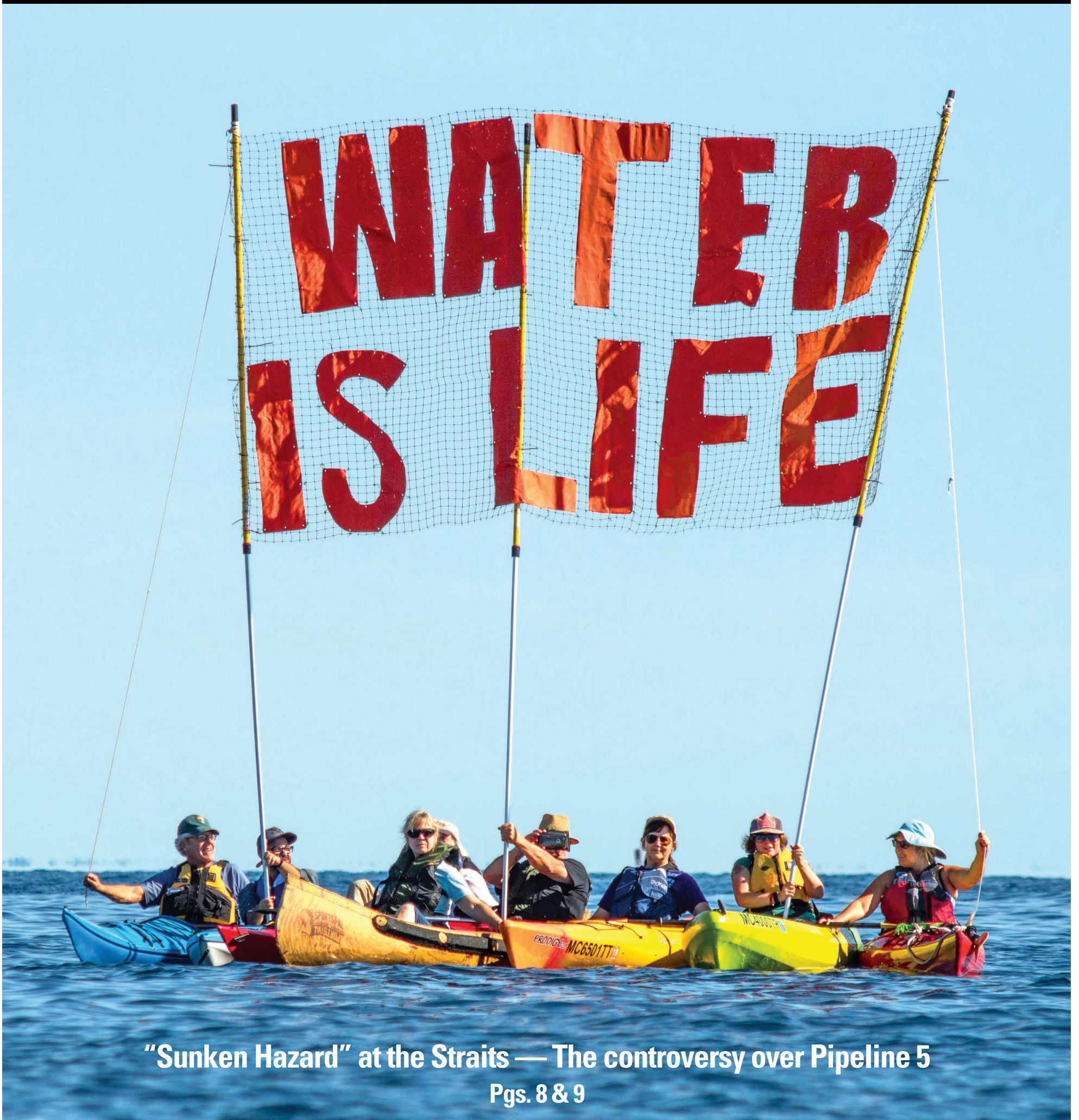


# WHITE PINE PRESS

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



**"Sunken Hazard" at the Straits — The controversy over Pipeline 5**

**Pgs. 8 & 9**



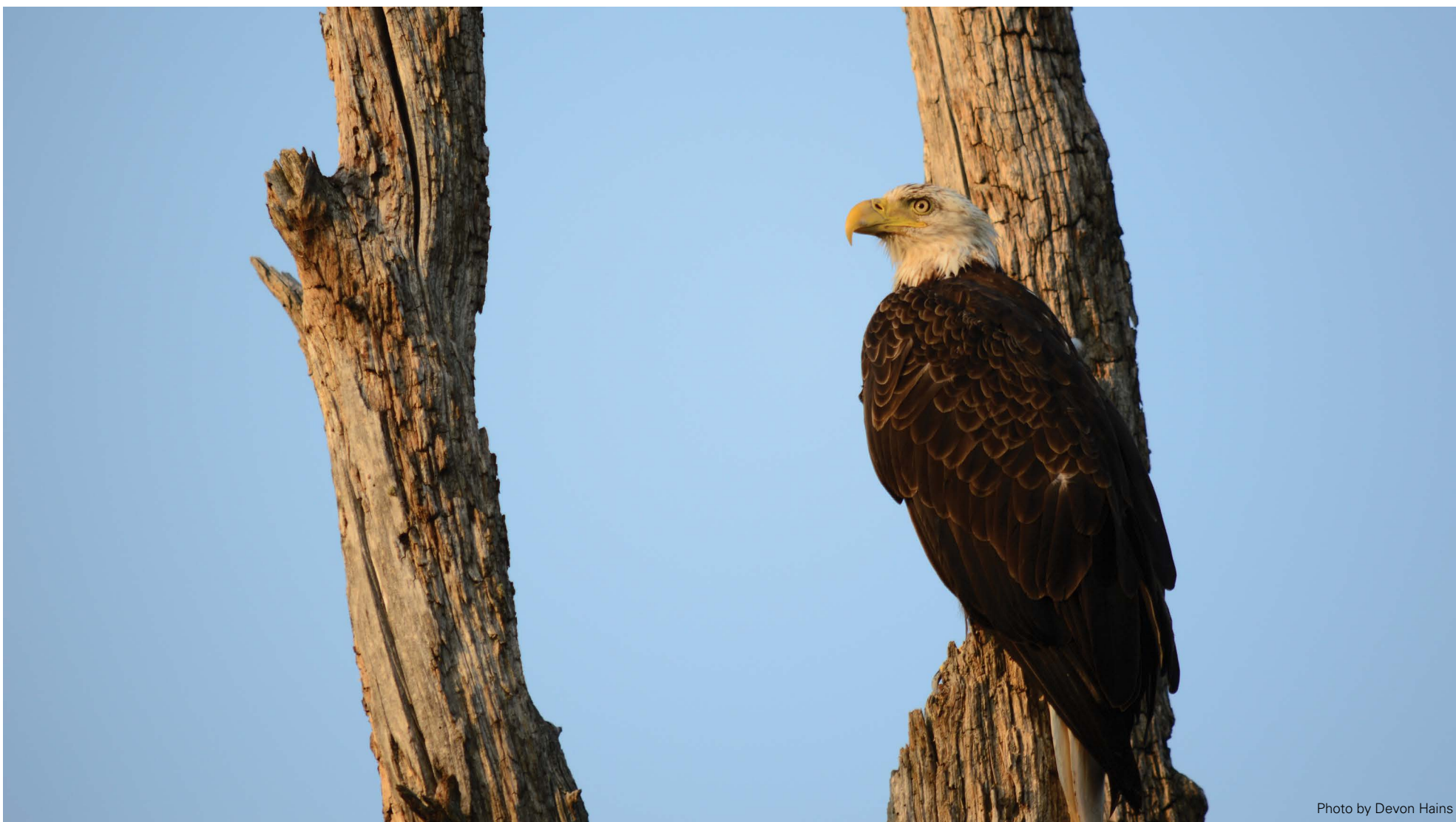


Photo by Devon Hains

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
**WHITE PINE PRESS**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Breanne Russell

**COPY EDITOR** Ann Hosler

**STAFF WRITERS** Tom Clarke  
 Sam Gorcyca  
 Zack Harrington  
 Lauren Horan  
 Ann Hosler  
 Deanna Luton  
 Taylor McLain  
 London Rauch  
 James Robinson

**WEB/PAGE DESIGNER** Kenna Marar

**STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** Devon Hains

**FACULTY ADVISER** Jacob Wheeler  
**DESIGN ADVISER** Kathy Schwartz

The *White Pine Press* welcomes comments, suggestions, ideas for news stories and calendar items.

