Beyond the Brown Bag Luncheon
Professional Development Conference May 18th
Submitted by Gail Beausoleil, Career Services

From investment options to interviewing strategies, from defining social justice to deciphering the “sophomore slump,” the MTU Student Affairs Professional Development Committee is dedicated to promoting and offering educational opportunities for all Tech employees to grow professionally.

1. Who is the “Chair” of the Crisis Response Team?

Ninette Carlson (Minnesota and Western Wisconsin), Melanie Davis (Chicago), Bob Hale (Metro-Detroit and “thumb” area), Linda Seder (Northern Lower-MI), Samino Scott (Detroit and Western Michigan) and Darnishia Slade (Detroit and Southwestern MI). The Wisconsin territory is currently open. These staff members are in the trenches every day, sharing Michigan Tech with prospective students, parents, teachers, and counselors, answering questions, and dispelling myths.

Did you know the admissions staff visits over 1000 high schools & attends more than 300 job fairs each year?

Michigan Tech Road Warriors
Submitted by Allison Carter, Admissions

Many of you know the admissions staff on campus, but did you know there are actually more professional staff members based regionally than here on campus? Without these dedicated road warriors, we would not be able to visit over 1,000 high schools and attend almost 200 college fair programs in the region, resulting in direct contact with over 7,500 students annually.

We invite you to meet our off-campus recruitment team:

Ninette Carlson
Melanie Davis
Bob Hale
Linda Seder
Darnishia Slade
Samino Scott

How do they do it? Hard work, dedication and pride in Michigan Tech spur them along. A desire to share opportunities at Tech and help students make the best college decision keeps them visiting schools. Knowing they make a difference in a student’s life is what makes it all worthwhile.

Did you know the admissions staff visits over 1000 high schools & attends more than 185 job fairs each year?

2. What does WEPAN stand for?

The committee encourage suggestions for professional development activities and topics. Please submit additional related events to advertise on our calendar. To submit a calendar item, contact Larry Wall at lawall@mtu.edu. We look forward to seeing you at our events!

3. How many student organizations utilize space in the MUB 106 (’05-’06)?

Enthusiasm, like measles, mumps and the common cold, is highly contagious.
Emory Ward

STUDENT AFFAIRS CHALLENGE
Throughout this newsletter are nine questions in blue boxes related to different areas of Student Affairs. Answer them all and win a pizza! Send your answers to lei-none@mtu.edu. In the event of multiple correct answers a winner will be selected by random drawing of correct respondents.

Well: If you are having trouble finding answers consider looking on the Michigan Tech website.
Over the past six months we have spent a great amount of time revisiting the Michigan Tech Strategic Plan. This effort 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 in Michigan Tech history and the process of revision has not only reaffirmed this, but bolstered our position.

The mission remains the same. The vision is that Michigan Tech will grow as a premier research university of international stature, delivering education, new knowledge and innovation for the needs of our technological world. The focus of our goals is on improving lives and presenting our world through sound, innovation, uses of science, engineering and technology. We will be a leader in responding to the needs and challenges of the world and will attract exceptional faculty, staff and students who will develop, understand, apply, manage and communicate science and technology—all with the goal of a prosperous, sustainable world.

“The college experience is about all pieces coming together to provide an environment where all students are afforded opportunities to gain real world skills and talents. “

Recruiting, supporting and retaining a world-class diverse faculty, staff and students; providing a distinctive and rigorous discovery-based educational experience; and creating world-class research and innovation in science and technology are both invigorating and provocative goals. Our role in Student Affairs is to support these goals and serve as an equal partner with our faculty/staff colleagues and students as we help prepare them to create a better future and world for all of us.

In order to recruit, support and retain a world class diverse faculty, staff and student population we must create a welcoming and inclusive environment where professional development opportunities are abundant, compensation is competitive and success rewarded. Over the past couple years we have been diligent in our efforts to expand opportunities for professional growth and recognize the contributions of all. Going forward, we will continue our efforts to increase the diversity of thought, people and ideas to provide an enriched learning environment and distinctive education for everyone.

Providing a distinctive and discovery-based educational experience is not simply about what occurs in the classroom or laboratory. The college experience is about all pieces coming together to provide an environment where all students are afforded opportunities to gain real world skills and talents. It is about the experiences our students have serving as a resident assistant in the residence halls, the summer they spent serving as a Summer Youth Counselor, the hours they spent training on the Cross Country Team, the DJ position they held at WMTU, and many others like these. Through these endeavors our students are afforded complimentary opportunities that strengthen their capacity to apply, manage, and communicate the business of science and technology on a global scale.

I think we all agree that creating world-class research and innovation in science and technology is an exciting enterprise. Exceptional people and programs are what make Michigan Tech a world class university. Student Affairs remains committed to programs that support student success while regularly examining all endeavors to ensure they are both meaningful and valued by our students. Our work in Student Affairs serves as a companion piece to the academic enterprise and is essential as the University moves forward.

Thanks and best wishes for a relaxing and healthy summer.

Les

HAANA Banquet Honors Students

On Friday, April 7 the 6th Annual HAANA Awards Luncheon was held to honor Hispanic, African, African American, and Native American graduates, and present the Percy Julian Award. The Awards Luncheon was hosted by the Department of Educational Opportunity, and funded by the Dow Chemical Company Foundation. This year, seventy students were honored, with over twenty of them attending the luncheon.

