

# Tech Topics

January 25, 2002  
Vol. 34, No. 17

Michigan Tech's Faculty-Staff Newsletter

Published weekly by University Relations

## MTU vs. BTU Facilities Says Thanks

Since Facilities asked the University community to make an effort to turn off the lights, custodians have seen a big change in the number of lights left on in unoccupied areas, including offices, classrooms, bathrooms, computer labs and more.

"It is encouraging that the campus community has responded to the messages about the potential savings which can be achieved by shutting off lights when not needed," Energy Manager **David E. Taivalkoski** said.

Before the campus community was asked to turn off the lights, 5,200 lights were left on a given night. Recently, 2,800 lights were left burning, a drop of nearly one-half.

"While we're happy that people are being more thoughtful, it is apparent that more could be done," Taivalkoski said. "Please remember to turn off the lights when you leave a room for more than a 10 minutes."

On another front, many computers are still being left on. "We'd like to see people do as well with computers as they are with lighting," Facilities Management Director **Bill Blumhardt** said.

The most recent information can be found at <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/chp/> Click on Energy Conservation, and in the drop down menu box go to "Lights left on survey."

## WMTU Sez

### Send In Your Sounds

Student radio station WMTU 91.9 FM announces a new radio show, Soundscapes. The program will feature audio documentaries, investigative journalism, interviews, commentaries, short stories, poetry and soundscape recordings.

The station is interested in audio pieces that address aspects of everyday life as well as projects that speak to larger social, political and historical issues. Soundscapes will initially air on the second Saturday of each month, 5-6 p.m., beginning Feb. 9.

If you would like to contribute to the show, please send compact discs, DATs, minidisks or cassettes for consideration. Submit your material to Daniel Makagon, Soundscapes, at WMTU, located in G03 Wadsworth Hall.

---

*While you're holding a grudge,  
the other guy's out dancing.*

—BUDDY HACKETT

## Tompkins says MTU Impact Tops \$400 Million

By Dean Woodbeck

Michigan Tech plays a significant role in the economic health of the Upper Peninsula, President **Curt Tompkins** told the Economic Club of Marquette Jan. 21.

Tompkins said Michigan Tech has a \$420-million impact on the state economy and, directly and indirectly, Tech's impact locally totals almost \$300 million.

"Approximately \$100 million was contributed locally by Michigan Tech in 2000-01," Tompkins said, "including employee compensation, the purchase of supplies and services, and dollars spent by students, donors and visitors." Considering the multiplier effect of this spending generating other spending, Tech's impact reaches the \$300 million amount.

Tompkins also outlined ways in which the University is trying to help the Keweenaw's economy diversify, particularly with the new Michigan Tech EnterPrise SmartZone. "We are confident of a brighter economic future for our region," he said. He noted that the

## Sutherland Named Henes Chair Professor

**John W. Sutherland** has been named the first Richard W. and Elizabeth A. Henes (pronounced hen-ess) Chair Professor.

Sutherland, a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics, came to Michigan Tech in 1991. He has served as his department's associate chair and director of graduate studies and is among only three faculty members in the history of the University to receive both its Distinguished Teaching Award (1992) and its Research Award (2000).

The Henes Chair Professor was established in the ME-EM department in January 2002 by **Richard and Elizabeth Henes**, of Paradise Valley, Ariz. Mr. Henes, a native of Menominee, graduated from MTU in 1948.

"This is the first endowed chair in our department, and Dr. Sutherland is the first chair holder," said **William Predebon**, professor and ME-EM department chair. "John is one of the most productive faculty members at Michigan Tech in terms of his contributions in research, graduate student advising, faculty mentoring and service to his profession."

Sutherland is a nationally recognized leader in the fields of environmentally responsible manufacturing and quality engineering. Among the University's most prolific researchers, he has been an investigator on

SmartZone's goals include attracting new employers to the area, along with more than 500 new engineering and technology jobs, and developing strong ties between these companies and Michigan Tech students.

