

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

WHITE PINEPRESS

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



In Loving Memory pg 6&7



Photo by Anna Hosler

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Breanne Russell

COPY EDITOR Ann Hosler

STAFF WRITERS Zack Harrington
Laureen Horan
Ann Hosler
Deanna Luton
Taylor McLain
James Robinson

WEB/PAGE DESIGNER Kenna Marar

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Devon Haines

FACULTY ADVISER Jacob Wheeler
DESIGN ADVISER Kathy Schwartz

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DISTRIBUTION 231.995.1322
ADVERTISING 231.995.1996
FAX 231.995.2110
EMAIL whitepinepress@gmail.com

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CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Earlier this month, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder issued a press release proclaiming the month of September as College Fire Safety Month, focusing in on how students can stay safe in off-campus housing. By learning the following measures, students can ensure their housing is compliant, reduce the risk of fire and take measures to secure their own safety:

- Make sure all sleeping rooms and living areas have working smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and never disable or turn off smoke alarms.
- Learn your building's evacuation plan, practice it, and follow it.
- Know all emergency exits and have two ways out.
- Use stairs to get out, not elevators.
- Most fatal fires happen at night. Get up, get out and stay out.
- Don't allow smoking inside a dorm room. NEVER smoke in bed.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out.
- Never leave a lit candle unattended. Keep candles away from flammable fabrics.
- Don't use the stove or oven to help heat a cold dorm room or apartment.
- Keep a fire extinguisher close by and know how to use it.
- Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance.
- Stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.
- Use a surge protector for a computer and plug the protector directly into an outlet.

For more information about fire safety visit:
Bureau of Fire Services website at www.michigan.gov/bfs

Student Hack\$

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

It can't be denied—the beginning of the school year is stressful. Navigating the choppy waters of college can be daunting at first, so it is important to find time to unwind, to float, and to not sink amidst a busy schedule. As a student, stress reduction and relaxation are key to staying sane. Combining coursework with other work, family obligations, and life in general can be incredibly draining. From settling into new classes to dealing with tricky financial mishaps, the start of the semester is a hard time for everyone. It can tax your body, mind, soul—and wallet. Daily decisions based on lack of time or convenience can be expensive. Saving money, staying healthy, and living stress-free both are essential to maintaining balance on and off campus.

Pinching Pennies

Saving money is critical to surviving the college experience. Classes are expensive, so finding affordable supplies is important. To avoid retail costs at the bookstore, you can often find cheaper options online through websites like Amazon, Chegg, or Textbooks.com. Another way to reduce your costs is to utilize e-textbooks. They are less expensive, more convenient, and free of shipping charges.

Bringing food and coffee from

home is also a great way to stow away those extra dollars. Fast food expenses add up quickly when trying to eat on the run, and they often lack the nourishment that keeps you going throughout the day. When you can't avoid eating out, there are plenty of places around Traverse City that give discounts to NMC students with valid IDs. Bubba's, Firefly, Jonathon B Pub, Pop-Kies, and Sweet Asylum all offer students 10% off. Additionally, the Subway on Munson Avenue offers 15% off regular priced items, while Mancino's Pizza offers 20% off.

If you need transportation, BATA gives students 50% off their bus fare. When you don't feel like riding the bus across town, an innovative company is taking Traverse City by storm. Pizza and fast food sandwiches used to be the only things delivered to your front door step, but now Chompler is changing the way we think about ordering out. Co-founded by two former NMC students, this app provides restaurant food delivered up to 15 miles.

The idea sprouted when its founders, Erik Akerley and Jacob Dalton, began delivering miscellaneous grocery and fast food items to their fellow dormitory dwellers. Word quickly spread and they were pressed to find enough time to satiate their customers' needs. The demand blossomed into a productive enterprise. Chompler is now a bonafide business that delivers

Press On Juice, Scalawags, Centre Street Café, Red Ginger, Brew, Red Mesa, Folgarelli's, Thai Cafe, and a number of other establishments. Download their app to check out their service.

Shopping on a budget is difficult. Luckily, various retail outlets and businesses in the area offer great student discounts. Diversions, Act II, Handz on Art, and Premier Floral Design all offer a 10% off. Nationally popular M22 gives students 22% off all regularly priced merchandise. Online, UNIDAYS (myunidays.com) hooks students up with discounts from various brands, from Levi's to Urban Outfitters.

Another way to save money while in school is thrift shopping. The art of exploring pre-loved clothing stores is a blessing for both your wallet and closet. There is a significant amount of truth in the old adage 'One man's trash is another man's treasure,' and a multitude of second-hand stores in the Traverse City area continue the tradition. Plato's Closet, The Salvation Army Thrift Store, Top Drawer Exchange, Back Around Again, Double Edge, Ebb Tide, and Goodwill are all resale shops located in this area.

If your spending is more entertainment than adornment, the State Theatre offers \$2 off full-price admission and allows students the opportunity to volunteer for a shift and receive free movie vouchers. Additionally, Hamlet's Quick Lube

offers \$5 off a full service oil change. Last but not least, our Dennon Museum Center gives free admission to students.

Soothing Stress

There are a multitude of stress inducers involved in being a student, and letting that pressure build up could lead to a breaking point. It's important to vent life's little frustrations. Practicing yoga is a great way to reduce these stresses. An exercise for calming the mind, body, and spirit, yoga does wonders for overall health. Flexibility, strength, and improved energy are just a few benefits yoga can provide. Finding an affordable yoga studio is hard, but you can circumvent this issue by viewing beginner's lessons on YouTube. It's a great way to start a healthy habit in the comfort of your own home. Diane Samarasinghe, a yoga instructor here at NMC, recommends starting by finding a quiet, safe, moment in your life, in a clean space.

"The first thing you can do is notice how you're standing, because yoga is about awareness. We're always wanting to create opportunities for the body to be strong," Samarasinghe says it is important to "create space for the breath." This simple act is something we can do anywhere. By simply noticing our posture, elongating our spines, and not constricting our bodies by hunching

over while driving, texting, reading, and using our devices, we can impact our general health greatly. This simple act makes overall awareness easier to achieve. "If you're in a very safe place where you can lie down—you don't have to have a yoga mat—but in a safe, clean place, lie on your back and feel the support of the earth. That's yoga." Clearing your mind and just focusing on your breathing is a great way to begin every yoga practice. Regular practice builds muscle memory within your body, she says. "Start with a small increment. Something that's really doable. Find a time in your day that you can be consistent with."

