

Instant Messages

Notes and News from Student Affairs

Summer 2011, Volume 7, Issue 1



Dr. Gloria Melton Retiring—submitted by *Beth Lunde*



Student Affairs Leadership Team
Left to Right—Beth Lunde, Suzanne Sanregret, John Lehman, Les Cook, Beth Pollins and center Gloria Melton

In late August, Michigan Tech will say goodbye to one of our best, Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students. Now heading into retirement, Gloria began her career at Michigan Tech in 1980 as a visiting instructor, and has served as coordinator of Minority Student Services, assistant and associate dean of students, and, since 2004, dean of students.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to interact with Gloria knows that she has worked tirelessly for the success of students. From the very beginning of her tenure here, she's proven to be a passionate student advocate, mentor, caregiver, and engaged student organization advisor. Gloria has also been quite active in the Houghton community. She and her husband, Dr.

Willie Melton, a retired faculty member in Social Sciences, raised two active successful children.

Commenting on her retirement, Dr. Les Cook, Vice President for Student Affairs remarked, "Gloria has taught me a great deal during my years at Michigan Tech and I will always treasure her

friendship and collegiality. I have appreciated her steadiness, grace and patience in dealing with all types of issues and personalities and her ability to listen without prejudice. She has a real gift for making every individual feel as though they are the most important. We will all miss her sense of perspective as well as the wisdom she shares."

Other colleagues and students add that Gloria is relentlessly positive, a true voice for all students, patient, caring, thoughtful, supportive, and persistent in her efforts to help students. She has a true love for Michigan Tech and for the many students she has assisted along the way.

Best wishes Gloria, we will all miss you!

Headlines—Student Life

Center for Diversity and Inclusion—Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? That Would be Renee Wells, Assistant Director of CDI, and She's Focusing on LGBTQ Issues

COMPASS—The Countdown to O-week Begins with New Orientation Coordinator, Katie Buehner, Leading the Way

Housing and Residential Life—Student Life Staff Gets Certified in First Aid, CPR, and AED

Student Activities—Launching New Visions for Late Night Programming, Community Service, and HuskyLEAD

New Staff in Student Affairs



Front Row—left to right

Renee Wells, Center for Diversity & Inclusion
Katie Buehner, COMPASS
Katy Bird, Housing & Residential Life

Second Row—left to right

Trish Bennett, Housing & Residential Life
Shellie Hubert, Enrollment Services Info Systems
Mike Malloy, Housing & Residential Life



Left

Mel Pearson, Head Hockey Coach

Center

Laura Williams, Housing & Residential Life

Right

Bill Muckalt, Assistant Hockey Coach

Conference Presentations and Publications

Annual Equity Within the Classroom Conference—April 2011

Presenter: Madeline Mercado Voelker, Center for Diversity and Inclusion

Title: MICUP/Unlocking Your Future Program: Partnerships with Community College

Auxiliary Services Professional Staff Development—May 1, 2011

Presenters: Lori Sherman, Madeline Mercado Voelker, and Sezi Fleming, Diversity and Inclusion

Title: Diversity 101

IACAC Annual Conference—May 4, 2011

Co-Presenter: Chrissy Grotzke, Admissions

Title: Regional Representatives: How Do You Get Them & What Do They Do

International Institute for Restorative Practices 14th World Conference—June 15-17, 2011

Presenter: Rob Bishop, Dean of Students Office

Title: Restorative Practices in Higher Education: Using a Full Spectrum Approach to Address Student Conflict/Conduct

Student Affairs Leadership Council, Washington DC

Contributor: Bryant Weathers, formerly of Student Activities

Title: Student Affairs Technology Update on QR Codes for the Education Advisory Board Report

Webinar Through the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange—July 12, 2011

Hosts: Susan Liebau and Kerri Sleeman, COMPASS and Facilities Management

Title: The Comprehensive Retention Review

Publication: Hope for the Wife of the Alcoholic: A Guide for Therapists and the Wives They Work With

Author: Larry Wall, DCSW, Counseling and Wellness Services

Message from the Vice President for Student Affairs—Dr. Les Cook

Pick up a copy of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist* or any other printed piece and you will find a variety of headlines with a connection to higher education. Titles such as “Is College Worth It?”, “Making College Relevant”, “What Bubble?”, “Why Would-Be Engineers End Up as English Majors”, etc. are all recent headings. Many of these articles suggest that higher education is no longer accessible or as valuable as it once was, some even go so far as to say the entire system is in need of a transformational makeover. In a recent Pew Study, 57% of Americans indicate that higher education does not provide good value for the dollars spent; 75% indicate that pursuit of a college degree is too expensive for most. However, in the same study, 86% of those with a college degree indicate that obtaining a degree was a worthwhile investment for them. Whether you agree or disagree with these articles the discussion is occurring and deserves consideration.