"In an ideal world, a university should not be the economic engine of a city or region," Tompkins pointed out. "Strong industrial or business bases in most parts of the country dwarf the roles universities play in their local economies."

Tompkins discussed the continuing quality of Michigan Tech students and the strong support of the University's alumni. He noted that, based on entrance exam scores, Michigan Tech freshmen rank second in the state, with only University of Michigan students posting higher marks. Michigan Tech ranks first in alumni support among state-assisted universities in Michigan. More than 20 percent of the University's alumni make gifts to the University, compared to just over 10 percent at the University of Michigan and Michigan State.

nearly \$10 million in sponsored research and has graduated more than 50 PhD and master's students. He has published more than 150 papers and coauthored the widely used textbook "Statistical Quality Design and Control."

Among his honors, he was named the 1992 Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and in 1999 received the Ralph R. Teeter Educational Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers. He received the NSF CAREER Development Award in 1995 and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 1996.

"Often, you search around the country for the best person to fill an endowed chair," he said. "We already had the best in our department, for which I am very grateful. I look forward to him providing leadership in research and scholarly activities well into the future."

The Heneses are longtime supporters of Michigan Tech. After earning his BS in Mechanical Engineering from MTU, Richard Henes received a bachelor of law degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and in 1958 went on to found Henes Stamping Inc., in Phoenix. He also served as president of Henes Manufacturing Company and Henes Products Company. Elizabeth Henes is a native of Peshtigo, Wis.

## “Oceans of Opportunity”

### Top Orientation Theme

By Laura Walikainen

Oceans of Opportunity: Orientation 2001 recently took advantage of an opportunity of its own. At the Annual National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Conference, the MTU Orientation team was honored with two coveted awards.

**Bonnie Gorman**, director of new student orientation and the first-year experience, attended the NODA Conference along with 2001 Head Orientation Team Leader **Kel Layer**, who was instrumental in formulating this year's orientation theme. The conference was held in Toronto last November.

“The primary goal of the conference is to advance orientation programs,” Gorman said. “We did a presentation on the creative use of theme in orientation.”

Oceans of Opportunity received the awards for Outstanding Orientation Handbook in Two or More Colors and the for Outstanding Use of Theme, which Michigan Tech has won for the past three years.

“The handbook award was really quite a surprise because the field was really competitive,” Gorman said. “Schools tend to put a lot of money into those pieces.”

“But I think that where theme is concerned, we are trendsetters,” Gorman said. “And it's always very satisfying to be judged outstanding by your peers.”

### Faculty Featured in Concert

Associate professors **Barry Pegg** (Humanities) and **Bill Francis** (Mathematical Sciences) will be featured in a “Sampler” of short opera scenes presented by Studio North Opera on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hancock.

The group consists of local singers, students of Christine Seitz, who are active in the Pine Mountain Music Festival. Tickets are \$5 at the door or from Marie's Deli, the Copper Country Community Arts Center or the singers. For more information, contact Mary Richards-Kallman at 482-5202 or Gregory Campbell at 482-5434.

## MichiganTech

Bill Curnow, executive director, University Relations  
Marcia Goodrich, *Tech Topics* editor  
*Tech Topics* Web site: [www.mtu.edu/level3/ttopics.html](http://www.mtu.edu/level3/ttopics.html)

To get *Tech Topics* via e-mail, send a message to [MAJORDOMO@MTU.EDU](mailto:MAJORDOMO@MTU.EDU) saying SUBSCRIBE TECH-TOPICS-L

Information to be included in *Tech Topics* should be submitted to the *Tech Topics* editor in one of the following ways:

- By e-mail to [ttopics@mtu.edu](mailto:ttopics@mtu.edu)
- By campus mail, send typed copies to *Tech Topics*, University Relations.

Each week, the deadline for submitting information is **Friday at 5:00 p.m.** for publication the following Friday.

## The Standards of Standardized Testing

By William Kennedy, director

Center for Teaching, Learning,  
and Faculty Development



A colleague recently made me aware of an intriguing article in the New Yorker by journalist Malcolm Gladwell entitled “The Examined Life: What Stanley H. Kaplan Taught Us about the SAT.”\* Gladwell's article chronicles the exploits of Stanley Kaplan, longtime nemesis of the Educational Testing Service (the SAT folks).

