

Tech Topics

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Michigan Tech's Faculty-Staff Newsletter

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Senate OKs Proposals

The University Senate passed two long-standing proposals April 11 and resurrected debate on health care for TIAA-CREF retirees.

Proposal 11-01 was approved unanimously on a voice vote. It sets up new residency requirements for graduation: Students must complete 30 of their last 36 credits at MTU and complete at least 30 units of 3000-level courses or higher. Distance education and technology faculty had objected to the language, noting that the structure of some of their programs could preclude some students' graduation under the new standards. Thus, the proposal was changed to allow the University president to grant exceptions to the policy "in extraordinary individual cases."

The senate also passed Proposal 23-00, which amends faculty grievance procedures dating from 1995. The revisions address concerns that arose as the procedures were implemented, said Professor **Joe Heyman** (Social Sciences), the former chair of the Academic Policy Committee and a member of the committee that developed the revisions.

Senator **Barry Pegg** (Humanities) objected to a clause that prohibits attorneys from attending any "meetings, investigations, or hearings" during the grievance procedures. Sometimes it would be desirable to have an attorney present, he said, adding that "both or neither" the University and the grievant should have legal counsel during meetings.

"I thought that part of the grievance policy was to keep the lawyers out," Senator **Tom Snyder** (Biological Sciences) said. "If that fails, then you sue."

The measure passed on a near-unanimous voice vote.

Presenting various scenarios, Senator **Bruce Barna** (Chemical Engineering) predicted that the rising cost of Medigap insurance premiums will far outpace the ability for TIAA-CREF retirees to pay for it through the 2-plus-2 matching program. The annual cost of Medigap insurance for a couple stands at about \$5,500, Barna said, which would require an annuity far larger than most TIAA-CREF participants will be able to accumulate before their retirement.

In 1997, the Board of Control began phas-

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There is a time for departure even when there's no certain place to go.

—TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Michigan Tech EnterPrise SmartZone Established

Submitted by the News Bureau

With an April 11 announcement by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a local SmartZone—the Michigan Tech EnterPrise SmartZone (now MTEPS)—will become a reality.

A partnership between the cities of Hancock and Houghton and Michigan Tech, the SmartZone aims to stimulate the growth of technology-based businesses and jobs in the area. It will be allowed to capture certain state taxes for up to 15 years to use for purchasing property, establishing business incubators and other buildings, and for management and marketing.

"This really says something about our community," said Houghton mayor Tom Merz. "It is great to see the cities and university cooperate and pull this off. It offers us the opportunity to retain some of the very good students that Michigan Tech graduates, and will make it attractive for people who want to come back to this region and live here."

One of the aims of the SmartZone is to create more than 1,600 jobs over the next 15 years, including 550 science and engineering jobs.

"I see this as a tremendous opportunity for the city and the area for economic development," said Hancock mayor Jim Martin. "This can be nothing but a plus for the City of Hancock."

The Michigan Tech EnterPrise SmartZone will focus on increasing the number of engineering and technology jobs in the area, commercializing research developed at Michigan Tech, and retaining science and engineering graduates from the university.

"This further cements Michigan Tech's role as an economic development force in the state," said President **Curt Tompkins**. "I am particularly proud of how Houghton, Hancock, and Michigan Tech have been able to work together on this important project. It is a great day for Michigan Tech and the Keweenaw."

Blue Cross Rep Here April 27

A representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will be on campus Friday, April 27. If you have had a problem with health or dental insurance claims, or have a question on insurance coverage, please call the Benefits Office at 487-2517 to make an appointment, or e-mail mawilcox@mtu.edu. The meetings will be held in Administration 226.

Taking Our Daughters to Work on April 26

The Presidential Commission for Women is offering a day-long program for the fifth- and sixth-grade girls participating in Take Our Daughters to Work Day, Thursday, April 26.

With the permission of their supervisors, Michigan Tech employees are invited to bring their daughters and young friends to work. Advance registration is required for the luncheon and the sessions and tours, so be sure to submit the form you received in campus mail.

According to the schedule, daughters go to work with their parents from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. The official welcome is held at 10:15 a.m. in Memorial Union Ballroom B, where the session assignments will be announced.

The first group of sessions and tours ("Business Etiquette and Manners," "Worm's World," "Reflexology," and "Test-Tube Gardening") will be held from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. It will be followed by a pizza lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m., featuring guest speaker **Darla Olson**, women's basketball coach.