**NEWSROOM** 231.995.1173  
**DISTRIBUTION** 231.995.1322  
**ADVERTISING** 231.995.1996  
**FAX** 231.995.2110  
**EMAIL** whitepinepress@gmail.com

*Printed by Stafford Media Solutions and distributed free.*  
**Printed on 100% recycled paper**

**Are you registered to vote?**

If you haven't registered to vote your days are numbered — but don't worry, there are ways to check your registration status and many resources to get you registered. October 11 is the last day to register for Michigan residents. It is important to get your registration form turned in, either in person or mailed, to your local Secretary of State office. Voter registration **cannot** be done online in Michigan. Also, educate yourself about local elections and propositions as well as national elections.

**Register to Vote:** [www.vote.gov](http://www.vote.gov)

**Check if you're registered:** [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote)

**MI Voter Guide:** [www.mlive.com/voterguide](http://www.mlive.com/voterguide)

**Remember to vote Tues. Nov. 8th**

**WPP launches new website!**

Exciting news! The White Pine Press has launched its new website:

**[www.whitepinepresstc.com](http://www.whitepinepresstc.com)**

The new site not only updates the WPP look but will offer more to our readers: breaking news, latest issues, archive issues, interactive PDFs, event calanders, staff bios, and more!

Make sure to check it out and bookmark!

**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/nondiscrimination](http://nmc.edu/nondiscrimination)

# Turmoil over tuition

## Students' costs on the rise

**Breanne Russell**  
Editor in Chief

Tuition at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) is up. Again. Over the last five years, students have faced each fall semester with a gradual hike in costs. This semester, that increase surged to 7.6%. The highest so far, bumping up the previous In District tuition (those living in Grand Traverse County) from \$96.35 to \$103.70 per credit hour, and Out of District from \$190.80 to \$205.30.

The usual suspects are to blame. Fall 2016 enrollment is down 5% from last year, although 1% higher than projected, and economic growth is steady, meaning fewer students are looking to higher education to help them pursue new job avenues. State funded job re-training grants have also decreased.

The upward trend in tuition cost will most likely continue. "When we had high increases in enrollment, when the economy was in the decline, we were really conscious not to increase tuitions too much, keeping at about a 2% level," says Vickie Cook, NMC's Vice President of Finance and Administration. But when asked if

**"We are very conscious of our tuition increases. I always look at the dollar amount... If you see a university raise tuition by 3% and we raise ours by 3% it's a whole different story."**

**-Vicki Cook,  
NMC Vice President  
of Finance and Administration**

NMC has ever decreased tuition, when the administration faces a budget surplus, Cook replied "I have never experienced anybody lowering their tuition."

In comparison to state colleges, NMC tuition could be seen as modest. NMC's 2016-2017 tuition and fees are estimated at \$7,954 for In District students, compared to University of Michigan's \$14,402 for In State residences. It is a detail Cook does not overlook. "We are very conscious of our tuition increases. I always look at the dollar amount... if you see a university raise tuition by 3% and we raise ours by 3% it's a whole different story." Same percentage, sizable monetary difference.

NMC relies on four means for its revenue: tuition, property taxes, state aid and other investments. Because both property taxes and

state aid have seen limited increases, this puts the burden of a balanced budget onto the students. Tuition revenue at NMC is 53%, 12% higher than the state average.

Increasing tuition is not the only way NMC plans on balancing the budget. The budget model put forth by the Planning and Budget council currently recommends five ways to reduce overall costs: a decrease in full time employees, a halt to faculty salary changes, and a reduction in professional development (money spent on conferences, etc.), Capital Outlay Allocation (submitted requests for equipment over \$5,000) and Plant Transfers (investments of revenue toward new projects).

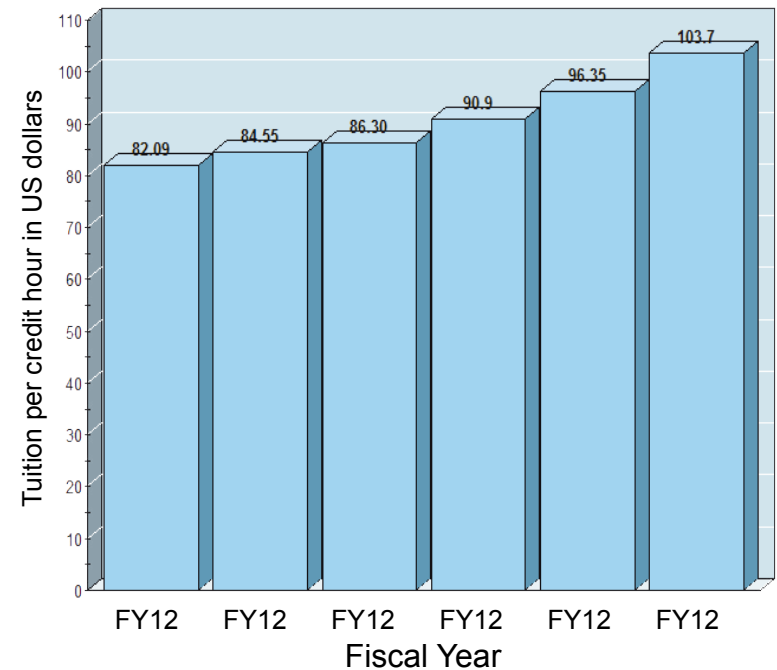
Although NMC is not implementing a hiring freeze, the school's administration is scrutinizing vacant positions and replacement requests, to reach the proposed goal of a \$450,000 reduction in personnel costs for the 2017 fiscal year. But this is not being done by terminating employees. All current open positions became vacant through retirement or resignation.

Cook also contends that NMC continuously strives to attract new students to its ever expanding specialty programs. "We are focusing on those unique aspects of the college to help build our enrollment and stabilize [it], not just rely on tuition increases to balance our budget."

As the year moves toward fiscal prudence, some have questioned the motives surrounding such a tuition increase.

In March 2015, select faculty members formed a union through the Michigan Education Association (MEA). Contract negotiations are still in limbo,

**NMC Tuition Rates - In District**



having met a total of 17 times before March 2016, plus an additional seven meetings with MERC mediators between March and August. With faculty contracts uncertain, and the cost in legal representation for the college building, some ask whether the tuition increase is a way to stockpile reserves for unforeseeable expenses.

Cook says that the 2017 budget was built without changes to faculty compensation. "They are frozen at the level that they are right now until we reach an agreement," she says. In response to legal fees, she says that it is an investment in the future of the school. "When you're building a foundation it's important to get it right... we would be irresponsible not to have an attorney navigate the process."

But as negotiations drag on, the battle threatens to put more financial strain on the college. Meanwhile, many faculty have seen a salary freeze, while some in the administration have not.

President Tim Nelson just received a tenure extension and a salary increase from \$186,684 to \$205,238 over a two-year period. The first raise to \$196,600 will occur at the beginning of the year. On top of that, Nelson will receive both an annual \$20,000 allowance and a 205-day vacation package.

This move has been questioned, given current conditions, with the faculty union accusing the administration of socking away considerable reserves and students bearing the costs of a tuition increase.

