

Tech Topics

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Michigan Tech's Faculty-Staff Newsletter

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Senate Starts Work on Consensual Relationship Policy

The University Senate cleaned house May 8, acting on several pending measures to wrap up the academic year.

The senate tabled a proposed Policy on Consensual Relationships following a motion by Senator **Don Beck** (Physics) to expand its scope to address the behavior of both faculty and staff, instead of focussing primarily on faculty.

As presented, the proposal deals primarily with "romantic or sexual relationships between faculty and staff, junior and senior faculty members, or faculty and students." Beck suggested changes that would eliminate references to faculty and staff and simply use the terms "MTU employee" and "student." Rather than specifying who the parties are in a consensual relationship (e.g., a student and a faculty member), his amendment addresses relationships in which "a significant power differential exists."

The senate is expected to take the matter up again in the fall. To view the original proposal, see <http://www.sas.it.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/22-02.htm>

The senate passed a number of revisions to scholastic standards designed to increase the chance that students in academic trouble will be identified and assisted. The revisions also raised the grade requirement for transferring class credit from another institution from a C- to a C.

To view the revisions, visit www.sas.it.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/24-02.htm

The senate agreed to form an ad hoc Task Force on Career Opportunities for

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Officers Reelected

The University Senate has reelected Professor **Robert Keen** (Biological Sciences) as its president for the 2002-03 academic year.

Senators also retained Vice President **Becky Christianson** (Human Resource), assistant director for CPDQI, and Secretary **Craig Waddell**, a professor in the Department of Humanities.

Do not join independent clauses with a comma. . . {T}he proper mark of punctuation is a semicolon.

—WILLIAM STRUNK AND E. B. WHITE,
"THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE"

Tompkins Opens the Door to 14-Week Semesters

President **Curt Tompkins** has opened the door for the University Senate to develop a new, 14-week academic calendar.

"The administration will support a 14-week semester, if the senate supports it," he told senators May 2 at an informal open forum with senators. "The feedback I've gotten from students and faculty is 'Fifteen weeks is too long.'"

In 1999, the student body lobbied hard for a 15-week semester. "When we changed from three 10-week quarters to semesters, the students said they wanted equivalency," Tompkins said. "But my sense is that now most students would be delighted with 14 weeks."

Senate President **Robert Keen** agreed. "What I've been hearing from the faculty is that students are tired after 15 weeks," he said. In addition, faculty have said that colleagues at other universities with shorter semesters are already writing grants while MTU faculty are still completing classwork. And MTU students complain that students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, which has 13-1/2-week semesters, get a jump on summer jobs because their semester ends two weeks earlier.

Dale Tahtinen, secretary to the Board of Control and vice president of governmental relations, noted that the Board of Control had said it would be willing to revisit the calendar.

The senate is expected to look into the issue next fall and draft a new calendar for 2003-04. Next year's academic calendar is already set.

With the administration recommending a budget with a \$3 million deficit for the 2002-03 fiscal year, senators asked what was causing the shortfall. "We don't have control over the state appropriation, and that drives the budget," Provost **Kent Wray** said. The University had planned for a 12.5 percent tuition hike, which would have balanced the budget, and instead is faced with a 8.5 percent cap imposed by the state.

That will reduce tuition revenues by about \$1.9 million, he said, and another \$1 million in unexpected and unavoidable expenses account for the remainder of the deficit.

The Board of Control has asked the administration to present other draft budgets for its consideration, including a balanced budget and one with a smaller deficit.

Tompkins said it was important not to let

short-term financial problems dominate the management of Michigan Tech. "You don't cut your way to being a great university," he said.

"People say there's a disconnect between the strategic plan and the budget," Senator **Larry Sutter** (Technology) said. That has led to skepticism as to how the plan is being implemented.

Wray said that the University's plan and budget are both at the mercy of revenues, particularly the state appropriation. Until the University eliminates the deficit, it won't be able to fully implement the plan.

In any case, the strategic plan does help to set priorities. "I find it helpful to have the plan as a basis to react," Tompkins said, and it is used to develop budget alternatives.

Wray agreed. "Even though we're going through a crunch, it's still a good plan," he said.

Senator **Craig Waddell** (Humanities) asked why other universities were more successful in attracting students. At least three major factors play a role, and none have to do with the quality of an MTU education.

First, Michigan Tech's tuition is higher than that of most other public universities because of the cost of the programs. While Michigan Tech is famous for the quality of its engineering education, it's difficult to attract students to nonengineering programs here when they compare tuition to similar programs closer to home, Tompkins said. Greater state support would help solve the problem, Tompkins said. Georgia Tech receives \$7,000 more per student from the state annually, while students pay \$2,000 less in tuition.

