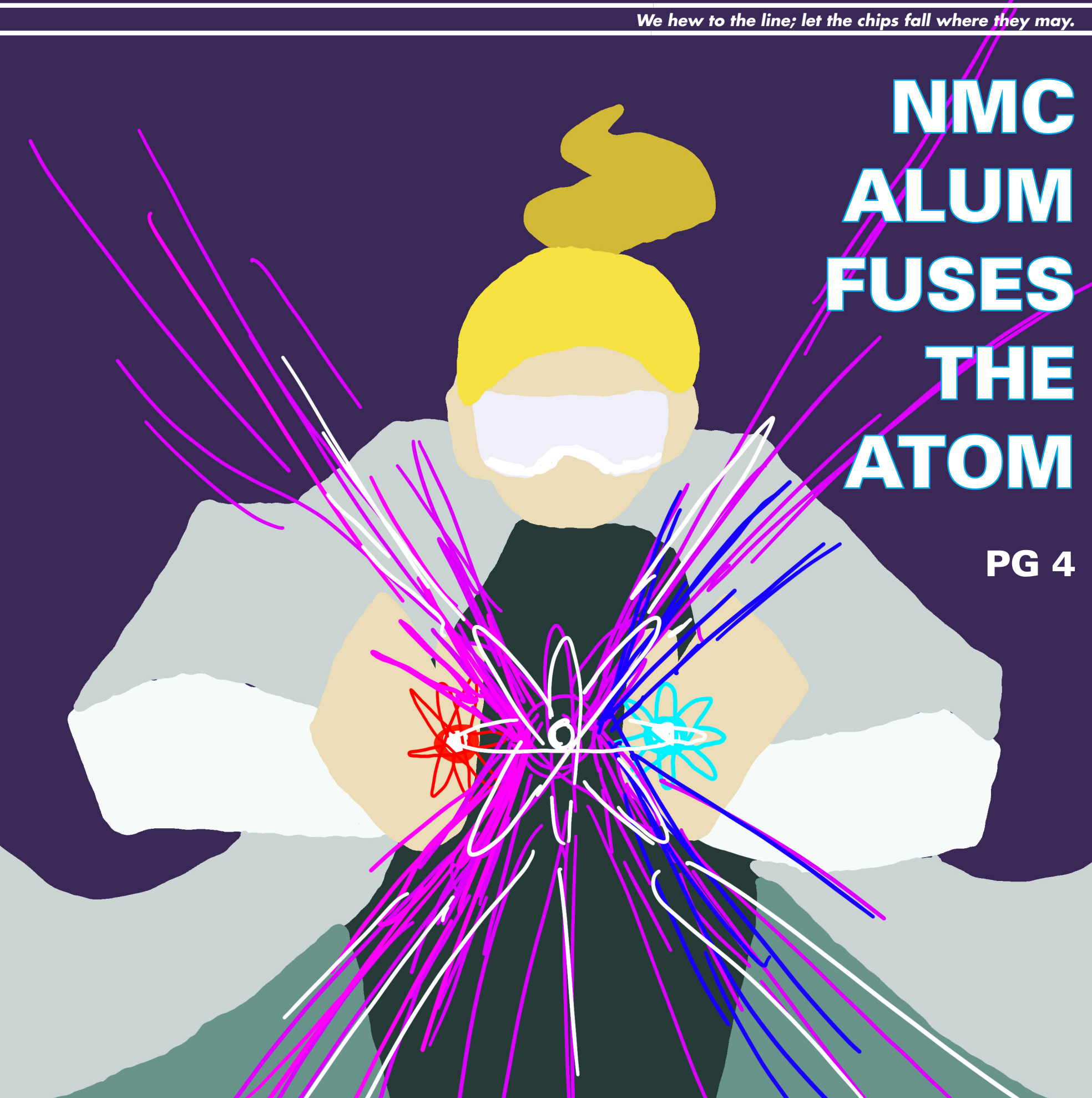


# WHITE PINE PRESS

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

## NMC ALUM FUSES THE ATOM

PG 4



## NMC News In Brief

### Eighth Annual Health and Housing Walk

The public is invited to join NMC students and Goodwill Northern Michigan on the eighth annual Walk for Health and Housing, a guided tour of downtown Traverse City from the perspective of people experiencing homelessness and the providers who serve them, departing from NMC's Great Lakes campus parking lot at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15. The walk is a part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, happening Nov. 11-19, and brings together students and community partners to raise awareness about the increasing affordability crisis in Northwest Michigan. Lasting about two hours, the guided walk through downtown Traverse City illuminates the problems of food insecurity and homelessness. Along the route, participants will stop to hear stories from service providers about their efforts to mitigate these problems in the region.

