FROM THE VP

Message from Les

"Are you living your eulogy or your resume?" So goes the title of Arianna Huffington's recent blog in the Huffington Post. Her point reminded me of the importance of our work in higher education and, more precisely, in Student Affairs. Huffington writes about what she calls the Third Metric, defining success as more than power and money. Success to her includes well-being, wisdom, and one's ability to wonder and give. Her premise is that because we are so consumed with our work ("creating our resume") we lose sight of what really matters: who we care about, how we engage in life, how we treat others, and the way in which our passions our manifested, i.e. our eulogy.

In 2012, Student Affairs reexamined and redefined our mission/vision, values, and learning outcomes to better reflect our current direction and to align with the Portrait of Michigan Tech 2035. Part of the reexamination included spending a fair amount of time discussing what it means to be a technologically rich, transformational, residential campus and engaging our students in what really matters. Since 2012 we have created and embraced opportunities to celebrate our vision; strengthened our partnerships with academic affairs; focused our allocation of resources more intently on initiatives that contribute to student success; and pursued new endeavors that contribute to the richness of a transformational residential experience. As you'll see in this newsletter many of these initiatives have come to life over the past year. These include an $8,000 grant that International Programs and Services partnered on with the Provost's Office, a new performance studio in Wadsworth Hall, Day Zero orientation for first-year students, and the AQIP student success initiative for at-risk students.

One facet of our vision in Student Affairs and Advancement is to create possibilities. We know this happens not only in the classroom and labs but also through student experiences. So while students are busy creating their resumes, Student Affairs and Advancement is partnering with others to ensure that our students are living a rich and meaningful experience, that they treat others with respect and dignity, that they are engaged in the life of our community, and that they gain lifelong friendships and a sense of pride and affinity for Michigan Tech (the eulogy). This sense of pride and affinity also carries over to our alumni as they continue their lifelong relationship and support of the University.

Over the past few weeks, I have watched and participated in numerous events where I have seen these rich experiences and priceless possibilities come to life. You can see this in the enthusiasm we share with new students and families during move-in and welcome week, the laughter and hugs at K-Day, the confidence at the Career Fair, the pride at Parade of Nations, and the joy at the cardboard boat races when a boat capsizes. And while one may argue that these are all pieces of one’s resume, in my mind they are more a reflection of a eulogy. While the resume you build and the job you get is important, in the end it is about enjoying the journey and making a difference in the lives of others. I am confident through our work we are preparing bright, motivated, and inspiring individuals to do just this.

With all good wishes for a successful and productive fall,
Michigan Tech not only met but exceeded the $200 million goal set for the Generations of Discovery campaign. A total of $215,366,353 was raised over the seven-year campaign.

Generations of Discovery was launched to grow Michigan Tech’s endowment and to support its strategic goals of attracting and supporting the best faculty and students, developing distinctive programs, and supporting world class scholarship and research. Campaign donors provided $36.1 million in scholarships, endowed 15 new chairs and professorships, and funded new high-tech classrooms, labs, equipment, and dozens of campus programs.

As Michigan Tech Fund Chair George Butvilas noted at the September 19 campaign celebration, “It was gratifying to see all areas of the University unite to turn this strategy into reality.” Raising $215 million from 28,000 donors took 3,882,679 miles of travel by the advancement staff to visit alumni and friends; numerous meetings with deans, department chairs, and others; and support from staff and students.

Here are just four examples of donor-funded initiatives resulting from these collaborative efforts:

**Leadership Endowed Scholarship**—Inspired by a speech by Jim Trethewey ’67 at the fall 2011 Tech Fund Trustees meeting, Bob Tripp ’66 began discussing with fellow Sigma Rho alumni John Calder ’67 and Rick Slocum ’66 the idea of creating a scholarship to foster the fraternity’s strong tradition of leadership and service. Each of them, with their spouses, then made a gift commitment to support the School of Business and Economics Leadership Endowed Scholarship, which is managed under the Applied Portfolio Management Program. The Leadership Scholarship has since been expanded to include College of Engineering students and is now supported by a growing number of Tech alumni and friends.

**Pavlis Institute for Global Technological Leadership**—Frank Pavlis ’38 helped launch the campaign with a $2 million gift to establish a four-year technological leadership program. Modeled on his own experiences as the first employee of Air Products and Chemicals, the Pavlis Institute provides specialized learning opportunities in leadership and global culture to Michigan Tech students. Frank traveled to Houghton in 2009 to share his advice with the Pavlis students and to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Expecting to hear sad stories because of the difficult economy at the time, Frank instead was impressed by the positive attitudes of those he met on campus, who ranged from Board members to students.

