

Senate Hears New Retirement Benefit Proposal

The University Senate heard a proposal April 11 that would provide an additional retirement benefit for qualifying MTU employees.

The plan was developed by the Benefits Liaison Group at the request of the provost to provide a standardized, ongoing voluntary retirement benefit that allows employees to plan for retirement and their departments to anticipate upcoming retirements when they develop their budgets.

To qualify, employees would have to be working at a minimum of 75 percent effort and have accumulated at least 80 points (age plus years of service) or be at least 65 years old with at least 10 years of service. Employees planning to participate in the program would have to give one year's notice to their department.

The Retirement Supplemental Voluntary Plan (RSVP) gives qualifying employees a choice of three options.

The Monetary Retirement Option provides a one-time payment of half of the employee's base salary, up to \$50,000. The payment would be applied toward the retiree's MTU health-care premium, unless the employee has other health insurance coverage (such as MPERS). In that case, the payment would be given the first pay period after the employee's retirement.

The Phased Retirement Option would allow the employee to work at least half time for three years before retiring; this option requires the consent of the their chair, dean or director. During this time, employees would be covered by MTU's health insurance. In addition, they would accumulate vacation and sick leave based on the amount of time worked and life and disability insurance and retirement contributions prorated based on the percentage of their salary.

The third choice would be the Combined Monetary/Phased Retirement Option, and also would require the consent of the chair, dean or director. Under this plan, the

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There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience and that is not learning from experience.

—ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

One University, One E-Mail Policy: What Do You Think?

As a mission-critical campus communications tool, e-mail is right up there with the telephone. Yet, while we all share the same phone system, e-mail management is scattered across campus, with different units and departments administering e-mail from their own servers.

E-mail has become such a powerful and important tool that the need has arisen to develop centralized policies, so everyone from humanities to IT to chemical engineering can expect similar services. So the Computing Advisory Committee has formed a subcommittee to get a handle on some of the important e-mail issues and develop policies based on what works best for everyone.

"Many of these are life-shaping issues for the e-mail world," said subcommittee chair **Dan deBeaubien**, director of Distributed Computing Services. "Traditionally, e-mail policies have been authored in the departments, with everyone doing their own thing. We're looking at centralizing policies to improve the viability of e-mail and give everyone a common expectation of how campus e-mail should work."

Here are the main issues the subcommittee has identified. What do you think? The subcommittee wants to hear your opinions on these points, particularly if decisions affect your ability to do your job.

If you have questions or comments, contact any of the following subcommittee members: Dan deBeaubien (dan@mtu.edu, 487-3005), Cindy Selfe (Humanities, cyselfe@mtu.edu, 487-2447), Dave

Poplawski (Computer Science, pop@mtu.edu, 487-2331), Shawn Earl (SBE student, spearl@mtu.edu, 482-2386), Margo O'Brien (Accounting, mpobrien@mtu.edu, 487-2243), Karen Giddings (Student Records and Registration, 487-2319, kegiddin@mtu.edu) and Jim Moore (School of Forestry and Wood Products, jmoore@mtu.edu, 487-2355).

You can also visit <http://www.it.mtu.edu/dcs/viewdocs/AddressedMailConcerns4a.htm> for more information.

1. How often should we let users check e-mail?

Every time you (or your computer) check your e-mail, it puts a load on the central e-mail servers, which serve the entire University. Too many people checking their mail too often can slow down message delivery.

Users typically check for new mail every five to 20 minutes, but some people check as often as every two minutes. Should the University limit how often users check for new mail to, for example, every five to 10 minutes?

2. How and when should e-mail be automatically forwarded from an mtu.edu account to another account (such as hotmail.com or chartermi.net)?

This mainly affects students, but involves faculty and staff as well. Many students now come to campus with well-established e-mail and instant messaging accounts. Though they all receive mtu.edu accounts, many of them want their campus e-mail forwarded to their

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Warrington Elected ASME Fellow

Dean of Engineering **Robert Warrington** has been elected to the grade of Fellow by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The distinction recognizes significant engineering achievements and contributions to the engineering profession.

