TECH TOPICS
Michigan Technological University
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The true writer has nothing to say. What counts is the way he says it.

—Alain Robbe-Grillet

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Accreditation update: department self studies done

All academic departments, units, and advisory organizations across campus have completed their self studies, the first hurdle in Michigan Tech's drive for accreditation by the North Central Association.

The self studies are being used by the ten goal committees to evaluate how well Michigan Tech is meeting its goals, which dovetail with NCA's criteria for accreditation. This second phase of the process should be completed by April 1.

"Then the Steering Committee begins the grueling process of writing a self study for the entire University," said **Debbie Lassila,** director of budget planning and faculty personnel.

"We're right on target with our timing," said Professor **Christa Walck** (SBE), who is coordinating the accreditation process. "We now have more than enough information from areas across campus, and we've given ourselves enough time to work out any glitches."

This mass of data will also help the University develop policy in the future.

"Beyond meeting the NCA requirements, it provides us with a comprehensive evaluation of where the University is with respect to our goals and objectives," Lassila said. "It's possible this may result in changes to those goals and objectives."

Lassila, Walck, and Provost **Fred Dobney** will be attending the NCA annual meeting April 19–21 in Chicago, where they will gather more information on what NCA expectations will be throughout the accreditation process.

Tompkins helps develop worksforce skills report

President **Curt Tompkins** recently served on a NACFAM project that has developed a set of skill standards for employees entering the workforce.

Tompkins worked three years on the project committee that drafted *National Skill Standards for Advanced High Performance Manufacturing: What Manufacturing Workers Need to Know and Be Able to Do.* The National Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) sponsored the effort, which resulted in a set of skills employees should have to succeed in high-end manufacturing jobs.

The authors developed a list of skills needed for advanced high-performance manufacturing, ranging from teamwork to blueprint reading. The report suggests that local manufacturers develop their own workplace skill requirements and work with local schools to make sure graduating students are prepared for jobs in the community.

Tompkins' work on the project follows on the heels of his efforts to develop the School to Work Opportunities Act, which was designed to better prepare the workforce for employment in the manufacturing sector. Before serving on the the project committee, Tompkins was a member of the NACFAM task force that helped write the legislation; President Bill Clinton signed it into law May 1994. "We were working with industry leaders around the country, making sure we knew what skills students needed to successfully perform in manufacturing jobs," Tompkins said. "We also wanted to make high school graduates understand the need for continuing their education."

The program targets disadvantaged students, who may feel they can't afford to go on to college. Under the School to Work Opportunities Act, students might attend high school in the morning, work afternoons earning $8–$15 an hour for a major manufacturer, and take community college courses at night.

"We hope they'd go on to get an engineering degree, but even if they don't, they'll be able to make an adequate living as a technician," Tompkins said.

The bill was developed in close cooperation with business and was signed into law in a White House Rose Garden ceremony, which Tompkins attended.

"Almost everyone there were industry and government types, CEOs from major corporations," Tompkins recalled. "I was the only university president, the token academic."

For more information on NACFAM, see their Web Page at www.bmpcoe.org/nacfam. You can view a copy o *National Skill Standards for Advanced High Performance Manufacturing: What Manufacturing Workers Need to Know and Be Able to Do* in the University Relations Office, Administration/Student Services G16, 487-2354.

Staff Council recommends nixing weather advisory for staff

Staff Council voted March 24 to ask the University administration to eliminate provisions in the weather advisory policy that relate to staff.

The policy has generated equity concerns in some departments, Staff Council Chair **Dee Vincent** said. "It can create a morale problem when nonexempt staff stay and all the exempt staff leave," she said.

When the University calls a weather advisory, staff may opt to stay home, or, if they are already on the job, go home early. Nonexempt employees must account for this time off by using vacation or unpaid leave. Exempt staff do not have to use vacation time, but are expected to fulfill the requirements of their job. The difference is mandated by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Human Resources Director **Ellen Horsch** said the weather advisory policy protects staff by allowing them the freedom to choose whether to work or not during bad weather. Otherwise, supervisors could deny vacation.

