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What's this?

It’s a quick response, or QR, code, a fast and easy way to navigate the Internet. If you have a smartphone, you can probably download an app that will let you scan the QR code above and take you right to our website. If you don’t have a smartphone, just enter the URL into your web browser, in this case, www.mtu.edu/magazine.
Science on the opinion page

Michigan Tech ecologist John Vucetich says scientists have a moral obligation to become policy advocates. Not everyone agrees.

by Jennifer Donovan

Scientists collect and analyze facts. Data. Information. Policy advocates use—or sometimes misuse—data to support or condemn one public policy or another. The facts about global climate change prove that we should (or shouldn’t) ban coal-fired power plants, they might say. Are there irreconcilable differences between science and advocacy? Can good scientists also be advocates? Should they be?

The answers—like so many in this complex, interwoven world—are yes, no, and sometimes.

John Vucetich, a wildlife ecologist and associate professor in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, believes that scientists are “citizens first and scientists second.” So, he says, “they have a responsibility to advocate to the best of their abilities and in a justified and transparent manner.”

The key phrase is easy to miss: “in a justified and transparent manner.” In other words, scientists engaged in advocacy are obligated to clearly explain the scientific knowledge that is relevant to a policy issue, then explain the related value judgments, and then provide an honest justification for why the science and the values together suggest favoring one policy or another. In doing so, says Vucetich, they must go to great lengths to distinguish which portions of their case represent science and which involve value judgments.

This approach is a fundamental modus operandi for another academic discipline with a long and honorable history: ethics. Vucetich and environmental ethicist Michael Nelson of Michigan State University (MSU) feel that the interdependence of ecology and ethics is as important as it is underappreciated. Acting on that concern, they have collaborated on several professional journal articles over the past few years, examining the intersections of environmental science and environmental ethics. One, published in Conservation Biology in 2009 and titled “On Advocacy by Environmental Scientists: What, Whether, Why, and How,” tackled the issue head-on. Another, in the summer 2011 issue of The Wildlife Professional, critiqued the popular North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, pointing out “what’s flawed, what’s missing, what’s needed.” A third article, published in BioScience, deconstructed the familiar buzzword “sustainability,” daring to ask whether it is “virtuous or vulgar.” And in a commentary published in The Chronicle of Higher Education, the ecologist and the ethicist examined “The Moral Obligations of Scientists.”

Why do Vucetich and Nelson feel so strongly about the marriage of science and ethics?
“Science can never tell us what we ought to do or how we ought to behave. Science only describes the way the world is.”

—John Vucetich

“Science can never tell us what we ought to do or how we ought to behave,” Vucetich explains. “Science only describes the way the world is.” Ethics by itself can’t tell us what to do either, he adds. “Ethics needs science—facts about the world—to be properly informed.”

The unity of science and ethics

So Vucetich and Nelson cofounded the Conservation Ethics Group (CEG) to bring science and ethics together to bear on environmental policy issues. Earlier this year, the group won the 2011 Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship from the MSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society embracing all academic disciplines.

CEG has sponsored several workshops for university faculty members, graduate students, leaders of environmental agencies, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with the environment, to teach them to bring together the principles of ecological science and environmental ethics. They examined the science and ethics of determining whether a species is endangered, the efficacy of hope as a philosophical foundation for sustainability, the conflict between conservation ethics and animal welfare ethics. It’s an interdisciplinary approach that should enable them to make better natural resources management decisions, says Vucetich.

Do facts and ethics, science and advocacy, complement and enhance each other? Or do they make strange bedfellows?

That’s where it gets tricky. Data are objective; the scientists’ feelings and beliefs about their policy implications are not. “I think complete objectivity and neutrality is a myth,” says Pat Lederle, an adjunct associate professor in MSU’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. On the other hand, he says, “I think it is imperative to provide information to decision makers and to argue one’s case as strongly as we can.”

Covert advocacy

But scientists need to watch out for what natural resources professor Robert Lackey calls “covert” or “stealth” advocacy. Lackey, who worked for years in the research arm of the Environmental Protection Agency, now teaches natural resources and ecological policy at Oregon State University.

“Scientists are uniquely qualified to participate in public policy deliberations, and they should,” he says, “but advocating for their policy preferences is not appropriate.”

And a scientist’s advocacy can slip in without the policymakers, the public—or sometimes even the scientists themselves— noticing it. Lackey calls it “normative science”: science that embeds an unspoken policy preference. It happens when unstated assumptions are made, and science is used to promote or refute policies based on those assumptions.

An organization or an individual can get captured by an ideology, Lackey says, and then make value statements masked as scientific fact. For example, a scientist who assumes that biodiversity is good will present facts about a loss of biodiversity as a problem that society needs to address. “‘Good’ or ‘bad’ isn’t a scientific statement; it’s a policy statement,” Lackey says. “It’s the difference between ‘is’ and ‘ought.’”

People turn to science to get the cold, unvarnished facts. If instead they get normative science with built-in policy preferences, that’s going to muddy the policy-making waters, he says. “All science can and should do is say, ‘Here are the facts, and here are the options.’”

Vucetich believes that covert advocacy is a threat to the integrity of a scientist. “The antidote to covert advocacy is justified and transparent advocacy,” he says. “However, clearly justifying your case and distinguishing science and values along the way are not easy. It requires skill and practice.”

A question of credibility

There’s another issue that looms large in the scientist-as-advocate debate, and that’s professional credibility. There are scientists who say flatly that

“The question is not ‘Is advocacy acceptable?’ but ‘Which kinds of advocacy are acceptable?’ and how we as a scientific community should go about it.”

—Michael Nelson
any colleague who advocates for a public policy based on his or her science is degrading if not destroying credibility with peers. At the other end of the spectrum, there are those who believe that scientists have a moral obligation to be advocates. The late Strachan Donnelley, the founder of the Center for Humans and Nature, once took ecologists to task, saying, “They have failed to effectively grab us citizens by the throat and forcibly make us understand and take to heart that human communities and their activities, economic and otherwise, are nestled within wider and vulnerable living systems.”

Nelson doesn’t think that his advocacy of environmental policies has damaged his credibility. “I have no reason to believe that my own advocacy has hurt me professionally,” he says. “If anything, this kind of work has garnered much positive professional attention.” There’s a flip side to the credibility coin, he adds, an assumption that credibility will be maintained if one is not perceived as an advocate. “I think that’s probably a dangerous delusion,” he states.

Vucetich considers the credibility issue a bit of a red herring. “Credibility is an ability to inspire trust, and if I always act in a transparently trustworthy manner, yet someone refuses to trust me, then I have lost credibility with that person. However, the risk of losing credibility in this way is not an adequate reason to refrain from justified and transparent advocacy. Rachel Carson, author of Silent Spring and a model citizen-scientist, certainly didn’t think so.”

And credibility “can cut both ways,” says Lederle. “If we don’t make the strongest argument possible, that can hurt our credibility with our peers and the public because we are not doing our job the best we can. If we make too strong a case, we can lose credibility with decision makers and hurt the chances of policy adoption. I’m not so worried about peers, not nearly as much as I am about those who make the policy decisions.”

Ultimately, Nelson concludes, “The question is not ‘Is advocacy acceptable?’ but ‘Which kinds of advocacy are acceptable?’ and how we as a scientific community should go about it.”

An article coauthored by Vucetich and Nelson on ethics and sustainability is available on the Michigan Tech Magazine website, www.mtu.edu/ethics.

To view a video on John Vucetich’s research on the wolves and moose of Isle Royale, go to www.techtube.mtu.edu/wolf-moose.

Famous scientists who spoke out

Concern for man and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors. Never forget this in the midst of your diagrams and equations.

—Albert Einstein

Scientists may never stop debating their proper place in the political process. Nevertheless, some of the leading minds of the twentieth century chose to leverage their special knowledge and authority to influence history.

Albert Einstein
In 1939, Einstein warned Franklin D. Roosevelt about “a new and important source of energy.” He noted that Nazi Germany was securing supplies of uranium, which could be exploited to build bombs of unprecedented destructive power. To counter the threat, he recommended that the US institute its own research program. In 1941, the president would covertly launch the Manhattan Project.

Rachel Carson
Biologist Rachel Carson laid the cornerstone of the environmental movement with her best-selling book Silent Spring, which lambasted industry and government for the indiscriminate use of toxic chemicals. Her activism made her the target of virulent attacks, but her work was vindicated and led to the strengthening of federal rules regulating chemical pesticides.