Warrington became Michigan Tech's dean of engineering in 1996. During his six years as dean, he has supported the development of the engineering curriculum, including programs that increase communications and teamwork. One example is the innovative Enterprise Program, in which students work on an engineering project that includes design, manufacturing, marketing and business development.

He was also instrumental in developing the Engineering Research Center for Wireless Integrated Microsystems, a National Science Foundation project with a budget of \$60 million over 10 years. Michigan Tech's part will total about \$6 million. The partnership involves Michigan Tech, the University of Michigan, Michigan State and 20 corporations.

Before moving to Michigan Tech, Warrington was the founder and director of the Institute of Micromanufacturing at Louisiana Tech University for five years and head of that university's mechanical and industrial engineering department for 11 years. He has over 140 publications and 37 research grants to his credit.

Warrington is one of 23 ASME members named to the fellow grade this year. The association has 125,000 members worldwide.

Nominees Wanted for Distinguished Service Award

The Faculty Distinguished Service Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2002 award. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 30.

The award is open to all full-time faculty, including lecturers and research faculty. Those who hold restricted appointments (e.g. adjunct, visiting, temporary or part-time faculty) are not eligible, along with faculty who hold positions with a significant administrative component (e.g. deans, associate deans, department chairs). The award will be presented at President's Convocation next fall.

The Faculty Distinguished Service Award recognizes service to the University community that has significantly improved the quality of some aspect of campus life. The work could have resulted, in part, from compensated efforts, but it must have been of a quality that distinguishes itself above and beyond the normal execution of those tasks. The award is intended to recognize exceptional rather than integrated service. It is not a lifetime achievement award.

Nominations will be accepted from any member of the University community including faculty, staff, students and alumni and should be received by the committee by April 30. To make a nomination, fill out the form at

www.me.mtu.edu/2002.fdsa.form.pdf and submit it with any supporting material to Carl Anderson, chair, Faculty Distinguished Service Award Committee, ME-EM, MTU.

Nominations should include a description of the specific work for which the candidate is being nominated; an explanation of why the work merits the award, including a description of how the University has changed as a result of this work; a model inscription to be placed on the award; and any appropriate supporting materials.

MichiganTech

Bill Curnow, executive director, University Relations
Marcia Goodrich, *Tech Topics* editor
Tech Topics Web site: www.mtu.edu/news/ttopics/

To get *Tech Topics* via e-mail, send a message to 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 tttopics@mtu.edu
- By campus mail, send typed copies to *Tech Topics*, University Relations.

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

The Case Against Teaching, Part 2

By William Kennedy, director

Center for Teaching, Learning,
and Faculty Development



Professor Larry Spence, director of undergraduate learning initiatives at Penn State's School of

Information Sciences and Technology, is convinced that traditional teacher-centered classroom instruction is inadequate to prepare students to work, or even to live fully, in the modern world.*

Spence observes that this kind of teaching is why there is less and less of a market for traditional classroom instruction. Across the academy, and particularly in research universities, faculty members know that time spent in the classroom is negatively correlated with income. Despite their best efforts, many college professors who struggle with their teaching ultimately find themselves frustrated and embittered, tired of fretting over an endless stream of incoherent student papers and subsequent protestations over grade issues. Spence suggests that to improve student learning, faculty members must jettison virtually all of their inherited beliefs about teaching and rethink both the needs of their students and how best to design learning experiences that will make use of their innate human desire to make sense of the world.

Learning begins with curiosity. Spence argues that even in infancy, humans start out with competing theories of reality. Much of learning involves testing models and favoring those that hold over time. He cites research that rejects the idea of the mind as a sort of tape recorder that learns through absorption. Rather, he says, our minds learn by constructing and testing a series of working models that account for our experiences. "Like an artist," he writes, "the brain selects, discounting most signals and seeking constancies that make up our images of the world." Learning is an active process that involves reasoning and constantly breaking old and making new connections to account for our ever-changing life experiences. This sort of discovery learning brings its own pleasures unlike the manifest drudgeries of listening to someone else lay out a system of understanding for us and then giving us a test.