In 1946, Kaplan took up the challenge of disputing ETS's blanket claim that cramming or preparing for the SAT was pointless because the test measured innate ability, not some fixed body of knowledge. Kaplan's approach to boning up for the SAT involved reducing student anxiety and increasing confidence by thoroughly acquainting them with SAT test instructions and procedures and by providing them with a method to ferret out a higher percentage of right answers by evaluating the general nature of incorrect and correct responses. Kaplan fostered a huge test preparation industry which spawned numerous competitors.

Many others have questioned the ability of standardized tests to predict grades in the freshman year of college; which, by the way, is their stated objective. The University of California recently announced that it would soon be moving to an admissions system that would greatly diminish the role of standardized test scores. A University of California study compared the predictive ability of the traditional SAT, high school GPA, and the newer SAT II scores. ETS says the SAT II test is an achievement test which assesses mastery of specific areas of the high school curriculum rather than the SAT, which attempts to measure innate aptitude or ability. The study, using actual student records, found that the SAT II scores alone accounted for just 16 percent of the variance in first-year college grades, while high school GPAs alone explained just 15.4 percent of the variance. Combining SAT II and high school GPA scores accounted for 22.4 percent of the variance in college grades, while adding the traditional SAT scores only added one-tenth of one percent to the predictive ability of the

mix. This means that more than 75 percent of the variance in first-year college performance is not accounted for by these three predictive measures combined.

UC president Richard Atkinson argues that the UC study strongly suggests that curriculum-based, achievement-type tests are not only substantially more predictive than aptitude tests like the traditional SAT, but they are also fairer to students from diverse backgrounds. He says that achievement tests, “can be used to improve performance; . . . are less vulnerable to charges of cultural or socioeconomic bias; and . . . are more appropriate for schools because they set clear curricular guidelines and clarify what is important for students to learn.”

Other critics of SAT aptitude-type tests have long complained about issues of bias associated with these instruments. For example, although matriculating women on average routinely outperform men in high school and college grades, SAT scores tend to score men 35 points higher in math and 3 points higher in verbal ability. ACT scores are gender biased in the same areas and in the same direction, but to a significantly lesser degree.

A study at the University of Miami found that although the body of Hispanic students they studied earned equivalent college grades in their first year, they scored an average of 91 points lower than their non-Hispanic peers on the SAT test. Derek Bok and William Bowen found that SAT I scores were significantly less accurate in predicting the first-year grades of African American students in another study.

A national organization called Fairtest: The National Center for Fair and Open Testing observes that “the weak predictive power of SAT I, its susceptibility to coaching, examples of test score misuse, and the negative impact test score use has on educational equity all lead to the same conclusion: test scores should be optional in college admissions.”\*\*

Given that test scores account for such a small percentage of the observed variance, it would seem prudent to be highly circumspect in using them for placement or tracking. This may be a case where the illusion of objectivity may have gotten us into trouble.

\* Dec. 17, 2001, pp 86–92. \*\* [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

### Weight Watchers Meet Jan. 28

Weight Watchers will meet on Monday, Jan. 28, from noon to 1 p.m., in Memorial Union Ballroom B2.

New members are welcome. For more information, call 487-2517.

### Carnival Judges Needed

Blue Key is inviting all Michigan Tech staff and faculty to consider being statue judges for Winter Carnival.

Judging is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7. This is a great way to help students and MTU with a minimal time commitment. To volunteer, call Blue Key at 487-2818 or e-mail Ryan Kilgren at [rwkilgre@mtu.edu](mailto:rwkilgre@mtu.edu).