Carl Sagan
The Cornell University astrophysicist made a passionate case for nuclear disarmament in his 1983 article “The Nuclear Winter,” which appeared in the Sunday supplement Parade magazine, and was immediately excoriated by conservatives. Two years later, however, President Ronald Reagan cited nuclear winter as a reason for the US and the Soviet Union to reduce their arms stockpiles.
Of the challenges facing higher education, perhaps the greatest is cost. While Michigan Tech works to contain costs, the reality is that many students still struggle to afford a university education.

by Marcia Goodrich

Fifty years ago, plenty of students were able to work their way through school, thanks to generous state support that kept tuition low. Since then, however, states have shouldered an array of expensive new responsibilities, and funding for higher ed has withered, particularly in the face of the current economic downturn. Plus, a technological education is inherently more expensive than the average college degree program.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could make college as affordable as it was in 1961? The fact is, we can. Scholarships and fellowships have the power to turn back the clock, which is one reason why they are a top priority of the Generations of Discovery Capital Campaign. The Michigan Tech Alumni Association has responded by establishing its new Traditions of Giving Fellowships and Scholarships.

Scholarships do more than make college affordable. They can also attract superior students and encourage them to expand their horizons. And, they can influence the future. In a world gravely in need of solutions, women are sorely underrepresented among certain problem-solving professions. To expand the pool of talented scientists and engineers, two Tech graduates, Martha Sullivan and Gerald Van Voorhis, have established scholarships designed to lure more qualified women to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Traditions of Giving Fellowships and Scholarships

Sponsored by the Alumni Association, Traditions of Giving is providing $30,000 a year for three years, beginning in fall 2011: $10,000 for graduate fellowships and $20,000 for undergraduate scholarships each year. The awards, for incoming students, will be $1,000. The fellowships and scholarships are funded via an endowed fund of the Michigan Tech Alumni Association, which was built over the years through the generosity of alumni and friends.

In addition to providing financial help, the Alumni Association Board of Directors will welcome the scholarship recipients to the University and encourage them to connect to the alumni network and get involved in alumni events.

Martha Sullivan Endowed Scholarship

In 1980, when Martha (Newman) Sullivan received her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, there were barely a handful of female engineering students. That didn’t hold her back.

“My experiences were overwhelmingly positive,” she said. “Because there weren’t many women
engineers at the time, it was a pretty close-knit group. And there were a few instructors who were very supportive, especially my thermodynamics instructor, Professor Duane Abata.”

After graduation, Sullivan began a career at Texas Instruments, rising to the position of vice president of its sensors and controls business. When TI spun the division off, Sullivan became its president and COO. Sensata Technologies develops sensors used in internal combustion engines. “That was an interest I developed at Michigan Tech,” she said.

While their numbers are slowly rising, the proportion of female to male students has not changed dramatically since Sullivan was a student. To accelerate that change, she has promised to match dollar for dollar the first $250,000 in donations to support an endowed scholarship that focuses on female engineering students, mechanical engineering majors in particular.

“It’s a cause that’s near and dear to my heart, being a female ME grad myself,” she said. “There are still many obstacles for women before they even get to the point of pursuing an engineering degree, and my desire is to remove one possible roadblock, the financial one.”

**Gerald and Mary Lou Van Voorhis Endowed Scholarship**

Gerald Van Voorhis launched his career in mineral exploration from the solid foundation of his Tech education, earning his bachelor’s in geophysical engineering in 1960 and a master’s in geophysics in 1964.

“It was good, solid, practical, useful,” he says of his Michigan Tech education. “It was meant to prepare.”

He spent the early part of his career with Kennecott Copper and moved on to an executive position with ASARCO.

Then he and two colleagues formed a new business venture to explore for copper, silver, and gold in Peru. Bear Creek Mining Company was born.

“The company grew and became quite successful before I decided to sell out of it,” Van Voorhis says. He wanted to give back to the University that had provided him with such a solid education, so he worked with Michigan Tech development officer Nathan Ruonavaara ’94 to arrange a gift of Bear Creek Mining stock valued at nearly $205,000, in addition to a pledge of $24,000 in cash. The gift was later earmarked for a new scholarship designed to benefit students pursuing degrees in STEM fields, with preference given to women.

Now living in Park City, Utah, with his wife, Mary Lou, Van Voorhis hopes the gift will help others embark on careers as remarkable as his own.
The best laid schemes of mice and men oft go awry, and, with apologies to Robert Burns, that’s not always such a bad thing, says Norman Augustine.

Left to his own adolescent devices, the speaker at Michigan Tech’s 2011 Spring Commencement would probably have built a stellar career for himself in forestry. That’s a noble calling but a far cry from the one that guided his steps, one unexpected milestone after another: as an engineer working on NASA’s Apollo program, CEO of Lockheed Martin, undersecretary of the US Army, five-time recipient of the Department of Defense Civilian Distinguished Service Medal, on the faculty at Princeton, chair of the National Academy of Engineering . . . well, you get the idea.

That’s one reason he advised the Class of 2011 not to put too much stock in long-range planning. “There are too many uncontrollable variables in life,” he told them.

His own story began with an uncontrollable variable in the form of a busybody high school teacher.
“Nobody in my family had had the opportunity to go to college, though my parents were well aware of the importance of an education,” he said. “One day a teacher—not one of mine—called me into his class and asked what I wanted to do when I finished high school.”

Augustine hadn’t given it much thought, but he loved to roam the wild country near his Denver home, so he said he wanted to be a forest ranger. The teacher was unimpressed. “He threw me out—said I had no ambition,” Augustine recalled. Later, he got a second summons, believing, as he does to this day, that forestry is a worthy pursuit. But this time, the teacher merely handed him two envelopes. Inside one was an application to Williams, in the other, an application to Princeton.

“I filled them out, and the next thing I knew I was on my way to Princeton,” said Augustine. “Before I got there, they asked what I wanted to study, and I said forestry. They thought that was the funniest thing.”

The closest Princeton could come to forestry was geological engineering, which isn’t very close at all. “I took that for a year, without much enthusiasm,” Augustine said. Then, on a train ride from New York, he rescued a student who had stopped between the cars and was on the verge of falling off the train. They chatted, said Augustine, and his new friend offered some fateful advice: major in aeronautical engineering.

As it turned out, there was probably no better time in the history of the universe to be an aeronautical engineer. “Jet aircraft were coming out, and Sputnik was launched the first week I was in grad school,” he said. Later, while Augustine was an engineer at Douglas Aircraft, President Kennedy announced that America would put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. Douglas Aircraft would get the contract to design one stage of the Apollo missions’ Saturn V rockets.

“In the beginning, we didn’t have the faintest idea how we were going to do it, but this was a great time of opportunity,” Augustine said. “I played a tiny role in putting twelve friends on the moon. I wouldn’t have bet a nickel that they’d come back, and somehow they did.”

“This is not about creating jobs for scientists and engineers . . . ”

Did Augustine ever think that he would end up where he is? “I could never have imagined it in a million years,” he stated. “You never know what life’s going to hold.”

Today, if someone were to save him from falling off a train, what field of study would Augustine recommend? “The most promising field is the one you are good at,” he said. “But, it’s easier to build a career in growing fields. I’d say biosciences, information sciences, nanosciences . . . Twenty years ago, if you had asked me, I never would have said biosciences. Cutting up frogs? It also combines well with other fields.”

That said, all of the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math—hold the promise of a better world. “There are so many problems that have technological content: preserving the environment, rebuilding the infrastructure, national security . . . ,” said Augustine. “And I think an undergraduate degree in a technology-related field is a great thing, no matter what you are going to do. If you want to be a lawyer, a doctor, or a banker, be an engineering grad.”

In such a climate, Michigan Tech is ideally placed, he said, and not only in terms of its curriculum. “You are able to draw on a dedicated, committed group of faculty and students,” he said. “I’m impressed with that. For the twenty-first century, you are in the sweet spot.”

He fears, however, that the US is losing its preeminent position on the sweet spot of the global economy, largely because our K-12 schools as a whole are doing a lousy job of developing the next generation of STEM professionals.

“This is not about creating jobs for scientists and engineers; they are only about 4 percent of the workforce,” Augustine stressed. It’s about the other 96 percent, whose employment ultimately hinges on the US maintaining its technological edge.

“I’ve found eight studies that have shown that between 50 and 85 percent of job growth and about two-thirds of increases in productivity are due to advances in science and engineering,” he said.
Those advances are not always evident in the beginning. “People working in solid-state physics forty years ago never knew their work would lead to PCs and iPods. Those advances have made jobs for all the people who make, market, and even use them.”

Thus, it’s equally important to educate a society that supports an R&D process that by its very nature can be a bit by-guess-and-by-golly. “We need everyone to be literate in science and engineering,” he said. “Sadly, in many cases, our top schoolkids don’t get the opportunities they should have, and the others don’t have the skills to get the jobs created by the STEM kids.”

Augustine became intimately familiar with challenges hobbling the US education system as chair of a National Academies committee that authored Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future. The report was predicated on the notion that Americans should be able to compete for the good jobs being created globally. Its conclusions raised a few bright red flags.

“The things I thought made a quality school system were all wrong.”

“We felt we were in trouble for two primary reasons: poor K-12 math education and a lack of investment in scientific research,” he said. That was back in 2005, when the report was presented to Congress.

