Admissions Goes Green

Submitted by Allison Carter

This fall, the admissions staff is going green. From vehicles used for travel to the way prospective student information is collected, the staff is starting the journey down the sustainability highway.

With all the miles the admissions staff travels in a year heading to college fairs and high school visits, it’s no surprise that the bright yellow Ford Escape SUV fleet gets a lot of attention. This summer, several new vehicles were added to the fleet. And they’re making some folks “green” with envy.

After over a year of patiently waiting for delivery from the manufacturer, the University is proud to announce that three new Ford Escape hybrid electric vehicles have hit the road. The hybrid technology ties in well with Michigan Tech’s sustainability efforts and should have a positive impact on fuel costs over the years to come. The new vehicles also have a new design. Modeled after Michigan Tech’s EcoCar team vehicle, the eye-catching Husky-theme design is sure to be noticed.

This fall, prospective students attending regional college fair programs will have the option to request information from Michigan Tech by completing an electronic request form through use of a “mini PC” device. Smaller than a traditional laptop, but larger (and more user friendly) than a hand-held device, the mini-PCs will provide students with an alternative to completing a traditional paper inquiry card.

Admissions is working with the EAS technology staff to deploy the devices in select regions this fall. If successful, additional mini-PCs will be added to the recruitment toolbox. Besides showcasing the use of technology and promoting green initiatives on campus, the department hopes to also save some green. The data that is collected will be uploaded by each regional admissions manager to a secure site—cutting down on the time and budget allocated to traditional data entry.

NEW STAFF in
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Welcome the newest staff members in Student Affairs. They are pictured above from left to right in order of their names and new positions below:

Maureen Anton joined the Dean of Students area as an Office Assistant.

Jessica Maki is now an Office Assistant in the Registrar’s Office.

Thy Yang is the new Director of International Programs & Services.

Christy Oslund started as the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Dean of Students area.

Jeremiah Manchester has joined the team in Enrollment Services Information Systems as a Business Systems Analyst.

Joe Cooper, Assistant Director of Residence Life, is the newest member of Housing & Residential Life.

HEADLINES from STUDENT LIFE

Housing Facilities
Housing Facilities Worked with Contractors to Complete Summer Projects by August 1

Housing & Residential Life
Housing & Residential Life Help Fathers Become Better Dads by Providing Collaborative Programming in the Apartments

Student Activities
Student Activities Makes Huge Strides in Community Service with Service Saturdays

Staff Match

Match the staff member to their respective clue below and be entered to win a large pizza. Submit your guesses by Friday, September 11th to lheinone@mtu.edu. The spring newsletter pizza winner was Diane Wareham from Admissions.

1. Kristi Issacson
A. Extra pages had to be sewn into their passport for new stamps

2. Glenn Ekdahl
B. Students they serve are still in middle school or high school

3. Thy Yang
C. Helps students with their co-ops

4. Adam Griffis
D. Works in historic Douglass Houghton Hall

The best way to predict the future is to create it. ~Peter Drucker

The Student Affairs newsletter committee is Lynda Heinonen, Mary Ann Struthers & Susan Liebau. Please forward any questions, comments or suggestions to Lynda at lheinone@mtu.edu.
Greetings -

As you look at the Keweenaw waterway you’ll notice the various navigation markers to help guide ships through to safe passage. Buoys, channel markers and range daymarkers all provide ships and boats with a sense of direction while on the water. Likewise, we have many tools that provide us direction in our navigation with students. Our mission in Student Affairs is to prepare students to create the future and their success is our highest priority.

The recently refined Strategic Plan calls for the cultivation of intellectual diversity and a worldview adapted to the needs of the 21st century. Our guiding principles give us an environmental setting by which we serve our students and our learning outcomes provide a way for us to measure the impact of our work on their development.

As we welcome our new and reconnect with our returning students over the next few weeks, it is important we remember what we do best, make a difference in the lives of those students and our learning outcomes provide a way for us to measure the impact of our work on their development.

