Innovative Student Centered Activities  -Beth Wagner, Assistant VP for Student Life

In my many years of working in Student Life, it is inevitable that someone, sooner or later, will refer to what we do as all “fun and games”. When I hear this, I want to step up on my soap box and launch into a healthy dialogue about how this is just not the case. So, I thought I would take this opportunity and attempt to debunk this lingering myth.

Michigan Tech is well known for embracing innovation and discovery based learning. Student Life is proud to support this philosophy and in partnership with others sponsors many programs, events, and activities intentionally designed to be hands-on learning experiences that teach, and help students apply, important life skills. As it states in Michigan Tech’s Strategic Plan, we “utilize student-centered activities” to help students’ work toward ‘enhancing students’ communication skills and understanding of and participation in creative processes” and “developing graduates with strong leadership and team-building capabilities, critical thinking skills, and ethical awareness”.

The activities in which students are engaged teach them about themselves, as well as about creative problem solving, trust building, seeing things from different perspectives, cooperation, risk taking, accountability, communication, decision making, adapting to change, personal responsibility, ethical conduct, mutual goal setting, and collaboration.

As we all know, these skill sets are used in highly performing teams and are an important ingredient to success and survival in the business world today, as well as in the classroom. Our students use these skills everyday to solve real world problems in project teams, committees, task forces, departmental meetings, and as leaders, and agents of change. If this isn’t preparing students to create the future, I’m not sure what is.

Some of the ways in which we assist students in building these all important skills include: TECH Challenge Course, Alternative Spring Break, Learning Communities, ExSEL, Parade of Nations, Orientation, and through leadership opportunities as resident assistants, challenge course facilitators, peer mentors, etc.

Oh and one final note, we do indeed have fun with the activities we bring to campus. This is one of the reasons we enjoy what we do, as we engage the students in campus life. I will now step off my soap box and hope that this myth has been – as they say on TV – busted.

Staff Match

Mark Provoast
Jared Johnson
Madeline Mercado Voelker
Amy Raffaelli

A. Oversees Tech Traditions; Homecoming, K-Day, Winter Carnival and Spring Fling
B. Specializes in Transfer Admissions
C. Students, parents, and staff all welcome her assistance
D. Co-Director of the MICUP Program

Match the staff member to the respective clue for a chance to win a large pizza from the MUB. Submit your guesses to lheinone@mtu.edu by Friday, August 20.

The winner from the spring newsletter was Linda Fontaine from Financial Aid.

“For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”  - AFRICAN PROVERB
Message from the Vice President for Student Affairs

There is seldom a day goes by that I don’t read something about return on investment, or ROI. A few weeks ago, Bloomberg’s Businessweek examined college degrees and ROI. Michigan Tech’s alums proved to have benefited greatly from their education here, as we were ranked in the top 25% of schools nationwide and among the top three in Michigan.

Our enrollment growth is predicated on the fact that students increasingly see Michigan Tech as a great investment, or a short-term upfront small cost for a long-term larger benefit.

Over the course of the summer Michigan Tech has invested a substantial amount in creating new and updated facilities to support our students. Investments to be completed prior to the beginning of the 2010-11 school year include:

- Completion of the new student apartment building which will be a deluxe apartment facility with 192 additional beds
- Repurposing of the administration building first floor to include a student service center which includes the Registrar’s and Student Accounting Services
- Renovations on the third floor of the administration building which now includes Counseling & Wellness Services, Affirmative Programs and Youth Programs
- Relocation of the Outdoor Adventure Program to the former O’Connor House at the corner of East Street and Townsend drive (directly behind Public Safety & Police Services)
- Creation of the new Center for Diversity and Inclusion which will be located in the newly updated Hamar House

These infrastructure improvements will undoubtedly give a new face to Student Affairs but most importantly they will serve as visual reminder of the value Michigan Tech places on providing world class facilities which support student success. Although somewhat hard to measure, we can all surmise that the benefits of these facilities and the quality interaction they promote will greatly outweigh the small amount of the investment made.

