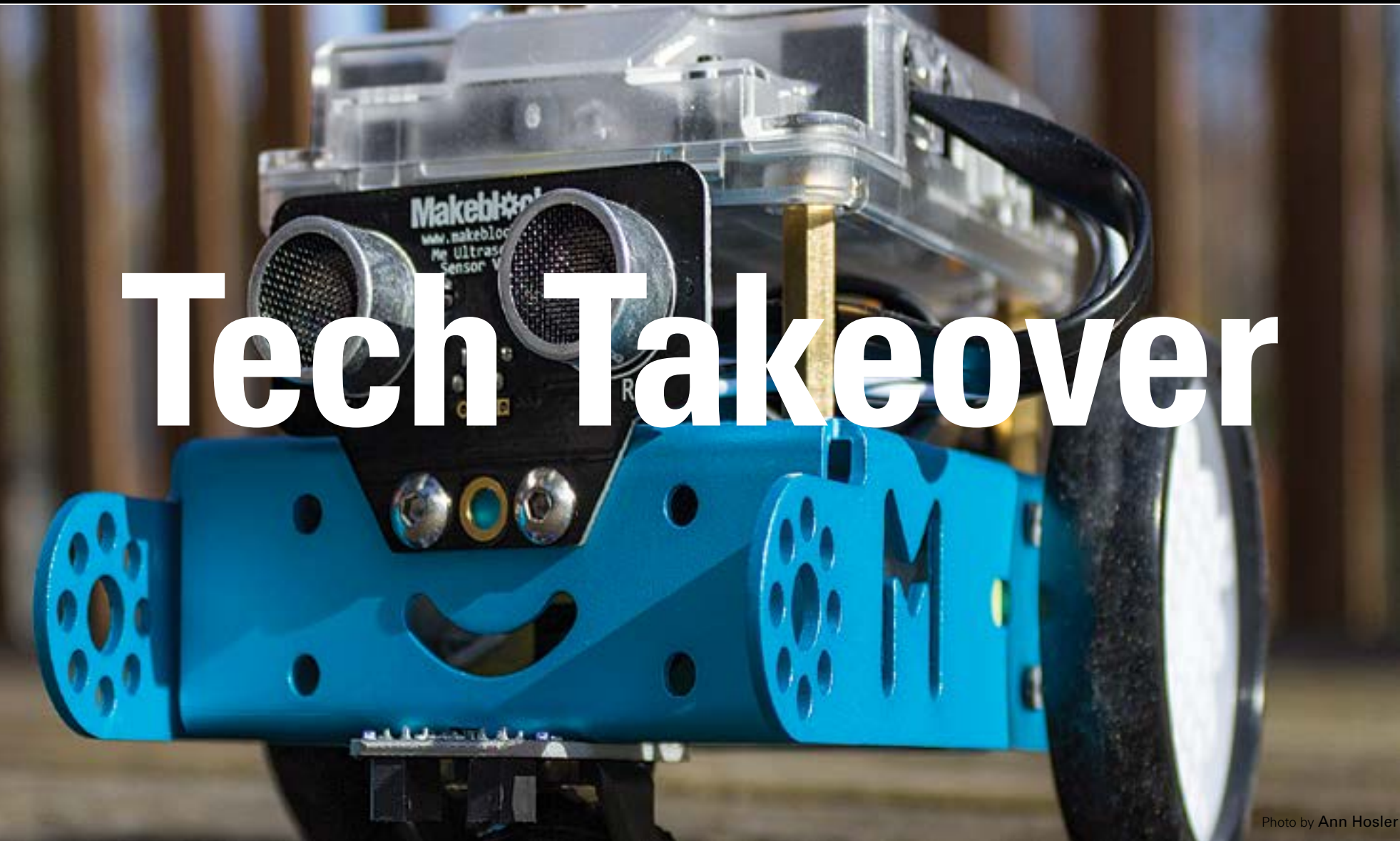


N O R T H W E S T E R N M I C H I G A N C O L L E G E

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We hew to the line; let the chips fall where they may.



ANN HOSLER The Computer Information Technology (CIT) program at NMC has evolved a lot over the past couple of years. New Cisco hardware, Finch robots (a small robot to help students learn to design and write programs), Raspberry Pi (a credit-card-sized microcomputer), as well as game development, all offer students real-world scenarios that are priming them for outside employment. The gamification of courses and certification revamps have streamlined the path to completing the AAS degree. CIT instructors Lisa Balbach, David Hosler, John Velis, and Keith Weber discussed the various technologies and opportunities their program has to offer.

Velis explained that the developer instructors look for “appropriate technologies” that fulfill outcomes while leaning toward the students’ interest. “In the developer world we have built our first programming course around programming a Finch robot and the second course around developing a text-based adventure game,” he said. Looking forward, student teams in the .NET Object-Oriented Programming course (CIT255) will work on project solutions for current environmental issues. “[They] will use Raspberry Pi and sensors to explore the Internet of Things to gather, analyze and display environmental data.” Weber

added that they are also looking at integrating inexpensive robots into some classes, such as the Makeblock’s mBot, and that these robots would also be useful for activities involving K-12 students “to fire up their imaginations about the possibilities in coding.”

The infrastructure side of the CIT program also benefits from new Cisco networking switches and routers this year. “Using a lot of real world equipment in the Cisco lab gives students the ability to work with equipment that they will see in the tech environment once they graduate our program,” Hosler said. Last year he implemented group projects in the Cisco courses, simulating a more realistic approach to the equipment for students, allowing them to experience potential workplace scenarios.

“Most of the students in the current Cisco class never have actually mounted equipment into a rack—that was part of the first lab that they did in their groups, as well as designing the network that they were going to be working with throughout the courses. Network design isn’t something that they will often get the chance to do in the real world,” Hosler described. “The entire purpose of doing these labs is that I have them produce documents for each ‘stage’ of the project ... they will get copies of this to take with them when they leave the classes. It is something that they can show to

potential employers as proof that they know certain topics when asked about it, hopefully giving our students a step above other applicants in a very tight job market.”

Another new technology—recently acquired by CIT program coordinator Scott Goethals—is a Beam bot (telepresence robot), whom the instructors have fondly named “Rosie”. Beam bots allow users to remotely connect to the machine and collaborate virtually in real time. “Students tend to think that coding is all about creating web pages or games, but it is so much more. Robots and the Internet of Things are both gigantic opportunities for programmers,” Weber said. “We purchased Rosie partly to demonstrate that, but also because we would like to consider a possible joint project with Engineering Tech [students] where our coders and networkers could work side-by-side with them to build and program a robot from scratch. We figured having one and exploring its capabilities was the first step.” Hosler sees Rosie benefitting students in practical ways as well. “One of the big use cases that we’ll have in the classroom is the ability to schedule time on Rosie for students to connect to the machine, and still participate in lectures when they are unable to attend class physically. This will be exceptionally helpful in the case where we have students that travel frequently for work or have an extended illness.”