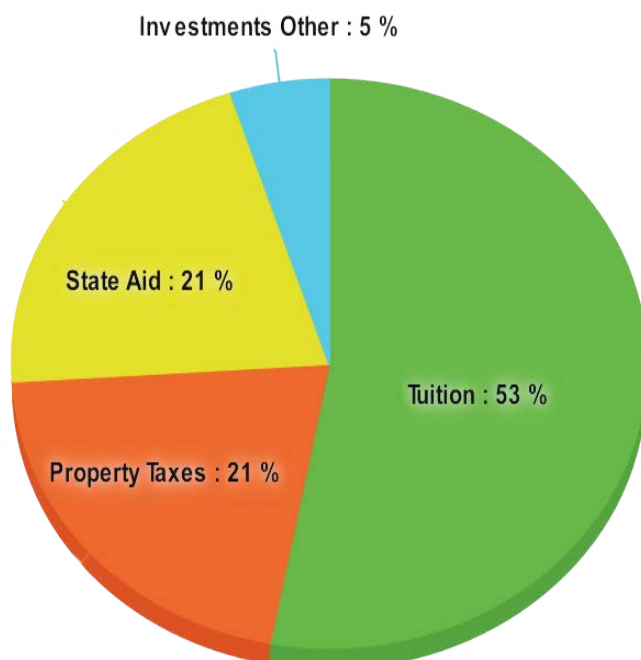
To others it is merely bad timing. "The contract extension and salary change are the result of a multi-year, college-wide compensation review," says NMC President Tim Nelson. "Over the course of the review, I deferred my annual raises until the review process was complete."

But as these bureaucratic ramifications unfold, it is the students who continue to pay.

National student debt has exploded to over \$1 trillion. Many rely on community colleges to offset expensive state and private college tuition. But as community colleges continue a trend of increasing tuition, the future of affordable education is threatened.

Luckily for NMC, this year's 1% increase over projected enrollment means fall revenue is above budget by \$388,201. In the next fiscal year, NMC's administration could make the decision not to raise tuition and spare its students more financial responsibility.

**NMC Revenue Sources**





# Alumni Spotlight: Sally Rogers

**Deanna Luton**  
Staff Writer

Nexus,  
the  
large



Artist Sally Rogers

stainless steel and granite sculpture outside the Health and Science building, was commissioned in 2004 to artist Sally Rogers: creative mind, internationally renowned sculptress, and NMC alumna.

“The definition of... ‘Nexus’ is a connection or series of connections linking two or more things,” Rogers explains. “I thought that was a very apt word for what a college or academic institution provides to its students. I wanted to create a visual metaphor that referenced both the physical connectivity of students, faculty, staff, and facilities. NMC serves as a nexus of learning for individuals all across northwestern Michigan.”

Rogers attended NMC from 1978 to 1981, earning her Associate of Liberal Arts degree. Those years, immersed in art, remain very dear. “[We] spent long hours at our home-away-from-home, the Fine Arts Building. We discussed, we studied, we drew and painted and sculpted and made pots with great dedication — and we were very much encouraged by the faculty and staff to do so.” But her artistic curiosity blossomed well before her college years. Around the age of 12 or 13, Rogers took “College for Kids” courses in ceramics, which opened her eyes to the world of sculpture.

Following her Masters in Fine Arts from Kent University,

Rogers’ work has been exhibited in museums both nationally and worldwide, written about in art publications, and has become well-established in both the private and public sector. Her success, she believes, grew from the tools she acquired at NMC.

Rogers has left her mark on the world with pieces like “Zygos”, a 21-foot sculpture made from granite and stainless steel, commissioned for Charlotte, North Carolina in 2007. It was challenging work that pushed her limits with “scale, weight, complexity, engineering and installation.”

“I really felt ‘on fire’ with a passion for the work I was doing, and those early years at NMC cemented a pattern of living 24/7 with my art, well outside the boundaries of the 40-hour-work-week concept. It set me on the course of ‘art is life’ (not just ‘art is my work’) and to this day there are no boundaries or limits to how I shape my work days.”

Hard work and perseverance runs in her veins. Her father, Joseph Rogers, an early professor at NMC, dedicated much of his life to bettering the college and the surrounding community. In fact, Rogers Observatory was the outcome of years of persistence and commitment—two traits Rogers herself continues to exhibit.

Currently, Rogers advises NMC art students on their own paths to success. “I have worked hard to market my work in a variety of venues, from gallery representation, to trade shows,

to public and private commissions, to online opportunities and sales platforms. My advice to young, aspiring artists would be to experiment with ‘all of the above’ to find which ones work best for your type of work. It is more important to concentrate on what you are making than where you might be selling it—especially at the college level. Good work will eventually find its market.”

Rogers will be having a mixed-media sculpture exhibit at the Dennon Museum next year, opening in June 2017.

“Last night I stayed up until 4:30 a.m. firing off a very large glass-casting mold. This is my ‘normal,’ and it got its start at NMC.”



Photo by White Pine Press

“Nexus” 2004, stainless steel, Dakota mahogany granite, Travers City, MI.



**The best stories start  
in unexpected places.**

## Yours starts here.

Ferris is right here at Northwestern Michigan College. Come explore a world of possibilities you didn't expect to find so close to home. You'll find your calling, your degree, and the best place to start your story. Find yourself at Ferris-Traverse City.

**Learn more.**

[ferris.edu/traversecity](http://ferris.edu/traversecity)





# Scholarships: Scores and Scams

**Deanna Luton**  
Staff Writer

Scholarships are a wonderful way to subsidize cost of tuition. Unlike loans, scholarships do not require repayment.

NMC offers many scholarships in hopes of supporting students who demonstrate academic prestige or financial need. Being able to apply these funds to tuition or other expenses can relieve some of the financial burden and stress college puts on students' shoulders. They are like snowflakes, each are unique in their own way. Applying is the first step in the search for a scholarship that is perfect for you.

## Where & Who

"The best place to start is on the NMC website: [www.nmc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html](http://www.nmc.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html)," says Carly McCall, NMC Foundation Coordinator. "[There] you can complete the General Scholarship Application and be matched with available scholarships. It is also highly recommended that anyone seeking scholarship support or other financial aid complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)."

It is easy to apply for NMC's internal scholarships. You can access the scholarship link from your student site (MyNMC). Click the "Scholarships" icon and you're on your way. Click "sign in", log into your institution, and from there you will fill out a general application.

These scholarship opportunities are often sorted by area of study, extracurricular activity, demographic background, and other specific identifiers such as the need to pay for child care. With a wide variety to choose from, it is likely there is a scholarship opportunity out there for every individual student at NMC.

## How Much

"The average scholarship awarded from NMC Foundation-raised funds during the 2015-2016 year was \$885," says McCall. "Most scholarships are split between the two semesters, so that would be approximately \$443 per semester, per scholarship. However, students may receive more than one scholarship." Overall scholarship funding is down from two



years ago, but since enrollment is also down, less students are applying for scholarships. "The average scholarship award has actually increased by approximately \$60 over the past 3 years."

## Other Options

Once you have submitted applications to NMC's internal scholarships there are also external scholarships to explore, which may provide less certainty but are often associated with bigger companies and larger award packages. All external scholarships require their own applications to be submitted, which can be a downside as the NMC general application cannot be applied.

FastWeb.com is another resource that consolidates external scholarships. After creating a profile and identifying various interests and strengths, FastWeb will search and filter out scholarship opportunities that fit your needs. They are also a search engine for internships. The more information you put into your profile, the more specific the scholarships will be.

## Scams

Be wary of scams. Many fraudulent scholarships advertise application fees, guaranteed successful outcomes, advance fee loans, and sales pitches crafted to seem like helpful financial aid "seminars."

Scholarship scams often try to establish credibility with names that sound official and mimic other legitimate government agencies and grant giving foundations like

"National," "Federal," "Foundation," or "Administration."

Victims of these scams have been reported to lose anywhere from thousands to possibly millions of dollars collectively on an annual basis. Be diligent in fact-checking the credibility of an organization, especially if they are trying to make you pay a fee up front.

## Types of Scams

The first category is scholarships that just never materialize. These are easy to write off because victims just assume they didn't win the scholarship.

Another is scholarships that operate for profit. These always look convincing but require an application fee. Charging fees from \$5 to \$35, with the average scam offering payouts anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000, they can easily afford to reward one or two students \$1,000 scholarships to keep up appearances. However, the chances of winning one of these are slim to none.

The advance fee loan is another scam that offers an unusually low-interest education loan which requires you to pay a fee before receiving the funds. After paying this fee, the promised money is never disbursed. Real students loans never require an upfront fee, they always take fees out of disbursement checks.

