

Hockey's golden year ■ Surviving a Nazi POW camp ■ Santa Bob tells all

Michigan Tech

Winter 2012-13 ■ Volume 49, Number 3

M A G A Z I N E

TALES OF CHAMPIONS

INSIDE THIS
MAGAZINE ARE
STORIES OF
EXTRAORDINARY
PEOPLE



Michigan Tech

- 4** 1400 Townsend Drive
News from Michigan Tech
- 7** UpLode
Students in their own words
- 8** The boys of winter
Michigan Tech's 1961–62 hockey team returns to campus to mark the golden anniversary of its national title.
- 10** Top of the world, Ma!
Archivist Erik Nordberg goes back fifty years to tell the tale of that championship season.
- 12** Cycles of freedom
Students re-engineer hand cycles that can survive marathons, advised by the amputee vets who ride them.
- 16** A survivor's story
Robert Peterson was a bombardier flying missions over Nazi Germany. One day in 1944, he didn't make it back to England.
- 19** They're melting
Monitoring Chile's shrinking glaciers
- 20** Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.
You can call him Santa Bob.
- 21** Letters
- 23** From the Alumni Association
- 27** Class notes and In memoriam
- 30** Transitions

Editor

Marcia Goodrich

Graphic Designer

Clare Rosen

Photographer

Sarah Bird

The cover

With all due respect to General Mills, we would like to submit three nominations for appearances on a certain cereal box.

- Michigan Tech's 1961–62 championship hockey team, which remains a touchstone for athleticism and esprit de corps fifty years after its NCAA triumph
- World War II airman Robert Peterson '49, who survived a year and a half in a POW camp after his plane was blown out of the sky over Germany
- The Huskies Helping Heroes Senior Design team members, who are engineering better hand cycles, and the veterans who ride those cycles in marathons, despite having lost limbs in Afghanistan and Iraq

Bob Peterson insists that he was not a hero. The heroes, he said, were the guys who never made it back home. But we can still honor those who go above and beyond, who lift our spirits to celestial heights or astonish us with a degree of sacrifice that is beyond appraisal.

Achilles Freedom Team member and Iraq veteran Latseen Benson competes in the 2012 Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank Marathon.

1400 Townsend Drive

NEWS FROM MICHIGAN TECH



New deans on board

Michigan Tech has seen sweeping changes in academic leadership over the past few months, with three new deans taking the helm in the College of Engineering, the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, and the School of Business and Economics.



R. Gene Klippel, business and economics

Klippel, who served as dean of the School from 1994 to 2003, has returned to his former post. While at Michigan Tech, he led the School to accreditation by the Association

to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business–International.

After leaving Tech in 2003, Klippel became the founding dean of the College of Management at the University of Wisconsin–Stout and later dean of the College of Business at the University of Southern Indiana.

In addition to his academic experience, he has conducted extensive research in marketing and has served as a consultant to Fortune 500 companies.



Terry L. Sharik, forest resources and environmental sciences

It's also a homecoming for Sharik, who was on the School's faculty from 1986 to 1993. In the intervening years, he headed the Departments of Forest Resources and Environment and Society at

Utah State University.

Sharik helped establish the Gombe School of Environment and Society (GOSES) in Tanzania and is a fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

"I am thrilled and honored to be the dean of forest resources and environmental science, and I hope that together, the faculty, staff, students, and I can make some really great things happen," Sharik said.

William M. Worek, engineering

Worek is the former head of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago and served as director of its Energy Resources Center.

Research expanded significantly under his leadership, and he is also recognized for his teaching, receiving the UIC College of Engineering's award for teaching excellence.

"I look forward to building on the success of the College's undergraduate program to further the growth and reputation of its graduate program," Worek said. "In addition, Michigan Tech is well-placed to expand its role as a research arm of industry, and I also look forward to facilitating that effort."

In addition to serving as dean, Worek is the Dave House Professor.





Finally! A wind harp in the wind tunnel

At last, someone has found a good use for the stormy blasts that rip through the west end of campus.

A thirteen-foot high Aeolian harp by sculptor Ashok Agarwal is now the centerpiece of a garden between the Chemical Sciences and Memorial Union buildings. When the wind hits it right, it emits a low, peaceful hum—a sound to soothe the weary student’s soul in the final moments before a big test.

The harp project was funded by the Friends of the Gardens using private donations.



Zip-a-dee-doo-dah!

Sure, cars are handy, but they aren’t cheap, and there’s always that pesky parking business. Now, Tech students and employees can rent vehicles worry-free for under \$10 an hour, thanks to a new partnership between the University and Zipcar, the world’s leading car-sharing network.

Members of the Michigan Tech community can join Zipcar for a \$25 annual fee. Rates for Zipcar vehicles start at \$7.50 an hour and \$69 a day. The cost includes gas, insurance, reserved parking spots, up to 180 miles of driving a day, and roadside assistance.

Two vehicles—a Ford Focus and a Ford Escape—are now available in reserved parking spots across from the Memorial Union.

Michigan Tech, Portage Health team up on sleep studies

At Portage Health's Sleep Disorders Center in Hancock, Jason Carter and Carl Smoot, DO, are trying to assess what causes sleep apnea, what makes it worse, and how to stop it.

"Our long-range goal is to influence therapeutic strategies for sleep apnea patients," said Carter, chair of kinesiology and integrative physiology at Michigan Tech.

Sleep apnea occurs in some 30–40 percent of men and 20–30 percent of women and is marked by the stopping of breathing, as often as thirty times an hour. It is related to obesity and has been linked to asthma, diabetes, and an increased risk of stroke and heart attack.



Rock on

Michigan Tech is getting a different kind of rock garden. Its centerpiece is a boulder created in a cataclysm almost two billion years ago. This relic is surrounded by mine rock that makes it seem youthful by comparison.

The new Mining Boulder Garden, on the east end of Fisher Hall, will highlight the Upper Peninsula's mining heritage and Michigan Tech's role in the industry. The banded mine rock, donated by Cliffs Natural Resources, was formed about three billion years ago, when black iron oxide was sandwiched between bands of rusty quartz.

The three-ton boulder originated when a massive meteorite slammed into what is now Sudbury, Canada, hurling debris hundreds of miles through the air. "This is the best piece of its kind around, a cosmic oddity," says Michigan Tech volcanologist Bill Rose, who spearheaded the garden's creation. "We're really lucky to have it."



Bill Rose, right, directs the unloading of rocks for the Mining Boulder Garden.



Erik Nordberg, post-fire, in a drying area for damp documents

Archives hit by fire, flood

The Michigan Tech Archives remains closed following an October 26 fire in the stacks, where many documents are stored. The fire was contained within a few square yards, but water damage was extensive. The floor was flooded, and several stacks of documents were heavily sprayed by the sprinklers and fire hoses.

Dozens of faculty, staff, and students rushed to the rescue, reboxing and sorting the soggy papers and photographs. That night, a total of 688 boxes of documents were shipped out to be freeze-dried. "We were genuinely overwhelmed by the outpouring of assistance," said Archivist Erik Nordberg.

Less than 20 percent of the documents in the archives stacks were affected. Nordberg estimates that only a small amount of material may be damaged beyond repair.

UpLode



Ever wonder what students are thinking about? Here are a few snippets from the *Michigan Tech Lode* that illustrate what matters, from computers (not enough of them) to second-hand smoke.

Upperclassmen, have you ever tried and failed to enter a building or parking lot because your card is so old and worn?

From "RFID Project Progresses," on the new card reader system being installed on campus, by *Lode* news editor Katelyn Waara (September 11)

As a second-year student at Tech, I have had my share of walking through clouds of smoke while leaving a building or stepping through snow littered with cigarette butts.

Lode writer Megan Walsh in the article "Does a Smoking Ban Go Too Far?" on the proposal to make the Michigan Tech campus tobacco-free (September 18)

Pregnancy can be a very scary thing, especially for those of us who are sexually active.

Extracted from the advice column "Peaches and Cream" (September 11)

Thirty-two of those visitors signed up to be organ donors.

From "Libraries Saving Lives," by writer Jane Kirby, on the J. R. Van Pelt and John and Ruanne Opie Library's effort to recruit organ donors through the Libraries for Life program (September 18)

"This is a cool new thing for Michigan Tech."