**Paul and Susan Williams Center for Computer Systems Research**—Paul Williams ’61, the first in his family to attend college, worked in the aerospace industry for Hughes Aircraft. He was successful and credits Michigan Tech with changing his life. After discussing planned gift options with the advancement staff, and then meeting with Dan Fuhrmann, Paul decided to be the major benefactor of a new Center for Computer Systems Research. What started out as plans for an estate gift changed to a gift in Paul’s lifetime that, along with other alumni donations, enabled Tech to provide state-of-the-art facilities in electrical engineering,
Beginning its 93rd season of NCAA Division I ice hockey, Michigan Technological University opened the 2013-14 season with a new four-sided Diamond Vision video scoreboard in the John J. MacInnes Student Ice Arena. Fans will enjoy an improved game-day experience as the team enters a new era in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association. The new center-hung display features a four-sided video at the heart of the system, a four-sided upper scoring matrix, and a lower ring for graphics and animations. Exceptional viewing angles will allow Michigan Tech hockey fans to enjoy the experience from any seat in the arena. The system features Mitsubishi Electric's HD controller for displaying scoring, statistics, and graphics with brilliant color and image reproduction. Mitsubishi is providing an integrated scoring and control system featuring the latest in scoring and software technology, which allows content to be synchronized on various displays.

“We’re thrilled to be able to make this enhancement to our fan experience,” said Michigan Tech athletic director Suzanne Sanregret. “We know we’re getting the best product available for our students, fans, and alumni, who will now be able to view game replays and highlights that have become the standard at other collegiate and professional sports. Also included in this project are improvements to our video production process, which will help several of our other sports with improved web streaming capabilities.”

Funding for the project came exclusively from private donors. Numerous Michigan Tech alumni and friends made gifts to the project. Michigan Tech alum Mark Rakoski ’95, an executive director at Mitsubishi Electric, was integral in making the video board project a reality. The Warrendale, PA-based company has produced displays for many collegiate and professional facilities including the one at Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

“A video board will not only enhance the game night experience for our fans, but will also make our arena the premier facility in the new WCHA,” said head hockey coach Mel Pearson.

—Suzanne Sanregret
In the book chapter “Transforming Our Approach to Education: Cultivating Partnerships and Dialogue,” Victor Arcelus affirms that “adopting a vision of education where faculty, staff, and students come together as a community of learners enriches the intellectual climate.”* Within Student Affairs and Advancement, the success of Michigan Tech students is the most important measure of our progress, and we are committed to supporting students in their academic endeavors. By partnering with Academic Affairs, we are able to provide educationally purposeful activities every day through a variety of programs. Here are a few examples of partnerships that are fostering student learning.

Historically, the residential community, led by Housing and Residential Life (HRL), has collaborated with a variety of academic departments such as Computer Science and the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science to allow students in their discipline to live together in one area of the residence hall. Programs outside the classroom can then focus on discipline-specific activities. These learning communities help retain students at the University. The Honors Institute and the Peace Corps Master’s International Program each have new homes this fall. These houses support the academic aspects of each program and further strengthen our community of scholars, researchers, thinkers, and humanitarians. Using residence hall space a bit differently, HRL has worked with the Visual and Performing Arts department to create a flexible studio in Wadsworth Hall for Professor Anne Beffel. Space is currently being created for several physical activity courses offered by Kinesiology and Integrative Physiology. And, HRL is developing a new learning community for the Research Scholars Program for the fall 2014. See www.mtu.edu/housing.

To support study abroad initiatives, the Provost’s Office and International Programs and Services partnered and received an $8,000 matching grant from the University Studies Abroad Consortium. The grant funds efforts to create a searchable database of pre-approved study abroad courses, which will substitute for courses Michigan Tech most commonly requires of students in STEM fields. Many students think that they can only take foreign language or general education credits abroad; this project is intended to show otherwise. In addition, students
enrolled in STEM majors tend to be reluctant to study abroad because they believe time away will delay their graduation. The project demonstrates that students can take the same classes offered at Michigan Tech, in the same sequence, while in another country. To view the finished product, go to this link and select Study Abroad: www.mtu.edu/international.

An AQIP initiative to improve undergraduate student success kicked off this fall and will provide high impact opportunities for students to improve their academic success. Students selected to participate have retention risk factors that a three-year historical model had identified. First-year students participating in the project were enrolled in a success class and are required to attend regularly scheduled Learning Center appointments during the fall semester. In the spring semester, peer coaches will help students with time management, organizational skills, and using campus resources efficiently. One of the primary goals of the initiative is to increase the first-to-second-year retention to 85 percent. Collaborating on the project are the Learning Centers, Wahtera Center for Student Success, Enrollment, Marketing and Communications, and Financial Aid. For more information see www.bit.ly/1b0ALjj.

Finally, Orientation’s new “Day Zero” addressed a recommendation from the fall 2012 Orientation Advisory Group (including faculty and academic advisors) to place more emphasis on academics during Orientation. As a result, on Thursday and Friday of Orientation Week, faculty from Engineering Fundamentals, Chemistry, Math, Global Issues, and Composition introduced these courses and discussed academic expectations. The majority of faculty and instructors who participated were pleased with the student response, and students appreciated the opportunity to get “the lay of the land” prior to the first day of class. As with any initiative, there were suggestions on ways to improve. The advisory group will be working together to make adjustments for next year.

These are just a few examples of our active partnerships that continue to develop. If you have a partnership idea that you’d like to explore, please contact us.