Meditation can also limit the stress experienced by an individual. It can be hard to find focus amid chaos, but dedicating a little time every day to quiet your mind does wonders for overall well-being. "The best thing in the world you can do is carve out a little piece of time," Samarasinghe suggests, "Often times in the morning when you first get up—just stop for a minute and close your eyes and meditate for a moment." Spending two or three minutes centering yourself provides a sturdy foundation, as the rest of the day's stresses build up. Establishing this inner place of calm can be helpful during a high stress situation. "When we feel healthier and less stressed," Samarasinghe says, "we will project that energy onto the world."

Cheap, Fast Recipes

Laureen Horan
Staff Writer

Fast food is cheap, tasty and available all around Traverse City. Most college students live off of a rotation of McDonald's, KFC, Subway and Taco Bell. It's no secret that eating fast food often will not only make you feel sluggish and tired, but what you assume to be a cheap bite to eat adds up fast.

If you have a stove and/or oven to cook with, utilize it. Cooking may seem like a drag, but it's going to save you money in the long run and tends to be healthier than your average fast food options. For this recipe, I went to Tom's Market and got all of these ingredients for \$7.42, or \$1.23 per serving. Keep your eyes peeled for sales and coupons available when you go shopping. Construct your meals based on sales.

Easy, Cheesy Ravioli Bake

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: approx. 1 hour

Servings: 8

Required Utensils: Oven & 13x9 rectangular baking dish, greased.

Ingredients:

1 Large Jar (26-28 oz) of your favorite pasta sauce

25-27 oz package of frozen cheese-filled ravioli

2 cups shredded mozzarella (or other flavor)

2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Basil for garnishing (optional)

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350° F. Spray bottom and sides of dish with cooking spray.

2. Spread $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pasta sauce in the baking dish.

3. Arrange half of the frozen ravioli in a single layer over sauce; top with sauce and 1 cup of shredded cheese.

4. Repeat layering once, starting with ravioli.

5. Sprinkle parmesan cheese on top if you want.

6. Cover with aluminum foil and bake 40 mins.

7. Remove foil and bake uncovered 15-20 more minutes or until bubbly in the center. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting and enjoy.

*Leftovers taste great and are good for four days.



Canines on Campus

How are service dogs utilized in a school setting?



Photo by Lucas Clark
Lucas Clark's service dog Bailee sits close, waiting to be of help.

Laureen Horan
Staff Writer

This year you may be sharing a classroom with not just humans, but dogs too. According to Director of Veteran's Services, Scott Herzberg, five students at NMC have a personal service dog that attends class with them.

Lucas Clark is a former Army Specialist attending NMC for social work. Clark is one of roughly 7.7 million Americans who suffer from PTSD, as estimated by Medline Plus. Clark is chronically affected by anxiety, nightmares and panic attacks and depends on his three-year-old lab, Bailee Mae, to stay calm.

"It seems like my brain is just unable to realize what's going on around me. Bailee helps me just by being around me," explained Clark. "She keeps me calm and I have fewer reasons to panic."

Clark has had Bailee Mae since she was eight weeks old and trained her for three years before she received official certification from Dogs in Honor, an organization that teams up PTSD veterans with a healthy service dog. Dogs in Honor, based out of Bellaire, currently has 14 certified dogs and 16 in training.

In the classroom setting, Bailee stays right next to Clark's side and is calm and quiet, which gives him silent reassurance and helps him focus in class.

Another veteran at NMC, Nichole Hartley, is still working on getting her service dog, Zaia, certified.

Though Zaia is still in training, she accompanies Hartley everywhere, including class. Zaia's presence helps Hartley focus.

"She's more aware of our surroundings than I am. I took her on a road trip this summer and we parked at a roadside area to sleep. She would reinforce any gut feeling I have, whether it was a safe place to stay or not. A couple times, we both felt uneasy; we ended up moving and felt much safer. When we're walking around, she's aware of who else is around us," said Hartley.

For some, sharing the classroom with a dog is a new experience.

"I've seen more service dogs around campus because we have a lot of veterans. It's new to some people, but it's a good way to point out that not all disabilities are visible, especially PTSD. People become more accepting of those who are struggling with it," said Hartley.

Michigan legislation protects the rights of individuals with service dogs, requiring that any business open to the public also accept service dogs in the establishment. This legislation goes hand-in-hand with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Clark and Hartley both emphasize that there is certain etiquette that comes along with approaching a service dog. Always ask permission to pet the dog and respect the handler's decline if they say the dog is working. Do not ask someone why they need a service dog, as this violates ADA regulations.

If you ever share the classroom with a dog, remember that these canine companions are helping veterans across the nation lead productive lives with peace of mind.

Service Dog Etiquette

DO

- Ask the handler to pet the dog.
- Keep your own dog at a distance
- Treat handler with sensitivity and respect.

DON'T

- Ask handler why they need a service dog.
- Speak to or touch the dog without permission
- Offer food to a service dog.

Alumni Spotlight

Betsy Coffia

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

As I waited for my two o'clock interview to arrive, I heard the distinct sound of heels on the tile floor of the Hawk Owl Cafe. Someone important was approaching. It was Betsy Coffia, director of alumni relations here at NMC.

After six years as an award-winning journalist and newspaper editor, Coffia begun her pursuit of a social work degree at NMC in 2002. Continuing her education at the University Center through NMC's partnership with Ferris State University, she earned her bachelor's degree in social work in 2008. Coffia has dedicated her life to building community, both on and off campus.

While attending NMC, Betsy was fortunate enough to be influenced by many amazing professors. Sonja Olshove, John Zachman, and Lisa Blackford, just to name a few, left lasting impressions on Coffia. "People like Sonja," she says, "lived this value: 'if you believe you can make a difference, you can.' I don't always get it right, but that's how I try to live." Lisa Blackford, advisor for Habitat for Humanity in which Coffia was involved as a student, was another inspirational mentor. "Professors here challenged me. They really helped me see life in a different way and realize how much I really love to learn." She founded lifelong friendships while building homes with Habitat for Humanity in Northern Louisiana and West Virginia. And after a plethora of volunteer work at bake sales and car washes, the group raised enough money to spend two respective spring breaks working for the non-profit company.

Coffia speaks fondly of her time at NMC as a student, and after finishing her studies, she went

on to serve the community in other ways. Her social work degree gave her the opportunity to work for Head Start, a local foundation which, among other projects, coordinates grants for parents struggling to pay for childcare. For Coffia, meaningful work is a lifelong goal. A devotion best witnessed in her current campaign for State Representative of Michigan's 104th district.