Jarrold Karau, director of administrative services, in *Lode* writer Nicole Iutzi's story about Michigan Tech's new mobile app, which lets students access their grades, residence hall menus, the events calendar, and lots more (September 25)

Men's Lacrosse Club Team Suffers 3-2 Loss to Northern

Lacrosse? Yep, we've had a club team since 2006, *Lode* writer Ellie Furmanski explains. (October 2)

What many students do not realize is that a college course can be, as one first-year chemical engineering student put it, "a lot tougher than it looks."

Some things never change. From Gianna Gomez-Mayo's column "Homework at Tech" (September 25)

Students pay to be able to use computers on campus; we should be able to find a lab to work in without jumping through hoops.

Lode writer Gianna Gomez-Mayo, expressing frustration in "Computers, Computers Everywhere, Not Any Available to Use" (October 2)



THE BOYS OF WINTER

by Wes Frahm

Few forces are powerful enough to bring together a group of 70-year-old men from the corners of North America and beyond.

The occasion was the 50th anniversary of Michigan Tech's first national championship—the 1962 NCAA Men's Ice Hockey title.

The Huskies won twenty straight games to finish the season, including a 7-1 victory over Clarkson in the national title game in Utica, New York.

US Hockey Hall of Fame coach John MacInnes assembled the group that went on to become a who's who of Michigan Tech hockey, among them Lou Angotti, Jerry Sullivan, Elov Seger, and Gary Bauman.

Michigan Tech and the Copper Country love to celebrate their hockey heritage, especially this legendary team. But for these guys, coming to campus was a family reunion.

"I played on a lot of hockey teams in my life, but I remember every one of my teammates at Michigan Tech," said Al Patterson, a forward. "We lived in the barracks together, ate together, and played together. We were a family."

Bob Pallante echoed the sentiments. "The on-going memory of my time at Tech was the barracks. Living as a group made us a family. Sure we had our disagreements, but nothing could have brought us closer together as a team."

Members of the 1961-62 hockey family traveled from Florida, Colorado, British Columbia, and even Libya to be on campus October 5-7. Of the 21 team members, 17 are still living. All 17 made it back to Houghton.

Pictured in Dee Stadium, left to right, in the back row are student manager Tom Bliss, Allan Patterson, Gene Rebellato, Norman Wimmer, Scott Watson, and Bob Mikesch; middle row, assistant coach Bill Lucier, Mike Draper, Pat Casey, Gary Begg, Bob Pallante, and John Ivanitz; and front row, Phil McVittie, Gary MacLellan, Albert Merlo, Gerald Sullivan, Louis Angotti, and Don Hermanson.

“We didn’t have a Zamboni at Dee Stadium. The players had to scrape ice after practice.”

“Isn’t that something,” said Sullivan, who served as team captain. “It’s nice to have so many guys back.”

Michigan Tech Athletics inducted the team into its Sports Hall of Fame October 5, the first squad to be so honored. “I went in as an individual, but this is nice,” said Sullivan. “To be inducted with the guys you played with makes it special.”

The team also gathered at Dee Stadium to share memories, ate together at the Dog House, and was introduced at the Michigan Tech football and hockey games.

Before the hockey game, members of the 1961–62 team joined current players in the locker room, where they were presented with replica jerseys from their championship season. Several said it was among the most moving experiences of their lives.

“The weekend was far beyond my expectations,” said Phil McVittie. “We were treated like royalty.”

Throughout the reunion, memories flowed.

Assistant coach Bill Lucier told stories about how different college hockey was in 1962.

“We didn’t have a Zamboni at Dee Stadium. The players had to scrape the ice after practice. I can’t imagine [current] Coach [Mel] Pearson telling his recruits they would have to scrape the ice after practice.

“I was in charge of hauling laundry back and forth from Dee Stadium. It got to be later in the season, and we kept missing more and more of our socks. I went to visit the guys at the barracks, and noticed that the socks were being used for insulation filling the cracks in the walls.”



Top of the world, Ma!

by Erik Nordberg, archivist

Students and Copper Country fans stood six deep around the arrival gate at the Houghton County Memorial Airport late Sunday afternoon, March 18. Cars were parked on both sides of the airport road almost out to the US-41 intersection. A chartered DC-3 taxied up to the gate, the passenger door opened, and immediately a clamorous cheer echoed across the snow-covered field to the accompaniment of the din of scores of automobile horns. The College Hockey Champions of the Nation had returned home!

—MCMT Alumni News, March 1962



It was 1962, the year that Michigan Tech hockey established itself as a premier college program. In addition to the national crown, the Huskies took the WCHA championship, brought home the MacNaughton Cup, and amassed a 29–3 record.

The program was well on its way to prominence in the preceding years, achieving second place finishes in both league and national playoffs. But the alignment of training, coaching, and on-ice performance in 1961–62 propelled the Huskies into elite status.

Yet, it didn’t look good in December 1961. The previous season ended with league playoff losses to defending NCAA champion Denver, and the new season began with two road losses to Michigan. The Wolverines proved one of Tech’s great nemeses at the time—and a personal challenge for sixth-year Husky coach (and former Wolverine goaltender) John MacInnes.

Following the opening losses, however, Tech posted eight consecutive wins, including four victories against Denver. The Husky team produced four of the league’s top scorers in Jerry Sullivan,



Lou Angotti

MacInnes, who died in 1983, remains the team's central figure. "John was a great man," said Lou Angotti, who went on to a ten-year NHL career. "He sat down with my parents at our home in Toronto, and when he was leaving my father said, 'You're going with him.' So I did, and it was a great decision."

"It was excellent playing for John," said John Ivanitz. "He was more than a father figure. He was just so easy to work with. Between him and Bill [Lucier], we loved playing for them."

Many shared stories on how they chose Tech. Often it was simply a phone call from MacInnes.

"We didn't have the opportunity to make campus visits in those days," said Patterson. "John made me feel very comfortable. I chose to come to Houghton sight unseen because of that conversation."

Pallante came to Tech on a football scholarship because there were no hockey scholarships left.

"Coach MacInnes told me he wanted me on the team, but didn't have a scholarship. He said, 'Wait a minute. You're a pretty good football player, right? I'll call you right back.' An hour later, I had a football scholarship. I came to Tech and played football and hockey."

All went on to successful careers, some in professional hockey, others in business, and all would have picked Tech again, realizing what hockey and a Michigan Tech education did for them.

"It was a great choice," said Angotti. "My father was right." ■



Jerry Sullivan

Gene Rebellato, John Ivanitz, and Lou Angotti. Defensively, the blueline corps was led by seniors Henry Akervall and Elov Seger, with sophomore goaltender Gary Bauman creating a standout year in net. MacInnes noted the team's "excellent fore-checking, tremendous speed, overall scoring balance, and a tremendous goalie."

January provided the "Big Rematch," with Michigan travelling to Houghton for a pair of games at Dee Stadium. The Huskies thrilled the hometown crowd with a 4-2 victory on Friday, ending Michigan's twelve-game winning streak (the tables were turned with a Wolverine victory the following evening).

The team set out on a fourteen-game winning tear through the WCHA and added two victories over the visiting Finnish National team.

Having captured the WCHA regular season title, the team set their sights on the MacNaughton Cup. Ironically, Michigan Tech had yet to hold the storied silver trophy, named for James MacNaughton, president of the Keweenaw's most profitable copper mining company, Calumet & Hecla.

Tech disposed of Michigan State with a 5-1 victory in the first-round playoff game. Their competitor for the WCHA finals in Ann Arbor? Yes, the same Wolverine team that had delivered

Tech's only losses of the season. The Huskies' come-from-behind 6-4 victory made headlines across the nation. A photograph of team members carrying the MacNaughton Cup to an awaiting crowd at the Houghton County Memorial Airport is still a favorite for Husky fans of all ages.

Both Michigan Tech and Michigan were selected to represent "The West" at the NCAA national championship playoffs in Utica, New York. The St. Lawrence "Larries" were no match for Tech in a 6-1 semifinal loss. Thankfully, the Huskies wouldn't see the Wolverines on the ice, as Michigan lost its semifinal game to Clarkson.

The final, played on St. Patrick's Day, featured a lot of scoring, mostly from the Huskies. Tech jumped to a 3-1 lead in the first period and added four more in the third to defeat the Clarkson Knights 7-1 and claim the national championship. John Ivanitz tallied a hat trick in the game, with Jerry Sullivan and Lou Angotti adding two goals each.