The need to validate classroom instruction

* "The Case Against Teaching," *Change*, November/December 2001, pp. 11-19

Time to Order Academic Garb for Convocation

Provost **Kent Wray** is inviting faculty to participate in academic procession as part of President's Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 18. Convocation begins at 3 p.m. in the Rozsa Center and will be preceded by a faculty march in academic garb from the Memorial Union to the Rozsa.

If you need to rent a gown, contact Mike DeCaesari (mjdecaes@mtu.edu or 487-2410) at the Campus Store by Friday, April 19. Don't delay; gown orders cannot be placed next fall, except those for new faculty.

Please feel free to contact the Special Events Office (487-2284) if you have any questions.

Senior Design Team Takes 2nd at “Baseball Frenzy”

A senior design team advised by Professor **Ghatu Subhash** (ME-EM) took second place at the “Baseball Frenzy” American Society of Mechanical Engineers regional student competition held recently in Evansville, Ind.

Ten teams were called upon to design and fabricate an automated baseball throwing machine, which lobbed 24 balls at three different targets, all within two minutes.

All this and the following caveat: “Once the system is activated, no external contact or interaction of any kind is allowed.”

“I am proud to say that one of our two teams secured a second place and, most of all, the appreciation of the crowd and the judges for the elegant design,” Subhash said. “They had some bad luck, but they did well overall against some good schools.”

“It was completely a student effort and they deserve all the credit.”

Last year, MTU’s senior design teams took first and third place in the ASME competition, designing and building a fishing pole for use by quadriplegics using “sip and puff” technology.

Members of the second-place team are ME-EM students **Andrew Barnard, Ben Grisso, Steve Honkala, Mike Klimek and Ben Wolak.**

The winning team was the University of Kentucky at Louisville.

Durfee Makes Front Page of the Times

Associate Professor **Mary Durfee** (Social Sciences) recently had her commentary, “The Evil Axis of Universities?” make the front page of the Public Administration Times.

In a withering critique of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni post-Sept. 11 report “Defending Civilization,” she denounces its methodology (a complete reliance on anecdotes and a complete absence of scientific study) and argues that “the defense of freedom entails criticism of government policy.”

For more, visit www.aspanet.org/publications/patimes/index.html

Bioinformatics Seminar Friday

Alan Dombkowski of the Michigan Center for Biological Information in Ann Arbor will give a talk, “Challenges and Opportunities in Bioinformatics: A Multidisciplinary View,” on Friday, April 12, at 4 p.m. in Dow 641.

All interested persons are invited. For more information, contact John Adler, jhadler@mtu.edu, 487-3415.

Semana Latina

Five Lunch ‘n’ Learns on Latin America

Come learn about the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil and “Música Latina”—Latin music, as Michigan Tech celebrates Latino Week with five lunch ‘n’ learns set for noon April 15–19.

MTU students from a variety of South and Central American nations will talk about their homelands, and **Ciro Sandoval**, an associate professor of humanities, will give an introduction to Latin music. All the lunch ‘n’ learns will be held in M&M U113, unless otherwise noted.

Everyone is welcome. BYO lunch; authentic Latin American desserts will be provided free to all guests.

The events are organized by Nosotros: the Hispanic Student Organization and MTU’s chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

On Monday, April 15, the talk will be “From the Origins of Merengue Music: the Dominican Republic.” Tuesday’s lunch ‘n’ learn, “Diverse Worlds in One Small Place: Ecuador,” will be held in M&M U115.

“On the South Edge of the American Continent: Argentina” is set for Wednesday. Thursday’s lunch ‘n’ learn will be “A Taste of Latin Music, with Sandoval.”

Latino Week concludes on Friday with “Bedazzled by Brazil.”

The lunch ‘n’ learn series is supported by Ford, GM, Dow Chemical, the Presidential Commission on Diversity and Outreach and Multiethnic Programs, a division of Educational Opportunity. For more information, call 487-2920 or e-mail shenkel@mtu.edu.

