

# Tech Topics

April 9, 1999  
Vol. 31, No. 27

Michigan Tech's Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Published weekly by University Relations

## National Advisory Board here next week

Michigan Tech's National Advisory Board will be on campus Monday, April 12, to exchange ideas with members of the University community. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to the board's general meeting, scheduled for 8:30 a.m.–noon, in Memorial Union Ballroom A.

The board will discuss the Manufacturing Initiative, which includes a number of educational and grad programs at MTU that have a manufacturing component. Topics include the Master of Engineering program, the Center for Technological Innovation, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship, the Engineering Enterprise program for undergraduates, and more.

## MTU auction Saturday

Michigan Tech's annual surplus property auction will be held on Saturday, April 10, at the Houghton County Arena, in Hancock. The auction starts at 11:00 a.m.; viewing and registration begins at 10:00 a.m.

Property Office Supervisor **Raymond Lasanen** promises that there really is something for everybody. In addition to office furnishings and pretty-good older computers, the auction includes vehicles (a 1990 Ford van that seats eight, two Dodge pickups), kitchen stuff (from freezers to flatware, courtesy of the Ford Forestry Center), power tools, a lawnmower, and lots, lots more.

Bring cash and/or your checkbook. Happy bidding!

## All-skater reunion planned

If you know anyone who skated or trained with **Cheryl DePuydt** as part of the Copper County Skating Academy or the Portage Lake Figure Skating Club, the Physical Education Department would like their name and address. All such skaters, dating from 1972 to the present, are being invited to an all-skater reunion set for August 21. The event will include a family skate, picnic, pasta buffet dinner, and dancing.

If you or anyone you know is a skating alumnus, please contact DePuydt at 487-2994 or 487-2715.

*We have a Bill of Rights. What we need is a Bill of Responsibilities.*

—BILL MAHER



## Michigan Tech's power system on the mend

MTU facilities staff and Upper Peninsula Power Company personnel restored power to Michigan Tech's main campus at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7. The exact cause of the 3:35 p.m. blackout was unclear Thursday morning, according to **Bill McKilligan**, manager of facilities operations. "We had a high-voltage power failure, but at this point, we're not sure how it happened," he said.

The power outage was associated with two equipment failures that happened almost simultaneously. Which was the actual cause is still uncertain. Perhaps the most dramatic was the failure of a large voltage regulator at the UPPCO substation on Phoenix Drive. "It blew up like a roman candle," McKilligan said. The Houghton Fire Department was summoned as a precautionary measure, but the fire was contained and burned itself out. UPPCO electricians were able to bypass the damaged voltage regulator, restoring power to campus by about 4:30 p.m. Replacement equipment was later shipped up from Green Bay and installed.

In addition, the high-voltage switch gear serving the U. J. Noblet Building also failed. "It's like a light switch, but much bigger," McKilligan said. "So when it goes out, the

current goes to ground, like lightening. The fuses blew all over campus, which is what's supposed to happen. We are isolating the troublesome switch gear and are working to repair the damage."

MTU facilities staff were able to restore full power to the building by about 8:30 p.m., and electricians stayed on the job until after midnight making repairs.

"They came in like a SWAT team yesterday," said Professor **Glenn Mroz** (SFWP). "We have genetic material that needs to be stored at 80 below 0, and they brought in generators to run freezers. Some had broken in the ensuing brownout after the power went out, and the facilities guys were right in there fixing the compressors and rewiring.

"I was pleasantly surprised at how much they cared and what they can do when the chips are down," he added. "We could have lost millions of dollars worth of research. They were really impressive and a really nice bunch of guys. They went about their jobs very professionally and restored order."

Professor **Vincent Chiang** agreed. "There was at least a couple million dollars of DNA in those freezers," he said. "And those guys were great—they came in like it was World War II."

The Noblet Building is currently on a "permanent temporary feed."

"UPPCO pitched in, and we are using some wiring from their grid that hadn't been used since the 1980s," Mroz said.

"Miraculously, that stuff still works, and that's why we're in business today."

## MTU researcher seeks safer explosives

*Submitted by the News Bureau*

Professor **A. Barry Kunz** (Electrical Engineering) has received a ten-year, \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Naval Research to make explosives more reliable.

Kunz and a team of researchers will attempt "to answer the scientific question: What happens in the transition of an energetic solid from benign to explosive?" An energetic solid is any solid that will explode or burn vigorously. "What surprises most people, myself included, is that the transition is not thermally activated. It happens too quickly," he said. "Dr. Yogi Gupta, at Washington State University, has found that it takes less than 100 picoseconds, or ten to the negative ten seconds. It is a complicated problem, but by understanding it, we hope to be able to control it."