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If you would like to learn more, contact faculty adviser Jacob Wheeler at [jwheeler@nmc.edu](mailto:jwheeler@nmc.edu) or editor-in-chief Jacob Pszczolkowski at [pszczoj@mail.nmc.edu](mailto:pszczoj@mail.nmc.edu)

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# White Pine Reviews

## Freddy's Disappointing Showtime

**Jacob Pszczolkowski**  
Editor-In-Chief

If you're anything like me, you're stumbling aimlessly into your early 20s having thoroughly disappointed everyone who thought you were going to become something worthwhile, wasting your time and money on vices to avoid thinking about a rapidly-approaching hopeless future.

You also probably remember middle school in the early 2010s, and a friend group wholly obsessed with the massively popular indie horror game "Five Nights at Freddy's". Upon its release in 2013, it quickly gained popularity on YouTube, cultivating a dedicated fan base as its story expanded over the course of several sequel titles. A film adaptation was first announced in 2015, and after eight years of development hell, "Five Nights at Freddy's" produced by Blumhouse Productions and series creator Scott Cawthon released on Oct. 26. Does the film live up to nearly a decade of hype?

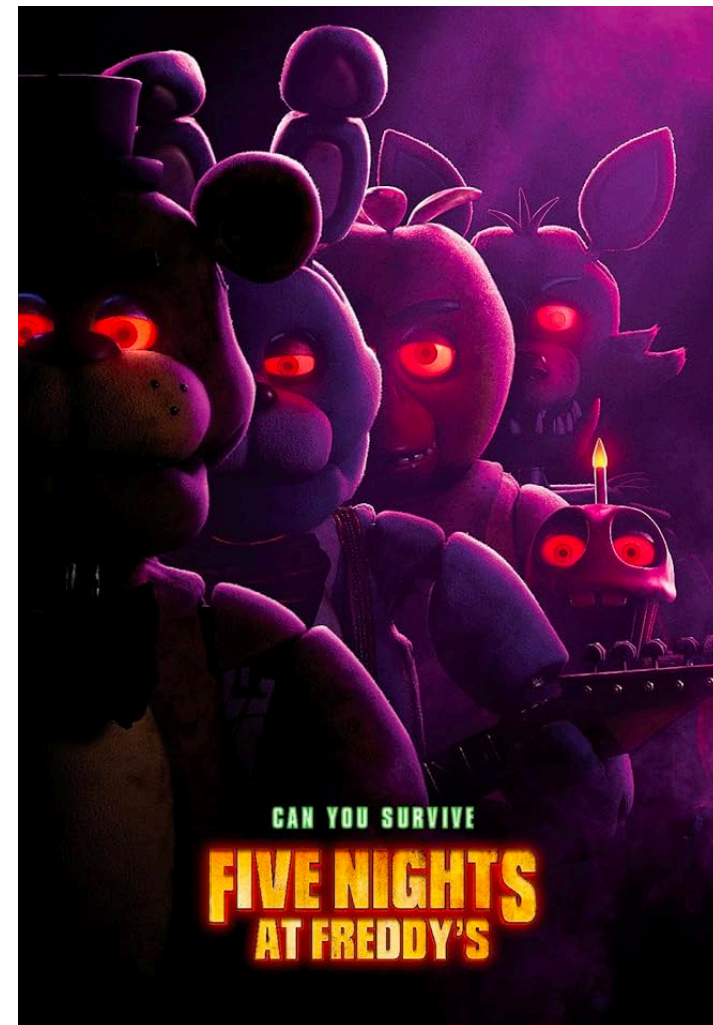
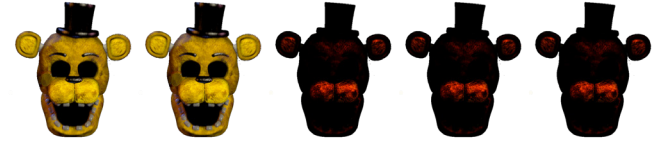
"Five Nights" follows Michael Schmidt (played by Josh Hutcherson), a young man who takes a sketchy night security job at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, an abandoned Chuck-e-Cheese-style mascot attraction, to provide for his young sister Abby (played by Piper Rubio). As he unravels the mysteries surrounding the pizzeria and his own personal history, he must defend himself from the haunted animatronic mascots that roam the building at night.