Mining Conference to Feature Silent Auction

A silent auction of minerals and other mining-related items is among the highlights of the 84th annual conference of the U.P. Section of SME (Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration) on Thursday, April 18, in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

Geology, mineral processing and mining will be discussed in a series of talks through the day. The business meeting and luncheon are set for noon, and the conference concludes with an evening social hour and banquet. Scholarship awards will be made at the banquet.

Robert Barron, a scuba diver and facilities manager for the geological sciences and

engineering department, will give a slide-illustrated talk following the banquet on the recovery of a 17-ton copper boulder from Lake Superior last summer.

A silent auction will be held throughout the day in the ballroom. Everyone is invited to bid on donated items and relics related to minerals, mining and mineral processing: old books, maps, stock certificates, artifacts, mineral specimens, etc. The proceeds support the scholarship program of the MINE (Mineral Industry Education) Fund of the U.P. Section SME. If you have questions or items to contribute, contact Al Johnson at 482-9097 or e-mail amj@mtu.edu.

Gill Named Keynote Speaker at Awards Banquet

Professor **Glenda Gill** (Humanities) will be the keynote speaker at the Black Student Organizations awards banquet, set for Friday, April 19, at 6 p.m. at the Northern Lights Restaurant at the Best Western Franklin Square Inn, in Houghton.

Gill’s address will be “Breaking the Glass Ceiling by Faith.”

Participating organizations are the National Society of Black Engineers, the Black Student Association, the African Student Association, the Society of African American Men and the Society of Intellectual Sisters. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased by contacting Breia Kilgo (bnkilgo@mtu.edu, 483-8406) or Sandy Henkel in the Alumni House (shenkel@mtu.edu, 487-2920), or at the Memorial Union Solicitations Desk April 15–17 from noon until 3 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Bulletin Board Contest Winners Announced

The Women’s History Bulletin Board Contest ended in a tie, with two organizations taking first place and a prize of \$100. The top finishers were the Girl Geeks, for “Our Turn: Women Inventors” and the women in the Master’s International Forestry Program, for “The Growth of Influence: Branching Out for Women of the Future.”

The second-place winners, **Vickie McCarthy** and **Zabrina Robinson**, received \$75 for “Metamorphosis: Evidence of the Changing Winds.” Biological Sciences took the \$50 third-place award for “Women Sustaining the American Spirit in Science.”

Finishing fourth was the American Red Cross entry, “Women Have been Sustaining the American Spirit through the American Red Cross Since 1881,” which earned \$25.

Taking fifth place and \$10 was the display “Calling Forth American Spirits: Profound Women Writers,” by **Can Lu** and **Charlie Jacobs**.

Suzuki & Friends Jam and Auction Sunday at the Rozsa

Fiddler Jessica Dakota, guitarist Bruce Rundman and harpist John Manno will join violin, viola and cello students of the Copper Country Suzuki Association for a live jam session in the Rozsa Center's Horner Lobby on Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is free, refreshments are included and everyone is invited. Unique objects created by local artists from the association's old rental instruments will be on sale in a silent auction to support the Suzuki Association.

The jam session gives community members a chance to hear young fiddlers and other string players at their enthusiastic best in an informal setting. "People can drop by anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to hear some great music, enjoy the art display, and visit with friends," says CCSA president Mary Sue Hyslop. Proceeds from the art sale will help to match a \$25,000 grant to the CCSA's permanent endowment fund, which is a part of the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

The nonprofit Suzuki Association, an organization of community volunteers, has provided lessons in violin, viola and cello to students throughout the Copper Country for many and works with local school districts and the Department of Fine Arts to bring high-quality string teachers to the area.

More information on the Suzuki and Friends Jam and Art Auction is available by calling the CCSA office (487-3606) or the Michigan Tech Department of Fine Arts (487-2067).

Workshop April 23&24: Save Energy, Reduce Waste

Michigan Tech is among several co-sponsors of a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality workshop, "Waste Reduction and Energy Efficiency: Save Money, Save Energy, and Reduce Waste," being held twice: on Tuesday, April 23, at the Holiday Inn in Marquette and on Wednesday, April 24, at the Premiere Center in Iron Mountain.

