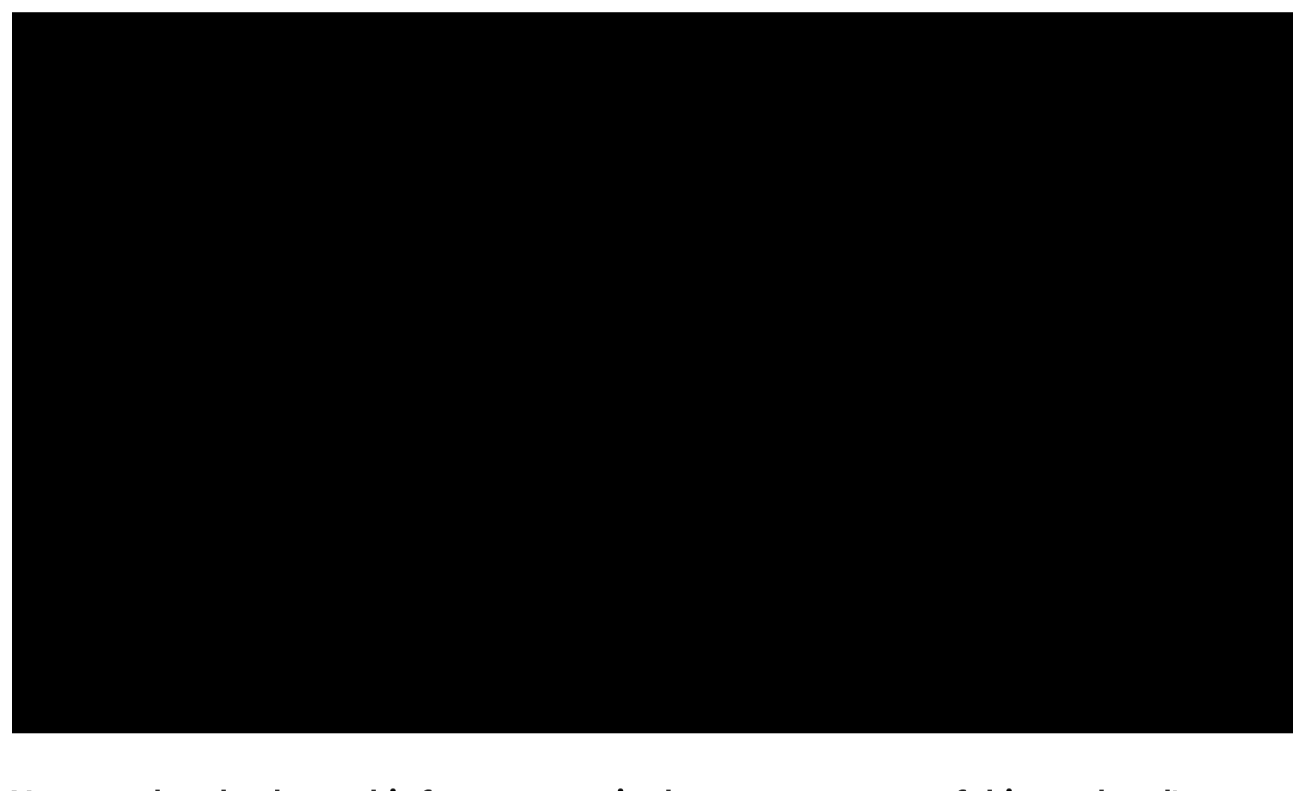




Women's Volleyball | 10/12/2016 1:36:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

Internship in the Woods of the Upper Peninsula Puts Cashman's Future in Sight



You can also check out this feature story in the game program of this weekend's volleyball matches against University of Mary and Minot State University

CROOKSTON, Minn. - She is one with the outdoors. Nestled amongst the tall trees and breathtaking wilderness of the Northwoods situated in between two vast seas bordering to the North and South. This was the life of UMC senior defensive specialist [Casey Cashman](#) this summer as she worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a hydrologic technician stationed in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A native of Ashland, Wis., the Golden Eagle volleyball player has dreamed all of her life of a career in natural resources. This summer's internship was step one in chasing her lifelong goal of helping to improve the environment.

