

Tech Topics

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Michigan Tech's Faculty/Staff Newsletter

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Three senators resign

Three members of the University Senate are resigning to protest the Board of Control's adoption of a 15-week-semester academic calendar.

Senators **William Shapton** (ME-EM), and **Narasipur Suryanarayana** (ME-EM) said they would vacate their seats at the end of the March 24 meeting as a result of what they view as a failure of shared governance: the Board of Control's choice of a 15-week calendar instead of the 14-week alternative approved by the senate. Senator **Jim Pickens** (SFWP) said March 24 he would resign at the end of the academic year, two years before his three-year term is complete.

Citing "the failure of the administration and the Board of Control to support the senate and the faculty," Shapton called the Board's action "particularly grievous because the academic calendar is traditionally the prerogative of the faculty."

"The academic calendar is essentially a faculty issue," Suryanarayana said, adding that the adoption of the 15-week calendar gives "greater weight to USG wishes [than to faculty] although there is some doubt as to whether the USG officers reflected the views of the student body."

Senate President **Bruce Seely** accepted the senators' actions with regret. "I'm very sorry that senators feel the need to resign," he said. But he also said the senate was at least in part responsible for the lack of a campus-wide consensus on the calendar issue. "The comments from the senate to the Calendar Issues Clarification Committee [as the committee was developing a calendar] were that we wanted the same number of days of instruction," he said, something that could only be achieved with a 15-week calendar. Seely, a CICC member, said that he had backed a 14-week calendar "but that the advice and comments from this body made it impossible to sustain" in CICC deliberations. He said he was surprised as anyone when, after a 15-week calendar was drafted, the senate presented an alternate 14-week scenario.

Provost **Fred Dobney** said he respected what the senate has accomplished and also expressed surprise at the resignations, noting that he had warned the senate

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To err is human; to blame it on somebody else is even more human.

—JOHN NADEAN

Board of Control approves 15-week-semester calendar

In proceedings noteworthy for their high level of collegiality, the Board of Control approved March 19 an academic calendar based on two fifteen-week semesters.

University Senate President **Bruce Seely** argued in favor of the senate's alternate scenario, a fourteen-week semester calendar that eliminates a number of half-day holidays, including K-Day and Homecoming. The senate calendar did not honor certain boundary conditions promised to students by the administration, primarily promises that instructional time would not be reduced and that traditional holidays would remain intact.

The goal of those developing a new calendar is to enhance Michigan Tech's academic programs, Seely said, arguing that the boundary conditions should take a back seat to program improvement. "An uninterrupted calendar has better opportunities for uninterrupted learning," he said. "If we pursue academic improvement, we must change. We can't be bound by the past just because it's always been that way."

The fourteen-week semester calendar offers students better opportunities for internships and co-ops during the summer, and provides faculty additional time to do research, he said. In addition, the faculty are the best qualified among all campus constituencies to develop an academic calendar. And, while student input has been sought at all levels of the process, there is no evident groundswell of support among the student body for the fifteen-week semester calendar. "The student body is probably as divided as the rest of the campus," Seely said, noting the lack of consensus. "I apologize that this has come to you in this fashion."

USG President **Marcus Gioe** spoke in support of the fifteen-week semester calendar, particularly because it honors the boundary conditions. "I think it's better for the majority of the students," he said. However, the University should re-examine the calendar after it's implemented, he said.

President **Curt Tompkins** noted that while the fourteen-week calendar provides faculty with more research time, the fifteen-week calendar had the advantage of giving students more time with faculty. "You could argue it either way," he said. "They are both good calendars."

Board Member **Ruth Reck** supported the fourteen-week plan, noting that it was sup-

ported by a majority of the faculty, who are charged with educating students and are doing a "splendid job." Other Board members felt differently. **Marty Laguna** said the University was bound by its promise to the students to adopt a fifteen-week semester calendar. "I don't want to see programs truncated," said **Rick Berquist**.

The 15-week calendar passed on a 6-1 vote.

Tompkins reviewed the recent presentation he made before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education (see the March 12 *Tech Topics* for more information). Because term limits have purged the House of many experienced legislators, "it was very different testifying this year," he said. Noting that engineering enrollments in the state are nearly flat at a time when Michigan needs engineers to help fuel its booming economy, Tompkins is encouraging the state to rescind the tuition tax credit and distribute the \$22 million in savings to institutions based on the number of engineering degrees they award—about \$7,300 per degree. "If we could get that, we could restrain tuition very well," he said.