The stellar season was acknowledged with numerous awards and accolades. Lou Angotti was named the NCAA tournament MVP. Henry Akervall, Lou Angotti, Elov Seger, and Jerry Sullivan were named First Team All-Americans. And John MacInnes was named Coach of the Year. ■

CYCLES OF FREEDOM

by Kelly Kolhagen

It's a crisp 46 degrees on an October Sunday morning in Detroit. The euphoria from the Tigers' pennant victory days earlier still hangs in the air, mixed with the new adrenaline of 24,000 athletes who've come to run, walk, and roll in the Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank International Marathon.

A block from the finish line, Ben Maenza, 24, of Brentwood, Tennessee, is relaxing in his wheelchair, smoking a cigarette. A half-hour earlier, the retired Marine lance corporal completed his fourth marathon, cranking his bright orange hand cycle (a three-wheel, hand-driven cycle) 26.2 miles to a fifth-place category finish.

Two years earlier to the day—on October 21, 2010, just three weeks after arriving in Afghanistan—Maenza was crossing a flooded cornfield on foot with his unit when a bomb exploded beside him. He lost both his legs above the knee and sustained several injuries to his arms, which is probably why no one has had the nerve to tell him smoking is hazardous to his health.

Following eighteen months of recovery, Maenza is channeling his competitive spirit as a member of the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans. He and his teammates, many of them fellow amputees, are rebuilding their lives through hand-cycling events, including marathons.

Gathering military intelligence

The day before the Detroit marathon, Josiah Hooker, a Michigan Tech senior majoring in mechanical engineering, is on a fact-finding mission

with Maenza and other members of the Achilles Freedom Team, who are serving as expert consultants on a very different kind of engineering project.

Hooker is among twenty-one students on five teams participating in Michigan Tech's Huskies Helping Heroes program. Sponsored by General Motors, it is aimed at producing a more durable and comfortable hand cycle for wounded veterans. Each team works with an athlete advisor to ensure a steady source of feedback. Today is their first face-to-face meeting.

The students are producing prototypes of two winning team designs in time for their reveal at the Army-Navy Game. One is a recreational model named the Keweenaw Cruiser. It was developed by the Peleus Solutions team, to which Hooker belongs.

The other, by the Patriot Powered Performance team, is a competition cycle named Tomahawk.

Brett Jenkins of Troy, the Copper Country Solutions team leader, called the Huskies Helping Heroes project "the most rewarding assignment I've ever worked on."

"The athletes need a better cycle, and right now they're not getting what they need," said Jenkins. "For this project to be successful, we need to know what the athletes like—and don't like—and see



PHOTO: STEVE FECHT

Ben Maenza of the Achilles Team of Wounded Veterans in the 2012 Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank International Marathon

first-hand how they use the cycles in marathons.”

James Cook of Lexington, Kentucky, who leads the Patriot Powered Performance team, agreed: “The athletes aren’t shy about sharing their opinions. That’s good, because all feedback is good feedback.”

A big challenge in designing a “perfect” cycle is that the athletes’ physical issues vary. Some are amputees who need certain restraints for when they suffer spasms; others sustained injuries that affect their ability to grip a handle for 26.2 miles. Some athletes like to sit upright; others prefer to ride almost recumbent, or lying down.

The athletes aren’t shy about describing their injuries and how they affect their ability to ride. Some have used humor as part of the healing process with tattoos like “I had a blast in Afghanistan.”

Steve Schaefer of Flat Rock and Laura Larsen of Charlevoix, members of the Copper Country Solutions team, are showing athletes a hand brace that accommodates a clip that can attach directly to the cycle handles, for those with grip issues.

For the Patriot Powered Performance prototype, they showed lower leg restraints made of smart materials that can be custom-molded using heat, and upper leg restraint supports that use Boa-brand closure system technology for a custom fit.

All athletes agree that the cycles, which sit close to the ground, need equipment so that runners, motorists, and motorcyclists can see them. Retired National Guard Staff Sgt. Travis Wood, 29, of Cedar City, Utah, who lost his right leg above the knee during a 2007 bomb blast in Afghanistan, experienced a white-knuckle moment a year ago when a motorcycle cop cut in front of him during a marathon in Los Angeles.

“Another issue is transportability,” says Hooker. “We’ll build a frame out of aluminum, which is lightweight and durable, and stronger forks out of chromoly steel—an alloy with an excellent strength-to-weight ratio. This fork-to-frame attachment can rotate and lay upon the seat assembly for easier transport.”

The new war scar: amputations

The Achilles Freedom Team athletes belong to a fraternity they didn’t ask to join.

According to the US Department of Defense, about 1,600 servicemen and women have suffered injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan that required amputation of one or more limbs. The number reached an all-time high in 2011 with the troop surge in Afghanistan and its accompanying foot patrols.

In March, the *Army Times* cited a report from the Army’s Dismounted Complex Blast Injury Task Force that found the most dramatic changes in the wounds coming out of Afghanistan were the increased number of troops with above-the-knee

amputation of both legs, as well as triple and even quadruple amputations.

As a result, the Army is testing advanced, cutting-edge prosthetics powered by microprocessors and designed expressly for above-the-knee amputations.

“Just as prosthetics have improved, ten years from now we could see better cycles because of the work these students are doing today,” says Dick Traum. The first amputee to compete in the New York City Marathon (in 1976), Traum founded Achilles International in 1983 and the Achilles Freedom Team in 2004 as a way to support injured vets from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now 71, Traum came to Detroit to cheer on the Achilles athletes and compete in his forty-seventh marathon, this day in a hand cycle. It is largely through Achilles’s efforts that hand cycles are permitted in major marathons throughout the country, including New York, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit.

Engineering is about improving lives

Because of Michigan Tech’s rigorous curriculum and excellent reputation, nearly every mechanical engineering graduate is offered a job upon graduation. In fact, many of the seniors who traveled to Detroit are juggling multiple job interviews.

Before graduating, however, every mechanical engineering degree candidate must successfully complete a Senior Capstone Design project. All are challenging and worthy, but the Huskies Helping Heroes project is the most popular.

Faculty advisor Paul van Susante attributes the program’s appeal to the fact that the students connect emotionally with the athletes and experience first-hand how their work will make a difference.

“People think engineers care only about math and science, but at its core, engineering is really about improving people’s lives,” says van Susante.

Huskies Helping Heroes began with Linda Stouffer of GM, whose role as manager of vehicle purchase programs has evolved into a deeply personal labor of love on behalf of military causes. She sought help from Terry Woychowski ’78, who, until his recent retirement, was a GM vice president in charge of quality and vehicle launch programs.

Stouffer told Woychowski that the GM Military Discount Program donated cycles to the Achilles Freedom Team, but the cycles were breaking down under the demands of competition.

Woychowski suggested a Senior Capstone Design activity around the Achilles project, and Stouffer contacted its coordinator, Robert DeJonge.

Because the sheer scope of the project was beyond what a typical team could handle, the students were organized into four teams for work that began in January. A fifth team was added in September. Advising the teams are DeJonge, along with



Members of Huskies Helping Heroes gather for a brainstorming session the day before the 2012 Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank International Marathon. Pictured left to right are students Ben Maguire, Thomas Freeman, Greg DeViller, and Majed Farhan Al-Shammari; athlete John Hayes; student John Cook; and advisor Robert DeJonge.

Michele Miller, director of undergraduate programs, van Susante, and instructor Adam Loukus '01 '08.

With Stouffer's support, GM is underwriting a documentary on the Huskies Helping Heroes program that will debut early next year.

"Achilles is giving these athletes the gift of racing and competing, and we're so glad to be part of it," she says.

"More than a grade"

Jackie Kukulski of Grand Haven is a dual biomedical-mechanical engineering major who joined Team Five in September. Her team will take the two prototypes and develop a third "beta" cycle that combines the best attributes of both. The goal is to then turn the cycle over to an Achilles athlete for competition testing.

"For me, this is about more than a grade," said Kukulski, who is developing solutions for rerouting the cycles' brake lines. Now, they are attached to the cranks and are prone to failure because of the constant motion.

GM engineers Alexa Ellswood and Sarah (Pearson) Cohen '07 meet weekly with the Huskies Helping Heroes teams via web conferencing and travel frequently to Houghton to check progress and recruit new talent for GM's engineering ranks.

"I love working with Alexa and Sarah," said Kukulski, adding, "GM has been an awesome sponsor."

With a management style that is equal parts mentor and taskmaster, Ellswood and Cohen ask tough questions, expecting the students to explain their designs and how they solve the athletes' usability issues.

"I love working with the students and seeing their energy and passion," said Ellswood. "This isn't their last class. It's their first job."

