Michigan Tech as Toon Town, How Everything Talks - John B. Lehman

A few weeks ago, my daughter and I watched the movie Who Framed Roger Rabbit? In that movie the main character travels to Toon Town, an animated cartoon village where every building, every road, every telephone pole is alive, talking to each other and to its visitors. Watching it make me wonder, what would our campus say if everything could talk like that? Then I realized it does.

In March, Michigan Tech held its annual Preview Day and Scholar of Excellence reception. Nearly 85% of the students who attend these events each year return to campus in late August for orientation. Similarly, over 60% of the students who schedule a campus visit through the Admissions department eventually enroll at Michigan Tech. Those numbers say a lot about the quality of interactions our visitors have with you, the Michigan Tech campus community.

Talking with countless families, it’s become clear to me that to our prospective students and their parents everything is sending a message their way. Our visitors (most of whom have traveled more than eight hours) don’t come to campus merely as disengaged tourists. They come to campus looking for reasons to make a decision. They are highly attuned to the environment when they are here, waiting for anything and everything to tell them whether our institution is right or wrong for their college education. It might be current students leading a tour, it might be the faculty with whom they meet, it might be the “hello” and a smile they get from a stranger in the hallway of the administration building or even the nicely cleared sidewalks in the middle of winter. It all matters...a lot.

And our visitors tell what they hear while on campus. They hear that we value personal academic interaction, student success, involvement, adventure, safety, creativity, leadership, excellence and a diverse and inclusive community.

While not so literal or goofy as Toon Town, I thank you for remembering the voice with which each of our actions speaks, for knowing that everything counts, from the major decisions like the Experience Tech initiative to the seemingly minor ones like the way we tape signs to glass doors. Every single thing we do talks volumes about what we value. Great work everyone, keep it up.

Staff Match

A. Takes care of residence hall postings and lobby table reservations
B. Is the WHSA Advisor
C. A GPA of 3.50 or above will get you on their list
D. Long-time instructor of taijiquan (tai chi) and Systema (Russian martial art)

Want to be in the staff match? We are always looking for volunteers. Contact Lynda at lheinone@mtu.edu to participate!

Submit your guesses by Wednesday, May 26 to lheinone@mtu.edu
Lisa Moyle – Coordinator Housing Operations, Housing and Residential Life
Lisa moved from central Wisconsin to Michigan 27 years ago. She has been at Michigan Tech for 21 years and during that time has worked in five departments across campus. Lisa is married to Ken and they have one daughter. She enjoys walking year round.

Dale O’Brien – Housing Facilities Manager, McNair Hall
Dale is a 1976 Michigan Tech graduate and has been employed at Michigan Tech for ten years. He lives outside of Calumet on a small farm with his wife Margo, their two horses, two dogs, and two cats. In the winter, he enjoys cross-country skiing and playing hockey. In the summer, he enjoys running, motorcycling, and working on and driving his 1967 Camaro.

Debbie Forsell – Senior Staff Assistant, Dean of Student’s Office
Debbie moved from lower Michigan in 1984. In 1988, she began her career at Michigan Tech in the Library, was in the Registrar’s Office from 2001-2006, and is currently in the Dean of Student’s Office. Debbie and her husband Steve have two daughters – one in Colorado, and one in Oregon and they love to visit both areas. She enjoys gardening, camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Gary “Smitty” Smith – Data Specialist, Enrollment Services Information Systems
After high school, Smitty entered the Marine Corp and served for four years. Smitty has been at Michigan Tech since 1978. He and his wife Rita have one son and they enjoy traveling, snowshoeing, and kayaking.