The state should also increase the University's base funding to reflect the operations costs of new buildings, he said, which it does routinely for prisons. "I asked for \$1,620,000 for the operations of new buildings," he said. "If they provided that, we could also restrain tuition."

Later, Board Member **Robert Thompson** said the University should raise an endowment to fund operations as part of its fundraising for all new buildings. Tompkins disagreed, saying that private funding raised for such endowments could better be spent on programs such as scholarships and endowed chairs.

Tompkins praised the productivity of MTU's engineering faculty, noting that the University awards 5.24 degrees per faculty member, the highest among the state's four research universities. In addition, MTU's cost per upper-division credit hour is \$178, the lowest among the research universities.

"Our best hope for an appropriation increase of better than 3 percent lies in the State Senate," said Tompkins, who will be presenting testimony before a senate subcommittee. "I hope to know what our appropriation is by the next Board meeting in May. . . . It's an open secret that state revenues will be higher than those used to develop the

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MTU joins international exchange program

Michigan Tech has been approved as a member of the Global Engineering Education Exchange Consortium, said **Jim P. Cross**, director of the Center for International Education.

Global E-3 is an exchange program for advanced undergraduates and some graduate engineering students, placing U.S. students overseas and foreign students in the U.S. Participating students continue to pay tuition at their home institution.

"Michigan Tech joins an elite group of 26 American and 41 foreign universities from 12 countries in the consortium," Cross said. "This increases Michigan Tech's international reciprocal exchange offerings for our students from 23 to 64 and adds 5 new country options."

U.S. members include Case Western Reserve, Georgia Tech, Purdue, Penn State, RPI, Texas A&M, University of Illinois-Urbana, University of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Wisconsin. Foreign universities represent Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Korea, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

For more information, contact the center at 487-3055.

Faculty, staff lose 280 pounds

Michigan Tech's faculty and staff have lost a total of 280 pounds in the Dump your Plump program sponsored by the Wellness Department.

Seventy-two employees participated. The "Fluff" team from the School of Forestry and Wood Products won the \$315 award for their team. Fourteen participants met their weight goals and will receive \$5 gift certificates to Hallmark and B. Dalton.

Contact Erin Carter at 487-2172 or ejcarter@mtu.edu if you'd like information on exercise and a healthier diet.

MichiganTech

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- 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.

Operation Solid Start

Center for Teaching, Learning,
and Faculty Development

By William Kennedy, director



Confronted with a growing number of incoming students whose high school grades and standardized test scores indicate that they can succeed in college, we must reckon with the fact that many are failing. More and more MTU faculty members are describing a growing percentage of students who don't come to class regularly, don't complete course assignments, don't come to class prepared, don't purchase the requisite materials to successfully complete the class, don't take some or any exams and quizzes, don't drop the course, and don't pick up their final exams and papers after the class is done and the grades are issued. One might take comfort in the fact that these signs of intellectual disengagement are being noted across the entire academy to varying degrees, but, with over 40 percent of the MTU freshman class likely to be on academic probation this year, we clearly have our share of the problem.

I still maintain that a student does not come to MTU with the intention of failing classes and withdrawing. Responses to the national survey that our new students complete verify that almost all of our entering students come here with the idea that they will have little or no problem succeeding at Tech. When this "piece of cake" mentality collides with a D or F in the first course of a multiple course sequence, chaos, isolation, denial, and panic often ensue. Under the quarter system, freshman who have flunked one or more courses go home for Thanksgiving carrying a big dark secret. Their parents don't know. Do they tell them? Their friends don't know. Will they lose their financial aid? A typical student response to this kind of failure is to try to overload themselves out of trouble. Flunk MA150? Why not try to retake 150 while you take 151? Couple this with the fact that lack of progress in calculus increases the probability of failure in chemistry and physics courses and you begin to understand one component of our retention problem.