Photo by Sarah Brown Photography

We are blessed to have her many talents here on campus. Currently, she is tirelessly working to connect current students at NMC with alumni who are successful in their career of choice through a new mentorship program. It is a rich network to tap into, and Coffia doesn't hide her excitement. "Did you know NMC alums include people like former U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak, and Head of Creative at Google Zoo John Militello? I got to have lunch this week with an NMC alumna who was part of a Nobel prize winning team working on nuclear non-proliferation at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Therese Renis, who now lives in Austria and is a program director at the IAEA. She talked a lot about how instructors at NMC challenged her to think big about her career path and she has a lot of love for our college." Such a program will reiterate that there can be a bright future after graduation for NMC students.

As director of alumni relations, Coffia also instituted the Hawk Owl Hospitality Booth during midterms in the Spring 2016 semester. The main idea: to soothe the ensuing stress over finals. Coffee, cookies, spirit gear and friendly, encouraging alumni volunteers, offering students a pick-me-up between tests. In the coming year, Coffia hopes to incorporate more alumni events for graduates dating back to the first class of 1953.

Exciting things are in store for the commencement ceremony this coming spring. Coffia plans to organize an event sponsored by the alumni program to celebrate graduates as they become official alumni, providing them with fun and meaningful activities while waiting for the ceremony to begin.

Truly, her knack for building bridges is evident and her ideas flow like water under that bridge. I can attest to the fact that the alumni organization has great things in store on the horizon with Betsy at the helm.



Photo courtesy of Betsy Coffia

Future NMC alumna Shelby Christensen participates in the alumni relations program's #NMCfyi story walk on her way to class in the Beckett Building. "I did not realize NMC was the first community college in Michigan!" Shelby noted.

Overseas Opportunity in 2017

Zack Harrington
Staff Writer

Dozens of NMC students had the opportunity to travel abroad earlier this year to further their education and life experiences. Programs like Freshwater Studies, Nursing, Culinary, Aviation, and the Humanities are expanding their reach into countries such as Costa Rica, South Africa, Brazil, Ecuador, and Greece. Perhaps you were one of these students. Or maybe you are just now starting your college education and are interested in participating in a program where you can likewise get involved. Either way, exciting things are happening in International Studies.

The *White Pine Press* met with Jim Bensley in International Services and Service Learning to find out what is in store for this academic year. Several programs are being considered for travel abroad studies. One is a trip to Mexico for Construction and Solar Technology, where students would build solar panels into a coffee shop in Huatulco, for a coffee farm ran by indigenous families. As Bensley says, "This would improve the students' skills with fieldwork, while simultaneously improving the lives of those they visit."

Traveling to South Africa for the Nursing, Biology, and Aviation programs has been a regular practice at NMC for several years now, and International Services is hoping to continue that streak for 2017. But this is not the only African nation that students may get to visit in the upcoming year. The World Culture class has plans to visit Morocco, and by staying with host families, immerse themselves in the culture. "Morocco is an Islamic country, so the class will benefit more from interacting directly with the people there, rather than learning in the classroom," mentions Bensley.

Few things scream culture shock more than food. NMC

Culinary students will have the option to travel to Sicily and work in kitchens with experienced and traditional chefs who use centuries old recipes. But Italian is not the only thing on the menu, as there are culinary possibilities in Ecuador as well. "Business and Culinary students can go Yunguilla in the Cloud forest of Ecuador to help locals expand their eco-tourism businesses," explains Bensley. The Biology class is also planning on visiting the Galapagos Islands, just off the coast of Ecuador. Bensley grinned as he told me, "The Galapagos has one of the most unique habitats in the world; our students will get to experience it up close and personal."

Opportunities are also available for students to work as



Photo courtesy of International Services

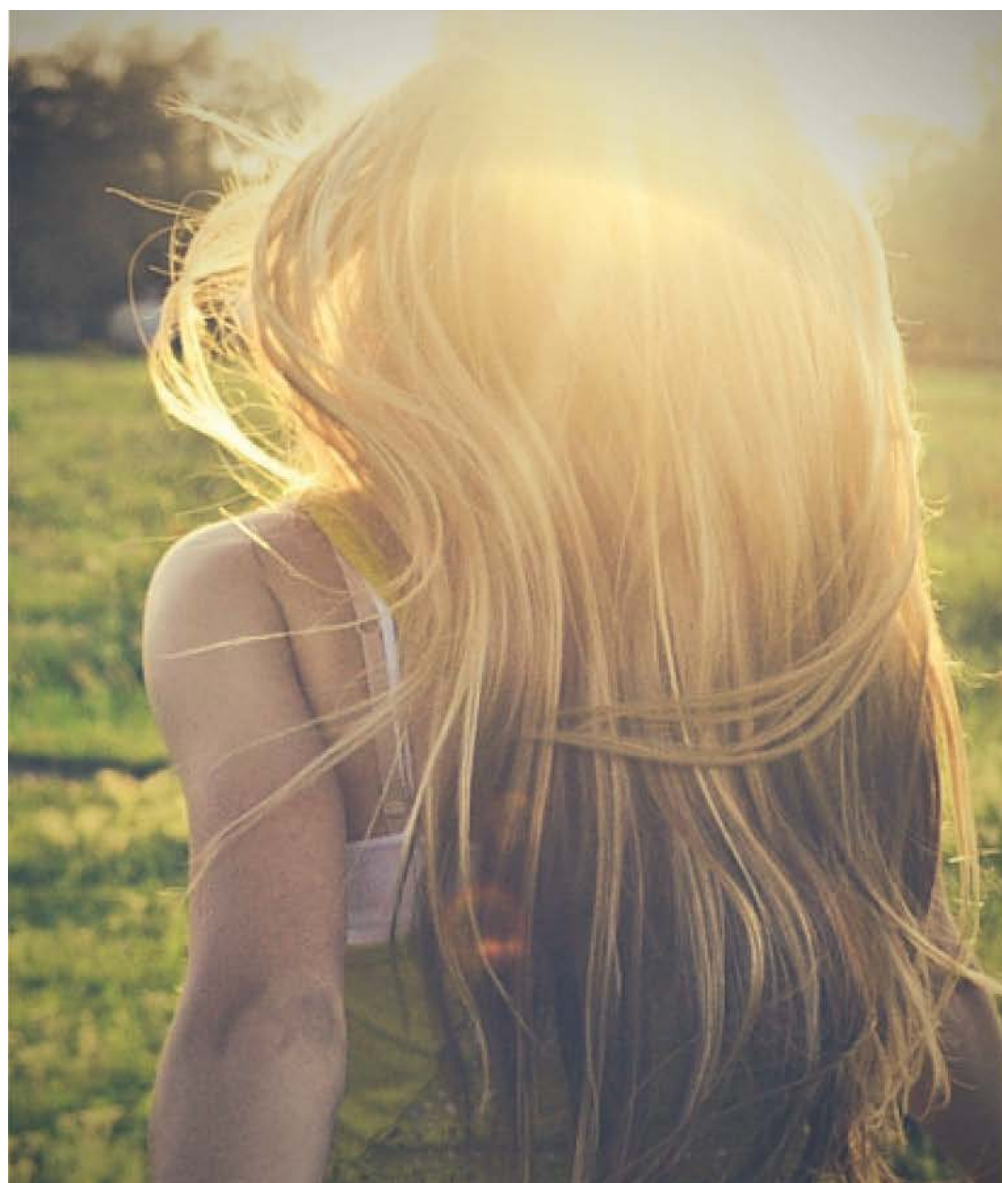
Jessica and Hannah getting to know the locals in Yunguilla, Ecuador.