Provost **Fred Dobney** agreed. "In the absence of a University closure, some supervisors might not allow employees to leave," he said.

If a supervisor did act unfairly in such a case, perhaps by putting a letter of reprimand in an employee's file, the employee could appeal the action, perhaps through a grievance process in Human Resources, Council Member **Rich Pelto** said.

Addendum

Senior Systems Programmer **Mike Pionke** (IT) was instrumental in coordinating the recent purchase of Sun computing equipment (see "Board of Control OKs New Sun Equipment Purchase" in the March 21 *Tech Topics*). In a March 20 e-mail letter to Ann West (IT) and Tim Collins (technology), MTU's Sun account representative, John Thayer, said "I want to most especially thank Mike Pionke for his coordination work on this project. . . . This is the type of partnership that builds strong relationships with vendors."

Ice plant to be replaced

Submitted by the News Bureau

The ice plant in the John J. MacInnes Student Ice Arena will soon be replaced, according to **Bill Blumhardt,** director of Facilities Management.

Blumhardt said that the ice plant's original 25-year-old compressors have required continuous expensive maintenance and replacement parts during the past ten years. "The ice plant has exceeded its useful life and now poses a serious threat of major mechanical failure," he said. "If such failure should happen anytime between June 1, 1997, and March 25, 1998, the University's Division I hockey program, intramural hockey, figure skating schools, community programs, and other special ice shows would be at risk. So this is a project we want to complete as soon as possible."

Blumhardt said work on removing the old ice plant and installing the new one is expected to begin as early as April and should be completed before June 1.

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- By e-mail to 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

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Faculty Development

Teaching TIPS

Student evaluation of instruction: a broader view

By William Kennedy, director

Term after term, year after year, MTU students are asked to complete a computer-d form evaluating each of their classes and instructors. Variations of this exercise are repeated in college classrooms across the country and around the world. That college students should provide their professors with some feedback seems a nearly universally accepted idea in the academy.

But what exactly do those numbers that the students dutifully "bubble in" really mean? Term after term, in processing the 20,000 student response forms, we rediscover that MTU professors and GTA's average somewhere between 4.0 and 4.2 on a five-point scale on the global items "overall, how would you rate this teacher?" and "overall, how would you rate this course?" Pretty good, eh? After having conducted the IDEA Pilot Study on our campus, we are beginning to have a better idea what those numbers really mean.

The IDEA student rating of instruction system, which fifty-eight MTU senior faculty pilot-tested during the winter term, has been in development and undergoing continuous refinement at Kansas State University since 1968. The IDEA system is currently being used by over 135 colleges and universities of all sizes and types across the United States. One feature of the IDEA system is that it allows instructors at a given college to compare their student rating scores with ratings earned by instructors teaching similar courses at other colleges and universities across the country. The IDEA database currently consists of student ratings gathered from 104,237 classes.

A mountain of educational research has concerned itself with identifying factors that might predictably bias student ratings of instruction. In spite of folk wisdom to the contrary, only three variables have consistently emerged as biasing factors that significantly affect student rating scores: class size, motivation level of the students, and the academic discipline associated with the course. By dividing up the IDEA database using these variables, the IDEA system allows professors to understand how various combinations of these "teaching challenge factors" affect the student rating of instruction in a given class. Common sense would support the idea that an instructor assigned a class of a few hundred students being required to enroll in a course that they would rather not take in a discipline that they fear or dread has a much longer row to hoe than, say, an instructor assigned a small class in the students' major area of study. In fact, the instructor teaching the large section of poorly motivated learners would be in the 95th percentile of teachers in the IDEA database if he/she were to receive a 4.0 average rating on a global question on a student evaluation instrument, while a 4.0 for the instructor teaching the small section of highly motivated students would place that instructor in the 23rd percentile.