Last week I received an e-mail from an alumna I taught at Tech over twenty years ago. She described the experiences of her nephew who recently came to MTU supported by a Board of Control Scholarship. She described him as a real techie-type kid, deeply into computers, rather shy. He was a

student, she said, who was very much like herself when she came to Tech. In his first term, he flunked calculus and made the decision to withdraw from the university. His aunt wrote to tell me that, as a Tech graduate, she recognizes that we are going to have to go the extra mile to help these students to get a productive start in studies while we struggle to maintain the quality of our graduates. She ended by saying she has three children, one ready to go to college next year, and that she hoped we made some progress in this area.

Fixing this problem requires a fundamental rethinking of the role of the instructors teaching freshman-level classes, our advisors, our learning-center coaches, and our student service personnel. Left to their own devices, more and more of our students are making bad decisions. They are not acting like the mature young adults they represent themselves to be. Many are acting like overly confident adolescents being given too much latitude and too much freedom too fast. It's freedom to fail.

I believe every freshman section should be taught by an instructor who has the inclination and the ability to do what it takes to give students a solid start in college. Just as "it takes a village," successful intervention takes an academic community. Class sizes and loads must be realistic. Freshman should be required to attend class, complete assignments, meet with their professor when necessary, and use the resources provided for them, or we should know why not! Failing behaviors should be confronted by the end of the week, not by the end of the term.

Just as importantly, we must put instructors in the classroom who are able and willing to encourage student learning, especially in the most demanding areas, by gleaned and employing the best practices from across the academy. Giving our students the experience of success borne of hard work without dumbing down our courses or lowering our standards is a noble endeavor worthy of our most talented teachers. Faculty willing to make this contribution must be recognized and rewarded for this vital contribution to one of the university's central missions through the tenure and promotion process, as well as in terms of compensation and support for continuing development.

Expending precious dollars to recruit students, only to allow their first few bad choices to cause them to fail, is foolish, wasteful, and runs counter to our mission as a state university.

New staff

Renee Forsell has joined the Residential Services staff in Wadsworth Hall as a food service helper. She was previously a server at the Chippewa Restaurant. Forsell and her husband, Ricky, live in Chassell.

Geo department receives software gifts

The Department of Geological Engineering and Sciences has acquired VULCAN software from MAPTEK for research and educational activities. Through the efforts of professor and chair **Ted Bornhorst**, the department was granted license of VULCAN software, valued at \$50,000, at no cost. The software is in use worldwide and enables spatial design, analysis, visualization, and 3D modeling of a range of geological, mining, and civil engineering scenarios.

The software includes a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite module for terrain analysis and will be used this spring in the Engineering Evaluation of Mineral Deposits course taught by Bornhorst.

MAPTEK, an international company, is a leader in software technology for 3D modeling and mine design in the mining industry.

William Everham, a doctoral student in geology, has received software valued at \$103,500 to use in his research, which uses thermal modeling to study the evolution of the Michigan Basin. The software was donated by Platte River Associates, Inc., and includes BasinMod 1-D, BasinMod 2-D, BasinView Mapping & Integration, and BasinSeis programs.

"I am very grateful to Platte River for their donation, and I would especially like to thank their client relations administrator, Lanell Ashenhurst, for her help," Everham said.

Everham's advisor is Assistant Professor **Jacqueline Huntoon** (geological engineering and sciences).

Valdivia new volleyball coach

Krista Valdivia, who for the past two years has served as Michigan Tech's assistant women's volleyball coach, has been named head coach, Huskies Athletic Director **Rick Yeo** has announced.

"We are extremely pleased to have Krista as our head coach," Yeo said. "Having played here during our most successful era and now having had a couple of years as an assistant coach under her belt, we feel that she is ready for the challenge of being a head coach and will do an excellent job."

Valdivia '97 has spent the past two seasons as assistant women's volleyball coach at MTU and prior to that was an All-America setter for the Huskies.

Valdivia is the school's all-time assist and digs leader. A First-Team All-America selection, she was a four-time All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference pick and was also named to the GLIAC All-Academic Team each of the three years she was eligible for the squad. During her tenure, she led the Huskies to four straight NCAA tournament appearances and a 100-33 overall record (.752 winning percentage).

Isle Royale wolves bounce back

Submitted by the News Bureau

The wolves of Isle Royale National Park have surprised scientists again by staging a dramatic comeback just when wildlife managers were worried that the island park's most storied species might be headed for trouble.