Goal 1.3 of our strategic plan is to provide exceptional infrastructure and a welcoming, aesthetically pleasing environment. The investments made over the course of this summer enthusiastically support this goal.

IBM recently completed a study which included over 1,500 face-to-face interviews with CEOs and other leaders about the world and what sets high performing organizations apart from others. They suggest simplification that extends to more useful and streamlined interactions with customers, employees and partners and that these processes should be intuitive with easy to use interfaces. I’m fairly certain the updates and changes student will see when they return in a few weeks will do just that.

As we prepare to welcome both new and returning students to campus, I’d ask us to think about ways we are making short-term investments for long-term larger benefits in our students. In many ways the time, energy, passion, and care we invest in our students today can reap untold returns from them years into the future as they prepare for the complex issues facing our technological world. The Bloomberg study proved our students are investing in us, but as we hand the world off to them, it’s clear we are doing the same to them.

Thanks to all of you for your patience during the construction period, I look forward to our new digs.

With all good wishes,
New Residence Hall - Ginger Sleeman

The new residence hall will provide a new type of on-campus housing at Michigan Tech. The current residence halls, Douglass Houghton Hall, Wadsworth Hall, and McNair Hall, provide traditional residence hall style housing with semi-private rooms, shared common toilets, showers, and common areas. Currently, the Daniell Heights Apartments offer traditional apartment style on-campus housing. The new building is intended to offer a hybrid that includes private bedrooms and semi-private bathrooms, with shared great rooms and kitchens. The building will also include a wide variety of common areas to enhance the living-learning experience. The new residential apartment building, which is intended for single upper-class and graduate students, aims to create an atmosphere that values community living while also respecting students’ privacy.

The majority of the units in the new residence hall are designed to offer the option of independent apartment style housing. Each unit will include a fully equipped kitchen with sink, granite countertops, electric range top, microwave oven, and full sized refrigerator. A great room includes living and dining spaces, with panoramic views. Each private bedroom contains a closet and loft-able furniture. Each pair of bedrooms will share a dressing area with lavatory and a private toilet and shower room. In addition to the amenities listed above, the building also features a fitness room, an outdoor patio, a fireplace, and a multipurpose room.

The Michigan Tech community will be invited to attend a reception and tour this new building on Friday, August 6 at 3:00 PM as a part of the Alumni Reunion. The building will officially open to residents on Saturday, August 21. For more information or to view construction photos, please visit http://www.housing.mtu.edu/newbuilding/index.html.

Headlines from the Dean of Students - Andre Bonen

- **Career Services** - Annual Career Services Corporate Advisory Board Meeting hosted 25 industry leaders, June 15-17
- **Counseling and Wellness Services** - Michigan Tech awarded $107,000 in 2nd year of federal substance abuse prevention grant
- **Disability Services** - Students’ hard work + accommodations = improving grades
- **Judicial Affairs** - 366 formal incidents processed in 2009-10

New Department Locations - Andre Bonen

Here are some of the exciting updates about departments relocating to the Administration Building and other sites on campus.

- International Programs (first floor Administration Building) has relocated to 2nd floor Administration Building.
- Graduate Student Government has relocated from the ROTC Building to the 4th floor of the Administration building.
- Affirmative Programs has moved from 2nd floor of the Administration Building to the 3rd floor of the Administration Building.
- Counseling Services and Wellness has moved from the Hamar House to the 3rd of the Administration Building.
- Youth Programs has moved from Alumni House to the 3rd floor of the Administration Building.
- Center for Diversity and Inclusion has moved from the Alumni House to the Hamar House.
- A new one stop center on first floor of the Administration Building will include the Registrar’s and Student Accounting Services, and also be a resource information center for Financial Aid.
Orientation - Megan Heinlein

Orientation Week is a unique and memorable time for every first-year student, but what about for those students who experience Orientation more than once? My name is Megan Heinlein and I am a fourth year biology major, and Andrea Taglione, my co-worker, is a fifth year exercise science and biology major. We did not only participate in our first-year Orientation but for the past three Orientations have served as Orientation Team Leaders (OTLs) and as members of the Orientation Executive Staff (OES).