Six years later, not much has changed. Funding for basic research has been hammered by the recession, and solutions to improving K-12 education are not simple. “The things I always thought made a quality school system are all wrong,” Augustine said. “I thought that money was important. But we’re third in the world in spending on education, and in Washington, DC, the per capita spending on students is the highest in the nation. And the schools there are terrible.”

The things that do make a difference in K-12 education can’t necessarily be bought: parents who care and teachers who are experts in their field and love to teach.

Augustine wanted to be part of the solution, so he took an early retirement to teach. “It turns out that I’m not qualified to teach eighth-grade math, though I had tutored calculus in college,” he said wryly. So, “reluctantly,” he accepted a faculty job at a place that did want him: Princeton’s Engineering School.

What can Washington do to make parents care and teachers teach better? “Probably not much, about the former,” Augustine said. “The very people who are most likely to raise a fuss about poor schools now send their children to private schools. Also, there’s a cultural outlook in this country that stems from our earliest days. The founders were suspicious of big government, and they didn’t want the government teaching their kids. So now we have 14,000 autonomous school districts, while China can put out an edict that will apply to all schools in the nation.”

Augustine thinks K-12 education could take a page from the universities’ playbook. “What made our economy successful was free enterprise, and free enterprise has also worked for our universities. K-12 is the antithesis of that,” he said. “Why would you pay a physics teacher the same as a phys ed teacher? Or a good physics teacher the same as a great physics teacher? Or tolerate a poor physics teacher?”

Higher education is also under siege, but for different reasons. “US universities are threatened by a reduction in state support,” he said. “We were once the best in the world, but that’s changing. I’ve traveled to 109 countries, and everywhere they are trying to recruit the best US professors. Our universities are still first-rate, but they are threatened for the first time in memory.”

Despite the gathering storm, Augustine still hopes future generations will have the benefits he enjoyed. After all, it was his university education, particularly in engineering, that broke ground on his rich and successful life.

On his first summer job, as a roofer, Augustine got a trial run on what his own future might look like if he hadn’t gone to college.

“I hated spreading tar on roofs, but I learned a lot from that,” he said. “The New York Times once asked me what three things I learned from my first job. I answered that there are a lot of very fine people spreading tar on roofs. It takes a lot of tar to cover a roof. And, education is the key to getting off the roof.” □

If you’re like the majority of people, poetry is probably not a part of your life. In a time when magazines, blogs, and text messages seem to dominate our daily literary landscape, poetry is often seen as passé, a style of writing not worth studying outside of textbooks and classrooms.

That’s a problem, says Matt Seigel, assistant professor of creative writing and founding editor of [PANK], Michigan Tech’s literary magazine. According to Seigel, there’s a real need for students—especially those at a technological university—to engage with the arts.

So he discovered the best way to poetically inspire engineers and scientists: make it hands-on.

April is National Poetry Month, and [PANK] and the Literary Arts Collective of Michigan Tech featured a weeklong array of events: open mic readings, a feature screening of Howl (about the works of beat poet Allen Ginsburg), readings by poets Samiya Bashir and Jamaal May, and more.

This year, however, they also searched for a way to make poetry more accessible and engaging.

“We wanted to get students to actually work with poetry—write it, read it—rather than avoid and fear it,” Seigel says. “That’s how Magnetic Poetic was born.”

Magnetic Poetic, a display featuring metal boards and thousands of magnetic words, was unveiled in the lobby of the J. R. Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library. Students were encouraged to ponder, play, observe the impromptu poetry of others, and create their own.

They participated to the tune of a hundred or more per day, omitting words, adding verses, and changing meanings. The result? Creations ranging from edgy and avant-garde to silly, scientific, playful, and political, all grown directly from the lives of Michigan Tech students.

“I think it reminded our students that there are different ways of knowing and making meaning in the world,” Seigel says. “And it showed that there’s more going on here at Michigan Tech than meets the eye.”

The anonymous musings of students as they appeared on Poetic Magnetic
Mel Pearson became the twenty-first coach in Michigan Tech hockey history when he was hired last May. The former Tech player (1977–81) spent the last twenty-three years as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan, helping the Wolverines to a 667–243–71 record, eleven Frozen Fours, and two national championships.

Pearson sat down with Michigan Tech Magazine for a Q&A session during one of the few days over the summer he wasn’t off recruiting.

How did you get into playing hockey?
I was born into it. My dad was a professional hockey player, so I was on skates and playing by the time I was six.

What are your first memories of hockey?
My first goal. I think I was six. I couldn’t skate, so I was hanging around my own net. When the puck came to me I shot it in and scored a goal in the wrong net.

Describe the process of being recruited to Michigan Tech.
I played high school hockey in Minnesota, and I was recruited by two schools: Michigan and Michigan Tech. One of my high school line mates was going to Michigan and the other, Michigan Tech. I visited the campus and fell in love with the place. Once I visited with Coach [John] MacInnes, it was an easy decision for me.

What was your first visit with MacInnes like?
It was a little intimidating. I had heard so much about John. I never would have expected such a successful coach to have such a tiny office. It was like a broom closet under the stairs at Sherman Gym. But he made me feel so welcome, and I knew I wanted to play for him right away. That meeting is one of those things I’ll never forget.

What was the biggest lesson you learned from John MacInnes?
How he treated his players. He was so approachable, giving, and kind. It was hard to get mad at him even if he didn’t have you in the lineup. He had a way about him that the players all respected.

What coaches inspired you to become a coach?
Of course, John MacInnes had a huge impact on me. Then later on, Jim Nahrgang and Herb Boxer; they were the ones that really got me into coaching. I hadn’t really thought about being a coach until they approached me. Before that, it was my high school coach, Willard Ikola, in Edina, Minnesota. He was a really good coach, and I learned a lot from him. Editor’s note: Ikola compiled a record of 616–149–38 as a high school coach.
Your most famous goal was the game-winner in the 1979 Great Lakes Invitational championship game, helping Tech defeat Michigan in triple overtime. Describe that.

That story seems to come up every year at the GLI. I like to joke that it was my first shift of the game and everybody else was tired. I just waltzed around everyone and scored. It was obviously a great thrill for me as a player because the GLI is such a big tournament. We won four straight GLI titles when I was a player.

Are there any more highlights that stick out from your playing days?

Playing in the 1981 NCAA Frozen Four—Final Four as it was called then—was certainly one of the top moments of my career. It’s every player’s dream to win a national championship. We didn’t win it that year, but we gave ourselves a chance. My brother actually won the title that year as a player for Wisconsin. I was hoping to get a chance to play against him in the title game, but it didn’t happen. It was still a really neat experience to play in that environment and have my parents there.

You spent twenty-three years as an assistant coach at Michigan, winning 667 games and two national titles. What was the secret to your success there?

Recruiting good players and good people. We had a lot of continuity on our staff, and we never let up. We kept our foot on the gas in recruiting, always working to make our team better.

How did you decide to come back?

I had tried to get back to Michigan Tech twice before, and it hadn’t worked out. Suzanne [Sanregret, athletic director] approached me within twenty-four hours of our loss in the NCAA Championship game, and there were too many emotions for me to make the decision at that point. After the dust settled a little bit, I had the opportunity to rethink it. I’m glad Suzanne stayed persistent with me. I’ve been trying to get back here, and I’m glad it finally happened.

How does your family feel about moving back to Houghton?

My family’s very excited. We still have a lot of friends in the area. My daughter was born in Hancock. They’re all looking forward to spending more time in the area.

What are things you will do to try to bring success back?

Recruiting is A-1. We have to get the type of student-athlete here who can be successful. We have a type of style we want to play, and we have to try to get the players here to do that. We’ve got a good staff in place here to get where we want to be. We also have to change the culture by building from the ground up.

Can you recruit top-level players to Michigan Tech?

I think you can. I think we have some on our roster already. Tech is not for everyone, but there are players who want what Michigan Tech has to offer. I believe there are enough good players out there that we can be successful here.

How has the support been from the Michigan Tech community so far?

It’s been great. There have been a lot of community members and alumni who have reached out to me with well wishes, and I thank them for that. I look forward to representing them and putting a good product on the ice—something they can be proud of. I understand how important hockey is to this community and this university.

What kind of style will your teams try to play?

The style I’d like to employ is a puck-control, speed, skill game. It’s going to take us some time to get the players in here that can play that type of game, and there are some here already. We want to open it up a little bit, push the pace and allow the players to use their skill and speed. We also want to be rock-solid defensively. I’d like to be the highest-scoring team and at the same time give up the least amount of goals. That’s what we’re striving for.

What are your goals for 2011–12?

It’s important for us to have a good year. There’s excitement any time there’s a coaching change, and we’re hoping to build that excitement into success on the ice. We need to try to get better every day, and we need every player to buy into our system and play as a team.
Is there an MBA in your future?

Five reasons to go back to school (even if you stay at home)

by Dennis Walikainen ’92 ’09

More money? Sure, there’s that, but there are other reasons for returning to school (including Michigan Tech) for an MBA. We asked some folks who know to sell us on the idea.

