How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world.

~Anne Frank

Summer Learning Flourishes at Special Academic Programs

Submitted by Special Academic Programs

Some students and educators look to summer as time for a little rest and relaxation. At Special Academic Programs (SAP), a division of Educational Opportunity, it is a season for learning. In addition to administering programs including National Student Exchange (NSE) and the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), SAP houses both Youth Programs (YP) and Conferences and Institutes (C&I). YP’s year long planning came to fruition this summer when they welcomed 1500 diverse participants to their programs. C&I hosted 150 institute participants, and SAP supported precollege and undergraduate student research opportunities.

I learned that math is a universal language and that geometry is everywhere. I learned that rocket science wasn’t anything but complex teamwork

~Alexandria Parker, EIE Participant

In addition to YP’s flagship programs—Women in Engineering, Explorations in Engineering, American Indian Workshop, Orchestra Fellowship Program and the Summer Youth Program—a few highlights from Youth Program’s offerings included partnerships with the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (four weeks of engineering exploration, including a visit with Board of Control member Dr. Kathryn Clark), Michigan Tech’s Aqua Terra Tech undergraduate enterprise (with Dr. John Gierke), and a Wireless Integrated Microsystems for Native Americans workshop (with Dr. Craig Friedrich and Dr. Paul Bergstrom). Research shows that over 30% of these participants will ultimately enroll as undergraduates at Michigan Tech.

C&I administered development opportunities for educators including the Educator’s Professional Development Institute Series (EPDIS). Activities for EPDIS teacher and student participants included fish seining and working with Dr. Marty Auer on the Agassiz. Carla Strome, from the

Geoscience Mine Group

CCISD and Joan Shumaker-Chadde from the Western UP Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education facilitated this institute. Other C&I summer programming included the Educators’ Science and Mathematics Institute Series (ESMIS) and Teaching American History (TAH) with the Department of Education; the Teachers’ Earth Science Institute (TESI) with the Geological and Mining Engineering & Sciences Department; and both the Computers in Writing-Intensive Classrooms (CIWIC) and Electronic Communication Across the Curriculum (ECAC) with the Humanities Department.

The rocketery was hard to do but it was fun when all the hard work I did on my rocket went into the air.

~Michael Coles, EIE Participant

Keweenaw Adventure Group Participants

Special Academic Programs also established the Precollege Research Experience Program (PREP) in 2005. SAP, with support from Southern University at Baton Rouge, welcomed four high school juniors from the Timbuktu Academy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. These students studied calculus and performed research with Dr. Tammy Haut Donahue of Mechanical Engineering. Additionally, SAP continued their successful annual administration of the SURF program.

Thanks to everyone across campus for your ongoing support of SAP programs.

Your input is appreciated. Please email Lynda at lheinone@mtu.edu with article ideas, questions or comments. Our next issue is slated for January.

The members of the fall Student Affairs Newsletter Committee were Paula McCambridge, Lynda Heinonen and Susan Liebau.
Greetings and welcome!

Walking into the office from lunch today there was a new transfer student in our office. His right arm was freshly cast from his thumb to about three inches from his shoulder. His hand was badly swollen and his fingers stained with iodine. You could almost see it throbbing. And while he was most certainly in pain, he was grinning ear to ear and couldn’t wait to get started at Michigan Tech. When I asked, he replied, “Nasty mountain biking accident.” and his grin grew even wider.

The fall is always an invigorating and exciting time at Tech. Some (Orientation Staff, Summer Youth folks, Alumni department members, those in Office of Students Records and Registration and others) might feel like the mountain biking student; a little beat up, but ready to plow ahead. Others are gearing up, getting ready for the new year. Either way we need to be grinning ear to ear because this is a time of joy, a time of hope and new beginnings.

Over the past few weeks many staff in Student Affairs and across campus have gone above and beyond to welcome more than 1,500 new undergraduate students, 700 graduate students and 3,500 returning students. As we embark on this new academic year I’d like ask everyone to consider the very first guiding principle as outlined in the 2010 Strategic Plan; “The success of our students will always be the most important measure of the success of the institution”. This is a compelling statement and one that is clearly reinforced each and everyday by the work we do with students.

As I meet new students and reconnect with others I am touched by their optimism and intrigued by their intelligence. Our students are tough and adventurous. They’re ready to take risks, like the mountain biker, because they know the rewards are great. We need to be poised to do the same. The book, Radical Leap: A Personal Lesson in Extreme Leadership, outlines four basic principles that can be used to guide us in our work with students. The first principle is to do what you love in the service of people who love what you do. No where can this behavior be more fully recognized than on a college campus where the students are the focus of our work and give meaning to the work we do. By putting our heart into our work, we inspire students and others. The creation of energy is the second principle. Being around the OTL’s (Orientation Team Leaders) during orientation for one brief moment unequivocally validates this idea. For these students purposeful interactions, innovative thinking, exciting challenges, and enthusiasm all combined create a substantial force to move us forward. Next is to inspire audacity, or simply stated to be comfortable with doing things different. We have to be willing to take a risk, to demystify the drab and reshape the future. If our students create the future, then we must be the creators of tomorrow. Finally, we must provide proof. I think we do this everyday by helping to prepare students for great careers in industry, as scientists, technologists, as well as leaders in business and government.