"Five Nights" is a loose adaptation of the original game, yet it fails to capture the uncanny, unfeeling menace of the animatronics, replacing the blank robotic eyes of the game with more expressive eyes which change color and use mechanical eyelids to express emotion, severely limiting the horror of the animatronics.

The story takes a few major turns away from the game's lore. The changes are not inherently bad, and the basic premise had potential, but mediocre writing and dialogue kept it from offering a worthwhile alternative to the original story.

The one thing this film didn't lack was references and cameos for longtime fans. YouTubers who helped popularize the games had a few lines of dialogue, and iconic quotes from the series popped up left and right—often in circumstances that don't make sense in the film's context, leaving the film feeling more like a superficial franchise extender than a faithful screen adaptation.

Overall, I had a fun viewing experience when I saw "Five Nights". I went with friends who were also obsessed with the series back in middle school, and it was genuinely fun to point at references and joke around in the theater. As a newcomer to the series, this movie simply lacks the narrative depth or genuine horror to stand on its own merits.



## Dear Insanity is Insane

**Emma Marion**  
Staff Writer

Sometimes, an album release comes around that takes you completely off-guard. For me this fall, this has been Dear Insanity..., the third major release from the Australian-Korean multi-talent artist DPR IAN. Combining his toned-down indie style with more electronic sounds and tropes, this release had me smiling the whole way through.

The EP is completely bustling with ear candy throughout the whole listen. In fact, I'm convinced that the ear candy is what makes this album such a treat to listen to. The release acknowledges its over-produced, dramatic, theatrical sound and leans into it. The first track, "Famous Last Words," sounds like the start of a movie, practically begging the listener to imagine a world with lightning hanging overhead and surreal animals darting through bushes.

This is no mistake, as Ian is one of the founders of Dream Perfect Regime (DPR), a multi-media talent company. While DPR IAN's first release featured standard music videos, his second release featured an eight-minute "movie" incorporating four songs from the release into a single video. Although this was a major step up from the music videos, the movie still felt somewhat disconnected from the songs themselves. Dear Insanity... feels like DPR IAN's first release to be created with the music and visual elements in tandem. Combine this with some good old fashion analogous storytelling about mental health, and Dear Insanity... becomes a release bigger than the sum of its parts.



# Stellar Breakthrough

## NMC Alum Reflects on Fun, Fame, and Nuclear Fusion

**Julia Belden**  
Staff Writer

After weeks of rain, the sun has returned to the Northern Michigan sky; its light and warmth bringing us out of our autumn funk. Sitting approximately 93 million miles away from Earth, the sun is not actually “on fire”. Rather, its power comes from a process within its core: nuclear fusion. Incredibly, the sun isn’t the only star in our solar system. In a laboratory in California, NMC alumna Dr. Annie Kritcher creates miniature stars—a scientific breakthrough decades in the making.

A Traverse City native, Kritcher recalls fond memories of Up North life—family visits to Petoskey, bonfires on the beach, and hanging out at the Old Mission Peninsula Lighthouse. Kritcher attended NMC from 2001 to 2003 (she was named a Distinguished Alumnus in June 2022). She credits NMC instructors Jim Coughlin (now retired) and Mike Franklin for fostering a love of engineering and physics. Kritcher remembers her NMC engineering classes in particular: “Those classes stuck out to me because we did extra-curricular stuff too,” she said. “We did some collaborations with the bigger universities like Michigan Tech...that was a really special time with my engineering friends that I started to connect with.”

After transferring to the University of Michigan, Kritcher was considering going into radiology before her friends convinced her to do an internship at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. “I saw the big laser,” she said, referring to the giant laser at the lab’s National Ignition Facility (NIF). “You get to fire the biggest laser in the world at targets and blow them up, and also do something really cool for humanity at the same time!” She completed her B.S. in Nuclear Engineering and returned to California to earn an M.S. and Ph.D at the University of California—Berkeley. In 2009, Kritcher joined the staff at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, realizing her dream of firing huge lasers.