—Bonnie Gorman, Travis Pierce, Beth Wagner, Bill Roberts, John Lehman, and Thy Yang

Michigan Tech alumni working in industry clamor to come back to campus with their company’s recruiting team every year, and, consequently, many of the recruiters at the Career Fair are alumni. They say it’s easier to be on the other side of the table this time. This year, a number of companies sent representatives, mostly alumni, to campus in the weeks before the Career Fair to mentor and coach students on job search skills. They gave resume advice to over 500 students at four resume blitzes, conducted hundreds of mock interviews during Interview Skills Week, and helped students prepare for the Career Fair during the industry panel workshop.

Record numbers of students attended this fall’s career development events. At these events, students meet alumni representatives in an informal setting and come to understand how much alumni really want students from their alma mater to succeed. It’s invaluable for students to speak to those who have “been there, done that.”

These company representatives travel a long way from their own demanding jobs to mentor Michigan Tech students. They are champions of our University and its students. Their hard work often paves the way for greater recruiting efforts on campus, as companies want more Michigan Tech students, adding to the value of a Michigan Tech degree.

Although these educational opportunities are not formal recruiting events, they allow company representatives to meet and identify students who may become internship, co-op, or full-time employees. These visiting companies also receive heightened branding and awareness on campus. Students become familiar with companies that come every semester, like Nucor, and learn more about new companies, like Meritor, that are new to campus.

All in all, it’s a win-win situation, and Career Services is excited that it continues to grow every semester. Over 260 companies participated in the 2013 Fall Career Fair, providing our students with numerous career opportunities.

—Jim Turnquist
Wellness Model Balances Life’s Demands

You only have to be a part of the Michigan Tech community for a short time before realizing that there are a lot of opportunities on campus for leadership and involvement. Michigan Tech inspires learning, creates possibilities, exceeds expectations, and always puts students first. But, how do you balance academics with learning that takes place outside the classroom?

In order to achieve total wellness, life calls for balance in seven different dimensions:

- environmental
- intellectual
- spiritual
- physical
- emotional
- social
- financial and occupational

The goal of Michigan Tech Wellness is to provide campus with information and education to improve students’ overall well-being. Michigan Tech Wellness is influenced by a group of students with a passion for health and wellness, especially as it pertains to the demands of college life. By focusing on programs, events, and outreach directed toward these seven dimensions, Wellness can educate Michigan Tech students about how to balance the potentially stressful workload of class, student organizations, and work. The model promotes healthy alternatives aimed at lowering stress, promoting healthy living, and building healthy campus relationships.

As a university, Michigan Tech prepares its students to create the future. By learning balance early, Michigan Tech students will be better prepared for what challenges lie ahead and how to navigate through them while maintaining balance.

—Whitney Boroski

Enrollment Update

This fall total enrollment held relatively steady over last year with 6,976 students, 31 over last year’s total of 6,945. There was no shortage of highlights about this year’s first-year class.

- This first-year class numbered 1,252, which is 99 more students than last year and the second largest class since 2008.
- The average ACT composite score for these students was 26.7, an all-time high over the score of 26.4 in 2011.
- The number of new domestic underrepresented minority students rose from 60 to 94 students, or from 5 percent to 7.5 percent of the incoming class. This is an all-time high.
- The number of first-year women enrolled in the College of Engineering rose from 171 to 185. The percentage of undergraduate women enrolled in the College of Engineering now stands at 20 percent, up from a 15-year low of 15 percent in 2005.

Overall graduate student numbers are up for the fifth year in a row. Once again, we have the largest class of graduate students in Michigan Tech’s history. Total graduate headcount is 1,359, an increase of 37, or 2.8 percent, over the fall 2012.

—John Lehman
New Names, New Faces—Same Goal

Student Conduct Services recently changed its name to the Office of Academic and Community Conduct. The office is responsible for enforcing the Academic Integrity Policy, the Student Code of Community Conduct, and other University policies governing student conduct on campus. Under these policies, the office holds students accountable for their behavior and helps the University community further its mission and values.

The Office of Academic and Community Conduct will respond to student violations through a variety of pathways, informally and/or formally, with the goal of educating all parties involved. The student conduct process:

- determines responsibility for conduct violations;
- facilitates a student’s development of ethical standards of conduct and personal accountability;
- achieves an educational outcome in conduct cases; and
- protects the interest of the Michigan Tech community in an environment that promotes education, personal growth and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The Office of Academic and Community Conduct is located on the third floor of the Administration Building, and is staffed by Rob Bishop, director; Rhys Edwards, coordinator; Charlene Page, secretary; Elizabeth Weaver, secretary; and Steven Clark, workstudy.

—Rob Bishop

Early Intervention Team Reminder

Faculty and staff are often the first members of our community to recognize and identify students who are distressed or exhibiting concerning behavior.

These students may be grieving a recent death or experiencing a personal crisis, significant alcohol or substance abuse, depression/anxiety, relationship or financial problems.

Help us connect with students who may need our resources the most. Make a referral to the Early Intervention Team (EIT) by contacting the Dean of Students office (487-2212), the case manager in Counseling Services (487-2538), or by using the TIP line (www.mtu.edu/tips).

—Karmen Markham