



## HOCKEY

### program to switch leagues?

Submitted by Dean Woodbeck, director,  
alumni/advancement communications

The coach is in place. Plans for upgrading the facility are in the works.

Now MTU athletic director **Rick Yeo** and head hockey coach **Tim Watters** have begun

looking at other aspects of the University's hockey program, including what league best fits Michigan Tech hockey: Tech's current home (the WCHA), or the CCHA, where Tech played for three years in the early 1980s.

Both Yeo and Watters played under the legendary John MacInnes. Both led their teams to appearances in the NCAA Final Four. Yeo helped lead the Huskies to a national title in 1965. Both are committed to helping the team return to national prominence.

"There are so many aspects to the hockey program and we're carefully evaluating the entire program," said Yeo. "We're excited about finalizing plans for the renovation of our facility, which is now twenty-six years old. Certainly the issue of what league Michigan Tech belongs in is on the table right now as well."

Yeo said a visit to Marquette early in the 1997-98 season prompted him to look at the best fit for Michigan Tech.

"I was watching our game with Northern, which is no doubt our biggest rival," he said, "and I pondered the idea that we would only be playing them twice, instead of four times. That just got the evaluation started and we haven't stop looking at things since."

Northern Michigan University switched from the WCHA to the CCHA this season.

*Exit interview January 14*

### NCA team open forum January 13 for faculty, staff

All Michigan Tech faculty and staff are invited to an open forum with the NCA evaluation team set for Tuesday, January 13, at 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge.

During their January 12-14 campus visit, the evaluation team, including nine faculty and administrators from universities throughout the Midwest, will gather information to include in their site team report. The report will be used to determine whether or not Michigan Tech is reaccredited by the North Central Association-Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

"This is an opportunity for faculty and staff to ask about accreditation and give their opinions," Provost **Fred Dobney** said. "I expect there will be a lot of dialogue, with questions from both sides.

"We hope that we have a good turnout," he

Yeo also said the CCHA may offer more rivalries of interest to fans than the WCHA. Tech would again play Michigan and Michigan State on a regular basis. Both are former members of the WCHA. All three U.P. hockey programs would also be in the same league.

He also said a move may make sense for non-hockey reasons, as well. About half of Tech's 44,000 alumni live in Michigan, most in the Lower Peninsula. Most of Tech's student recruiting takes place in lower Michigan, as well.

"Student recruiting may benefit from a move," Yeo said. "In terms of our alumni, certainly some groups would suffer because of the move, while others would benefit."

The CCHA would mean longer bus trips, on average, and a break in Tech's long tradition with the WCHA. MTU was a founding member of the WCHA in 1950 and has played in the league ever since, except for that three-year stretch beginning in 1981.

If a move were to happen, Tech would first need to receive CCHA approval and notify the WCHA prior to the league's annual meeting in late April. MTU would then play in the WCHA for one more season (1998-99) and enter the CCHA for the 1999-2000 campaign.

"I'm interested in hearing from anyone that has any input into any aspect of our hockey program," said Yeo. "My feeling is that we'll make a final decision regarding the league issue in late February or early March.

"We're at a very exciting time with our program right now," added Yeo. "Our facility is going to get some much-needed improvements and together with the renewed enthusiasm Tim Watters has brought to our program as the head coach, I'm very optimistic about the direction in which the Michigan Tech hockey program is headed."

added, "particularly among those who served on the goal committees or were involved in developing self-studies."

Many faculty and staff have been key players in the accreditation process, and a well-attended forum will help demonstrate this broad base of participation to the evaluation team, Dobney said.

The evaluation team will also have an open forum with students on Monday, January 12, at 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. The team members will announce their findings at an exit interview, set for Wednesday, January 14, at 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Memorial Union Ballroom B. All interested persons are invited.

If you'd like more information on the accreditation process, including the University Self-Study, visit this Web site: [www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/nca/](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/nca/)

### Senate revisits retirement health-care benefits issue

The issue of TIAA-CREF retirement health benefits was resurrected January 7 by the University Senate's Fringe Benefits Committee.