Several times during the past two decades, biologists have felt that canine parvovirus or a perceived genetic weakness resulting from inbreeding were placing the wolves' survival in grave jeopardy. And when last winter's survey turned up only fourteen wolves in the park, those concerns increased.

But what a difference a year makes!

Park Superintendent Douglas Barnard has announced that this winter's survey showed the island's wolves had boosted their numbers to twenty-five. "That's the most wolves we've had in the park since 1981 and the biggest annual increase ever," he said. Barnard said the increase was due primarily to high reproductive success by two of the island's three wolf packs.

"Two of the packs produced six pups apiece," he said. "One pack, comprised of only a male and female, didn't have any pups survive, and there are three single wolves wandering around out there without any pack affiliation."

Professor **Rolf Peterson** (SFWP), who conducts the annual winter wolf-moose census for the National Park Service, points to two main causes for the wolves' reproductive success this year.

"The park's moose have been generally in poor condition due to a heavy winter tick infestation caused by the mild winter and early spring of a year ago," he says. "The unusual heat of the summer also made it dif-

ficult for them to put on the fat required to survive through the winter." Peterson says the resulting diminished vigor made moose easier prey for wolves.

"Secondly, there are lots of moose calves now, and an increasing number of adults who are reaching old age. Both make easy prey for wolves," he explains.

Peterson says the park's East and Middle packs each produced six pups during the past year, so that these packs now number ten wolves apiece. "We believe the West pack produced three offspring, but none of them survived," he says. "We don't know why for sure, but it may well have to do with the scarcity of moose at that end of the island." He says the park's moose population numbers 750 this year, as compared to 700 a year ago, with most of the animals concentrated in the east and middle portions of the island.

Peterson is encouraged by the fact that dead wolves found by the survey crew during the past few years have been disease-free and showed no direct signs of any genetic problem that biologists thought might have caused poor reproduction in past years. In the past year, only one wolf has died on Isle Royale, and biologists determined that it had been killed in a territorial dispute by other wolves.

National Park officials are hoping for continued positive growth in the wolf population that would keep the total number of wolves on Isle Royale in the high twenties during the next several years.

Wolf research on Isle Royale is funded by the National Park Service, National Science Foundation, and Earthwatch.

Vote for Employee Excellence Award committee members

Ballots are being sent out to elect members of the Selection Committee for the Employee Excellence Award.

All full-time and part-time staff in each of the three award categories—clerical/secretarial, crafts/maintenance/food service/technical, and administrative/professional—should receive them through campus mail.

The committee will choose Employee Excellence Award winners in each of the three categories. In addition to other honors, the winners each receive \$1,500.

Ballots should be returned by Monday, April 5. For more information, contact Becky Christianson (487-2416, rwchrist@mtu.edu).

MTU student, faculty, staff honored by SAE

A Michigan Tech student and two MTU employees were honored recently at a special luncheon at the Cobo Convention Center in Detroit by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Cornelius Opris received the Myers Award for his paper, "A 2-D Computational Model Describing the Heat Transfer, Reaction Kinetics and Regeneration Characteristics of a Ceramic Diesel Particulate Trap." The award is given annually for the best technical paper presented by a student. Opris graduated in May 1997 from MTU with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics. **Jason R. Blough** was presented the Arch T. Colwell Merit Award for his paper "The Time Variant Discrete Fourier Transform as an Order Tracking Method." The award recognizes authors of outstanding papers presented at SAE meetings. His paper was one of twenty selected out of 2,426 eligible for the award. Professor and Associate Chair **John W. Sutherland** (ME-EM) received the Ralph R. Teeter Educational Award, recognizing outstanding young engineering educators.

Local architectural treasures at Tech Tea Time

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

When you're negotiating the traffic on the main streets of any of the local towns, it's easy to ignore the architectural gems to be seen at the second-story level above the modern storefronts. "Throughout America," says Joseph Balachowski, historical architect with the Keweenaw National Historical Park, "these treasures are being lost on a daily basis to development, neglect, and vandalism." Balachowski is the guest at Tech Tea Time on Wednesday, March 31. His presentation, titled "Ruins to Riches: 2,500 Years of Architectural Heritage in the Copper Country," will illustrate some of the connections between the historic monuments of Europe and their still-standing descendants in the Keweenaw. "Virtually all of the people who came to the Copper Country in the 19th and early 20th centuries came from Europe, passing through New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore," says Balachowski. "Just as they brought their languages and cultural traditions, so did they also bring their architecture, adapting it to the locally available materials and the local climate."