Andrea, a commuter student from Houghton, said that Orientation gave her a chance to get to know people that weren’t from her high school. She reminisced about how her first view of campus from the 11th floor of the MEEM opened her mind to the possibilities of college. I will never forget my first deep breath of independence during Orientation week, and this gave me the confidence to immerse myself in Tech’s unique culture.

We both wholeheartedly agree that Orientation inspired us to become OTLs. As an OTL, Andrea explained how she felt like she had a direct impact on the success of fellow students, and that this inspired her to always be a good role model. For me, Orientation the second time through as a staff member was still very meaningful to my growth as a student. It enhanced my teamwork and facilitation skills, and helped me to grow as a leader on campus. As members of OES, we both know that our love and enjoyment of Orientation has only grown with our increased responsibilities. In this role, I enjoy seeing each step it takes to make Orientation a reality, and I like the challenge of being directly involved in its success. Andrea explained that over the years, Orientation has shaped her college experience by giving her the opportunities to gain skills that she will use in any path she may take in life.

I think it is obvious that Orientation never loses its magic to anyone involved, no matter how many years they have participated. I, along with the entire Orientation 2010 staff, look forward to seeing you around campus during Orientation Week, August 22 – August 28.

Headlines from Student Life

- COMPASS: The 2nd Annual First-Year Class Photo will be taken on August 22 on Sherman Field
- Housing Facilities: Students will be welcomed back to campus with upgrades to furniture in community spaces
- Housing & Residential Life: Joe Cooper oversees Wadsworth and McNair Hall and Heather Simpson oversees new residential apartment building, Daniell Heights Apartments, and Douglass Houghton Hall
- Center for Diversity and Inclusion: The Center for Diversity and Inclusion has moved and they are now located in the Hamar House.
- Student Activities: The Outdoor Adventure Program (OAP) has moved to O’Connor House on East Street.

New Staff

Welcome the staff who have joined the Student Affairs team since our last newsletter

From Left to Right
- Kristen King, Business Systems Analyst, Enrollment Services Information Systems
- Takeyda Williams, Coordinator for Residence Life, Housing & Residential Life
- Erik Keisler, Coordinator, Outdoor Adventure Program, Student Activities
- Renae DesRochers, Office Assistant, Career Services

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.
Meet the Staff  
From left to right
These Student Affairs staff were featured in the “Staff Match” area in the spring newsletter. Take a few minutes to learn something about these staff members

Joe Cooper, Assistant Director, Housing and Residential Life
After graduating from Northern Michigan University in 2006, Joe worked for three years in Housing and earned his master’s degree from South Dakota State University. Now at Michigan Tech, Joe likes interacting with and helping students every day. When not working, Joe enjoys disc golf, bowling, and all the unique things the Keweenaw has to offer.

Mary Larson, Staff Assistant, Housing and Residential Life
Mary began her career in the Housing and Residential Life Department after ten years with Houghton Public Schools. After the last of her ten children was enrolled in school, Mary began taking classes through Gogebic Community College and received her Associate Degree in Applied Business in the spring of 2004. Mary and her husband Art look forward to traveling and spending time with their grandchildren when she retires.

Mo Anton, Office Assistant, Dean of Students Office
Mo was born near Chicago and kept moving north until she arrived in Ontonagon in 1992. She worked for 13 years for the Ontonagon Schools. Once her daughters graduated from high school, she came to work at Michigan Tech where her younger daughter is enrolled in the Exercise Science program. Mo lives in Hancock and enjoys sailing, running, mountain biking and camping. She is also currently a student at Michigan Tech in the Electrical Engineering program.