## University Theatre Presents "A Chorus Line"

Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts

One of America's most honored musicals, "A Chorus Line," will be staged by the Department of Fine Arts during this year's Winter Carnival celebration. "A Chorus Line" won 10 Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and many other prizes while becoming the second-longest-running show in Broadway history. **Richard Blanning** will direct performances in the Rozsa Center on Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 and 9 at 8 p.m., plus a matinee on Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. Tickets are available from Rozsa Center Ticketing Services, 487-3200, the SDC box office, Calumet Theatre, and <http://www.tickets.mtu.edu>

"A Chorus Line" takes the audience through the final grueling auditions for chorus dancers in a new Broadway musical. As the play begins, the director has chosen 16 semifinalists from a much larger group of hopefuls, only eight of whom will eventually be hired. As he calls on the final 16 to describe themselves, the intensely competitive actors—some young, some veterans—exhibit every possible reaction, from bravado to reticence. Their personalities, ambitions, memories and dreams are woven into a series of musical numbers and monologues, some humorous, some poignant.

As the characters come to life on stage, explaining why they chose a life that is often filled with rejection and injury, viewers root for their favorites and share the heartbreak of those who aren't selected. "A Chorus Line" puts a spotlight on the courage and tenacity of people the audience comes to see as both ordinary and quite extraordinary, people much like themselves.

The cast includes 19 Michigan Tech students and community members who bring a wealth of stage experience to this major production. In addition to Blanning, who has directed more than 50 plays and musicals as a faculty member at MTU, production credit goes to **Mike Irish**, MTU's director of jazz studies and music director for "A Chorus Line"; **Paul Aneshansel**, university technical director and set designer; assistant professor **Mary Carol Friedrich**, lighting and costume designer; and **Laura Aneshansel**, director of the Superior School of Dance, choreographer. Students enrolled in MTU's technical theater curriculum are playing major roles in design and construction of the show.

"A Chorus Line" was written by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, with music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Edward Kleban. More information is available from Rozsa Center Ticketing Services (487-3200) or Fine Arts (487-2067).

## Distance Learning Committee Seeks Input

The Distance Learning Committee wants to hear what you have to say about distance learning and intellectual property.

The committee is assessing current intellectual property policies and recommending changes to protect the intellectual property interests and rights of the University, employees, students and third parties, especially regarding distance education and the use of instructional technologies. The challenge is to recommend a policy that meets University needs and that balances institutional and professional issues. We need your help.

Several focus groups will meet next month to identify the important distance-learning dimensions of IP. Their analyses will be reported to the MTU community. Groups will include employees who have participated in MTU's distance learning programs, as well as those who have not.

The committee will review and analyze MTU's existing IP policies, benchmark other institutions regarding their IP policies for distance learning, and get input from members of the MTU community. The committee expects to have a draft policy ready by June.

**Becky Christianson** (Human Resources), assistant director for professional develop-

ment and quality improvement, will moderate the 90-minute focus sessions. Sessions for faculty currently involved in distance education are scheduled for Feb. 7, 19 and 27; Christianson will contact them via e-mail. A session will be held on Feb. 15 for chairs and deans of schools, who will also be contacted by Christianson.

A session for staff will be held Feb. 18. Some individuals have been identified, but all interested staff are encouraged to e-mail Christianson at [rwchrist@mtu.edu](mailto:rwchrist@mtu.edu).

One session has been scheduled for Feb. 14 for faculty who have not yet participated in distance learning but who may in the future or who are interested in the various IP dimensions of distance learning. If there is sufficient interest, a second session will be held. Faculty interested in participating should e-mail Christianson at [rwchrist@mtu.edu](mailto:rwchrist@mtu.edu).

As in any decision-making process, the depth and richness of the input received in the early phases of this effort will have an immense impact on the quality of the recommendations that constitute the final outcome. Please consider sharing your insights and perspectives on this important matter.

## Library Delivering Documents by E-Mail

This spring, the J. Robert Van Pelt Library is piloting a service to deliver interlibrary loans and journal articles via e-mail. Whenever possible, requested materials are delivered as pdf attachments.

In 2000–01, the library received over 10,000 requests to borrow books, articles, conference proceedings, etc. from other libraries and document delivery services.