Continued on pg. 3



Photo by Ann Hosler

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

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“So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye.”

All good things must come to an end.

As a two-year college, the staff at the *White Pine Press* often transitions after only a couple of semesters, and as the end of the year quickly approaches we must say goodbye to an amazing group of writers and designers.

We’ve been proud to work alongside them, and to witness first-hand their creativity, hard work, and persistence towards their goals. Not only have they been an inspiration at NMC, they have been an inspiration in the community, tackling difficult topics and shining a light on forgotten stories. They have elevated the newspaper with multiple, well-deserved awards.

To the staff moving on (to bigger and better things), I would like to say thank you. This paper would never have made it to print without you. And please, let your NMC friends know we’re hiring.

- Breanne

Laureen Horan - Editor in Chief, Staff Writer, six semesters

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Tech Takeover

Continued from Pg. 1

“Gamification” of classes isn’t widespread across campus, but the CIT instructors appear to be fans of this teaching method. NMC biology instructor Nick Roster, who has utilized gamification in his courses for the past year, explained that it incorporates game elements into the course so students gain experience (XP), level-up, go on quests, and may even have to retry levels. “The class may also be structured in a manner that allows students to follow their interests, to a degree. In other words, follow their own path and not a linear flow that we see in most traditional classes.”

Balbach says that gamification will be fun for her students and plans to use a token system for gaining levels in her courses. “For my CIT100 students, they will automatically receive tokens when they turn in all their work on time for the week. After they reach 5 tokens, they will move on to level 2.” She’s also considering using an *Alice in Wonderland* theme, and said her work-in-progress concept is that “they get 5 cookies as tokens and then they will see a graphic of Alice growing while eating a cookie and then move on to level 2. I am envisioning the Cheshire cat for [level 2] and level 3 would be the Mad Hatter.” Hosler also aims to convert the Linux Administration class to gamification over the summer. “I am looking at it in a style of open selection ‘quests’ that people—or possibly teams of two—will complete to earn experience.”

Gamification involves students starting with a grade of zero and climbing their way up from there. “I think it is incredibly motivating as there is a strong possibility that everyone can earn an ‘A’ in the class,” Roster said. “They just have to put in the time and effort.” Velis likes the multiple paths that the system offers, stating that “it looks more like a tree than a railroad track and everybody starts with a zero and earns their grade over the course of a semester by gaining XP with their efforts.” He hopes on developing a “multi-player atmosphere” in two of his courses “with students maintaining their avatars and joining guilds for quests and battles.”

Roster said that there are elements that can be tweaked or added every year. “There is always an opportunity to make what I have done better. Student response to the process has been overwhelmingly positive. From the student perspective, you would be given more choice into what you do and when you do it.”

“My opinion is that gamification has its place where memorization, calculation, and procedural skills are important, but less so for some of the soft skills needed in most careers. Therefore it’s not about technological vs non-technological applications—it’s about the type of skill being learned,” added Weber. “Languages, math, geography, programming skills - good for gamification. Working with others, presenting, understanding how things fit together in a bigger context - not so much. The right tool for the right job is the question. When one only has a hammer, everything is a nail. I can see adding it to the classroom to help students learn to code, but I would make sure that at least half of their time was balanced out working with other students, interacting and presenting.”

Both the developer and infrastructure sides of the CIT program have recently been revamped, streamlining the completion of certifications and achievement of a student’s AAS degree. For the developer side a couple classes were combined in order to reduce the amount of required courses. “We combined the content from the eliminated classes into others so that the same content would be covered but in a more efficient manner,” Weber explained. The Assistant and Associate Developer stackable certificates were revamped so students could achieve them earlier, and many prerequisites complicating the pathway to completion were removed. “We are doing everything we can to help our students graduate on time and land great jobs with local employers.”

Hosler explained that the infrastructure side revamped things to incorporate some new technologies. “One of the fastest growing trends in industry right now is cloud-centric computing. We are replacing our Windows Client class ... with a class that helps them earn their CompTIA Cloud+ certification.” Servers funded by the CCSTEP grant are also being incorporated into additional courses to add realistic integration. “We are always looking to see what kinds of new and fun things we can incorporate into our classes, especially when we encounter something new that is gaining traction in industry.”



Photos by Lisa Balbach

Above: A student constructs a ‘singing pencil’ at a recent Women in STEM event.
Below: A ZanMgt employee demonstrates virtual reality software to a CIT student.






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Alumni Spotlight: Glenn Wolff

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

Glenn
Wolff
began

his lifetime of learning at Northwestern Michigan College as a dual-enrolled high school senior in 1971. He went on to graduate in 1973 with an Associate of Arts. As an art major he spent most of his time in the Fine Arts building—especially the printmaking department. Ultimately, he became the assistant for his professor and mentor Jack Ozegovic.

Wolff is now a professor at NMC himself, an evolution he finds very rewarding. Though previously a part-time instructor, this spring semester he took on a full-time position. His courses include Drawing 1 and 2, Life Drawing, Printmaking, Watercolor, and Materials and Techniques.



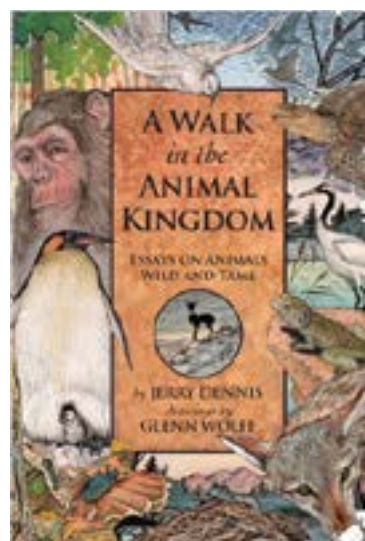
a safe and inspiring environment in which to create art,” says Wolff about his time as a student. His favorite professors were Jack Ozegovic in Printmaking, Paul Welch in Painting, Norm Averill in Design, and Al Shumsky in Creative Writing. Wolff says all of these professors inspired him. “I greatly respected the teachers I had at NMC as both artists and people. I think that has had a profound impact on me and how I approach teaching.”