The second group of sessions ("Building Bridges," "Computers," and "Video Conference") will be held from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., with a wrap-up at 2:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. At 3:00 p.m., the girls return to work with their parents.

For more information, contact Paula Nutini, pjnutini@mtu.edu, 487-3324.

Lies My Father Told Me April 20 at Club Indigo

By Joe Kirkish

Lies My Father Told Me, the next film in Club Indigo, will be shown Friday, April 20.

The movie, already a world classic, was made in Canada in 1975, in brilliant color that reflects the Montreal scene of the 1920s. It is a charming little gem about a seven-year-old boy who matures in the city's ghetto, learning about life from the errors of his

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MichiganTech

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

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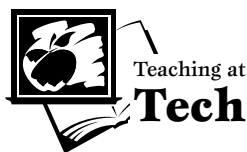
Information to be included in *Tech Topics* should be submitted to the *Tech Topics* editor in one of the following ways:

- 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 5:00 p.m.** for publication the following Friday.

Teaching without Talking

Center for Teaching, Learning,
and Faculty Development



Donald Finkel, a professor from Evergreen State and author of *Teaching with Your Mouth Shut**, begins his engaging little book on teaching by reviewing the research that suggests that even those students who retain the lecture information long enough to do well on the test, most often won't retain very much of that information once they leave the academy.

Finkel writes, "We do need to learn facts about the world in order to get around in it, but absorbing specific information is not the kind of exemplary learning that ought to inspire a model of education. On the contrary, education should aim at long-lasting learning that forever alters our grasp of the world, deepening it, widening it, generalizing it, sharpening it."

Finkel defines good teaching as "creating learning environments that encourage significant (and lasting) learning in others." He shifts the attention to the learner and off the teacher. He holds that there are many ways to create fertile learning environments that do not rely on the teacher talking. The bulk of the volume explores the process of creating fertile learning environments.

Finkel advocates the occasional use of puzzles and paradoxes to enrich the teaching of science, math, and technical courses. By working along with students to unravel vexing scenarios or problems, he maintains, teachers and students actively collaborate. Students get to test their wings by expressing their ideas, responding to criticism, and balancing their pride and their reasoning against the efforts of others. At the same time, teach-

* Boynton/Cook Publishers, Portsmouth NH, 2000.

Faculty: Time to Order Robes for Convocation

Faculty will be receiving a memo from Provost **Kent Wray** inviting them to participate in the President's Convocation. Convocation will be held Wednesday, September 19, at 3:00 p.m. in the Rozsa Center. It is preceded by a faculty march in academic garb from the Memorial Union to the Rozsa.

If you need to rent academic garb, e-mail Mike DeCaesari (mjdecaes@mtu.edu) at the Campus Store or telephone 487-2410 by Friday, April 20. Gown orders cannot be placed next fall, except by new faculty.

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

By William Kennedy, director

The predominant mode of instruction in colleges and universities remains the lecture. The late

ers can model problem-solving behaviors at just the right time and can display dispassionate and skeptical inquiry.

Finkel encourages teachers to expose their students to primary sources, rather than habitually assigning textbook readings. Encouraging students to read literature and professional discourse provides a grounding and a level of engagement that secondary materials may entirely miss, he says. The secret isn't getting students to read; it's getting students to read critically.

Finkel maintains that encouraging students to engage in active discussion in open-ended seminars also helps to deepen their understanding of what they have read, observed, or heard in class. Wags who suggest such sessions are merely the "blind leading the blind" fail to recognize that the deliberation and argument that occurs in a well-designed seminar is fundamental to all inquiry. Those who maintain that knowledge comes only from experts are left holding a bag of infinite regression leading back to some First Expert, or they, too, must conclude that some other process is involved. The scientific method, Finkel maintains, "starts by doubting everything maintained by established authorities, common sense, or cultural convention." Encouraging students to consider, defend, acquiesce, and even to synthesize their experiences in an open seminar environment can encourage their development and capacity to reason throughout their lives. Students repeatedly "formulate hypotheses and test them against experience." Ultimately, they gain a sense that support for any given hypothesis is conditional and subject to further revision as new evidence is scrutinized. Such learning provides the foundation for lifelong development.

