

Interview with Tim Scheneman, Tim is currently a sophomore here at Northern Michigan University, this is his second year he started in the fall of 1993. Interview is being conducted on October 30, 1994 here is West Hall. The Interviewer is Brian Denman, representing Dr. Magnaghi's Oral History class.

BD: before we start talking about your first few years here at Northern Michigan University please tell me a little about yourself, family, where you were born.

TS: OK, I was born in Ann Arbor and I grew up in Fenton, Michigan. At Fenton, I went to Fenton High School for four years and graduated in 93. And then I came up here.

BD: OK, you decided to come up here in Marquette, if I am not mistaken Fenton is downstate near Ann Arbor-Flint area, what was your decision to come up here to Northern.

TS: Well my brother was up here, he has been up here for four years, and I had been up here visiting him and I've been around the area and the scenery I love so it was a big factor in making my decision.

BD: At this time Tim I am going to ask you a question about adjusting to life at Northern as a Freshmen. What was it like, did you see any problems with it or do you think it was just another step in your life, maybe?

TS: well there was no problems with it, it was just a big change. I am sure it is a big change for everyone. Just an extreme amount, a lot more people, it's a big change.

BD: Some of the, we know Northern is a outside of nowhere, there is not a lot of places to go outside Northern 10-15 miles here and there you are in the country. What are some of the activities you've been doing here at Northern outside of school to pass some of the time or what not?

TS: When I am not doing school work I like hanging out and just looking at the nature around here, as you said there is country everywhere. So I pass the time by just going out and getting out.

BD: at this time currently where do you live here on campus?

TS: I live in West Hall?

BD: now West Hall is up campus, where the university center and what not, do you like living up here better than down campus.

TS: I enjoy life up here much more than I did down campus because of the food, we get to eat in the wildcat den, and I think the food up here is much better. I think the life is much better, everyone

seems friendly, everyone knows each other a little bit more.

BD: We see changes through out our university, not just being the hundred year anniversary things going on that way. But we see changes with walkways, building being converted to offices, do you think that is putting the university center in a positive step or do you think things could have been spent maybe to keep more student body up here at Northern.

TS; Well the enrollment has gone down and I was wondering they could probably spend the money more on getting the enrollment up. The covered walkways would be nice but I don't know if it is like the answer.

BD: Well Tim at this time we are going to talk a little about the student life activities that you may have done throughout your years here at Northern. What are some of the activities you are involved in and explain on them a little bit.

TS: My freshmen year I wasn't involved in too much when I was down in Halverson, but now that I am up in West I've gotten involved into , I am sports representative of my house and that makes me on the house government. So I go to all the house government meetings and my RA has told me to attend some of the leadership institutes and I have tried that, and I really enjoy going to those.

BD: Do you all think these activities or extracurricular stuff that you do, it is all going to be beneficial towards the future education. Do you see that as a positive step for you as being more involved with things here on campus than for say maybe last year?

TS: well the more that your involved in everything the more it looks good on your résumé and the more stuff you have the better you look.

BD: You stated earlier that you enjoyed the university center and the activities, at this time last year under construction and being converted into the new student center is that in itself a good aspect for the university?

TS: uh yeah I think the University Center looks great, it did take them awhile but it does look really good. And I think that was a good way to spend the money, I think.

BD: Tim now I am going to ask you some of the University events that are sponsored by the university, that you may have attended so far these last few years here at Northern.

TS: Well I have attended all the comedians and all that and stuff that is basically for fun, I told you already I have gone to some of the leadership institutes and I told you I thought they were

really good for people and that is basically all the things I have seen that the campus has sponsored but I would like to go see more.

BD: It was stated earlier that the university lost students, enrollment was down, what do you believe could the university do to keep enrollment back up at Northern, and push it in a positive direction?

TS: Well I believe it lost a thousand or so this year, didn't they, numbers a lot, I think they are trying to solve the problem by making the university look nicer and appeal more to the students. I am not sure if that is the answer, I really don't have the answer because I don't know.

BD: You noted this is your second year here at Northern, what are, do you think everything you have taken so far, your classes and that matter, are going to be pushing you toward the right direction, major wise, and if have you declared a major or is what do you see that your education here at Northern is, what do you see you are going to achieve

TS: Well right now I am undeclared and I am taking my general studies courses, just trying to get through that. I really would like to declare a major it is just as everybody knows it is a tough decision. And I haven't come up with anything yet, but hopefully in the near future I will.

BD: In your education standpoint do you think the education in the classes you have taken here at Northern so far are going to get you prepared for later on down the line?

TS: Well most of the classes I have taken so far down the line I think will, yeah.

BD: In the next couple of years what do you see yourself, how do you see yourself and the university progressing, maybe in the next couple of years?

TS: Personally I really enjoy Northern Michigan and I hope I can graduate from here. All I really need to do is you know, figure out what I want to be, what major I want to declare and pursue it and hopefully I will graduate from Northern.

BD: So would you say with your brief short years here at Northern that it was what you expected when you left high school or what?

TS: It pretty much was, yeah. I knew it was going to be a big change for me, it's a big change for everybody and I guess you could say I could expect it. I had been up here to visit before and I knew what it looked like here, so it was what I expected, yeah.

BD: You stated that you lived in West Hall last year you lived in Halverson do you think the university dorms are fine in some instances what you expected and the overall life has it been enjoyable on campus so far?

TS: It was my sophomore year in high school was the first time I came up here to visit my brother, and he lived in the dorms at that time and I knew exactly what to expect when I came up here as far as what the dorms would look like and I have been around to almost six or seven other colleges in the state and I have seen the other dormitories from all the other schools and I have to say that Northern is one of the nicest dorms the nicest way the student's life is set up out of all the other schools I have seen.

BD: And we know that with good dormitories that it does keep students on campus and in turn the students will stay and that is always positive. What do you see your going yourself in the next couple of years, you stated that you wanted to graduate from here, any other closing statements or anything that you could make about your years here at Northern and potentially what is going to happen on down the line?

TS: Well it seems like everywhere I go it always seems like I hear that someone who has graduated from Northern and has a good job and is making good money and that is my goal, just graduate from here and get a good job and some money with my life.

BD: Well Tim I have had a good time interviewing you, like I said this will be at the University Archives and maybe students down the line writing research papers will use this interview to see what student life was or anything like that. Thank you very much and I enjoyed the interview.

TS: Thank you Brian.