

January 30, 1998

So free  
we seem, so  
fettered fast  
we are.

—Robert Browning,  
Andrea del Sarto, 1855

Vol. XXX, No.19

## Kresge challenge grant to support MTU Arts Center

Submitted by the News Bureau

The Kresge Foundation has provided a \$300,000 challenge grant to Michigan Tech to support the Rozsa Performing Arts Center. The Michigan Tech Fund will use the grant as part of its Charter Chairs Campaign to complete the funding for the building, according to **Kimera Maxwell**, executive director of the fund. To date, the fund has attracted \$19.3 million of the \$20 million total cost.

The University must complete the funding by June 1, 1998, to receive the Kresge grant.

Through the Charter Chairs Campaign, a \$10,000 gift sponsors a chair in the performance hall. Charter sponsors will have a name plate mounted on one of the chairs and be recognized on a permanent plaque in the hall. The campaign runs through May 22, 1998, the date of the groundbreaking for the Performing Arts Center.

"This is the prospective donor's last chance to

name a Charter Chair," said Maxwell. "After the groundbreaking, the list of Charter Chairs will be complete. Chairs are named for a \$10,000 gift, which can be paid over a five-year period. We are also looking for other gifts of any size."

The Performing Arts Center will include a 1,200-seat performance hall, vocal and instrumental rehearsal rooms, and related facilities for the University's fine arts and cultural enrichment departments.

The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge. The foundation awards grants for construction or renovation of facilities and the purchase of major capital equipment or real estate.

The Kresge Foundation also provided the funds for MTU to complete the renovation of the Walker Arts and Humanities Center in 1985.

## Henderson opens engineering office in Hancock

The manufacturing firm DCT, Inc., led by Board of Control Member **Bronce Henderson**, opened an engineering office in Hancock on January 19.

Henderson, who graduated from Michigan Tech in 1973, is chairman and CEO of the Detroit-based corporation. In addition to its Detroit headquarters, DCT has engineering and manufacturing facilities in the Michigan cities of Warren and Troy, as well as in Hiroshima, Japan. Their newest office is located on the eighth floor of the D&N Bank building. The company employs more than 850 people and has annual sales of over \$150 million. DCT manufactures automated welding, assembly, material-handling, and laser-cutting systems. It serves an international clientele, including Chrysler, BMW, GM, Ford, and Saturn.

Henderson was prompted to open an office within a few miles of his alma mater for two reasons: the scarcity of engineers in Detroit coupled with a corresponding surplus in the Copper Country. "There is an abundant flow of engineering talent coming out of MTU every year, and many of these graduates have a strong desire to live and work in the UP," he said. "We are giving some of them that opportunity, and we hope this new talent will lead

to new ideas, helping DCT and its customers lead the way into the twenty-first century."

Currently six associates are employed in the Hancock office, all MTU graduates. Five were residents of the Houghton-Hancock area, and one transferred from the Warren office.

Company officials say new technology is narrowing the distance between the UP and industrial centers. "DCT has always been a leader in employing the latest communication technology available," Henderson said. "This will allow the Hancock engineering staff to work as one with the Warren office. And we hope that their presence in the local area will benefit many Copper Country communities."

DCT engineers in Hancock will be performing product design work as well as R&D that pioneers the use of new materials and processes.

Henderson credited MTU, the Keweenaw Industrial Council, and D&N Bank for their help in establishing the Hancock office.

For more information about DCT, contact the company at P.O. Box 540, Hancock, Michigan, 49930-0540, or visit their Web site at <http://www.dct-inc.com>

## Monthly phone rates increase

Submitted by *Chuck Lapointe, manager, Telcom Customer Service*

In typical bad news, good news fashion, monthly charges for campus phone lines increased from \$13.96 to \$14.88 beginning January 1. The good news is that the rate increase is substantially less than we thought it would be.

When the FCC first announced that it was going to surcharge local phone companies and resellers of long distance to finance Internet access to rural areas (known as Universal Access), original estimates were closer to \$5 per line instead of the current 92 cents. We may still see additional rate increases (or decreases) down the line, but not until the FCC analyzes the funding model for Universal Access.

