COMPASS Offers Students Support
Submitted by Kerri Sleeman, COMPASS

COMPASS, the Center for Orientation, Mentoring, Parents, and Academic Student Success, is dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of Michigan Tech students so that they can develop attitudes, values, and skills which enhance their academic and personal success. Our committed staff offers students and their families programs, services, and opportunities that challenge and support their transition to University life. The COMPASS staff consists of Joan Pastore, Staff Assistant, Patti Kirk, Assistant Director of COMPASS - Learning Communities & Mentoring, Michelle Nightingale, Assistant Director of COMPASS - Orientation, and Kerri Sleeman, Director, along with a large number of student staff such as the orientation executive staff, orientation team leaders, office student workers, mentor network coordinator, program coordinators, and learning community and academic mentors.

Over this past summer, the former First Year Programs Office transitioned to become COMPASS. With this change, the area continues to:

- Offer **academic support** including one-on-one guidance and support for students and academic probation intervention
- Coordinate the **UN1010 “Creating Your Success”** course
- Coordinate **learning communities** and the **Mentor Network**
- Offer the **Tech Guide** and **Tech Showcase**.
- Develop and offer **Orientation programs** for first-year, transfer, dual-enrolled, and student athletes
- Provide **parent and family support** such as parent orientation, parent fund request information, and Family weekend
- Coordinate **The Reading as Inquiry** summer reading initiative in partnership with the Department of Humanities.

Additionally, COMPASS now also works with the Dean of Students Office, academic departments, and across Student Affairs to coordinate campus-wide academic success initiatives and academic advisor meetings. Feel free to stop by and check out COMPASS on the ground floor of Wads in G28!

(Left) COMPASS staff: Patti Kirk, Kerri Sleeman, Michelle Nightingale, Joan Pastore

Veterans Services in the OSRR
Submitted by Vicky Roy, OSRR

The Office of Student Records and Registration (OSRR) offers a service that may not be familiar with. The office provides specialized services to veterans, service members, or children or spouses of disabled/deceased veterans, and acts as a liaison between Michigan Tech and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Students must have their enrollment certified through the OSRR and then reported to the VA in order to receive veteran benefits. Their schedules are monitored on a weekly basis and any changes are reported to the VA. Only Veterans Affairs can determine if a student is eligible for benefits.

Currently there are 51 students on campus who receive benefits from the VA. The OSRR Veterans Coordinator assists veterans or the dependents of veterans, with the application and certification process and advises eligible individuals concerning certain procedural requirements. The coordinator is also the liaison to Financial Aid, where a veteran’s financial aid is coordinated with their benefits.

The Veterans Coordinator in the OSRR is Tom Henning. Tom is a 20 year veteran who retired from the US Coast Guard as a Shipboard Navigator.
Staff Match

Match these staff:

1. Jim Schultz  
2. Carol Janisse  
3. Matt McCormick  
4. Colleen Erva

With these clues:

a) Surrounded by student organizations  
b) This staff member and two siblings work in the Ad Building  
c) They are on the top of the hill  
d) Works for both the Career Center and Alumni Relations

Student Activities Comedy Series

The Student Activities Comedy Series is new to Michigan Tech, taking the place of N.I.T.E. (New Innovations in Tech Entertainment). After attending a few late night programming sessions at a conference and talking to my counterparts at other universities I saw that the key to their success was consistency.

They held events at the same time, the same place and on the same night of the week. With this information in the back of my head I headed to NACA, the National Association for Campus Activities regional conference with a few students where we watched a variety of performers, from singers and songwriters to jugglers and comedians. The students were drawn to the comedians and felt that these types of acts would work well on Tech’s campus, especially since the focus of other programming boards was not comedy. We also chose to bring all of the comedians to campus on Friday evenings with the exception of the comedian who will perform at the Standathon, which is scheduled for a Saturday evening.

The first comedian of the year, Daniel Kinno, drew more than 250 students! We ran out of chairs and people stood in the back so they could enjoy the show. Two students’ names were drawn to enjoy the show from a Love Sac. At every show, each person in attendance is given a raffle ticket. At the beginning of the show two seats in the Love Sac are raffled off. At our last comedy show of the year we will give the Love Sacs to two lucky students! The more shows they attend the higher their chances are to win. If you don’t know what a Love Sac is, stop by the Student Activities Office and check it out!

For a complete list of shows and more information visit [http://www.sa.mtu.edu/stulife/sacs/](http://www.sa.mtu.edu/stulife/sacs/).

by Jen O’Connell, Student Activities
It wouldn’t be out of the ordinary to walk down the hall of McNair, Wads, or DHH and see any of our students with a cell phone in one ear, an iPod plugged into the other, a laptop sitting in front of them with instant messages popping up one after another, the week’s version of “Lost” on their plasma screen TV and “Crank that Soulja Boy” blaring loudly in the background. This is a familiar ritual to many of our students; they call it studying.