Wolff, himself, has a knack for inspiring his own students. Breanne Russell, a student in the Visual Communications program, says Wolff helped her discover hidden talents. “Before I had class with Glenn, I never thought I could draw,” she says. “He is so supportive and lets you take risks. He truly makes you feel like an artist, [giving] you permission to be yourself and embrace your creative self.”

Wolff said there are three key ingredients to improving one’s artistic ability: be present, put in the time, and experiment. He says, “If they do that, and are disciplined, they will see their skills improve.”

In his free time, Wolff works on commissioned murals in the community. Most recently he finished a project at the elementary school in Bellaire, as well as a mural in the children’s room of the Benzonia Library. He is currently working on a new intaglio and letterpress broadside print with his friend, author Jerry Dennis.

It’s Raining Frogs and Fishes, *The Bird in the Waterfall*, and *A Walk in the Animal Kingdom*, all books collaborated on with Jerry Davis, are some of Wolff’s more well-known works, alongside his murals in the State and Bijou Theaters downtown. His finer art is represented by the Tamarack Gallery at 5039 North West Bay Shore Drive in Omena.



He began his career teaching at NMC in 2014 as a drawing instructor. After that, he took over the watercolor class. Prior to this, Wolff had only done short residencies and art workshops. He found teaching a full semester course challenging but fulfilling, and was compelled to add to his course load.

“NMC taught me the value of

Money Smart Week

James Robinson
Staff Writer

Knowing how to manage your income and the costs associated with your financial choices is a vital skill, regardless of your age, occupation or income. That is the intent behind Money Smart Week, a “public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances.”

The campaign consists of a week of presentations and activities by community groups, financial institutions, educational organizations and other campaign partners, covering a variety of topics related to personal finance. Beginning in 2002 as a Chicago city-based financial literacy campaign, Money Smart Week has grown to include several states across the country. Last year alone, there were more than 5,400 events in 48 states with roughly 174,000 participants (more resources can be found at moneysmartweek.org).

For the past three years, Northwestern Michigan College has celebrated Money Smart Week by hosting the Geocache for College Cash event. NMC financial aid specialist Katie Malone organizes the event. She says the goal of this activity is “getting students to learn that financial literacy isn’t always boring and that there are fun ways to learn and practice it.”

Geocache for College Cash is a scavenger hunt to seven different locations around NMC’s main campus. Students are given a passport at the beginning of the hunt and check off the stations they visit. At each station, participants answer a financial literacy question related to budgeting, identity theft, car loans, student loans, etc., in order to advance to the next station. Those who complete the entire scavenger hunt have the chance to enter for a wide variety of prizes, including gas cards, gift cards and a statewide scholarship from the Federal Reserve.

Overall, 70 students completed the scavenger hunt this year, which is “pretty consistent” with 69 students last year and 74 the year before. The only way to monitor participation is by collecting the students’ scavenger hunt passports at the last station, so there’s a possibility that more students participated, but may have stopped halfway through. “Our goal was hopefully to hit 100 participants and unfortunately that didn’t happen,” says Malone. However, the 70 students who participated received some valuable financial knowledge and were able to enjoy a sunny day exploring the campus.

Along with learning about financial literacy, “students are also learning those important offices on campus that they might not know existed. For example, we had a lot of students that went to the library thinking the Writing and Reading Center was in the library (it’s really in Scholars Hall), so it really encourages students to know where campus resources are, while learning some of those financial tools.” Another station that confused students was the Alumni Relations office in Founders Hall. Personally, I had never stepped inside this building before participating in the scavenger hunt. “We wanted students to know even after you leave NMC there’s still a connection to NMC for you.” The station locations change slightly each year, with the Alumni Relations office and Writing & Reading Center being new this year. They’re hoping to include the Dennis Museum in next year’s scavenger hunt once construction on the new exhibits is complete. Overall, if you’re comfortable with the campus and know where offices and resources are, you’re more likely to visit those places.

NMC Financial Services also offers other events throughout the year. These include the Game of Life event during the August welcome weekend and the

Professional Prep Dinner in February. The Game of Life lets students explore their financial future and various life events that could alter their financial situation, similar to playing *The Game of Life* board game, while the Professional Prep Dinner helps students learn dinner and interview etiquette as well as giving them the opportunity to meet with professionals in various fields.

Other financial resources can be found by visiting NMC’s main website, clicking on the Financial Aid tab, and clicking on the Financial Literacy link. The Financial Services office is located in the Tanis Building and is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm if you have questions and want to meet with someone in person. Otherwise, they can be contacted by sending an email to sfs@nmc.edu or by calling 231-995-1035.

Q&As: Geocache for College Cash

Q. Budgeting: Once you have a full-time job and paycheck, you don’t really need a budget, right?

A. Wrong. Having a budget helps you build savings for a nest egg and afford things like vacations.

Q. Paycheck: What is deducted from a typical paycheck to get take-home, or net, pay?

A. Deductions include withholding for federal income tax, state income tax, Medicare and Social Security. These are calculated as a percentage of gross pay.

Q. Debit v. Credit: Using a debit card for a “credit” transaction is different than using a credit card?

A. Paying by debit card means the purchase amount comes directly out of your bank account, no matter if it’s processed as a debit or a credit transaction. A credit card is NOT linked to a bank account; you are borrowing money until you pay the bill sent by the credit card company.

Q. Identity Theft: Do you have to worry about giving your social security number and identification when applying for jobs, renting an apartment, or filling out scholarship or income tax forms?

A. Yes. Identity theft hits anyone. Employers, landlords, and the government are vulnerable, too.

Q. Car Payments: When car shopping, is the easiest way to comparison shop by monthly car payment?

A. No. Before you go car shopping, know how much car you can afford and how much you need to borrow. Then, you can calculate a monthly payment.

Q. Credit Score: Is there anything that really hurts my credit history or score?

A. Yes. Late or missed payments and high credit balances lower your score, but it can be temporary if you correct the blemish. Debt settlements and bankruptcies damage your credit immediately and for the future.

Q. Student Loans: If you qualify to get a Federal student loan, you should take the entire amount offered and consider that you might not get another chance.

A. You may be offered more than you actually need, so borrow only the amount necessary. You can apply for a loan every year by filing the FAFSA.

GVSU's Team Sol: T.C.'s Green Dream



Traverse City has made the ambitious decision for its public buildings to be powered on 100% renewable energy sources, including solar, by the year 2020. The decision was approved in December of 2016 by Traverse City commissioners. In 2001, Traverse City as a whole was at 1% renewable energy usage. In 2016, the number had grown to 11%. Given Traverse City's reputation for its natural beauty, it's understandable why we would

want to reach 100% renewable energy sources.