Scholarship prizes are another category of scams. You're told you've won thousands of dollars but require you to pay a "disbursement" or "redemption" fee before releasing your prize. If you've never entered or submitted an application for a prize be especially wary.

Also, keep your eye out for guaranteed scholarships. Any service claiming a 100% success rate for matching students to potential scholarships is most likely lying. There is no way that a third party can guarantee a scholarship winner. Those decisions are made by scholarship committees. These search engines guarantee you'll win or they'll refund your money. Then, after paying, they simply take your money and disappear.

Internal scholarships are a safer bet than venturing into the world of external scholarships. But if you do, be cautious. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

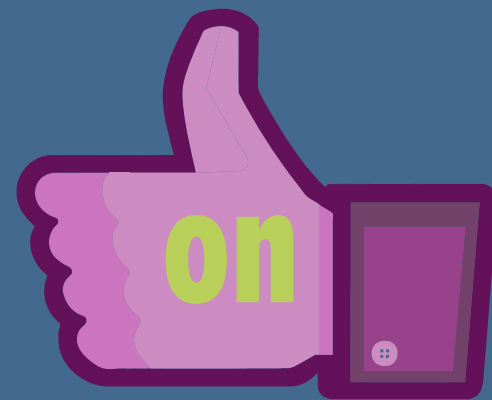


  
**THINK YOU MAY BE  
PREGNANT?**  
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER  
CAN HELP YOU!

**Free &  
Confidential**  
**231-929-3488**  
**KNOW4SURE.ORG**



**Like us**



**facebook**

facebook.com/thewhitepinepress





One of the signs on display at the Mackinac Bridge Walk Labor day protest.



# “Sunken Hazard” at

## The controversy over Pipe



Protesters of all ages hold their signs at TC350 Pipeline Protest, with Grand Traverse Bay as their backdrop.



People line entire intersection of Grandview Parkway and Union Street with signs opposing the The DA pipeline, and Line 5.

**Jamie Robinson**  
Staff Writer

When thinking about the Straits of Mackinac, many Michiganders may recall fond memories of visiting Fort Michilimackinac or riding the ferry to Mackinac Island. Others may recall walking the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day or driving over the bridge while scanning the horizon for large freighters traversing the Great Lakes. However, what some residents and visitors may not know is that a major oil pipeline runs beneath the Straits, just west of the Mackinac Bridge.

This pipeline, known as Line 5, was constructed in 1953 for the Canadian-based company Enbridge Energy in order to transport oil and natural gas from western Canada to refineries in Ontario. Beginning in Superior, Wisconsin, the 30-inch diameter, 645-mile long pipeline crosses the Upper Peninsula, migrates down through the northern Lower Peninsula and the thumb region, and terminates in Sarnia, Ontario. At the Straits, the 30-inch pipeline separates into two 20-inch diameter lines, which carry oil and natural gas along the lake bottom before reconnecting with the land-based pipeline.

With 540,000 barrels (nearly 22.7 million gallons) of oil and natural gas flowing through the line every day, many local governments, businesses, and environmental organizations are concerned about the risk of a catastrophic oil spill occurring in the Great Lakes. In the fall of 2012, the National Wildlife Federation released “Sunken Hazard”, a report outlining the risks posed by the twin pipelines. According to the report, the lines “have been subjected to fierce underwater currents, intense external pressure, and varying water temperatures for nearly 60 years.” If a spill were to occur, it could greatly impact fisheries, tourism, and municipal drinking water supplies, among other things. As far as the public knows, the pipeline has yet to spill oil into Lakes Michigan and Huron. If it does, this would be “one of

the worst places in the Great Lakes for an oil spill,” due to the powerful currents in the region.

University of Michigan Water Center research scientist, David Schwab, produced computer simulations of multiple scenarios showing the potential impacts a spill at the Straits could have on the surrounding region. According to the simulations, a major oil spill—one million gallons of oil over a 12-hour period—could reach as far west as Beaver Island and cover much of the northern coastline of Lake Huron over a 20 day period.

Ryan Duffy, Enbridge’s regional communications and media relations manager, states that Schwab’s model is “not representative of anything more than how water move. [It is] based on an outrageous volume of oil spilled ... [and] it assumes there is no response to contain and collect the oil.” In a recent interview with Jacob Wheeler, NMC instructor and editor of the *Glen Arbor Sun*, Duffy made it clear that Enbridge plans to continue operating Line 5. “Every year we hold training sessions and emergency response exercises with local emergency responders and other officials and members of the public,” Duffy said. “We don’t anticipate a spill based on the excellent condition of the pipe. But we are well prepared regardless.”

Others are more skeptical of the pipeline and believe it is too much of a risk to allow its continued operation in the Straits. The Oil and Water Don’t Mix campaign has gained many supporters through its work “to protect the Great Lakes and Michigan inland waterways by eliminating the potential for an oil spill.” Consisting of several organizations, such as FLOW, the Groundwork Center, and TC350, the campaign is working to find alternatives to the pipelines in the Straits. Jim Lively, a program director with the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, has been a key player in the campaign. In a recent interview with the *Glen Arbor Sun*, Lively referred to the





Photos by Devon Hains

# the Straits Line 5

## Enbridge Line 5 Spills

YEAR	CITY	STATE	BARRELS
1988	Mackinac, MI		40
1990	Mackinac, MI		15
1992	Superior, WI		7
1993	Lapeer, MI		5
1993	Gogebic, MI		100
1994	St. Clair, MI		1
1999	Crystal Falls, MI		5300
2002	Superior, WI		10
2003	Bay City, MI		500
2004	Superior, WI		40
2005	Bay City, MI		100
2006	Sterling, MI		1
2006	Marysville, MI		20
2010	Lapeer, MI		1
2012	Sterling, MI		20

\* One barrel = 42 U.S. gallons

Data from :www.oilandwaterdontmix.org/enbridge\_safety\_record

**“These lakes are central to our existence. Michiganders have always proven to be fierce protectors of them.”**

**-Jim Lively, program director  
Groundwork Center**

63-year-old pipelines as “part of an antiquated mindset that would accept risking our precious freshwater for the profit of a Canadian oil pipeline company.” The Groundwork Center works to protect the environment, while strengthening the economy and building the community—the three main principles of sustainability. The Great Lakes are a vital component in making sustainable decisions in Michigan. “These lakes are central to our existence,” Lively explains. “Michiganders have always proven to be fierce protectors of them.”

While the groups within the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign are united by a common goal—protecting the Great Lakes from a potential oil spill—they each propose different solutions to the problem. Some groups seek to replace and upgrade the pipeline. Other groups seek to reroute the pipeline so it bypasses the Straits of Mackinac and the Great Lakes. Groups such as TC350, focused on eliminating dependence on fossil fuels, seek to permanently remove the pipeline.

Whichever side of the controversy you may be on, it is imperative that we protect our precious water resources.

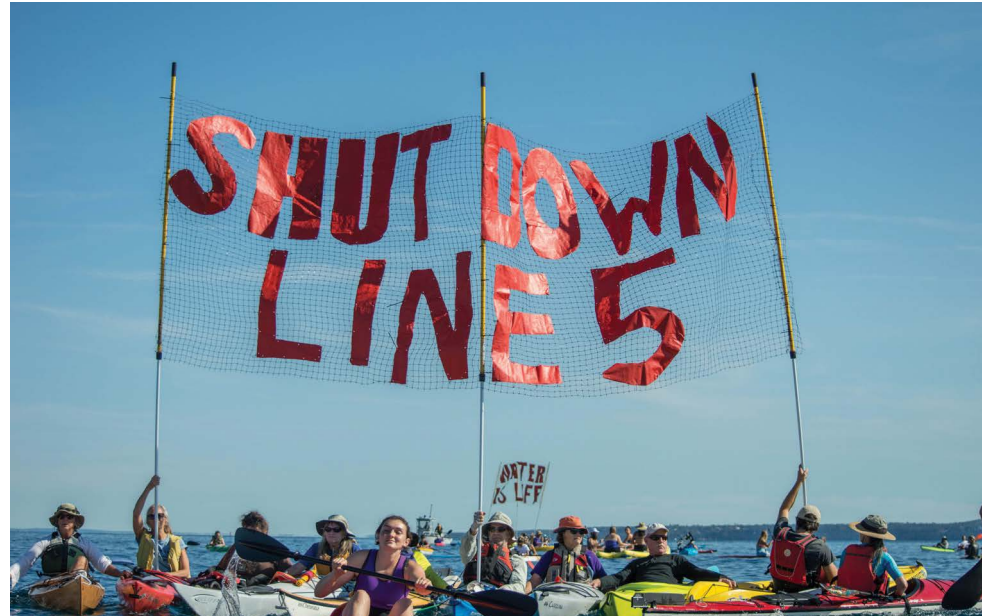
For more information:

TC350: [tc350.org](http://tc350.org)

Enbridge: [enbridge.com](http://enbridge.com)

F.L.O.W.: [flowforwater.org](http://flowforwater.org)

Oilandwaterdontmix.org



Paddlers raise signs as waves push against them in the Straits of Mackinac.