teachers while overseas. "The first two days of the Galapagos experience will involve NMC students sharing knowledge of northern Michigan wildlife with school children in Quito. And much like last year, there are plans to teach English in Brazil," says Bensley.

NMC students in the World Culture or Political Science courses may choose not to travel abroad, but will still have opportunities to connect online with international students. Facilitated by United Nations personnel, students will be paired with 7 to 10 other students to learn about each other's culture and government over the Internet, build a network of connections and educate tomorrow's leaders. Students who are interested in these unique opportunities should either visit the International Office or speak with faculty in charge of the specific departments. However, even if you are not enrolled in one of these programs, there are independent study options available. If overseas travel would specifically correlate to and aid in your education, speaking with the International Office may help.

Registration for the Spring Semester is October 19, so if a program piques your interest, inquire now about available overseas opportunities. Deposits are due November 21 and though travel dates are not set, trips are generally over spring break in March, or in May. Financial aid or scholarships could be available to help alleviate expenses.

Whether you choose to travel or not, NMC has international students from abroad regularly attending classes alongside us. Being hospitable and kind will drastically affect their experience here, but will likewise change your life for the better. Making friends and creating connections will serve you well not only through your education, but also in your life.




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In Loving Memory

Compiled by
Laureen Horan & Breanne Russell

Sonja was the most soft spoken and kind-hearted instructor I ever had the privilege of learning from at NMC. She was the type of instructor who remembered you years after you sat in her classroom. Sonja went above and beyond to help her students succeed and did it with a smile. She inspired me to be a good student & a better person. I am forever thankful to have been given the opportunity to be present in Sonja's genuine character and kindness toward all.

- Abbie Andrzejak,
Social Work major



“When you believe that people are good, they are. When you believe that you can make a difference, you can. When you care, you change a life. With every kind act, there is a ripple effect.”

-Sonja Olshove

Sonja was such a beautiful woman inside and out with a heart made entirely of gold. To know her was such an incredible blessing, let alone to be her friend and colleague. I will miss the bright light she shared with the world every day, even with the simplest “hello,” and I will forever be thankful for every bit of love and kindness she has shown us. Thank you for everything, dear Sonja. There are no words for how much you have inspired us all, even to this day. The world may have lost a beautiful hero, but your memory will forever be a blessing.

- Nicole Priebe, Social Work major

My first class with Sonja know we signed up for th we loudly showed our ex of the class, Sonja share to experience her class about the concepts of fe never really cared to exa in a complex way. That question things I thought reflection in me, as a y in my career. She got m progress toward equality, in her classes before eve I had with her than mos connect. She knew how t her family emphasized ya and that her childho she could not have had poured out of her. Even o had Sonja as my instruc birthday, July 5th, with h

She was a light that never burned out. She was someone who kept campus bright and cheery, and did so through her amazing soul and spirit.

- Alex Bondar, NMC Alumni



was Gender & Society. My best friend and I didn't
e same class, and when we made that realization,
citement. Instead of getting annoyed like the rest
d in our excitement and was happy that we'd get
together. At that point, I didn't know or care a lot
minism. I believed in equality and what not, but I
mine the injustices and imbalances in our society
s, until I took a class with Sonja. Sonja got me to
I already knew. She provoked a great deal of self-
young woman who is trying to "climb the ladder"
e to ask myself what I can do on a daily basis to
balance and fulfillment in my life. We'd play bingo
y test, and I recall so much more from the courses
t any other class I've ever had. She knew how to
o motivate. She knew how to teach. At her funeral,
that her name was actually pronounced as SUN-
d nickname was "Sunny." I thought to myself that
more suitable nickname. She was bright, her joy
Earth, she was immaculate. I am grateful to have
or for two courses and I am so lucky to share my
er. I will always think of her when the sun shines.

- Lauren Horan



White Pine Press photos



Life is precious and short; that's what makes it beautiful
and worthwhile. Part of the thrill is never knowing with
certainty our final moments, but the important thing is
to make every moment count.

Everyday we have millions of interactions - physical,
digital, emotional, etc. that leave lasting impacts on
people we will never know. What's even more, is these
interactions unbeknownst to us may hold the power to
change someone's entire life.

RIP to a woman who I witnessed change the lives of
young aspiring minds everyday. May the impact you had
here live on and continue to inspire.

- Eillie Sambrone, Freshwater Studies



Sonja touched so many lives with her kindness, and
always believing that good would prevail. I was blessed
to have had her has a friend and co-worker over the last
18 years. Words cannot describe how sad we are to
lose her and how much she will be missed. God must've
needed another Angel in heaven.

- Cindy Duby, Office Manager, Social Science





James Robinson
Staff Writer

Whether you're a devotee of the Dark Knight, a fanatic of the Fantastic Four, or an addict of The Avengers, there's a holiday made especially for you: National Comic Book Day! Each year on September 25th, comic book readers, collectors, and enthusiasts — new and old — celebrate this iconic storytelling medium.

Also known as a comic magazine, a comic book consists of a sequence of illustrations accompanied by a short narrative contained within speech bubbles. Comic books originated as books of reprinted humor strips, like those found in the back of the Sunday newspaper. Despite their name, they can feature stories in many different genres such as science fiction, fantasy, horror, and romance. Most tell an ongoing story and provide action, intrigue, and suspense. These features, along with bright, powerful colors and appealing design schemes have made comics a popular storytelling medium in the United States.