So what does 4.1 for a given instructor in a given class mean? The answer is "not very much" unless we have some meaningful reference group for comparison and control for these variables. For the first time, the IDEA system, and its associated, carefully developed database allows us to get some notion of how our scores compare with the scores of other college teaching professionals facing similar teaching challenges.

I would note that a comparative database is only one of the potential benefits of adopting a sophisticated evaluation tool such as the IDEA system for use at MTU. The IDEA system, for example, also allows instructors to tailor the student evaluation of their classes, taking into consideration the learning outcomes they have selected for each of the classes they teach. The IDEA system also provides constructive, developmental feedback to instructors suggesting ways they might improve a course in light of the experience of others who have faced similar teaching challenges. In short, the IDEA pilot study has already provided us with a glimpse of what may prove to be a valuable tool for continuous instructional improvement at MTU.

If you have questions about this or other items related to teaching, learning, and faculty development, give us a call at 487-2046.

Call for student papers: Get lunch, experience, and maybe cash

All MTU students are invited to participate in the Sigma Xi Research Colloquium.

Any student who has conducted original research at Michigan Tech may present a paper on their research at the colloquium, set for Saturday, April 26, in the ROTC Graduate Student Center.

To participate, submit an abstract to Associate Dean of Engineering Neil Hutzler, ME-EM 104, by April 16. For information on presentation, judging, and abstracts, contact Hutzler at 487-2005, hutzler@mtu.edu; or Travis Cross, 487-8267, tacross@mtu.edu (Note: The required format for the abstract is very specific. Be sure to contact Hutzler or Cross if you are splanning to participate.)

Participants will be judged based on their research presentation and content. The Best Presentation winner receives $200, with the student submitting the best abstract being awarded $100. Honorable Mentions are given $50, and everybody gets lunch.

The colloquium is sponsored by the Graduate Student Council.

Micro systems seminar March 31

Associate Professor Victor Bright will present a seminar, "Micro Systems: Research and Development at the Air Force Institute of Technology," on Monday, March 31, at 4:00 p.m. in EERC 100.

Bright is on the faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Ohio. Bright is visiting MTU as a candidate for a faculty position in electrical engineering. For more information, contact Anand Kulkarni at 487-2773.

Career Center Stories

The University Career Center is slated to move to spacious new quarters this summer. In honor of its move to the Harold Meese Center, Tech Topics *is publishing anecdotes springing from life in the existing center. If you have any interesting Career Center stories, help memorialize the center and e-mail them to ttopics@mtu.edu. And, in case you'd like to help with the move, fundraising for the Meese Center is still under way.*

A day late, a recruiter short

By Sally Koppana, Career Center staff assistant

The Career Center day began in its usual manner. Recruiters were checking in, picking up their schedules, and being shown to their rooms. Finally, as the last recruiter was shown to his room, it was apparent that we were a recruiter short. There were three schedules for a particular company and only two had shown up.

In checking the paperwork sent in by the company, it was confirmed that there were supposed to be three schedules. After a phone call to the company, it was decided that the candidates from the last schedule be accommodated by the two recruiters who had arrived. Therefore, the students were called and fit into breaks, at the beginning and end of the day. Aaaaah, another crisis comes to a close.

But wait! That same day, near closing time, the third recruiter shows up looking for his schedule "for the next day." Apparently, the company had changed their date by one day and had never informed the third recruiter. Back to the drawing board. We scrambled to get more students, along with the previous metallurgical engineering students who had been on the schedule, for the recruiter.

In the end, he had a pretty good schedule considering it was done last minute. And so all ends well once again . . . until the next time.

Take Our Daughters to Work Day volunteers sought

Volunteers are needed to help during Take Our Daughters to Work Day, set for Thursday, April 24, at Michigan Tech.

Volunteers will be setting up displays and leading tours, among other activities, **Renee Marion** (IT) told Staff Council March 24. Sponsors are also needed to host girls who'd like to come to MTU for the day but don't have a parent on campus.