We do that well. After commencement last year a parent wrote a very touching note on ParentNet that I’d like to share with you. It certainly represents the navigational success we as stewards in the student affairs profession are able to provide.

“My son graduated this spring and I will be unsubscribing to this list, but before I do, I would like to assure incoming families that they have chosen a very special place for their children to take their final steps to adulthood. Five years ago I was so filled with questions, fears, and tears. But I left my son on the steps of Wadsworth Hall, and he took over, with the support and guidance of the MTU community. I watched him begin to find his own way, mature, build confidence, become incredibly knowledgeable, develop convictions and opinions - not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. I was so amazed and thankful that he had found a home away from home that supported his growth so well. Today he is employed, extremely happy, making more money than I do, and has an excellent foundation for the rest of his life.”

So the story goes.

Preparing students to create the future is not always an easy task, we can only hope that through partnering with our academic colleagues and others our interactions with the class of 2013 and beyond will help these students find success similar to the student described above. Student success always has been and always will be our highest priority in Student Affairs and I look forward to another productive and successful year.

Best wishes,

Les

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**Upgrade to Course Offers New Challenges**

Submitted by Chris Nightingale

The Team Effectiveness Challenge Course or TECH Course for short recently received a major upgrade with construction of a new High Ropes Course. The new course takes the place of the High Course that had outlived its lifecycle.

The new course was constructed by Experiential Systems Inc. of Chicago and features a circuit design so that participants can travel its length without climbing down. This differs from the old course as you had to climb and come down for each element. It also features five elements that stand 35 feet above the stadium area at the Recreational and Nordic Ski Trails, with a zip line that travels down the hill over the Core Loop.

The new course will be overseen by the Student Activities office. Jared Johnson, Director of Student Activities is excited about the new opportunities the new High Course brings to the Outdoor Adventure Program. “This is a great opportunity for our students to develop teamwork and leadership while challenging them in a new way.”

The new course is open, and available to be booked for group outings. If interested contact Chris Nightingale at ccnighti@mtu.edu, or 487-1963.

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**HEADLINES from ENROLLMENT SERVICES**

Financial Aid
The Michigan Tech Leading Scholars Program is to be expanded to include out-of-state domestic students.

Admissions
Experiawesomeness—Admissions launches new recruitment and marketing campaign

Registrar’s
The Post 9/11 GI Bill is here! Students who qualify may have up to 100% of their tuition and housing expenses covered

International Programs & Services
Looking Forward to Streamlining Administrative Processes with iOffice Software

Enrollment Services Information Systems
ESIS Hires New Business Systems Analyst: Jeremiah Manchester

Youth Programs
Youth Programs Entertains Students from 23 States and 7 Foreign Countries

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**HEADLINES from DEAN OF STUDENTS**

Student Judicial Affairs
“Truth or Consequences” - New Name for Office of Student Judicial Affairs!

Disability Services
Disability Services Welcomes New Coordinator, Christy Oslund

Counseling Services
New this Fall: Counseling and Wellness Services Presents the Sexual Health Education Program, “KISS Club” (Keep It Safer Sweetheart)

Career Services
Career Services Sponsors Dynamic Summer Round Table Discussion for Corporate Advisory Board and Student Advisory Boards

Dean of Students
Congratulations to Students on the Spring 2009 Deans’ List (1466--26% of Undergraduates)
Student Affairs Implements AlcoholEdu

Submitted by Beth Wagner & Michelle Bangen

Starting this fall with the help of a Department of Education grant, Michigan Tech Student Affairs will implement “Outside the Classroom’s AlcoholEdu for College Students”, an online alcohol education program.