One of the very first comic books in the United States,

called *Famous Funnies*, is believed to have appeared in 1933 as a collection of newspaper comic strips. Comics as a print medium first appeared in America with the printing of *The Adventures of Obadiah Oldbuck* in 1842. Rodolphe Töpffer, a Swiss teacher, author, and cartoonist, invented *Obadiah* to amuse himself and his friends, but the comic strip quickly became popular. Töpffer is often referred to as "Father of the Comic Strip."

The golden age of comics undoubtedly began with the introduction of Superman by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in 1938. This book — *Action Comics #1* — introduced a new genre of characters with secret identities, extraordinary powers and abilities, and colorful costumes: superheroes! Following the creation of Superman, other iconic superheroes such as Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, and Flash began appearing in their own comic books. During the 1940s, superheroes became a symbol of American patriotism and triumph over evil. The cover of the first Captain America comic showed the hero battling Adolf Hitler!

As the war subsided, sales of superhero comics began to

decline and many were cancelled as publishers shifted focus to other genres such as science fiction and horror. In the mid-1950s, during the popularity of science fiction and horror comics, psychiatrist Dr. Fredric Wertham waged war on the industry with the publication of *Seduction of the Innocent* in 1954. Wertham believed comic books turned children into juvenile delinquents and called for tighter restrictions on the industry. The Comics Code Authority was created to regulate the provocative material in comic books.

Despite the harsh criticisms from Dr. Wertham and the restrictions of the Comic Book Authority, the industry found ways to appeal to new audiences by rejuvenating the successful superhero genre. Soon, characters such as The Amazing Spider-Man, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, the Justice League, the Avengers, and the Fantastic Four found popularity with a new generation of comic lovers and cemented the status of comic books in American culture.

Since the inception of the superhero genre in 1938, many superheroes and superheroines have come and gone, leaving modern-day enthusiasts with a plethora of material. "There's a book for everyone," Grant Stoye, comic book devotee and writer for the *Court of Nerds* podcast suggests. "You just have to steer people towards their interests." Do you like watching zombie movies? Try reading *The Walking Dead* series, created by Robert Kirkman. Are you a fan of horror and/or ancient folklore? Try reading the *Hellboy* series created by Mike Mignola and published by Dark Horse Comics. How about fantasy and science fiction? Try reading the *Fables* series published by Vertigo, an imprint of DC Comics, or the *Planetary* series published by Wildstorm (also an imprint of DC comics). Whether you've enjoyed comic books for many years or have recently discovered them, take some time to head out to your local comic shop and discover the amazing tales that lie between their pages.



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Faculty Union Speaks

Hello NMC Community,

First and foremost, Faculty Council, on behalf of NMC Faculty, would like to thank you, NMC's staff and employees, for your good work to keep teaching and learning at the center. At the center of that relationship are teachers and students and the staff who support them. Your work empowers students to achieve their goals. Your work enables and facilitates our work to educate our students.

This letter clarifies what's to come and why. We know that is somewhat long, but we hope you will take the time to read it. We also hope that you will contact us with any questions or concerns you have.

We want you to know that you will not see most of us this Friday at the picnic, and we want to share with you our case for this action. We are sad to miss you ahead of the school year, but we see this as an important step we must take. We simply seek to demonstrate our resolve and cohesion as an employee group. In no way should this be taken as not supporting you, our fellow staff. For, without you, our lives would be made that much more difficult.

In an effort to clarify the state of play in negotiations with the administration of NMC, we offer this.

To review, only after speaking to the administration about our concern about their direction and priorities did we understand that our only move was to organize ourselves. We shared that, in order to keep learning at the center, NMC needs teachers at those tables where the most important decisions are made about its future, and that our input must be more than "advisory or informational only". As our president often reminds, "If you're not at the table, you're probably on the menu." We couldn't agree more.

ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES CLARIFIED:

- Our administration has placed on the table many of the plans we feared were in store for us and for our college.
- This shortened list demonstrates the tone of administration of our entire college, affecting us all. Our cause is not our own.
- Foisting a 7.6% tuition hike while the administration socks away considerable reserves;
- Merging academic areas without teachers' and chairs' input, affecting staffing across the college;
- Issuing letters of faculty appointment (not a contract) without dates, pay, or terms and conditions;
- Changing job descriptions without input or notice to office managers;
- Offering a plan for faculty advancement that would lead to enormous losses in career earnings;
- Implementing cuts in adjunct pay;
- Spending \$200K+ in legal fees to thwart our efforts;

ON BARGAINING:

In the 15 months since we formed a collective bargaining unit, NMC faculty have met with administration representatives and their lawyers 17 times. We follow standards and protocols in negotiations and bargain in good faith. We put forward substantive proposals to our administration. Proposals include policy-level language and implications of those policies for our college community. Those policies are vetted for their legality and accounting. They are built almost entirely upon previous NMC policies and traditions.

Like our administration, we seek appropriate legal input from our Michigan Education Association (MEA) counterparts. Unlike our administration, our representation costs the college, its students and Grand Traverse County taxpayers nothing.

In total, we have come to 18 base-level agreements. It should be said that this was only after considerable administration resistance and include such things as min/max class sizes, required office hours, and the recognition of our very union, almost none of which addresses our primary concerns.

COMING ACTION:

As such, you will see and hear from us in the community in the coming weeks or months until a contract is reached. You will see us wearing our special t-shirts and carrying signs. You will see us leafleting near campus and in the greater Traverse City area. You will see us in the news. You will read our commentaries and those of our supporters in the papers and online. You will see us on social media, promoting our cause.

As such, you will hear of a resounding 'NO' vote to existing administrative proposals. You will hear us call for what we think is best for us and for our students. You will hear us call for what we think is best for staff and for the future of the college.

Our cause is not our own.

We hope you are with us as we move to end this ordeal and to get on with the work at hand; lifting up our students with the support necessary for a solid education.

We hope you will approach us with any questions or concerns. Together, we are NMC.

Sincerely,
NMC Faculty Council and NMC Faculty

Pres. Nelson Responds

Welcome students:

Close to 4,200 of you have selected NMC as your college. I thank and welcome each of you, whether you are first time or returning to our campuses. You have joined a vibrant community that is doing great things to make sure you are successful in your studies and on your path.

Like any community, we are complex. In complex communities, it is critical for citizens to engage in comfortable and uncomfortable discussions and activities. In March 2015, the NMC regular faculty voted to unionize and be represented by the Michigan Education Association (MEA). Once a group selects a union as representative, rules and laws governing negotiations and contracts take effect. The college has been negotiating in good faith with the MEA meeting 22 times including 7 with State of Michigan appointed mediators. NMC is committed to negotiating a contract with faculty that will allow us to meet the current and future needs of our students, our community and our region. Our hope is, and has been, to do that in a timely and efficient way.