Advance your career
“The MBA helps you work your way up the ladder, thanks to improved communication skills, which are a necessity whether you’re an engineer or not,” says Kaari Nevanen MBA ’10, technology advisor at Mindovo.

Stay relevant
“The concept of innovation is so important today, and you need to understand technology as much as you need to understand business,” says Jim Lenz, director of the John Deere Technology Innovation Center. “They need to be combined. When I got my MBA, I realized the importance of reinventing products to satisfy customer needs, for example.”

Broaden your thinking
“If you are running a business, the MBA makes a big difference,” says Scott Pattullo ’81, senior vice president of sales, marketing, and account management for Wheels Inc. “It exposes you to more-forward approaches to issues, which you could gain through experience, but the MBA accelerates that process.”

Earn more
“The average starting salary Tech engineering graduates reported to the Career Center during the 2010–11 academic year was about $58,000. Among new Tech MBAs, the average was $63,000, “even with minimal work experience,” says Darrell Radson, dean of the School of Business and Economics. “And during economic downturns, companies tend to hire more MBA graduates. In fact, for some corporations, an MBA is a stringent requirement for management-track positions. With work experience and an MBA, the salary differential greatly increases, making the value of the MBA more pronounced.”

You can actually do this
Once you’ve graduated and entered the workforce full time, the thought of returning to college can be daunting. However, many MBA programs, Tech’s included, are offered online. “The Tech MBA Online has easily integrated into my everyday life,” says current student Megan Benam ’07. “The program allows me to complete the course work in a timely manner that is conducive to working full time, traveling for work, and maintaining a personal life.”

For more information on Michigan Tech’s online MBA program, visit www.mtu.edu/business/mba/online.
by John Gagnon • Every year, the Alumni Association is proud to recognize the accomplishments of five extraordinary members of the Michigan Tech family. Here are their stories.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award
Katerina Aifantis
BS, Engineering, 2002

Katerina Aifantis, child prodigy and adult wonder, has wandered from Tech to Cambridge; from Russia to the United Kingdom; from the Netherlands to Greece—all in pursuit of knowledge. At age 28, she possesses credentials as extensive as her travels.

She began to build them in 1999, at age 16, when she started taking classes at Tech. In 2002, at age 19, she earned a bachelor’s in engineering, with a minor in mathematics, summa cum laude. Tech professors remember her as simply brilliant.

Besides being known for her self-assurance, imposing intellect, unbridled enthusiasm, and strong work ethic, she is used to being the young one in the room.

With a National Science Foundation research fellowship, she earned a master’s in engineering, with a minor in mathematics, summa cum laude. Tech professors remember her as simply brilliant.

Groningen, where, at age 21, she became the youngest person ever to earn a PhD in the Netherlands. After postdoctoral work in labs in the US, France, and Russia, she was the youngest recipient of a five-year research grant from the European Research Council.

Her primary research interest is the design of nanostructured lithium-ion batteries, a topic she began to study as an undergraduate under the direction of Stephen Hackney, professor of materials science and engineering, whom she calls her “most invaluable coworker.” Her other research interests range from nanostructures with electronic applications to the use of nanoparticles to treat cancer.

Aifantis has published more than twenty scientific papers and coedited and coauthored the book *High Energy Density Lithium Batteries: Materials, Engineering, Applications*. Her work has been featured in *Physics Today* and *Science Magazine*, as well as in international news media, including the BBC.

She dedicates her award to her parents, citing the pioneering work of her father, Elias Aifantis, professor of mechanical engineering—engineering mechanics, which piqued her curiosity and inspired her studies in nanomechanics; and the cheerleading of her mother, which encouraged her to pursue her dreams.
Outstanding Service
Russell Gronevelt
BS, Civil Engineering, 1969

“I am very proud to say, ‘I’m a Michigan Tech grad.’”

Speaking is Russell Gronevelt, who has exhibited that pride by serving the University in many capacities: as a member of the Academy of Civil and Environmental Engineers, an advisor to the civil and environmental engineering department, and as a member and life trustee of the Board of Trustees of the Michigan Tech Fund. And, on December 31, 2010, he ended eight years as a member the University’s Board of Control, which he also chaired.

While on the Board of Control, Gronevelt was instrumental in helping Tech navigate troubled waters during a time of dwindling state support for higher education. He also labored to “ensure that Michigan Tech students continue to get full value from their education” and honored the faculty and staff who devote their professional lives to furthering that goal.

Gronevelt fashioned a noteworthy career for himself as a leader in public works, all the while maintaining ties with his alma mater.

His service to Tech began when he was a student and was active in Sigma Rho Fraternity and the Interfraternity Council. It continues today on the executive committee of the civil and environmental engineering department’s “Educating Graduates of Choice” campaign.

Gronevelt, the retired president of the civil engineering firm Orchard Hiltz & McCliment, was previously director of public works for the City of Livonia and assistant county executive for Wayne County. There, he led the fifth-largest public works organization in the nation, which includes two airports. Among his professional achievements, Gronevelt helped restore the health of Michigan’s Rouge River, which had been greatly degraded by pollution. In 1994, he was recognized for his efforts by the American Public Works Association, which listed him among the Top Ten Leaders of the Year.

Honorary Alumni Award
Daniel Lorenzetti
Hancock

Dan Lorenzetti attended Suomi College, received his BS in Business Education and MA in Secondary Education from Northern Michigan University, and did his postgraduate studies in administration at the University of Wisconsin. Yet he bleeds Tech black and gold.

A successful businessman and a devoted civic leader, Lorenzetti is a great friend of Michigan Tech. President Glenn Mroz ’74 ’77 calls him “ever the creative thinker.”

A visionary, as well.

Consider this: Last fall Tech planted the Memorial Grove that graces the east end of campus. Individuals donated $600 for the opportunity to plant a tree in memory or in honor of someone. Ninety people did so, raising $54,000 and making the grove a reality. Lorenzetti was the man who nurtured the idea and solicited the donations. Following the dedication of the grove, he and his wife, Joan, also donated and had their employees plant twenty-five crabapple trees in the US 41 median, to further beautify the approach to campus.

Lorenzetti deflects the credit for the grove. “I have the deepest appreciation for the people who made this challenge possible. This will live on to the next generation.”

The Memorial Grove isn’t the first effort Lorenzetti has made on Tech’s behalf. He donated ten acres adjacent to Mont Ripley Ski Hill to the University and cochaired the “Let It Snow” campaign, raising more than $750,000 for snowmaking equipment, extending the length of the ski season and returning the hill to profitability.

Lorenzetti has been chief executive officer of Superior Block Company in Houghton since 1978. He, Joan, and daughter Danielle, an alumna of Michigan Tech, are all members of the Presidents Club.
Distinguished Alumni Award
Bhakta Rath
MS, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, 1958

Bhakta Rath, a native of India, did yeoman’s duty as a student at Michigan Tech, completing six years of labor in two years, which amounted to tackling a staggering thirty courses a year.

These days he continues intensive work as a senior executive in the US Department of Defense. He is the head of the Materials Science and Component Technology Directorate and associate director of research at the US Naval Research Laboratory.

Rath remembers his vigorous Tech days fondly and maintains ties with his alma mater. He and his spouse, Sushama, have endowed an annual research award for an outstanding Tech graduate student and a faculty advisor to collaborate on inquiry that addresses the nation’s needs and challenges for emerging technologies.

Such inquiry, Rath avows, is vital to maintain America’s leadership in the global economy. Nationwide, he points out, it is necessary to educate young people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—the STEM disciplines.

To encourage young people to go into these fields, Rath has worked with the American Society for Materials (ASM) International Education Foundation to support summer camps for high school students and teachers. He has served as president of ASM.

Humanitarian Award
Terry Woychowski
BS, Mechanical Engineering, 1978

Terry Woychowski is an accomplished leader with an eye out for the other guy. Woychowski serves the world.

His immediate family founded the Woychowski Charitable Foundation that, in part, supports a Tech Senior Design team that has built a human-powered grain mill for use in Africa. The foundation collaborates with World Hope International Zambia to test the device. The bicycle-powered grain processors are intended to assist local villagers in preparing their food staple at a lower cost than using a large commercial mill. As well, the devices would mean that children won’t miss school because they have to haul maize to the local mill or grind it by hand, with mortar and pestle, as they do now. A second Senior Design Team sponsored this year greatly improved the design.

For Woychowski, outreach is a way of life. During the Balkan crisis, he helped to establish refugee camps for people displaced by the violence. He has collaborated with the Engineering Society of Detroit, the auto industry, and Michigan Tech to retrain unemployed automotive engineers in hybrid electric vehicles and technologies—advancing their prospects for employment. He now serves as president of the Engineering Society of Detroit. In his community, Woychowski has served as a paramedic and a church elder.

A longtime champion of the University, Woychowski in 2006 was appointed General Motors’ key executive liaison with Michigan Tech.