Committee member **Les Leifer** (chemistry) told the senate that the existing program is inadequate for all but the best-paid University employees, those making at least \$130,000 a year. His figures differ vastly from those generated by the University and Alexander and Alexander, MTU's benefits consultant.

Currently, MTU matches employee contributions to their TIAA-CREF accounts up to 1 percent of their salaries, and the administration has said it will increase that match to 2 percent next year. The program was designed to generate enough additional retirement savings to cover the cost of health care premiums. TIAA-CREF retirees now pay 20 percent of their health premium. Their share will gradually increase to 100 percent by July 1, 2006. After ten years, the average University employee, with a salary of about \$60,000, should have

*Continued on page 3*

January 9, 1998

*In a cat's eyes,  
all things  
belong to cats.*

*—English proverb*

Vol. XXX, No.16

## North Country Bank donates \$100,000 to School of Forestry and Wood Products

Submitted by the News Bureau

North Country Bank has pledged \$100,000 to the School of Forestry and Wood Products to support the School's new addition and establish a scholarship fund.

North Country's gift will be spread over ten years, with \$50,000 designated toward the \$10 million construction project, while the remaining \$50,000 will establish an endowed scholarship.

The State of Michigan has pledged \$7.5 million toward the forestry addition, which will supply much needed space and equipment for studies in the area of ecosystem sciences.

"We are pleased to be able to provide support for this important project," said **Michael Henriksen** '64, chairman of the board of First Manistique Corporation, North Country Bank's parent organization. "North Country Bank supports many forestry and wood products activities in the Upper Peninsula. By supporting this construction, we are helping Michigan Tech provide the education and research that will insure a healthy forest economy long into the future."

"This gift represents the growing partnership between North Country Bank and Michigan Tech," said **Ed Frayer**, dean of the School of Forestry and Wood Products. "Our faculty are doing important work in forest management and ecology, work that directly benefits companies in the forest products industry. This facility will also allow us to do a better job of teaching our undergraduates, and the impact will be a stronger, more competitive forest products industry."

MTU hopes to begin construction on the facility in spring 1999, with an anticipated completion date of December 2000.

## Tompkins to host staff luncheons

President **Curt Tompkins** and his wife, Kathy, will be hosting luncheons for staff beginning at the end of January.

The luncheons are an opportunity for MTU's nonfaculty employees to enjoy a meal and chat informally with the Tompkins family. Attendance is fun but not mandatory.

Invitations will be sent out in the next few weeks to the following departments: Alumni Association, Corporate Relations, Educational Opportunity, International Programs, University Career Center, Marketing Research, Technology Development Group, Michigan Tech Fund, University Relations, Printing Services, Mail Services, Administration Building—fifth floor staff, Occupational Safety and Health Services, Admissions, Financial Aid, Extended University Programs, Registrar's Office, Research and Graduate School, Research Accounting, Internal Audit, Institutional Analysis, Office of Student Affairs, Counseling Services, Accounting Services, Affirmative Programs, Human Resources, and Purchasing.

## Visiting professorship open in Japan

Kansai Gaidai University, in Osaka, Japan, is seeking applicants for an opening in its visiting professor program for the fall 1998 semester. Faculty teach one course for one semester in the social sciences, humanities, or business. The course should be taught in English and pertain in some way to Japan or to Asian studies.

For more information, contact the Office of International Programs at 487-3055.

## TECH TOPICS

is published weekly by

University Relations

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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 [ttech@mtu.edu](mailto:ttech@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.

Our URL is <http://www.sas.it.mtu.edu/urel/ttech/index.html>

## Free *Ishmaels* available for Earth Week

*Ishmael*, Daniel Quinn's award-winning story about humankind's place in the world, has been chosen as this year's book for Earth Week.

This New York Times bestseller is based on a series of conversations between an eager student and his wise teacher, who turns out to be a great ape. It ultimately asks, "Does the Earth belong to man or does man belong to the Earth?" *Ishmael* received the Turner Tomorrow Award, which recognizes fiction that offers solutions to global problems. *Ishmael* provokes strong feelings and is expected to generate interesting discussions and opinions.

Participating spring-term classes will receive free copies of the book and discuss it during a class day in April. Sections of *Ishmael* are relevant to courses in all departments and at all levels.