The research team plans to design and guide users to new, safer, and more-energetic explosives. "One success we have had is to accurately deduce the properties of Fox 7, an explosive developed in Sweden that had not yet been investigated," Kunz said. By researching the explosives, they hope to find which are the least stable and eliminate their use.

Their final goal is to design a higher concentration of fluorine for the next generation of missiles. These would enable them to burn boron instead of aluminum to make them more powerful and, hopefully, more reliable.

Benefits of their research could include safer and more reliable military systems, improved space exploration through the use of fluorine explosives, and safer conditions for researchers. "Safety is the biggest concern," Kunz said. "You don't want your explosives to blow up before you want them to blow up."

## Executive dinner a success

Approximately seventy MTU students and professionals attended the second annual Executive Dinner March 19.

The evening provided students a chance to experience a common business event—the formal dinner. In addition to an address by CFO of Rowe Engineering **Robert Mark**, "How to Put Some Magic into your Early Career," the dinner featured remarks by **Betty Gaff** (Career Center) on what not to do at a formal dinner. Special guests included President **Curt Tompkins**, Admissions Director **Nancy Rehling**, and SBE Dean **Gene Klippel**. Sponsors were the University Career Center, the School of Business and Economics, and Phi Beta Lambda.

"The Executive Dinner was not only a learning experience, but also a fun and entertaining one," said junior **Ian McKilligan**. "I look forward to next year's because I had such a great time."

## MTU notables

Senior **Wayne Wilcox** (STC) was selected to participate in the first annual National Small-College Intercollegiate Band at the University of Texas at Austin on February 23–24. Wilcox, a trombonist in MTU's Wind Symphony and Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra, joined 79 other students selected from small universities and colleges throughout the United States.

A committee of the College Band Directors National Association selected participants from resumes and recommendations submitted by college band directors. Director of Band and Orchestra **Jeffrey Bell-Hanson** calls Wilcox "one of the finest students with whom I have been privileged to work." Wilcox was selected by the entire fine arts faculty in 1997 as a recipient of the Kiwanis Fine Arts Award. He was also featured as a trombone soloist on a Wind Symphony concert tour through Wisconsin in 1998.

Associate Professor Emeritus **George Love** (humanities) received the Friendship Award February 20 from MTU's Chinese Student &

*(Continued on page 6)*

# MichiganTech

Bill Curnow, executive director, University Relations  
Marcia Goodrich, Tech Topics editor  
Gail Sweeting, electronic marketing assistant

To get Tech Topics via e-mail, send a message to  
MAJORDOMO@MTU.EDU saying SUBSCRIBE TECH-TOPICS-L

Information to be included in Tech Topics should be submitted to the Tech Topics editor in one of the following ways:

- By e-mail to [ttopics@mtu.edu](mailto:ttopics@mtu.edu)
- By campus mail, send typed copies to Tech Topics, University Relations.

Each week, the deadline for submitting information is Friday at 5:00 p.m. for publication the following Friday.

## TIAA-CREF workshops April 13

Michigan Tech and TIAA-CREF are offering two workshops in the Financial Education Series on Tuesday, April 13. Both will be held in EERC 103.

"Approaching Retirement," set for 10:00–11:30 a.m., is geared for employees within ten years of retirement, though all interested persons are invited. Topics include planning retirement income, choosing distribution options, and tax strategies.

"Women and Investing" will be held at 1:30–2:30 p.m. Most women will be solely responsible for their finances at some time in their lives, and this workshop gives information on charting your financial future. Topics include assessing your current finances, understanding investments, defending yourself against personal and financial risks, minimizing the impact of taxes on investments, and the common obstacles to building wealth.

## Learning as developing talent

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development

By William Kennedy, director



Nearly fifteen years ago, Alexander Astin asked us to "imagine what it would be like to work in an institution whose only mission was talent development, where the only activities encouraged or rewarded were those that facilitated the students' personal and intellectual development, and where the rewards were proportional to the institution's success in developing the talents of all its students."\*

Telegraphing this shift in thinking in higher education from teaching to learning, from intentions to achievements, from potential to product, Astin outlined a direction that would become the rallying cry of higher education associations and accrediting agencies for the next fifteen years (and counting).

