Career Center Offers Seminars; Launches STAR with DoD

The Career Center is gearing up for the Winter Job Fair scheduled for February 20, 2007. To prepare the students to put their ‘best foot forward’, the Career Center has been conducting several seminars in January covering resume critiques, interviewing techniques, and job searching tips. A newly added endeavor for the spring semester lineup is a meeting between the Career Center’s Corporate and Student Advisory Boards. The meeting presents a rare opportunity for students and corporate representatives to discuss recruitment and hiring issues and trends. The joint board meeting will kick-off “Corporate Connections” on February 19, an open panel discussion with company representatives where audience members may ask questions, get advice, and learn what companies look for in our students.

The spring 2007 semester will also see the beginning of a partnership between the Department of Defense (DoD) and Michigan Tech. On October 25, 2006, Michigan Tech became the first university in the United States to launch the Student Training and Recruitment Program (STAR). Under the STAR program, the DoD hires a co-op student to serve as the point of contact for DoD recruiting activities on campus, with the aim of marketing DoD employment opportunities to Michigan Tech students. Robert Frankovich, a fourth-year business management student will begin work for the program during the spring semester. The Career Center has been in dialogue with the DoD regarding the STAR program for the past two years and is very pleased that Michigan Tech was chosen to pilot this innovative program. “We’re proud to participate in a program that will help bring the best and brightest minds to the defense of America,” said Michigan Tech President Glenn Mroz.

A complete calendar of the Career Center’s winter event series can be found on our Website at www.career.mtu.edu.

The Husky Host Program

Michigan Tech’s Husky Host Program has a brand new start this year and it is a completely fresh program with collaboration between Admissions and Housing & Residential Life. Under the direction of Andrea Bowser, two student organizers, Julie Emerick and Lea Johnson, took the reins and improved upon the already successful program.

The Husky Host Program gives visiting high school students an idea of what life is like attending Michigan Tech. The visitors spend one or two nights in the residence halls with a Michigan Tech student and have a chance to attend classes, eat in the dining halls, go to athletic events, enjoy the SDC, and try out the ski hill.

It’s a lot more in depth than a student can typically get on a campus tour. The visitor can ask questions about the student’s experience at Tech and gain really useful advice. All of our wonderful volunteer hosts provide the guest a really positive look at student life.

Spring semester looks even busier as potential students continue to check out the Michigan Tech campus. As fall 2006 closed, the program has had 98 students sign up to be hosted.

Submitted by Lea Johnson, Michigan Tech student

The winter Student Affairs Newsletter Committee members are Lynda Heinonen and Susan Liebau. Thanks to all of our contributors. Please forward any comments or suggestions to Lynda at lheinone@mtu.edu.
Winter Carnival 2007

Each year hundreds of Michigan Tech students contribute to Winter Carnival’s success. Below are six and their special contributions.

Winter is a relatively new experience for Rocio Garcia. Her hometown is Mexico City, Mexico where temperatures for February average above 70° F. Last year was her first Winter Carnival, and she wasn’t quite sure what to expect. Not surprisingly, she found the statues impressive. “I couldn’t imagine that students could build something that was so big and nice with just snow,” she shared.

She is the organizer of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers one-night statue for Carnival 2007. Their plan is to build something that relates to ancient Hispanic culture.

Eric Smith
Blue Key President
Senior, Electrical Engineering
Kalamazoo, MI

Eric says school always comes first, so especially when things get especially crazy the few weeks before Carnival it is important to use time wisely. “If you use time efficiently it’s really amazing the amount you can get done in one day.”

His favorite Carnival event is Stage Revue and was a member of that event’s committee last year. “The show is really funny, the groups always come up with great skits and Blue Key always tries to get a top notch comedian,” he shares.

Planning for Winter Carnival begins in December with generating ideas for statues and writing skits for Stage Revue. Carrie explains that those efforts are easy compared to the hard work that awaits them. “When we get back from Winter Break it never seems like we have enough time to do everything, but somehow we get everything done.”

Building statues is her high point of Carnival. “I enjoy statue. There is something about working on a statue for four weeks, with some of your best friends. It is a bonding experience: you get to know everyone a little more than you would on a regular day.” She also has words of encouragement in case your statue doesn’t place where you hoped, “If you don’t get the place that you expected, you should remember that it doesn’t matter. All that matters is that you feel that you did your best, and in your eyes you are number one.”

In addition to the activities she will be participating in with AΣT, she is working a booth during “All Nighter” for Michigan Tech’s chapter of the American Marketing Association.