At 5:00 AM on race day, the students are on the job, checking cycle adjustments and talking to the athletes before escorting them around the long city block to the starting gate. As Detroit R&B legend Thornetta Davis sings the national anthem, some pause silently in the cold, heads bowed, eyes glistening.

Soon, they hope, their work will result in more than a grade—it will produce hand cycles as tough and competition-worthy as the brave heroes who inspired them. ■

See more photos from the Detroit marathon at www.mtu.edu/detroit-marathon.

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

by Marcia Goodrich

Robert Peterson was born into hard times.

During the bleakest days of the Great Depression, the Petersons and their seven children were, he remembers, “the poorest family” in the hardscrabble town of Ironwood.

Before he was old enough to shave, Bob shot rabbits and partridge to put meat on the table. The only cash money his parents had was what he and his brother could earn shoveling snow and setting pins in a bowling alley. Sometimes they went hungry.

“I often wonder what my mother felt, not having food for us kids,” he muses.

Peterson, 89, now lives in Omega House, a hospice on the outskirts of Houghton, and as he looks back on his extraordinary life, he suggests that this tough childhood might not have been such a bad thing. It gave him some preparation for far greater trials as a prisoner of war.

Peterson was a student at Michigan Tech, playing football under the direction of legendary coach Don Sherman, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. “I had just turned 19, and I wanted into the war,” he says. Along with three of his brothers, he soon got his chance. In 1942, Peterson was called into the US Army Air Forces as a bombardier.

Peterson flew bombing missions out of England over Nazi Germany in a B-24 Liberator. “I was in Jimmy Stewart’s group. He was the nicest guy and a great American,” Peterson remembers. “He would lead the whole 8th Air Force on missions. Two hundred bombers, and there he was, up front.”

By the end of the war, casualties in the 8th Air Force would be staggering. Over 26,000 airmen died, and an additional 28,000 were shot down and made prisoners of war. The odds were two to one

that a man serving in the 8th Air Force would die, be wounded in combat, or captured by the enemy.

Peterson, however, wasn’t worried. “Very honestly, it wasn’t scary for me. I just felt it wouldn’t happen to us,” he says. “But it certainly did.”

On February 24, 1944, a fleet of B-24s took off for the city of Gotha. Their target was the Messerschmitt Bf 100 aircraft assembly plant, which was a full seven-hour round trip deep into Germany. Eleven bombers were shot down before they even reached their target. “We made it, but on the way back, we got hit bad,” Peterson remembers. “All the pilot said was ‘get out.’”

He and the navigator prepared to parachute from the pair of nose wheel doors, which opened inward at the front of the plane. The navigator went first, inadvertently snagging one of the doors and shutting it, which locked it in place. “I went to jump, and I was trapped,” Peterson says. “My parachute and my body were too wide for the opening.

“It was the only time in the war that I was really scared,” he says. “There was no way to get out. I thought I was a dead pigeon.”

“So what do you do? I prayed. I kept saying, ‘Lord help me, help me God,’ and the next thing I know, I’m out. I do believe in miracles.”

Floating toward Earth, he saw his plane hit the ground and explode in a fireball. He wasn’t the only one watching. “There was a German in a fighter plane following the bomber down, probably to get pictures so he could get credit for the kill,” Peterson



says. “Then the pilot came up and circled me a couple of times. I thought, ‘God, don’t let him use me for target practice.’”

“He was so close to me, I could see his eyes clear as day. He saluted me, gave me the high sign, and took off.”

Peterson had a hard landing, crashing through the branches into a leafless forest. “I knocked myself out,” he says. When he came to, he had no idea where he was, so he just took off through the thick snow, using tricks he’d learned as a kid in Ironwood to cover his tracks. “But after an hour, an hour and a half, the Germans finally caught up with me,” he says. “And you know what? I was damn happy when they did. It was cold, with up to three feet of snow, I didn’t know where I was, and I was just happy to be alive.”

They took him near the German town of Herbstein, where he and five other members of his crew were paraded in front of a crowd of women, children, and old men and ordered to dig a ditch. Then a guard put a rifle to Peterson’s forehead and pulled the trigger. “Click! I didn’t blink,” Peterson remembers. “I think he wanted to show them that the Americans weren’t tough; he wanted me to beg for mercy. He got mad and hit me with a rifle.”

Then they had Peterson climb up onto a horse-drawn hay wagon. “I always felt they picked on me because I was the biggest one,” he notes. “They motioned me to dig. I came across something black. My first thought it was a dead dog. I tried to lift it

out and all I got were two handfuls of burnt flesh.”

It was the tail gunner from his outfit. Peterson reached down again,

and pulled up the airman’s remains. “His limbs were blown off, it was mostly just the torso.”

He carried his dead comrade to a nearby shed and laid him down, only to find the bodies of the pilot and navigator. “They had their uniforms on, and they looked like they were sleeping,” Peterson says. “I could see no external damage. Both of them had a trickle of blood from their nose and mouth.”

Near them was a parachute shot through with big holes and burn marks, probably acquired as the bomber was under attack, before it opened. “I realized that they had bailed out and come down like a rock.”

Those two deaths still haunt him. After the war, the families of both men asked Peterson how they died. “I told them I didn’t know,” he says. “No way could I tell them they died of faulty parachutes.”

The six survivors were locked in a tiny cell with bars—no glass—over the only window. After five freezing days of no heat and no food, Peterson had had it. “I complained to the Germans about how hard up they must be to not feed us,” he says. “I thought they would take me out and shoot me, but instead they took me up to the top of the jail. I



almost passed out. There were hundreds of hams and sausages.”

They then took him, ham-less and sausage-less, into the kitchen, where the cook and her young daughter were preparing a meal. He snuck a loaf of bread inside his shirt. “The woman saw me, but she didn’t say anything. I brought it back to the cell and shared it with the other guys,” he says. That night, the cook slipped a blanket to the prisoners through the bars on the door.

After eight days of captivity, the Gestapo came to take them to a POW camp. The cook and her daughter were there to say goodbye. “She was dabbing her eyes,” Peterson recalls. “Both she and her daughter shook our hands. I always wanted to go back to Germany just to see that lady. She had compassion for us.”

They were sent to Frankfurt for questioning, and Peterson and the copilot were loaded on a boxcar with about thirty other POWs and sent to Barth-on-the-Baltic, where they were imprisoned in Stalag Luft 1.

“The first year was OK,” he says. “About every two weeks we were given Red Cross parcels that came from Sweden, which was neutral, and they had enough food to supplement what the Germans gave us, which was bread, potatoes, or rutabagas.” By comparison, the Red Cross parcels had corned beef, powdered milk, instant coffee, peanut butter, jelly, sugar, P ration chocolate bars and crackers, raisins, cheese, oleo, and five packs of cigarettes.

Then in January 1945 the parcels stopped coming. Daily rations fell to one quarter of a rutabaga or a slice of bread per man.

“I was the official bread cutter in my room with thirty guys, because I could cut it thin enough to give out two thin slices, which made you feel like you were getting more to eat,” Peterson says. “When

I was cutting this bread, here are twenty-nine guys surrounding me like vultures.”

“We were starving,” he remembers. “I lost sixty pounds.”

Five months later, with the Russian army advancing, the German guards took off. To keep the POWs from running off and possibly getting killed, the highest-ranking American officer in the camp made MPs out of a number of men, including Peterson.

“We were allowed outside of the barbed wire,” he says. “My buddy and a couple other guys who were MPs went into a huge building and found thirty thousand Red Cross parcels that we never got. Thirty thousand.”

They made another discovery, a concentration camp on the fringe of town. “Twenty to twenty-five of these poor souls died while my buddy and I were just walking around,” Peterson remembers. “I’ve never in my lifetime seen anything more horrible.”

The Russians brought food for both the concentration camp and the POW camp and offered to help get the GIs home, but fleets of bombers arrived from England to ferry them to camps in France. From there, Peterson finagled a flight to London, where he and a buddy kicked up their heels for a few days before returning to the US.

Ultimately, Peterson received a dozen medals for his military service. Most of them don’t mean much. “They give you a medal if you sneeze properly,” he notes wryly. One, however, has a place of honor: a Presidential Unit Citation, recognizing the valor of those who flew in that raid over Gotha.

Peterson re-enrolled at Michigan Tech and completed his BS in Civil Engineering. He also married Rita Bishop, whom he’d met when he was a freshman renting a room in her parents’ home. They were married nearly sixty-seven years.

He’s still awestruck that she picked him. “I came from one of the poorest families in Ironwood, and she had dozens of guys after her,” he says.