Many faculty and staff came to congratulate the graduating students on their accomplishments, and thank them for their many contributions to the campus and community over the past four-plus years.

Jenelle Holloman and Adrian Little are the 2006 recipients of the Percy Julian Award, which recognizes a Michigan Tech undergraduate who has demonstrated leadership in the promotion of social equality and racial/ethnic and cultural understanding. It commemorates chemist and civil rights activist Percy L. Julian (1899-1975).
If you are walking by the Office of Student Records and Registration and hear a goose honking or a chickadee chirping you will know you are near Shirley Gagnon’s office. But it is not just her unusual bird clock that makes you smile, its Shirley herself.

Shirley, who is currently the associate registrar in charge of degree services is planning on retiring at the end of the year after 25 years at Michigan Tech. Her first job was in Degree Services - and that’s where she has stayed for her entire career at MTU.

Shirley has seen a lot of changes since she started. Back then, commencement lists were composed on a typewriter. the BANNER student information system did not exist and Michigan Tech was on the quarter system. At one point, due to lack of space, student workers sat on the floor in Degree Services to do their work.

She has seen two student information systems come and go and was instrumental in the development of the audit system that was used here for many years. The number of degree programs has jumped from 55 in 1981 (when she started) to approximately 165 today.

Ask anyone who has worked with Shirley and they will all tell you a variation on the same thing – how she has such affection for the students that sometimes her eyes tear up when she is talking about them. According to Sharron Paris it is this dedication and passion to do right by the students that makes her the type of person you simply can’t replace.

By the time Shirley retires she and her husband should be completely moved into their new log home that is currently being built on their land near Mohawk. Whether the house is done or not the garden will be going in this summer and not too much later a few chickens will be added, oh yes, and maybe a couple of calves too.

Shirley says the thing she will miss the most when she retires is interacting with all the people she has met and worked with. As one former staff person said when she stopped by to visit “Boy, do I miss hearing Shirley’s laughter”. We will certainly miss it too when the new year rolls around but just maybe if we’re lucky she will leave the bird clock behind and we can all smile when we hear it chirping.
Stirring Up Student Life

Submitted by Jen O’Connell, Student Life

Over the past few months there have been many changes in Student Life. Through the restructuring process several people are moving into new roles within Student Life, others are moving to different areas on campus and some are moving on from Michigan Tech. Some of the most significant structural changes include creating director positions for Housing & Residential Life and Student Activities. These positions will now accompany the First-Year Programs Director and help to streamline each area of Student Life.

8. What are the University goals of the revised Strategic Plan?

The new structure will allow Student Life to be more efficient by bettering our ability to support the students as well as enhancing our student service capabilities. Some of these changes are a direct result of ideas that were proposed by students. For example, adding a coordinator position that will work with adventure and wellness programs. We believe these changes will make Michigan Tech a better place for our students.

A few things that Student Life is looking forward to include:

- Working closely with our residential students to build a community where they feel at home, can meet many people, and have a lot of support.
- Initiatives such as adventure programs that allow students to explore the area more in depth.
- New staff members that will bring energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to Michigan Tech

We are looking forward to the fall and are excited about the new structure and the energy that new staff members will bring with them. We encourage you to reach out to these people, take time to get to know them and make them feel comfortable on our campus.

For Many, Loans Bridge the Financial Aid Gap

The “space race” between the United States and the Soviet Union was a factor that began a large push for financial aid by prompting the US government to realize the advantages of educated citizens. Until then (as it still is today) education was considered to be the primary responsibility of the parents. The change was the government realization that, despite their desire to do so, many families simply didn’t have the funds to send their children to college.

You don’t need to be a parent to realize that college isn’t cheap. As the cost of attending college rises and the amount of funding available decreases—how are families paying for higher education? Many are turning to loans to bridge the gap between gift monies and the actual cost of attendance. Over four hundred parents of Michigan Tech students have borrowed $3.8 million to fund fall and spring semester. Six hundred and ninety one Michigan Tech students have received $5.6 million in alternative loans during fall and spring semester.

Federal loans for parents and private educational loans for students have been a source of the necessary finances. Federal PLUS Loans allow parents to borrow the necessary funds for their students. These loans are available for some families, but many cannot afford to pay these loans while their students are in school (which is a requirement of this type of funding). This is where the option of private or alternative loans comes in to play. The monies Michigan Tech students have sought through alternative loan programs have increased almost 400% over the past six years.

While they may be borrowing more to complete their degrees, our students graduate with an education and skills that are in high demand that enables for fast placement in the work force and the ability to repay their student loans. Michigan Tech’s official student default rate is 2.9%, well below the national average of 4.5%.

Did you know even though the priority date for filing the FAFSA is March 1st, it isn’t too late to file for 2006?

Did you know you don’t have to attend Michigan Tech to receive Financial Aid Materials & Counseling?

Did you know you must file a FAFSA every year to be eligible to receive need-based federal and state financial aid?

9. Between what dates should the Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA) be filed?

8. What are the University goals of the revised Strategic Plan?

To be considered for direct loans in the summer you must be enrolled for at least six credits.

Preview Day volunteers

Students enjoying some rare warm weather.

Jen O’Connell with the world famous Blizzard T. Husky.

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