"The forest service is an amazing agency that I am so thankful that I got the opportunity to work with," Cashman said. "I was a hydrologic technician and I intend on going into water resource management. It was an amazing experience. I did a lot of trail monitoring. I spent all day and every day on an ATV, which was amazing, and I got to hike all day."

Her favorite memories of her time in the Upper Peninsula were highlighted by sturgeon fishing on Lake Superior on the Ontonagon River and spending time with her work partner Sarah, who was originally from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

While she will forever cherish the memories and experiences she gained while working in the Upper Peninsula, the biggest lesson she learned this summer is how while she enjoys being one with the wilderness, she does not want to be secluded in the woods for her entire career in Natural Resources.

"I would say that this summer really taught me that I need to be around people," Cashman said. "My passion is the environment and helping people. I know that I want to help farmers. I know now that I don't want to be in the woods by myself on a day-to-day basis. It was an amazing experience but I know that it isn't what I ultimately want to do. I want to work with people."

Cashman is ready to pursue her dream of helping people and improving the environment, in large part due to the role that two big parts of her journey at UMC have played for her future. Volleyball and the Natural Resources Department at Minnesota Crookston have been a major factor in developing Cashman, not only as a person, but as a professional and team member. Qualities that will be instrumental in her success once she earns the University of Minnesota degree.

"I would say that ultimately being a part of this team has taught me to persevere first, and secondly it has taught me to work in a team setting," Cashman said. "In the natural resource field you often rely on one other person. That person is not only your partner but they could ultimately be getting you out of a lot of trouble, sometimes life and death situations. It has taught me to really trust others and work as a team to be successful."

The other main factor in her journey at UMC has been the role her professors have played in the Natural Resources Department.

"I can't thank my professors enough," Cashman said. "They treat me as more than a student. I look at it more as we as students in their program are their success story. They really just care about you. They want you to go to grad school. They check up on you after you leave. It is just a caring group of professors and I will be forever thankful for them. They have prepared me not only in classes but as a professional and a person in general."

Cashman's road to her future will set in full fruition after the conclusion of the volleyball season in early November. After that she will focus on either getting a job or pursuing a graduate degree from North Dakota State University. She will also focus on her future with her fiancé A.J. Wallace, a former UMC football player, who is currently working in Fergus Falls, Minn. The two will marry this Summer in Wisconsin.

"Words can't describe how excited I am to marry A.J.," Cashman said. "We have lived apart for a really long time now so I am ready to settle down and move on to the next step and start my life with him. We plan to live in between Fargo and Fergus Falls for a couple of years while I go to grad school. He is in a spot where he is comfortable working while I am in school."

After she attends graduate school, Cashman hopes to end up somewhere on the West Coast, either Washington or Oregon, where she can be close to the mountains and the ocean. But for now, even though her career and life after volleyball is in full view, Cashman is focused on her last month as a member of the Golden Eagle volleyball team.

"I personally want to enjoy my last month or so of competitive volleyball," Cashman said. "I love volleyball so much. It has been my passion for a long time. It is coming to an end so I really want to enjoy it and I want to bring back to my teammates. It tends to get really hard towards the end of the season, so I really want our passion and our fire to remain constant to the end of the season."

So as one journey comes to an end, the other will begin. A journey focused on her life with her future husband and to the enjoyment and betterment of the environment that we live in. Her professors and coaches at UMC know that the future in store for Cashman is a bright one.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

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The University of Minnesota Crookston is a NCAA Division II university located in the Red River Valley of Northwest Minnesota. UMC sponsors 11 intercollegiate athletic teams with membership in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate conference (NSIC) and the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The NSIC is a 16-team conference with schools situated in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

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PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#1 Casey Cashman
DS/Lib. / 5' 5" / Senior

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