Broomball at Michigan Tech

Every year, students at Michigan Tech eagerly await the beginning of the spring semester. The six-week broomball season starts on the first Tuesday after students return.

Broomball is a sport similar to hockey, but students use tennis shoes and brooms instead of ice skates and sticks. Unlike other schools, games take place outside on rinks students build and maintain themselves. Games are played on weekdays from 5:15pm-11:15pm and on weekends from 11:00am-11:15pm. Even when it’s cold, students still bundle up to go out and play or just watch a game.

Broomball is run by a 12-member student Broomball Committee, which began as part of the Inter-Residence Hall Council (IRHC) in the early 1990s. The committee plans and runs the season and hires the massive support staff made up of referees and rink staff.

All students, faculty, and full-time staff can play IRHC Broomball. Team registration takes place in October, though players can still be added to existing teams on add/drop dates in December and January.

The recent expansion of the sport was pioneered by the Broomball Chair, Dustin Sommer. Through his hard work, Broomball expanded to three rinks, which increased the number of teams and players by nearly forty percent. With over 2000 players, almost one-third of the entire student body population plays broomball!

Though IRHC Broomball is not associated with the Winter Carnival competition, there are still a variety of events the Broomball Committee puts on during the festivities. During All-Nighter, Broomball has a Skills Competition, an All-Star Game, and ice skating on the rinks for students and families. Games will also be occurring all day long during the rest of Winter Carnival break. Consider catching a broomball game and grabbing a free cup of hot chocolate from the IRHC Cocoa Shack!

Staff Focus

These Student Affairs staff were featured in the “Staff Match” area in the fall newsletter. Take a few minutes to learn something about someone you may not know, who is contributing toward the success of Michigan Tech. The winner of the last Staff Match was Karen Giddings.

Carol Janisse

I started working at Michigan Tech in May of 1993 and have worked in different areas including Facilities & the ME-EM. I am currently the secretary for the Undergraduate Student Government, Student Organizations and the Michigan Tech Lode. I love working for and with, our wonderful students. I am married and have two sons, two grandsons and five granddaughters. I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, watching movies and water aerobics.

Colleen Erva

I started working in the Financial Aid Office as an undergraduate student. I was born and raised in Houghton and since the majority of my family lives here, I wanted to stay in the area after I graduated. I was fortunate a full-time position opened up in the Financial Aid Office in August of 1992. I come from a family of eight and I’m happy to say that seven of us are Michigan Tech grads. I enjoy biking, snow shoeing, crafts and spending time with my friends and family.

Matt McCormick

I work for the Career Center and Alumni Relations departments where I develop the websites, manage third-party software such as eRecruiting, and help out in many other areas. I graduated in 2005 with a B.S. degree in Bioinformatics. I also work in the Forestry Department doing bioinformatics work. Before my current position I was a student employee in SAS. I live in Painsdale and am a member of the Adams Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Jim Schultz

I came to Houghton from the Detroit area in 1971 to be a student at Michigan Tech. I earned my bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering in 1975 and began working for Upper Peninsula Power Company shortly after graduation. I worked at UPPCO 19 years before coming to work at Michigan Tech in 1995. Since 1997, I’ve worked in Housing. I married Gay Laukka from Laurium in 1984 and we have two girls, Annalee, 12 and Emma, 10.
We asked staff: What is your favorite activity or aspect of Winter Carnival?

**John Aho**
President, Blue Key
Rochester, MN
4th Year:
Mathematics: Actuarial Concentration
Biology: Minor in German

He describes one of his favorite Carnival memories below: "One of my favorite activities was working at the WMTU booth during Carnival. We set up a snow bike obstacle course and people had to race each other around the track. It was crazy and was pretty out there but it was an all around good time."

**Amy Bastion**
Calumet, MI
4th Year:
Anthropology: Minor in International Spanish & History

Amy returns to Tech spring semester after her Study Abroad experience in Mexico. She had no clear cut answer if she was glad to be back, explaining, "I had a great time in Mexico on Study Abroad, I traveled to a different state every weekend and saw many crazy and interesting things and not to mention ate a ton of different foods. But who wouldn't miss the U.P.? The whole time I was there I was craving pasties!! So, what is she was looking forward to about Carnival? "The snow statues are always incredible, they are amazing every year. Plus, The All-Nighter is a great time to get out and be a part of campus. I think it really pulls MTU together and shows that we're not just a school we're a community."

**Jesse Smith**
Member Nordic Ski & Cross Country Team
Traverse City, MI
1st Year:
Engineering: Undeclared

Jesse has been Nordic skiing since he was a freshman in high school. He became involved in the sport competitively through the encouragement of family friends. "My babysitter and her sister were both on the high school ski team and told me how much fun it was. They were also good friends of our family, so I saw skiing ever since." He is looking forward to seeing the statues during Carnival. He shares, "I have been up here a few weeks after Carnival and seen their remains, but I've never seen them in their prime." In addition to competing in two sports, he plays violin in his spare time and is considering joining Tech's orchestra next year.

**Mairi Smith-Riske**
President, American Marketing Association
Ostego, MI
4th Year:
Civil Engineering

Mairi is a 2008 Winter Carnival Queen candidate. She was nominated by Circle K and it sounded like so much fun and a great opportunity to be directly involved with Winter Carnival. She shares, "So far, it's been a phenomenal experience getting to know other queen candidates and receiving so much support from my family and friends."

**Travis Velasco**
Treasurer, Delta Sigma Phi
Elk River, MN
4th Year:
International Business

His favorite part of Carnival is the All-Nighter (although this year she is, of course looking forward to the Queen's competition). "I love seeing the campus come together, eating free chili, listening to the bands and seeing the campus transform overnight." Mairi is also a member of Circle K, His House Christian Fellowship and has been both a RA and an OTL.