TC350 is Traverse City's chapter of 350.org, a global environmental organization that aims to reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



The American Indian Movement, hold their flag as another member voices their opposition to Pipeline 5, and their passion to protect the Great Lakes.



# Tupac: Twenty Years Forward

**London Rauch**  
Staff Writer



Twenty years ago, the world lost someone who was arguably one of the most influential figures in hip hop music and culture. On September 7, 1996 iconic rapper Tupac Shakur was shot several times during a drive-by assault. He later died in a nearby hospital.

Shakur, also referred to by his stage names 2Pac or Makaveli, was ranked one of the greatest artists of all time by Rolling Stone and has had albums among the bestselling charts in the United States. Touching on subjects like inner city violence, economic hardship, and racial injustice, Shakur was a prominent activist as well as an artist and producer.

Aside from Billboard topping singles, Shakur was well known for his involvement in the East Coast vs. West Coast gang rivalry, and more notably, his infamous feud with fellow rapper Christopher Wallace (better known as The Notorious B.I.G.). Although evidence was found to be inconclusive, it is speculated that Wallace and his associates were involved in Shakur's murder. To make matters more suspicious, a mere six months later Wallace was also shot and killed.

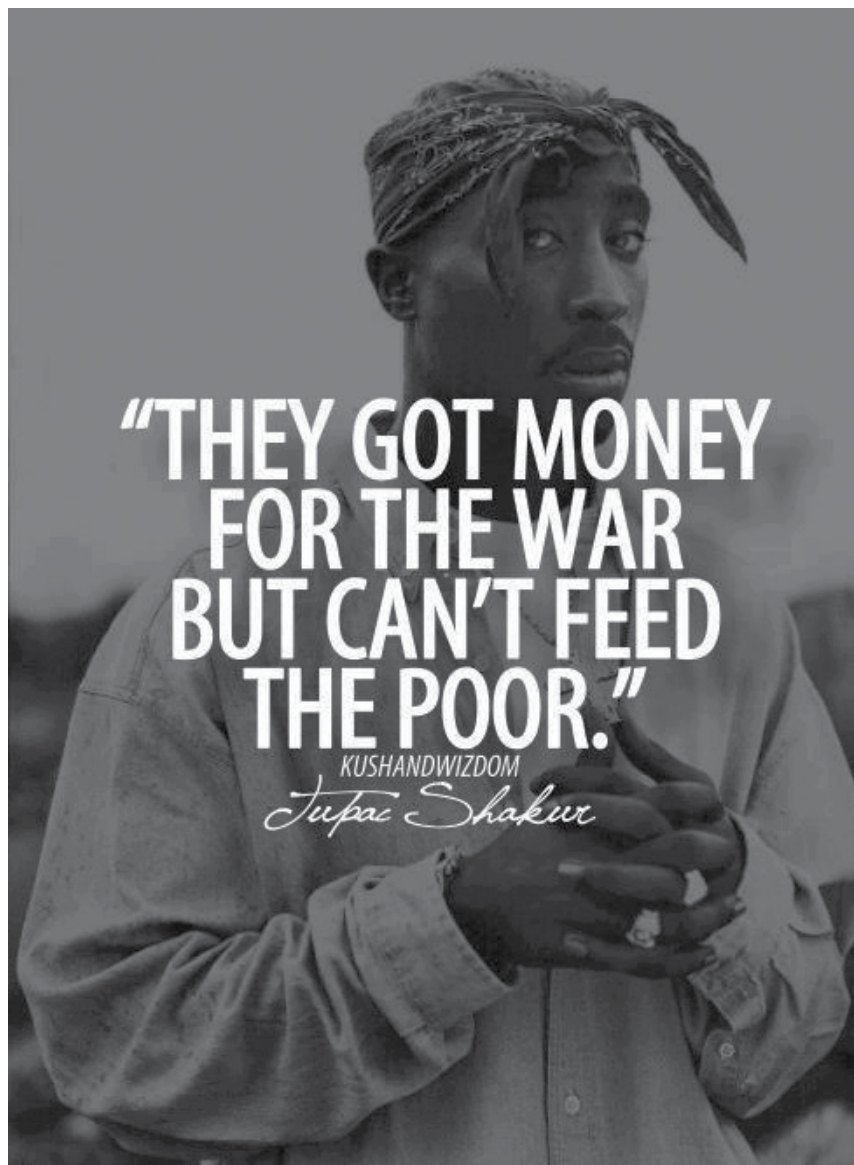
It is believed the two murders are linked to each other, even though there is nothing to support the claim.

Some people have reached other conclusions about Shakur's sudden death.

"There are these racial overtones that have to do with [theories that] the government [is] trying to suppress these artists because of where they were potentially going with the black movement," Los Angeles Police detective Greg Kading stated in a CNN interview relating to the documentary *Murder Rap: Inside the Biggie and Tupac Murders*. Shakur's lyrics centered around life in the inner city and struggles that black Americans endured — a Black Lives Matter activist ahead of his time.

"[Shakur] was a street poet and he spoke for the people in the hood," stated writer and Shakur's friend of Shakur, Kevin Powell in his book *The Education of Kevin Powell*. "He was constantly pushing the limits of what an artist could do in the tradition of a Marvin Gaye, Bob Dylan, and Nina Simone."

Twenty years forward the death of this memorable artist remains unsolved. Tupac Shakur's legacy carries on, inspiring a movement that will continue for years to come.



## A Class-ical Review

**Taylor McLain** As I study, sweat, and  
Staff Writer bleed through my  
sophomore year, I look  
back on the previous semesters and think about how nice it would've been to have a friend or family member who went through the same general education classes I had. Not that the instructors or my classmates were in any way unhelpful, or the syllabus was unclear, but for many people—myself included — nothing can compare to first-hand experiences.

So for all the NMC students worried about mandatory gen ed classes, who put them off and focus on electives, who want a balance between the two, or for those who want to get them over with as painlessly as possible (like I did), here are some helpful tips and experiences straight from an exhausted student's mouth.

My review of: MTH 23 Beginning Algebra with Deb Pharo.

As an English major, math has never been my greatest subject. In fact, I want the shirt that reads "I'm an English major, you do the math". Needless to say, this was the class I was least looking forward to. I wanted to get all my gen ed classes over with as soon as possible (not unlike ripping duct-tape off of one's arm), but still, dreaded math was postponed until spring semester of this year. To make matters worse, a terrible stomach flu made me want to throw up on the first day.

As the last to join class, I took the solitary seat in the front left instead of the back like I'd been hoping, so I could cower and go unnoticed. With my mind in a nauseous funk, I messed up some simple math, and got a taste of what was to come.

You'd think I hated the class more than anything, but surprisingly (trust me it came as quite a personal shock), while I can't say I had tons of fun, at the end of the course I felt like I'd mastered something. Conquered one of my biggest weaknesses. I was a Superman and immune to Kryptonite. That feeling alone made it worthwhile.

Now, of course I wouldn't be anywhere near this level of confidence without the help of the instructor, Deb Pharo, who I could always catch at the end of class to ask questions (I wasn't comfortable asking in front of everyone). She assisted me in figuring out which future class I should take, which helped me to avoid a whole extra semester of math.