The purpose of AlcoholEdu is to provide a comprehensive and interactive alcohol education program for first-year students that will help them reduce their risk related to alcohol use. This program will impact students and ultimately the "campus culture" regarding students’ alcohol use by:

- Reducing the reported number of drinks per drinking event
- Being less likely to make poor decisions as a result of alcohol use
- Being less likely to expect positive outcomes from drinking
- Being less accepting of others’ negative alcohol use behavior
- Recognizing that the majority of students are making low-risk decisions

AlcoholEdu is rooted in the Trans-theoretical Model, which bridges cognitive and behavioral approaches to change. AlcoholEdu recognizes individuals in various stages of change and targets messages specifically to non-drinkers, light/moderate drinkers, high-risk drinkers, and problematic drinkers. AlcoholEdu is considered an NIAAA (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) tier one strategy (one that shows evidence of effectiveness with college students) and provides a brief motivational intervention for high-risk drinkers. Orientation and year-round residence hall programming, educational workshops facilitated by HOWL (Healthy Options for a Wellness Lifestyle) students and outside consultants, and a campus-wide social norms marketing campaign will reinforce information students learn in the course.

AlcoholEdu will be instrumental in increasing student self-awareness and decision-making ability in regard to alcohol use. The online modules present students with video clips and interactive tools which allow them to reflect upon their own decisions related to alcohol use and set goals for future decisions. First-year students will benefit by getting a national top quality prevention program that will encourage a healthy lifestyle and good decision making.

Summer Reading Quotes:

**Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands**

Each incoming class of students have a common experience of reading a selected book. A few staff facilitators for the reading groups share their thoughts on this year’s Reading by Inquiry choice.

*Ali Carter:* “I really enjoyed the way the story was written from Reesa’s childhood perspective. It gave the book a very real quality and seemed to enhance the examples and feelings portrayed through her experiences.”

*Wendy Davis:* “Lay that Trumpet in our Hands was a quick read and I found it hard to put down. I grew attached to the characters and their determination to fight for what they felt was right.”

*Thy Yang:* “I thought it was an excellent choice of book for Michigan Tech students to read and explore together. As a community, it is important to be able to have conservation about topics that may be uncomfortable or even difficult. Racism does have historical and cultural roots and deserves to be looked at from those lenses.”

1. Marcus Wood was born a troll, but has been visiting the UP most of his life. In 2004, he completed his BS at Michigan Tech and started working for the University in 2005. In 2008, he came to Student Affairs. Marcus stays active during the year with activities such as camping, fishing, skiing, etc. Skiing since he could walk, he started alpine ski racing at age 8. While at Michigan Tech he competed for the University which qualified for nationals on several occasions. Currently, he stays active as an advisor.

2. Katie Russell came to Michigan Tech in August 2008 to join the COMPASS staff as Coordinator of Orientation and Residential Life as a live-on staff member. Prior to moving to Houghton, Katie served as an Academic Advisor at the University of Minnesota and earned her M.A. Leadership in Student Affairs from the University of St. Thomas. In her free time Katie enjoys reading, traveling, and taking walks.

3. Wendy Davis graduated from Michigan Tech with a B.S. in Business Management in 2006. She worked for a year and a half as an office assistant for the Michigan LTAP before coming to the ExSEL Program in August 2008. She lives in Dodgeville with her husband Greg and her springer spaniel, Chase. She loves to make homemade cards and scrapbook.

4. Crystal Primeau was born and raised in Houghton and earned a B.S. in Zoology, an M.A. in Philosophy, and an M.A. in Clinical Psychology. Between educational pursuits, Crystal spent time as a Natural History tour guide in Alaska, was employed with ski resorts and rafting companies in Colorado, and taught Philosophy at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. She has been with Michigan Tech’s Counseling and Wellness Services since August of 2008. She enjoys spending time with family, kayaking, and snowboarding.
**Orientation Week 2009**

Orientation Week marks the transition from summer to the academic year, and with the academic year quickly approaching, Orientation is just around the corner. New Student Check-in and Move-in will take place on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 with the support of University faculty, staff and student volunteers.