At the NIF, Kritcher and her team study nuclear fusion—combining two lighter atoms to make one heavier one, a process which releases an enormous amount of energy. The experiment is complex: dozens of lasers are fired at a tiny cylinder, creating an “x-ray oven” that heats the BB-sized carbon sphere inside. A series of explosions and implosions squeezes the fuel inside the sphere, leading to a self-sustaining fusion reaction—what physicists call “ignition”. For a brief moment, the environment within the cylinder is the hottest place in our solar system, with a temperature more extreme than the center of our sun!

Everything must be just right for the experiment to work, Kritcher said. Her job as a physicist designer is to optimize the materials and conditions. It’s no simple task: even the smallest imperfection can lead to failure. It’s a challenge Kritcher is up for. “I like to build things,” she said, whether it’s a wine cellar to fit under her staircase at home or a precisely engineered nuclear fuel capsule.

Fusion ignition eluded scientists for nearly 60 years. To achieve ignition, a controlled fusion reaction must create more energy than what is put in. Although this happens constantly inside our sun, it is enormously difficult to accomplish on Earth. The environment required for success is so extreme that many scientists thought it a lost cause...until Dec. 5, 2022, when Dr. Kritcher and her team at NIF succeeded.

It was an explosive scientific accomplishment, proudly announced by the U.S. Department of Energy and covered by media outlets around the globe. Kritcher found herself catapulted to fame: this past April, *Time Magazine* included her in its “100 Most Influential People of 2023” alongside Beyonce, President Biden, and Neil Gaiman. This was a tremendous surprise for Kritcher—“I thought I was just doing a regular interview,” she said of her meeting with *Time’s* reporter.

Kritcher—and her colleagues at NIF—have good reason to be proud. The success of their experiment opens up new possibilities for clean energy. Unlike nuclear fission (the process used in today’s nuclear power plants), fusion produces far less radioactive waste. Fusion reactions are also much easier to stop, eliminating the risk of meltdown. This technology is still decades away, Kritcher said, but she’s encouraged by the eruption of interest and funding over the past year. (While it would be cool to see nuclear fusion as a form of spaceship propulsion, Kritcher doesn’t think it’s feasible. Sorry, sci-fi fans!)

This remarkable feat shines light on another milestone: the achievements of women in STEM fields. It can feel isolating as a woman in a male-dominated field, especially when you have a family, Kritcher noted. She is encouraged to see more diversity in the field. “Physics has no gender,” she said.

Despite her rise to stardom, Kritcher seems very down-to-Earth. When she’s not creating tiny stars in the lab, Kritcher enjoys exploring the outdoors with her husband and three young children. She confides that after 20 years of living in the Golden State she has begun to miss the snow in Northern Michigan. During her visits home, Kritcher cherishes the relaxed Midwestern vibes, journeying up Old Mission Peninsula to patronize her favorite TC restaurant, the Jolly Pumpkin.

This August, the NIF achieved fusion for a second time, breaking their previous record for energy yield. An incredible victory made possible by science superstars, including one from our very own backyard.



Photo Credit/Annie Kritcher



Photo Credit/Annie Kritcher

## NEWS

## Veterans Make an Impact on NMC

Zach Meyer  
Staff Writer

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. November 11, 1918 Armistice Day. On this day a temporary ceasefire between Germany and the Allied nations was called. Nov. 11, 1918, marks the unofficial end of World War I. The Treaty of Versailles signed on June 28, 1919, marked the official end of World War I known then as The Great War.

The following year, Nov. 11 was celebrated with parades and public gatherings. Despite many states commemorating Armistice Day on Nov. 11, it did not become a federally recognized holiday until 1938. Succeeding World War II, on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into legislation that Armistice Day would now be recognized as Veterans Day.

Since then, Veterans Day is a day to honor all active and retired service members. There are many ways to honor your veterans or active duty service members on Nov. 11. Regardless of how you celebrate, for most of veterans and active duty service members, the simple words, "Thank you for your service" will more than suffice.

But if you ever get the chance and happen to be in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day or Memorial Day, stop by the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier, an iconic memorial made for the unknown fallen soldiers of World War I. Take part in watching the Wreath Laying Ceremony and pay your respects. Whether you are an active duty or retired service member, or if you are a civilian with or without family members in the service, the Wreath Laying Ceremony is an extraordinary ceremony to witness.