One day when I did make a mistake, Ms. Pharo used it to teach the whole class the importance of double checking your work without singling me out as the class dunce.

My advice: Don't procrastinate. If you do the work ahead of time, even by a week or two, you'll have plenty of free time later in the course. Ask your instructor for help. They are there for you. Do your best. Buy the online code that comes with the book, not just the book (like I did). Remember that you only need a C. And just stick with it. If an English major like me can do the math (even if he still doesn't like it), you can too.



# The Era of Binge Watching

**Ann Holser**  
Staff Writer

Storytelling, according to *House of Cards* star Kevin Spacey, is central to our experiences: great stories can touch our hearts and bond us together.

To the packed crowd of Cisco Live 2016 attendees in Las Vegas and those of us livestreaming at home this summer, Spacey described that, after Executive Producer David Fincher was turned down by several networks for not having a pilot filmed, he approached Netflix. The company took a chance, allowing him creative freedom to shoot two entire seasons before airing a single episode. It took an even bigger risk—releasing an entire season at the same time. “You want control. You want the freedom,” Spacey told the crowd.

On February 1, 2013, binge watching became a cultural phenomenon.

According to the dictionary, binge watching (or binging) means to watch multiple videos, episodes of a TV show, and other media in one sitting or over a short period of time. A February 2014 survey conducted by Netflix showed a majority of their viewers considered binging to be watching 2–6 episodes of the same show in a single sitting. Many subscription services now

offer their own original series, giving viewers access to not only more to binge, but also quality storytelling that thinks outside the box.

Netflix’s subscription streaming service has various tiers ranging from \$7.99 to \$11.99 per month, granting viewers access to their revolving catalog of television shows, movies, and original series such as *House of Cards*, *Orange is the New Black*, and *Stranger Things*. It isn’t the only streaming choice out there, however. Hulu recently switched to subscription-only service and offers a wide variety of TV shows, exclusives, originals such as *Casual*, and an optional Showtime add-on. Amazon Prime subscribers have access to thousands of free streaming options and a handful of original series.

Even cable television is getting in on the binge-watching craze. HBO capitalized on the popularity of shows such as *Game of Thrones* and offers its stand-alone service HBO Now for \$14.99, the first time a premium network broke away from the cable packaging mold. CBS launched its All-Access streaming platform, available for either \$5.99 (with ads) or \$9.99 (ad-free), but its offerings are paltry with only the upcoming new *Star Trek* series, *Discovery*, wooing viewers.

Paul Ladochi, a student in NMC’s CIT Infrastructure program, is an occasional binge watcher who uses Netflix and Hulu for the majority of his streaming. “I like to wait until the season is out before watching it. I don’t like being kept in the dark about what’s going to happen.”

When asked what the first show he binged was, Ladochi said that he was afraid to look at his Netflix history, likening it to Pandora’s box.

“The last time I had cable TV was 2012,” Nichole Hartley, a Visual Communications student at NMC, said. “The [cable] channels I like I can typically watch on Netflix. I like the fact that I only pay \$4.99 a month and have all these shows and movies.”

Both Ladochi and Hartley commented that sometimes they’ve lost some sleep due to binge watching, but neither allows it to affect school or work. “If it’s something new, I typically can’t watch it [at night] because I won’t go to sleep,” Nichole explained. “But if I feel my homework is done, I’ll turn on Netflix and binge watch.”

Kevin Spacey understands what lies in the heart of a binge watcher. Pointing out that television streaming services learned the lesson that the music industry didn’t, he

told the Cisco Live audience that if you “give people what they want, when they want it, in the form they want it...they’ll more than likely pay for it, rather than steal it.” Given the millions of subscribers Netflix has, we have to agree.

## Great Shows to Binge On

*Game of Thrones* (HBO)

*House of Cards* (Netflix)

*Transparent* (Amazon)

*Doctor Who* (BBC/Amazon)

*Breaking Bad* (AMC/Netflix)

*Mr. Robot* (USA/Amazon)

*The Wire* (HBO/Amazon)

*American Horror Story* (FX)

*Arrested Development*

(Hulu/Netflix)



## YOUR PATHWAY TO A BETTER FUTURE

### EARN A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN LIBERAL STUDIES

Our flexible liberal studies program lets you design your own path to a degree. Or you can choose from the following concentrations:

- Behavioral science
- Child development and society
- Environmental leadership
- Health and human development (premed, preOT, prePA)
- Law and society (prelaw)

**Other Traverse City programs.** Bachelor’s: Allied health sciences; Master’s: Education, physician assistant studies, public health, social work

**Hybrid (some travel required) and online programs.** Nursing R.N. to B.S.N., nursing M.S.N., nursing D.N.P., occupational therapy, and online certificate in nonprofit leadership

### LEARN MORE ABOUT CLASSES STARTING JANUARY 2017!

Contact an advisor for help getting started!

(231) 995-1785 (888) 922-1785 [gvsu.edu/traverse](http://gvsu.edu/traverse)



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
TRAVERSE CITY  
REGIONAL CENTER





Photo by Victoria Pickering/flickr/cc)

# Columbus Day: What are we even celebrating?

**Lauren Horan**  
Staff Writer

On October 10, many businesses across the state and the nation will close in observance of Columbus Day. Though this is a nationally recognized holiday, it's not one that all states and cities participate in. In fact, many communities across the United States will instead observe Indigenous Peoples' Day to honor and remember the Native Americans whose lives were invaded and terminated due to western disease, slavery or slaughter.

As of Sept. 27, East Lansing was the most recent Michigan city to officially rename the fading holiday to pay homage to the indigenous populations. Traverse City and Ann Arbor will also officially recognize Oct. 10 as Indigenous Peoples' Day. More and more cities have cast off the official holiday named for Christopher Columbus, who caused the genocide of thousands of natives after accidentally arriving in America from Europe in 1492.

States like Washington, California, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Alaska are among those who have renamed the holiday.

So if Columbus Day is such a bust, why do we celebrate it?

"There is no question that Columbus and his men stumbling on the Americas changed the course of world history," said Mindy Morton, history instructor at NMC.

But this doesn't give her cause to celebrate.

"The food we eat—corn, potatoes, tomatoes, beans, turkeys, chocolate, vanilla, and so much more—the wars fought in Europe supported by silver from Bolivia, the importation of diseases that devastated Native communities, were all brought about through the Columbian Exchange. We don't really celebrate Columbus Day in Michigan and I believe that's a good thing," continued Morton.

Kelsey Wabanimkee, president of NMC's Native American Student Organization (NASO), had her own thoughts about renaming Columbus Day.

"The recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day allows us an opportunity to educate ourselves and