A Joint Task Force on Student Learning formed through the American Association of Higher Education examined 63 campuses and developed a list of ten learning principles gleaned from this year-long scholarly study of learning and assessment efforts. They concluded

- "Learning is fundamentally about making and maintaining connections."<sup>1</sup> The task force emphasized that, for learning to be durable and persistent, new ideas must be connected with existing knowledge, and students must be given the opportunity to apply new concepts to achieve lasting mastery. This argues for an interactive classroom, teamwork, and collaborative learning. Large classes present distinct challenges to engaging in-class learning. Perhaps we should examine the current practice of teaching fundamental, intellectually challenging material to classes of fifty, or even several hundred, beginning students.
- "Learning is enhanced by taking place in the context of a compelling situation that balances challenges and opportunity, stimulating and utilizing the brain's ability to conceptualize quickly and its capacity and need for contemplation and reflection upon experiences."<sup>1</sup> Can class meetings be vibrant, engaging, and compelling active-learning experiences? After all, is there some purpose to bringing all these folks with all of their stuff five hundred miles to campus, or will the distance-education "talking heads" and endless skill-and-drill CRT screens prove nearly as effective at a considerable cost advantage? Are we simply going through the motions for most of our students when we run through our lecture notes one more time? Do our classroom assessment procedures measure the superficial recall of soon-to-be-forgotten unconnected bits of disciplinary shorthand?
- Researchers from around the globe are moving to the position that "Learning is an active search for meaning *by the learner* constructing knowledge rather than passively receiving it, shaping as well as being shaped by experiences." There is no doubt that memorizing disciplinary (declarative) knowledge is a vitally important component of education, but it is clearly not sufficient. Proponents of what has come to be known as "deep learning" argue that what makes us different from our students is not just that we know more. Rather, what makes us different is our complex ability to apply our knowledge and the fact that our knowledge has transformed the very way that we perceive and approach the world and its problems.
- "Learning is developmental, a cumulative process involving the whole person, relating past and present, integrating the new with the old, starting from but transcending personal concerns and interests."<sup>1</sup> Lasting learning occurs mostly through analogy. Fundamental learning often involves a great deal of initial unlearning. Researchers have found that the unpleasant process of unlearning wrong ideas or inadequate conceptions often must precede meaningful intellectual progress in that wrong ideas may prevent the lasting and effective integration of new ideas.

Next week, we'll examine the other findings of the Joint Task Force on Student Learning.

\* *Achieving Education Excellence*, Jossey-Bass, 1985

<sup>1</sup> "Learning Principles and Collaborative Action," AAHE report

# The Yellowjackets come to Michigan Tech

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment



Winners of two Grammy awards and ten Grammy nominations, the Yellowjackets, known for their appealing blend of jazz, pop, and soul with world beat influences, come to Michigan Tech on Friday, April 9. With one performance only at 8:00 p.m. in Fisher 135, tickets are on sale at the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200) and the SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073).

Acclaimed by *Downbeat Magazine* as "certified long-distance runners in jazz," the Yellowjackets are a perfect ensemble for today's jazz lovers. Hardcore acoustic solos, impressive technique, complex harmonies, an inventive, unpredictable repertoire, accessible melodies, and simple fun in their well executed pop-oriented material have won them a loyal base of fans all over the world.

Warner Brothers recording artists, the Yellowjackets won Grammys in 1986 and 1988. Since then, they've received eight more Grammy nominations, including this year for their CD *Club Nocturne*. Over the years, this great jazz band has continued to chart high, attract enthusiastic crowds and push the limits of contemporary jazz.

The current tour marks the first for drummer Peter Erskine, who has performed and recorded with Joni Mitchell, Freddie Hubbard, Chick Corea, and many others. He first came to prominence with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, but it was his association with Weather Report and the legendary electric bassist Jaco Pastorius that established his place in jazz history.

Bassist Jimmy Haslip, who calls himself "the rock guy" in the group, sometimes works as a session musician recording with the likes of Al Jarreau and others. Together Erskine and Haslip make up a flexible and funky rhythm section.

Sax player, composer, and arranger Bob Mintzer makes a name for himself recording big-band projects. Mintzer is a Coltrane fan, who at one time couldn't hear enough big band music. Although he's influenced by Sonny Rollins and Lester Young, he can also easily play pop/jazz solos reminiscent of Kenny G, "except," says Michael Drexler of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, he "really knows his instrument and what it means to play it well."

Russell Ferante, on keyboard and piano, writes challenging compositions. "The hardest thing to do is to write music that you like that

also has some kind of wider appeal," says Ferante, who grew up listening to jazz and the church music his father played. "It's really challenging and very elusive."

In addition to their work as solo artists and on other individual projects, the Yellowjackets often play backup for vocalists, including for Bobby McFerrin on his recent CD *Bang Zoom*. Piano/keyboardist Russell Ferante was McFerrin's producer on this project.

The band has an impressive repertoire of more than 130 songs. In fact, the Berklee College of Music in Boston teaches two courses about the Yellowjackets' work. They're a composition-oriented collective and are very democratic in choosing songs. Each member brings his own ideas to the group and has an equal vote. In determining the direction of their albums, they look at the last one and the ones before that and try to make the next one really different.

The visit of the Yellowjackets to Michigan Tech is sponsored by the Committee for Campus Enrichment and the Michigan Tech Fund and coordinated through the University Cultural Enrichment Department. Call 487-2844 for further information.