According to the Veterans Affairs website, more than 150 veterans attend Northwestern Michigan College. Whether you are in the process of leaving the service and want to go back to college or attend college for the first time, or if you have been out and wish to further your education, NMC has resources to help you get started. There are none more

valuable than NMC's Student Veteran Success Coach, Alex Walsh, whose office is located in the Osterlin Building on the main Front Street campus. Walsh, an NMC graduate and Harvard University alum, has helped many service members get into top-tier Ivy League schools by connecting them with phenomenal programs and resources. For example, the Warrior-Scholar Program offers academic boot camps ranging from five days to two weeks at some of the most prestigious colleges in the country. The program is designed more specifically for individuals without a baccalaureate degree but some exceptions can be made.

Another phenomenal program geared towards veterans is the Student Veterans of America which focuses on empowering veterans in higher education. There are more than 1,200 chapters throughout the country, one of which is right here at NMC's main campus. This program has helped over 700,000 veterans to see their true potential. Contact Walsh or Chapter President Chuck Cleghorn for more information about the Student Veterans of America and the Warrior-Scholar Program.

Also located in the Osterlin building is the Veteran's Lounge. A small quiet space where you can grab free coffee and a quick snack between classes, or before studying if the Innovation Center on campus is full. The Veteran's Lounge on campus is also a great place to go if you want to connect with other veterans on campus, or if you are a fellow veteran and want to talk to someone who shares a common background. Over the past two weeks I have gone there more often myself, and have come across a small handful of veterans in the process.

One of those veterans, Abraham Chaves, is currently enrolled at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy here at NMC. He was in search of a career change and saw the opportunities it could provide for him and his family. But Chaves wasn't always into sailing. Fifteen years prior, Chaves served in the United States Marine Corps as an administrative specialist from 2008 to 2012.

He told me, one day he was outside doing yard work on his lawn when an active duty Marine walked by him. Now, if you have ever seen a Marine in their dress blue service uniform, you might understand what Chaves did next. He followed the Marine to the recruiting office and wanted to join that day.

Unfortunately, no matter how motivated and excited you are to join the service, there is a process and sometimes it's a lengthy one. For Chaves, this was not the case. Before he knew it, he was on a bus heading to Parris Island, South Carolina. Thirteen weeks later, he officially wore the title of a Marine. He thought to himself "If I can do it, anybody can do it."

