Counseling Services Offers Options, Information & Support

Submitted by Jill Smothers, Counseling Services

Counseling Services offers a variety of options to the student populations at MTU. A student may choose to be seen by a full staff of qualified counselors and health care providers, whose specialties include depression and other mood disorders, personal growth issues, wellness programs and even study habits.

Our dedicated staff is able to meet most of the psychological needs of our students. Our counselors provide one-on-one counseling, couples counseling, group work, presentations, and assessments for alcohol and anger management. Students are encouraged to discuss whatever concerns they may have and appropriate referrals are made when necessary.

We also have a psychiatrist and nurse practitioner on staff.

The Hamar House (commonly known as the White House) is the home to Michigan Tech’s Counseling Services.

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Message from the Vice-President

Fall is definitely in the air, you can smell it, you can see it and every morning if you are on campus early enough, you can hear it! Over the past month or so, I have been enveloped by the briskness of the morning air and smelled the rich aroma of fall leaves as the glide peacefully to their resting place on the ground. In addition to soaking in the beauty of the Copper Country, one can’t help but be proud and excited for all of our students dressed in their Sunday best bracing for the world of opportunity that awaits them at the fall Job Fair. Finally, hearing the chants of our early morning ROTC students as they fall into formation at the beginning of the new school year is like hearing the singing of the first birds of spring, albeit deep voiced chanting birds in camo.

In the book Mission and Place: Strengthening Learning and Community Design Le Corbusier is quoted as saying “the American campus is a world in itself, a temporary paradise, a gracious stage of life”. I can think of no statement that better exemplifies the authenticity of being on a university campus. It is indeed a special place where the students arrive. In my world (and I hope yours too) it is nearly as close to heaven as one can be.

External to our own little private sanctuary here in the Copper Country, there are many drivers influencing the world of higher education today. Social, political, ecological, and economical factors impact us and are being talked about in many different arena’s from the nation’s capital to Lansing and even closer to home here in the U.P. Some of these include:

- The recently released Spellings Commission report on the future of higher education which calls for new initiatives to increase access, expand affordability and assess accountability. This report, its findings and recommendations will surely have implications on funding related to higher education as well as ongoing assessment and evaluation of outcomes.
- Rising utility and health care costs will undoubtedly continue to have a significant impact on how colleges and universities do business. Michigan Tech is fortunate to be in the process of having our own generators and creating our own interruptible power, now if we could only do something to temper rising health care costs.

Fortunately, the economy appears to be turning around and there is good news from the October 9 edition of Business Week which indicates “the Detroit-to-Ann Arbor corridor is no industry graveyard. Toyota, Nissan, Hyundai, Kia, Suzuki and at least one Chinese automaker are all prowling for engineering and design talent around Detroit.” This is music to our students seeking engineering jobs ears and will more than likely assist us in our recruitment of new students as well.

The world of higher education is continually changing and with these changes come new opportunities. Closer to home and within Student Affairs we too have our own priorities which connect to the Strategic Plan. For the year ahead we have defined our Student Affairs priorities as follows:

- complete and communicate the refined enrollment plan for the University;
- make recommendations and define a plan for implementation of an aggressive Student Success Plan;
- develop and embrace a vibrant, exciting comprehensive student leadership development plan;
- support the ongoing institutional wide Climate Study and implement the climate survey recommendations for Student Affairs;
- establish a robust assessment plan for the division of Student Affairs;
- continue to focus on professional development of all staff to include training program for customer care/service continue implementation of division wide performance appraisal/review system

The process of refining our Strategic Plan and setting priorities has provided us an opportunity to reexamine our vision and goals as a University while also exploring possibilities for the future. We are at an exciting juncture and sustaining this momentum throughout the year will be paramount to our success.

Michigan Tech prides itself on preparing students to create the future. 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. As we begin another academic year, 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. My hope is that students, their success and the impact they will have on the future provide you with the inspiration needed to not only sustain momentum but also propel you forward.

With all good wishes for a successful and productive fall,

Les

Guess The Mystery Person!
This issue’s “mystery person” will be the featured staff focus in the winter Student Affairs newsletter. Use the clues below to figure out the staff person and win a pizza.

Who am I?
- I graduated from Wayne State University.
- The first thing I notice about someone is their shoes.
- I once owned a car wash.
- I have 2 cats.
- I love rocks.

Send your guess to lheine@mtu.edu. In the event of multiple correct answers a winner will be selected by random drawing of correct respondents.

How many countries are offered for the Semester/Year Study Abroad Series?
Every year the Admissions Staff sets out to solve the equation that will lead to World Domination (okay, maybe just increased enrollment), but we like to hit the road thinking big. An important variable of this equation is the college fair; an ever crucial aspect of not only the prospective student’s search process, but an ample opportunity for the Michigan Tech representatives to gather names and create relationships.

The staff (now eleven strong) takes time from the end of September through December to travel to just about every possible fair in the Great Lakes States, which totals over 150 fairs in just a couple of months. The goal of these fairs isn’t necessarily to have the student make a decision on the spot, but rather to increase awareness of the University, its programs and location, and the great future a Michigan Tech education can offer. The students will have the opportunity to pick up information on their fields of interest, financial aid and scholarships, as well as advanced placement credit information. The admissions staff also works very hard to push the campus visit program to students who visit the Michigan Tech booth at these fairs.