2010 Student Award Recipients
Sunday, April 25, 2010
Recognizing Excellence and Leadership at Michigan Technological University

President’s Award for Leadership
Andrea Taglione

Provost’s Award for Scholarship
Elissa Barris

Vice President for Student Affairs Award for Service
Briana Drake

Exceptional Program of the Year
Standathon Student Organization

Exceptional Leadership in Residential Community
Archana Pandey

Exceptional Leadership in Student Governance
Gregory Knauf

Rising Star of the Year
Daniel Spencer

Exceptional Enthusiasm as a Student Leader
Claire Drom

Student Employee of the Year
Jessica Banda

Most Improved Student Organization
Phi Sigma Biological Sciences Honor Society

Student Organization of the Year
Michigan Tech Student Foundation

Student Organization Advisor of the Year
Jamie Russell and Beth Wagner

Meet the Staff From left to right

Lisa Moyle – Coordinator Housing Operations, Housing and Residential Life

Dale O’Brien – Housing Facilities Manager, McNair Hall

Debbie Forsell – Senior Staff Assistant, Dean of Student’s Office

Gary “Smitty” Smith – Data Specialist, Enrollment Services Information Systems

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.
- Proverb From Guinea
Message from the Vice President for Student Affairs

My family and I had just boarded the ship when Brad, our friendly cruise director, made the announcement, “Good afternoon from the deck, my name is Brad and I will be serving as your cruise director over the next six days. We are delighted to have you on board and look forward to making your time aboard a most memorable experience. We have over nine hundred staff on board and we are all here to serve you.” This was the first of many greetings we would hear from Brad over the next six days but this initial greeting set the tone for the remainder of our week at sea.

As we think about our work with students, parents, alumni, colleagues and community constituents how often do we think about the tone of our conversation and the impact it will have on our interaction with others? Consider this, what if every day we made a couple announcements campus wide that stated we want to ensure that your time at Michigan Tech is a most memorable experience. We have over fourteen hundred staff and faculty and we are all here to serve you. Doing this might be a bit outlandish but I’m guessing after awhile our students would know that our mission was focused on them.

Outside of doing this, it is important for us to consider the messages we send and how we instill a pervasive sense of pride in Michigan Tech. As another school year draws to a close I’d like to suggest a few of the ways we send these powerful messages. Some of these include:

- Campus visits
- Husky Fridays
- Presentations at meetings/conferences
- Printed materials (including letters, memos and notes)
- Creating a welcoming environment and atmosphere that embraces adventure

In addition to the messages we send, I think it is important to also consider how we instill pride in Michigan Tech. It can be as simple as picking up a piece of trash when you walk across campus, greeting others you meet on campus, or wearing Tech apparel when we travel. Or it can be as obvious as the celebration and fanfare surrounding a successful accomplishment such as the Lady Huskies amazing basketball season. Commencement is yet another one of those times when our hearts swell with pride as we celebrate the success of our students and look forward to hearing about the difference they will make in our world.

Although not blatantly apparent, there are truly some similarities to Michigan Tech and being on a cruise ship. As our ship is about to dock for the summer, I am hopeful that we have embraced our students sense of adventure and curiosity and I am confident that we have provided those aboard with a most memorable experience.

From the deck, thanks for sailing with us and I wish you a restful and productive summer.

Les

Book Recommendations – Les Cook

**Good to Great**, by Jim Collins  This book has been widely embraced by many at Michigan Tech (including President Mroz) and has become the theme for a number of retreats and conversations. Collins has done an immense amount of research over an extended period of time to identify those traits and characteristics of companies that have made the leap from good to great. The book is both a fascinating and energizing read.

**Powerful Times: Rising to the Challenge of Our Uncertain World** by Eamonn Kelly  This book is probably one of the most thought provoking, informed and inspirational books that I have read in recent years. Kelly does a phenomenal job of articulating the current issues and realities of our world while at the same time inciting hope for our future. This book is truly enlightening and something you’ll refer back to time and time again.