Peterson turned out to be a wise choice. He started a successful company near Detroit, and they raised four wonderful children, he says. When Rita contracted Alzheimer’s and eventually had to live in a nursing home, he visited faithfully, feeding her lunch and dinner every day. “She was the greatest thing that ever happened to me,” he says. “I have been blessed.”

The love of his life died September 9, but the couple was able to spend their last weeks together at Omega House. “What a miracle that was,” says Peterson, who knows a thing or two about answered prayers. ■

They're melting

Monitoring Chile's shrinking glaciers

by Jennifer Donovan

Along the eastern edge of the long, narrow nation of Chile, the Andes mountains reach for the sky. And on those towering peaks are hundreds of glaciers.

Those glaciers serve as icy reservoirs for downstream populations, which rely on their annual melt for drinking water, irrigation, and industry. But as the Earth warms, glaciers in the southern Andes are shrinking at unprecedented rates, posing critical questions for Chilean authorities.

How fast are they melting? How much are they moving? How much solar energy do they absorb? As part of an extensive, ongoing study, Chris Roussi, a senior research scientist and engineer at the Michigan Tech Research Institute, is helping find answers.

"The glaciers are the canary in the coal mine for global warming in Chile," Roussi explained. Chile has no doubt that global warming is happening, he said. They regard it as a real threat, and they urgently want to know how it is going to affect them.

Contributing his expertise in hardware and software, Roussi was part of a US Geological Survey-led team that designed sensors to track the melt and movement of the gigantic Bering Glacier in Alaska.

So when the US Department of the Interior funded a remote-sensor project for Chile's glaciers as part of its International Technical Assistance Program, Roussi was tapped to teach the Chileans to install and monitor five sensors, which were



Chris Roussi, on the far right, helps scientists from the Chilean water agency and the US Geological Survey install a sensor at Glacier San Francisco, near Santiago.

built in Ann Arbor at the Michigan Tech Research Institute. Four are installed in the Andes, and plans are in the works to put one in Antarctica.

They will beam data hourly to a satellite network, which in turn will relay that data to Chilean scientists. That does more than save the cost of traveling to the glaciers to take readings. The project also will ultimately provide accurate, timely information to help Chilean decision makers address a looming environmental crisis. ■



Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, and his name is Bob.

by Marcia Goodrich

Robert Aittama '73 first set his sights on being Santa Claus for a pretty Grinch-y reason.

"I started out in a greedy way," he confesses. Aittama was casting about for a decent stream of retirement income, and playing Santa seemed like a good deal: not only did he look the part, he found he could make a sizable sum in six weeks, "about ten times more than I'd get as a Walmart greeter," he says.

So he enrolled in the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School, in Midland, and learned the secrets of impersonating that jolly old elf. Armed with good training, a fluffy white beard, and rosy cheeks that just scream "ho ho ho," he went to work.

That's when he began to realize that being Santa Claus is more than a lucrative part-time job. Wherever he went, the Christmas spirit followed. "I walk around spreading joy. I soon learned that being Santa isn't about me, it's about the kids."

Of course, some moments have been more heart-warming than others. "One little girl got on my lap and said she wanted a 64-gig iPad," Aittama remembers. "I asked if 32 gigs would do, and she said no, 32 gigs wasn't powerful enough. I asked how old she was, and she said five." Well.

More often, he feels blessed, especially during visits to children's hospitals, cancer wards, and nursing homes, which he does for free. For some, a visit from Santa is all the Christmas they have.

"I went to a home for severely disabled children and asked where their families were," Aittama remembers. "The staff said, 'What families?' No one ever came to visit them."

Then there was the three-year-old who leapt into his lap in a restaurant shouting "Santa! Santa!" when he wasn't even in scarlet regalia. And the little girl who asked only that her sick friend be cured.

Moments like these have caused Aittama's heart to grow three sizes since he first toyed with the idea of playing St. Nick.

"Being Santa is a sacred trust," he says. "If people carried Santa in their heart, it would be a wonderful world: peace, joy, love, happiness, forgiveness. Why can't we be that way all year long?" ■

Editor's note: Robert Aittama is Santa Bob in New Home, Pennsylvania, where he also works as an aeronautical engineer for Lockheed Martin. You can visit his website at www.santa-beclaus-i-care.com.



5 surprising Santa facts

- 1 A pair of quality Santa boots can cost \$750 and up.
- 2 A good Santa suit costs even more. Aittama's is made of wool with a silk lining.
- 3 A savvy Santa never tells children they will get what they ask for. The correct response to the request is, "My! That's a wonderful gift."
- 4 Santas obsess about hair and beard care. "Whenever you get a group of Santas together, within twenty minutes they are talking about hair products."
- 5 A good Santa walks the talk, especially when, like Aittama, he looks the part year round. No swearing in public, no flipping the bird at crummy drivers, and absolutely no questionable venues. "Santa doesn't do gigs at Hooters," he says. "If you do, you're a bad Santa."



To the moon, Adam

The students in Kingsford High School's high-powered rocketry program could think of no better way to honor their hero, Adam Savage of *Mythbusters*, than to strap him in effigy onto their missile. He and the rocket were fired skyward as part of the Large and Dangerous Rocket Ships extravaganza, held July 15 in New York. They placed second in the Odd Roc category, competing against the likes of a flying grandfather clock and a flying 1960s television set.

Science teacher Bill Bertoldi '80 advises the group, which he launched in 1997 with help from Tech physics professors Bryan Suits and Bruce Rafert. Since then, many students in the rocketry program have been inspired to further their studies at Michigan Tech. Pictured, left to right, are Sam Whitens '16, Hilden Beaudion, Rachel Schroeder, Conrad Shehan, and Bertoldi.

Letters to the editor

Wolf-dog pups behind DHH

Receiving the last *Michigan Tech Magazine* featuring the wolf man on the cover brought back fond memories. In 1948, Mark Cross and I canoed up the Abitibi River from Cochrane, Ontario, to Moosonee on James Bay, which is the lower half of Hudson Bay and the summer resting place for the Cree Indians. As Mark and I walked through the village we saw all the Cree's wolf dog puppies and thought how great a mascot they would make for the Michigan Tech Huskies.

We made a deal for two puppies and headed back upstream. Well, the dogs ate more than we did, and we ran out of food in about four days, but we fished and did very well. At six weeks old our little pups could fend for themselves. They subsisted on frogs mainly, which they had no trouble catching. It took three weeks to get to the road and our 1937 Chevrolet.

We were a little late for the start of classes but were able to catch up. We tied the pups behind Douglass Houghton Hall. Neither King, the male, or Queen, the female, could bark, but they howled all night long. We hung on until Thanksgiving break when I took the dogs back to Detroit and asked my mom to watch them for us, which she did until I graduated in 1950. When Mary Jo married me in 1951, she inherited King. He was a great friend.

Paul Goode '50

From bedroom to lactation room

I read with interest about "a lactation room for nursing mothers . . . on the second floor of the Hamar House." That was the house my father, then president of the Hamar Quandt Company (now 41 Lumber) built around 1941, when I was six years old. It was a "showcase" house for the Hamar Quandt Company and had special features including a clothes chute and dust chute that dropped its contents from my bedroom on the second floor to containers in the basement. In the closet of that bedroom are (were?) elastic strips where I kept my hair ribbons and pencil marks on the wall showing my yearly growth.

I assume the lactation room is in the bedroom with the bathroom, my parents' bedroom. It faced College Avenue, which was then also US 41, and also a neighborhood street with lovely houses on both sides.

In 1964, the La Leche League, a national support group for breastfeeding mothers, was started as a combined Minneapolis/St. Paul group. It grew so quickly, we split into two groups, one for each city. I became the St. Paul leader—thus my special interest in a lactation room in my old house.

Gretchen Hamar Healy

Wolves: another viewpoint

In response to *Michigan Tech Magazine's* article "Wolf Man," I'd like to present a few pesky facts.

When wolves were first introduced to Yellowstone in 1995, the initial plan was to introduce fifteen wolves from Canada annually for up to five years, but they did so well that introductions were halted after two years. Meanwhile, Yellowstone's northern elk populations have fallen from about 12,000 in 1997–98 to 4,000 in 2011–12, which explains why many hunters in adjacent areas have had to make do with "tag soup."

Within the Greater Yellowstone Recovery Area, there have been 1,961 confirmed kills of cattle and sheep, 37 "other" (including llamas, goats, and horses), and 51 dogs. The numbers not expressed are equally significant: abortions from stress, animals that fail to conceive for the same reason, and maulings of livestock. Yet Mr. Smith maintains that wolves rarely dine on domesticated animals and only occasionally kill cattle and sheep.