Michigan Tech prides itself on preparing students to create the future. We do this by having all parties involved. As we begin anew, I challenge each and everyone of us to reflect on how we impact the success of our students and how they in turn impact us. It is the love of the work with students and interactions with them that I chose this career and I hope the same is true for you.

With thanks and best wishes for a successful and productive year,

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University Communications Launches Tech Today
Submitted by News and Information Services

In May, University Communications began distributing a daily, web-based publication, Tech Today, to Michigan Tech employees.

The plan was to improve and simplify internal communication at Michigan Tech, and it appears to have succeeded. The three weekly versions of Tech Topics—email, web and paper editions—have been eliminated, along with the All Depts email memos. Instead everyone receives the information they need in one daily publication.

During the past two months, University Communications staff and student employees have fine-tuned Tech Today. We continue to take feedback and are confident that it will continue to be an effective communications tool as the university gears up this fall.

For more information, visit http://www.admin.mtu/urel/tttoday/.

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Don’t Forget Husky Fridays!
Support Michigan Tech by wearing gold, black and silver on Fridays. To make participating a little easier University Images and the Campus Bookstore are offering a 30% discount on Friday, September 23, 2005 to Michigan Tech employees. It is a great opportunity to check out the new selection of merchandise and pick up some University gear while keeping extra cash in your wallet.
Updates Prep Admissions for 2006 Recruiting!
Submitted by Allison Carter, Admissions

The admissions staff is gearing up for another great recruiting season! With the new academic year, come several exciting changes and updates to both on-campus and off-campus recruiting efforts. Of these changes, the most noticeable are those that are taking place in the visitor center. From January through July, approximately 1,235 prospective students visited campus. Including family members, a total of over 4,060 visitors toured campus in the seven month period.

To better accommodate our guests, the visitor center got a new look with the addition of new seating and a plasma screen television. The visitor center can now accommodate more than twice the number of guests as the previous seating arrangement and makes an immediate positive first impression of the university and the technology we employ. The plasma screen not only allows visitors to view news programs and the Michigan Tech video prior to the start of their campus tour, but also allows us to add a formal admissions PowerPoint presentation to the start of each tour. Additionally, the morning tour will now begin at 9 am and will include the upper-campus tour, previously an optional activity, as a permanent part of the morning tour option. Afternoon tours will continue to begin at 2 pm.

This summer, the first off-campus information picnic in Illinois was held at the Deer Grove East Forest Preserve in the Chicago suburbs. Over 1500 prospective seniors within a 40-mile radius of the event location were invited to attend this informal program to learn more about Michigan Tech and the admissions process. Chicago admissions advisor, Melissa Childs, organized the event which was held August 20.

Off-campus recruiting will kick-off in early September when the admissions staff hits the road in seven decked out Michigan Tech SUVs. These moving billboards will be on the road in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Lower Michigan traveling to over 130 college fairs and 1,050 high school and community college visits primarily in the four-state region. Admissions advisors will be sharing information with students via several new publications which have an updated look and feel for the 2005-06 recruiting season.

“Within the entire university, there’s an energy and hopefulness—a convergence of positive attitudes and creative vision that is going to catapult this university to a status as a national university of choice,” he said. “We all know there are many, many challenges facing us, and it is healthy to keep those in mind, but with the support, dedi-

Meet Our Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services!

For positive change to happen, you need to put the right people in the right leadership roles. That’s what’s been happening at Michigan Tech over the past couple of years, most recently in Student Affairs with John Lehman’s promotion to Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services.

As of July 1, 2005, John oversees Financial Aid, Admissions, the Office of Student Records and Registration, and International Programs, and he is enthusiastic about his new position.

“This is an opportunity to build on the momentum the new administration has forged and the wonderful, dedicated staff who make up enrollment services,” he said.

Not only that, John plans to add his positive attitude to what he sees as a shift on campus toward creativity and innovation.

“To venture causes anxiety, but not to venture is to lose oneself.” ~ Soren Kierkegaard.

John Lehman comes from Michigan Tech’s Summer Youth Programs where he worked for the past nine years. He and the rest of the Summer Youth staff developed a strong team that leaves John with confidence in those who now manage that work.