The surcharge is less than anticipated is primarily because the FCC is backing down on its stance that nonprofit schools, libraries, and health-care providers should be surcharged for the long-distance services they provide their constituents. The FCC changed its stance because those entities, especially universities, are primary players in making the Internet available. Surcharges to these groups are now considered counterproductive.

## Maxwell to lecture on leadership ethics

**Kimera Maxwell**, executive director of the Michigan Tech Fund and director of development, is the featured speaker at the Leadership and Ethics in Action presentation on Tuesday, February 3, at 7:00–9:00 p.m. in M&M U115.

All interested persons are invited. For more information, contact Jon Henkel, 487-3057.

## Workshops boost more MTU classes onto the internet

More and more Michigan Tech faculty are using Web pages and e-mail lists to communicate with their students, thanks to a series of workshops sponsored by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development, and Information Technology.

"There's been a marked increase in the use of class e-mail lists—they've about doubled," center director **Bill Kennedy** said. Another twenty-six teachers are using the extra-simple Web Course in a Box as part of their classes.

"The primary beneficiaries are people who wanted to provide Web-based assistance in their courses, but didn't have the ability or the assistance they needed," Kennedy said. "Web Course in a Box is very easy. You don't have to know HTML, you don't have to know much about Web pages, and it puts your pages automatically on the IT server—you don't have to deal with all that gruesomeness."

Kennedy uses his photography course Web pages to give quizzes—students can take them twenty-four hours a day—and to post links to interesting photographs on the Web. Teachers can also post class notes, syllabi, test answers, and more.

Faculty attending the Web workshops had the benefit of four or five in-person IT experts wandering around giving technical support and Kennedy cracking

*Continued on page 3*

## TECH TOPICS is published weekly by

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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.

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



It was forty-some-odd years ago when the Spartans ferried across the Straits of Mackinac to challenge Da Tech to a friendly game of hockey.

## Once upon a golden winter

Doubtless they thought they were prepared. But truly, how prepared can anyone be for a Copper Country winter, especially at

Winter Carnival time? An anonymous 1954 civil engineering alumnus, who is called Tom here for the sake of convenience, remembers. "When Michigan State came up to play, the ice was too hard for them to skate. They fell down like little deer," he laughed. Now, hockey players and fans have the luxury of a climate-controlled arena. Back then, it was sub-arctic Dee Stadium, where only the vestibule was heated. "You sat there with your overcoat on, boots, and gloves—you couldn't tell the women from the men," he remembers.

That year, the State team had to withdraw from the ice to sharpen their skates just to stay upright. One would hope it was not enough to catapult them into victory.

Considering the other winter pastimes of post-war Tech students, Dee hockey could be considered balmy. "We used to cut holes in the ice in the Portage and run down and jump in after saunas," Tom recalls. "Tech was really good in those days. I went back for my master's in 1958, and that was the first time the Delt Sigs [Delta Sigma Phi fraternity] put on a big skit, on Li'l Abner. I painted the scenery."

That era also saw the first really big Winter Carnival statue—a skier built with scaffolding. The statues of the 1990s, with their elaborate scenes and baffling details (how do they do those ice chains, anyhow?) have elevated the event to a whole nuther level.

## KSO to feature internationally known pianist

*Submitted by the Department of Fine Arts*

The Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra will feature internationally acclaimed concert pianist Andreas Klein in concerts on Saturday, February 7, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 8, at 3:00 p.m. in Walker Theatre. **Jeffrey Bell-Hanson**, KSO music director, will conduct. Tickets are available from the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200), SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073), and Calumet Theatre (337-2610).

German-born pianist Klein has performed throughout the world as soloist with many orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic and Houston Symphony, and given solo recitals throughout the US, Europe, and South Africa. His performances have been praised in reviews in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Klein has recorded CDs for several labels, including Ovation Classics, Apollo, RIAS, and Deutschlandsender. His repertoire for the 1997-98 season includes eight piano concerti ranging from Mozart to Prokofiev. With the KSO, he will play Beethoven's

"What they do today amazes me," said Tom, who came up for carnival in the 1970s and 1980s, when his children were attending MTU. "They do a lot more than we did. We used to pile on the ice and just start chiseling away." He is also impressed at the number and diversity of the statue builders. When once the snow sculptures were the purview of a few fraternities, now groups from all over campus participate. "It's good that other people have that opportunity," he said.