The University could address some of these issues by instituting cost-based tuition, which would lower tuition for students in forestry, business and technology and raise it for engineering majors.

The second main factor is distance. In the early 1980s, there were fewer engineering programs in Michigan, as well as in Minnesota and Wisconsin, Tompkins said, which meant that students had to travel if they wanted to be engineers. Since 1980, 13 new engineering schools have sprung up in the three-state region, which means that students can earn an engineering degree and remain close to home.

Thirdly, Michigan Tech is competing for a small segment of the student population, those who are interested in engineering and

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Schedule Your TIAA-CREF Consultation Now

A TIAA-CREF consultant will be on campus May 14–17 to meet with individual participants and give personalized planning and guidance on your retirement and financial goals.

You can receive counseling on consolidating investments, including 403(b)s, 401(k)s, Roth and Traditional IRAs, finding the right investment allocation for you and creating an investment portfolio. In addition, you can learn about new savings and investments opportunities, TIAA-CREF retirement income options and cash withdrawal vs. lifetime income retirement options.

You can book your appointment on-line at <https://ifs2.tiaa-cref.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/ARS> or by calling Kandyce at 800-842-2044.

Commencement Speaker to Give Seminar May 10

Charlie C. Chen will give a talk, "Entrepreneurial Challenges for Materials Scientists and Engineers," on Friday, May 10, at 2:10 p.m. in M&M 610. Chen will deliver the Spring Commencement Address May 11 at MTU.

Chen, who is head of Chen-Tech Taiwan Industries Corporation, earned a PhD in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Tech and eventually became a successful and recognized engineer/technologist and businessman. He will discuss his personal and professional experiences as he moved from academia to the corporate world, setting up high-technology manufacturing businesses in the U.S. and in Taiwan.

He will also discuss materials technologies, including forging, casting and forming of metallic materials, as well as the innovative application of titanium alloys to consumer products.

Chen's talk is free and open to the public.

MichiganTech

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

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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
- 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.

Gale Named Associate Dean of Forestry

Professor **Margaret Gale** has accepted an appointment as associate dean of the School of Forestry and Wood Products effective July 1, **Glenn Mroz** has announced.

"The School is very fortunate to have the opportunity to enlist the talents of Peg Gale," said Mroz, dean of forestry and wood products. "Peg is the type of faculty member who has worked effectively in teaching, research and service. She's served on major University committees, she knows how the University works and can work effectively with people.

"Plus, she's a very direct, straightforward person and a great role model."

Gale has been the School's graduate program coordinator for more than five years. When the School's charter was revised, that position was eliminated along with the graduate student coordinator and computer coordinator positions. As associate dean, Gale will have responsibility for those three areas. In addition, she will continue to teach and mentor grad students in the area of wetland ecology and management.

"With tight budgets, we simply have to be more efficient with faculty and staff time while insuring that we proceed toward our goal of becoming a 'national university of choice,'" Mroz said.

Gale earned a BS in Forestry and an MS in Forest Management at Michigan Tech before completing her PhD in Production Ecology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She

returned to MTU as an instructor in 1987 and attained the rank of professor in 1999.

While her research focuses primarily on wetlands issues, Gale has coauthored more than 40 articles and presentations on a variety of topics relating to forestry and forest ecology. She is co-editor of the book "Northern Forested Wetlands: Ecology and Management" and was book editor for the *Forest Ecology and Management Journal*. Since 1987, she has been the principal investigator on approximately \$1 million in research funding.

She has helped establish a study-abroad program at the University of Veracruz, in Mexico, for MTU's applied ecology students and traveled to Poland as part of a joint research project with Michigan Tech and Polish scientists.

Gale received the School's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990 and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Faculty Fellowship Award in 1994. In addition, she was honored in 1997 by the Society of American Foresters for her contributions to the development and coordination of ecological terminology.

She has advised 10 master's recipients and two PhD graduates and is currently advising nine graduate students. She has served on a number of University committees and is currently a member of the Graduate Faculty Council.

Dissertations Go Electronic

Submitted by the Graduate School

Innovate, participate, go electronic!

Michigan Tech graduate students can secure global exposure of their work and develop the skills needed to create substantive electronic documents by choosing to accompany the submission of the required paper copies of project reports, theses and dissertations with a wholly electronically formatted copy. While traditional paper copies are still required, electronic submission on CD-ROM, zip discs and regular 1.44m floppy discs is supported and encouraged. And before too long, it will be possible to ftp your document to the Library's server directly.