The workshop offers a variety of talks on both energy efficiency and reducing or eliminating waste. Research Engineer **Allison Hein** is among the presenters.

For more information, contact Hein at 487-1821, amhein@mtu.edu. Registration is \$50 and the deadlines to register are April 16 for the Marquette workshop, April 17 for the Iron Mountain workshop.

Weight Watchers Meet April 15

Weight Watchers will hold their regular meeting on Monday, April 15, at noon in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. New members are welcome. For more information, call 487-2517.

America's Leading Chamber Orchestra Comes to the Rozsa Friday

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

The renowned Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra visits the Rozsa Center on Friday, April 12. With guest conductor Keri-Lynn Wilson and award-winning pianist Max Levinson making his debut with the orchestra, this promises to be a memorable evening of superb music. Tickets for the 8 p.m. concert are available at the Rozsa Center Box Office at 487-3200 (Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) or at www.tickets.mtu.edu.

Three major works are on the program: the Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Symphony No. 1 in C by Ludwig van Beethoven, and the Concerto in E-flat for Chamber Orchestra, known as "Dumbarton Oaks," by Igor Stravinsky.

Beethoven's nine symphonies are his best known and important works. He wrote his Symphony No. 1 when he was 29 years old. The impressive opening and splendid harmonies set the stage for the later symphonies. Influenced by Haydn, stormy passages alternate with melodic slow movements and spirited scherzos are followed by stately serenades.

Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks," which was written in 1938, is named after the magnificent estate of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bliss, great patrons of the arts. The work was commissioned in honor of the Bliss's 30th wedding anniversary. Stravinsky described the work as "a little concerto in the style of the Brandenburg Concertos." However, in spite of Bach's influence, the music is very 20th century.

Recognized as a rising star on the international scene, pianist Max Levinson's debut recitals in 1998 at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and London's Wigmore Hall were critical successes and received standing ovations. "His . . . quietly eloquent conceptions, formidable technique, and lovely touch left little to be desired," wrote the New York

Concert April 17 to Benefit Grad Student Family

"Reaching Out," a benefit concert featuring four local bands will be held Wednesday, April 17, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Rozsa Center on behalf of Yan Li.

Finn Street, Jaztec, carp and Shade will perform, and all proceeds will go to Li's family to help pay for her medical expenses.

She is the wife of Chunming Gao, a computer science master's student, and mother of 10-year-old Weijie Gao. Li nearly died last November as a result of kidney failure. Now her kidneys are 97 percent ineffective, and she will soon need dialysis. Gao's insurance does not cover dialysis, and because the family is Chinese they do not qualify for assistance.

"Faced with the combined expenses of prescription drugs, doctor visits and travel costs, this family desperately needs your help," organizers said.

The concert is sponsored by the Daniell Heights Residents' Council. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$8 for everyone else, and are on sale at Rozsa Center Ticketing Services (487-3200), the SDC, the TechExpress Office and the Calumet Theatre.

If you'd like to help but can't attend the concert, you can send a check written out to "Benefit for Yan Li" to the MTU Apartments Office.

"Please join us in reaching out to Yan Li and her family during this frightful and uncertain time of their life," the Residents' Council said.

Times critic, while the Los Angeles Times described him as "extravagantly gifted and extraordinarily accomplished . . . He has power, brains, and intuition." His talent is well suited to Mozart's dramatic concerto, which in the 19th century was a great favorite and a precursor to Beethoven's emotional compositions.

Guest conductor Wilson, another rising star, comes to the SPCO with an impressive list of credits. As the Juilliard conducting apprentice, she was an assistant to two internationally famous conductors, Maestro Otto Werner Mueller and later Claudio Abbado with the Vienna Philharmonic. She made her debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Montreal Symphony last season and has conducted other leading orchestras in the U.S. and Canada and at major opera houses in Europe.