We all live in a world that is changing and transforming at an ever increasing rate. Each of us must be able to adapt to those changes and absorb shocks from our environment. Equipping you with skills to do that successfully is part of our responsibility as a college. Equipping the college with a faculty contract will allow NMC to succeed in that world.

Every person at NMC is here to help you achieve your outcomes. Learning happens across these campuses and is supported by faculty, staff, administrators, community volunteers and your peers. It takes place most effectively when we each engage.

Our campus will change a lot this year. A new residence hall and fitness center is being constructed north of East Hall with an expected completion date of August 2017. The Dennon Museum Center will expand by 14,000 square feet over the next year. We will start planning for construction of a new library and innovation center connected to the current West Hall. Students will be invited to share their desires for these facilities during the design process.

We believe in the power of engagement. Faculty, staff and students participate in dozens of NMC councils, committees, task forces and project teams. I invite you to take advantage of the opportunities of citizenship whether here, or in the broader community, and we can all make a difference together.

I thank you the students, the faculty, staff, administration and volunteers. Together we give our all to make NMC a better place and make your journey a success.

GO HAWK OWLS!

Timothy J. Nelson

President, Northwestern Michigan College

Non-Discrimination Policy Notice

Northwestern Michigan College is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, genetic information, height, weight, marital status or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. nmc.edu/non-discrimination

WRITE US A LETTER

OUR POLICY: The *White Pine Press* accepts letters to the editor from members of the college and community. Letters should be less than 400 words, typewritten, and signed with your name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, spelling and length. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The *White Pine Press* staff or any college employee.

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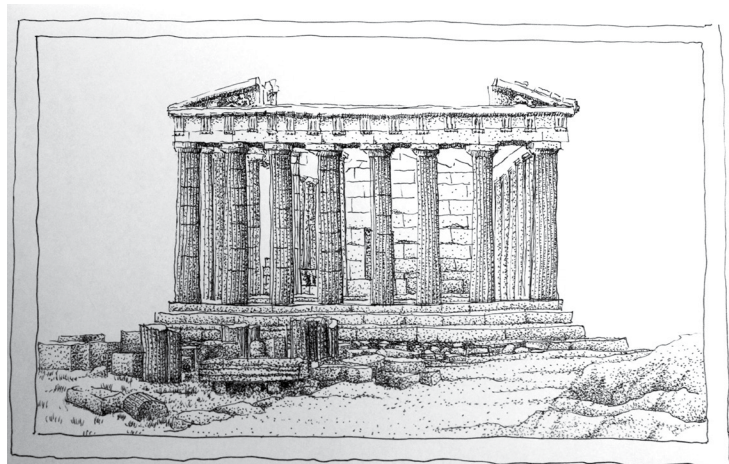
White Pine Press
Letters to the Editor
1701 East Front St.
Traverse City, MI 49686

BY EMAIL: whitepinepress@gmail.com

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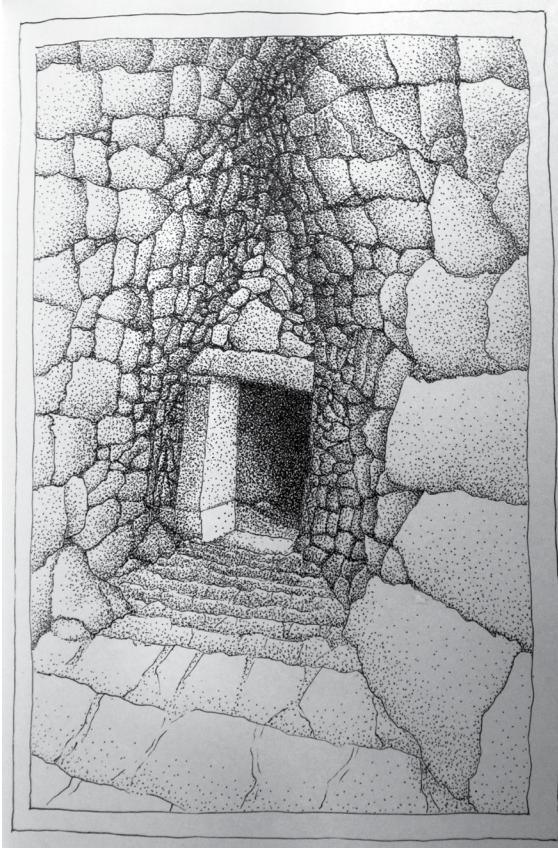
NMC Students, Faculty & Alumni



MIKE TORRE — FINE ARTS

Sketches from recent NMC trip to Greece

ABOVE: Parthenon RIGHT: Well of Mycenae



Shooting for Six

Becky's library research suggests carjacking, not purse snatching.

She wheels her bagged possessions into the bushes beside the Shell Station and waits. Finally, a Mercedes. When the driver saunters inside, she makes her move. She starts the engine, slams it into gear, floors the gas. She parks around the corner.

Seat pushed back, she waits.

"Dammit, Becky," says Officer Whitley. "This'll cost you five years." It's her first ride in his back seat, though he's reluctantly shooed her from the street, the hotel lobby, the church parking lot.

"I'm shooting for six," she says. "That's when my Social Security kicks in."

NANCY PARSHALL — COMMUNICATIONS

DEANNA LUTON
STUDENT

7.19.16

nebula swirling deep in space
stars wrapping themselves up
in an ever spiraling Galaxy,
far beyond the imagination
of the collective human race.

black hole swallowing all matter
unlucky enough to get too close
absence of existence, undetectable
except for its lack of any light.
our whole world could easily shatter.

star once twinkling so bright
time decays all things, not even
the heavens are safe from its reach.
death of a sun creates a vacuum,
swallowing everything in sight.



TODD PARKER — NATIVE AMERICAN SUCCES COACH
Copper and Silver work, Fur Trade style Native American Adornment

KEEP THE
GR
EAT
LAKES
GREAT

JAMIE ROBINSON
STUDENT

Jamie Robinson

YOUR ART HERE will be a permanent page in the White Pine Press.

Please email submissions (high quality images) or questions to russelb@mail.nmc.edu

The road less traveled may be fraught with danger, but its journey offers endless possibilities. This semester NMC Magazine delves into the experiences, risks, and excitement in undertaking an adventure. What lurks in the deep recesses of that cave? Are there new lands waiting to be discovered? Can our hero slay the dragon? Will NASA's asteroid mission be successful?