What is an ETD?

An Electronic Thesis or Dissertation (ETD) is a document that explicates the research of a graduate student and is expressed in a form simultaneously suitable for machine archives and worldwide retrieval. An ETD must have the same content as the required paper version, such as text, figures, tables, footnotes and references. However, being electronic, it may also include multimedia and interactive objects and links. An ETD can be displayed on the World Wide Web and can be retrieved and archived electronically. It is

available to anyone who can browse the Web. An ETD can be very simple, such as a traditional text-only document converted into an electronic version. Or an ETD can be enriched with new electronic tools characteristic of emerging areas of scholarly communication. You prepare your ETD using nearly any word processor or document preparation system, but the electronic format provides you with a technologically advanced medium for expressing your ideas.

Other perks

Because University Microfilms is able to upload electronic files from our server, doctoral students who submit an ETD will no longer need to provide a paper copy for UMI. ETDs will be linked from the Van Pelt on-line catalog and will be equipped with a counter to record visits to the document. Graduates can include the URL on resumes, business cards and publications and link to it from personal or department websites.

For more details, visit www.admin.mtu.edu/rgs/graduate/KeepingOnTrackForms/ETDInstructions.pdf

If you have questions, call or e-mail mjuri-on@mtu.edu, 7-2327

Students Take Top Honors in Environmental Design Contest

By Laura Walikainen

A team of Michigan Tech students took a first-place award and was honored for submitting the best paper overall at the 12th Annual WERC International Environmental Design Contest, held last month in Las Cruces, N.M. The students also took home \$3,000 in prize money. The team competed against 24 universities from the United States, India and Mexico.

In the contest, student teams attempt to solve any of a number of environmental problems. The MTU team competed in three different areas. Teams also had to construct a working, small-scale model to test their solution to various tasks, submit a paper on their solution and present their findings.

Michigan Tech students took first place in the task "Remediation of Petroleum Contaminated Soil." The best paper award was given to the MTU students who entered the "Treatment of Explosives in Soil" task.

"The judges were really impressed with our students," said Professor **James Mihelcic** (Civil and Environmental Engineering), the team's advisor. "The students also got the opportunity to compare their solutions to those of other teams and judge themselves, in a way."

Students' designs were evaluated on a variety of criteria including feasibility, ease of implementation, cost and the adherence to all relevant local, state and federal regulations. They also had to develop a health and safety plan and a strategy to involve the local community and a nearby tribal nation in their solution.

"The competition was a great learning experience," said team member **Jim Harris**. "Getting an opportunity to compete against some of the world's top universities—and hiking through White Sands National Monument and the Gila National Forest—made all of the long hours spent working on the project worthwhile."

Community Programs Start May 22

Have Fun! Do Something!

The summer session of MTU Community Programs will begin on May 22. Programs include aerobics, gymnastics, aikido, tennis, power skating, Aqua Fit, swimming, scuba, jazz dance and pistol safety.

For more information, call 487-2975 or 487-2073 or e-mail communityprograms@mtu.edu.

Jazz Musicians Win Awards

Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts

Eleven members of Michigan Tech's Jazz Lab Band and the combos Momentum and Jaztec were selected as recipients of Outstanding Musician Awards at the 28th Annual Aquinas College Jazz Festival, held in Grand Rapids on April 12-13. Bands from six universities performed at the festival, with performances judged by a panel from the International Association of Jazz Educators.

Michigan Tech students who received awards in the college combo division were **Kristin Duchateau** and **Dave Dube** for best composer/arranger, **Jathan Manley** and **Paul Munsterman** for best soloist, and Andy Gardner for best rhythm section player. In the college big band division, winners were **Alan Cross** for best soloist, **Brian Barr**, **Casey Ries**, **Troy Ballard**, **Sam Miller** and **Paul Johnson** for best saxophone section and **Paul Johnson** for best wind player.

Duchateau has also been selected by judges from the International Association of Jazz Educators as the pianist for the Midwest Regional College All-Star Jazz Ensemble. This is one of only five such ensembles in the United States. She will perform with this ensemble in late May at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Michigan Tech's jazz bands are directed by **Mike Irish**, associate professor of Fine Arts.

Students Honored at HAANA Banquet

More than 30 students were honored at the second annual HAANA (Hispanic, African American, Native American) Banquet, which recognizes graduates of Michigan Tech. Provost **Kent Wray** presented the HAANA achievement awards.