According to a recent article in NASPA’s NetResults, technology for millennial students is an assumed part of life, almost as basic to them as water and air. Students multi-task nonstop as they listen to music, send messages to others, and do homework. They literally make decisions about how to engage with technology every minute of the day and seek out ways to be constantly connected.

Those attending Dr. Kevin Kruger’s presentation this fall learned about some of the ways that colleges and universities are embracing technology to enrich the experience for their students. Students come to us expecting the technology to accommodate their digital lifestyle. Podcasting is beginning to fill this niche as institutions offer courses, lectures, demonstrations and more 24-7/365. Many Michigan Tech students get their music and videos from iTunes, and now they can also get their courses at the iTunes store as we are an educational partner with iTunesU. They access GoAskAlice.com, a student health site housed at Columbia University that provides students confidential answers to nearly any question they might have regarding personal health, fitness, alcohol and drugs, sexuality and relationships.

Instant messaging for many college students is their preferred mode of communication. For those new to Instant Messaging, you can visit BigBlueBall.com to learn anything and everything about it. If not instant, then texting and blogging are two other ways communicating has changed.

Since the Virginia Tech tragedy many institutions have purchased text alert systems to notify students on campus when an emergency arises. Michigan Tech is also exploring this option.

Being a student of our students, we all need to become familiar with sites like YouTube, Xanga, Facebook, Myspace and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies like Gizmo and Skype. Facebook, launched just three years ago by a college dropout, now has over 41 million subscribers and was recently named by Fast Company Magazine as the “it” company of the tech world. It is probably the most popular website for college students. You can set up your own profile by logging on at Facebook.com.

For a little fun you may want to check out what our very own students are doing on YouTube at: Ski jump sledding http://youtube.com/watch?v=dhhREd8QhPs
Slush Pit 07 @ Mont Ripley http://youtube.com/watch?v=JXCiwYcIRTg

For a good laugh, check out at a couple of YouTube all time favorites:
Hahaha http://youtube.com/watch?v=5P6UU6m3cqk

William Tell Overture http://youtube.com/watch?v=anSpBUxsgAU

Finally, if you are bored with life you may want to consider Second Life, and no, it has nothing to do with reincarnation. Second Life is a 3-D virtual world created entirely by the residents, similar to Sims. The numbers are in the millions and projected to grow. If you are interested in spending some linden dollars or creating your own avatar, you can check it out at secondlife.com.

The impact of technology has revolutionized the culture of our students and significantly affects the educational experience we provide. Technology is obviously here to stay and as universities we must find innovative ways to embrace it.

Ttyl,

Les

The Fall Student Affairs Newsletter Committee is Lynda Heinonen, Mary Ann Struthers and Susan Liebau. Please send any comments or suggestions to lheinone@mtu.edu.
Neither rain, wind nor cold could deter the Instant Messages Newsletter Committee from their appointed task – namely the 10:00am tour of campus with incoming students and their families!

We arrived at the Admissions Office wet and wind blown from our respective offices, only to find that the tour had started much earlier for the others – they has already been to the upper campus (SDC and FRES) starting out at about 9:00am that morning! Kyle Rubin, Campus Visit Coordinator & Regional Admissions Manager, was just finishing up his slide presentation when we arrived. We were introduced to Marjo Jaroch, our tour guide, a 5th year Tech student majoring in marketing with a minor in both psychology and journalism.

The EERC holds the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, whose large collection is 2nd only to Harvard. Other interesting facts we never knew – lung fish are on display in the Dow, Fisher Hall has the largest classroom, the “fish bowl” is actually a computer lab, and Michigan Tech is the 7th most wired campus in the nation! As for the residence halls, Marjo suggests you get a room that utilizes the community bathrooms (since these are kept spotless by the custodial staff). There is free long distance in all the rooms so students can keep in touch with their families. Tech is ranked 10th safest campus in the United States, and ranked safest in Michigan!

As we wander through Walker and the Rozsa, we realize we are all hungry and turn to the dining facilities in the halls for our lunch. Since our tour took place on Homecoming Friday, all the residence dining facilities were closed due to the Hobo Lunch being served outside of DHH (we loaded our plates and headed into DHH for cover from the rain)!

The tour ended for us at the Memorial Union, but the students and families were continuing on, with meetings scheduled with their respective departments.

