05)

All-GLIAC Swims

100 backstroke (1st, 53.82)
100 butterfly (1st, 55:37)
100 freestyle (1st, 50.48)
200 IM (1st, 2:01.17)
800 freestyle relay (3rd, 7:38.57)



ACADEMIC SUCCESS & ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

- 122 fall and winter student-athletes to GLIAC All-Academic and All-Academic Excellence Teams
- 14 Nordic Skiers to USCSCA All-Academic Team
- 15 hockey players to WCHA All-Academic Team

3.19

AVERAGE GPA OF ALL WILDCATS

41

WILDCATS WITH A PERFECT 4.0 IN FALL 2016

67

% OF WILDCATS EARNED AT LEAST A 3.0

14

OF 17 WILDCAT TEAMS PRODUCED A 3.0 OR HIGHER

14.23

AVERAGE CREDIT WORKLOAD OF A WILDCAT

TOP FIVE TEAMS (FALL 2016 GPA)



WOMEN'S NORDIC SKIING

3.84



VOLLEYBALL

3.66



CROSS COUNTRY

3.62



MEN'S NORDIC SKIING

3.59



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

3.49



Elite skier holds 4.0 GPA

Adam Martin received the NCAA Skiing Elite 90 award, presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA competing at the finals site for each NCAA championship. The recent mathematics and computer science double major graduate boasted a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. He is the first Wildcat to earn this prestigious honor, which was established as the Elite 88 award in 2009–10.

(Right) Adam is pictured with head coach Sten Fjeldheim





NEWS & NOTES

A FIRST FOR THE FIRST LINE



Coach Rick Comley

The Comley Hockey Scholarship was established in honor of Coach Rick Comley and his 26 years of service to NMU Hockey. This donor-funded scholarship was renamed the Comley-Heiskanen Hockey Scholarship to recognize Larry Heiskanen, who passed away suddenly in October 2016. Heiskanen worked for many years at Northern Michigan as the director of development for athletics and as an equipment manager for the hockey team.

Rising senior forward Zach Diamantoni is the 2017-18 recipient of the Comley-Heiskanen Hockey Scholarship. He sat down with Northern Magazine to discuss what the scholarship means to him and more.

What does it mean to you to be the first recipient of the renamed scholarship?

It is a huge honor. Both Rick Comley and Larry Heiskanen have done so much for the Northern Michigan hockey program so I hope I can repay them by having a positive impact on the program and the community.

You enjoyed a breakout junior year, posting career-high totals in

goals (6), assists (14) and points (20). What can we expect from you as a senior?

I think people can expect me to take on a bigger leadership role on and off the ice. In doing so, I plan to continue to work at improving my game to help the team in any way I can.

Why did you choose Northern Michigan? What made you look at the school?

The hockey program and coaching staff is what originally made me look at Northern Michigan. However, after visiting Marquette and seeing the campus and facilities, I fell in love with area, which made my decision to come here much easier.

What have you enjoyed most about being at Northern Michigan?

I really have enjoyed everything about Northern Michigan, but I

think I have enjoyed the people the most. From my teammates, coaches, classmates, professors and community members, I have been fortunate to meet many special people and build great relationships.

What are your goals for after graduation?

I hope to continue to play hockey and eventually start a career in business using my finance degree.



“I really have enjoyed everything about Northern Michigan, but I think I have enjoyed the people the most.”

Northern Michigan recently welcomed four new head coaches. Right to left: Kyle Nystrom (football), Mike Lozier (volleyball), Sonia Basma (women's soccer) & Grant Potulny (hockey).



read their bios at nmuwildcats.com

The lacrosse team opened its inaugural season by toppling Northland, 18-1, at the Superior Dome on Feb. 18. The Wildcats scored 18 unanswered goals, 10 in the first half and eight in the second, to down the Lumberjills. Shelby Klotz led the way, netting five goals, including the team's first just 19 seconds into the game off of a free-position shot.



From Jan. 21 to Feb. 11, hockey goalie Atte Tolvanen blanked five-straight opponents, breaking the WCHA men's record and tying the NCAA men's record for consecutive shutouts. His scoreless streak, over which he made 220 straight-saves, ended at 339:05, good for first in WCHA men's history and second in NCAA men's history.



On Feb. 18 at Grand Valley State, guard Bre Gaspervich became the 25th Wildcat women's basketball player to score 1,000 points in her career. A two-time all-GLIAC second and defensive team honoree, she wrapped up her time on the Northern team with 1,028 points, 366 rebounds, 189 assists and 164 steals in 113 games as a Wildcat.



All-American Salute

During the 2016-17 season, Wildcats have captured 14 All-American awards. Student-athletes are awarded All-American accolades in cross country, Nordic skiing, swimming & diving and indoor track & field based on their placement at the NCAA National Championships.

ALL-AMERICAN WILDCATS

Lajos Budai – 50 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 100 freestyle

Renars Bundzis – 200 backstroke

Kameron Burmeister – cross country, indoor 5,000-meter run

Rachel Helm – 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke

Vivian Hett – 5K classic

Adam Martin – 10K classic, 20K freestyle

Angela Probstfeld – 3-meter dive

Fredrik Schwencke – 10K classic

Jasmine Williams – weight throw

FALL 2017 ATHLETIC CALENDAR

JUNE 24 NMU Football Golf Outing
Register at connect.nmu.edu/footballgolf

JULY 15 NMU Volleyball Reunion Weekend
Register at connect.nmu.edu/volleyball

SEPT. 9 NMU Football in Texas!

OCT. 13 & 14 NMU Volleyball in Chicago

OCT. 20 & 21 NMU Hockey in Green Bay

VISIT NMUWILDCATS.COM FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULES AND WILDCAT STORIES