## Vince Morris at Club MUB

The Memorial Union Board is showcasing stand-up comedian Vince Morris in the final MUB Comedy Club of the year on Friday and Saturday, April 9–10, at 8:00 p.m. in the Keweenaw Commons.

Sleek, brash, and charismatic are just a few of the words used to describe Morris' clean style of comedy. He has set himself apart in his non-stereotypical approach, unique charm, and smooth delivery to turn even the most serious subjects into hilarious laughter. Morris made his television debut on BET's *Comic View* and has been featured at The Improv, Jokers, and Hillarities. Comic Dennis Miller has high hopes for Morris, saying, "I was very impressed with his performance. Vince is definitely a comedian of the future, a pleasure to work with."

Admission is \$2 for students and \$4 for non-students. All tickets are sold at the door. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to learn more about Vince Morris, or any of the Memorial Union Board's upcoming events, call 487-2422.

## Date-rape prevention experts to speak at MTU April 13

Katie Koestner, who became a nationally known sexual assault prevention advocate after experiencing date rape in college, will present "He Said—She Said" on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Fisher 135. She will be joined by Brett Sokolow, JD, a specialist in sexual assault policy and law. All members of the MTU community are invited. Advisors of student groups are particularly encouraged to ask their members to attend.

Koestner graduated magna cum laude in 1994 from the College of William and Mary, in Virginia. She went public with her story of date rape in 1990 following the college's inadequate response to her sexual assault. Koestner has appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Geraldo*, *NBC Nightly News*, *CNBC Talk Life*, *The Jane Whitney Show*, *Larry King Live*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and dozens of other programs. She was featured in a *Time* cover story and has been interviewed by numerous major newspapers.

During "He Said—She Said," Koestner will tell her story, and then Sokolow will present

interactive scenarios on sexual assault, with the audience acting as jury. The audience will then be divided into single-sex breakout groups for workshops with Koestner and Sokolow.

Vice Provost and Dean for Student Affairs **Martha Janners** urged students—and anyone who works with students—to attend. "Date rape is preventable when men and women take responsibility for their actions," Janners said. "We hope this event will help students in their decision-making and communication about personal relationships, so that there are fewer (or no) instances of date rape at MTU."

Koestner and Sokolow co-founded Campus Outreach Services in 1994, and have since worked with nearly 600 colleges and universities, high schools, and military institutions throughout the US and Canada. Among their services, they provide awareness and education programs for students and sexual assault risk management consulting for campus administrators.

Koestner and Sokolow have authored or coauthored several books, articles, and book chapters dealing with sexual assault on campus. Koestner lobbied for the federal Victims Bill of Rights law passed in 1992, and Sokolow founded Men Acting for Change at the College of William and Mary.

The visit is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs, Affirmative Action, Counseling Services, Residential Services, Athletics, and Public Safety.

## Amateur artists invited to exhibit in Tech Arts Festival

Submitted by the Memorial Union Board

Amateur MTU artists are invited to display their works at the Tech Arts Festival, set for April 19–23.

Categories include black-and-white photography, color photography, painting, drawing, and other mixed media. Cash prizes will be awarded for the winning entries in each category.

Entries will be accepted at the Memorial Union Board student office, Memorial Union 106, during the week of April 12–16. Applications will be available at the J. R. Van Pelt Library circulation desk, the front desk of each of the dorms, and the Memorial Union Board.

## Man of La Mancha opens next week

Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts

One of the great musicals of the American stage comes to Walker Theatre next week as the fine arts department presents *Man of La Mancha* April 15–17 and 22–24 at 8:00 pm.

**Richard M. Goldstein** directs a cast of twenty-three actors, singers, and dancers. **Jeffrey Bell-Hanson** conducts the orchestra, with choreography by **Laura Aneshansel**.

This pull-out-all-the-stops production is designed to delight everyone in the Michigan Tech community with its rich human comedy and drama. In *Man of La Mancha*, gritty practical realists confront head-in-the-clouds artists and idealists, and everyone's better for it. "Although this is a comedy, it's also pretty serious," says director Goldstein. "By the end of the play, there shouldn't be a dry eye in the house."

Critics hailed the original Broadway production, starring Richard Kiley, as a musical that "delights the eye and ear as it warms the heart." The play won Tony awards as reviewers went over-the-top: "superb, a musical triumph, a musical above and apart from all the others."

The show's best-known song, "The Impossible Dream," celebrates the main character, Don Quixote, hero of Miguel Cervantes' famous novel. In Cervantes' tale, an intensely idealistic Spanish gentleman travels the modern world of 17th-century Spain in the role of an imaginary medieval knight. Unlike today's role-playing superheros, Don Quixote lacks super-skills or magic tricks. An ordinary man with extraordinary idealism and courage, he seems wildly out of touch with everyday reality, surviving in part because of the down-to-earth common sense of his faithful companion, Sancho Panza.