Let me make a prediction based on Mr. Smith's observations. If the wolves of Yellowstone are having a harder time of it because of a "leaner, meaner elk herd," there will be an exodus from the park as wolves seek domestic prey, and the number of kills will increase as they become habituated to dining on beef, lamb, dog, and the occasional domesticated foal.

But I can certainly agree with Mr. Smith on one point. It is so exceedingly frustrating when the facts just don't seem to matter.

Paula S. (Peterson) Thurston '80

When I heard we were getting new horns, I was really surprised. I never thought anyone would invest in the Pep Band.

I can't say enough about the donors who gave us those horns. I hope other people think supporting the Pep Band is a good way to give back to the University.

—Ba! section player Mike Shepard, who also blows his horn in the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra and Superior Winds

The Pep Band's four shiny new sousaphones were purchased in 2010–11 thanks to a \$24,916 gift from the Parents Fund. Percussionist Paul Zimmerman, who is often seen wearing a green hat, notes that a new line of sorely needed snare drums would set the band back \$12,000—its entire annual budget.

Call 877-386-3688 or email techfund@mtu.edu to donate to the Pep Band.

Or visit www.mtu.edu/giving and include Pep Band 3205 in the gift designation box.

GENERATIONS
of **DISCOVERY**
the Campaign for Michigan Tech

www.mtu.edu/giving



MTUQ&A

Darnishia Slade '98
President, Michigan Tech Alumni Association



Why did you come to Michigan Tech?

In high school, people said I was good in math and science, so I should go to Michigan Tech. I had never heard of it. In fact, I had never been north of Saginaw. Betty Chavis [director of outreach and multiethnic programs, now retired] came to my high school and did a presentation about Michigan Tech, but I had no intention of going. However, the summer of my senior year, I went to Tech for a summer engineering program, and I fell in love with the place.

What was the most important thing you learned in college?

I felt like I grew up so much. It was a culmination of all my experiences: the time in the classroom, changing my major, the people I met. I had a Michigan Tech experience, and that is what I like to share with others, that and my passion and love of the University. I'll always be in debt to Michigan Tech.

Describe your work and its challenges.

I am Michigan Tech's assistant director of international programs and services. I recruit international students, and I encourage current students to study abroad. The challenge we have right now is to share how important a study-abroad experience is. When I was a student, I went to Finland and studied international business for a year, and it opened up a whole new world for me.

What are your hobbies and diversions?

I love people. My hobby is family. I love comedy, so I love to laugh. The free time that I have I spend with people who are important to me, even if it's just going for ice cream.

Tell something that people would be surprised to know about you.

I am an ordained minister.

What do you hope to accomplish as president of the Alumni Association?

My intention is service and legacy. I believe that the alumni board has a passion to be of service to our colleagues, our friends, and, to a greater extent, the current staff and student body. Another priority for me is to have an international representative on our alumni board before my term is up. We are moving in that direction in our student body and our alumni, and I'd like to see that they have a voice.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I believe I am the first African American president of the Alumni Association and only the second female. That's powerful to me. I am so honored and humbled by this assignment, and I want to do my best.

Michigan Tech Alumni Association

Mission Statement

Celebrating Traditions. Creating Connections.

Vision

We are passionate champions of Michigan Tech's unique traditions, and we continuously strengthen our alumni community.

Board of Directors

President

Darnishia L. Slade '98

Past President

Paul J. Niefeldt '96

Vice President

Daniel F. Batten '88 '90

Treasurer

Robert G. Wojcik '91

Secretary

Lisa A. Fernstrum '91

Executive Director

Brenda M. Rudiger, Alumni Relations

Directors

Edwin F. Eiswerth '77

Charles G. Heiden '80*

SherAaron N. Hurt '09*

Kerry A. Irons '72*

Jean-Celeste M. Kampe '80 '87

Stephen L. Kamykowski '70

Jason J. Manders '00*

Denise A. Slattery '94*

Jeffrey A. Sudderth '06

Timothy N. Thomas '81

Kevin J. Walker '02*

Sheryl Wright '91

Melissa Velmer, MTSF

Jeffrey J. Zeman '97

*Terms beginning January 2013.

If you have a question or suggestion, please contact Alumni Relations toll free at 877-688-2586 or email alumni@mtu.edu.

Alumni Events

December 15
Woodinville,
Washington
Alumni wine tasting
and tour

December 29–30
Detroit
48th Annual Great Lakes
Invitational at
Joe Louis Arena

January 12
Grand Rapids
West Michigan Chapter,
Huskies Basketball vs.
Grand Valley

January 12
Duluth, Minnesota
Hockey pregame, Huskies
vs. Minnesota Duluth

January 27
Grand Rapids
Brunch at Marie Catrib's

February 6
Houghton
Winter Carnival
All Nighter

February 23
Seattle
CHL Gamewatch:
Thunderbirds vs. Silvertips

March 10
Los Angeles
NBA Gamewatch:
Pistons vs. Clippers

March 17
Houghton
St. Urho's Day Social

July 6
Traverse City
Cherry Festival Parade and
alumni gathering

August 1–3
Houghton
2013 Alumni Reunion

Events are being planned in other areas around the US. Check out our website for up-to-date listings of regional alumni events, www.mtu.edu/alumni.

A number of chapters also have regular networking events for area alumni. Join your chapter's Facebook page for details.

facebook



What you say

From the Michigan Tech Alumni Association Facebook page



After viewing the YouTube video *Mont Ripley Commute 1961*, alumni reminisce and answer the question, "Did you ski Mont Ripley while you were at Tech?"

The question could be . . . Did anyone attend Michigan Tech while skiing @ Mont Ripley? LOL . . . learned to ski there my freshman year, 1979/80.

Season passes! Showing up to class dripping wet, end of class, puddle under my chair. Great memories.

I was on Mt. Ripley starting in 54/55 during winter term. Our chem prof left the front of the room vacant for any of us that were on crutches.

Learned to ski there in freshman year PE.

That was the reason I went to Tech; I did ski patrol in 1970. When my son was looking at colleges, his choices were Tulane and Tech. We visited New Orleans in August and Tech in February. He got his first taste of skiing on that visit and was hooked.

Went to Tech only because they had their own ski hill. Got lucky—it happens to be a damn good engineering school also!

Join us for spring break in Malta

Alumni and friends are invited to join Professor Mary Durfee and Michigan Tech students on a tour of Malta during spring break, March 10–16.

In the near geographic middle of the Mediterranean, Malta's small scale makes it possible to see its whole history—natural, economic, political, and cultural. The tour includes visits to museums and ancient ruins and educational opportunities related to international law and environmental challenges.

To learn more about the tour, contact Alumni Relations alumni@mtu.edu or call 906-487-2400.



Presidential Council of Alumnae inducts new members

The Michigan Technological University Presidential Council of Alumnae (PCA) welcomed eleven new women to their ranks this fall. They are recognized for educational excellence, professional accomplishment, past student service, current community service, University support, and personal achievement.

The PCA advises the University president on campus climate issues and provides suggestions for enhancing the University's environment for students, especially women. Members assist the president by identifying activities and programs that will benefit Michigan Tech students and work with University departments to implement their ideas.

2012 inductees

Michelle L. Banonis '99, environmental engineering, project manager, US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Stockton, California

Janet E. Burge '84, computer science, assistant professor, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

Laura K. Farrelly '93, mechanical engineering, vice president of Microsoft Alliance, NewsGator Technologies, Boulder, Colorado

Pamela Rogers Klyn '93, mechanical engineering, general manager of cooking products, North America, Whirlpool Corporation, St. Joseph

Adrienne R. Minerick '98, chemical engineering, associate professor, Michigan Technological University

Paula J. (Eilola) Nutini '85, business administration, director of annual giving, Michigan Technological University

Hatice Orun Ozturk '83, electrical engineering, teaching associate professor, North Carolina State University, Cary, North Carolina

Suzan C. (Ravi) Phelps '80, metallurgical engineering, director of strategic sourcing, Hartzell Propeller, Piqua, Ohio

Sylvia A. (Matranga) Salahutdin '91, mechanical engineering, entrepreneur, Little Caesars, York, Pennsylvania

Deborah L. (Maddix) See '89, electrical engineering with computer option, project manager, Extreme Technologies, Hancock

Jane L. (Grady) Waldron '83, general engineering, environmental engineer, Dow Corning, Midland

For more about the PCA, visit www.pca.mtu.edu.