There are many different options available for T.C. residents to get involved in the solar movement. One can simply install solar panels at their home or business, which is not nearly as expensive as in the past. Costs of complete solar energy systems have decreased by 50% in the last six years. Additionally, there are various federal and state tax credits, rebates, and grants available to home and business owners.

Community solar projects have also become increasingly popular, with Cherryland Electric initiating Michigan's first community solar cooperative. These co-ops allow individuals to share energy, produced by a community solar array, through a subscription fee. Another option for home and business owners is the Net Metering program. This method uses an installed two-way meter on a person's existing solar energy generation system. If the person uses more energy than they produce they will be billed accordingly. Likewise, if less energy is used than produced, a credit will appear on their utility bill. Or there is the Buy-All/Sell-All option, where a person installs a metered system and sells all electricity produced to the grid.

Traverse City resident Mary Van Valin promotes sustainable energy sources in a very large way. Van Valin owns 37 panels through the Solar Up North program (S.U.N.), Cherryland Electric's community solar garden in which residents purchase solar panel(s). Van Valin owns 14 of her own panels, powering 100% of her electrical consumption. Van Valin says of the cost, "The most important investment is not contributing to the effects of climate change, mercury

in the great lakes, asthma in young children, and respiratory diseases in our elderly. [It's] the best investment I've ever made in my lifetime."

Others in our area are making efforts and showing leadership in the clean energy race. Chateau Chantal's solar array system supplies 40% of the winery's energy needs. Marie Chantal-Dalese, President and CEO of the winery said "Our biggest reason for doing this is that we're a vineyard, growing grapes on 100 acres of land on Old Mission Peninsula. We have a desire to see this area stay beautiful for the future and to ensure our land is producing the best fruit possible."

Northport Creek Golf Course, which opened in the spring of 2014, joined the drive for renewable energy by installing solar arrays powering the irrigation system, well pumps, cart charging and clubhouse operations. When asked "Why solar?", Northport Creek president Bill Collins explained, "It just made sense. A golf course operates only in the summer, when solar energy is more abundant. The summer is when we use the most electricity. Our goal is to break even on our electric." Northport Creek claims to be the first 100% solar golf course in the United States.

Local non-profit organizations have also begun to utilize renewable efforts in their work. Leelanau Solar teamed up with Habitat for Humanity recently, completing their first phase of the "Depot Project". Leelanau Solar installed solar panels on three Habitat for Humanity home rooftops at the Traverse City Depot. These are net-zero homes, meaning they will not require any other outside energy sources. Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region received the 2016 Housing Innovation Award in the affordable homes category.

Experiments on a smaller scale are essential for the bigger picture to come to fruition. There has to be an initial starting point to create change. Traverse City is increasingly becoming involved in a myriad of options for any environmentally conscious individual to get involved in.

Team Sol has dedicated the past few months researching the city's efforts and progress on its resolution. These few examples showcase to just a mere sampling of how Traverse City residents are successfully making the transition to renewable energy.

Article contributed by Team Sol, GVSU students: Corey Boudrie, Janel Ritt, and Randy Webster



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Head in the Clouds, Feet in the Water: NMC's Drone Program

Zack Harrington
Staff Writer

Imagine you could fly, swim underwater indefinitely, crawl into tight spaces, or survive explosions.

More and more jobs are opening in the field of unmanned vehicles, and the need for technicians and operators has led NMC to offer several courses on the skills involved in all things drone.

Ranked among the top 15 schools in the country with unmanned vehicle programs, NMC has several courses currently available with more on the way. Some include remote pilot flight and advanced drone operations, all under the Aviation academic area, where students learn the intricacies of air space law, the limits of drones and how to operate them.

Brian Jackson, a student in one of the programs, elaborates on his studies. "I'm in courses that both teach someone about the technical specs and designing of drones, to the operation and piloting of them." When asked about the kind of drones they're working with, Jackson gave a few examples. "There's lightweight drones with cargo clamps and helicopter style take-off. Or this huge drone called the Penguin that you have to launch with a catapult."

The job market for Unmanned Aerial Systems is expected to exponentially increase with the coming legal changes allowing greater freedom of movement for drones used for commercial purposes. Many drone hobbyists may not know that drones technically operate under the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and compete for time and area with jumbo jets, even if the drones are flown at a low altitude. Once this sector is legally opened, a wide array of industries will have a huge need for trained personnel. Students will earn the necessary credentials or equivalent to receive certain FAA licenses and certificates.

Not mentioned thus far is NMC's Marine Technology Program. Starting Fall 2017, an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) pilot training course will be offered. This means NMC will offer the only underwater ROV course credentialed by the Association of Diving Contractors International. Students receive hands-on training in multiple underwater



situations including open water, deep water, under ice and around structures. Training also includes fundamentals such as hydraulics, electronics, pumping systems, troubleshooting and deployment scenarios. Commercial diving and underwater salvage/survey markets will soon be searching for graduates from the only class in the United States offering this training.

University Center students can enroll as well, as NMC has partnered with Michigan State University's Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) and MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology to offer a three-day, hands-on drone-to-GIS workshop focused on the process of using drones to collect, process and analyze data.

The average population size for most of these classes will not exceed 10-12 students. However, with the sequence of courses being offered every semester, multiple classes eligible to be taken simultaneously and growing demand, there will be more and more opportunities to enroll in an ROV course.



Photos courtesy of Brian Jackson

Beyond Active Duty: Living with invisible wounds

Maya James
Staff Writer

Greg Bruce is 58 years old and lives in a nursing home in Marquette, Mich. He is a Gulf War veteran. He either sits on the couch and watches his shows or sends a few incoherent text messages to his son Aleksandr, a 25-year-old loan consultant at a credit union in Traverse City. From the time that he first arrived home from serving our country in the Middle East to today, Bruce has lost everything. His wife, home, family, friends, and his personality.

His decline started with small things. Adverse reactions to loud noises, avoidance of fireworks and long days of just doing nothing. Then his behavior became erratic and threatening. He endured joint pain, insomnia and crippling depression. A man with a gentle soul and a "precocious personality" before his term of duty slowly became a shell of his former self.

Bruce is my half-brother. He enjoys recounting his peculiar hobbies to family members, including marking roadkill corpses

by the side of the road with flags that read "broken squirrel."

No one is sure if the stories are true, but we know that while fixing Jeeps for the Army in 1991, Bruce was handed a piece a paper by a non-English speaking person that read "broken squirrel." At the time there was no one to translate the note, which later he realized should have read "brake squeal."