Preparing students to create the future is our mission. A degree from Michigan Tech has always been viewed as an investment in one’s future; with the current economic situation and especially



The Cook Family

the job market, it has become even more so. There are telltale signs of this value proposition everywhere. The following are a few examples that tell this story at Michigan Tech:

- 66% Six year graduation rate
- 87% Career placement rate
- \$53,000 Average starting salary for a Michigan Tech grad
- \$22,000 Average debt Michigan Tech students graduate with
- 90% Graduating seniors agree/strongly agree that a Michigan Tech degree is valuable

- \$90,000 Average median salary at mid career
- 86% Graduating seniors indicate they would choose Michigan Tech again

Couple these numbers with the rich research project experiences our students have with faculty members, playing on a national championship basketball team, exposing junior high and high school students to the wonders of math and science, working on a clean water project in Ghana, planning a program in a residence hall, or leading an enterprise project abroad and it’s easy to visualize our value proposition.

Is college worth it? As we prepare to welcome the class of 2015 and beyond and catch up with those coming back to campus, it’s good to keep in mind the return our students gain on the investment made. We all know Michigan Tech is a special place with a unique culture and environment. There are real costs involved in choosing to enroll at Michigan Tech but the experiences are real as well, these combined equal real success.

Thanks to everyone that contributes to this success and go Huskies!

Headlines—Dean of Students

Career Services—Wall Street Journal Carries Michigan Tech Career Services Insights on Future Jobs in IT and Technology

Conduct Services—Restorative Practices Gain Ground and National Attention

Counseling and Wellness Services—Nancy Taglione Selected as Faculty Mentor/Liaison for Michigan State University’s U.P. Master’s Social Work Program

Disability Services—Technology and Collaboration Improve Services for Students

Attitudes are contagious is yours worth catching?--Anonymous

Michigan Tech

Meet the Staff—From left to right

*These Student Affairs staff were featured in the spring newsletter.
Take a few minutes to learn about your colleagues.*



Heather Simpson began her career at Michigan Tech in 2005 and is the Assistant Director of COMPASS (Center for Orientation, Mentoring, Parents, and Academic Student Success). She is originally from Oregon and moved from California to Michigan in 2003.

Heather resides in Copper City with her two dogs, Samantha and Bud. In her free time, Heather enjoys spending time at the lake, kayaking, gardening, and reading.

most of those years spent in different roles in Career Services.

She has two sons, Christopher, a graduate of Michigan Tech and Dustin who has served in “Operation Enduring Freedom” (Afghanistan). Tina enjoys being a grandma to her two grandchildren, Chloe and Max.

Vicky Roy is currently in her 6th year at Michigan Tech and works as an administrative aide in the Registrar’s Office. She began her career

Tina Giachino is currently the Manager of Job Development, Career Services. She has been at Michigan Tech for over 20 years,

at Michigan Tech in 1984 in the Housing Office before leaving the area with her husband Chris.

In 2001, they returned to Hancock. Their two sons Jordan (21) and Alex (19) are both currently attending Michigan Tech. In her free time, Vicky enjoys reading, cooking, and relaxing at home.

Steve Patchin originally from Midland, Michigan has been at Michigan Tech for three years. He is currently the Director for the Center for Pre-College Outreach.

Steve and his wife Colette have three children, Taylor, Sean, and Jake and two dogs Hallie and Annie. In his free time, Steve enjoys researching and writing about innovations in education, spending time with his family, and cruising on his pontoon boat.

Headlines—Enrollment Services

Admissions—Female Engineers Flocking to Michigan Tech-Highest Enrollment in Eight Years Expected this Fall

Enrollment Services Information Systems—Summer Degrees Auto-awarded Based on DARS Audit

Financial Aid—Financial Aid and Admissions Collaborate and Launch Net Cost Estimator

International Programs and Services—IPS Invites Everyone to Follow this Year’s Parade of Nations on Facebook

Pre-College Outreach—277 Students “Got their GEEK on” at WIE and ESP this Summer

Registrar’s Office—The Grade Change Process has been Automated: Grade Changes are now Made Online through Banweb!

