

News

Campus Bookstore and University Images Closing for Inventory

The Campus Bookstore will be closed for inventory on Friday, May 27, and Tuesday, May 31. University Images will be closed for inventory Saturday, May 28, and Tuesday, May 31.

Staff Service Recognition Luncheon Tickets are Now Available

The annual Staff Service Recognition Luncheon will be held at noon, Thursday, June 9, in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$8 and can be purchased at the Tech Express Office or the SDC Ticket Office. You may also purchase tickets online (credit card only) at Tickets. The deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, June 6.

The luncheon will feature a southern-style buffet, including barbecue beef brisket, black bean veggie burgers, ciabatta bread, cole slaw, tossed salad and pecan pie. The luncheon will be followed by a presentation of awards to more than 150 staff members for their five-year anniversary dates of service to the University and recent retirees.

See the list of this year's recipients at Staff Council.

If you are unable to attend the lunch, please join us for the awards presentation beginning at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Contact one of the following Staff Council members with questions or if you have special dietary requirements:

Colleen Erva, Financial Aid, 487-1669, cferva@mtu.edu

Lynda Heinonen, Enrollment Services, 487-1832, lheinonen@mtu.edu

The DeVlieg Foundation and Finishing Fellowships Announced

The Graduate School is pleased to announce recent recipients of fellowship support.

The DeVlieg Foundation supports MS and PhD candidates studying engineering or a closely related field. Our spring 2011 recipients are:

- * Christopher DeDene (CEE), MS Candidate
- * Meagan Harless (Biological Sciences), PhD Candidate
- * Brett Spigarelli (ChE), PhD Candidate

Summer Finishing Fellowships were earned by six PhD candidates. Finishing Fellowships provide support to PhD candidates who expect to complete their degrees in the semester they are provided support. The summer 2011 fellowships are made possible by the support of the Graduate School.

- * Yiru Chen (Forest Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology)

- * Fredline Ilorme (CEE)
- * Daniel Lopez-Gaxiola (ChE)
- * Seyyed Hessam Mir Shah Ghassemi (ME-EM)
- * Yinghong Qin (CEE)
- * Christopher Schwartz (Biological Sciences)

For more information, see Awards.

Campus Mourns Loss of Business Professor Bob Mark

by Dennis Walikainen, senior editor

Bob Mark, professor of practice in the School of Business and Economics, died Monday, May 23, 2011, after a recent stroke. He was 62 years old.

“Bob made teaching and learning fun by presenting concepts in a way that you couldn't forget them,” said Michigan Technological University President Glenn Mroz. “He was a natural with students.”

Bob was awarded the University's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2008, only two years after joining the faculty. He was famous for using magic tricks in his classes and for his involvement with students outside the classroom.

“Bob had a great impact on our School, through his teaching, his work with the Institute for Leadership and Innovation and his direct involvement with students with dreams of being entrepreneurs,” said Darrell Radson, dean of the School of Business and Economics.

Bob was the driving force behind the Elevator Pitch Competition and the Business Plan Competition, both of which challenged students to present their best ideas for new, real businesses to a panel of judges. In fact, he had just announced the merger of the Business Plan Competition with Central Michigan University for next year, greatly increasing its prize monies and stature. He was also instrumental in bringing the Extreme Entrepreneur Tour to the Michigan Tech campus.

“Incredible teacher, respected colleague and generous person,” is how Mari Buche, associate professor in the School of Business and Economics, will remember Bob. “He was such a force. Everything he was involved in, he gave 100 percent. He could take a good idea and turn it into an experience.”

Bob's students agreed. "This is a huge shock and very hard to hear," said Jessica Tompkins, whose company, Two Bows, which designs hunting clothing for women, won last fall's Elevator Pitch Competition and placed second in the recent Business Plan Competition. "Bob was one of my greatest supporters in the development of Two Bows, in addition to the great professor and all around guy I knew him to be. If it wasn't for Bob I never would have known about the Business Plan Competition or the Elevator Pitch Competition. Michigan Tech and its students are going to be missing an amazing instructor and entrepreneur!"

Bob's specialties also included commercializing University research projects, and he had presented continuing education business seminars to engineers. He even worked on commercializing a Senior Design project, an improved hospital bed mattress, with which his son, Larry, was involved.

Locally, he was president of the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance. “Bob had been a pillar in

promoting entrepreneurship at Michigan Tech and in the business community,” said Carlton Carothers, CEO of the Michigan Tech Enterprise Corporation SmartZone. “I can’t think of anyone else with such ‘can-do’ and ‘get-it-done’ attitude. Our community has lost a strong advocate of business and entrepreneurship. We will also miss his uncanny humor.”

Jonathan Leinonen, also with the SmartZone, agreed.

“Bob was an exemplar for entrepreneurs, a role model for students and a leader in the community,” he said. “Bob was a great inspiration to me personally, and I learned a lot from him through his tireless efforts to help students start businesses, to find funding for projects and to start the new Entrepreneurship Experiences capstone course. But what I really admired about Bob was that he had a heart for students, whether that was celebrating someone’s birthday with ice cream cones, cheering them on at athletic events, helping them move into the dorms, or in one case I know of, carrying furniture out of a second-story apartment after a student graduated and landed a new job. Bob will be sorely missed by everyone who got to know him.”

“Bob also developed the Introduction to Business course, an important part of our undergraduate curriculum,” Radson added. “He will be greatly missed. Please keep his wife, Nancy, daughter, Jacqueline, and sons, Phil and Larry, in your thoughts and prayers.”

Bob earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Michigan Tech and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Utah.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Rail Transportation Program Congratulates Scholarship Winners

The Rail Transportation Program (RTP) students received the majority of scholarships offered by the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) Educational Foundation this year. Twelve of the thirty-eight available scholarships totaling \$15,000 were awarded to the following RTP students:

Dylan Anderson, Rail Transit Scholarship
Ryan Blessing, Maintenance-of-Way Work Equipment Scholarship
Stephen Chartier, Elizabeth Ann Porterfield Memorial Scholarship
Luke Gublo, Electrical Energy Utilization Scholarship
John Hatch, Michigan Tech Alumni Scholarship
Tyler Kuzee, John J. Cunningham Memorial Scholarship 1
Lars Leemkuil, HNTB Founder’s Scholarship
Adam Newton, Michigan Tech Alumni Scholarship
Ryan Rintamaki , Maintenance-of-Way Work Equipment Scholarship
Edward Statzer, Maintenance-of-Way Work Equipment Scholarship
David Sutton, Ties Scholarship
Damian Wallner, Robert and Sue Boileau Rail Engineering Scholarship

For more information, see Winners.

Reminder: Retirement Social for Pat Ross Tomorrow

The Graduate School invites all faculty, staff and students to a social celebrating the retirement of Patricia

Ross from 2 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, in Admin 404. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Take this opportunity to stop in and wish her well.

Regular Features

New Funding

Assistant Professor Michael Falkowski (SFRES/ESC) has received \$40,000 from The Nature Conservancy for a project, "Remote Sensing of Conifer Encroachment in Historical Sage Habitats."

In Print

Associate Professor Andrew Burton (SFRES) is an author on a paper, "Soil-Warming Carbon-Nitrogen Interactions and Forest Carbon Budgets," published in this week's early online edition (May 23 to 27) of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Burton is director of Michigan Tech's Ecosystem Science Center and the Midwestern Regional Center for the US Department of Energy's National Institute for Climatic Change Research. Lead author on the paper is Jerry Melillo of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. For more information, visit [EurekAlert](#).