Bruce suffers with what NMC Military and Veteran Services Advisor Scott Herzberg refers to as "an invisible war wound," and what a psychiatrist would likely refer to as severe post-traumatic stress disorder. He experiences excruciating pain every day due to the physical and mental toll of warfare.

"There's a moral trauma," says Herzberg, in regards to war. American civilians cannot truly understand the toll serving in the military can take. There is an environment of "death all around you," Herzberg says. Although many engage in debates on what is right and wrong with the military, they cannot fully

comprehend what is like to experience this "death" and return to civilian life. Too often the difficulties of returning result in depression, anxiety, and suicide.

"For any veteran, it's hard to ask for help," says Herzberg. "22 veterans commit suicide every day." This tragedy befell NMC student and veteran Drew Kostic last December. "[He] was a very strong student, very good-looking, charismatic—nobody saw it coming," Herzberg says, "But he couldn't outrun the demons." He believes there is a stigma within Army culture that assumes seeking help makes the veteran a victim.

A lot of people in our community wish that Kostic was still with us. His Facebook page acts as a digital graveyard, a legacy of pictures and posts, an all too common memorial for service men and women who died during deployment or following their return home.

But many, like Bruce, still live in torment without the help they need to fully recover.

At the end of the day—conspiracies,

controversies and debating aside—we need to support our troops. This doesn't mean taking sides, choosing war or peace. It means compassion. It means providing care and services and begins with more Veterans Affairs funding and clinics, counseling services and community activities where vets are welcome and appreciated.

We need to break down the stigma surrounding mental health and veteran suicide. Because in the end it's about love for your fellow man.

The NMC Student Veterans of America group will be partnering with a non-profit known as 22 to None, an advocate against the increasing number of veteran suicides, to host and fund the Drew Kostic Memorial 5K on the morning of Sep. 9.

This event will celebrate the life of Kostic while also spreading awareness of the effect that veteran suicides can have on a community and on the country.

Belong, Serve, and Grow: “His House” lives out their values

Andrea Grabowski
Staff Writer

His House Christian Fellowship at NMC is all about community and relationships. Campus minister Pat Hill says they strive to

be a community people can belong to, that serves and grows in all areas. “If we believe...we have to act. If we’re not learning to be humble, caring, loving, seeking the good of others, [then] we’re not doing what we should be doing.” A crew from His House did just that on a trip this spring break. Their destination: Cookson Hills Center, a home and school for at-risk kids in northeastern Oklahoma.

“When I heard about what this place was, I wanted to learn more. I wanted to see how I could help and how we as a group could mesh together and then create a positive change,” said Anne-Marie Dunklow. She was joined by students Morgan Corwin, Allison King and Rebecca Panzegrau. On the way, the team stopped at Western Michigan University where Hill attended and helped out its His House branch. This wasn’t their only detour. “Part of the fun, we stopped in St. Louis and lost people multiple times in the city museum!” said Hill. “Think art museum/adult jungle gym that’s built in an old shoe factory.” Another highlight was “Lambert’s [Cafe]...home of ‘thrown rolls’.” You raise your hand and they throw rolls at you!” said Corwin.

She explained that Cookson Hills is “pretty much like a little town.” About a thousand acres were given in the 1950s to start the center. It includes a school, gym, dining hall, and homes for the kids and staff. “Couples or smaller families go to be parents for up to 10 kids.... it’s their full time job,” said Hill. Young people ages 5–17 come for short or long term stays to heal from situations such as troubles with school, family, drug use, and mental illness. One approach they take is equestrian therapy. Regular counseling and family contact also happen to move the kids towards recovery and returning home. The non-government funded center is celebrating



Photos courtesy of His House

their 60th anniversary this summer, and the group helped them spruce up for the event. “One of our major projects was painting all these gates and fences...around the pastures,” said Dunklow. They also raked leaves and got to spend time with a family, eating meals with them. The five laughed as they told about adventures like getting paint all over themselves, being buried in leaves, going to Arkansas for ice cream, having a bonfire, and a challenge between King and Hill to not be the last one done eating.

“We worked hard, we got sunburned [and] for the most part avoided ticks,” said Hill. He was impressed with how hard the girls worked. One reason Panzegrau went was to get closer with everyone, and “that definitely did happen.” Dunklow said, “It’s just incredible how close you can grow to other human beings within a short amount of time.” Friendships are how a

lot of people discover His House, echoing their community values.

“Everyone is welcome,” says Hill. “[It’s] less to do with whether or not you’re a Christian and more to do with, are you open to change? We’re talking about Jesus, and it’s gonna come back to him, so if you’re okay with that, you’re welcome. If you’re a part of our group, you need to be open to growth, to doing stuff.”

His House will be involved with Welcome Weekend and Pine Palooza, have their annual fall and winter retreats, and brainstorm for more ways to work with the community. Hill says their tentative theme for next semester is “Be more.” The idea that we are created with great potential... more than just things we say, more than our words...our actions, more than the sum of the parts of our lives.”

His House meets weekly on Thursdays at 7:15 pm upstairs in the Osterlin Library and moves to Jacob’s Well for the summer. Be on the lookout for members handing out candy during finals week!

Sociology can save our country

Sethe Zachman
Staff Writer

In the past year, fueled by the 2016 election and other events, I have witnessed—and in bouts of emotion,

unfortunately contributed to—the distinct division of America. This divide has not embedded itself between any state lines or separated specific regions of the country. Instead, individuals voting red or blue experienced a stronger hostility toward each other than is usually felt in our presidential elections. The resulting alienation has almost extinguished all serious, inquisitive communication and contemplation in the public and political realm. President Trump’s rise to the White House elicited an intense emotional charge throughout all counties, cities, communities and homes.

Trump emerged from his own empire of business equipped with no political experience. He had the apparent ability to quickly pit Americans with different social locations and few overlapping life circumstances against each other. I have since realized that Trump served as a catalyst to speed up the surfacing of long-brewing misunderstandings and prejudices. By making controversial comments about immigrants, Muslims, women, people with disabilities and others, along with choosing a vice president who advocated for LGBT+ conversion therapy in the past, and being endorsed by the KKK and alt-right neo-Nazi groups, Trump successfully exposed the racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and islamophobia that has been simmering silently in this country.

In addition to all of the hate groups, discrimination and hyper-nationalism has mobilized. Data shows that where Trump really won was with his ability to connect with America’s working class and industrial workers. This exposed a strong economic resentment on topics such as taxes, immigration and outsourcing, and a resistance against the modern economy, steadily evolving as does globalization, technology and the human mind.