The event is sponsored annually by the Presidential Commission for Women. If you'd like to volunteer or sponsor a girl, contact Marion (rmarion@mtu.edu, 487-3026) or Diane Koskela (dkoskela@mtu.edu, 487-2827).

Remote sensing meeting March 28

All faculty and research staff interested in remote sensing are invited to a reception in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge on Friday, March 28, at 4:00 p.m.

We will discuss multidisciplinary collaborations and ways to enhance remote-sensing activities at MTU. This is a chance to find out what your colleagues in other disciplines are doing in this field. Please RSVP Bruce Rafert at 487-2086 or brafert@mtu.edu by Thursday, March 27.

Cabaret comedy by the Troupe, Wind Symphony

Submitted by the fine arts department

For a hilarious evening of comedy and music, come to the Dee Stadium Ballroom in downtown Houghton on Friday and Saturday, April 11–12, when MTU's improvisational comedy group, The Troupe, joins forces with the Wind Symphony for "Cabaret—Spike Jones Style." The fun begins at 8:00 p.m. each evening, with informal cabaret-style seating and refreshments available throughout the evening.

Members of both The Troupe and Wind Symphony are veteran student performers whose annual comedy shows have become an MTU tradition. Directed by **Sue Stephens** and **Jeff Bell-Hanson** (fine arts), the groups specialize in music and comedy suitable for all ages. Taking a cue from the Spike Jones band, famous in the 1950s and 1960s for satiric songs, skits, unusual instruments, and special effects, the Wind Symphony promises a relaxing and funny evening full of surprises and good music. The Troupe will add its own spice of original comedy sketches written especially for "Cabaret."

Tickets for "Cabaret" are available from the Memorial Union Box Office (487-3200), SDC Central Ticket Office (487-2073), and at the door. Prices are $3 for students, $5 for senior citizens, and $7 general admission. For more information about the show, call the Department of Fine Arts at 487-2067.

Starting April 11, we will be reducing drastically the number of printed Tech Topics we send to many MTU departments.

What would you like first?

The good news: *Tech Topics* is now available by e-mail. It's fast. You can get the news up to four days before you might be receiving your printed *Tech Topics*. It's also easy to find information. Depending on the e-mail software you have, you can search the e-mail *Tech Topics* for key words, such as "positions available at MTU," and go right to the article you're looking for.

It's convenient. You can copy articles that you want, print them or save them, and delete everything else, if you so choose.

And, the e-mail *Tech Topics* is environment friendly. It doesn't use up a single twig.

Now for the bad news. Starting April 11, we will be reducing drastically the number of printed *Tech Topics* we send to many MTU departments, by 50 percent or more.

We aren't doing this because we're arbitrary and capricious, though occasionally we are. This is a fiscally driven decision.

Tech Topics costs $18,000–$20,000 annually to print. Given our budgetary constraints, and to keep our department in the pretty-good graces of those who give us our money, we've got to cut our expenses.

We could figure out only one way to both keep our budget intact and provide the information you need: reduce the number of copies we print and offer you an e-mail *Tech Topics*.

So that's what we are doing. Any questions?

What if I don't have a computer?

All departments will continue to receive some paper *Tech Topics*, so you should have access to a printed copy. A few departments on campus are staffed primarily by folks who don't use computers; they will continue to receive the same number as they do now.

I think it will be hard to read *Tech Topics* on a computer screen. Any suggestions?

Glad you asked. If you find it difficult to read a long document in e-mail, you have a couple of alternatives. One, you can print it out, which admittedly takes a lot of paper. Two, some people find it easier to read *Tech Topics* on the Web—just go to the MTU Home Page, click on "News and Events," and then click on the "Tech Topics" button. Or three, wait until the print version comes to your department and arrange to see a copy.

We are thinking of offering an alternative e-mail version of *Tech Topics*, an Acrobat file that can be opened in Netscape. It looks just like the hard copy, and it prints out beautifully. That could be available within the next few weeks, if people are interested.

How do I subscribe to the e-mail *Tech Topics*?