Copies are available for review from Nancy Seely, [nsseely@mtu.edu](mailto:nsseely@mtu.edu), Academic Office G016. Supplies may be limited, so please let her know by Thursday, January 15, if you would like to have any of your spring classes participate, or contact Sarah Green at [sgreen@mtu.edu](mailto:sgreen@mtu.edu). For reviews of *Ishmael*, see [www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0553375407/6062-4315554-505259](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0553375407/6062-4315554-505259)

## Board of Control meets January 13

The Board of Control will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Union Ballroom B. All members of the University community are invited to attend.

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The Tech Tea Time on Wednesday, January 14, will feature the MTU Black Students Association, who will present the program "Gather Together in His Name: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

The program will include a thirty-minute video, "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Historical Perspective," followed by poetry and a short story presented by BSA members. The event will conclude with an invitation to audience members to offer personal reflections on Dr. King's life and legacy.

Tech Tea Time is free and open to all and will be held in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge at 4:00 p.m. The Tech Tea Time series is coordinated by University Cultural Enrichment. For more information, call 487-2844.

## Athletics organizing Ski-for-Heart teams

The Athletic Department is organizing teams of MTU employees to participate in the American Heart Association's Ski for Heart event, set for Saturday, February 14, 10:00-2:00 p.m. at the Swedetown Ski Trails in Calumet.

"Our objective is to help raise awareness of skiing as a heart-healthy exercise while raising funds to support the American Heart Association's fight against heart disease and stroke," said organizer **Suzanne Sanregret** (athletics).

Departments can organize their own teams for the event, and Sanregret can also place interested individual skiers on other MTU teams. "We also welcome involvement from area businesses," she said.

For more information, contact Sanregret at 487-2990 or [rsanreg@mtu.edu](mailto:rsanreg@mtu.edu)

## Senate *Continued from page 1*

accumulated enough additional savings to cover the cost of the premiums, according to MTU figures.

Provost **Fred Dobney** noted that Leifer's figures are based only on the 1-percent match, which is expected to double in the near future. And Senator **Wayne Pennington** (geological engineering and sciences), while saying that even a 2 percent match may not be sufficient to generate enough income to pay for retirees' health premiums, called Leifer's figures "misleading" and said he was losing credibility by making projections that were based on a very unlikely scenario.

Dobney said later, after studying the committee's analysis, that the difference between Leifer's figures and the University's amounted to \$217 per year under a 2-percent matching program.

Other senators questioned the equity of the matching program, saying that most MTU nonfaculty employees make considerably less than \$60,000. Senator **Bruce Barna** (chemical engineering) called the program "regressive" and suggested that the matching funds be spread more equally among all MTU employees. Senator **Christa Walck** (SBE) agreed. "I'd rather have a more equitable distribution of the money," she said.

Leifer had asked if the senate wanted the benefits committee to begin working on the issue again, but senators showed no groundswell of support for that approach. However, Dobney agreed to revisit the issue in consultation with the Board of Control and the benefits committee. He reminded the senate that the Board of Control, composed of many representatives from the private sector, had been on the verge of eliminating the retirement health care benefit all together; and that the matching program was a way to alleviate their concerns while assuring that MTU retirees have additional retirement income

## In print

Professor **Elizabeth Flynn** (humanities) published an article, "Rescuing Postmodernism," in the December 1997 issue of *College Composition and Communication*.

Associate Professor **Young Huang** (ME-EM) published a paper, "Mode I and Mode II Plane-Stress Near-Tip Fields for Cracks in Materials with Strain Gradient Effects," coauthored with graduate student **Jiyu Chen** (ME-EM) and K. C. Hwang (Tsinghua University), in *Key Engineering Materials*, Vol. 145. He also published another paper, "The Effect of Interface Damage on the Microbuckling of Unidirectional Fiber-Reinforced Composites," coauthored with C. Liu, M. G. Stout (Los Alamos National Lab), and Hwang, in *Key Engineering Materials*, Vol. 147.