Now comes his latest opportunity to serve: he was appointed this year by the governor to Michigan Tech’s Board of Control. He says, “The engineering education I received at Michigan Tech was one of the most critical elements in my career. I’m pleased to be able to give back and serve as a Board member to help the University achieve its vision.”

Woychowski, of Commerce Township, has spent most of his career at General Motors. In 2009, he was named vice president of global vehicle management and currently serves as GM’s vice president of global quality and vehicle launch.

He has received GM’s highest honor, the Chairman’s Award, four times, and has also received GM’s North America Achievement of Excellence Award. Woychowski is a member of Michigan Tech’s Academy of Mechanical Engineering—Engineering Mechanics and the College of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board.
You start with a cause. Or, at least you do if you are Mike Agostini ‘97, who has run two Boston Marathons: one properly, one not so well.

“I started running in Japan in 1993–94 during a study abroad trip,” he says. “I did it to curb my hunger, since running is an appetite suppressant, and I was broke.”

Fast-forward thirteen years. Agostini is living and working in Boston, home of the world’s most famous 26.2-mile jaunt. No longer hungry, he found a different inspiration to take up running in a serious way.

“Some colleagues [at Mathworks] were running for the Dana-Farber cancer research center, and I wanted to help out,” Agostini says. “So, for that first marathon, in 2007, I raised over $8,000 for a couple family members hit with the disease, as well as two close friends. It was my way of striking back.”

“I also ran for Sierra, the daughter of my advisor, [mechanical engineering professor] Gordon Parker, who was diagnosed that year.” (Sierra is doing fine now, four and one-half years cancer free and attending Tech.)

He did the requisite six months of training, but he didn’t listen to his body, which was trying to give him two important messages: he had an injured knee, and his tendons were damaged, a result of not replacing his worn shoes. His form got worse, and during a training run of twenty-plus miles, he injured himself.

“I couldn’t train the six weeks before the marathon,” Agostini says. “When the day came, I wasn’t sure whether I should run or not. I rationalized running anyway, since I’d raised all that money.”

Big mistake. He needed nine months off after the marathon to fully heal.

He wouldn’t do that again. In April 2011, Agostini prepared the right way, this time in memory of his father, Mike, who had passed away from cancer.

So, what is the right way?

“You start with a base of three to four miles a day, three times a week,” Agostini says. “On the weekend you focus on running a longer distance. The weekend run starts at four miles and gradually increases over six months.”

You give yourself breaks, too, from those increases in length, he says. So a training regimen on the successive weekends might encompass eight miles, five miles, ten miles, six miles, etc., working up to that twenty-mile trek.

“Nutrition is also important,” he says. “You need to keep up the sugars, glycogen, so I take along GU Energy Packs and take one before and one every thirty to forty-five minutes of your long runs.”

He also adds variety to his workouts, to help both his marathon time and his body’s recovery.

“Training on hills and speed work [during the week] gives you added strength that goes deep into those longer runs,” Agostini says.

What difference did the training, nutrition, and new shoes make?

Agostini finished his 2011 second marathon in four hours and thirty-five minutes, whacking forty-five minutes off his 2007 time. And instead of enduring nine months of convalescence, he was back on the road training five days after he crossed the finish line.

And, most importantly, “I raised $16,000 for cancer research to honor my dad,” he says.
Look! Up in the sky!
Searching for the plane truth

by Erik Nordberg

We get all kinds of requests for information at the Michigan Tech Archives. Although we’re not in a position to undertake detailed research, some catch the fancy of your intrepid archivist and send him off on the hunt for unusual and arcane aspects of University history.
SUCH was the case when two messages arrived in my email inbox a few months ago. The first was from an alumnus who had seen photos of John MacInnes at the door of a Convair 440 aircraft and wanted to know if Michigan Tech owned the plane. The second was from a Nevada author writing about a DC-3 aircraft that he believed the University owned in the late 1960s.

Lacking any memory shards of Tech running some Air Yooper service, my interest was piqued. Digging through campus records—and throwing my query out to readers of the electronic TechAlum Newsletter—I was overwhelmed with information.

First, I took a crash course in airplane design. For those who may not know, a DC-3 is referred to as a “tail-dragger,” as it has two wheels in the front and one underneath the tail, giving it a sloped angle when it is parked at the airport. The Convair has a wheel under the front nose and remains upright at all times (and don’t ever make the mistake of mixing up Convairs with Corvairs). But this did help to identify the planes in many of our photos.

I also heard a lot about early commercial air carriers such as the North Central “Blue Goose” and successor planes flown by Republic Airlines. These airlines owned and operated many Convairs through the years, so I suspect that any photo of these planes probably documents a Tech employee travelling on a public commercial flight. Although these planes delivered more power than the DC-3, alums such as Glenn Buskirk ’84 recall that the “vibration and noise were always headache-inducing.”

It was also interesting to hear of numerous smaller planes in the area. Mario Fontana had started the Fontana School of Aeronautics to train Army Air Corps cadets on the Tech campus during World War II. Denis Hayner ’61 remembers that Tech professor Gilbert “Gilly” Boyd owned a T-6 trainer that he flew around the area. Paul Gauthier ’62 recalled a later de Havilland Beaver plane the ROTC detachment used in the late 1950s for travel between Houghton and K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base, near Marquette.

Al Ayotte, the instructor for the Tech flying club, maintained a Cessna 150 and helped several students obtain their pilots’ licenses, according to Mike Giannini ’73. The flying club used a number of different planes over the years, some operating from the Isle Royale sands east of campus and others from the Houghton County Memorial Airport, which was renovated in the early 1970s.

Joseph Fontana (a relative of Mario’s?) continued the Fontana connection with Upper Peninsula aviation. Rob Aho ’74 remembers a Beechcraft Twin Bonanza that was kept in the Fontana Aviation hangar at Ford Airport near Iron Mountain and used by Michigan Tech employees. It is not clear that Tech actually owned this plane; more likely, the University had some arrangement with Fontana for chartered use.

And Tech needed charter air service, particularly in transporting the hockey team to games in Colorado (and to post-season playoff games around the country). Historical photographs and reminiscences of many alumni document the DC-3 charter service owned by Purdue University and operated by students in their aviation program.

Despite all this wonderful information, I was still coming up blank concerning planes actually owned by the University. I called Kelly Dube in the Michigan Tech property office, but neither she nor her predecessor, Ray Lasanen, had ever heard of an airplane on the official institutional inventory.

Finally, an email from Michael Reblin ’68 began to tease out the real story.

It turns out that there are folks who study the lineage of airplanes, as some follow train locomotives, or genealogists search their family tree. Reblin had passed along my query to Chuck Boie, an aviation historian in Milwaukee. He had record of a DC-3 registered to Michigan Tech with the official aviation tail number N-51071.

The plane was originally built in 1941 as a passenger-configured military plane for the US Army Air Forces. It moved into private ownership and was eventually sold to General Motors. Boie’s files indicated that GM transferred ownership of the plane to the Michigan Tech Development Fund in 1967. According to his records, Tech owned it from 1967 to 1970.
It may seem a small detail, but the information tying the plane to the Tech Fund made all the difference. As an entity separate from the University, the Fund can hold property that won’t turn up on official institutional inventories. A call to Mary Jane Lowney ’79 (and help from Virginia Schaller) at the Michigan Tech Fund helped clear up the mystery.

Minutes for the October 1965 meeting of the Fund’s Board of Trustees indicate that the University’s Board of Control was encouraging the “purchase of a twin motored airplane” that might be operated on a contract basis with Fontana Aviation. The proposal suggested that a plane would “enhance the effectiveness of executive staff.” Fund documents confirmed that General Motors donated the plane in May 1967.

By April 1968, however, the Tech Fund Trustees were already looking to unload the vehicle: “Principally because of the relatively small amount of usage that has thus far been of the DC-3 plane . . . operating expenses were substantially in excess of collected revenues.” The trustees’ executive committee was authorized to dispose of the plane and, although details are sketchy, the plane was sold sometime in 1970.

So what about that author from Nevada? It turns out that after its sale by the Michigan Tech Fund, the DC-3 moved through several owners for use as a charter plane. These included some of the charter services used to transport the hockey team to out-of-state games.

Sadly, the story of this particular DC-3 ended tragically. By 1976, the plane was being operated by Air Indiana and crashed on December 13, 1977, while attempting to take off in thick rain and fog at the Evansville airport. Twenty-nine people perished in the crash, including the coach and fourteen members of the University of Evansville basketball team, who were heading to a game in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kyle Keiderling, the Nevada-based freelance author and member of the United States Basketball Writers Association who contacted me, is working on a book about the Evansville disaster.

Although marred by this connection to a collegiate tragedy, the story of N-51071 is yet another piece in the jigsaw puzzle of Michigan Tech’s long and varied history.
The Dashboard

With its Dashboard, Michigan Tech tracks four key metrics to measure the University’s progress toward its strategic goals regarding people, programs, and scholarly activity. ACT scores are a measure of student preparedness. PhD graduates enhance the University’s reputation when they join the faculties of other universities. Sponsored programs funding is an indicator of academic program quality and a direct measure of research activity. The endowment draws excellent students through scholarships and superior faculty through endowed chairs and professorships.