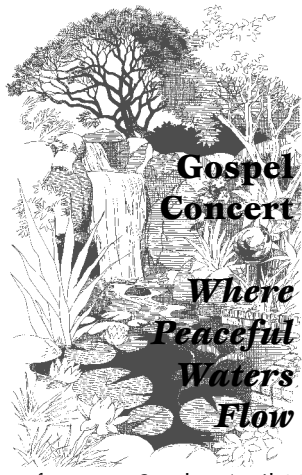
Next week, we'll explore other suggestions from *Teaching with Your Mouth Shut*.

Entrepreneurs, Inventors Club Meeting April 18

The next meeting of the Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club will be held Wednesday, April 18, at 5:00 p.m. in Chemical Science and Engineering 102. Please note the location change.

John Diebel, vice president of Strandwood Molding, will give a talk, "Memoirs of a Business Plan—The Big Pilot Plant Escape Caper." A short business meeting to nominate and elect officers will follow.

All students, faculty, staff, and community members are welcome, and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Dana Johnson, 487-2803.



The Echoes From Heaven Gospel Choir spring concert, "Where Peaceful Waters Flow," will feature gospel music, dance, and a real waterfall flowing into an idyllic garden when the choir

performs on Sunday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m in the Rozsa Center.

"Every year we try to bring the community something special in our spring concert," says choirmaster **Inetta Harris**. "This year our theme is water, and with the technical expertise of **Paul Aneshansel**, we're able to present not just a waterfall but other special effects that will make this a joyful and entertaining concert."

Songs for this concert include "Take Me to the Water," "Down by the Riverside," "Where Peaceful Waters Flow," "Why We Sing," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," and "Wade in the Water," as well as other gospel favorites.

The choir recently returned from a spring break concert tour of lower Michigan and the Chicago area, singing in colleges, high schools, and churches. In recent years, the choir has performed in New York City, Washington, DC, the West Coast, Minneapolis/St. Paul. Last year, Echoes made a two-week concert tour of Spain.

Tickets for the April 22 concert are available from MTU box offices (487-3200 or <http://www.tickets.mtu.edu>) and at the door for \$8 general, \$4 students.

Peterson Featured in Isle Royale Workshop

Professor **Rolf Peterson** (SFWP) will be the featured speaker during a group trip to Isle Royale sponsored by the Great Lakes Aquarium, in Duluth.

During the June 2-7 trip, "Isle Royale Revealed," participants will camp, cook out, visit lighthouses, and talk with Peterson about his long-standing study of the island's wolves and moose. For more information, see <http://www.glaquarium.org/learn/environmentaltrips/isleroyale.html> or call Tom Beery at the Great Lakes Aquarium, 218-740-3474.

New Staff

Megan Ross has joined the University Images staff as a senior specialized clerk N4. She was previously a collector at Credit Services, Inc. and has a BS in Business Administration from Michigan Tech. She and her husband, Brian Ross, live in Hancock.

Guys and Dolls Opens April 19

Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts

Guys and Dolls, one of America's all-time favorite musicals, comes to the Rozsa Center Thursday through Saturday, April 19-21, in a Michigan Tech production featuring fifty actors, singers, and dancers from both MTU and the community. Directed by **Richard M. Goldstein**, the show stars **Rebecca Enz** as Sarah Brown, **Annemarie Ketola** as Miss Adelaide, **Scott Schwartz** as Sky Masterson, **Kelly Thomas** as Nathan Detroit, and **Andrew Barnard** as Nicely-Nicely Johnson. **Milton Olsson** is music director, with choreography by **Laura Aneshansel**. Curtain time is 8:00 p.m.

"We have a wonderful cast for this show," says Olsson, who chairs the fine arts department. "It's also Richard Goldstein's last show at Michigan Tech, since he retires from the faculty this year, so we're celebrating his 36 years of directing nearly 90 shows in this community, including most of the great American musicals. This gala production of *Guys and Dolls*, our first musical in the Rozsa, is very special to all of us." Goldstein has directed dramas, comedies, and musicals for Michigan Tech, the Calumet Players, and other community theater groups since joining the MTU faculty in 1964.

Guys and Dolls is one of the most popular shows of all time. Based on colorful characters from the stories of New York journalist

Damon Runyon, it's an all-American romantic comedy celebrating life on the streets of the city. The show and its characters, including small-time hoods, gamblers, and show-girls, have won the hearts of theater lovers since *Guys and Dolls* was the smash hit of its first Broadway season, in 1950.