The keynote speaker was alumnus **Jeremy W. Chapman** '97, who addressed the graduates on "The Transition from Student to Professional."

Chapman graduated with a BS in Chemistry with a focus in polymers and is currently employed at Rayovac Corporation in Wisconsin as lead processor engineer. He is a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Jermaine C. Donaldson was given the Percy Julian Leadership Award, which recognizes an MTU undergraduate who has demonstrated leadership in the promotion of social equality and racial/ethnic and cultural understanding. The award commemorates organic chemist Percy L. Julian (1899-1975). He is best known for his economical process to synthesize cortisone, used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, and was active throughout the Midwest in supporting and promoting civil rights.

Mail Services Announces Summer Hours

Beginning Monday, May 13, Mail Services and the Bulk Mail Center will be open 7:30-11:55 a.m. and 12:30-3:45 p.m., Monday-Friday, through Friday, August 16.

The deadlines for same-day mail processing of outgoing mail are 2 p.m. for Federal Express, 3:15 p.m. for UPS and 3:30 p.m. for the U.S. Postal Service.

Work orders for the Bulk Mail Center will require three days for processing.

If you have any questions, contact Mail Services, 487-2348, or the Bulk Mail Center, 487-2334.

Honorable mentions were given to students **Tenasia E. Hatch**, **Kari Jordan**, **Jean Marc S. Niaba** and **Brian Willoughby**. The award has been presented each year since 1987.

In addition, the following students were honored at the banquet: PhD candidates **Treneece J. Marshall** and **Roger Numetu** and bachelor's candidates **Michelle S. Binion**, **Doreen G. Blaker**, **Brad Brickel**, **Joshua Cagle**, **Adam L. Campbell**, **Damon J. Davis**, **Dustin Denkin**, **Sarah K. Derwin**, **Jennifer J. Felger**, **Noe G. Garza**, **Daniel J. Gerard**, **Dean Hardwick**, **Josephine Hearndon**, **George W. Holmes**, **Angela M. Jones**, **Thomas J. Lambert**, **Kathleen Lizardo**, **Vianni P. López**, **Stephen M. Luoma**, **Matthew Mazyck**, **Michael J. McPherson**, **Michael Paniagua**, **Kathy Richardson**, **Tanisha L. Robinson**, **Jonathan G. Salter**, **Christina Scantland**, **Deborah E. Shepley**, **Lori Sherman**, **Monique Q. Simmons**, **Jean Thompson**, **Kevin J. Walker**, **Clarence X. Watts** and **LeeRoy Wells**.

Outreach and Multiethnic Programs and the Office of Student Affairs sponsored the event, along with a contribution from Dow Chemical Company.

In Print

Assistant Professor **Seungjin Park** and Associate Professor **Steve Seidel** (Computer Science) published an article, "Fault-Tolerant Broadcasting in Wormhole-Routed Torus Networks," in the "Proceedings of the International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium," April 2002.

Assistant Professor **Debra D. Wright** (Biomedical Engineering) Eugene P. Lautenschlager and Jeremy L. Gilbert (Northwestern University) published a paper, "The Effect of Processing Conditions on the Properties of Poly(methyl Methacrylate) Fibers," in the Journal of Biomedical Materials Research, Vol. 63 (2002).

Enrollment *Continued from page 1*

science as a career. Mediocre students or those looking to find themselves are not likely to consider MTU. "That's why we accept 90 percent of our applicants, because the students who apply here self-select," Wray added.

Michigan Tech could also emulate Lehigh University, which has added a number of new degree programs to help buffer the business cycles that drive engineering enrollment. "They grew degrees in fine arts, in business," Tompkins said.

Senator **Don Beck** (Physics) said that new majors don't provide a quick fix, however, because they don't have the strong reputation for quality that established programs enjoy.

Sutter said that the perception is that the University's main source of funding is undergraduate education, and asked if MTU makes money on graduate students and research.

Vice President for Research **David Reed** has shown that research and the graduate program do operate in the black, in part because of \$1.7 million in indirect cost recovery revenues that go to deans, departments and principal investigators, Wray said. MTU received about \$2.5 million in additional funding from the state because of its research program, Tahtinen said.

Michigan Tech's reputation as a research university is growing, which should enhance the grad school's quality as better and better students apply, Tompkins said. The University is also establishing itself as a research university in the eyes of state lawmakers, he added.

He noted that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation has singled out the Michigan Tech SmartZone as the best in the state.