Tech Tea Time is at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge and is free and open to the public.

Many 19th century architects cloaked modern buildings with styles many hundreds of years old. Romanesque, baroque, and Renaissance influences can plainly be seen in many of the local commercial buildings designed for 19th-century functions. For example, the former Very Video Store (once a liquor store) was originally an imposing bank designed in the beaux arts style.

Balachowski has worked for the National Park Service all over the country on numerous projects connected with the Historic American Buildings Survey.

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

Leading statistical physicist to give talk April 1

One of the world's leading experts in statistical physics will be visiting MTU on Thursday, April 1.

Professor Ditrich Stauffer of the Department of Physics at Cologne University, in Germany, will present a talk, "Interdisciplinary Applications on Computational Statistical Physics," at 4:00 p.m. in Fisher 139.

Stauffer is hosted by the Department of Physics, and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Frogs, lizards, orbs, and slinkies on stage March 28

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

Frogs, lizards, orbs, slinkies, and other fantastic critters will entertain on stage when Imago, the nationally known theater and mask ensemble, returns to the Calumet Theatre on Sunday, March 28, for one performance only at 8:00 p.m. Presented by the Student Entertainment Board as part of the Great Events Series, this show appeals to all from age 5 to 95, and is an excellent show for the whole family. Tickets are on sale at the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200, Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.), the SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.), and the Calumet Theatre (337-2610, Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.).

It may be hard to imagine frogs, lizards, and slinkies on stage, but that's exactly what you'll see when you enter the world of fantasy and illusion that Imago creates. Sleepy frogs hop slowly about the stage, languidly catching passing flies, and so frog-like are their movements that you have to remind yourself that there are people inside the extraordinary costumes. In one of the most popular pieces in the show, Larvabatic, a cheerful human-sized (of course!) larva performs impossible acrobatics. After several

larva-like attempts, and encouraged heartily by the audience, it finally manages to turn itself upside down. It's all great fun, especially when the giant lizards try to leave the stage, or the amazing animated orbs or spheres do actually fall off the edge of the stage. The costumes and masks and the "animators" inside them are so ingenious that it's often hard to figure out which end is up. What should be up is often down. Backs become fronts. Heads rotate 360 degrees or fly out into the audience. Legs function as arms, and arms become tails. For Imago masks are not disguises, but vehicles for transformation, tools for becoming what the performers are not.

Imago has appeared on national television programs and has toured throughout the world. They have won theater and film awards in New York City and the Pacific Northwest and are proud recipients of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Imago's visit is coordinated through the University Cultural Enrichment Department. Call 487-2844 for further information.

"Four Evenings of Copper Country History" is sponsored by the National Park Service and WBKP-TV.

Lankton to give benefit series on Copper County history

Professor **Larry Lankton** (social sciences) is presenting a public lecture series, "Four Evenings of Copper Country History," as a fundraiser for the Keweenaw Heritage Center.

The lectures are set for four consecutive Thursdays starting April 15. His talks begin at 7:00 p.m. and include "The Keweenaw—A Special Place," "Everyday Life on the Mining Frontier," "The Underground World of Work and Risk," and "The Copper Country at Its Zenith." The first and third presentations will be at the Houghton High School auditorium, the second and fourth at the Calumet High School study hall.

The Heritage Center is rehabilitating the century-old St. Anne's Church in Calumet to serve as a social history museum and community center as part of the Keweenaw National Historical Park. Subscription fees for the lectures will be used to match a \$71,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The grant is earmarked for restoring the church's beautiful but deteriorating stained glass windows.

Lankton teaches a popular course on Copper Country history and has authored the books *Cradle to Grave: Life, Work, and Death at the Lake Superior Copper Mines* and *Beyond the Boundaries: Life and Landscape at the Lake Superior Copper Mines, 1840–1875*.

Cost to attend the series is \$40 per adult, \$20 for students under age 18. To sign up, send a check and the names of all adults and students attending, plus a return address and phone number, to Keweenaw Heritage Center, 106 Red Jacket Road, Calumet, MI 49913. Enrollment by April 1 is requested. Lankton's talks are sponsored by the Park Service and WBKP-TV.