Lace up those hiking boots, heed the call of the wild, and unleash your creative power. Send us your stories, poems, illustrations, photos, artwork, film, or other designs either in person or via email by Monday, October 24, 2016. Bring hard copies to the Communications Office, Scholars Hall 214, Attn: Alissia Lingaur -OR- to the Humanities Office, Fine Arts Building, Attn: Caroline Schaefer-Hills. Email submissions to nmcimag@mail.nmc.edu. Be sure to attach the Submission Form found at nmc.edu/nmcimagazine.

Loving to Read

Ann Hosler
Staff Writer

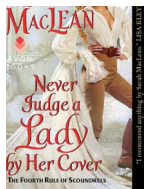
I have a confession to make: I love romance stories.

Something about cravats, fancy gowns, foppish hats, and gloved hands captivates me. There's a few Medieval stories that I enjoy, as well as many contemporaries, but throughout my vast collection of books the ones set in the Regency and Victorian eras dominate my favorites. In fact, I've read enough of them by now I can unerringly answer Jeopardy questions about England in the 1700–1800s.

Romance is a huge genre and, as with any genre, there

are definitely some stinkers out there. Books where you struggle to complete the first chapter. You know you've found a winner when there's an immersive plot with relatable characters. It's just like any other work of fiction, except in between events they also want to get into each other's pants—or petticoats.

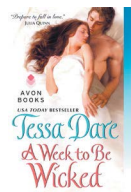
I have several go-to reads when unwinding after a long week. Stories that suck you in, making you love—or hate—the characters as they struggle toward the ultimate goal: true love. These range from just kissing (clean romance) to steamy, throwing-legs-up-in-the-air action.



Rule of Scoundrels series by Sarah MacLean:

The first collection I read after returning to the genre is my favorite. This four-book series is set in 1700s England and follows four different aristocrats who also happen to own a gaming hell. Each has demons to face down and their leading love interests to guide them along the path of redemption. I strongly recommend reading them in order; it will make you really appreciate the fourth book. There is a prelude series (*Love by Numbers*) that isn't necessary, but helps to fill in a few background details.

Steaminess:



A Week to Be Wicked by Tessa Dare:

Part of Dare's Spindle Cove collection, this book stars aspiring geologist Minerva and the rakish Lord Colin Payne as they travel with Francine the Footprint across 1800s England to Scotland. Along the way they fake an elopement, have a run-in with highwaymen, scandalize a wholesome family, and manage to fall in love. The other books in this series are enjoyable, but this one stands out above them all.

Steaminess:



House of Oak series by Nicole Van:

When I first heard of a time travel romance subgenre, I was skeptical. Van takes what seems ridiculous and makes it absolutely believable with amazing characters and beautifully visualized settings. There's a lot of conflict and difficult choices, and even some well-placed pop culture references and humor. Her books are the most I've ever laughed while reading, sometimes to the point of tears. Van writes clean romance, and if you have a Kindle Unlimited subscription, her books are free.

Steaminess:



Portland Storm series by Catherine Gayle:

I have another confession to make: I'm not interested in hockey. That didn't stop me from getting hooked on Gayle's books, each featuring a member of the fictional Portland Storm hockey team and their love interests. As the main characters become closer and work to overcome troubles in their past, the stories bring to life hard topics that aren't often addressed in genre fiction: addiction, abuse, rape, divorce, cancer, and more. If you have triggers, be sure to check each book's synopsis and reviews. They can be read in any order, but *Breakaway* is the best introduction to the series.

Steaminess:



The Legal Briefs series by Emma Chase:

A contemporary series that follows the story of three male defense attorneys as they find their happily-ever-after amid the insanity of life. A rarity for the romance genre, the books are solely narrated from the man's point of view. Chase masters the story and weaves her tales with bluntness, angst, humor, and emotion. Each can be a stand-alone, but read *Sustained* (book #2, but #1 in my heart) before checking out the novella, *Sidebarred*.

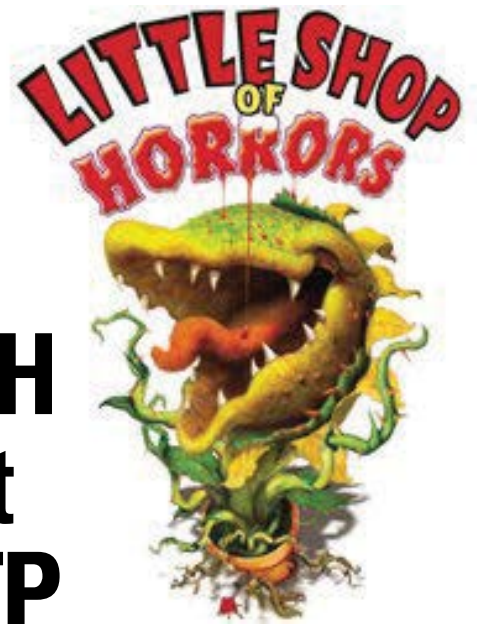
Steaminess:



Maiden Lane series by Elizabeth Hoyt:

This Regency era series features a complex, beloved, yet flawed cast of characters in the mid-1700s. Hoyt's books will take you from the grimmest corner of London's slums to palatial manor homes with their glittering ballrooms. I started the series with #8 (*Dearest Rogue*, which I've re-read three times) then hopped through previous stories haphazardly, but many prior main characters resurface in minor roles. The series still has new books coming: #11 is due in November and #12 in spring 2017.

Steaminess:



LSH at OTP

Taylor McLain
Staff Writer

Theater fans of Traverse City rejoice, the Old Town Playhouse is kicking off its 2016-2017 with a delectable sci-fi

horror comedy: *Little Shop of Horrors*. Appearing on Broadway in 2003, off-off-Broadway in 1982 and on the silver screen in 1986, this R&B/Rock&Roll musical can be summed up as the story of a boy, and girl, and a man-eating plant.

According to Executive Director Phil Murphy (and voice of the infamous man-eating plant) this play, while most certainly a treat for the audiences, is also a treat for the people involved with production for its off the wall nature and fun characters. In fact, the OTP put on a production of *Little Shop of Horrors* back in 1995. It had such a particular fondness that, along with the two other confirmed musicals scheduled, the OTP is opening its season with this musical.

Murphy has a personal history with the show as well. He worked with the original stage actor Lee Wilkof back in 1975 (before *Little Shop of Horrors*' first showing) in a series of low-key theater performances over the summer.

