

News

Flags Lowered for Sept. 11

Flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of Patriot Day, Monday, Sept. 11, in accordance with federal law and Executive Order 2006-10.

Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony Monday

There will be a Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony to be held at the Sept. 11 monument, located on the ROTC lawn. This is an opportunity to pay respect to fallen victims and heroes. The ceremonial portion will be from 8:15 to 9 a.m., with a cadet standing guard until noon.

The welcoming address begins at 8:15 a.m., followed by the lowering of the flag by the Honor Guard. Lt. Col. Terrence Sunnarborg will give a speech and at 8:45 a.m., the time the first plane struck, there will be a moment of silence. Cadets will rotate on 15 minute shifts at the flagpole until noon.

Reminder: Meeting Maker Down Noon to Midnight Today

Meeting Maker will be unavailable today, Friday, Sept. 8, starting at noon. It should be up again as usual by midnight.

Users will still be able to view their calendars in the offline mode but should not schedule any new activities or meetings.

Distributed Computing Services will be performing maintenance on the calendar system's stored data. This sets the stage for a Meeting Maker upgrade, planned for Monday, Sept. 18. This upgrade will require a second period of downtime.

For more information about the coming upgrade, visit the calendar info link on Distributed Computing Services home page, <http://www.dcs.mtu.edu>.

Entertainment and Enrichment

Campus Sustainability Week at Michigan Tech

A week of sustainability activities is planned for the Michigan Tech campus later this month. The Sustainable Futures Institute will be hosting the annual meeting of its advisory board on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 20 and 21. On Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., the Annual Sustainability Poster Session will be held in the Rozsa Lobby. This will be followed by the annual SFI reception and banquet.

Campus Sustainability Week continues with a talk, "Extreme Deep: Exploring the Ends of the Earth—Neptune's Basement," by David Gallo on Monday, Sept. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rozsa. Gallo is director of special projects at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the world's largest private nonprofit, ocean research, engineering and education organization. Gallo will address the campus again the following day, Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Fisher 135 with a talk entitled "Global Water Crisis on the Blue Planet."

Seminars and Workshops

Creating and Maintaining a Climate of Civility on Campus Oct. 19

Join Gary Pavela as he addresses fundamental questions of civility in "Creating and Maintaining a Climate of

Civility on Campus," an audio conference sponsored by Student Affairs. The presentation will be Oct. 19, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., in the ATDC (near the Tech softball fields).

Many faculty members and administrators decry a perceived lack of civility on college campuses. Addressing their concerns requires asking and exploring several questions. What does civility mean? Why is it important? What is the dividing line between legitimate debate and classroom disruption? How are competing claims to academic freedom (by students and faculty members) to be resolved? When does lawful expression turn into prohibited harassment?

There is limited seating for this event. RSVP by Oct. 12 to Jeanne Meyers, jemeyers@mtu.edu or 487-2951.

There is adequate free parking at the ATDC. Car pooling can also be arranged upon request.

Regular Features

Teaching at Tech: Insights from a Colleague

Submitted by William Kennedy, director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Faculty Development

The Chronicle recently published the insights of an award-winning professor at the University of Virginia.* Fully cognizant of the limitations of rendering his professional practice in the form of a short list of bullet points, John Arras, professor of biomedical ethics and philosophy, went ahead and did it anyway. He suggests that we consider the following:

* Teaching Thinking--Arras says he lectures as little as possible because he has come to see his prime function as "fostering critical reasoning skills and philosophical creativity." He also focuses heavily on teaching "good, rigorous writing skills, focusing simultaneously on writing technique, critical reasoning and mastery of important factual information."

* Love What You Do--Arras suggests the instructor's passion is what animates all effective teaching; passion for ideas and for encouraging student learning. As a mentor once told him, "Never be bored; never be boring."

* Practice Tough Love--Arras says that he sets high standards and lets students know from day one that there will be no gentleperson Bs or Cs in his classes. He says Plato had it right when he observed, "The love of wisdom is predicated upon the love between the teacher and student. If you don't care deeply about your students both as thinkers and as persons, you're in the wrong profession."

* Keep it Real--Arras suggests that we have to work hard to show the practical benefits that derive from mastery of course material. He cautions instructors that waxing prematurely on the parsimony or aesthetics of the theoretical underpinnings of our disciplines finds no favor with students. Eventual appreciation of the sublime is more likely to follow a long apprenticeship of experiencing the utility of the ideas associated with a particular discipline.

* Pay it Backward and Forward--The next generation of teachers will arise out of those we teach. Arras asks us to be conscious of those who influenced and inspired us to become instructors and to work to model teaching behaviors and practices that will inspire and inform succeeding generations of educators.

* It's OK to be a Luddite--Finally, Arras observes, "I generally believe that PowerPoint is the spawn of Satan. It breeds passivity in the students, and it disconnects the speaker from the audience." Arras says he prefers to engage his students in a lively conversation, regardless if the class has 20 or 200 students.

I am always amazed, when I review the written comments of students describing the teaching of those nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Awards, how many comment upon those three fundamental dimensions of human communication that Aristotle described so long ago as logos, pathos and ethos. Know your stuff and know how to communicate critical ideas clearly and logically. Demonstrate your abiding concern and ongoing assurance that every student who is willing to put forth the effort can and will master the material and be able to use the course ideas. Conduct yourself in such a way that the next generation of educators, sprinkled throughout our classes, might find inspiration and encouragement to follow in our footsteps. Have a great term!

* Chronicle of Higher Education, March 24, "First Person: It's a Simple Game," by John D. Arras

On the Road

Two PhD Physics student presented posters at the the From Computational Biophysics to Systems Biology 2006 workshop, held June 6-9 at the Jon von Neumann Institute for Computing in Jülich, Germany. Yanjie Wei presented "Side Chain Ordering of Polyglutamic Acid" and Parimal Kar presented "The Influence of Molecular Surface Composition on the Outcome of Poisson Boltzmann Calculations Performed to Obtain Solvation Free Energies."

Job Postings

The following job descriptions are available in the Human Resources Office. For more information, call 487-2280, email jobs@mtu.edu or go to <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/hro/postings>

Lecturer and Development Math Specialist
Mathematical Sciences

Lecturer and Director of First-Year Mathematics
Mathematical Sciences

Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.