U.P. microbiology group meets April 10

All interested persons are invited to the first (free!) meeting of the U.P. Section (or Twig) of the Michigan Branch of the Society for Microbiology, set for Saturday, April 10, in Dow 642.

The keynote address will be given via teleconference by Leona Ayres, of Ohio State University, who will speak on "Worldwide Epidemics—Are We Ready for the Year 2000?" The teleconference will be in EERC B11 and B45.

The meeting includes presentations by U.P. speakers on various areas of microbiology. In addition, a poster session for undergraduate and graduate students will be held, with \$100 in prizes awarded for the best posters. Contact Greg Kleinheinz at gkleinh@mtu.edu or 487-2009 for poster criteria. Refreshments will be served at two coffee breaks. Lunch is on your own, or you may sign up for the sandwich buffet at a cost of \$7.50.

Information on the U.P. Twig, the meeting, and an electronic registration form can also be accessed at <<http://www.bio.mtu.edu/EnvMicro/UPTwig/>> If you plan to attend, please contact Susan Bagley at 487-3167 or stbagley@mtu.edu by April 1.

Mon Oncle at Club Indigo

Submitted by Joe Kirkish

Mu Beta Psi returns in April with another Club Indigo comedy.

On Friday, April 2, France's Jacques Tati stars in one of his most delightful comedies, *Mon Oncle*. Written, directed, and starred in by Tati, the movie satirizes life in an ultra-modern home with all the newest conveniences, most of which are silly, unnecessary luxuries. Into this mechanized world comes Tati who, like a bull in a china shop, creates havoc in blissful ignorance, with only the son in the family appreciating him. As a result, uncle and nephew have a ball while the parents go insane.

This mundane plot is made charming and hilarious under the guidance of Tati, who has become known as the French Charlie Chaplin for his wit and inventive use of clever details.

Mon Oncle is shown at the Calumet Theatre at 7:00 p.m. (\$3.50). As with all Club Indigo events, the general public is invited and may also enjoy the French buffet preceding the movie. Chef Richard Zander of Quincy's will cater the buffet at 6:00 p.m. (\$7.50). Children are admitted at half price for both the film and buffet.

Mon Oncle has been made possible by the generous support of Northern Lights Restaurant and Franklin Square Tap of Houghton, and with the sponsorship of the Mu Beta Psi music fraternity.

Restoration ecology founder to speak at MTU

Internationally known scientist William R. Jordan III will be guest speaker on Friday, March 26, at 3:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. His address is part of the School of Forestry and Wood Products Lecture Series.

Jordan's talk is titled "Restoration Ecology Revisited: Reflections on the Value of Restoration for Science and Society." This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the symposium at which Jordan introduced the term "restoration ecology." Trained as a botanist and a journalist, he is the publications manager of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum and the editor of the journal *Ecological Restoration*.

As evidenced by the current proliferation of restoration ecology programs in universities around the country, restoration ecology is a concept whose time has come. Ecological restoration is the process of renewing and maintaining ecosystem health, including biodiversity, ecological processes and structures, regional and historical contexts, and sustainable cultural practices.

Jordan's talk is cosponsored by the SFWP, Department of Biological Sciences, and the U.P. Environmental Coalition.

Bulletin boards showcase Women's History Month

You can view the following bulletin boards entered in the Presidential Commission for Women's Women's History Month contest. Here's a list including their locations and creators. Except as noted, they will be on display through March 31.

- Memorial Union first floor, outside of the computer section of the Campus Store, "Famous Women of the Harlem Renaissance," Black Student Association
- West Wadsworth Hall main lobby, across from the west TV lounge, "20th Century Women," West Wadsworth Hall RA staff
- East Wadsworth Hall main lobby, "History of the Women's Rights Movement," East Wadsworth Hall RA staff
- East Wadsworth Hall, Mafia Hall near room 139E, "My Sisters, Your Sisters, Our Daughters, Our Mothers," Society of Intellectual Sisters
- McNair Hall, first floor West, "Amelia Earhart: A Legend in Aviation," Kelly Fodrocy
- West McNair, second floor between rooms 208 and 210, "International Women Making History Happen," International House
- Near East McNair elevator lounge, "Women in Science and Technology," Corrine Jivery, Angela Matelski, Anna Verhoeven
- McNair Hall, outside east entrance of the cafeteria, "Perhaps You've Heard Their Names Before, But Do You Know What They're Famous For?" Yvonne LeTourneau
- Across from mailboxes at DHH, "Women's History Month," Hollie Pietsch
- Daniel Heights Building 2001, "Women Who Took A Stand Against Laws Created by Man," W.I.S2.E
- Second floor of the Keweenaw Memorial Fitness and Rehab Center, "Milestones for Women in Sports," MTU Rowing Club