When Sarah Brown, the upright and uptight "mission doll," sets out to reform the evildoers of Times Square, Sky Masterson, the slick, high-rolling gambler, woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love. Meanwhile, Miss Adelaide, showgirl with a heart of gold, plots to bring her fiancé of fourteen years, Nathan Detroit, to the altar. But amiable Nathan is torn between love and the rolling of the dice; he runs "The Oldest Established Permanent Floating Crap Game in New York" (one of the most hilarious hit songs in the show). From the Hot Box Girls to "Harry the Horse," from the mission band to pickpockets, policemen, street entertainers, tourists and other denizens of Times Square, *Guys and Dolls* brings a colorful city to life.

Tickets for *Guys and Dolls* are available from Rozsa Center Ticketing Services (487-3200), other MTU box offices, the Calumet Theatre, and <http://www.tickets.mtu.edu> for \$10 general, \$5 students.

Tech Tea: Focus on the Balkans

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

The recent arrest of Slobodan Milosevic and the ongoing fighting in Macedonia by Albanian separatists have once again catapulted the Balkans back to front-page news. **Ron Martin**, a PhD candidate in environmental engineering and the guest at Tech Tea Time on Wednesday, April 18, has worked and traveled extensively in the region over the last fifteen years. He will present a brief background on the Balkans and will show slides from his work and travels in the region. Tech Tea Time is at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. The event is free and open to all.

When Martin first traveled through Yugoslavia in 1985, he didn't know the difference between a Serb, a Croat, or a Muslim. "I just thought everyone was Yugoslavian," he says. He returned to a much-changed Balkans in 1996 to teach environmental engineering at the University of Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Martin stayed on as an election observer and has since returned ten times to work as an election official in Yugoslavia, Bosnia, and Croatia.

"I am always anxious to return to the Balkans, and I'm always filled with hope," Martin says. "The land is beautiful with snow-covered mountains above rustic villages, trout-filled rivers running through pine forests, small farms with stone fences, and historic cities with ancient forts, mosques, and churches. The Balkan people are friendly and have a wonderful, if somewhat dark, sense of humor." However, he says, "With each return there is always an underlying fear and dread. Even after extensive reconstruction, it is impossible to ignore the immense destruction. Homes and buildings lie in ruins, and entire villages are in much the same condition as they were when they were first destroyed." Martin considers these problems small compared to the lives that have been lost or devastated. Everybody in the region has been touched by war. The war destroyed once-close relationships. Neighbors, friends, and even family members found themselves on opposite sides of the bitter conflict.

In addition to working on his doctorate, Martin is enrolled in the Peace Corps Masters International Program. He received a BS in Chemical Engineering from The Ohio State University and an MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kentucky. He has worked as an environmental engineering consultant on a project in Siberia and has also been an election observer in Azerbaijan. He has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa and is an avid windsurfer, climber (ice and rock), and skier.

Tech Tea Time is coordinated by University Cultural Enrichment. Anyone wishing to receive Tech Tea announcements on e-mail may subscribe to techtea-l. For further information, call 487-2844.

Senate *Continued from page 1*

ing out health coverage for TIAA-CREF retirees. In return, it agreed to match first 1 percent, and later 2 percent of employee contributions to their retirement accounts. The goal was to help employees accumulate enough money in their accounts to buy health insurance after their retirement. Later, the University agreed to deposit additional funds in the retirement accounts of employees making less than \$50,000 per year, since they were the ones in greatest financial need. The senate had asked that all employees be given additional funding, regardless of their salaries, if the 2-plus-2 matching program did not raise enough money for them to cover their insurance premiums.

Proposal 10-01 again calls for the University to make supplemental contributions to the retirement accounts of all employees "identified by Institutional Analysis as being unlikely to accumulate sufficient funds in their TIAA-CREF accounts from the University share of the 2+2 program to be able to fund retirement health care costs."

It also calls for MTU to increase its contribution to TIAA-CREF accounts by 0.45 percent, to 13 percent, starting in July 2002.

The senate also added the following language: "In addition the University agrees to set the medigap premium for retirees to a value less than or equal to the rate used in 1998 times an escalation factor that is identical to the predicted escalation rate used in determining the supplemental contribution."

Snyder asked what the cost of the measure might be. "It has to come from somewhere," such as salaries and services, he said.

