Keynote Speaker: Erna Grasz
Organization: Asante Africa Foundation

Erna Grasz co-founded Asante Africa Foundation with two visionary African women from Kenya and Tanzania. While spending 25 years in the corporate world as a senior executive, she earned the reputation as a strategic leader, “organizer of chaos” and with demonstrated success in diverse industries, including medical device, defense research, and semiconductor capital equipment.

In 2011 she left the corporate world to manage the organization full time.

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Presenters: Christine Wood, Melody Harmon, Jacob Herzog, Daniel Woodall
Organization: iDesign

Presentation Title: Quebrada Platano & Rio Oeste Abajo Water Systems in Bocas del Toro, Panama

Abstract: The purpose of this project was to travel to various Ngobe communities in the Bocas del Toro of province of Panama to assess their water systems and test their water quality. The first Ngobe community was called Quebrada Platano. This community was up in the mountains with two aqueducts and one potential spring source. The second Ngobe community was called Rio Oeste Abajo. This community was along a paved road about 20 minutes away via bus from Almirante, the nearest town. This community has one aqueduct with two water sources feeding into it. The water sources from the Quebrada Platano and Rio Oeste Abajo region were spatially and hydraulically measured, waypointed, and water quality was tested. With this information, our team is able to make design proposals for each community’s water systems.

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Presenters: Lianne Novak, Sonja Welch

Organization: Global Leadership, Pavlis Honors College

Presentation Title: Pavlis Honors College: Project Overview for Ghana 2018

Abstract: We will be describing the projects conducted in Ghana this summer through the Pavlis Honors College.

Presenters: Andrew Miscimarra, Lauren Sandy

Organization: Global Leadership, Pavlis Honors College

Presentation Title: 2018 Global Leadership - Projects in Tanzania

Abstract: Four Michigan Tech students traveled to Tanzania for 5 weeks, working on various projects through the Global Leadership Pathway of the Pavlis Honors College. These projects included STEM education, building hand-washing stations, and a data metric project for a children’s home. This presentation will cover the successes and challenges of these projects and discuss future potential projects in Tanzania.

Presenters: Charles Fugate, Jennifer McDonald

Organization: Global Leadership, Pavlis Honors College

Presentation Title: The Cultural Experience of International Immersion

Abstract: While traveling in Ghana and Tanzania, both teams experienced new cultures. They will discuss what it was like to live there, how they got around from place to place and how they interacted with their in country connections.
Presenters: Amanda Moya & Andrew Miscimarra

Organization: Global Leadership, Pavlis Honors College

Presentation Title: Design Thinking: Putting People First

Abstract: In this workshop participants with gain an understanding of the basics of Design Thinking and how it can help to facilitate a human-centered approach to design. Utilizing makerspace resources participants will try their skills at designing an innovative solution to a D80 challenge.

The “Art” of D80 Presenter: Tomas Co

Organization: MTU

Presentation Title: Inequities: An Artist's View

Abstract: I often use art to try to understand and empathize with the state of the world around me. Lately, I find it difficult to accept the inequities between rich people and poor people, or generally between people with power and people who do not. I do not have answers. For now, I simply wish to voice my sadness and sympathy. Hopefully, I could articulate these feelings and help in the discussion towards possible solutions.

The “Art” of D80 Presenter: Amanda Vermeer

Organization: Global Leadership, Pavlis Honors Pathway Program

Presentation Title: A Video Snapshot of Ghanaian Culture

Abstract: I traveled to Ghana in summer of 2016 with my Pavlis Institute team to live and work alongside locals as we implemented sustainable projects. For the duration of our stay, I filmed video clips constantly - the resulting compilation offers a snapshot of the culture and daily lives of the Ghanaian people. I intend to create a more in-depth documentary for the completion of my capstone project.
ASB Presenters: Jessica Geroux and Kyla Valenti

Organization: Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Presentation Title: Doing Our Part: Alternative Spring Break Service Trips

Abstract: The purpose of this presentation is to explain the importance of alternative spring break trips, specifically focusing on our experiences on the Memphis trip. The Memphis trip was a week of community service in a variety of neighborhoods through local non-profits within the Memphis community, but it became so much more. It became an environment that stimulated personal growth within the Tech students that attended it, allowed them to gain awareness to the challenges the communities they visited experienced, and cued discussion on what could be done to help these individuals. Through sharing our experience, we will stress the importance of providing aid to underserved communities, being aware of the daily challenges these communities face as well as the benefits volunteering provides to both students and these communities.

ASB Presenters: Stuart Liburd, Logan McMillan & Jessica Geroux

Organization: National Society of Black Engineers Pre-College Initiative program

Presentation Title: Doing Our Part: Alternative Spring Break Service Trips

Abstract: The National Society of Black Engineers Pre-College Initiative program will lead the world in enhancing the pre-college students' Academic, Technical, and Leadership skills in order to maximize their success in life. The Pre-College Initiative (PCI) Program is designed to stimulate the interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, or STEM. The goal is to encourage students in grades K-12 to attend college and pursue technical degrees. Our PCI program provides activities to help students discover firsthand how engineering and technology relate to the world around them and discover the excitement of academic excellence, leadership, technical development and teamwork.
ASB Presenter: Chelsea Cedarquist
Organization: Habitat for Humanity
Presentation Title: Panel: Doing Our Part: Alternative Spring Break Service Trips

Abstract: Planning for the Habitat for Humanity spring break trip starts in the middle of the fall semester prior to the trip in the spring. The chapter members vote on a location and further planning happens from there. The MTU chapter has been to Washington, North Carolina, and New Mexico in the past few years. On the trips, the members attending help to construct a house for a local family in need that is unable to afford a safe place to live. At the build sites, we are able to work alongside the family receiving the home. This allows us volunteers to hear the families' backgrounds and stories, giving even more meaning to our service trip.

Presenters: Erin Lau, Ryan Olsen, TJ Jaksa, Nathan Priest
Organization: iDesign
Presentation Title: PanaMac Bridge Team from I-Design

Abstract: Our presentation will cover the data collection and design process of a suspension bridge connecting two communities in Panama.

Presenter: Addie Saltarelli
Organization: Peace Corps Prep
Presentation Title: Upper Peninsula Education System

Abstract: This past summer I taught science at Clear Lake Education Center, instructing kids K-8 from around the U.P. I want to present the broad scope of my experience interacting with kids from poor communities, what I learned as a teacher, and the exclusivity of not only education in the U.P. but in Americas education system as a whole.
Abstract: As a previous summer staffer for a non-profit home repair organization known as the Appalachia Service Project, I will describe my experience living in rural Kentucky. I will discuss the process I took in order to repair a total of thirteen homes in need of emergency repair. I intend to tell stories of stereotypes about the Appalachian culture and how I came to better understand the culture. I will use two to three case studies to describe the difficult decisions and sacrifices that people in central Appalachia must make and the type of poverty that many families are facing.

Presenter: Laura Schimmel
Organization: Engineers Without Borders
Presentation Title: Lessons learned from designing and constructing a well in the rural highlands of Guatemala