Tech's student body is predominantly male even today, but in the 1950s co-eds were so rare that most Winter Carnival Queen candidates weren't even University students. "All our queen candidates were high school girls," Tom said. "And if a girl could ski and skate, they ran her. And this was no cross-country—it was down Ripley Hill, *shoosh*, fast and furious. They had a lot of good skiing talent up there then."

Because most of the queen candidates came from the local area, community involvement in the contest was intense. "Everybody knew who was running, and the local merchants gave gifts," Tom said. "The town folks were a big part of Winter Carnival."

Many Tech students got involved with local families by dating their daughters, queen candidates and otherwise. Others had their girlfriends travel by Greyhound from as far away as Chicago and Detroit. The Chicago bus could be counted on to arrive on time, but young women traveling over the Mackinaw ferry could see delays as long as a day. The Tech men also would link up with women attending a local nursing school, the site of an infamous late-night 1950s party raid that sent a couple Tech students to jail.

It was an intimate time—everyone knew everyone, Tom said. And, despite the hard work and finger-freezing cold, the memories are warm.

"Those were the golden years," he said wistfully, from his lower Michigan office. "They were good years."

Third Piano Concerto. Klein's appearance in Houghton is made possible by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The February 7-8 concerts will also feature Franz Schubert's Overture to *Rosamunde* and Six Pieces for String Orchestra by American composer James Romig. All the music for the concert is connected to the Viennese musical tradition. Schubert and Beethoven both spent their careers in Vienna, and both contributed to the city's reputation as a cultural center. Schubert revered Beethoven, who was the reigning musical genius of the city throughout Schubert's lifetime.

Andreas Klein will conduct a master class with local piano students on Friday, February 6, at 3:30 p.m. in Walker Theatre. This class is open to the public with no admission charge.

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 senior citizens, and \$3 students, if purchased in advance (\$1 more at the door). For more information about the concerts, call the fine arts office, 487-2067.

GET TECH TOPICS SOONER! READ US ON THE WEB! YOU CAN REACH US FROM MTU'S HOME PAGE BY CLICKING ON "TECH TOPICS."

# FAILING FAMILIES, RISING DIVORCE, CONSEQUENCES FOR SOCIETY

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

## TECH TEA

Although we know that divorce rates are on the rise, that single parenting is widespread, and that a couple can be same sex rather than heterosexual, when we think about "the family" most of us tend to automatically conjure up the conventional image of "the nuclear family," that is, a legally married heterosexual couple and their child or children, preferably one of each sex. What is happening to marriage and family as institutions as we know them, or rather as we once knew them, or thought we knew them, and how is it changing our society? **Kari Moxnes**, a visiting professor of family sociology from Norway, has studied marriage, divorce, remarriage, and the consequences for children resulting from the dislocations. She has written two books, *When Women Divorce* and *The Explosion of the Nuclear Family*, both best sellers in Nordic countries. The guest at Tech Tea Time on Wednesday, February 4, at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge, she'll present an informal talk on "Failing Families, Rising Divorce, Consequences for Society." Tech Tea Time is free and open to all.

In her research in Norway, Moxnes has found that 60–80 percent of divorces are initiated by women. She attributes this statistic partially to the theory that many more women may feel exploited or very dissatisfied over a period of time in their marriages. They still take most of the burden and responsibility of housework and childcare. "The husband's lack of participation becomes grounds for divorce," she says. "Women want more practical and better division of labor. They want openness, closeness, a partner who listens and understands. Women in the post-industrialist nations of the West have more alternatives today, and may be more willing to abandon a marriage that is not personally satisfying."

## Workshops *Continued from page 2*

jokes. But if you'd like to try it on your own, with expert help only a phone call away, Web Course in a Box is available from the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development Web site or by going directly to <http://www.it.mtu.edu/dcs/workshop/faculty.html>

In addition, teachers who'd like to set up an e-mail list for their class can use the new, improved MajorCool E-Mail List Manager at <http://majordomo.mtu.edu/>

Those faculty using the Web pages and e-mail lists have gotten a great response, Kennedy said. "The students seem to like it," he said. "They are used to that technology, and it's got a lot of flexibility."