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Cool Summer Savings, Great Summer Values—submitted by Travis Pierce

In a collaborative effort to provide better service and save on overhead costs, Housing and Residential Life, Facilities Management, Residential Dining Services, the Athletic Department, and Pre-College Outreach Programs worked to move all summer programs to Wadsworth Hall and Hillside Place. As a result of closing McNair Hall and Douglass Houghton Hall, an estimated cost savings for summer 2011 was \$100,000. This was created by streamlining processes and staffing primarily in the areas of Facilities Management and Residential Dining Services.

So where is everyone going now that they're in Wads you may be asking—good question! Youth Programs is being housed on the fourth and fifth floors with Athletics and Recreation on the third floor. The second floor is housing the summer school students and the rest of the building plus Hillside Place is being used for adult programs.

The floors with youth participants under 18 have been secured so only those individuals

in the programs have ID card access providing a more secure environment than in past years. This gave more peace of mind to parents/guardians bringing their children to the third safest college in the United States and the safest college in Michigan.

New this summer is the Athletic Department turning over the residence hall functions and counseling to the Housing and Residential Life staff. This effort has led both groups to increased efficiency and allows for each group to do what they do best. Athletics providing mentoring and coaching to the participants at the Student Development Complex and Housing providing supervision and programming in the halls.

In writing this article and talking with the Housing and Resi-

dential Life student staff, they thought it was important to show you the shirts that I picked out for them. Little did I know that the collars would have a racing checkered strip and the shirts would be 60 percent cotton and 40 percent polyester. I guess they wanted moisture wicking, not moisture absorbing. To poke fun at my choice, they sent me this photo, which I might add included our new residence life coordinator Mike Malloy disguised in the helmet driving the van.

As we approach the finish line for the summer and the starting line for the fall, take a moment and grab a bite to eat in the Wads dining hall and see all of the future Michigan Tech students.



Headlines—Athletics and Recreation

Athletics—Michigan Tech Athletics Marketing Wins Five Awards at NACMA Conference

Recreation—Summer Sports Camps/Clinics Have Enjoyed a Busy Summer

Madeline Mercado Voelker, Center for Diversity and Inclusion was the winner of a large pizza from the MUB. Thanks to everybody who participated in the spring newsletter Staff Match.

Michigan Tech

Student Affairs Staff Facts



Attending Michigan Tech
Jordan and Alex Roy

Staff Members Have:

22—Children attending Michigan Tech
89— Children under 18 (42 females/47 males)
104—Children over 18 (56 females/48 males)
96— Grandchildren
Three sets of twins
One family fostering children



Over 18
Elizabeth Way & Lily



Under 18
Randy & Sam Roberts
Steven Voelker



Twins
Paul and Marie Lorenzetti
(Joan Tapani)



Grandchildren
Jovie Rae & Chloe
(Beth Pollins)

Wadsworth Hall - Summer 2011 submitted by Clarence Hardwick, Alumni from Wayne Community College District, MICUP Program Participant 2010 and 2011



**MICUP Program students with
Physics faculty**

Life in Wadsworth Hall this summer was much more convenient than last summer. We didn't have to climb the hill to McNair three times a day to have our meals. Living and taking our meals in the same building also helped us save time, which is a precious com-

modity given the work load that we had with going to class and doing research.

A student coming to Wadsworth Hall right out of high school

would love the independence and privacy, as well as the support of the resident assistant.

Also, because laundry facilities are on every floor, just a short walk from their room, the convenience of doing laundry was great. Another good feature of living in "Wads" (as

we call it) is the kitchenette, which is just down the hall from the room. There is a stove, a microwave oven, and a refrigerator for student use. If you have a favorite dish, you are free to buy the ingredients and cook to your heart's and palate's delight.

Life at Wadsworth Hall can get a bit noisy. But there are quiet time rules in effect to help keep the peace and quiet during study hours. Wads is in a great location, just across the street from many campus buildings like Fisher Hall (to watch movies), the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and the Library.

The newsletter committee members include Lynda Heinonen, Susan Liebau, and Mary Ann Struthers. If you have any suggestions or comments, please forward them to lheinone@mtu.edu.

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