Seminar March 30 on supervising UAW employees

"Working Hand in Hand with UAW Employees," a workshop for MTU supervisors, will be held on Tuesday, March 30, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The session will review contractual language that's especially relevant to supervisors. The workshop will also present ways to improve communication and address performance issues with the UAW employee, all within the language of the contract. Supervisors will receive tips to follow to encourage UAW employees to think "out of the box" and to enthusiastically take on more responsibility within the department.

New supervisors of union employees are especially encouraged to attend, but the session will be a refresher for seasoned supervisors as well.

To register, contact Becky Christianson at 487-2416 or rwchrist@mtu.edu by noon, Friday, March 26.

Video workshop March 31 on leading discussions

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development is inviting all teachers, including faculty and graduate students, to the inauguration of the Teaching and Learning Film Festival. The first video, "The Art of Discussion Leading: A Class with Chris Christensen," will be shown on Wednesday, March 31, at noon in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge.

Harvard Professor C. Roland Christensen presents a workshop on the effective use of case-based discussions, sharing insights and offering suggestions based on his nearly fifty years of teaching experience.

Pre-registration is required as lunch will be provided. Please call 487-2046 or e-mail klaronge@mtu.edu by Friday, March 26.

Easter rebroadcast of *Messiah* concerts

MTU's Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra and Festival Chorus are featured in a rebroadcast of highlights from Handel's *Messiah* on Easter Sunday, April 4, at 4 pm on Public TV 13, WNMU-TV.

Originally produced in 1993, "A Superior Celebration of Structure and Sound" showcases three community choirs and orchestras from the Upper Peninsula, each performing a portion of *Messiah*. Associate Professor **Jeffrey Bell-Hanson** directed the KSO and chorus.

"A Superior Celebration of Structure and Sound," a Public TV 13 production, received the award for Best Cultural Performance Program in the 1994 Central Educational Network Awards competition, designed to honor the work of PBS stations. Production funding was provided by D & N Bank.

March National Women's Month

- 26 Friday**
3:00 p.m.—William Jordan III, "Restoration Ecology Revisited"—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge
3:00 p.m.—Vijay Singh, "Fostering of Faculty Excellence and Student Mentoring in an Engineering Department"—EERC 122
3:00 p.m.—Men's tennis, Gannon at MTU—Gates Tennis Center
- 27 Saturday**
10:00 a.m.—Men's tennis, Westminster at MTU—Gates Tennis Center
- 28 Sunday**
10:00 a.m.—Men's tennis, Mercyhurst at MTU—Gates Tennis Center
8:00 p.m.—Imago—Calumet Theatre
- 31 Wednesday**
4:00 p.m.—Tech Tea: Joseph Balachowski, "Ruins to Riches: 2,500 Years of Architectural Heritage in the Copper Country"—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge

April Fair Housing Month

- 1 Thursday**
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.—Friends of the Library Book Sale—Memorial Union Ballroom
4:00 p.m.—Ditrich Stauffer, "Interdisciplinary Applications on Computational Statistical Physics"—Fisher 139
- 2 Friday**
6:00/7:00 p.m.—Club Indigo: French buffet/*Mon Oncle*—Calumet Theatre
- 4 Sunday**
4:00 p.m.—"Superior Celebration of Structure and Sound"—WNMU-TV Channel 13

EE chair candidate to speak

Dr. Vijay P. Singh of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Texas—El Paso is visiting Michigan Tech as a candidate for chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

On Friday, March 26, he will speak on "Fostering of Faculty Excellence and Student Mentoring in an Engineering Department," at 3:00–4:00 p.m. in EERC 122.