The cost of that subsidy would be about \$400,000, Barna indicated. Senator **Jim Pickens** (SFWP) responded that health-care costs are far outstripping inflation, and that even if such a subsidy were approved by the Board of Control, eventually it would be withdrawn as too costly.

"We know the Board of Control won't approve a statement that binds them to an open-ended commitment," Senator **Wayne Pennington** (Geological Engineering and Sciences) said. It would be "immature of us . . . to draw a line in the sand."

"If it makes the Board uncomfortable, too bad," said Senator **Barry Pegg** (Humanities).

The amendment passed on a voice vote. The entire measure is expected to be discussed at the next senate meeting, on April 25.

Museum Giving Free Brackets

The Seaman Mineral Museum has tons of surplus metal shelf brackets. They vary in size from 8 inches up to 14 inches in shelf width. Come and get 'em while they last. Contact George Robinson at 487-2572.

Contest to Redesign Tech Express Card

Tech Express is holding a contest to redesign the Michigan Tech ID Card.

Students, staff, and faculty are invited to submit designs. The designs will be displayed and voted upon by students, staff, and faculty. The winning design will be chosen based upon popular vote, functionality, and input from key areas of the University.

The new design will be implemented next fall for incoming students. It will be used only for new and replacement cards issued starting in the fall. Anyone with an existing cards will not be issued a new card.

The designer of the winning card will receive a \$300 gift certificate good at the Campus Store or University Images (and is good for anything in the store—including books).

If you're interested in submitting an entry, request design specifications from Jarrod Karau, manager of Tech Express, at 487-3308 or jllkarau@mtu.edu. All designs must include the Michigan Tech logo and Tech Express service mark. The deadline is April 25. Card designs should be submitted electronically to jllkarau@mtu.edu

Club Indigo *Continued from page 2*

parents, the nurturing of his grandfather, the sexcapades of his neighbors, and the experimentation among his childhood peers. In mixed parts, it is sweet, provocative, sad, frightening, and funny, a classic.

The movie begins with a nightmare and concludes with a haunting fantasy dream. In between are the experiences of the boy in and around his city environment, from the drab, muddy tenement area to the lush greens of the park on Mont Royale.

The movie will be preceded by an all-Jewish gourmet spread, planned and catered by Chef Eric Karvonen of the Log Cabin Restaurant (formerly the Old Country Haus) in Kearsarge. Karvonen, who spent ten years as a chef in Berlin, Germany, is capable of serving gourmet food from dozens of foreign countries. No stranger to Jewish food, either, he promises a menu including matzo ball soup, beef brisket, a vegetable casserole, salad, and a tasty fruit dessert.

The buffet will be served at 6:00 p.m., followed by the movie at 7:15 p.m. The combination of meal and film is \$12, half price for children. (It's still the best weekend bargain around.) Reservations for the buffet should be made by Thursday evening before the event by calling 337-2610.

Club Indigo is a nonprofit presentation of the Calumet Theatre, presented monthly with the aid of sponsors including, for this event, Chef Karvonen of the Log Cabin Restaurant, and with the assistance of the Mu Beta Psi music fraternity of Michigan Tech.



April

Fair Housing Month

- 17 **Tuesday**
8:00 p.m.—Free Art Fest Film: *Saturday Night Fever*—Fisher 135
- 18 **Wednesday**
all day—Undergraduate Research Exposition
4:00 p.m.—Tech Tea: Ron Martin on the Balkans—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
5:00 p.m.—Entrepreneurs and Inventors Club meeting—Chem Sci 102
- 19 **Thursday**
8:00 p.m.—*Guys and Dolls*—Rozsa Center
8:00 p.m.—Free Art Fest Film: *An American in Paris*—Fisher 135
- 20 **Friday**
6:00/7:15 p.m.—Club Indigo dinner/movie: *Lies My Father Told Me*—Calumet Theatre
8:00 p.m.—*Guys and Dolls*—Rozsa Center
- 21 **Saturday**
8:00 p.m.—*Guys and Dolls*—Rozsa Center
- 22 **Sunday**
7:00 p.m.—Echoes from Heaven Gospel Choir, "Where Peaceful Waters Flow"—Rozsa Center
- 24 **Tuesday**
8:00 p.m.—Free Art Fest Film: *Shall We Dance*—Fisher 135
- 26 **Thursday**
all day—Take Our Daughters to Work Day
- 29 **Sunday**
7:00 p.m.—Parsons Dance Company—Rozsa Center

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 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 1:00 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.