As America's leading chamber orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, is known for its artistic excellence and remarkable versatility of musical styles. From the best of baroque to world premieres and commissions, the 33 virtuoso musicians perform more than 150 concerts each season, are heard on 100 nationwide radio stations every week and boast an impressive discography of 56 recordings. They tour extensively in Europe, South America and Asia and have performed at every major concert hall in the U.S.

The visit of the orchestra is made possible by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Heartland Arts Fund with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Katherine M. Bosch Endowment and the MTU Committee for Campus Enrichment. Two Class Acts school outreach performances by the orchestra were supported by the Copper Country Community Arts Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. For more information, contact the Great Events Office (487-2844).

All About E-Mail *Continued from page 1*

established addresses.

However, many faculty use e-mail to provide important information to their students, and they are concerned about the reliability of off-campus e-mail providers. When e-mail is forwarded outside MTU, there is no guarantee that the e-mail will reach its destination, making faculty wary of sending homework assignments over e-mail.

On the other hand, administrative departments, especially areas like Admissions and Student Services, need to communicate electronically with students before they are issued a campus e-mail address.

Currently, Distributed Computing Services forwards e-mail for students, faculty and staff on an ad hoc basis at the request of campus system administrators. Although this long-standing practice has been working, MTU has no policy that takes into account the potential pitfalls and the needs of the University community.

Should we forward mail whenever and wherever e-mail recipients request, or keep mail secure and reliable on the campus e-mail servers? Is there a hybrid solution?

3. What should we do if the user is away from campus?

It's not uncommon for faculty or staff to be out of the office for two weeks or longer, and students commonly leave for months over the summer or on co-ops. In these cases, their e-mail is being left in a temporary holding location on the central campus mail server for up to 30 days. Do users want to set up vacation messages, to have better remote access to their e-mail or to have their e-mail forwarded to different locations when they leave on trips?

Michigan Tech is not set up to offer "out of the office" vacation messages now, though mail can be forwarded to other e-mail addresses. Should Tech offer some kind of automatic response e-mail?

4. Should e-mail access policies be centralized?

Because departments run separate e-mail servers, access varies by department. For example, students in some areas may not have access to their mtu.edu mail during the summer.

It's an inconvenience for students, but it also poses a problem for administrative departments, who want to be able to use e-

mail for billing, recruitment and other business processes. Should all departments have the same access policies?

5. Should alumni have MTU e-mail?

Now, when students graduate from MTU, their e-mail account is eliminated. There have been calls to allow alumni to keep their mtu.edu accounts.

It may be unworkable to allow alumni to keep their same address, since they are reused over time. However, alumnus John Doe could undergo an address change, for example, from jjdoe@mtu.edu to jjdoe@2001alumni.mtu.edu.

What's the value of offering alumni e-mail addresses?

6. When should a person's (especially a student's) mtu.edu e-mail service begin and end?

Prospective students, accepted students, active students, graduate students and employees start and stop receiving e-mail at different times, often as they change from one category to another.

Usually, faculty and staff begin receiving e-mail as soon as they become employees and stop getting it when they leave the University (except for emeriti). The issue is more complex with students. Should a student begin receiving e-mail when they apply for admission or after they are enrolled? Should they be registered in a class to receive e-mail? If the student is not enrolled in the summer but is returning, should that student's e-mail ever be shut off? When students are dismissed, their e-mail is discontinued immediately. However, if a student transfers, should their e-mail account be kept open until the transfer is complete and, possibly, for a short time after?

7. What policy should we have regarding the recovery of deleted e-mail?

Currently, all MTU e-mail is backed up to a hard disk and onto a tape. This provides the most flexible and reliable form of data backup.

If you accidentally delete an important piece of e-mail (or if your computer crashes and destroys your mail), some departments recover it for you; others may not. DCS can recover e-mail from the central servers, but there aren't enough staff to handle a large number of requests. DCS is considering

restoring deleted e-mail only at certain times of the day or developing a system that allows users to restore their own e-mail.