“I’m proud that I can leave that area in the hands of the intelligent, forward-thinking, and hard-working people in Summer Youth Programs office,” he said.

There is always some uncertainty involved in change, but John believes that to meet life head-on is the way to find success and personal as well as professional satisfaction. Above is one of his favorite quotes to make that point.
Scholar Award Celebrates 30 Years of Excellence
Submitted by Marie Ryding, Financial Aid

Even in the face of both statewide and nationwide budget constraints, MTU’s Department of Financial Aid builds opportunities for students. One of the most sought-after forms of aid is the Scholar Award.

At any given time, there are 12 Michigan Tech students enrolled who stood out from the best students across the state of Michigan through a high-pressure interview process to win Michigan Tech’s Scholar Award, a highly prestigious financial aid package based on academic and intellectual achievement.

The award pays full tuition for four years, room and board, and a $600+ stipend to incoming freshmen from the state of Michigan.

What’s old is the program itself. It celebrates its 30-year anniversary in 2006. What’s new is that the program continues to grow in opportunities and creativity.

“We’re ramping it up,” said Marie Ryding, associate director of financial aid. “We’re broadening the program to bring in more students.”

It’s a demanding job to choose top students from a pool whose GPAs, ACTs, and extra-curricular activities are already well above average. The job begins with Marie herself reviewing essays from 400-600 applications. With the help of the Scholar Award Committee, 25-30 students are invited to the campus interview. When the competition is that close, Marie said, it takes something more than numbers for a student to come out ahead.

“We step outside of number crunching,” Marie said. “Creativity is almost a defining feature—how they answer their essay question, creative problem-solving, the English portion is judged by a journal they write in throughout their visit. Some write. Some sketch. We’ve had papier-mâché things stuck in there.”

Scholar Award winners like Michigan Tech bioinformatics senior Marie Wilkening said the Scholar Award has made all the difference to her. She describes the moment of hearing that she won the award as well as what it meant to her and her family:

Marie’s Story
“At the moment I received word I had gotten the award, I was still torn between Tech and another school. I had come home from school and when I walked in the door the way was blocked by balloons and my family and friends were there to congratulate me. It was a fantastic moment and I knew that receiving this award was something that would change more lives than just mine. For my family, this award meant that there would be more resources available to help my brothers with school and less strain on the family as a whole. For me, I found out quickly that the award meant both freedom and responsibility. On the surface, one can readily see the financial freedom I gained and the responsibility that came with that freedom to maintain a good grade point. There is much more to these aspects of the award though. I found out quickly that this award meant that I would be a role model for other aspiring students and someone who much was expected from outside of the classroom as well as within. In addition, this award allowed me access to opportunities I may not have had otherwise, such as a research internship after completing only one year at Tech. This award is recognized as a prestigious honor, which opens opportunities for advanced studies, and also allows me to take positions which are interesting even if they do not pay as well as other opportunities. I cannot express how this double blessing has made me ever more eager to challenge the bounds of knowledge and take up the responsibility to be an example for other students.”

Do You Know Someone Who Works For Walt Disney Corporations?
Submitted by Jim Turnquist, Career Center

While helping our talented Head Football Coach, Bernie Anderson, with his on campus recruiting program, I met Mr. Kurt Person. At the time his son was considering attending Michigan Tech to play football. After my presentation to the recruits and their parents, Kurt approached me about the possibility of having Robert Bosch Corporation recruit at MTU for co-ops, interns and full-time candidates. Through email and the infamous telephone, the Career Center set up a recruiting trip for Kurt. Bosch Corporation hired several of our students and continues to hire many of them on a regular basis.

The relationship between Robert Bosch Corporation and Michigan Tech has grown significantly. In addition to hiring our students, they have donated several thousand dollars to the University for several projects including Enterprise, Senior Design and the Career Center Partners Program. Bosch Corporation has become a very prominent name in the eyes of our students. All of this occurred through a chance encounter during a campus visit.

There have been many situations similar to this. You may be the next person who could make the difference for the futures of our students. You may have relatives, friends, colleagues, and business associates that could provide you with names and addresses of corporations that do not currently recruit at Michigan Tech. Please share these names so that we may contact them and hopefully get them on campus. When we receive these names, the Career Center will follow up with them. Just think, you could be the one that brings the next Robert Bosch Corporation to campus! Many students would be very appreciative for what you will do for their future.

Your help will have a major positive impact on the University and most importantly, the students. You may know someone who knows someone that works at Walt Disney Corporation, Accenture, Universal Studios or that small company that needs a person on rare occasions. All of these contacts are extremely valuable to us. Please share this great information with the Career Center.

If you have contacts, please give us a call at the Career Center (487-2313) or go to http://www.ucc.mtu.edu/alumni/