Send an e-mail message to majordomo@mtu.edu
Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the letter, type **SUBSCRIBE TECH-TOPICS-L**

That's all there is to it. You'll begin receiving *Tech Topics* via e-mail next week.

If you have any questions, contact Tech Topics Editor Marcia Goodrich, 487-3509, ttopics@mtu.edu

Stoll raises cautionary flag over the World Wide Web

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

My problem is with the culture of computing—this arrogant, impolite interaction. The flame wars, the incivility. I'm not sure this is the way we want our community to develop.

Clifford Stoll, a bestselling author, leading authority on computer security, astrophysicist turned systems manager, and pioneer of the Internet turned Internet skeptic, visits Michigan Tech on Tuesday, April 1, to deliver the 1996–97 Katherine M. Bosch lecture. "Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway" is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. in Fisher 135.

Stoll is among the first to seriously question the direction of the information highway. His lecture will include discussion on the nature of the Internet, future technologies, and how computers impact our lives. Admission is free and the lecture is open to all.

Stoll admits to being deeply ambivalent about the wired world and has second thoughts about the role of networks in our culture. In his most-recent book, *Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway*, he explores the hyperbole and overselling of the Internet. He argues that, rather than bringing us together, our on-line obsession may be isolating us from each other. He questions whether computers belong in classrooms and wonders if they get in the way of learning; whether libraries should spend money on multi-media gizmos rather than books, journals, and librarians. And he asks, if computers are so great for efficiency, how come American business productivity has been essentially flat over the past two decades?

"I'm not anti-Internet. Or a technophobe," he says. "I love computers. I use 'em. I have a half dozen of them here in the house. My beef is not with computers. My problem is with the culture of computing—this arrogant, impolite interaction. The flame wars, the incivility. I'm not sure this is the way we want our community to develop."

He admits to not having answers, to not "having a game plan for how to make things good." But he feels that it is vitally important to raise the questions "because nobody else is."

Stoll grew up on the north side of Buffalo where he received the "coveted Blue Star for good attendance at Buffalo Public School 61" and later a BA in Physics from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He went on to earn a PhD for research in Jupiter's atmosphere from the Department of Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona. In 1982–85 he built image-processing software for the space telescope at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and helped design the optical system of the Keck Observatory, the world's largest telescope, at Mauna Kea in Hawaii. In 1986–87 he tracked a computer hacker through a maze of networks, silently watching him as he broke into forty military computers. After a yearlong chase involving an electronic sting operation, he traced the hacker to Hanover, Germany, and discovered a crucial link to a mysterious agent in Pittsburgh. Stoll had single-handedly uncovered a spy ring that sold computer secrets to the KGB for cocaine and tens of thousands of dollars. His photo appeared on the front page of the *New York Times* and newspapers across the country, and he found himself referred to as a genuine American hero. This experience resulted in his bestselling book *The Cuckoo's Egg: Tracking a Spy Through the Maze of Computer Espionage,* and a PBS/Nova documentary, "The KGB, the Computer and Me."

Since then, Stoll has testified before Senate committees, the FBI, the CIA, and the NSA. He has written his second best-seller, *Silicon Snake Oil,* and now lives a somewhat calmer existence in the San Francisco Bay area where, he says, he can "make plum jam every July and silk-screen greeting cards in December."

Clifford Stoll's visit is made possible by funding from the Katherine M. Bosch Endowment and is coordinated by the University Cultural Enrichment Department. Call 487-2844 for further information.

Refuse to Be a Victim seminar for women March 31

Crime prevention anticipates a risk and takes action to eliminate or reduce it. If you're a woman, you can do some crime prevention on your own by coming to "Refuse to Be a Victim," on Monday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m. in Fisher 135

The Public Safety Department, as part of their crime prevention program, will host this for-women-only event, which helps you formulate a personal safety strategy.

The three-hour confidential program, taught by women, teaches easy-to-understand tactics to use in preventing criminal attacks. This year's program will include specific information for women living in a residential neighborhood, as well as those living in a campus residence hall. Additionally, it will feature a demonstration of simple, effective self-defense moves.