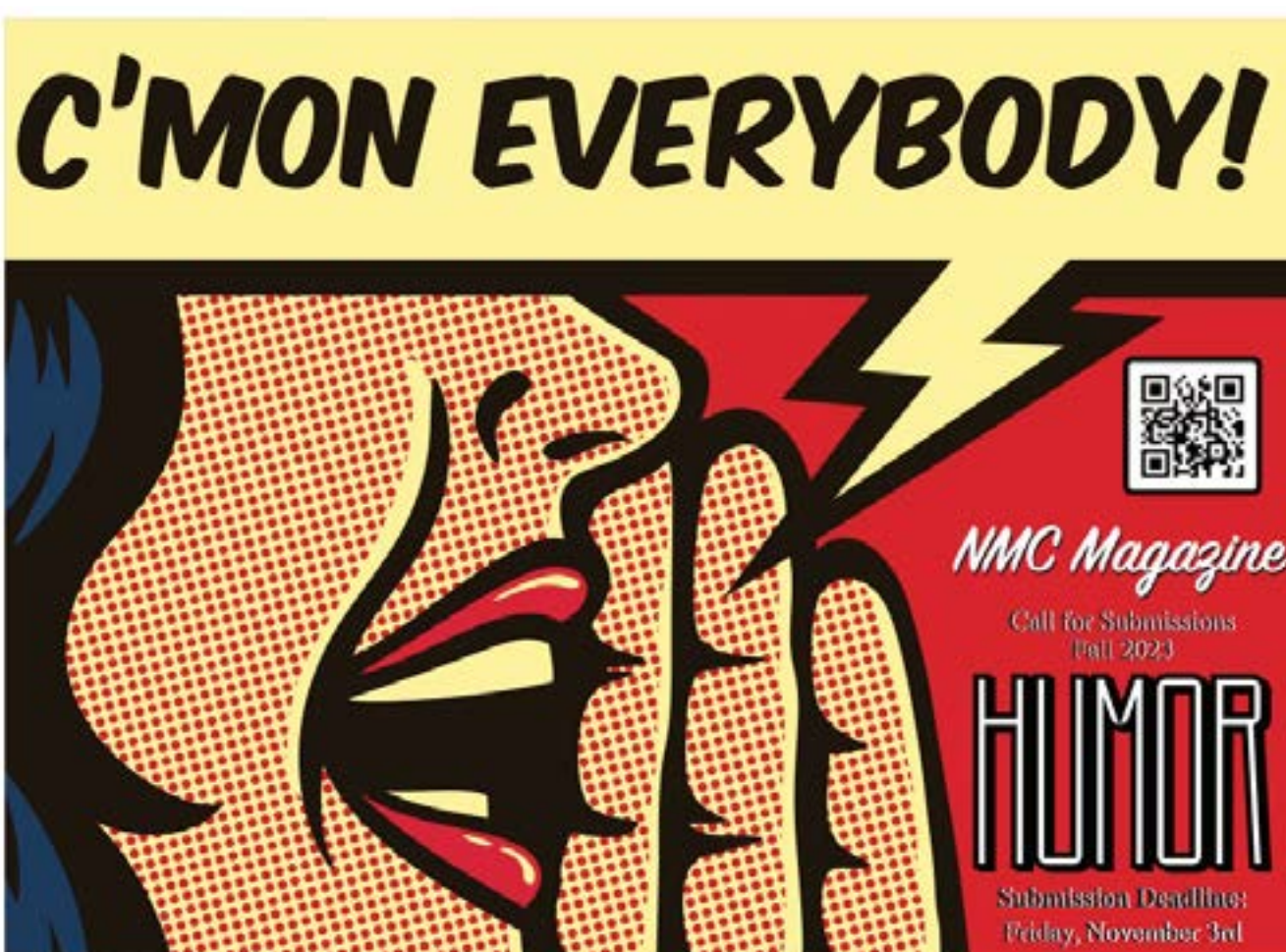
In fact, that was the very reason he joined. He wanted the challenge and thought to himself "If he can do it, why can't I?"

Eleven years later, Chaves still finds himself missing the intensity and the challenge of both becoming and being a Marine on and off the clock. But once a Marine, always a Marine.

Chaves was able to prove himself to others and most importantly, prove himself to himself. Getting the chance to meet people from all over the world and being able to share endless amounts of stories and experiences with his former buddies in the service is what he misses more than anything.

Nonetheless, he is very excited to have an opportunity at a new career with the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. But a day like Nov. 11, to Chaves, is nothing more than another day in his life. It is important to him that we learn to honor and show pride for our country at a young age and you don't have to wear a badge or serve in the Armed Forces to do so.

He believes it is especially important to find a way to honor and pay respects to former or current service members on Veterans Day, or any other day. Take the time to talk to an older service member or merchant mariner. It is something that can help you stay busy for hours, as they have a rolodex of stories that will keep you engaged and wanting more.



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# FEATURE

## Family Beyond the Holiday Dinner Table: Five Steps To Start Your Genealogical Tree

**Nathan NESTE**  
Staff Writer

The winter holidays are fast approaching, and not every student has the ability to sit down with their family members this year. If you're looking for a way

to fill those familial connections or your time during upcoming breaks, try building a different kind of tree with local resources this winter.

Genealogy is the study of tracing your own descent or family line. This is primarily done through reviewing older documents such as obituaries, immigration records, marriage, death and birth certificates. While this may seem tedious, local libraries have simplified this search so it can be done from the comfort of your own home with as little as a grandparent's name.

1. Start with a name. If you know a birthday and/or date of death, that's even better! You can type this straight into Google, or into a variety of ancestry-hunting websites, such as the well-known Ancestry.com.

NMC librarians suggest beginning with their LibGuide, an online collection of databases that includes both state records and broader records including Ellis Island Passenger Lists, MyHeritage Library Edition (which has 11 billion records from places around the world, including US census records from 1790-1940), and the Native American Records in the National Archives.

2. Once you have a name, try to find other information such as a birthday, death date, place of residence or birth, and possibly siblings' or parents' names. Once you have this information about one person, you can use it to match other records, such as matching your grandmother's census records to the recorded information about a woman's child. Then, you may have found your next match and can begin exploring who that woman was.