No New Job Postings

Michigan Tech has no new job openings this week. For information on previously posted positions that may be open, e-mail JOBS@MTU.EDU or call Human Resources at 487-2280.

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, by calling 487-2280, or by e-mailing JOBS@MTU.EDU. 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.

Board of Control *Continued from page 1*

budget, and I hope to see some of that go to Michigan Tech."

Provost **Fred Dobney** reviewed draft budgets for 1999–2000 and noted that MTU's health-care expenditures are much higher than anticipated (see the March 12 *Tech Topics* for more information).

Last year's total health-care costs were \$1.8 million over the previous year. "We had hoped that was an anomaly," he said. "But this year, we're running \$750,000 more than last year." As a result, the University may consider having employees absorb more of the costs of health care, including increasing co-pays for prescriptions and office visits, adding co-pays for emergency room care, or instituting premiums for dependent coverage. Though the state's other universities offer comparable benefits within HMOs, MTU provides the most generous non-HMO program, Dobney said. And HMOs do not provide the level of service offered by Michigan Tech's PPO plan.

"Part of our compensation is this great benefits package," Tompkins said. However, current employees and prospective faculty and staff may not take that into consideration.

Senior Vice President for Advancement and University Relations **John Sellars** updated the Board on fundraising efforts. "The first eight months of this year have been good for Advancement and University Relations, with gifts in excess of \$32 million, which exceeds 1997–98's record-breaking year of \$20 million," Sellars said.

Fundraising for the Hockey Educational Center is near completion, with \$1.6 million raised toward the \$1.7 million project, Sellars said, adding that the University has also raised most of its share for the Center for Ecosystem Science. "It's been a very good year for us," said **Kimera Maxwell**, executive director of the Michigan Tech Fund.

Senate *Continued from page 1*

that the Board would probably approve a 15-week calendar. "There was a mindset that already existed," he said, because of the months spent by the CICC developing a 15-week calendar and because of the boundary conditions promised to students. "You shouldn't be surprised at the outcome. The Board had made commitments," Dobney said.

Shared governance does not mean that the faculty can unilaterally set the academic calendar, but that their opinions are solicited and taken seriously, Dobney said. "I hope that shared governance can mature here to the point that we don't ascribe to each other a lack of regard" if faculty views are not implemented.

In other business, the senate

- passed an amendment to the Academic Distinction Policy raising the criteria for cum laude honors from a GPA of 3.0–3.49 to 3.5–3.67; magna cum laude, from 3.5–3.74 to 3.7–3.89; and summa cum laude, from 3.75–4.0 to 3.9–4.0. The policy would become effective for students entering in fall 2000
- passed a Policy on Religious Observance that would allow students and employees to take reasonable time off for religious observances if they arrange with instructors and supervisors to make up lost work.
- tabled a proposal from the Benefits Committee to extend to all senate constituents a benefit that gives the president and vice presidents an annual physical exam by the physician of their choice. Under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO, employees essentially have this benefit, Seely reported. Dobney suggested that instead the senate recommend that the Board eliminate the policy that provides the special benefit for executives.

Approximately 21 percent of alumni contribute to the University, a very good rate compared to other public institutions.

In other business, the Board

- gave initial approval to the MS in Environmental Engineering Science. Before being implemented, the program must be approved by the State Board of Academic Officers.
- approved new room and board rates for the 1999–2000 academic year. Increases range between 2 percent and 3 percent.
- awarded the construction contract for the Center for Ecosystem Science to low bidder Yalmer Mattila Contracting for \$7.1 million.
- heard from Graduate Student Council President **Tom Flicker** that stipends for graduate students at MTU are 25 percent lower than the national average, and are sixth from the bottom among sixty-nine universities surveyed. Stipend levels are an important factor in recruiting graduate students, Flicker said. Nevertheless, "We still have one of the best relationships between graduate students and the administration," he said. Dobney reported that the University is granting departments more flexibility in allocating their stipend budget, though the pool of funding will remain the same. "We may have fewer students with larger stipends," he said. In addition, the University is removing the cap on privately funded stipends, Tompkins said, which should benefit grad students and enhance recruitment efforts.
- agreed to amend the academic calendar for 1999–2000 to end classes December 22 and resume instruction January 6, in order to allow time to deal with possible infrastructure problems that could develop as a result of the Y2K bug.