I have mulled over endless ways to bridge the gap between the opposing political, economic and social realities alive and well in our country today. So set in my interpretation of the world, I couldn’t imagine what would make so many Americans

genuinely support Trump. Then I realized that was exactly the issue we have surfacing today. I myself was encompassing the very ignorance based on social location I have always preached on my soap box against.

I was first exposed to sociological imagination in an eye-opening course with NMC professor Rachel Johansen-Wilczewski. It’s needed in order to understand the underlying drives of others, to develop compassion and empathy for them and to achieve a truly objective and realistic view of society. It is described as the ability to truly understand the connection between personal experience and society, and how the dynamics of that connection change with social locations. Sociology can be utilized not just to help one understand the political motives of a blue-collared worker based on their personal economic experience, but it can also bridge the gaps in our society.

An article in *The New York Times*, “What if Sociologists Had as Much Influence as Economists?” illustrates this. The sociologists interviewed explain that economists are only able to answer questions about jobs and economic class through monetary calculations, while sociologists are able to accurately inform the public on the social and cultural effects, context and purpose of economics.

The article goes on to expose exactly what my own experiences could not tell me and what economists cannot calculate—that the uneducated and industrial class of workers are losing their sense of identity and even life purpose with the diminishment of their job industries, which has bred resentment. Trump, who preached against globalization, targeted these workers and promised them the security of their industries. He was able to validate and energize them.

Understanding this not only enabled me to comprehend why a large demographic of people support Trump, but also liberates me from the controlling emotions brought on by my ignorance—frustration, hostility, anger. Instead, living through the lens of the sociological imagination, I am able to not only recognize their reasoning and appreciate their struggles, but am

also free to recognize our shared humanity.

Johansen-Wilczewski, along with other social science professors, the unwavering light of Sonja Olshove, and the NMC librarians have all inspired me to dedicate my life to these studies—to expand my knowledge of this fundamental relativity between us all.

Although working on community development projects through grad school, participating in the Women’s March on Washington and taking part in local activist opportunities as well as obviously raising awareness on social inequality and social facts in the classroom, Johansen-Wilczewski says that, overall, sociologists have done a poor job using their expertise actively in the social and public spheres.

In an effort to avoid controversy and reserve their work and knowledge for academic purposes, sociologists remain fairly silent when it comes to public action. This is unfortunate, because the comprehensive understanding sociologists have of the individual human could mend our current disconnect and reunite us.

Johansen-Wilczewski rejects that the separation in our country has stemmed from a fundamental polarization of values. “There is a polarization of experiences. There are core values that overlap, but we experience different things, thus vote for different things.” Sociology could help our divided nation by uniting us through our experiences.

I can recognize now that perhaps Trump supporters have many of the same values as I do: kindness, respect, family, hard work.

Sociology can soften a hostile political environment and remind us of fundamental human desires, such as acceptance and love. Though it may be hard to forget the hate inspired by the election and the current administration, sociology requires us to genuinely expose ourselves to the diverse experiences that have shaped such unfortunate beliefs, and to consider these experiences first, above all else. It challenges us to step outside of our comfort zone, to seek to understand behavior and succumb to compassion.

The Best Show on Netflix



Matthew O’Neal
Staff Writer

In the eyes of many, reality television has become synonymous with pop music: uninspired and repetitive. But a savior has come from the East to reclaim the genre from the depths of irrelevancy.

“Terrace House: Boys and Girls in the City” is a Japanese reality TV show produced by Netflix. Compared to other shows in the genre, its premise is simple: six strangers are picked to live in a house in Tokyo... and, well, that’s it.

As viewers are reminded at the outset of every episode, “there is no script at all.” Everything that happens is driven by the motivations of individuals, rather than the intentions of producers, and it shows. Housemates can leave the show at any time, for any reason. This freedom allows relationships to progress naturally, making it even more satisfying to watch.

One substantial difference between “Terrace House” and much of reality TV is in its presentation. Many shows in the genre are formulaically edited in a way that steadily and quickly delivers a beginning, middle, and end. While this method undeniably sells, it can feel repetitive and exhausting, especially when binge watching. “Terrace House” remedies this by creating its own distinct style.

If a show is primarily being streamed, rather than broadcasted, why are there any time constraints? Similar to “The OA” and other Netflix Originals, “Terrace House” takes advantage of its medium by varying its episode lengths to whatever story it needs to tell. This adds to the feeling of realism by always ensuring viewers get a fuller picture of what goes on.

Music is used throughout the show to enhance the mood created by its scenes rather than to exaggerate what’s being depicted. Where “The Bachelor” utilizes frenetic cuts and straight-to-DVD-action-movie-music to spice up confrontational moments, “Terrace House” opts for tonally fitting songs and long, close-up shots that encourage viewers to think about what the people on screen are feeling.

Because the entire show is subtitled, it demands the undivided attention of its viewers. This may sound like a challenge—and it is. But the level of engagement that comes from this challenge is unmatched. When it becomes necessary to read every line of dialogue, you can’t help but be invested.

A common trope used in reality TV is the “talking head”, when cast members recount an event as viewers are watching it. This is usually done to give insight into what people were feeling in the moment. “Terrace House” does away with talking heads and instead employs a panel of Japanese entertainers to chime in intermittently about what they, and the viewers, have watched.

Members of the panel frequently theorize about what will happen, in turn encouraging viewers to do the same. This enables viewers to think critically about what they’re watching, and adds significance to even mundane interactions between housemates.

Through its international release, “Terrace House” accomplishes something that its creators likely never intended. It’s made by, for, and about Japanese people, but it resonates with an audience outside of the target demographic. The show allows foreigners to vicariously experience small bits of another culture without leaving their couch. For many, it’s a great way to escape.

More significantly, this show relies on the individuality of people, and highlights the differences between its cast members. It forgoes any stereotypical portrayal of the Japanese and instead embraces the uniqueness and diversity of another culture.

With its simple premise and thoughtful storytelling, “Terrace House” excels in every way other shows miss the mark. It reminds us why the genre of reality television was created and shows us how worthwhile it can be.

The Haiku Music Review

T.J. Hall
Contributing Writer



Captain Beefheart and his Magic Band

“Blue Jeans and Moonbeams”

I could futz with that.
Got high to hunt ducks with rakes,
living so large, boy.



Converge

“Deeper the Wound”

The worst of it, though,
if living swole is the goal,
Jane Doe is better!



Head Wound City

“A New Wave of Violence”

I am hard and round,
I bruise like young peaches do,
that, I can’t recall.