Refuse to Be a Victim provides information that could save your life, according to Public Safety. "Having a personal protection specialist come to campus is a great enhancement to our crime prevention efforts on campus and in the community," department officials said. "The information is very valuable, so bring a daughter and a friend."

The program will be presented by Mary Polkowski of Warren, who is certified with the American Women's Self Defense Association and the Refuse To Be A Victim Program.

This program is made possible through a grant from the National Rifle Association Foundation and the Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club. Admission is free. For more information, contact Brian Cadwell at 487-2216.

New staff

Lynn Artman has joined the Intellectual Property staff as a licensing assistant. She was previously employed at Herman Gundlach, Inc., as a project manager. Artman has a BS in Geological Engineering and is a licensed professional engineer. She lives in Chassell with her husband, Ed, and son, Edward.

Chemistry colloquium

James Chickos of the University of Missouri–St. Louis will present a seminar, "Sublimation Enthalpies: Their Measurement and Estimation," on Friday, April 4, at 3:00 p.m. in Chemical Sciences and Engineering 102.

Chickos' visit is sponsored through the Chemistry Colloquia series, and everyone's invited.

MTU notables

David Vesely, a spring 1996 commencement speaker and MTU graduate ('65, electrical engineering), has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force. Vesely, who is commander of the 14th Air Force in Vendenberg, California, received an honorary PhD in Engineering from MTU. His visit in May 1996 commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the MTU Air Force ROTC program.

Professor **Bruce Rafert,** chair of the Department of Physics, has been elected to a three-year term as a councilor on the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). CUR is a national professional organization with more than 3,700 members representing 850 institutions in seven divisions spanning biology, chemistry, geology, math/computer science, physics/astronomy, and psychology. MTU is a CUR institution, and all faculty are eligible for CUR membership. CUR maintains a home page on the World Wide Web at www.unca.edu/cur

Companies coming

Representatives from the following employers will be recruiting on campus next week. If you'd like to meet with any of them, contact the Career Center at 487-2313.

- Monday, March 31: Spicer Engineering Company
- Tuesday, April 1: Cannon-Muskegon Corporation, Rollins Environmental
- Thursday, April 3: Besse Forest Products
- Friday, April 4: Kimberly-Clark Munising, Stone Container

Tech Tea: the Habitat habit—an alternative spring break

Submitted by University Cultural Enrichment

Instead of making for the sunny beaches of Florida or home for a comfortable bed, a week's worth of catching up on sleep, and Mom's good cooking, a group of Tech students spent their Spring Break camping out in a church, learning how to pour concrete, and putting up dry wall.

Fifteen members of Habitat for Humanity at MTU drove to Fulton, Missouri, to participate in the Collegiate Challenge Program through Habitat International. The program pairs college Habitat groups with local Habitat affiliates. At Tech Tea Time on Wednesday, April 2, members of the group who worked on three houses in Fulton will show slides and share their experiences of the trip.

Representatives from the local chapter will also be at Tea Time to talk about their activities. Tech Tea Time is at 4:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. Light refreshments are served and the event is free and open to the public.

When members of the group are asked why they build houses rather than zone out for a week, the answer is always "because it's fun." Of course, there's a lot of very hard work mixed in, but they all agree that the enormous sense of accomplishment makes it all worth it. By the end of the week in Fulton, they had built two sheds, laid a foundation, installed floor joists, prepared a driveway, and laid a concrete slab.

"The curtains were up, the carpets installed, and the driveway completed," said **Colleen Tallman**, a veteran of four Collegiate Challenge Tech Trips. "It really looked like a home—ready for the family to move into."

Tallman, former president of the group and a graduate student in electrical engineering, says the experience has made her reflect on how privileged she is by comparison with the families she has met on the trips, and how Habitat for Humanity has given her an opportunity "to give back to others. When the students met the future homeowners of the houses they were working on, they were rewarded with heartfelt praise and gratitude.