### Michigan Tech ACT scores

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### Michigan Tech, state, and national ACT scores

- Composite: 2006 - 2010
- Math: 2006 - 2010
- English: 2006 - 2010

### Sponsored programs awards (e.g., research grants) in millions of dollars

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### Endowment in millions of dollars

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### Number of PhDs awarded

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Reunions prove that you really can go home again, and again, and again. Golf at the University’s Portage Lake course, a pilgrimage to the Otter River Cabin, a sociable picnic with Blizzard T. Husky over pasties and watermelon . . . it all happened here. If you missed it, don’t feel bad. There’s another one coming up August 2–4, 2012.
Alumni Association notes

Telling the Tech story

Our students and alumni are amazing. And I love telling people about them.

Living thousands of miles from Houghton, I don’t see as many Michigan Tech shirts, license plates, or other memorabilia as I’d like, so I strive to find ways to start a conversation about my alma mater. Whether it’s a coworker noticing the Huskies background on my laptop or a new friend commenting on my favorite Tech T-shirt, I’m eager to share my passion for our university and talk about the amazing things happening both on campus and with our alumni around the globe. Our community of Huskies makes a difference every day. It’s exciting to share those Michigan Tech stories.

I am especially inspired each year when our Alumni Association honors merely a small number of these many incredible alumni with our awards program. Your Board of Directors is honored to acknowledge these remarkable individuals, and the discussions about these distinguished alumni and the other special nominees are always moving. This year, the Michigan Tech Alumni Association is especially pleased to present the inaugural Humanitarian Award to Terry Woychowski ’78, a remarkable man who truly exemplifies the term for which the award is named. It was a humbling privilege to present the awards to all our extraordinary recipients, in Houghton, at our recent Alumni Reunion Dinner. I encourage you to read about these fellow alumni on pages 18–20.

As a Huskies fan since I was a young Yooper in Ontonagon, I’m energized about the positive changes in our hockey program, first and foremost the hiring of former Tech player Mel Pearson ’81 as Michigan Tech’s twenty-first head hockey coach. Mel quickly assembled his coaching staff, announcing the hiring of his assistants, and has hit the recruiting trail to bring talented young players to Houghton.

Finally, your Alumni Association was very proud to recently announce the establishment of the Michigan Tech Alumni Association Traditions of Giving Scholarship/Fellowship Award, to assist qualified undergraduate and graduate students during this trying time of decreased state funding. Now, more than ever, alumni support of the University is paramount to our continued success. Our Board of Directors rose to the challenge of the Generations of Discovery Campaign, and I’m confident that you will, too.

I hope each of you love to tell the Michigan Tech story in your own words.

Paul J. Ninefeldt ’96
President, Michigan Tech Alumni Association

Alumni events

September 15
Grand Rapids—West Michigan Chapter
K-Day @ Brewer Park

September 26
Houghton—Keweenaw Alumni Chapter Meet the Coaches

October 1
Columbus, Ohio—Football tailgate—Huskies vs. Ohio Dominican

October 7–8
Houghton—Homecoming weekend
Cardboard boat races and cookout • VIP tailgate Huskies football • VIP skybox Huskies Hockey • Alumni Broomball Invitational

October 29
Grand Rapids—West Michigan Chapter football tailgate—Huskies vs. Grand Valley

November 12
Marquette—Miners Cup football tailgate

November 19
Anchorage, Alaska—Hockey pregame

December 3
Houghton—Keweenaw Alumni Chapter hockey skybox social vs. Duluth

December 10
Minneapolis—Hockey pregame vs. Minnesota

December 29–30
Detroit—Great Lakes Invitational Hockey Tournament

January 28
Duluth, Minnesota—Hockey pregame

January 29
Grand Rapids—West Michigan Chapter Brunch at Marie Catrib’s

February 8–12
Houghton—Winter Carnival

March 20
Howell—Tech Connect Speaker Series

March 23
Colorado Springs, Colorado—Hockey pregame vs. Colorado College

March 23–24
Houghton—“Forty-five Years of Jazz at Michigan Tech”—Jazz Weekend

August 2–4
Houghton—Alumni Reunion 2012

Join your chapter’s Facebook page for details on networking events.

For up-to-date listings of regional events, visit http://mtu.edu/alumni.
The Michigan Tech Annual Fund

The 2011–12 academic year is under way, and Michigan Tech's student development officers are busy making calls to alumni and friends across the country encouraging support of the Annual Fund.

These students have an important job. The funds they raise impact the educational experience of every Michigan Tech student. They also enjoy sharing stories about the great things taking place on campus—things you may not hear about otherwise. And you know what? They like to hear your stories too.

So, when you see Michigan Tech on your caller ID, please take the time to pick up the phone and talk with the student on the other end. It's a great opportunity for both of you to strengthen your relationship with the University.

On behalf of the 2011–12 student development officers, thank you!

www.mtu.edu/giving
Call toll-free 1-877-386-3688
Give every year. Make a difference every day.
Help us recognize outstanding alumni and friends

Know a great Michigan Tech alumnus/a or friend of the University? Here’s a chance to help get them the recognition they deserve.

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2012 Alumni Awards:
- Outstanding Young Alumni
- Outstanding Service
- Distinguished Alumni
- Honorary Alumni
- Humanitarian

These awards are presented each August at the Alumni Reunion.

Please consider nominating deserving individuals for the 2012 Alumni Association awards program.

Award descriptions and nomination forms are available at http://alumni.mtu.edu/awards or by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations, 906-487-2400 or alumni@mtu.edu. The deadline to nominate is December 1.

Get involved! Serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Michigan Tech Alumni Association is calling for nominations for exceptional individuals to serve on its Board of Directors.

As the policy-making body for the Michigan Tech Alumni Association, the Board of Directors establishes programs, sets priorities for the association, and works with the director of alumni relations to engage alumni with the University.

The deadline for nominations is December 1. More information about the responsibilities and expectations of Alumni Association board members, as well as the nomination form, can be found at www.mtu.edu/alumni/notables/board/about or by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@mtu.edu or toll free at 877-688-2586.

Who won that iPad?

The Alumni Association has announced the winners of the HuskyLink Contest. Members who created an account or updated their information before May 31 had a chance to win one of several prizes. And everyone got to be in Class Notes!

The winners are Stephanie Arthur ’06, who got the Husky-themed iPad2; Thomas Spence ’70, a $300 gift card for University Images; Lara Michaelson ’09, $200 gift card; Tracy Brush ’09, $100 gift card; and Daniel Rouns ’87, $50 gift card.

Join Michigan Tech’s online community

As a Tech grad, you can join over 15,300 alumni and access the entire alumni directory and group directories; register for events; update your info; and share your news and photos.

huskylink.mtu.edu/join

Your access code (first-time number) is located above your name on the address label on the back cover. What are you waiting for?

Get connected. Get involved.
Eugene “Steve” Robbins ’62 retired after a forty-seven-year career in forest products and related industries by closing the Charlotte Consulting Group. His career took him to West Africa. He worked for Owens-Illinois and other companies and ended up as corporate manager of business development for Great Northern Nekoosa paper company. He started his own consulting business in 1994. He resides in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife, Elizabeth, and enjoys grandchildren, golf, fly fishing, and traveling.

Arie Korving ’65 is working with Troy Knapp ’87 to organize the SE Virginia Chapter of the Michigan Tech Alumni Association. He founded Korving & Company LLC and became a registered investment advisor in 2010 after a quarter century in investment management.

Doug Kriebel ’65, PE, president and CEO of Kriebel Engineered Equipment LTD, has been named the 2011 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year by the engineering and technical societies of the Delaware Valley, through the Engineer Club of Philadelphia. The award, which is bestowed yearly upon a Delaware Valley engineer whose work and support of the engineering profession have had a significant impact on the region and profession, was presented to Kriebel during Delaware Valley Engineers Week.

Glen Etelamaki ’67 retired from the Michigan Department of Transportation in 2000 after thirty-three years.

Michael O’Connell ’70 retired for the third time in November 2008, from IBM. He retired from EDS in 2004. The primary retirement was from Dow Chemical in 2001.

James Porth ’70 retired after thirty-seven years of civilian service with the Navy in May 2007. He returned to work with Computer Science Corporation as a senior systems engineer and is working with the Navy again with an Electronic Warfare group. He plans to retire again in a couple years, when his wife can. He enjoys time with his two grandsons, two and three years old, and says, “I think one of them will be an engineer.”


Daniel Schmidt ’71 is the engineering manager for Northern Iron and Machine in St. Paul, Minnesota, and plans to retire at the end of 2011. He writes, “Would be great to hear from old classmates.”