## Proposals in progress

Researchers, their proposals, and their potential sponsors are

- **Chris Anderson** (educational opportunity), **Janice Glime** (biological sciences), **David Reed** (SFWP), **Joan Shumaker-Chadde** (GEM Center), and **Gregg Bluth** (geological engineering and sciences), "Great Lakes Ecosystem Videoconference Sessions," PACE
- **Marvin McKimpson** (IMP), "Production of Experimental Alloys," Owens Corning
- **Karl Markgraf** (International Programs), **Sandra Boschetto-Sandoval** (humanities), **Josiah Heyman** (social sciences), and **Anant Godbole** (sciences and arts), "Internationalizing the Honors Program in the Sciences and Arts," Department of Education
- **Lawrence Evers** (ME-EM), "Bench Testing of Mitsubishi Fuel Injectors," Cummins Engine Company

to pay for health care. In addition, the program has the advantages of being flexible and portable—employees who take jobs elsewhere can take that money with them, and those who qualify for retirement health care through their spouses can use the additional income for other expenses.

### In other business, the senate

- passed a student academic grievances proposal, which lays out a road map for students to follow if they have a dispute with a faculty member. The procedure includes an initial meeting with the faculty member and then the faculty member's supervisor. The policy was developed in consultation with the Office of Student Affairs, which had been receiving such grievances and then referring them back to academic departments. The proposal does not interfere with faculty's academic freedom, its writers stressed. It is designed only to give students a procedure to follow if they have a dispute with faculty.
- heard from senate president **Bruce Seely** that the electrical engineering department has withdrawn its proposal for a new computer engineering program. Instead, the department plans to hire a top-flight computer engineer, who will be responsible for developing a new program proposal.
- reached a tentative accord with Dobney on the long-standing issue of academic freedom. The provost suggested that the University adopt as policy the American Association of University Professors' 1940 statement of principles on academic freedom, referencing the AAUP's 1970 interpretation on the policy. The senate is expected to act on the issue at a future meeting. Visit this Web site to see the AAUP document: [www.aaup.org/1940stat.htm](http://www.aaup.org/1940stat.htm) (NOTE: The MTU version is not expected to contain the section on tenure.)
- reelected **Ted Soldan** (IT) as senate vice president.

## January

- 8 Thursday**  
**6:00 p.m.**—Women's basketball, Hillsdale at MTU—SDC  
**8:00 p.m.**—Men's basketball, Hillsdale at MTU—SDC
- 9 Friday**  
**noon**—Coaches Corner/Blueline Club luncheon—Franklin Square  
**7:35 p.m.**—Hockey, Alaska Anchorage at MTU—Student Ice Arena
- 10 Saturday**  
**1:00 p.m.**—Women's basketball, Findlay at MTU—SDC  
**3:00 p.m.**—Men's basketball, Findlay at MTU—SDC  
**7:05 p.m.**—Hockey, Alaska Anchorage at MTU—Student Ice Arena
- 12 Monday**  
**4:00 p.m.**—NCA evaluation team forum for students—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
- 13 Tuesday**  
**noon**—Basketball luncheon—Memorial Union 105  
**1:30 p.m.**—Board of Control meeting—Memorial Union Ballroom B  
**1:30 p.m.**—NCA evaluation team forum for faculty, staff—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
- 14 Wednesday**  
**10:30 a.m.**—NCA evaluation team exit interview—Memorial Union Ballroom  
**4:00 p.m.**—Tech Tea: "Gather Together in His Name: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
- 20 Tuesday**  
**noon**—Basketball luncheon—Memorial Union 105
- 22 Thursday**  
**6:00 p.m.**—Women's basketball, Grand Valley State at MTU—SDC  
**8:00 p.m.**—Men's basketball, Grand Valley State at MTU—SDC  
**8:00 p.m.**—Noises Off—Walker Theatre

## 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](mailto:JOBS@MTU.EDU) and we will e-mail you the job description you request.

The following positions will be posted Friday, January 9, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. through noon, Friday, January 16, 1998, in the Human Resources Office.

Technical Communications Specialist—Mathematical Sciences (temporary, part-time position)  
Associate Professor/Professor—Electrical Engineering  
Building Attendant—Facilities Management (REGULAR, FULL-TIME, AFSCME INTERNAL POSTING)  
Assistant/Associate Professor—Geological Engineering and Sciences

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, January 16, 1998, 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.