8. If we centralize e-mail, how much space should e-mail users be allowed to have?

Big mailboxes can lead to big problems with server performance and network bandwidth, and space should be allocated fairly. In addition, different categories of MTU people need different amounts of storage.

One way to handle the problem is with disk quotas. One proposal is to let pre-students have small mailboxes, with progressively larger boxes being given to undergrads, staff, grad students and faculty members.

E-mail users who need more space could apply for extra megs.

If a user exceeds their "soft quota" limit, the system could send an advisory message telling them to clean out their mail boxes.

If a user reaches their "hard quota," DCS has a few options. They could (1) refuse e-mail for the user until there is more space available; (2) accept all new e-mail for the user, but deny the user access to it until there is more space available for delivery; or (3) clean the user's mailbox by eliminating the oldest messages, thus making room for new mail to be delivered.

In the News

Michigan Tech's Clean Snowmobile Team, which will compete this weekend in Colorado, gets a mention in this "Skiing" magazine story, "Revenge of the Nerds" by Andrew Slough. You can read it at http://www.skimag.com/article/feature.cfm?alias_id=10554

Senior Staff Assistant **Nancy Gagnon** (Student Records and Registration) was cited in "Detecting Cougars in the Great Lakes Region—A Field Guide," published by the Bengel Wildlife Center, for her field work that proved cougars do live in the Upper Peninsula.

New Staff

Paul Kerner has joined Residential Services-Dining as a food service helper in Wadsworth Hall. He resides in Lake Linden where he enjoys playing the guitar and drums in his spare time.

Melanie G. Narhi has joined the staff of the Memorial Union as a food service helper. She was previously the general manager of Burger King in Calumet for four years. Narhi is married to Jonathan Narhi, has two children, Dallas and Alysham, and lives in Lake Linden. Her interests include reading and computers.

Girls at Work: Register Now for T.O.D.T.W. Day

The President's Commission for Women has planned a day of programming for fifth- and sixth-grade girls participating in Take Our Daughters to Work Day, on Thursday, April 25, at MTU.

Several tours and sessions are planned to introduce girls to everything from bridge-building to business etiquette, and a pizza lunch will be provided (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children).

If you and your daughter (or friend) would like to participate, get permission from your supervisor and her school and return the form you received in campus mail to Joan Dostaler in Student Records and Registration. The registration deadline is April 19.

Barron to Speak on Raising the Copper Boulder

Robert J. Barron, who discovered the famous copper boulder on the floor of Lake Superior, will give a talk, "Raising the Copper Boulder," on Saturday, April 13, at 8 p.m. in Dow 642.

A reception will precede his lecture at 7 p.m. in the Seaman Mineral Museum. Barron will supply several door prizes related to the lecture.

Barron discovered the 17-ton copper boulder off the western shores of the Keweenaw Peninsula almost 10 years ago. Last summer, he coordinated an effort in which the Army Corps of Engineers hoisted the monster mineralogical specimen out of its watery home and brought it to the Quincy Mine Hoist for public display. Plans are for the specimen, which is 19 feet long, 8 feet wide and averages 18 inches thick, to be a centerpiece for the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum when it relocates to the Quincy Mine complex in the future.

Barron has been an avid mineral collector and scuba diver for 27 years. He is currently the facilities manager of Michigan Tech's geological engineering and sciences Department and the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum. He graduated in 1979 from Michigan Tech with a BS degree in Biological Science.

The reception and lecture are free and open to the public. The events are sponsored by the Seaman Mineral Museum Society and the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum.

Benefit Proposal *Continued from page 1*

employee would have two choices: 1) to work at least half time for two years and receive one-third of what they would receive under the Monetary Retirement Option upon retirement as a payment or credit toward health insurance; or 2) to work at least half time for one year and receive two-thirds of that amount upon retirement. Their health insurance would remain in force during this period. Vacation, sick leave, retirement contributions and life and disability insurance benefits would be prorated as in the Phased Retirement Option.

The cost of the RSVP program would be absorbed by the employee's department.