I for one learned a whole lot about this campus that I didn’t know before, and walked though several buildings I have never been in. The information given by the tour guide was both useful and fun, and there is not enough space to print everything that was covered! I suggest you call Kyle in Admissions and take the tour yourself. You will be surprised what you don’t know about the campus!

New Staff in Student Affairs

Jaclyn Timmer has joined Admissions as the new Regional Admissions Manager for the Milwaukee/Northern Chicago/Madison area. Jaclyn graduated from Hope College with an education degree and continued on for her Master’s in Higher Education from Loyala in Chicago.

Mary Ann Wilcox has joined the staff of Educational Opportunity as an Administrative Associate. She came to the department from Human Resources where she was the Benefits Coordinator.
Staff Highlights

These Student Affairs staff members were the “Staff Matches” from the Summer Newsletter. Take a few minutes to learn a little more about them.

Mary Ann Struthers has been on campus since 2001. She started in Educational Opportunity, spent 3 years at Air Force ROTC, and then transferred to Dining Services in the Memorial Union Building in January 2005, located in the kitchen office on the ground floor. In January 2007, she became the Staff Assistant in the Student Activities Office and moved up one flight to MUB 112.

Andre Bonen has been working at Michigan Tech for 29 years. He has been the Advisor for the Tri-Hall Weight Club since 1980 and a member since 1972 when he joined as a student. He has been married to his wife Joyce for 30 years and together they have 3 children. In his free time he enjoys lifting weights, cutting firewood, and snowshoeing in the winter.

Kerri Sleeman is the Director of COMPASS. She has been with Michigan Tech for 4 years and was previously the ExSEL Coordinator and ExSEL Programs Director in Educational Opportunity. She is currently pursuing her Master of Engineering with a Focus on Engineering Education. Part of her current course work included working in Bolivia for several weeks this past summer, what she describes as “an amazing experience!”

Beth Pollins is a Lake Linden native. She began working at Michigan Tech in 1987 after receiving an AAS in Data Processing from Finlandia University. She has held a variety of positions in the LTAP Office in the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, and was the Department Coordinator for Physics. She enjoys gardening, cross country skiing, power walking and spending time with her husband Scott and their 4 bird dogs Roxy, Missy, Pepper and Cowboy.

Tim Malette recently received an award recognizing his 30 years in Financial Aid from the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. He has been Michigan Tech’s Director of Financial Aid for 26 years. Prior to his tenure at Tech he worked at Lake Superior State University.

Honored for 30 Years in Financial Aid

His favorite part of the job is assisting students and families by providing resources to meet their educational goals. When asked to share a memorable moment from his career, Tim relayed a story about a couple, both former students, who visited him at our last Commencement. A graduate student from China had come to his office regularly in the mid-1980’s to practice speaking English and learn more about the University and American way of life. After a few years he brought his wife to Michigan Tech and after many years of research employment, she completed her PhD. They had come to express their gratitude for his support and assistance beyond the financial aid process.
Creating An Inclusive Campus Environment By Celebrating
HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Submitted by Saleha Sulman, International Programs

Michigan Tech’s strategic plan 2006-2010 calls for creating an inclusive educational environment where voices and people from all ethnicities, religions, races, cultures and ages are valued and respected. The university is enriched by close to 700 international students and scholars, hundreds of multicultural students, faculty and staff and community members who represent diverse cultures and perspectives on our campus. Following the University’s mission, the President’s Office and Student Affairs Division funded and charged the Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) to develop information, resources and activities to highlight holiday celebrations of diverse religions and cultures around the world. In fall 06, IPS developed an internship and hired Tamasin Yarina who played a leading role in researching and collecting necessary information about major religious holidays and cultural festivals around the world. IPS also urged Michigan Tech community to contribute additional information and resources to enhance knowledge and understanding of global diversity.

During November 2006, IPS organized special exhibitions at the campus library. On December 11th, 2006, “Holidays Around the World” was offered to showcase various religious and cultural holidays and offer information and resources about the holidays of the fall season. These holidays represented Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Baha’i faith, African, Chinese and Hmong cultures. Display posters exhibiting cultural and religious ceremonies, symbols, holiday traditions and greetings enhanced Michigan Tech’s community’s understanding of an enriched diversity at a global level. Close to 400 students, faculty, staff and administration attended the event, tasted ethnic food, and reviewed special informational fliers and diverse holiday booths in the MUB Ballroom.

In conjunction with Spring Fling 2007, “Spring Festivals of the World” was offered to highlight the holidays which fall during the spring semester. Special information booklet was distributed, ethnic sweets were tasted and cultural decorations were featured to celebrate 14 major holidays. On December 7, 2007, IPS plans to offer another major celebration of the Holidays Around the World to fea-