Composer Alan Menken originally created *Little Shop of Horrors* along with writer Howard Ashman, who also worked on such films as Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Aladdin*.

The OTP set for *Little Shop of Horrors* looks like it was taken right off a block from downtown New York City and given the (mostly) thorough scrubbing it needed. The amazingly hand-painted set was worked on night and day by amazing volunteers from our community that deserve a lot more recognition than they're given.

Behind the curtain, the famous man-eating plant awaits its audience. Based on the 2003 Broadway designs, it comes in four different sizes as the plant grows throughout the play. The biggest is large enough to swallow two people. According to Murphy, the puppet was so heavy they couldn't move it, not even with the help of a volunteer who moved refrigerators for a living. It was only through the help of some of their brilliant engineers they got the man-eater under control and ready to perform.

It seems like a downright Herculean effort for everyone, from the set designers to the directors to the volunteers. By "Never shying [away] from a play," Murphy says, "everyone at the Playhouse does their best to create a place for the magic to happen and the audience takes it all the way. It just takes a little bit, but sharing that magic with people, there's nothing like it."

Be sure to check out *Little Shop of Horrors*: it's sure to get guts busting and blood pumping.

Little Shop of Horror Performances:

Sept. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 at 7:30 p.m. | Sept. 25 at 2 p.m.

Oct. 1, 6, 7, 8 at 7:30 p.m. | Oct. 2 at 2:00 p.m.



Photos by Jamie Robinson

The Dennos Breaks Ground

James Robinson
Staff Writer

The Dennos Museum Center first opened its doors on July 6, 1991, and since then has built a reputation as the region's "premier cultural facility." From the interactive installations in the Discovery Gallery, to the collection of artworks and artifacts in the Inuit Gallery, to the variety of revolving exhibitions in the three main galleries, the museum offers many opportunities, as its mission states, "to engage, entertain and enlighten its visitors." Now in its 25th year, the Dennos Museum Center will be expanding to accommodate its growing collections, and to support the evolving needs and interests of the college and community.

In the earliest days of the museum, the college planned to add a gallery for studio arts and a performance hall for music programs on either side of the Fine Arts Building. However, as Gene Jenneman, founding Executive Director of the Dennos Museum Center, explains, after discussing the plans with museum directors from around the Great Lakes region, the college was advised to refrain from "burying the museum within the campus." Instead, the

gallery and performance hall would be built on the edge of the campus, where the public could more easily access them. This became the present-day Dennos Museum Center. In 1988, Jenneman, was hired to refine the plans for the museum and finalize them for construction. The museum was designed around a central sculpture court with the galleries, auditorium, offices, and storage spaces extending outward, which has been the layout of the museum ever since.

Over the years, storage space dwindled as the museum's collections grew. This prompted Jenneman to conceptualize plans for an inevitable expansion, or what he calls the "natural evolution of the museum." The generous \$1 million gift from Barbara and Dudley Smith and a \$2 million gift from Richard and Diana Milock has allowed NMC to put these plans into action.

A groundbreaking ceremony for this expansion took place on August 15th. Unlike most mundane ceremonies, this one had a creative twist. "The Dennos is about recognizing, presenting, preserving and celebrating creativity," Jenneman explained, "So if you are going to break ground for an

addition... the groundbreaking itself should have a strong creative element." Seventeen regional artists were invited to customize an "art shovel" for use in the groundbreaking. After the event, these colorful and creative works of art were put on display as a free-form sculpture, appropriately titled Groundbreaking, in the Dennos Museum's sculpture court.

Starting in early October and finishing mid-summer next year, the expansion adds nearly 1,500 square feet, which will wrap around the southern side of the museum. Those interested in viewing the expansion plans may visit the Dennos Museum where they are on display.

In addition to increasing space, the expansion will seek to correct errors made when the museum was first constructed. The loading dock, which was short-changed during the museum's construction due to protests over cutting down trees, will be redesigned to make it more easily accessible by large trucks. The gift shop, which was also short-changed, will be reconfigured to add retail and storage space.

Along with the corrections to the museum, a multi-purpose classroom/green room and storage space will be added adjacent to Milliken Auditorium to support the music and performance programs that use the facility. A new gallery will also extend from the existing Inuit gallery, to showcase the museum's

growing signature collection, and two new permanent collection galleries will be built to house other non-Inuit artworks. These new galleries will loop around and connect with the existing galleries, smoothly circulating visitors through the museum.

These additions will better connect the museum with the college's academic programs by enhancing the ability of professors to use the museum as their "extended classroom." Members of the community will also be able to see more of the outstanding works of art that have previously been hidden in storage. The long-term hope is that owners of museum quality art may consider donating portions of their collections to the Dennos now that they can see a commitment to permanent exhibitions.

The expansion is a big step for the museum as it looks forward to the next 25 years. NMC is fortunate to have such a dedicated leader as Jenneman guiding the Dennos through this operation. "Another 25 years from now there may be the desire to do something more, but that will be someone else's gig." So for today, we count our blessing to have access to such a high-quality cultural facility, and excitedly await the expansion's unveiling as the Dennos Museum Center breaks ground.

Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

September 18th - December 31st

Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon — An exhibition inspired by Paola Gianturco's critically acclaimed book profiling 120 activist grandmothers in 15 countries on five continents.

Jean Larson: Permanence and Impermanence: Iceland, A Land of Temporal Landscapes — Larson draws upon Iceland for her artistic expression, and explorations of time.

October 8th (8:00 PM) Jeremy Kittel Trio — Jeremy Kittel is an American fiddler, violinist, and composer. Fluent in multiple musical genres.

October 13th (6:00 PM) The Art of: Brewing- A special presentation of Artist After Hours with Crosshatch, Blackbird Arts, and Higher Grounds.

November 10th (12:00 PM) The Art of: Grandmothering-Tea and conversation with local grandmothers.

November 12th (8:00 PM) Peter Yarrow:

Peter Yarrow's talents as a creative artist — both with the legendary trio Peter, Paul & Mary and as a solo performer — are frequently directed at using music to convey a message of humanity and caring.

November 25th (All Day) Black Friday Fun-Day: Grandmothers Unite! — Skip the shopping frenzy and bring grandma for a fun-filled day at the Dennos.

November 27th (8:00 PM) An Irish Christmas in America: The hugely popular Irish Christmas in America show, now in its 11th season, features top Irish music, song and dance in an engaging performance rich in history, humor, and boundless energy.

December 1st (6:30 PM) The Art of Traveling: A conversation with local artists about global issues.