Nurse the Wound

“Huffin Rag Blues”

Its cool as a breeze,
chin high like a turtle neck,
in avant garde robe.



Young Widows

“Old Wounds”

My door is ajar.
Twenty-first century err.
Ride roller coaster.



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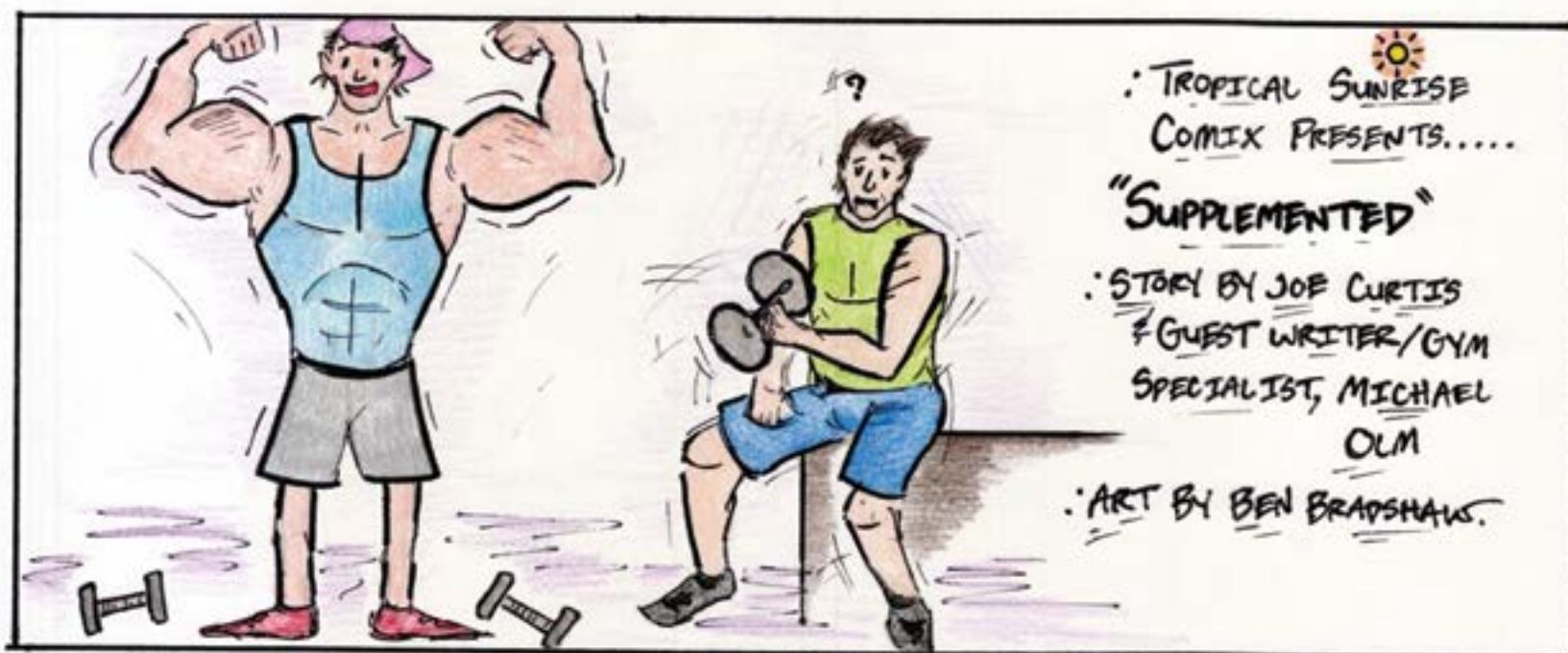
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TC Queer Prom

Breanne Russell
Editor in Chief

Last spring in Harrisburg, Pa., Aniya Wolf had her prom night fully planned. Her mother had taken her to buy the perfect outfit; her date, a close friend, was excited to share the evening with her. However, this came to an abrupt end on the night of the dance when she was refused entry and the principal threatened to call the cops. Why? Wolf is a lesbian and wore a suit. According to her Christian high school's dress code, females were only permitted to wear modest dresses to the event. Though her chosen attire was clearly more modest than any gown (a three-piece suit complete with tie), she was turned away—not only from the night's celebrations, but also from partaking in a rite of passage for many young adults. All because of her gender identity.

Across the country, experiences like Wolf's and other LGBTQ+ students have sparked a movement: Anti Prom, or Morp (prom spelled backward). Incensed by discrimination, humiliation, rejection and often abusive behavior by administration or other students, LGBTQ+ students have found ways to protest homophobic school policies in the form of boycotts or unofficial proms. These unofficial proms, often called Queer Proms or Gay Proms, are usually organized by students outside of their schools strict guidelines. In Haywood, Calif., the Haywood Gay Prom is one of the oldest of its kind. It has held an annual event every year since 1995.

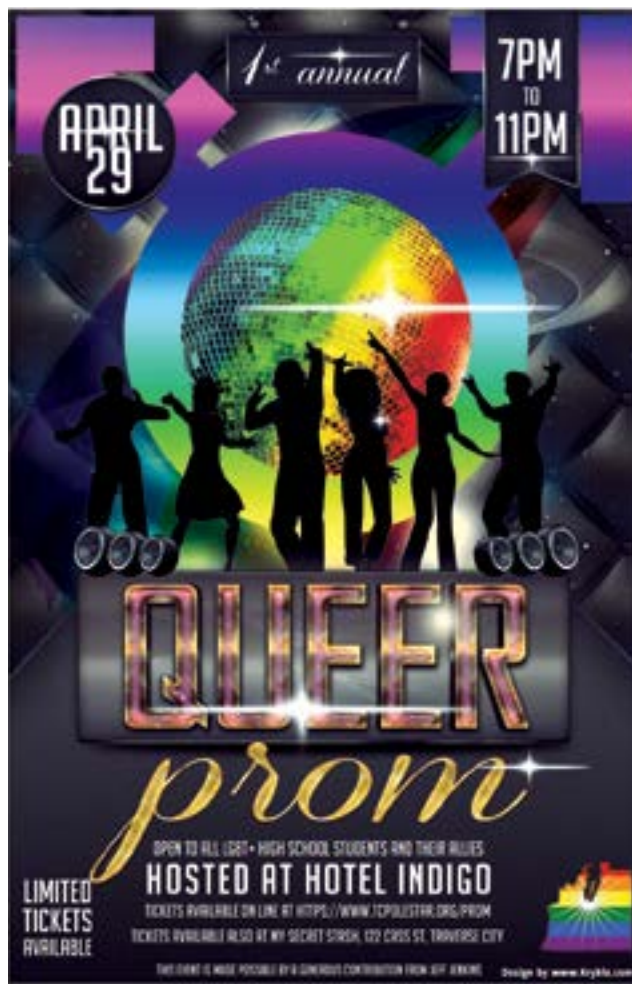
This year, Traverse City will host its very own gay prom.