"We are getting positive feedback from our pilot group," said **Mark C. Bronson**, head of access services. "Users are able to store and manipulate their information in digital format. We are able to deliver their information more quickly and to the place they are working."

Over the next few weeks, users will receive their requested material via e-mail with a short questionnaire. Additionally, they are also sent the traditional paper copy through campus mail.

For further information, contact the ILL/DD staff at [ill@mtu.edu](mailto:ill@mtu.edu) or 487-3207.

## Campus Campaign Going Strong

The Michigan Tech Fund's annual Campus Campaign has hit the halfway mark for 2001–02.

**Ed Fisher**, chair of the Campus Campaign Committee, is pleased to report the participation level has surpassed 30 percent.

"The defining goal of the Campus Campaign is always based on participation," he said. "We continue to send this message to the entire campus community: it's not the size of the gift that matters. What is important is that employees choose to make a gift at some level."

Currently, 413 Tech employees have made a gift or pledge in support of their favorite department or program on campus. These contributions of more than \$135,000 will have a significant impact on the quality

of education and service we are able to offer at Tech. The annual campaign will continue to run throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, June 30, 2002. This still leaves plenty of time for you to make a gift and add your name to the Campus Campaign Honor Roll of Donors, if you haven't already.

There are several ways to make a gift to Michigan Tech: check, credit card, payroll deduction or by going to the Tech Fund Web site at [www.mtf.mtu.edu](http://www.mtf.mtu.edu). Employees can choose whichever method works best for them. For more information about supporting Campus Campaign, contact Paula Nutini, director of annual giving, at 487-3324 or [pjnutini@mtu.edu](mailto:pjnutini@mtu.edu).



## Spring Semester at the Rozsa: More Great Shows

The Great Events Series at the Rozsa Center offers a series of world-class events through April. Music and dance from Africa and from Russia, classical and Afro-Cuban music, and two major theater productions make up the second half of the series. Tickets can be purchased at the Rozsa Box Office (487-3200, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday) or online (<http://www.tickets.mtu.edu>).

The National Dance Company of Mozambique (Saturday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m.) brings authentic dances of celebration that commemorate the heritage of Mozambique. The performance is a colorful kaleidoscope of fast-paced, high-energy dance and music that was critically acclaimed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, when the company made its debut there in 1998.

Popular demand brings The Red Star Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble back to Tech (Thursday, March 14, 8 p.m.). After their exciting performance at the SDC Varsity Gym in 1998, they are looking forward to performing at the Rozsa. The performance includes balalaikas, wonderful Russian voices and dancing that ranges from the demure to the vigorous, including gravity-defying dances that take your breath away with their skill and speed.

Providing an opportunity for a light-hearted evening, perennial favorite The Second City touring company returns to Tech on Saturday, March 16, at 8 p.m. With new talent and new skits in addition to the improv segment in which the actors take suggestions from the audience, the show is fresh and funny every time. Parents should note that this event is appropriate for a college-age-and-up audience.

The Guthrie Theater brings the work of Eugene O'Neill to the Rozsa on Friday and Saturday, March 22-23, with performances at 8 p.m. "Ah, Wilderness!" O'Neill's only comedy, is a delightfully funny family story

set in a small Connecticut town on a July 4 weekend. The Guthrie has set a national standard for excellence in theatrical production and performance since its inception in 1963. These two performances were made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Heartland Fund, a collaboration of Arts Midwest and the Mid-America Arts Alliance, and MTU endowments.

Following the sold-out success of the Afro-Cuban All Stars a couple of years ago, ¡Cubanismo!, an all-star band with Jesús Alemañy (the Cuban Wynton Marsalis) at the helm, brings electrifying Latin rhythms back to our campus on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m.

The leading chamber orchestra in America, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra visits the Rozsa on Friday, April 12, for an 8 p.m. performance. A brilliant young conductor, Kerilyn Wilson, and an award-winning pianist performing Mozart's D minor Piano Concerto, promise to make this a truly memorable evening.

Christopher Carter debuts at the Rozsa at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, with his mind-reading show, "Theatre of Thoughts." With an ability to sense what his volunteers are thinking, he amazes audiences with his accuracy in ESP.