3. If available, ask your living relatives. Grandparents especially love to chatter, and a flip through a scrapbook via FaceTime or a chat about a great aunt or their own parents and grandparents may provide valuable information.

4. Find a method of organization. With so many different forums, it can be difficult to track a minimal amount of information across multiple papers, so do your best to condense it into notes or a traditional style tree. These can be made online with templates, or even just drawn on a piece of paper.

5. Get offline. There is so much information out there, so you may think that everything there is to know is online. Cemeteries, churches, and libraries may prove to be genuine treasures in a pit of fool's gold.

The NMC librarians suggest reaching out to both the Traverse Area District Library (TADL) and the college library for assistance, especially if you reach a dead end.



**CAPTION** NMC Osterlin librarians Elaine Beardslee and Rochelle Hammontree and a student, 1990s, via the NMC Photo Archives.

TADL has a local history website if your family is from the area, and they have a free accessible version of the Ancestry Library Edition within the library campus. Additionally, they have their own genealogical collection with information from around the country, and the collection also contains NMC's microfilm reader and collection of local newspaper microfilms that are available for you to sift through. TADL can be contacted for one-on-one assistance through their reference desk (231.932.8502) or by sending an email to: ask@tadl.org.

Right on campus, the NMC librarians can be a vital resource. Just by visiting the online library data base, you can request books from around the state, search multiple other databases, and schedule a research appointment. The librarians are open to and excited about helping for these sorts of topics, which can be coordinated through the library's website ([www.nmc.edu/library](http://www.nmc.edu/library)) or your MySuccess portal.

No matter where you stand (or sit) with your family this holiday season, there are people and resources waiting to help you if you're willing to take the leap and get started.

"Curious people are our favorites," the library staff said, "If you hit a dead end, contact the librarians at NMC and/or TADL. That's what they're there for."

Now more than ever, tracing your lineage is becoming more and more accessible. Don't wait to set up a tree or sit down for dinner to connect with just your immediate family—there is a whole world of people waiting for you to find them.



**CAPTION** NMC microfilm readers in the 80s, via the NMC Photo Archives.

## FEATURE

# NMC Holds Tenth Annual Thanks-for-Giving Program

**Ethan Vitale**  
Staff Writer

As we move steadily into the month of November, the anticipation for our beloved Christmas season of giving approaches. However, we need to keep in mind just how much giving there is still to be had for the month of November. Thanks to this year's tenth annual Thanks-for-Giving program, there will be meal boxes given out to families in need in the NMC gymnasium on Nov. 20.



Kristy McDonald's Business 231 Professional Communications class has teamed up with the NMC Food Pantry and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan for the tenth year. They plan on donating to 125-200 families in the Grand Traverse community for this Thanksgiving Holiday. McDonald said that they will be able to dedicate around 75 meals to NMC students and families in need, along with 50 additional meals to families within the greater Traverse City community thanks to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan. All students enrolled here at NMC are still able to apply for a Thanksgiving meal for themselves and their families if interested. All meals should be meant to feed approximately six people, often supplementing leftover food for the days following the holiday. Additionally, there will be a special prize drawing incorporated for any donors with monetary contributions to the program.

McDonald seemed very happy with the implementation of the Thanks-for-

Giving program within her curriculum over the years. McDonald said that over the course of her first few years running the program, she wanted to find more ways to make her class assignments "real world assignments" by putting her material into basic professional practice for the students. Now, each year, McDonald assigns a handful of certain local businesses to different students of hers. Her students will then form professional letters and emails requesting for different forms of donations from these local businesses.

Emma Herrington, a dual enrolled student at NMC is currently attending McDonald's Professional Communications class. Herrington is a 17 year old senior at Traverse City West High school, and she is already dipping her feet into forms of professional communication with local businesses for the community. She said that McDonald assigned her to reach out to Century LLC for monetary donation, the Delamar Hotel for prizes to win in the drawing, and Gogo Squeez. Herrington said that she loves being involved with things that help and bring the community together, "especially during the holidays". That being said, she wanted to throw a big shout out, and thank all community and business donors who took part in supporting the program this year. Emma said, "We couldn't have made this happen without everyone's willingness to help and support."