Show your Michigan Tech pride on your ride

Proudly display your alma mater wherever you drive and know that you are supporting Michigan Tech programs for alumni and students.

Choices include an official license plate (regular or personalized) for Michigan residents or a collector plate for alumni living in other states and provinces.

Visit www.mtu.edu/alumni/benefits for details.

It's your year!

Make plans to join your classmates on campus for Alumni Reunion 2013, set for August 1–3.

The featured classes will be the Golden Ms (those who graduated fifty-plus years ago) and the classes of '63, '73, '83, '88, '93, and '03.

A group reunion is planned for Huskies Football alumni, and there will be a special event in honor of the women of Michigan Tech hosted by the Presidential Council of Alumnae.

Reconnect with your classmates and check out what's new at Michigan Tech.

Visit www.mtu.edu/reunion for details.



The Third Annual Snowfall Contest is now open!

Accurately predict the total amount of snow to fall in the Copper Country this winter, and you could win a Michigan Tech Winter Survival Kit and a two-night stay in one of our campus guest rooms.

Last season, the Snowfall Contest generated 944 entries ranging from a low of 73.8 inches to a high of 400 inches.

According to the Keweenaw Research Center snowfall records, a total of 132 inches fell in the Keweenaw during the 2011–12 season. Scott Yager, a 2010 electrical engineering alumnus, came the closest without going over with his prediction of 131.5 inches. By coming within a half inch of the total amount, Scott won the grand prize, and Brian Baldwin, a 1989 computer science alum, was chosen at random from all entries to receive the consolation prize.

Visit <http://apps.alumni.mtu.edu/snow> and cast your vote in the Third Annual Snowfall Contest for a chance to win a two-night stay on campus and a Michigan Tech Winter Survival Kit.

Check out www.mtu.edu/memories/snow to read the memories posted by alumni and friends and post your own stories about winter at Tech.

The Annual Fund

Making a difference—every day, every year.

Your yearly gift—no matter the size—helps students like Corinne who are working hard to make the most of their Tech experience and are grateful for the opportunities your generosity makes possible.

To make your gift to the 2012–13 Michigan Tech Annual Fund, simply go to www.mtu.edu/giving, phone the Michigan Tech Fund at 906-487-2310 or toll free at 877-386-3688, or mail your gift to the Michigan Tech Fund, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295.

Michigan Tech

annualgiving@mtu.edu • www.mtu.edu/annualfund
www.mtu.edu • 906-487-2310

“ My Tech education has really been helped by scholarships. The University’s commitment to students like me made attending Tech an easy decision. ”



Corinne Green

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Hometown: Saint Clair Shores, Michigan

Activities: Treasurer, Michigan Tech Student Foundation; member, Pavlis Institute for Global Technological Leadership, Honors Institute, and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society; and vice president, Women’s Hockey Club

Class notes

1950s **Dick Temple** '58 was named 2011 Man of the Year in Goleta, California. He was honored for his volunteer work with the Rotary Club.

1960s **Manfred Philipp** '66 is a Fulbright senior scholar teaching and doing research at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences in Kathmandu, Nepal. He returns to New York City in January to resume his position as professor at the City University of New York. "Are there any other Tech graduates in Kathmandu?" he asks. His photos can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/mphilipp.

1970s **Christopher Lenicheck** '70 has been elected first vice commander of American Legion Post 74, Charlottesville, Virginia. "Just what I needed . . . less free time in my retirement," he writes.

1980s **Karen Knight** '81 is well on her way in her new mid-life career as an accountant. She is the business manager for the Almont Community Schools (which she attended). "I'm still feeding my love of numbers which is what drew me to engineering back at Tech," she says. She also recently celebrated the marriage of her daughter Rachel to Patrick Connors, which took place in Calumet. Rachel works as an admissions manager at Tech. "It was a beautiful day complete with a rousing rendition of the alligator dance!" says the mother of the bride.

James Buffington '82 invites everyone to check him out on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/jimbuffington.

Marie Cleveland '82 was the recipient of FedEx's Five Star award, which recognizes team members who have enhanced service and profitability and exemplified the spirit of teamwork. Managers nominate their team members for this annual award, the highest honor at FedEx.

Thomas J. Snyder '82 (BSME) celebrated thirty years with Marathon Petroleum Company in September. He and his wife, **Jeanne** '82 (BSBA), reside in Findlay, Ohio.

Stacey Roehm Morrison '88 married Ronnie Jack Keener on June 9.

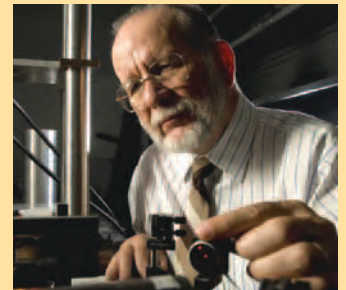
Matt Cromie '89 has completed his MS in Medical Informatics at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Richard Newell '70, age 70, on his Champion Mondial Gazelle, in this year's Tech jersey, setting out for his daily ten-mile ride.



Cloud honored by Society for Experimental Mechanics

Gary Cloud '59, PE, University Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Michigan State University, was selected by the honors committee of the Society for Experimental Mechanics to deliver the William M. Murray Lecture at the SEM XII International Congress on Experimental and Applied Mechanics held in Costa Mesa, California, in June 2012. The Murray Lecture is the most prestigious honor conferred by the society. The title of the lecture was "Some Curious Unresolved Problems, Speculations, and Advances in Mechanical Fastening." Cloud is past president of the society and has served in many other executive posts. In 2011, he was honored by MSU for fifty years of service on the faculty. He is founding director of the MSU Composite Vehicle Research Center. He has been faculty advisor of the MSU Formula SAE Racing Team for seventeen years and has received the Carroll Smith Mentor's Award from SAE for his work with the team.



Captain Robert C. Lytikainen retires

Captain **Robert C. Lytikainen** (ret.) '62 (Math) recently retired from a second career as the Defense Sciences Research Council military liaison and consultant to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Lytikainen was widely recognized in the military R&D community as an expert in the fast-evolving world of high-tech tactical applications. He also developed counter-terrorism technologies; linkages between military, national, and civil biological-weapons defense technology; and emergency response efforts.

Lytikainen was a naval cryptologist and a space electronic and information warfare officer for thirty-one years, serving on active duty and in the Navy Reserve. He received several awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal and two Navy Commendation Medals.

1990s

Laura and **Peter** '92 **Elzinga** have been blessed with a son, Ty Christopher, born July 24.

Aaron and **Jeanette (Foley)** '95 **Albright** (Civil Engineering) announce the birth of their fourth child, Quinn Keith, born September 28. Quinn joins Ethan, 6, Grace, 4, and Weston, 2.

Jennifer Meyer '98 is working as a high school algebra and physics teacher in Bremen, Indiana.

Jon and **Shannon (Garland)** '99 **Schoepflin** welcomed their second child, Piper Dee, on September 23. She was born at 33.5 weeks and weighed 3 pounds, 9 ounces.



Quinn Keith Albright



Piper Dee Schoepflin

2000s

Amy Graham '00 (BSBA, STC) '03 (MS RTC) married Berl Back in May 2012 in Eaton Rapids.

Erin and **Jeremy** '00 **Nitka** are the proud parents of Megan Ann, born July 18.

Garett and **Traci (Blank)** '02 **Paige** were married on June 19, 2010, and welcomed their first daughter, Mackenzie Grace, born May 2.

Patrick '03 '05 and **Sara (Hardyniec)** '03 '05 **Leow** welcomed twins, daughter Olivia and son Garrett, born May 29. Grandpa **Bruce Hardyniec** '70 and Uncle **Andy Hardyniec** '07 are very proud.

James '03 (BSME) and **Lacey** '04 (EEN) '07 (MS Forestry) **Mason** and big sister Caroline are proud to announce the birth of Eleanor Valerie. She was born on October 16 and is doing great.

Veronica (Rozmiarek) '05 (Math) and **Gedare** '05 (CS, Math) **Bloom** are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Annalise Josephine, born August 18.

Timothy Kurdziel '07 (MSE) wed Elizabeth Bartlett in East Lansing on April 21.

Kristin Schmidtke '08 (Math) wed **Will Brewer** '08 (Electrical Engineering) on August 25. They live in Seattle.