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NO MATTER HOW LONG THE WINTER, SPRING IS SURE TO FOLLOW.
- PROVERB FROM GUINEA
Student Judicial Affairs - Pat Gotschalk

It’s been a busy year in the Student Judicial Affairs office. As of the end of March, the office has processed 83 incidents of academic dishonesty, 12 incidents of computer misuse, and a wide variety of other infractions adding up to 415 incidents since August 1, 2009. We enjoy a strong collaborative relationship with the new Public Safety and Police Services director, Dan Bennett, as well as with outside law enforcement.

A strategic goal of Student Judicial Affairs is to emphasize the development of strong values in our university community. Two projects are ongoing. Student employee Mark Shepherd has crafted a “Values Statement” for Michigan Tech, which was his Leadershape Vision. This statement will be unveiled at the fall 2010 student and faculty orientation. Rob Bishop has launched the “Husky Habits Boot Camp” which is an intensive two hour ethics workshop for students who are responsible for violating campus regulations. Three sessions of the workshop will be completed before the end of the spring 2010 term and the student learning outcomes will be assessed.

Another goal is to create opportunities for students to sit on conduct boards. The new Residence Life Conduct Board, which consists of residential students facilitated by Katie Russell, has had a successful first semester evaluating their fellow students’ conduct and imposing educational sanctions.

Rob Bishop and Pat Gotschalk assisted Bill Kennedy in presenting a faculty workshop on “Incivility and Disruptive Behavior.” This workshop was well attended (more than 40 attendees) and faculty were encouraged to use the Student Judicial Affairs as a resource.

On a lighter note, Student Judicial Affairs (along with Student Development) fielded a “Bowl for Kids” team to benefit Big Brothers and Big Sisters. We are in the running for winning the Workplace Challenge!

Headlines from Enrollment Services
- **Admissions**: Admissions Spices up Visits by Getting Adventurous: Skiing and Snowshoeing a Success...Plans are Underway for Summer
- **ESIS**: ESIS Launches New Website
- **Financial Aid**: FAFSA’s are coming in and financial aid packages are going out
- **International Programs and Services**: IPS Student Advisory Board Formed
- ** Registrars**: Demolition has begun in preparation for the new Student Service Center
- **Youth Programs**: Youth Programs uses Personal URL’s (PURL’s) to market Michigan Tech Summer Youth Program offerings to students

New Staff

**From Left to Right**
- Danny Wan, Coordinator of International Admissions, IPS
- Melissa Beaudoin, Custodian, Housing Facilities
- Jess Turuc- Assistant Director, Student Activities
- Dr. Mel Norwood, African American Outreach Coordinator, Center for Diversity and Inclusion

The Student Affairs Newsletter Committee is comprised of Lynda Heinonen, Mary Ann Struthers, Bryant Weathers and Susan Liebau. Contact Lynda at lheinone@mtu.edu with any questions or comments.
Spotlighting Graduating Students

Name: Anne Aho
Degree: Social Sciences, concentration in History/Archaeology

What are your future plans?
I’m working for Youth Programs through the end of July. In early August, I’m getting married; my fiancée and I actually met while we both lived in East McNair. In late August, I’ll be starting a Master’s program in Library Science with a concentration in Archives, Records, and Management at either University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, or University of Maryland.

What will you miss at Michigan Tech/or best memory?
I’ll really miss Michigan Tech’s tight-knit community. I see it everywhere: at work, in my department, in my music groups, and in my student organizations. The type of community we have here at Michigan Tech is so unique, I don’t expect to be able to find it anywhere else.

Name: Natalie Noha
Degree: Biological Sciences/ Pre-Dentistry

What are your future plans?
I will be moving to Green Bay, WI to start a MBA program with a concentration in health care management. I am also applying to dental schools this summer for admission into the Fall 2011 class. After dental school, I plan on opening my own practice and doing yearly humanitarian dental trips around the country and in Costa Rica.