Squonk, with its off-the-wall performance art, is here on Saturday, April 20, after winning awards and success on Broadway. A wacky combination of friendly monsters, creative props, a mechanical horse, other-worldly machines, make Squonk performances unique and enjoyable.

The season ends with Aquila Theatre's production of one of Shakespeare's truly great plays, "The Tempest." The extraordinary skills of Aquila's actors, along with the imaginative staging that is the hallmark, promise a fresh and impressive interpretation of this wonderful play.

For more information about the Great Events Series, call (487-2844) or visit [www.greatevents.mtu.edu](http://www.greatevents.mtu.edu).

## January

- 25 **Friday**  
7:05 p.m.—Hockey, North Dakota at MTU—Student Ice Arena  
7:15 p.m.—"Alice's Restaurant"—Calumet Theatre
- 26 **Saturday**  
5 p.m.—Martin Luther King banquet—Memorial Union Ballroom  
7:05 p.m.—Hockey, North Dakota at MTU—Student Ice Arena  
7:30 p.m.—Studio North Opera—Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
- 28 **Monday**  
noon—Weight Watchers meeting—Memorial Union Ballroom B
- 31 **Thursday**  
8 p.m.—"A Chorus Line"—Rozsa Center

## February

### Black History Month

- 1 **Friday**  
8 p.m.—"A Chorus Line"—Rozsa Center
- 8 **Friday**  
8 p.m.—"A Chorus Line"—Rozsa Center
- 9 **Saturday**  
8 p.m.—"A Chorus Line"—Rozsa Center
- 10 **Sunday**  
3 p.m.—"A Chorus Line"—Rozsa Center

### Open Source Software Seminar Feb. 28

Open Source Software is the theme of the Winter MichNet Seminar, presented by Merit Network, Inc. This free seminar is open to employees of Merit members and affiliates; MTU is a member. The seminar will take place at the Oakland Center at Oakland University on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Russell C. Pavlicek, Linux evangelist, InfoWorld columnist and author of "Embracing Insanity: Open Source Software Development" will present the plenary address. Other featured speakers include Bill Fryberger and John Klein, from Grand Valley State University; Matt McMahan, from Gratiot-Isabella Intermediate School District; and Paul Amaranth and William Bulley, from Merit Network, Inc.

"We think it is time to talk about open source software. Many of our members and affiliates are concerned with licensing issues and the rising costs of commercial software," says Teresa Raymond, an Internet consultant for Merit's Member and Affiliate Services. "Open source not only offers a viable alternative to expensive commercial products, but sometimes an open source product meets a customer's need better."

Complete information can be found at the Merit Web site, <http://www.merit.edu/michnet/seminar>. Registrations will also be taken by mail, phone, fax and e-mail. The registration deadline is Feb. 20. Space is limited to six attendees per member or affiliate. If you have any questions, contact Gayle Terkeurst at [registration@merit.edu](mailto:registration@merit.edu) or 734-764-9430.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MICHIGAN TECH

Job descriptions will be available at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, or by e-mail at <[JOBS@MTU.EDU](mailto:JOBS@MTU.EDU)>.

The following position will be posted Friday, Jan. 25, 2002, at 1 p.m. through noon, Friday, Feb. 1, 2002, in the Human Resources Office.

- Cook—Residential Services/Dining (AFSCME internal posting only; first shift)
- Secretary N3—Social Sciences (Regular, nine-month, part-time position; 30 hours per week; UAW internal and external posting)
- Corporate and Foundation Development Officer—Corporate Services
- Senior System Administrator/Programmer—Civil and Environmental Engineering

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, Feb. 1, 2002, to be considered as internal candidates for bargaining unit positions only. Applicants from the recall pool will be given first consideration for non-bargaining-unit positions only. Vacancy announcements are normally posted every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Human Resources Office. Complete job descriptions are available in the Human Resources Office or by calling 487-2280. More information regarding employment opportunities is available by calling the Job Line at 487-2895. Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.