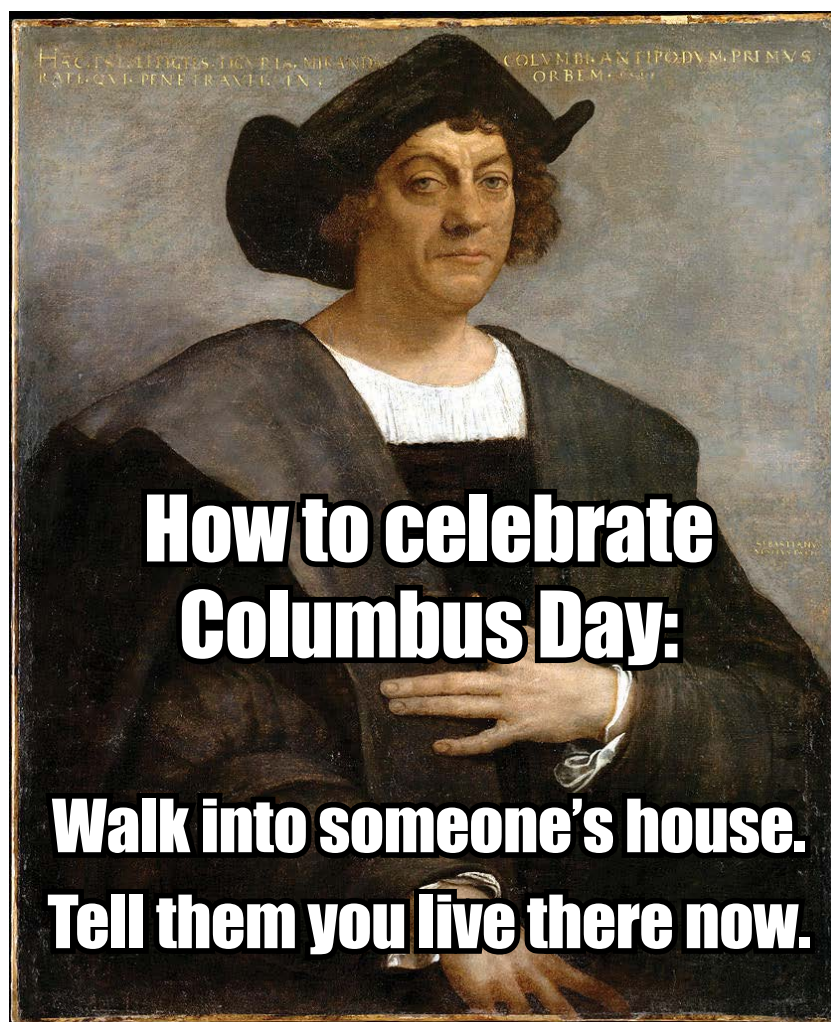
realize things aren't always what they seem. We celebrate Columbus Day because we're taught to. It's a fine example of the importance of expanding our minds and learning the true history of our country. Native Americans play a vital role in that history and I'm proud and excited that cities across the country are beginning to give that role the respect it deserves."

When most teenagers and 20-somethings think about Columbus, typically they're recalling their second-grade classroom where they learned Columbus discovered America and figured out the Earth was round. He did neither of those things. Yet for some reason this is the basic story the public school system teaches kids about Columbus' invasion of America.

The ancient Greeks proved the Earth was round over 1000 years before Columbus' venture. He wanted to go to Asia, but according to historians at the University of Minnesota, he struggled to get funding for the trip because he was known for having poor geography skills. His calculations of the Earth were on the small side, he thought the planet was more land than water, and he believed Japan was about 1500 miles from China. People didn't want to give him money to travel when they knew his math was off.

According to historians, Columbus' recurring trips to the Americas included cannons and attack dogs. Natives who tried to resist slavery would have their ears or nose cut. If slaves tried to escape, Columbus had them burned alive or had an attack dog rip them limb from limb. If the Spaniards ran short of meat to feed the dogs, Native American babies were killed for dog food.

Though Columbus' voyages did kick off an era of Atlantic exploration, celebrating Columbus' reign over the Americas could be compared to Hitler's reign over Germany. Columbus' greed and desire to erase native culture parallels the motives of the Holocaust. If we wouldn't celebrate Hitler, why are we celebrating Columbus?





# The Human Canvas

## Exploring Body Modifications

**Lauren Horan** Body modifications, simply referred to as body mods, are a common trend these days. Almost everyone has some kind of tattoo or piercing. As popular as they are today, body mods have been a part of various cultures for thousands of years.

Nostril piercing has been documented in the Middle East as far back as 4,000 years. Though the nostril is the most common place for a nose piercing, many people also have their septum (the strip of the flesh that separates the nostrils) pierced as well.

**More outlandish forms of body modifications have also existed for centuries, including teeth sharpening, face implants, neck elongation, and foot binding.**

In fact, both ear and nostril piercings are mentioned in the Bible.

Piercings in other parts of the body, such as labret or lip, are widely practiced in the form of enlarged piercings and lip discs. Tribes across Africa, in Southeast Asia, and in North and South America all participate in lip piercing.

Unlike tattoos, piercings aren't usually permanent. "If you're not satisfied with a piercing within the first few weeks of having it," says Marie Ritchey, owner of Pour Boiz Tattoos and Body Piercings, "you can take it out and it will heal."

Ritchey is a licensed nurse and a professional body piercer. Each of her customers receive instructions on how to properly clean and care for their new body mod.

When it comes to stretching, a form of piercing modification that gradually stretches the size of the pierced hole with larger and larger plugs, Ritchey has some words of warning. "You can't jump sizes too quickly. That's the main issue with stretching. Moving up in sizes too quickly will lead to bleeding, tearing the skin, scarring, painful keloids and possible infection." Stretching is most often seen on ear lobes, but some will stretch nose and lip piercings.

Today, piercings on the ears, nose, lips, eyebrows, and even genitals (ouch) are still very popular. According to a Pew Research Center study, 83% of adults in the United States have had their earlobes pierced at least once. 14% have piercings in places besides

the earlobes.

Ritchey does not pierce anything that would interrupt bodily function, but has pierced more genitals and nipples in the last 15 years than she could possibly count.

People don't always seek piercings just for appearance. The daith piercing is an up-and-coming trend. The daith is a small portion of flesh on the outside of the earhole, and studies have shown that piercings on this portion of the ear can act as an acupuncture point to stop chronic migraines and headaches for some. Ritchey said that she has done over 250 daith piercings since the trend caught fire about a year ago.

Today, tattoos may be the trendiest form of body modification. One in five adults have at least one tattoo, according to the Pew Research Center. However, tattooing can be documented as far back as 3300 BCE, as seen in the discovery of "Otzi the Iceman" in 1991. The practice of tattooing is believed to have originated over 10,000 years ago. Its mechanics have evolved, as have the inks and pigments used.

Tattoos have carried a stigma for a long time. Though they are slowly becoming more permissible in a work environment, many jobs will not hire people with tattoos and piercings that can't be hidden. This taboo traces back to certain cultures that would force criminals and other "undesirables" to get tattoos that would permanently mark their status in society.

Ritchey says that people who are seeking a new tattoo should think long and hard about what they want and try to get something that is truly artistic. Tattoos are permanent and a life-long investment.

There are some forms of tattoo removal, including laser removal, light therapy, and fading creams. These methods will not fully restore your skin the way it was before the tattoo, so it's best to give a new design some thought.

Beyond tats and piercings, more outlandish forms of body modifications have also existed for centuries, including teeth sharpening, face implants, neck elongation, and foot binding. Each culture has their own reason for choosing to modify their bodies, such as to show off social status. Nose jobs, botox injections and implants of any kind could also be considered body modifications.

Regardless of the reason or the time in history, it seems that body mods may remain a common way for people to feel better about their appearance and express themselves.

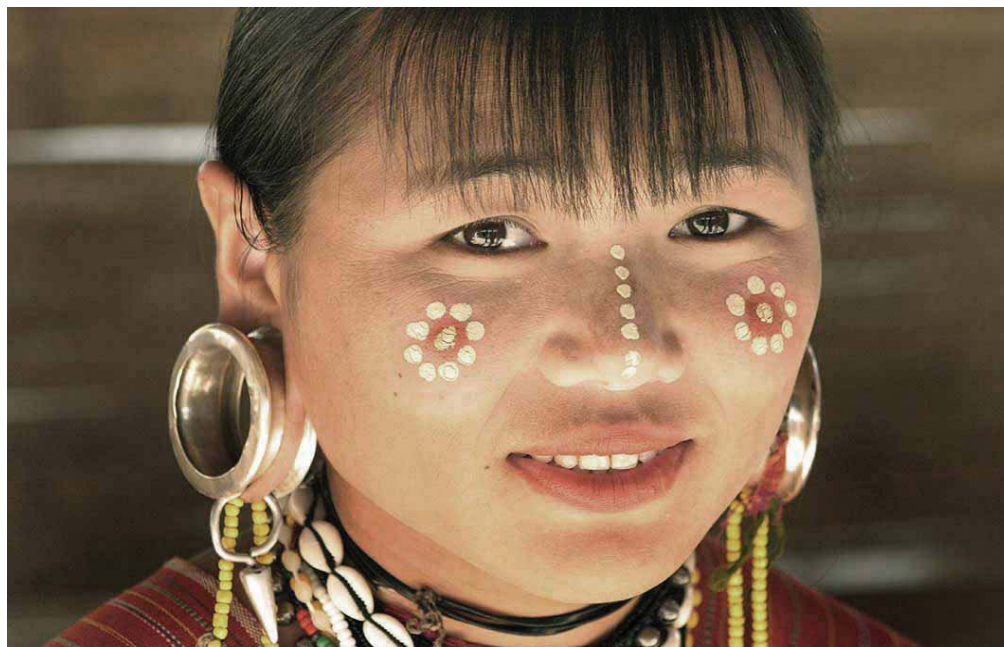


Photo by Steve Evans from India and USA

A native Karen woman from Burma with traditional ear plugs and facial paint.