What will you miss at Michigan Tech/or best memory?
One of my favorite memories from my time here at Michigan Tech is moving in new students and all the Welcome Week festivities. There is nothing that can compare to the extreme excitement in the air during the start of the fall semester. I will miss a tremendous amount of things at Michigan Tech. This school and area has become my home for the past four years, and I am sad that I will have to say good-bye. I will miss my friends, my Delta Zeta sisters, and all the wonderful faculty and staff. I hope that I will be able to give back as an alumna as much as this university has given to me.

Name: Cory Padilla
Degree: Mechanical Engineering

What are you doing after graduation?
After graduation I am taking a trip New York to take in the sites before hopefully starting a job. As of now I do not have a job offer, but have had several interviews recently and a couple of them appear promising. If I do not get a job offer I will most likely be moving to California or Massachusetts to look for work.

What was your favorite memory or experience from Michigan Tech?
My favorite experience from Michigan Tech was travelling to Ghana in the summer of 2008 for the Pavlis Institute of Global Technological Leadership. Going to a developing country in Africa was an eye-opening experience, and I witnessed as much as I could about the Ghanaian culture. The things I saw and was a part of while I was there changed me as an individual and will always be with me. My best memories while at Michigan Tech are from my last summer in Houghton. I took a few courses so I would have fewer classes during the year and was able to go to the beach with friends almost every day. It is so laid back during the summer and the Keweenaw never looked better.

Headlines from Student Life
- COMPASS: Administered the Your First College Year (YFCY) survey to all first-year students this spring
- Housing Facilities: New sound and lighting systems were installed in the DHH Ballroom
- Housing & Residential Life: Husky Host Program hosts 34 prospective students for Preview Day Weekend
- Center for Diversity and Inclusion: The MICUP program welcomes 28 participants for Track A of summer semester
- Student Activities: Alternative Spring Break expands offerings to include travel to Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and West Virginia
Staff Presenting at Conferences
Association for Student Conduct Administration’s 23rd Annual Conference February 3-7, 2010, in St. Pete Beach, Florida

- Presenter: Rob Bishop
- Topic: Overview of the book—Reframing Campus Conflict: Student Conduct Practice through a Social Justice Lens (which Rob is a contributing author)
- Additional Information: At the conference, Rob was appointed chair of the Association’s newly formed Conflict Resolution Committee.

21st annual, Association of Academic Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Presenters Thy Yang, Greta Gustafson, and Cassy Teft (student)
- Topics: “STEM students abroad? A panel discussion on how to increase your number of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics students abroad.”


- Presenter: Steve Patchin
- Title: University STEM Outreach and K-12: On-Campus Programs and Road Shows


- Presenters: Cody Kangas and Kristi Isaacson
- Title: STEM? We do that: Engaging Pre-College Programs & Classroom Projects

National Orientation Director’s Association (NODA) Region VII conference-Soaring to New Heights – March 5-7, 2010, in Ashland, Ohio

- Presenter: Michelle Nightingale
- Title: “Ethics, Integrity, and Orientation...Oh My!
- Additional Information: Michelle is also serving as the Co-Coordinator of the Regional Orientation Leader Institute (ROLI) at this conference and on the conference planning committee.

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) March 5-10, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois

- Presenter: Dr. Mel Norwood
- Title: “Black Flight: African American Students’ Choice to Attend Predominately White Institutions”


- Presenters: Steve Patchin and Cody Kangas
- Title: Improving Access: Innovative & Informal Best Practices for Pre-college Outreach


- Presenters: Kerri Sleeman, Susan Liebau, Karmen Markham, and Darius Watt
- Title: “Creating an Inclusive, Learner-Centered First-Year Seminar”

Headlines from the Dean of Students

- Career Services: Career Services provided “Interview Workshop” to 100 middle and high school students with learning and other disabilities
- Counseling and Wellness Services: Two counselors travel to Huntsville, AL, to support faculty and students
- Disability Services: New technology assists with note-taking and reading!
- Judicial Affairs: “Values” statement soon to be unveiled.

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