Steve and **Leanne (Kozicki)** '01 '09 **Jenson** were married July 14 in Edmonds, Washington. They also announce the birth of their son, Ryan James, who weighed 9.1 pounds and was 20 inches long at birth. Both he and mom are doing well and looking forward to continuing the Husky tradition. The family resides in Lynnwood, Washington.

Brendan '10 and **Katie (Stencel)** '09 **Dodge** welcomed their son, Christopher John, on May 9.

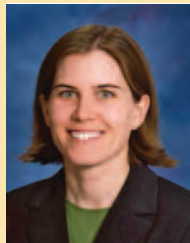
David '07 and **Jennifer (Markham)** '09 **Conn** were married on September 2 in Mears.

2010s

Christopher Martin '10 is the content and communication manager at TRICAST Inc. in Milwaukee.



Jacob Swaney '12 made the cover of the 2012–13 College Issue of *Winds of Change*, the magazine of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. “I transferred twice before falling in love with Michigan Tech’s School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science,” he told writer Elizabeth Perry. Swaney is a member of the Potawatomi tribe and now works for the National Resources Conservation Service.



Dehlin appointed to state pharmacy committee

Jennifer (Mroz) Dehlin, who earned a BS in Biomedical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 2001, has been appointed to the Michigan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee by Governor Rick Snyder. The board advises the Michigan Department of Community Health on issues affecting prescription drug coverage for its various health care programs. Dehlin is a family physician with Marquette General Hospital and associate medical director of Lake Superior Hospice.



Helminski elected to State Bar of Michigan’s Environmental Law Section Council

Tammy L. (Adamec) Helminski '97, an associate in Barnes & Thornburg LLP’s Grand Rapids office, has been appointed to a three-year term on the State Bar of Michigan’s Environmental Law Section Council. She is also chair the Hazardous Substances & Brownfields Committee of the Environmental Law Section. Helminski was named a “Rising Star” by Michigan Super Lawyers in 2009, 2011, and 2012 for her work in environmental law.

In memoriam

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

1935

Alfred A. Camilli

1937

John J. Mattiello

1939

Charles B. Alvord

1941

Robert M. Adams
William P. Robinson

1942

Alice R. (Runge)
Underwood
Waino E. Wahtera

1943

James N. Hall

1948

Dr. Donald W. Smith

1950

Arthur R. Benson
Bernard G. Flesch
Kenneth I. Johnson
William J. Kure

1951

Walter J. Huhtala
William E. Kissner, PE
Robert J. Melvin
Keith E. Sensenbrenner
Frederick P. Sundquist

1953

Douglas J. Koski

1954

Dr. William L. Adams
James A. Bekkala

1955

Robert L. Robinson

1956

William J. Brown
James C. LaBelle

1958

Robert J. Sernatinger

1959

Walter A. Sullivan

1960

Robert L. Carlson

1961

W. Charles Ferguson
James A. Guerard

1963

Layton J. Bowers
Dale L. Hanes
Norbert L. Smith

1964

David R. Treloar

1968

Donald N. McLeod
William VandeKieft

1972

James G. Letto
Mark V. Nelson
Dr. Steven M. Tuominen

1973

Richard A. Fochtman Jr.
.Tex K. Monroe

1974

Paul K. Peterson

1975

Raymond R. Dahl

1977

Jeannette E. Jacobs

1978

Margaret W. (Webber) Blake
Ronald J. Naasko
Gary W. Simonson

1980

Scott E. Leu

1981

John C. DeWaha

1983

Robert H. Strahl

1985

Brian J. Komula

1987

First Lt. Glen M. Griffin
Karla M. (Kanzer) Ooley

1991

Keith E. Schwartz

1996

Michael C. Seiltz

2001

Aaron S. Gosselin

2010

Stuart Richard Mitkey

The fine print

Michigan Tech Magazine
(USPS 345-980)

Published three times a year by

University Marketing and
Communications
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295
Phone: 906-487-2354

Postage is paid at Houghton, Michigan,
and additional mailing offices.

Vice President for Student Affairs
Les Cook

Executive Director
Linda Baker

Editor

Marcia Goodrich

Designer

Clare Rosen

Photographer

Sarah Bird

Feedback

You can send your comments to
the editor, Marcia Goodrich, at
mfgoodri@mtu.edu.

Access our archives and the
latest electronic edition of the
Michigan Tech Magazine at
www.mtu.edu/magazine.

Contributors

Jennifer Donovan, Wes Frahm, Kelly
Kolhagen, Erik Nordberg, Brenda Rudiger

Address changes

Email: gccolaro@mtu.edu
Phone: 906-487-3614

Alumni Records Office
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Class notes

Class notes are derived from your
submissions to HuskyLink, [mtu.edu/
alumni/connect/huskylink](http://mtu.edu/alumni/connect/huskylink). You may
also submit your class notes to
techfund@mtu.edu.

Michigan Technological University is an
equal opportunity educational institution/
equal opportunity employer.

Transitions



Vasant Potnis

Professor emeritus of physics
1928–2012

Vasant Potnis, who retired from Michigan Tech in 1996, passed away September 15 in Gwalior, India.

Potnis was born in 1928 in India and traveled by boat to the US in 1954. He came to Michigan Tech in 1968 from Kansas State University. Potnis's research focused on low-energy nuclear physics, beta and gamma ray spectroscopy, and time variations of cosmic radiation.

"Vasant's pleasant personality contributed significantly to the department, while he provided much-needed external visibility as a fellow of the American Physical Society," said physics professor Don Beck.

David Lucas earned an MS in Physics from Michigan Tech in 1977 under Potnis's direction and later received Tech's first PhD in Physics in 1986. Now chair of the physics department at Northern Michigan University, Lucas called Potnis "one of the nicest people."

"He was always encouraging and helpful. I never had to worry about asking him anything," Lucas said.

The Potnises split their time between Houghton and Gwalior, where Vasant owned a casting business. After retiring, he continued to teach classes within the physics department. Potnis is survived by his wife, Kusum.



Leslie Leifer

Professor emeritus of chemistry
1929–2012

Les Leifer, professor emeritus of chemistry, passed away in the presence of his family on November 9 in Denver at the age of 83.

Leifer came to Michigan Tech in 1966 as a full professor, bringing with him an Atomic Energy Commission research grant. He would receive Michigan Tech's Research Award in 1970.

Leifer served in the University Senate from 1990 through 1999. In 2001, he received the Faculty Distinguished Service Award, in part for efforts that prompted the University to match employee contributions to their retirement accounts.

"Les loved working with students," said Tony Rogers, an associate professor of chemical engineering. "He loved teaching, and he loved to challenge students. He didn't like to see students just get by. He wanted them to become deep thinkers."

For his efforts, Leifer received the Big Screw Award, given by a student organization to the most deserving faculty member. "He was proud of it," Rogers said.

He also received the 2001 Claire M. Donovan Award. Sponsored by the Blue Key Honor Fraternity, it is given to a member of the Tech community for outstanding service.

Leifer is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Leifer; his son and daughter-in-law, Andrew and Carla Leifer of Evergreen, Colorado; and his two grandchildren.

Retirements

The following faculty and staff retired from Michigan Tech recently. The years they first came to Michigan Tech are listed below.

John Gagnon, promotional writer, Marketing and Communications, 1998

Dennis Hagenbuch, director of intramurals, Kinesiology and Integrative Physiology, 1988

Neil Hutzler, professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 1978

Larry Lankton, professor, Social Sciences, 1981

Mary Marchaterre, manager of information systems, Development, 1999

Gary Smith, data specialist, Enrollment Services, 1978

Rita Smith, staff assistant, Career Services, 1987

Dennis Wiitanen, professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 1966

A planned gift is a way to shout “Go Tech!” long after the crowds go home.

Want to score a hat trick for yourself and for future generations at Michigan Tech? A planned gift can provide you with income and tax benefits now while benefiting Michigan Tech down the road. If you'd like to learn more, give us a call. We'd be happy to help.



Michigan Tech

Office of Gift Planning
giftplan@mtu.edu
906-487-3325
www.mtulegacy.org

Michigan Tech

Create the Future

Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295



SUPERIOR
IDEAS



Fund real research. Connect with innovators. Bring superior ideas to life.

Superior Ideas makes cutting-edge university research available to everyone, letting users make tax-deductible donations to projects that matter most to them. Michigan Tech's support as a leading research university ensures that Superior Ideas projects truly are the best of the best.

Find research that matters most to you and help bring projects to life.



superiorideas.org



facebook.com/superiorideas



twitter.com/superiorideas