Senator **Kelly Strong** (SBE), who has been serving as the University's liaison to the SmartZone, expressed some frustration with ongoing opposition to the project.

"I have become convinced that some peo-

ple refuse to believe that this can't be Ventures," he said. The SmartZone, which is lead by the cities of Houghton and Hancock, is funded by captured tax revenues and can only provide support to fledgling businesses, not own them. "It's structured so that it can't be a corrupt way of skimming money off the tax rolls," Strong said.

"There are risks; this could fail," he said. "But there are risks in telling the state that you're not interested in \$7 million for technology transfer."

At the conclusion of the talk, Tompkins asked the senate to rework the system it uses to evaluate top administrators, which is based on responses it receives to surveys it sends out to its constituency. "The Administration Evaluation Committee hasn't worked," he said. "It's really hurtful."

"Can we rethink this?" he asked. "The people who respond are often those who want to grind an axe." Tompkins said other university presidents have told him that they felt such an evaluation method would have similar results on their campuses.

Former advancement vice president **John Sellars** received a critical evaluation even as he was completing a hugely successful fundraising campaign that invited involvement from the entire University community, Tompkins noted. The evaluation may have played a role in his decision to leave MTU.

Copper Country Art Exhibit Open Through May 19

The 2002 Copper Country Gallery Exhibition will be open through Sunday, May 19, in the McArdle Theatre in Walker.

The exhibit has drawn artwork from accomplished artists from throughout the Great Lakes region, as well as the U.P. In addition to paintings, drawings and photos, the exhibit includes sculpture, fiber arts and other 3-D media.

The exhibit is free and open to the public 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Copper Country Community Arts Council and the College of Sciences and Arts through the L. C. and Margaret Walker Fund, with additional support from Finlandia University.

For more information, call 482-2333.

MTU Notables

Army ROTC Cadet **Joseph Kraft** received the Army's George Marshall Award at a recent ceremony held at the Virginia Military Institute. This annual award is given to the top 270 of the more-than 4,000 cadets in the United States Army Command.

This year, President George W. Bush was the keynote speaker at the award ceremonies.

Kraft served during fall semester 2001 as commander of Michigan Tech's Army ROTC

May

10 Friday

9 a.m.—Board of Control meeting—Memorial Union Ballroom

11 Saturday

10:30 a.m.—Spring Commencement—MacInnes Student Ice Arena

11 a.m.—5 p.m.—Copper Country Art Exhibit—McArdle Theatre

12 Sunday

11 a.m.—5 p.m.—Copper Country Art Exhibit—McArdle Theatre

13 Monday

10 a.m.—8 p.m.—Copper Country Art Exhibit—McArdle Theatre

noon—Weight Watchers At Work meeting—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge B

14 Tuesday

10 a.m.—Dave Bezotte, orientation to Foundation Center Cooperating Collection—J. R. Van Pelt Library

10 a.m.—8 p.m.—Copper Country Art Exhibit—McArdle Theatre

Senate *Continued from page 1*

Professional Staff. The task force will investigate "opportunities for promotion, rewards or recognition for activities related to instruction, rewards or recognition for contributions to research, rewards or recognition for professional development, and rewards or recognition for development of university policy."

The task force, which will include faculty and staff, is expected to present its findings seven months after it first convenes.

To view the proposal, go to www.sas.it.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/23-02.htm

The senate passed proposals that set search procedures for deans and University administrators. It added language clarifying that the initiator of the search will select the dean or administrator from a list of candidates agreed upon by both the initiator and the search committee.

The senate endorsed a resolution by the Undergraduate Student Government supporting the state's plan to not cut university funding if universities hold tuition increases to 8.5 percent or \$425, whichever is greater.

In other business, Senate President **Robert Keen** reported that USG reaction is mixed to a suggestion to shorten semesters from 15 to 14 weeks. While many students have cited problems with the longer semester, including competition for summer jobs with students from other universities with shorter semesters, some USG members expressed concern over receiving less instruction time. They asked if faculty would take a pay cut in exchange for having to teach fewer weeks.

Battalion. He is scheduled to receive his commission as a second lieutenant at Spring Commencement and will enter the Army Corps of Engineers after graduation.

NO NEW POSITIONS THIS WEEK

Job descriptions are available at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, or by e-mail at <JOBS@MTU.EDU>. For a complete listing of available jobs, visit <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/hro/postings/index.shtml>

No new positions are posted this week at Michigan Tech. Vacancy announcements are normally posted every Friday at 1 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.