No other similar workshops are planned for this academic year. However, interested faculty members can schedule a presentation for a department or small group by contacting Kennedy, **Mick McKellar** (Distributed Computing Services, 487-2112, [mckellar@mtu.edu](mailto:mckellar@mtu.edu)) or **Renee Greenley** (DCS, 487-2112, [rgre@mtu.edu](mailto:rgre@mtu.edu)).

In addition to Kennedy, Greenley, and McKellar, other workshop leaders were **Kurt Paterson** (civil and environmental engineering), **Karla Kitalong** (humanities), and **Ann West** (DCS).

While there is a reasonable body of research on the breakdown of marital and couple relationships, there is relatively little known of the long-term consequences of these changes on children. Moxnes' research leads her into an exploration of what this breakdown and separation means for these children over the course of their lifetimes. She questions the effects these experiences may have on the partnerships and families the children may form later in life, and whether their patterns of sharing and caring are different from those of their parents.

Moxnes is currently pursuing her research during a one-year stay at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is particularly interested in how out-of-wedlock single parenting issues, for example, welfare rights and parental obligations and rights, are managed in the US. In Norway there is less stigma attached to divorce, and it is more accepted for unmarried couples to live together and have children. Such couples enjoy the same civil rights as married couples.

Moxnes is a professor of family sociology in the department of sociology and political science at the Norwegian University of Technology and Natural Science. She has taken part in several international, European, and Nordic research projects and is the author of a number of articles. She has appeared on Norwegian television and is a frequent radio broadcaster. In 1995 she became director of research at the Norwegian National Council of Research and worked on a study, "Children, Youth and the Family" for two-and-a-half years. "Family Change and Consequences for Children and Youth" is the name of her current major project. She manages a \$6 million research budget and oversees fourteen different projects.

Tech Tea Time is coordinated by the University Cultural Enrichment. Call 487-2844 for further information.

## MICHIGAN TECH FUND POSITION AVAILABLE

The Michigan Tech Fund is accepting applications for the following position:

Assistant Director, Donor Research—Michigan Tech Fund

For a complete job description, call 487-2627. To apply, send a resume and appropriate credentials via campus mail to the Michigan Tech Fund.

## 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 30, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. through noon, Friday, February 6, 1998, in the Human Resources Office.

Senior Specialized Clerk (N4)—Registrar's (REGULAR, FULL-TIME, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL UAW POSTING)

Secretary II (N4)—General Engineering (REGULAR, FULL-TIME, 10-MONTH, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL UAW POSTING)

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, February 6, 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.

## January

- 29 **Thursday**  
8:00 p.m.—*Noises Off*—Walker Theatre
- 30 **Friday**  
noon—Coaches Corner/Blueline Club luncheon—Franklin Square  
8:00 p.m.—*Noises Off*—Walker Theatre
- 31 **Saturday**  
1:00 p.m.—Women's basketball, Lake Superior State at MTU—SDC  
3:00 p.m.—Men's basketball, Lake Superior State at MTU—SDC  
5:05 p.m.—Hockey, Minnesota at MTU—Student Ice Arena  
8:00 p.m.—*Noises Off*—Walker Theatre

## February

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- 1 **Sunday**  
3:00 p.m.—*Noises Off*—Walker Theatre
- 3 **Tuesday**  
noon—Basketball luncheon—Memorial Union 105  
7:00 p.m.—Kimera Maxwell, Ethics in Engineering lecture—M&M U115
- 5 **Thursday**  
6:00 p.m.—Women's basketball, Saginaw Valley State at MTU—SDC  
8:00 p.m.—Men's basketball, Saginaw Valley State at MTU—SDC
- 6 **Friday**  
noon—Coaches Corner/Blueline Club luncheon—Franklin Square  
3:30 p.m.—Andreas Klein piano master class—Walker Theatre  
7:35 p.m.—Hockey, Minnesota-Duluth at MTU—Ice Arena  
8:00 p.m.—Reduced Shakespeare Company, *The Complete History of Americas (abridged)*—Calumet Theatre