**Olivia Wills**
Member Praise in Effect
Black Student Association
Detroit, MI
1st Year:
Chemistry

Olivia chose to come to Tech after she visited during Open House 2006. She shares, "out of all the college campuses I've visited, Tech was the one where I saw myself." That sentiment combined with a love of snow proved to be a winning combination. She is looking forward to seeing the finished statues and some of the activities, like ice bowling. She adds, "I hear there's a big dance party during the All-Nighter." In addition to her memberships with PFE and BSA she is also involved with Campus Crusade for Christ and Glory II Campus Ministry. In her spare time she enjoys singing, writing poetry, reading, and solving sudoku puzzles.

**Travis Velasco**
Treasurer, Delta Sigma Phi
Elk River, MN
4th Year:
International Business

Travis dedicates 40 hours per week, for 3-1/2 weeks to building the Delta Sigma Phi statue. Additionally, he participates in several special events including curling, snow volleyball and tug-o-war.

**Lori Muhlig**
Native-American Outreach Coordinator

"I love the opportunity to bring high school students to campus during Winter Carnival. It is a great time to showcase the ingenuity and creativity of our students."

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**2008 Winter Carnival Events**
For a full listing of all Carnival events visit: www.tech.mtu.edu/carnival

**Wednesday, February 6**
4:00 p.m. All-nighter Statue construction begins
10:00 p.m. Winter Carnival recess begins

**Thursday, February 7**
5:00 p.m & 9:00 p.m. Stage Revue performances at Rozsa Center

**Friday, February 8**
7:07 pm Hockey vs. Wisconsin at the SDC

**Saturday, February 9**
5:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony in MUB Ballroom A
5:07 pm Hockey vs. Wisconsin at the SDC
8:30 p.m. Torchlight Parade followed by Fireworks at Mont Ripley

**Winter Carnival 2008**

John current Blue Key member, cites many of the traditional Winter Carnival activities as favorites: stage revue, statues and All-Nighter. In addition to his activities with Blue Key he is also a WMTU staff member and DJ.

"One of my favorite activities was working at the WMTU booth during Carnival. We set up a snow bike obstacle course and people had to race each other around the track. It was crazy and was pretty out there but it was an all around good time."
Message from the Vice-President

When I first visited campus nearly five years ago I heard faculty, staff and students talking about this thing called Winter Carnival. While I found it intriguing, I’m not sure I clearly understood how something involving snow/ice, brooms, irons, gas cans, and sub-zero temperatures around the clock could be that cool.

After my first experience in February 2004, I understood more fully. It was more than cool, actually bitter cold.

However, I did have a new appreciation for all that comes with the events surrounding Winter Carnival and each year look forward to the creativity, enthusiasm and devotion of our students as they participate in Queens, skits, human bobsled races, skiing and many other events surrounding this annual ritual.

One might ask how does Winter Carnival and its subsidiary events embrace Michigan Tech’s brand image and goals of attracting/supporting world class and diverse faculty, staff and students, delivering a distinctive and rigorous discovery based learning experience; and establishing world-class research, scholarship and innovation. I may be wrong, but for me I cannot think of another event or experience at Michigan Tech that encapsulates nearly all of these pieces into one. Being involved in Winter Carnival for our students is in many ways like a large learning laboratory rich with opportunities for students to interact with others, explore ideas and discover new ways of doing things. It is an opportunity for our students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply these principles to structures made out of non-traditional materials. Remember the giant sub-woofer speaker made of snow? It is a chance to gain valuable business acumen by developing a business plan, soliciting donations and honing their skills in problem solving over the course of some 4-6 months of planning and organizing the event. Did you know that Blue Key raises thousands of dollars each year? For those looking to be on the next season of American Idol, it is an opportunity to showcase their innovative and creative side. For some, Winter Carnival is an annual pilgrimage back to campus, for others it is an opportunity to visit the Keewenaw and learn more about Michigan Tech. Winter Carnival is a time for our students and community together to celebrate the distinctiveness of Michigan Tech, the beauty of the Copper Country, the rigor of our students and the discovery-based learning of which we are so proud.

I would also suggest that Winter Carnival is a time to celebrate not only what makes Michigan Tech unique but also a time for many of us to increase our “snow global” understanding of the world. From “What We Love the Most, From Coast to Coast”, “A Frozen Commotion From the Depths of the Ocean” and “Ancient Worlds Come to Play in Snowy Drifts of Modern Day” are all themes with meaning and value. These themes are not only rich in entertainment value but help us to reflect upon the world from historical, environmental and sociological contexts.

Bright, motivated and adventurous students create the future! Not only do they create the future, they create magnificent snow statues.

Over the next few weeks we all have an opportunity to be immersed into this snow globe of wonder, it is an opportunity for us to embrace the heart and soul of our campus, our students. I look forward to “Frightful Creatures with Chilling Features” and hope you do as well.

Thanks and you have my best wishes for a year filled with peace and prosperity,

Les

Staff Match

Match the staff member to their respective clue and win a large pizza. Submit your guesses by Friday, February 22nd to lheinone@mtu.edu.

1. Rob Bishop
   A. Gardening is an obvious hobby for this Student Affairs staffer.

2. Theresa Jacques
   B. Related to a former United States President and an Academy Award winning actor.

3. Rose Martell
   C. Has logged many miles on the road in a University vehicle.

4. Bill Roberts
   D. Began their career at Michigan Tech as a Dining Services Manager.