This annual Thanks-for-Giving program has made so many beneficial impacts in past years. McDonald mentioned the program receiving so many letters of gratitude in the past from families who were unable to afford a full Thanksgiving meal, along with working class single mothers who have lost their jobs. Thanks to members in our community like McDonald and Herrington, along with the many others who took part in this amazing annual Thanks-for-Giving event, many families in our surrounding area will have just a little more to be thankful for on this upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

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# The Move To Winter Lines

**Aidan Pool**  
Maritime  
Correspondent

On Oct. 27, the State of Michigan made its awaited return back to the dock at Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Instead of being able to roll through room inspection and being able to depart

like the other two groups, the Phase III cadets had to prepare the ship for its winter lay up.

While the lines that hold the ship to the dock for summer can be moved easily with a few cadets, her winter lines are much thicker and heavier to resist the freezing snow and wind of Michigan winter.

Prior to arrival, the ship requires a deep cleaning. This includes sweeping and swabbing the decks, wiping down all bulkheads, vacuuming all carpets or rugs, a thorough wash of all tools and utensils, and sanitizing the entire ship.

The biggest task of the entire process was the added insurance of putting a round turn of the anchor chain on one of the bits. In addition to the winter lines, the anchor chain is used to keep the ship from potentially blowing off the dock. Once the fast rescue boat was lowered down to attach a pair of tag lines to the anchor chain, all of the cadets and some of the crew put all of their weight into heaving in the heavy anchor chain. Trying to get a round turn on the bitt proved to be a challenge—moving the chain several inches exhausted the entire team. When the chain finally formed a loop around the bit, there was a collective scream of relief from the group of gassed cadets.

With all of the cadets on Phase III being from out of state, most had flights to catch, and so the scramble to get their room inspected began. Room inspections are not an easy pass, and many cadets must go back to the inspector several times before being approved and discharged. Any maintenance that is needed afterwards is delegated to cadets that have sign up for in-port sea days. With that, the cadets can pack their bags and return home after two months of being out and about on the lakes.



Photo Credit/JACOB PSZCZOLKOWSKI

SPONSORED CONTENT

## GVSU student is often a patient's first contact at hospital emergency department

**Thomas Garrett**

Grand Valley State University

“Working in the emergency department has opened my eyes to

so many experiences and new opportunities, even for my first official job in the medical field,” said Gabe Miller.

Miller is a junior in Grand Valley State University’s Allied Health Sciences program, located in Traverse City.

At Munson Medical Center, Miller has had the opportunity to work with a wide variety of medical providers as he fulfills his clinical experience. Spending his time in the emergency and trauma departments, Miller can witness and work with hospital staff in emergent situations as he prepares for his future in medicine.

“I have shadowed doctors and other providers, and they have all been amazing to witness in action,” truly inspiring.”

Miller works on an interdisciplinary team and is one of a patient’s first contacts at the hospital. Some of his duties include taking patient vitals, removing obstructive clothing, drawing blood and sending specimens to the lab for testing.

“I could not be more thankful for the people with



Gabe Miller

whom I work with,” said Miller. “I have learned so much about patient care and professionalism from all of them. They are, and continue to be, one of the reasons I work as hard as I do.”

After earning an associate degree from Northwestern Michigan College, Miller entered GVSU’s Allied Health Science Program in Traverse City, where he is working to finish a bachelor’s degree and a leadership certificate. Miller said he hopes to become a physician assistant and plans to enter some of the same fields as his mentors.

“I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else; I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a GVSU student, but to live at home,” says Miller.

Once Miller completes his education, he would like to concentrate on rural health care. He

recently received an invitation to join the Young Rural Champions group, an initiative affiliated with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Planning. The primary aim of this group is to enhance the retention of young talent in rural regions.

This cohort of Young Rural Champions comprises students and recent graduates from various disciplines within northern Michigan, each with their unique areas of expertise. Miller said he intends to assume a leading role in the health care sector.

He said, “While our population is steadily growing and continuing to age, the demand for medical care is growing.”

He said, “While our population is steadily growing and continuing to age, the demand for medical care is growing.”

### GVSU Allied Health Sciences in Traverse City

A bachelor’s degree in Allied Health Sciences at Grand Valley prepares you for a career in the health care field or for graduate health-related programs at GVSU. Take the next step by visiting [gvsu.edu/tchealth](https://gvsu.edu/tchealth).