Can our ideals make a difference in the real world? Cervantes explores the question in witty, humorous, and moving stories. Like the plays of Cervantes' contemporary, William Shakespeare, *Don Quixote* delights readers in every generation with high comedy, unforgettable characters, pithy insights into the human condition, and stories that pull our heart strings.

In the musical, author Dale Wasserman constructs a play-within-a-play. Cervantes, in prison, acts out stories of Quixote in order to keep his fellow prisoners from destroying his manuscript. This high-wire act—an artist trying to save his work by winning over a hostile audience with no interest in art—adds ironic twists to the Quixote stories as it brings them to life.

For MTU's production, technical director **Paul Aneshansel** transforms Walker with a monumental stage and special lighting. Costume designer **Mary Carol Friedrich** and her crew have constructed some of the show's elaborate costumes and borrowed others from universities around the US. *Man of La Mancha* features music by Mitch Leigh and lyrics by Joe Darion.

Tickets are available from the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200) and SDC Ticket Office (487-2073) for \$7 general, \$5 seniors, and \$3 students (\$1 more at the door).

They sing like angels with a blend to die for, and, if that sounds a little serious, it shouldn't, because what they do has a great deal more to do with cabaret than a formal concert. They are Bimbetta, five women who combine their passionate performance of Baroque (17th century) songs with drama and a generous dose of humor. If you love to hear gorgeous voices and excellent musicians spiced up with some fun, this is a don't-miss concert. They perform in Fisher 135 as part of the Great Events Series at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 17. You can purchase your tickets at the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200) and the SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073).

Bimbetta is made up of three sopranos accompanied by a cellist and a harpsichordist. They sing 17th century songs about lost love, cruel rejection, fond farewells, and falling head-over-heels in love. These "Spice Girls of the Baroque World" wring every last ounce of emotion from each song. Overturning some of the stuffy formal traditions of the classical recital, Bimbetta breaks conventions and dresses in a varied wardrobe of spandex, miniskirts, cute polka-dotted "dresslets," big hair, and boots. They use props, poetry, slang, lines from

movies, dance, spoken translations of the songs, and other techniques to bring 17th century love songs into the 20th century. They dance, flirt, languish, and sigh according to the words of the songs. It's Baroque with attitude, and Monteverdi, Purcell, and Gabrieli would have been delighted. "The kind of staging we do in our concerts," says one of the sopranos, Sonja Rasmussen, "has to be organic to the music, so it

works for the early music lovers, but it also works for the people the first time in the door."

Classically trained at the Early Music Institute of Indiana University's famed School of Music in Bloomington, Bimbetta has performed at universities, nightclubs, alternative rock venues, and at major festivals in the US and Europe. As individuals, the members of the group have performed with numerous Baroque ensembles and orchestras in the US and in Europe.

Bimbetta's appearance at Michigan Tech is made possible by funding from the Committee for Campus Enrichment and the Michigan Tech Fund, with production assistance from the Student Entertainment Board. Call the University Cultural Enrichment Department (487-2844) for further information.

### Bimbetta at MTU

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment



## Free movies at Tech Arts Festival

Submitted by the Memorial Union Board

The Tech Arts Festival Committee of the Memorial Union Board is presenting two movies, *Swingers* and *Persuasion*, next week in Fisher 135 as part of the annual Tech Arts Festival. Admission is free and open to MTU students, faculty, staff, and their guests only.

*Swingers*, which will be shown on Wednesday, April 14, at 8:00 p.m., has been called "a comedy winner that keeps spinning funny and sexy surprises!" The lives and times of "Generation Xers" are front and center in this comic drama about a group of clean-cut, serious-minded guys who are trying to cope with work and woman troubles against the backdrop of a metropolis. The movie is full of retro-Rat Pack style and wry, self-deprecating humor.

This comment from the *Slacker Film Guide*: "This movie is so cool, it's so hip, it's so . . . money, baby! *Swingers* is just the type of movie to watch on Monday night after spending a long weekend alone, still thinking about the person you used to spend weekends with . . ." Scripted by Jon Favreau and directed by first-time filmmaker Doug Liman, *Swingers* is a provocative, heartfelt film about regular people trying to make it. A great movie for all Xers out there.

The second movie, to be shown on Thursday, April 15, at 8:00 p.m., is based on Jane Austen's novel *Persuasion* and is set in England in 1814. Described in the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "a revealing portrait of the remarkable transformation of a woman rediscovering her heart . . . a pulsing romance based on second chances," the movie manages to go beyond the usual limitations of period films. Although the locations, costumes, and manners are all nineteenth century, the characters are living, breathing individuals with everyday problems that are similar in many ways to our own in the twentieth century. Eight years before the story begins, Anne Elliot (Amanda Root) was engaged to a young naval officer, Frederick Wentworth (Ciaran Hands), but she allowed herself to be persuaded by her trusted friend Lady Russell (Susan Fleetwood) to break off the engagement due to Wentworth's poor financial status. The break produced deep unhappiness in Anne and intense indignation in Wentworth. When the movie opens, Wentworth has returned to find Anne's family on the brink of financial ruin and his own family tenants in her home.