This year’s Orientation program includes many of the traditional orientation events as well as some new programs. The week will kick off with the University Welcome and inaugural First-Year Class Photo on Sherman Field. The photo will be available to families for purchase and will be on display at commencement when these students begin to graduate from Michigan Tech.

The traditional scavenger hunt has received a technological upgrade! Students will receive text messages with clues, hints and challenges to aid them in exploring campus resources. A new session, “Staying Safe at Tech” will convey to students the importance of being aware of their surroundings and staying safe at Michigan Tech. During this session student leaders will discuss important topics such as campus safety and sexual assault, and new students will learn about campus and community resources available to help keep Tech safe.

The campus and local community are invited to participate in the Reading as Inquiry program by reading Susan Carol McCarthy’s *Lay That Trumpet in Our Hands* and attending her address on the evening of Tuesday, August 25. In addition, all are welcome to enjoy a piece of the 500 foot long Banana Split.

View the Orientation Schedule online at www.orientation.mtu.edu.

**Highlight on Professional Development**

Michelle Nightingale currently serves as representative on the Board of Directors for Region VII of NODA (National Orientation Directors Association). She recently responded to some questions regarding her involvement and the opportunities it provides her to grow as a Student Affairs professional.

How does it help your profession? What are the benefits to your involvement? Serving NODA helps me stay abreast of current issues in the field of orientation, retention, and transition. Our board meetings and conference experiences are full of engaging discussions with leaders in the field. NODA provides me a wonderful opportunity to bounce ideas off of colleagues, and discuss challenging situations we are facing on our individual campuses. Knowing that all NODA professionals have the common goal of providing successful transitions for new students as they acclimate to the campus community, this philosophy drives our decisions on the board and in our professional development programming.

Would you encourage other people to get involved with a National or Regional organization? Yes, not only are you building a strong network of supportive professionals, getting involved helps you benchmark your programs nationally or regionally, and keeps you posted on current trends in the field. We all need to be informed, engaged professionals to excel in our positions. Joining a regional, national, or international association and getting involved can help you stay on the cutting edge in your area so you can provide innovative programs and services (which aligns nicely with our university mission and strategic plan).

**NOTE** – NODA’s membership was surveyed in 2007-08 and 208 departmental names were submitted. Michigan Tech was congratulated in the latest issues of the Orientation Review for submitting the longest name; COMPASS Center for Orientation, Mentoring, Parents, and Academic Student Success.

**ATTA-TUBEs for GRATITUDES!**

Since they were distributed last spring, many ATTA-TUBEs have been distributed to recognize the special contributions staff members and areas make to support the success of our University as a whole.

Erin Jarvi recognized Beth Wagner for her great interaction with a tour group. Erin reported that one day Beth randomly sat down with a group in the dining hall and had lunch with them. The families were so impressed that a staff member would eat with them, and she was able to answer all of their questions and give extra insight into student life. The families and tour guide loved it! It really enforces the message that our campus is a friendly place to be.

**Staff Presenting at Conferences**

Michigan Tech was strongly represented at the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Region I Conference in Evansville, IN April 3-5, 2009 with the following presentations made by students from the Orientation Executive Staff and COMPASS staff:

- **Hitting a Home Run with Commuter Students** presented by Marc Starnes and Andrea Taglione
- **Put Me In, Coach! Sibling Orientation** presented by Jen Liu, Katie Russell, and Andrea Taglione
- **Field a Winning Team: Common Student Leader Selection Process** presented by Michelle Nightingale and Katie Russell
- **Professionals Workshop on Assessment with Student Voice** presented by Michelle Nightingale and Katie Russell

At the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I), June 28, 2009, Travis Pierce presented, “Surveillance from Periscope Depth: Tracking Students of Concern”.

**Headlines from COMPASS**

COMPASS welcomes 1257 first year, 154 commuter, 236 transfer, and 86 ExSEL students to all of the COMPASS outreach initiatives including orientation, mentoring programs, UN1010/UN1000 (as of 8/17/09)