College fairs are generally hosted by an individual high school, a group or district of high schools, a college or university, or maybe even community group or organization. They are usually held in a larger multipurpose room, like a banquet hall or gymnasium, so students can wander to as many colleges as possible in the allotted amount of time. National College Fairs can yield as many as 30,000 people, however most fairs are regional program and welcome between 500 and 800 prospective students. In fact, Michigan Tech hosted a regional fair here on campus a few weeks ago. About 45 different institutions attended, and over 700 students from around the region had the chance to learn about their college, trade school, and military options.

A regional admissions manager will usually attend one or two college fairs per day. The goal is to talk with academically strong prospective students and gather contact information (via inquiry cards) so we can keep in touch with them during their high school years. In between college fairs, regional admissions managers will schedule high school visits, to maximize our travel time and exposure to students around the region.

Without college fairs the admissions staff would never have the opportunity to personally meet this many students in such a short time period. It truly is a great recruiting tool.

Congratulations to Jeanne Meyers winner of the summer issue’s Challenge and Debbie Streiter who correctly identified Rob Roose as the Mystery Person.

FERPA Q&A

Q. I have been asked to be a reference for a student. What can I discuss with their potential employer.

A. University personnel who are asked for a letter of recommendation or are asked to be a phone or email reference should have a release from a student to discuss GPA, rank in class or specific grades in a class. A release is not necessary for a personal reference. You may use personal reflections which might include: the student presents well, is well-dressed, does well in a group dynamics setting etc.—these are not a FERPA issue.

If you have any questions regarding FERPA or what information you may share in a particular situation please do not hesitate to contact the Registrar’s Office at 7-2936 as there may be exceptions that apply. And please remember, when in doubt - don’t give it out!

What is SEVIS?
Get Adventurous: Get Outside!
Submitted by Jen O’Connell & Jared Johnson, Student Life

If you have been in the MUB lately you might have noticed a new addition, the Tech Adventure Rental Center, run out of the Outdoor Adventure Program. The concepts and planning for Tech Adventures started a number of years ago. Throughout many discussions and lots of planning and organizing, Tech Adventures has come to life.

Students, faculty and staff are able to rent outdoor equipment such as sleeping bags, tents, kayaks and canoes for minimal cost. See magenta sidebar for an outline of the rental process.

Another aspect of this center is the guided trips and seminars which serve as a vehicle to promote and educate the campus community about the Keweenaw Peninsula and the surrounding outdoor recreation. Students can no longer say “there’s nothing to do here”.
For more information stop by Tech Adventures, located in the lower level of the MUB, call 487-2290, email je-redmi@mtu.edu or check out the website at www.oap.mtu.edu. Although this covers the basics of what Tech Adventures and the Outdoor Adventure Program offer, there is so much more, so please stop by during our open hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm Friday 9:00am-5:00pm Sunday 3:00pm-6:00pm.

President Mroz showcasing Outdoor Adventure Gear

How Do I Rent Equipment From the Outdoor Adventure Program?
Step 1: Stop in and talk to a Tech Adventure Crew Member to determine what gear you would like to use on your adventure.

Step 2: Reserve the gear by filling out a rental contract and placing a 50 percent rental deposit down, arrange a time to pick up gear (you will need your M number).

Step 3: Pick up gear and pay balance.

Step 4: Enjoy your trip.

Step 5: Return gear in the same condition it was checked out to you and in time (to avoid additional charges or fees).

Step 6: Repeat Steps 1 through 5 often.

What’s IMP?

Summer Issue’s Mystery Person: Rob Roose
I doubt that if you had told the young student, Robert Roose, that he would eventually use the on-the-job training he was receiving as a work study student in the Financial Aid Office in his future profession, or that in fact, his current job would be in the very same office, he would have ever believed you. But that’s exactly how it worked out for Rob. While a student here in Business Administration majoring in Accounting, he worked for the Financial Aid office as a work-study student. Twelve years goes by and bam! (as a famous chef would say) he’s back at Michigan Tech working in the same office as a member of the professional staff.

In those twelve years between working at Michigan Tech and working at Michigan Tech, Rob worked at Alpena Community College in the Financial Aid office where he also coached basketball and cross country. He then moved to Marquette to work at Northern (that other U.P. school). The transition back to MTU was an easy one to make since most of the current Financial Aid staff was working there back when he was a student.

Married with two daughters, Rob says the move to Houghton felt immediately felt like a good decision. He and his family enjoy living in the Copper Country. His daughters, Gina (almost 11) and Brooke (almost 9), are already involved in sports playing basketball and soccer. Since their father just happens to be a former high school athlete/ former coach this probably comes as no surprise.

Ask Robert what his interest are and he will proudly show you his computer screen saver - a picture of four smiling fishermen holding up their prize catches on opening day of walleye season. The one smiling the most is the guy on the end holding up the two biggest fish – one 29 inches and the other 30 inches. The bigger one (by a whole inch) will probably be displayed on his office wall one day. For now he proudly displays a modest perch that he mounted himself.

Rob is also an avid hunter and goes, duck, goose, partridge and deer hunting (to name just a few). In the time between fishing season and hunting season (he means that one day of the year), he does some gardening and woodworking.

One can’t help but think that perhaps the woodworking projects have something to do with all those fish that are waiting to be mounted.

Carol Fredeweg of Student Records and Registration interviewed Rob Roose and contributed this “Mystery Person” article.

The fall Student Affairs Newsletter Committee is comprised of Carol Fredeweg, Lynda Heinonen and Susan Liebau. If you have any comments about this issue or suggestions for future newsletters,