## Kids in hockey? Development Center this summer

The Michigan Tech Hockey Development Center begins June 20 and runs through August 20, offering nine one-week sessions for youth ages 7 through 17.

Instructors include **Tim Watters, Randy McKay, Brent Peterson, Bruce Horsch, and Pat Mikesch**. Call 487-2975 for more information.

## Proposals in progress

Researchers, their proposals, and their potential sponsors are

- **Jean Mayo** (computer science), "POWRE: Controlling Widely Dispersed Computations Using Hardware Clocks," NSF
- **Ulrich Hansmann** (physics), "Development and Application of Generalized-Ensemble Algorithms for Protein-Folding," NSF and NIH
- **Margaret Gale** (SFWP), "Community Responses to Autumn Leaf-Fall in Temporary Woodland Ponds of Northern Minnesota," University of Georgia
- **Casey Huckins** (biological sciences), "Collaborative Research: Mechanisms and Consequences of Specialization in Size-Structured Populations" and "Collaborative Research: Evolution of Trophic Specialization in Sunfishes—Integration of Functional, Comparative, and Ecological Approaches," NSF
- **Terry McNinch** (civil and environmental engineering), "MOC-ERL and Project Estimator," USDOT
- **Kurt Pregitzer** and **Andrew Burton** (SFWP), "Mechanisms Regulating Ecosystem Response to Nitrogen Saturation in Northern Hardwood Forests: Plant-Microbe Interactions and the Production of Dissolved Organic Carbon and Nitrogen," NSF
- **Chung-Jui Tsai, Scott Harding,** and **Vincent Chiang** (IWR), "Coordinating Growth and Lignification: A Regulatory Role of 4-Coumarate: CoA Ligase," USDA
- **Gregg Bluth, Jennifer Yotz,** and **William Rose** (geological engineering and sciences), "Volcanic Hazards Evaluation Using Repetitive Landsat Thematic Mapper Imagery, Guatemala," MSG
- **Jaroslav Drellich** and **Elvin Beach** (MME), "Measurements of Interfacial Forces between Refractory Coatings and Polystyrene for Recycling of Waste," Materials Research Society
- **Laurent Matuana** (IWR), "Foaming of Wood-Fiber/Thermoplastic Composites," USDA-NRICGP
- **David Flaspohler** (SFWP) and John Probst (USFS), "Establishing a Conservation Strategy for the Openland Avifauna," Michigan Nature Conservancy
- **Kristine Bradof** (GEM Center) and **Michael Hyslop** (SFWP), "A Proposal to Generate Baseline Sustainability Data for the Lake Superior Basin," EPA
- **William Bulleit** (civil and environmental engineering), "Load Sharing and System Factors for Light Frame Walls," Clemson University/ USDA
- **Vincent Chiang, Chandrashekhar Joshi,** and **Luguang Wu** (IWR), "Genetic Engineering of Cellulose Biosynthesis in Trees: A Strategy for Cellulose Augmentation and Lignin Reduction," USDA

(Continued on page 6)

## Poetry at Tech Tea Time

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

Tech Tea Time on Wednesday, April 14, will celebrate the art of poetry. At the invitation of the Memorial Union Board's Tech Arts Festival committee, local poets Barbara Simila and **Randall Freisinger** will read and discuss their work. The reading is one of several festival events, beginning with the Yellowjackets' jazz concert on Friday, April 9, and ending on Saturday, April 24, with the main event, the rhythm & blues/gospel/soul group The Holmes Brothers. Tech Tea Time is at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. Light refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to all.

Meditating on both the ordinary and extraordinary dimensions of daily life in the American Midwest, Freisinger's poetry, in the words of poet Gary Gildner, "renders richly three of art's highest pursuits: precision, human bafflement, and the desire to touch." His poems have appeared in numerous literary magazines, have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes, and have been included in three editions of *Anthology of Magazine Verse & Yearbook of American Poetry* (Monitor Books), in the *Passages North Anthology* (Milkweed Editions, 1990), and in *Inheriting the Land: Contemporary Voices from the Midwest* (University of Minnesota Press, 1993). He has published two chapbooks, *Running Patterns*, which won the 1985 Flume Press National Chapbook Competition, and *Hand Shadows* (GreenTower Press, 1988). His most recent

book-length collection, *Plato's Breath*, won the 1996 May Swenson Poetry Prize from Utah State University Press. He serves as associate editor for *The Laurel Review*. Freisinger was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, and educated at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Since 1977 he has lived in the Upper Peninsula and is professor of rhetoric, literature, and creative writing in the Department of Humanities.