Charles Paterka ’73 retired from DaimlerChrysler after thirty-four years as supervisor, Compliance and Strategy Group, Vehicle Certification Programs. Chuck spent his entire career in vehicle emissions certification, starting as a test engineer at the Chelsea Proving Grounds and ending at the DaimlerChrysler Technology Center as the leader of the internal group. Chuck is owner of Complete Certification Group, a consulting firm specializing in vehicle emissions certification. He and his wife, Judy, live in Ann Arbor.

Candy Meier Goulette ’75 recently earned the Friend of Nursing award from the Association of California Nurse Leaders for her work to support and promote nursing throughout California. Meier Goulette is an editor for the Merion Matters imprint ADVANCE for Nurses, publishing nursing and healthcare news, clinical articles, nursing stories, and multimedia content.

Paula Manderfield ’76 lives in East Lansing with her husband and three children. She went to law school and is now an Ingham County circuit court judge, formerly a district court judge, in Lansing. “We love vacationing in the UP at our camp on Sandy Lake.”

Sandra Honigfort ’78 is the laboratory services coordinator at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital and is enrolled in an online master’s program in healthcare administration through Capella University. “I am really enjoying getting back into academia,” she says. “It shows how technology has advanced since my graduation.”

Christopher Thomas ’79 is now the Bighorn National Forest timber program manager, in addition to the forest silviculturist. He says, “Still a jack of all trades, master of none.”

Mark Wilson ’80 is an advanced process control engineer for PPG Industries in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Robert Gilreath ’81 says, “Two down one to go! Both boys (Rob and Paul) have graduated from MTU. Our daughter Sarah is the fifth in our family to attend MTU; she just finished her first year in math with a 4.0 each term.”

Amy Bakowski ’82 has spent the past couple years involved in mentoring FIRST Robotics for Team 1189 in Grosse Pointe. She hopes her daughter will have better success than she did in chemistry and calculus as a freshman at Tech this fall.
Timothy Bottenfield ’83 is moving on. “After a twenty-five-year career at Auburn University, my last day with the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences was Friday, April 29, 2011!” he wrote.

Dana Owens ’83 is supervising other attorneys in the felony trial group of the Yavapai County Attorney's Office and says, “Supervising attorneys is sort of like herding cats.”

Albert Cipparone ’84 is part of the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) group at Neustar. NANPA holds overall responsibility for the neutral administration of telephone numbering resources, subject to directives from regulatory authorities in the countries that share the NANPA.

Cary T. Keller ’85, PE, will be returning to Tech this fall as a recipient of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship. He will prepare himself for teaching secondary math and science.

John Miller ’85 retired in 2006 from the US Army as a lieutenant colonel and began his second career at HP. He leads the Database Team and is deputy program manager for the Accessions Command Contract.

Lisa O’Grady ’85 joined ROUSH this year as a recruiter in Livonia. “I love being able to talk to MTU alumni (and others, of course) about engineering opportunities with ROUSH.” She just completed her third marathon, the Flying Pig, and is looking forward to running two more this fall, the Detroit Free Press on October 16 and the Marine Corps on October 30.

Michael Evans ’86 announces the February 5 birth of Samuel Michael.

David Staublin ’86 is teaching mathematics at Comstock Park High School.

Kristin Wolden Nitz ’87 says her novel Suspect was one of ten titles selected for the Keystone State Reading Association’s Young Adult Book Award. Suspect is also on the Kansas Reading Circle Catalog, the Pennsylvania State Library Association YA Top 40, and YALSA’s Best Fiction for Young Adults nominees list.

John S. Woods ’87 and his wife, Battsengel, announce the June 7 birth of their daughter, Anastasia.

Melanie and David Hockin ’89, along with Aubrey, Ryan, and Mia, welcomed Nicholas Robert to this world and to their family in February. Proud grandparents are alumnus Bruce Hockin ’51 and wife Charlotte, as well as retired Tech employee Robert Trevethan and wife Cheryl.

Larry “Tree Hugger” Jokinen ’91 says, “I have been trying to get in touch with any of the guys who lived in Ripley’s ‘Pink Palace’ at the end of the 1970s. Jon, Mark, Rich, Brad, Mike, or any of the others who may have spent the summers there.”

Justine ’90 and Cory Pratt ’91 are doing business as Creative Algorithms, which writes apps for iPhones and iPads, including Trip Boss travel manager, Date Wheel date calculator, and Serving Sizer recipe calculator.

Pam and Michael Bailey ’92 ’11 announce the April 2011 birth of their twins, Joshua Michael and Rachel Ann. He works as a principal software engineer for Raytheon in Boston.

Kristofer and Christine Saxon ’93 welcomed on September 21, 2010, their second daughter, Kara Jean.

Craig ’92 and Paula (Latocki) Scheuern ’92 and daughters Abby and Sarah proudly welcomed Leo Joseph to the family October 2, 2010.

Michelle Baker ’95 has a son, Ethan Connor, born December 10, 2008.

Jonathan “Jack” ’96 and his wife, Shannon (Talbot) Money ’93, have triumphed in a pasty making contest. Jack says, “Using her recipe that she perfected with her friend Gabi Palmer ’89 she won the regional to go to

**The Stocked Kitchen: A cookbook for the inner Boy Scout**

What if you always had what you needed to make a great meal from scratch? Stacey (Ottoy) Krastins ’95 has coauthored a cookbook for everyone who ever wanted to be prepared, but wasn’t. *The Stocked Kitchen* is based on the premise that if you have a limited number of basic ingredients on hand, you can make a whole cookbook full of great dishes, from Black-Bean Layered Dip and Lemon-Dill Seafood Pasta to Steak Wellington and Pineapple Pancakes.

With coauthor Sarah Kallio, Krastins developed a grocery list of standard items and created recipes using only those ingredients. Multiple copies of the list are included with the book for you to tear out and take to the grocery store. Once your kitchen is stocked, “there is no more standing in front of an open pantry full of random ingredients saying, ‘I have nothing to make,’” they write in their introduction.

There’s a bonus: no more cluttering up your refrigerator with exotic ingredients you use once and toss after they start smelling funny.

Their system really works, at least according to the five-star reviews on Amazon.com. Wrote one reader, “This has been a huge time saver. I am a working mom, and all I have to do is stay stocked, and any time I need to whip up a dish, I look like super mom. The best part is it was stress free.”
the finals. After I'd tasted all the competitor offerings as well as some commercial pasties, I knew she would win . . . and she did! Top honors. I think she deserved it.” Read all about it at brighton.patch.com/articles/pasty-is-right-on-the-money-with-recipe.

Paul J. Ninfeldt ’96 is now global product manager at ITT Corporation in Santa Ana, California. He and his wife, Tanya Jordan, live in Orange.

R. Jason Clark ’97, PE, is now the construction contracts engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation and manager of the construction contracts unit.

Jonathon Colman ’97 has been accepted into the University of Washington’s Information School to pursue an MS in Information Management. He expects to graduate in summer 2013.

Shawn Wyant ’97 was the unit commander for the Civil Air Patrol Oakland Composite Squadron, in Waterford, from 2008 to 2011.

David Claus ’99 recently joined Merrick & Company in Aurora, Colorado, as a senior structural engineer. David will be serving clients in the nuclear services, government, and energy markets.

Erin and Steven Ducat ’99 announce the birth of their first child, Oliver Tate, on May 29, 2011.

David Haverland ’99 says, “My career with BASF has brought me on a project assignment to Mexico City. My family has been here for a year and a half, and we return to the US in October. It has been amazing to experience living and working in a foreign country.”

2000s

Melissa Keranen ’00 says, “We welcomed our third child, James Milton, born August 21, 2010.”

Christopher Lubowicki ’00 announces the birth of Ashley Marie on August 25, 2009. “Elizabeth is enjoying being the big sister!”

Peter and Bridgette (Piper) Rosek ’00 are proud to announce the birth of their first son, Zachary Rosek, in December 2010.

Steven Bolte ’01 and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed their first baby girl, Annalie Isla, on September 18, 2010.

Benjamin Kroeger ’01 has returned to Michigan after living in Massachusetts and is an environmental engineer with the Edw. C. Levy Co. in Wixom. He also announces a new addition to his family, Grayson Benjamin Robert, from New Hampshire, who was adopted on December 8.

Vianni Lopez ’01 studied accounting at Tech and completed her juris doctor in Puerto Rico. She practiced law in different states and is now back on the island. “Feel free to contact me if you are interested in moving down here or are just planning on visiting.”

Andrea and Jonathan Gohl ’02 welcomed Aidan Richard on mama’s birthday, December 14, 2009.

Brian Watson ’02 has joined Schiff Hardin as an attorney in its Chicago offices. An electrical engineering alumnus, he graduated from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and holds an MS in Engineering from Purdue University–West Lafayette and an MBA from DePaul University Kellstadt Graduate School of Business. “Snowy Houghton feels ever closer from the sixty-ninth floor of the Willis [Sears] Tower.”

Justin and Rebecca Vinson ’03 announce the birth of their second son, Logan Thomas, on October 8, 2010.