Winter Carnival 2007 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 7th “All Nighter”
8:00 pm One Night Statue Construction begins
10:00 pm Carnival Recess begins

Friday, February 9
All Day Special Events: Volleyball, Tug-O-War, Snowshoeing, Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding
7:07 pm Hockey vs. Denver, SDC Ice Arena
9:00 Reel Big Fish, Rozsa Center

Saturday, February 10
3:00 pm Awards Ceremony, MUB Ballroom
5:07 pm Hockey vs. Denver, SDC Ice Arena
8:30 pm Torchlight Parade, Mont Ripley
8:45 pm Fireworks, Mont Ripley
9:00 pm Sno-Ball
Comedian, Jeff Dunham, Rozsa Center

Thursday, February 8
9:00 am Statue Judging
5:00 & 9:00 pm Stage Revue, Rozsa Center

Carnival is definitely a busy time of the year for many students. Adam VanEssen believes that the extra campus activities are very positive because they encourage students to sharpen their time management skills. He has found that as long as he has his schedule planned out it isn’t difficult to find balance.

And balance he does. He is a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity who historically have been very involved in Carnival. This year is no exception. Additionally, as a co-advisor of Douglas-Houghton Hall Council he is coordinating the building of a large snow screen to show the movie Gladiator on during All-Nighter.

His favorite aspect of Carnival is the entire process of building a statue, from initial planning to looking at the final product. “My favorite Winter Carnival moment is definitely at 8:00 am the morning after the All-Nighter when my entire fraternity stands in front of our finished statue to take a picture,” Adam shares.

Student athletes know as much as anyone about juggling academics with additional activities. Hockey Huskie, Lars Helminen shares his view, “Balancing school and additional activities is all about time management. Since time is so limited (for him) it doesn’t allow a great amount of social time, but it is just the price you must be willing to pay.”

It isn’t a big surprise that his favorite part of Carnival is the hockey series. “Winter Carnival is a special weekend when it comes to the hockey games. The rink is always full and there is a little extra excitement in the air. This time you always want to play well to make Carnival an all around good time,” he shares.

His favorite Winter Carnival was in 2005 when the Huskies won the series. That was the only time in the three Carnival’s he has been here that they swept the series. Of course, there is always that potential for Winter Carnival 2007.

Rocio Garcia
SAS Secretary
3rd Year, Clinical Lab Science
Mexico City, Mexico

So, what does the president of the organization in charge of the planning and execution of Michigan Tech’s largest and arguably most popular event actually do? Eric says his primary responsibilities are motivating and communicating. Blue Key is comprised of six Executive Board and six committees (one for each major Carnival event as well as Publicity and Funding and Awards). Eric works closely with the heads of those committees as well as with the on- and off-campus community regarding specific needs and requests for both sides.

Eric says school always comes first, so especially when things get especially crazy the few weeks before Carnival it is important to use time wisely. “If you use time efficiently it’s really amazing the amount you can get done in one day.”

His favorite Carnival event is Stage Revue and was a member of that event’s committee last year. “The show is really funny, the groups always come up with great skits and Blue Key always tries to get a top notch comedian,” he shares.

Winter Carnival 2007

Like many, her favorite Carnival event is the statues. She shares, “It’s so cool to see what people can do with snow! So much work is put into them and I love to see the results.”

Last year she also worked on the Malaysian Student Association’s one-night statue. She wasn’t sure she could handle the cold, coming from such a mild climate. “Learning what to wear was helpful,” she added. She was also impressed with the members (of the Malaysian Student Association) enthusiasm and cooperation.

She is the organizer of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers one-night statue for Carnival 2007. Their plan is to build something that relates to ancient Hispanic culture.

Carrie Markessinos
Member Alpha Sigma Tau, American Marketing Club 5th Year, Business Administration-Marketing
Waterford, MI

In addition to the activities she will be participating in with AΣT, she is working a booth during “All Nighter” for Michigan Tech’s chapter of the American Marketing Association.

Winter Carnival 2007

Michigan Tech students welcome the winter solstice, and the new year, with the annual Winter Carnival, starting Wednesday, February 7.

Michigan Tech’s largest student-run event will be held February 7-11, and will feature a variety of activities, including a Statue Competition, Blue Key’s Torchlight Parade, Fireworks, and a SnoBall. The winter solstice will be celebrated with the Big Band Bash in the MUB Commons, offering an opportunity to warm up, get some free hot chocolate and hear some great music during All-Nighter. Maggie Scow is the MUB Board Treasurer and coordinator of this annual event, a competition between student bands. Maggie provides details, “We’re getting a bunch of new student bands involved this year which I think is very exciting. The event is one of the biggest MUB Board hosts. It’s a great way to warm up all night long.” The Board also is responsible for the Tech Arts Festival, Spring Fling and other events.

In addition to her MUB Board responsibilities, Maggie is member of Alpha Gamma Delta, so she is also working on a statue. It is a good thing she says she loves to be busy and involved. “Being busy is good for me, that’s how I work best.”

Adam VanEssen
Community Coordinator, DHH

Planning for Winter Carnival begins in December with generating ideas for statues and writing skits for Stage Revue. Carrie explains that those efforts are easy compared to the hard work that awaits them. “When we get back from Winter Break it never seems like we have enough time to do everything, but somehow we get everything done.”

Building statues is her high point of Carnival. “I enjoy statue. There is something about working on a statue for four weeks, with some of your best friends. It is a bonding experience: you get to know everyone a little more than you would on a regular day.” She also has words of encouragement in case your statue doesn’t place where you hoped, “If you don’t get the place that you expected, you should remember that it doesn’t matter. All that matters is that you feel that you did your best, and in your eyes you are number one.”