Barb Simila writes with grace and poignancy about the Lake Superior region, especially the Copper Country and its Finnish heritage. Her poems, tightly crafted and sensuous in their language, express her passionate attachment to her life and the sense of place that has so indelibly shaped it. She is the author of *Watermarks*, published in 1996, a collection of poems exploring her Copper Country heritage. A series of her poems won the Finnish American Poetry Award in 1994, and another received an honorable mention in the Lake Superior Writers series in 1995. She was the winner of the FinnFest poetry award in 1996. In addition, she has published poetry in numerous literary journals, including *The Macguffin*; *The Ledge*; *The Finnish American Reporter*; *The Notebook*; *Red, White and a Paler Shade of Blue*; and others. She lives in Copper City and teaches English at Calumet High School.

Tech Tea Time is coordinated by the University Cultural Enrichment Department. For further information, call 487-2844.

## Michalek speaks on how generation differences impact MTU

Assistant Professor **Donna J. Michalek** (ME-EM) will speak on "Generational Differences and Their Impact on MTU's Educational Mission" on Wednesday, April 14, at noon in ROTC Blue Room. Her talk is sponsored by the Graduate Student Council.

Michalek, a winner of the Distinguished Teaching Award, will address how the generation gap between students and faculty may be hurting the educational mission of the University. Everyone is invited, and refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Peg Balachowski (mmbalach@mtu.edu) or the Graduate Student Council (487-3183).

## Perry: What it's like to be a female CFO

Rebecca Garris Perry, chief financial officer of the American Health Management Association, will give a talk, "Experiences of a Female Chief Financial Officer," on Monday, April 19, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Dow 642.

Perry will discuss her career path as an accountant, experiences in both male- and female-dominated environments, and how to be a good team member no matter what team you are on. The seminar is open to all MTU students, faculty, and staff, as well as local business people and members of the community. Perry's visit is part of the Visiting Women Lecturer Series and is sponsored by the School of Business and Economics and the Presidential Commission for Women.

## Seminar April 16 on carpenter ants

Laurel Hansen of Spokane Falls Community College, in Washington state, is the guest speaker at the next School of Forestry and Wood Products Seminar.

Hansen will speak on "A Tale of Two Carpenter Ants: City Ant & Country Ant" on Friday, April 16, at 1:00 p.m. in Noblet 153. Hansen is considered one of the leading experts on carpenter ants in the world. She will talk about their biology, ecology, and behavior in nature and in urban areas. These ants are a major pest in homes and are responsible for considerable economic damage each year.

## April Fair Housing Month

- 10 Saturday**  
**10:00 a.m.**—Men's tennis, Grand Valley State at MTU—Gates Tennis Center  
**8:00 p.m.**—Vince Morris at Club MUB—Keweenaw Commons
- 11 Sunday**  
**10:00 a.m.**—Men's tennis, Ferris State at MTU—Gates Tennis Center
- 12 Monday**  
**8:30 a.m.-noon**—National Advisory Board Meeting—Memorial Union Ballroom
- 13 Tuesday**  
**10:00 p.m.**—TIAA-CREF workshop, "Approaching Retirement"—EERC 103  
**noon**—Christine Ribic, "Seabird-Habitat Relationships in Pacific Equatorial Waters"—Dow 642  
**1:30 p.m.**—TIAA-CREF workshop, "Women and Investing"—EERC 103  
**7:30 p.m.**—Katie Koestner and Brett Sokolow, "He Said—She Said"—Fisher 135
- 14 Wednesday**  
**noon**—Donna Michalek, "Generational Differences and Their Impact on MTU's Educational Mission"—ROTC Blue Room  
**1:00 p.m.**—Christine Ribic, "The Structure of Antarctic Seabird Communities with Special Reference to Adelie Penguins"—Fisher 138  
**4:00 p.m.**—Christine Ribic, "Issues of Gender in Science: The Second Generation"—Noblet 123  
**4:00 p.m.**—Tech Tea: Poetry by Randall Freisinger and Barbara Simila—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge  
**8:00 p.m.**—Movie: *Swingers*—Fisher 135
- 15 Thursday**  
**8:00 p.m.**—*Man of La Mancha*—Walker Theatre  
**1:30 p.m.**—Teleconference, "Innovative Uses of the Web to Enhance Learning"—EERC B11  
**8:00 p.m.**—Movie: *Persuasion*—Fisher 135
- 16 Friday**  
**1:00 p.m.**—Laurel Hansen, "A Tale of Two Carpenter Ants: City Ant & Country Ant"—Noblet 153  
**8:00 p.m.**—*Man of La Mancha*—Walker Theatre

## McKay tournament winners announced

Results of the second annual Randy McKay 3 on 3 Hockey Classic have been announced. The winning teams and their divisions are Fraki's, mites; Parkway Chevrolet, squirts; peewee house, McGann's; Calumet Lions, peewee travel; Ice Rockets, bantams; Stanton Boys, high school; K-Wings, women's open; Cokato, college open; Bulldogs, men's open; and Puck Masters, men over 35. Seventy-seven teams competed.