Larry Wall, Psychiatric Social Worker, Counseling and Wellness Services
Larry grew up in Ann Arbor and is a University of Michigan graduate. Before Michigan Tech, he worked as a department head in two different hospital and Emergency Room settings. Larry and his wife Sharon have three children and he teaches both tai chi and Russian martial arts.

Staff Presenting at Conferences

The East Central Writing Center Association (EWCA) Conference, MSU Kellogg Center, April 8-10, 2010
Presenters: Christy Oslund, Student Disability Services, Steve Bailey and Heather Jordan
Title: “Institutional Forms, Tutor Manuals, and Online Conferencing: This Isn’t Business as Usual,”

Michigan Indian Children Welfare Association Baraga – May 2010
Keynote Speaker: Lori Muhlig, Center for Diversity and Inclusion
Title: Our Youth, Our Future

University/Employer Roundtable, Association for Iron & Steel Technology (A.I.S.T.), May 2, 2010, Pittsburgh, PA
Panelist: Jim Turnquist, Career Services

Book Recommendations  – Susan Liebau
An excerpt that summarizes the essence of the philosophy behind John G. Miller’s, QBQ! The Question Behind the Question is: “We can’t change other people. We often can’t control circumstances and events. The only thing we have any real control over are our own thoughts and actions.” This book focuses on how personal accountability and how asking “better” questions can be transforming both in and out of the workplace. Miller, devotes most of QBQ! to sharing real examples of others taking ownership of a situation, and how direction on how to rethink typical Incorrect Questions.

Although this book is a concise (115 pages) and easy read, it offers a wealth of practical ideas that have the potential to change the way an individual or a whole department approaches the work they do.
Admissions – Adventure Visit Program – Erin Jarvi
From Picnics to Paddling, Adventure Visits Have It All!

For campus visitors looking to tour Michigan Tech’s beautiful campus, meet with an academic advisor, and see classes in session- we do that. Doing all of this plus enjoying breathtaking views from Brockway Mountain, paddling down a river, or checking out the fresh powder at Mont Ripley - yep, we do that too!

The admissions office saw an opportunity to show visitors more of what the area offers in addition to the campus tour, so the Adventure Visit concept was born. In July of 2009, the pilot Adventure Visit included a campus tour, barbeque at Fort Wilkins, a trip to Brockway Mountain, and many scenic stops along the drive. About 20 campus visitors took advantage of the special visit, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive! Since last July, additional Adventure Visit days have included a trip to the Quincy Mine, skiing and snowboarding at Mont Ripley, and snowshoeing on the Tech Trails.

This summer, admissions partnered with the Outdoor Adventure Program on July 30 to offer another Adventure Visit day. Visitors toured campus, had lunch with a student tour guide, and met with an academic advisor. The visit was culminated by a relaxing paddle down the Sturgeon River with the OAP staff in the afternoon. A good time was had by all!

Admissions is excited to be offering such a unique experience to visitors and is looking to expand the offerings for the upcoming year.

Headlines from Enrollment Services
- Admissions: Picnics and Paddling - Summer Adventure Visits Show Prospective Students Another View of Michigan Tech
- ESIS: Working Behind the Scenes to Prepare for Fall
- Financial Aid: Paying the bills...for students
- International Programs and Services: IPS Co-Sponsors Taste of Downtown Houghton with Student Life
- Registrars: Check out the new Student Service Center - coming soon
- Youth Programs: Michigan Tech Youth Programs hosts talented participants from 40 different states and countries

2010 Boy Scout Jamboree

The 9-day Jamboree (July 26 – August 3) was held at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. Michigan Tech Youth Programs MIND TREKKERS engaged over 40,000 Boy Scouts and their leaders representing 50 states and 26 countries in dynamic hands-on STEM activities. The MIND TREKKERS team was made up of Michigan Tech students and staff as well as Ned Dake, a 90-year-old Michigan Tech graduate who became an Eagle Scout in the 1930s and continues to work with the Boy Scouts to this day.