Raymond Jasicki ’04 received his MBA on June 5 from Cardinal Stritch University.

Kyle and Rachel (Wright) Wermers ’04 announce the February 22 birth of their first child, Ariel Susette. “Our little monkey!”

Ian Unterbrink ’05 married Maureen Fruget ’07 on April 9, 2011. Ian also graduated from the US Naval Dive School on March 23. The happy couple now resides at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, in Virginia.

Scott Isaacson ’06 has been working as a senior systems analyst at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics since January 2009. “I work with our electronic medical record (EMR), specifically the software used in clinics. I began my career at Epic Systems Corporation, which is the vendor of our EMR,” he says. “After Epic I worked as a business systems analyst for Sentry Insurance, in the Madison office.”

Carl H. ’06 and Cindy (Kurc) Jarema ’06 welcomed their first child, Henry Robert, on May 24.

Bob ’07 and Trish Evans ’08 have been jogging competitively since 2010. Trish set a new Guinness World Record in women’s 5K jogging (running while juggling) with a 21:46 finishing time on July 20 at the World Juggling Championships in Rochester, Minnesota. She also set world record marks in the 800-meter (2:44) and 200-meter (31.83) jogging races and took a gold medal in the three-ball 100-meter dash. Bob competed in the 5K event. Starting in September, they will be embarking on a yearlong road trip in hopes of performing in all fifty states. Bob and Trish say they are proud alumni of Michigan Tech and “may be the first MTU alums to become world-class circus performers. Go Huskies!”
Fantetti valedictorian at Cooley commencement

Steven Fantetti ’07 graduated in May from Cooley Law School in Lansing, where he was the valedictory speaker and was honored with the prestigious Distinguished Student Award.

He received his juris doctor six months early, in just two-and-a-half years, and describes law school as “a great experience.” He credits some of his success to excellent undergraduate preparation: his Tech professors had familiarized him with many concepts he later encountered in law school. “It was nice not to see things for the first time,” he said.

Fantetti, a wide receiver on Tech's football team, earned a BS in Social Sciences with a concentration in prelaw and a minor in psychology. He is now with the legal firm Christmas, Spano & Owen, PA, in Riverview, Florida.

Madahbee national archery champ

Sheila Madahbee ’00 won first place in her division at the National Field Archery Association US Indoor Nationals, held March 26–27 in Louisville, Kentucky.

“I shot a 598 [out of a possible 600 points] with 81 bull’s-eyes in the adult female bowhunter freestyle division,” she said. “I won by four bull’s-eyes.”

Madahbee began studying archery in physical education class at Michigan Tech. “That’s where I learned to properly shoot,” she said. “It was something fun to do at the time.” After moving to Canada, she started shooting with friends and joined the local club. Her prowess has taken her as far as Italy, where she competed in the 2009 world championships. She hopes to participate again this year with Team Canada.

What does it take to be a straight shooter? “Practice,” Madahbee states. Then, she remembers that she didn’t practice much before the nationals. “It was probably more mental focus.” Or, probably, it just helps to be Sheila Madahbee.

Scott Bergeson ’08 worked for Dow Corning as a process design engineer after completing his chemical engineering degree, then left to enroll at the University of Richmond School of Law. “I am currently a third-year student and plan to graduate in May 2012.”

Matthew Jacobs ’08 married Michaela Harris on January 17, 2009, just after receiving a commission as a second lieutenant in the US Army as a quartermaster officer. He was deployed to Afghanistan in January.

Clarissa ’09 and Nathan Kotila ’09 announce the births of their children: Kaiden (June 4, 2010) and Riya (May 4, 2011).

Jonathan Salzman ’09 ’11 started his career at Innotec in August after completing his MSME this summer. “It has been a great experience being at Michigan Tech!”

Joel Vertin ’09 is now a web content specialist in University Marketing and Communications at Michigan Tech.

Leah Enking ’10 has been working for Verizon Wireless. “It’s a great company, and I recommend it to any Michigan Tech graduate.”

Seow Chung Goh ’10 says, “It’s been a year since graduation. What have you guys been up to?”

Alexandra Beguhn ’11 says, “Congratulations to the Class of 2011. It was fun getting to know some of you, and I hope to keep in touch. May fortune be with you always!”

Angela Hoffman ’11 is attending the University of Utah’s Educational Leadership and Policy MEd program in Salt Lake City and working as an assistant residential education coordinator. She says it was difficult to leave but knows that her experiences in the community and her Tech education have prepared her “to go out and create the future!”

Brian Thompson ’11 is working as a summer operations assistant for Housing Operations at Michigan Tech. This position was formerly known as management assistant (MA).
In memoriam

The Michigan Tech family extends condolences to the relatives and friends of those who have passed away.

1936
Kenneth S. Pearson

1937
Edward N. Belland

1939
Ellsworth R. Goodreau

1942
Basil L. Kimball
Reed Nelson

1943
Melvin E. Johnson
David L. F. Wilson

1946
Eugene J. Noblet

1948
Frederick B. Callanen Sr.
Robert F. Falberg
Richard E. Gabrielson
Albert J. Maki, PE

1949
Calvin C. Bjorne
David F. Greenawalt
Milton J. Krieg
Frank L. Tabor

1950
James W. Bergstrom
William C. Flinchum

1951
Eino A. Leppiaho
Judge Howard V. Peterson
Lynn A. Wallace

1952
Thomas N. Totten

1953
Robert Laurich

1954
John D. Huru

1957
Frank C. Granstra
Matt W. Jalkanen Sr.
Victor L. Wilkinson
James L. Wilson

1958
Col. William Kahn (Ret.)

1959
James P. Patton

1960
Richard I. Payne

1961
Robert E. Fuller

1962
William D. Brown
David A. Byfield
William C. Fowler
David S. Jeske

1963
Dennis M. Schieman
Edward D. Waara

1965
Gary C. Bartsch
Gerald J. Hellman

1967
James V. McNeil
Freeman O. Moore Jr.

1968
Joseph C. Andreini Jr.
Darryl L. Zini

1970
Jarrett J. Johnson
Richard H. Story

1971
Craig V. Litts
Alice R. (House) Sundstrom
Thomas R. Varani

1972
Max R. Dietz Jr.
Robert E. Mark

1974
Willie Edmonds Jr.
Roger L. Jacobs

1975
Lawrence H. Blahnik
Howard F. Scheuner

1976
William C. Kessel

1977
Michael D. Boyle
James J. Lutey

1979
Mark R. Finkbeiner

1980
Tamara K. (Barrett) Heikkinen
Robert A. Paananen
John A. Vincent

1981
Edward S. Brouwer
Randy L. Brown

1983
Glen P. Bergstrom
Scott C. Monsrud

1984
Guy K. Gillespie
Robert J. Nowak
Melvin L. Salo

1985
Jay M. Fry

1986
Kevin G. Lloyd

1989
Timothy F. Judge

2000
Michael T. Myers

The fine print

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your class notes to
techfund@mtu.edu.
Higher education is key to Michigan’s economic well being on more than one level, Governor Rick Snyder said August 16 during a town hall meeting in the Copper Country.

“Certainly universities support the economy simply by educating our kids and giving them the skills they need to succeed in the marketplace,” he said. “They also create jobs by commercializing research and starting businesses; Michigan Tech has been a leader in that area for a long time.” In particular, the state’s SmartZones—including the Michigan Tech Enterprise Corporation SmartZone—support economic development in partnership with universities.

Michigan Tech President Glenn D. Mroz provided the governor’s introduction. “I’ve been impressed with his accessibility and willingness to listen, as well as his forthright responses to very difficult questions about the challenges facing the people of Michigan,” Mroz said. “His willingness to confront brutal realities and make timely decisions stands in sharp contrast to the way similar issues are being handled by governments around the world today.”

An audience member noted that the Snyder administration cut appropriations for Michigan’s public universities this year, while businesses enjoyed tax reductions. “That was a tough call,” Snyder responded. “I hope we’re at the end of these cuts, but we absolutely needed to create the climate for job creation and grow the pie so we can invest and build a strong future and quality of life for all.”

Snyder reviewed his vision for Michigan’s future. “We need more and better jobs,” he said. In particular, the state needs economic growth that will allow young people to stay in Michigan. To help create that growth, he said, he eliminated the Michigan Business Tax, which he called “the dumbest tax in the United States.”

“I’m fired up about what we’re doing,” he said, promising “relentless positive action” to boost prosperity and create a culture of cooperation. “We’ve spent too much time looking in the rear-view mirror,” he said. “The key to success is us all coming together with an attitude that’s positive, forward-looking, and inclusive.”
YOU’D HAVE TO BE, TO GO TO TECH. We have more snow, and more fun in the snow, than anyone else. US News ranks us among the top tier of national public universities. And our graduates can feel good (very good) about an 86 percent placement rate, and the 11th highest starting salaries in the country.

To learn more about what’s happening in Houghton, check out www.crazysmart.mtu.edu on your laptop, tablet, or smartphone.