The TC Queer Prom was conceived by the relatively new Polestar, a non-profit foundation that gathered momentum over the last year and hopes to culminate its endeavors in a LGBTQ+ community center. According to its website, Polestar's eventual goal is a brick and mortar hub for TC and surrounding communities, "a place where you can go to hang out, drink a coffee, and chat with others... [a] place where we could throw potluck dinners, watch movies, have book clubs, and host other social activities."

John Young, vice-chairperson on Polestar's Board of Directors and member of the Prom Planning Committee, says hosting a Queer Prom was almost a certainty.

"One of the first things I took on at the start was to visit as many centers nationally as I could and speak to the executive directors; among the events that many of them put on were LGBTQ+ proms. I knew from the beginning this would be one of the first events we needed to put together. Our thought was it would be open to all schools in our service area and it was particularly important to kids in the more rural areas to have a place to go."

Traverse City has a progressive reputation when it comes to LGBTQ+ support and rights. In 2010, the city commissioners voted unanimously to pass non-discrimination policy updates



to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The Up North Pride Parade, Northern Michigan's LGTB official Pride Week, has seen drastic increases in attendees over the last few years with over 3,000 people participating last year. This year, Up North Pride already has a leadership committee and over 100 volunteers to plan the June 25 event.

Jenn Cameron, co-founder of Up North Pride, says it is the increase of positive support that will neutralize any homophobia, or "misguided individuals," as Cameron prefers to call them. "There are more pro-love allies and LGBT+ people in our area than are not," Cameron says. "The more we feel the safety in our numbers and the more we show up in public spaces professing our dedication to being a beloved community, the better off we all are."

This is why both Polestar and Up North Pride are equally important. "Up North Pride will continue to create events that educate, advocate and celebrate the LGBT+ community,"

Cameron says. "Polestar is a community center that will house the direct services that our community desperately needs."

Much of these services will be directed toward youth. Up North Pride regularly includes youth specific events throughout Pride Week and Polestar has three main demographics they are looking to focus their attention on in Northern Michigan: seniors, trans and youth. The prom is just the first in a long list of future projects directed toward younger members of the LGBTQ+ community. Its next project will be a three-day-long summer camp for LGBTQ+ Michigan high school kids; they are currently working with the YMCA and Equality Michigan to plan.

Clarke Brown, a 17-year-old dual-enrolled NMC student who identifies as queer, is looking forward to the Queer Prom. "An event like this really just offers us opportunities to feel safe and really just express ourselves, where with a normal prom there is fear of stigma or even backlash from our peers." Brown plans on attending his own high school prom as well this year but isn't worried about backlash. "I have a tendency to be a bit outspoken with my identity and I'm not strongly influenced by what my peers may judge me for."

There has been some conflict surrounding the name "Queer Prom." For many older generations, the word "queer" was used as an insult against the gay community. Polestar, however, quickly addressed these concerns on its Facebook page.

"We knew when [we] announced Queer Prom 2017 that some of you would embrace it and others would recoil from it. Many of you remember a time when that was the worst possible slur. It bore derogatory meaning and was used with aggression. But somehow, along the way, LGBTQ+ people (particularly the younger generations) began taking that word back and deflating its negative connotations. Queer, for them, has become the umbrella term that captures it all."

Young expects a robust turnout for the event, being held 7–11 PM on Sat. Apr. 29 in the Hotel Indigo ballroom. At the time of writing 80 of 125 tickets have already been sold, and Polestar has a list of over 80 chaperones to choose from. "We have students from all five counties in our service area attending," says Young. "If you look at some of these rural areas, the kids can feel really isolated," Young told the *Record-Eagle* in an Apr. 3 interview. "There's a real need for a community to be able to come together in a safe and comfortable place. This just gives them a place to go and be themselves."

Tickets for the Queer Prom are \$5 and available online at [tcpolestar.org/prom](https://www.tcpolestar.org/prom). Follow Polestar and Up North Pride on Facebook for other upcoming events.

Goodbye, *White Pine Press*

Taylor McLain
Staff Writer

I've been writing for the *White Pine Press* for about two years and as my final semester at NMC approaches this fall, when I'll be buckling down to fulfill my educational goals, this will be my final contribution.

I'll be sad to leave, as this was my first real job in many ways. Before I go, I feel it necessary to pay my respects and talk about my experiences, so interested readers may be encouraged to join the NMC newspaper team.

I decided to write for three reasons: I'd heard it'd make a good reference for future job applications (especially the one I plan on having), my advisor told me it would suit me because I liked writing, and I'd heard the theater program at NMC was ending. In fact, the first story idea I pitched, "End Scene," covered why the theater program shut down. I conducted interviews, combed through some files the interviewees had been kind enough to provide and compiled it into an 800+ word article of which my dad still says, "Reads like something out of the *Record-Eagle*. I didn't even know you knew how to write news articles."

Truth be told, I didn't. But covering a story on something I wanted to bring attention to lit a fire in my stomach and made me feel like a real journalist. In many ways the articles formed naturally. I'd say that was one of my favorite things about working at the *WPP*. They ask what you want to write about and listen to your ideas.

They also respected if you didn't want to write about a particular topic or subject. I made it clear I didn't like writing about politics, as it's something I try to avoid in my personal life. Instead I focused on things I cared about, such as local theater, nerd culture, books and writing. In doing so, I learned the art of conducting an interview—have a small notebook and rehearse your questions—and about writing to cater to your audience.

I've learned many skills to help me in the future even if I don't land my first-choice job as a novelist and fantasy fiction writer—a different beast altogether than writing for a newspaper, but I have confidence in my craft thanks to the *WPP* publishing my work. It can't hurt to be a published author!

So, as my parting words to readers, thank you for picking up the *WPP*. It means a lot to all of us. To the readers who want to get involved, the *WPP*'s doors are always open. Don't be scared to ask about writing what you're interested in—your co-workers and editors will be there to help you. If writing is not your thing, don't worry: they're always on the lookout for photographers, editors, illustrators and designers. Just ask how you can contribute.

Finally, to the *WPP* itself, and all my co-workers and editors, thank you for the wonderful opportunity, I'll never forget working at the *White Pine Press*.