Funds raised will support the Randy McKay Scholarship, which will be given to a graduating senior from a Copper Country high school who is also a varsity hockey player. For more information, contact Mark Maroste (487-2975, mmaroste@mtu.edu).

## MTU notables (Continued from page 2)

Scholar Association at its annual Chinese Spring Festival. Love was honored for his "outstanding contribution to the Chinese community by helping us to improve English language skills as one of the tutors of the Elaine Bacon Literacy Program." Love was cited not only for his tutoring help, but also for his support of Chinese students and their families as they adjust to a foreign community and lifestyle. "Almost everyone in the Chinese community in Houghton knows that there is a retired American professor who is always ready to help us," association member **Zhigang Wang** said in presenting the award.

Associate Professor **Diana George** (humanities) has edited a collection of essays by writing program administrators that includes chapters by five members of the MTU community. In *Kitchen Cooks, Plate Twirlers & Troubadours: Writing Program Administrators Tell Their Stories*, Assistant Professor **Nancy Grimm** (humanities) contributed "'The Way the Rich People Does It': Reflections on Writing Center Administration and the Search for Status"; graduate students **Bill Williamson** and **Stephen Jukuri** published "How to Be a Wishy-Washy Graduate Student WPA, or Undefined but Overdetermined, The Positioning of Graduate Student WPAs"; and **Ralph Wahlstrom**, a PhD graduate of the rhetoric and technical communication program, now at Buffalo State College, wrote the chapter "Catching Our Own Tail." In addition to editing the collection, George wrote the main introduction and introductions to each of the chapters.

"Of course there are plenty of other nation-

## In print

Assistant Professor **Jaroslav Drelich** (MME) published a paper, "Preparation of Hydrophobic Microspheres from Low-Temperature Melting Polymeric Materials," coauthored by J. Nalaskowski, J. D. Miller (University of Utah), and J. Hupka (Technical University of Gdansk, Poland) in the January 1999 issue of the *Journal of Adhesion Science and Technology*.

ally recognized scholars whose work appears within the pages of this book," Professor and Chair **Cindy Selfe** (humanities) said. "But what stands out in my mind about the collection is what an absolutely wonderful example it provides of great faculty and great graduate students, working together on collaborative scholarly projects that help make Michigan Tech programs examples of the very best professional work in the nation."

**Nathan Smith**, a senior at Sparta High School, has won Forestry's "Ecology Student of the Year" essay competition for high school juniors and seniors.

Smith's essay, titled "Keep Mother Nature Alive," deals with the impact of major environmental problems on human society and what can be done to prevent or mitigate the effects of those problems and maintain a quality natural environment. As grand prize winner, he will receive \$1,000 per year for four years toward tuition in Michigan Tech's applied ecology and environmental sciences program. Nathan is the son of Sidney and Patricia Smith of Sparta.

Presidential Professor **John Johnson** (ME-EM) received the 1998 Society of Automotive Engineers' Myers Award for Outstanding Student Paper on March 2 at the SAE International Congress and Exposition, in Detroit. Johnson was honored for the paper, "A 2-D Computational Model Describing the Heat Transfer, Reaction Kinetics, and Regeneration Characteristics of a Ceramic Diesel Particulate Trap." The paper's student author is PhD graduate **Cornelius Opris**, who was advised by Johnson.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MTU

Job descriptions are available from Human Resources starting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. You can e-mail us at JOBS@MTU.EDU and we will e-mail you the job description you request.

The following positions will be posted Friday, April 9, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. through noon, Friday, April 16, 1999, in the Human Resources Office.

Research Engineer/Scientist I—Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics  
 Research Scientist I—Institute of Wood Research  
 Research Engineer I—Keweenaw Research Center  
 Research Assistant—Keweenaw Research Center  
 Research Assistant/Associate Professor—Geological Engineering and Sciences  
 Senior Specialized Clerk N4—University Images (UAW internal and external posting)

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, April 16, 1999, to be considered as internal candidates for bargaining unit positions only. Applicants from the recall pool will be given first consideration for non-bargaining-unit positions only. Vacancy announcements are normally posted every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Human Resources Office. Complete job descriptions are available in the Human Resources Office or by calling 487-2280. More information regarding employment opportunities is available by calling the Job Line at 487-2895. Michigan Technological University is an equal opportunity educational institution/equal opportunity employer.