If adopted by the administration, RSVP would be offered to all nonunion, regular, full-time employees in the TIAA-CREF or

MTU POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

The following position will be posted Friday, April 12, 2002, at 1 p.m. through noon, Friday, April 19, 2002, in the Human Resources Office.

Staff Assistant (N6)—Office of Student Affairs

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, April 19, 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.

MPSERS retirement programs. It would be negotiated with MTU unions.

The senate approved Proposal 21-02, which would create an Academic Renewal program to give some returning students a fresh start. If approved by the administration, Academic Renewal would allow some students to reset their GPA to zero if they want to reenroll at MTU. Students would only qualify if their GPA were 2.0 or less and if they had not been enrolled for at least five years. They would still receive credit earned on the courses they had completed.

"This is for returning adult students," said **Martha Janners**, vice provost and dean for student affairs. "It's really for students who are 35 or 40 years old who are burdened by their old record."

The senate also approved revisions to the search procedures for University administrators (Proposal 18-01) and deans (Proposal 19-01). It received Proposal 23-02 which, if adopted, would create an MTU-senate Task Force on Career Opportunities for Professional Staff. The task force would address a number of issues, including opportunities for promotion and rewards or recognition for research, instruction, professional development and development of University policy.

To read the proposals, visit www.sas.it.mtu.edu/usenate/prop.html.

In Print

Associate Professors **John Lowther** and **Ching-Kuang Shene** (Computer Science) published an article, "Computing with Geometry as an Undergraduate Course: A Three-Year Experience," in the proceedings of the ACM 32nd Annual SIGCSE Technical Symposium.

Associate Professor **John Lowther** (Computer Science) published an abstract of "Computer Science Curriculum Design at a Technological University" in the Proceedings of the Second World Congress of Latvian Scientists.

April

Fair Housing Month

- 12 **Friday**
4 p.m.—Alan Dombkowski, "Challenges and Opportunities in Bioinformatics: A Multidisciplinary View"—Dow 641
8 p.m.—St. Paul Chamber Orchestra—Rozsa Center
8 p.m.—"Arsenic and Old Lace"—McArdle Theatre
- 13 **Saturday**
8 p.m.—"Arsenic and Old Lace"—McArdle Theatre
- 14 **Sunday**
1-3 p.m.—Suzuki Jam and Auction—Horner Lobby, Rozsa Center
- 15 **Monday**
noon—Latino Week Lunch 'n' Learn: "From the Origins of Merengue: The Dominican Republic"—M&M U113
noon—Weight Watchers meet—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
- 16 **Tuesday**
noon—Latino Week Lunch 'n' Learn: "Diverse Worlds in One Small Place: Ecuador"—M&M U115
- 17 **Wednesday**
noon—Latino Week Lunch 'n' Learn: "On the South Edge of the American Continent: Argentina"—M&M U113
- 18 **Thursday**
all day—84th Annual Conference and silent auction, U.P. Section of SME—Memorial Union Ballroom
noon—Latino Week Lunch 'n' Learn: "A Taste of Latin Music" with Ciro Sandoval—M&M U113
7 p.m.—Benefit concert for Yan Li featuring four local bands—Rozsa Center
8 p.m.—"Arsenic and Old Lace"—McArdle Theatre
- 19 **Friday**
noon—Latino Week Lunch 'n' Learn: "Bedazzled by Brazil"—M&M U113
6 p.m.—Black Student Organizations award banquet—Northern Lights
8 p.m.—"Arsenic and Old Lace"—McArdle Theatre
- 20 **Saturday**
8 p.m.—"Arsenic and Old Lace"—McArdle Theatre
- 25 **Thursday**
all day—Take Our Daughters to Work Day

MTU Notables

Terry McNinch, director of LTAP and TDG, received the County Road Association of Michigan Distinguished Service Award March 21 at its annual award breakfast.

University Archivist **Erik Nordberg** has been appointed to the State Historical Records Advisory Board. The board oversees statewide records issues and provides leadership, vision and coordination of statewide records initiatives. It also is the primary review body for grant applications from Michigan institutions to the National Historical Records and Publications Commission.