In addition to the activities she will be participating in with AΣT, she is working a booth during “All Nighter” for Michigan Tech’s chapter of the American Marketing Association.

Maggie Scow
MUB Board Treasurer
Member Alpha Gamma Delta
5th Year, Biomedical Engineering
Ruscannon, MI

Winter Carnival 2007

Rocio Garcia
SAS Secretary
3rd Year, Clinical Lab Science
Mexico City, Mexico

Like many, her favorite Carnival event is the statues. She shares, “It’s so cool to see what people can do with snow! So much work is put into them and I love to see the results.”

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In addition to the activities she will be participating in with AΣT, she is working a booth during “All Nighter” for Michigan Tech’s chapter of the American Marketing Association.
Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were enjoyable and restful and that you are looking forward to a productive spring semester. The holidays for me were wonderful.

During the break I spent some time reviewing Daniel Pink’s latest book titled A Whole New Mind: Why Right Brainer’s will Rule the World. It is a provocative read and offers some interesting ideas for consideration. Pink illustrates how the world has changed because of abundance, Asia and automation. He contends that the most dominant feature of our society today is that of abundance. To make his point, he mentions a fact about how the United States spends more on trash bags in a given year than some ninety other countries spend on everything. He also believes that automation and technology have changed the world in such a way that is no longer necessary to train our minds to do the type of things that computers can now do for us. He argues this will continue to have a profound impact on all of us. His prescription for going forward is one of high concept and high touch. To make this a reality, Pink suggests we have to reframe our left brain thinking and begin to master six senses of right brain aptitudes. The six right brain aptitudes to which he refers are design, story, symphony, empathy, play and meaning. The six senses combined are what he suggests will help all of us to retool our minds so we can better meet the demands of today’s new era.

You are probably asking yourself what all of this has to do with us and our work with students. Personally, I think each of us in our own way can probably identify with what Pink is suggesting. Our Student Affairs Guiding Principles emphasize the importance of engagement and ideas, valuing creativity and leadership, promoting integrity and responsibility, being innovative in our programs and policies, and leading and supporting exemplary collegial relationships. Like the ideas that Pink discusses, each and every day we have the opportunity to create, share stories, be a part of the symphony, care for and play with others and when coupled together this provides meaning not only for our own lives but that of others around us.

Preparing students to create the future is not necessarily easy, as a matter of fact, some days are rather challenging. Every student that steps foot on campus is on their own journey, some may know their end destination while others have no idea. Through the experiences they have on campus and interactions with all of us they have the opportunity to create their own story, establish lifelong relationships, learn how to care for others, to laugh and play, and most importantly add meaning to their lives. It is through these experiences that we prepare students to create the future.

Peace, prosperity and best wishes,

Les

Staff Focus:

Betty Chavis

Fall Mystery Person Revealed

Submitted by Sandra Henkel, Educational Opportunity & Shaunna Turner, Michigan Tech Student

Betty came to Michigan Tech in 1989 as a recruiter in Admissions and currently is the director of Outreach & MultiEthnic Programs in the Educational Opportunity Department.

Betty brought a wide variety of experiences with her. She was professional dancer for fourteen years with Katherine Dunham; choreographed for Motown; was a business manager for Norma Jean Bell and The All Stars; owned a charm school; had the first black boutique in post-riot Detroit; owned a soft-cloth car wash; was a licensed realtor and worked for both a City of Detroit Councilwoman and a State Senator.

Betty’s exuberance and creativity are her signature characteristics. She brings passion to every project – from setting up a Black History Month exhibit of personal memorabilia in the new Carnegie Cultural Center (the former library) in Houghton to recruiting graduate students from Historically black Colleges and Universities. She takes a personal interest in every student she meets and serves as advisor to the Black Student Association, the African Student Organization, and Keweenaw Pride. She generously gives of her time to both individuals and organizations. One of her professional triumphs at Michigan Tech is the founding of the Parade of Nations which just completed it 17th parade and multicultural festival. This multinational, multicultural event draws thousands annually from the on- and off-campus community. In conjunction, there are programs for local schools. Betty has brought dinosaurs to jugglers to world-renown acrobats and yo-yo experts to entertain and educate.

As one of very few black staff members at Tech, Betty has been active in promoting diversity on campus. Her presence on numerous campus-wide committees and boards helps ensure diversity is a significant and integral part of campus policies. She has received many awards from Tech and the community including the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Spark Plug Award, Blue Key Clair M. Donovan Award and the Michigan Tech Employee Excellence Award.

Betty Chavis’ upbeat attitude, colorful clothes, and personal charisma make her stand out as a very special person – one that we feel privileged to know.

RECOGNIZE A JOB WELL DONE!
The Student Affairs Customer Service Innovation Team is currently collecting stories about extremely positive campus interactions and experiences from staff members. If you have one to share please send it to Les Cook at lpc@mtu.edu.