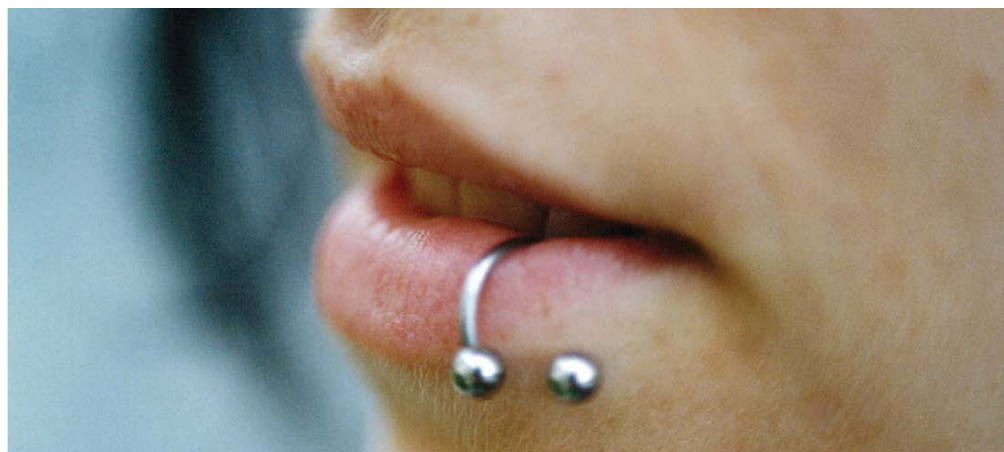


Photo by Minolta XD-7/flickr

Lip piercing with hoop. Lip piercing can be less painful than other piercings.



Photo by White Pine Press

White Pine Press Editor in Chief Breanne Russell shows off her newest tattoo.



# “Winter is Coming”

**Tom Clarke**  
Staff Writer

Brisk air is settling in and it won't be long until the leaves change their hue. Though summer days may be slipping away, good times need not come to an end. Before the dreaded winter rushes in and steals away our sunshine, I share with you a few fall adventures to partake in over the next few weeks to extend the fun and keep good times alive.

## Boots are made for walking

Traverse City's stimulating outdoors scene is one to be rivaled. Hiking is not only a great way to get some exercise, but also to enjoy the beauty surrounding us. An easy-to-find interlinked series of hiking trails by the Village at Grand Traverse Commons are some of the best I've seen. But layer up! As the temperature drops, a sweater and jeans is one sure way to keep the chill at bay.

## Baby light my fire

Not the hiking sort, but want to get outside? A campfire out on the beach may be the thing! Best done with a minimum of three friends, stacks of s'mores, and a ghost story or two, bon(d)fires are easily a fall favorite. Just be responsible and clean up afterwards: pick up any charred wood pieces and pour water over the hot sand.

## Pump, pump it up

Pumpkin-picking, a tradition that cannot be ignored. Who doesn't love buying a pumpkin, carving it out at home, and pulling out all the gunky seeds for baking? Gallagher's Farm Market is one of the top places to visit this season to start your pumpkin fun. Only 40 cents a pound! While you're there, check out the whole venue. “We have a variety of organic and fresh homegrown vegetables and fruits,” business administrator Maria Lammers says, “and our barnyard is out back where kids can run around and play

in the sandbox, look at the animals, and try out our corn maze for free.” Gallagher's Farm Market remains open throughout October.

## Time is on our side

Fall is, more often than not, a time to slow down to observe the world for what it has to offer, to consider the finer details all around us. No matter what you attribute this subtle change in perspective to, it is worth checking out Jean Larson's ongoing “Permanence and Impermanence” art exhibition at the Dennon Museum for further insight.

At first glance, Larson's works appear to be nothing more than finely abstract oil paintings. In fact, they are something far more unexpected. Near her home in Iceland, lichen grows on the rocks by the shoreline. This organism thrives alongside fungus and algae and can take on any number of textural and colorful combinations. This has become her inspiration.

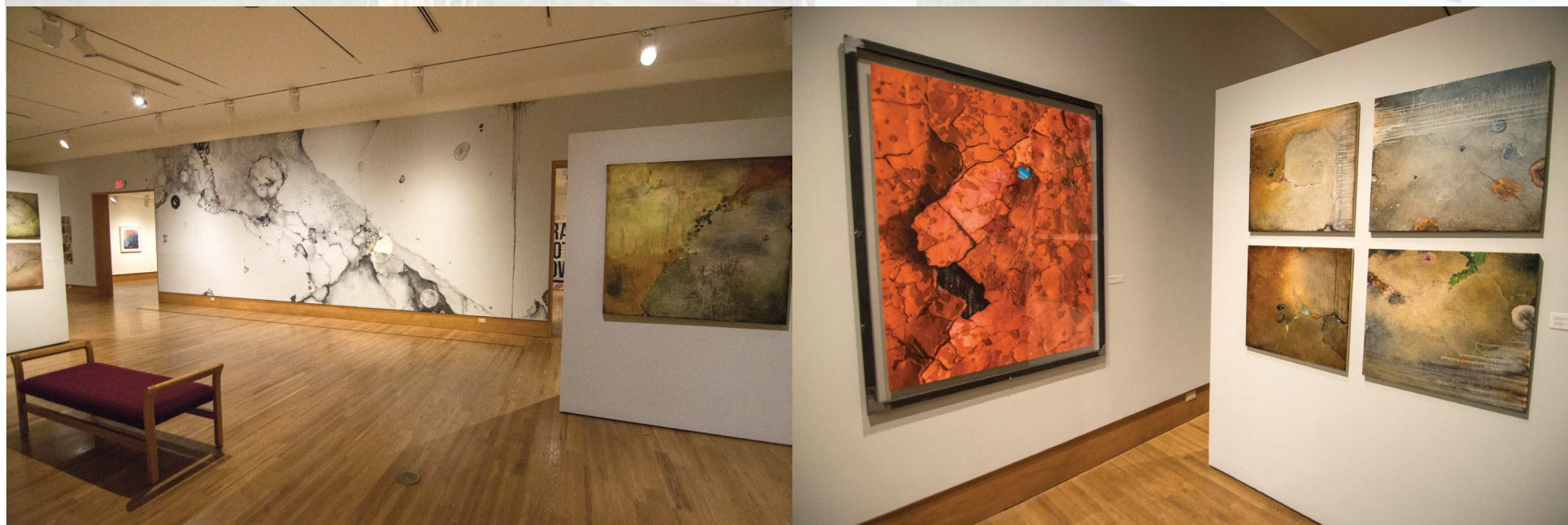
Larson attended both NMC and Central Michigan as an art student. Although she never obtained a degree, her professors told her to always keep painting. “It's so important not to get too caught up in all these little things that can cause too much stress,” Larson said, when asked what advice she had for current students. “To appreciate life for what it has to offer, sometimes all it takes is to just stop, take a deep breath in a moment, and open your eyes.”

The theme of “Permanence and Impermanence” fits well with fall. One single transient season, in a cyclical world. Soon it will transition, and winter will take its place. But that's the amazing thing about seasons; though a cyclical pattern, they are impermanent. Opportunities are continuously renewed to appreciate and take advantage of the time we have left. Go out and do something excellent before the cold rushes in.

Then again, you could just stay inside and binge watch *Game of Thrones*. That's worthwhile, too.



Photos by Devon Hains  
Pumpkins in various colors as far as the eye can see at Gallagher's Farm.



Jean Larson's exhibit “Permanence and Impermanence: Iceland - A Land of Temporal Contrasts” lines the main gallery at The Dennon Museum Center. Exhibit on display Sep. 18 - Dec. 31.