Habitat for Humanity international is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing from the world and make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Low-income future homeowners contribute a requisite number of "sweat equity" hours and work alongside volunteers. The Collegiate Challenge, which offers work opportunities far away from the volunteers' own homes, provides a unique experience of a different local culture and valuable hands-on construction training.

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

University Boards to honor Tech faculty, students

Submitted by the News Bureau

The Michigan Association of Governing Boards (MAGB) of State Universities will honor two distinguished faculty and two outstanding students from each of the state's fifteen public universities during its annual awards convocation, set for April 8 in the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University.

Honorees from Michigan Tech are faculty members **Mary Ann Beckwith** and **Calvin White** and students **Gordon Erdelean** of Washington, Michigan, and **Katherine Greenfield** of Franklin, Wisconsin.

White is chair of metallurgical and materials engineering and winner of the University's 1996 Research Award. His research has focused on joining processes for engineering materials and the influences these interfaces and impurities have on material processing and performance. He holds a patent with two colleagues for his work on "Thorium Doped Iridium Alloy for Radioisotope Heat Sources" and has published more than eighty articles in professional journals during his career.

White received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California in 1969, an MS in Metallurgy and Materials Science from the University of Minnesota in 1971, and a PhD in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1974. He began his career on the research staff of the Metals and Ceramics Division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, where he served for twelve years before joining the Michigan Tech faculty in 1986. During his tenure at MTU, he has attracted more than $1.3 million in research funds.

Beckwith, on the fine arts faculty since 1980, received a BA in Art with a minor in English from Marygrove College in Detroit in 1967. She began teaching at Michigan Tech part time in 1973 through the University's Continuing Education Department. She also taught gifted and talented programs in area school districts, chaired and coordinated arts festivals, and taught private art lessons in the Copper Country.

Although she is a professional artist who has won several awards and published a book on watercolor, Beckwith considers teaching her prime interest. She offers three to four courses a term, including painting, drawing, art studies, and design courses to engineering, science, and technology students. In 1996 she won the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Erdelean is a senior at Michigan Tech who will graduate with a BS in Chemical Engineering this May. Upon graduation, he will begin his career with the BASF Corporation. He has received numerous honors at MTU, including the Most Spirited Student Leader and the Most Motivational Student Leader awards. He is president of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, past vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and has been on the Dean's List throughout his college career. Erdelean graduated as valedictorian of Romeo High School in 1993 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. He is the son of Jivco and Dushka Erdelean, of Washington.

Greenfield is a senior in biological sciences who aspires to become a pediatrician. During her years at Michigan Tech, she has been on the Dean's List every term, served in a leadership capacity in several student clubs, was a residence hall assistant and orientation assistant, and participated in collegiate musical performances. She won the Academic Achievement Award for Mathematics, the Michigan Tech Student Foundation Student Leader Award, MTU Exceptional Student Award, and the Gladys E. Wool Scholarship for Pre-medicine Students. She is the daughter of Michael Greenfield, of Jackson, Wisconsin, and Linda Greenfield, of Franklin, Wisconsin.

Computer classes

Michigan Tech is the following classes in cooperation with dL Computer Consultants at the reduced price of $115 at the consultants' office, 706 Shelden Avenue. All classes are held 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Workshops may also be scheduled as needed, with a minimum of three participants. For more information or to register, contact Rebecca Christianson, 487-2416.

- Windows 95: Thursday, April 3
- Excel: Thursday, April 10
- WordPerfect: Thursday, April 24

In print

Michigan Tech's new MS program in Forestry, a partnership with the Peace Corps, was featured in the winter 1997 edition of the newsletter *Peace Corps Master's International Program.* The new MTU master's program, named in honor of the longest-serving Peace Corps director, the late Loret Ruppe, combines course work at MTU with Peace Corps service. It was officially inaugurated September 30 at Michigan Tech.

Professor **Vladimir Tonchev** (mathematical sciences) has published a paper, "Classification of Affine Resolvable Designs," jointly with Clement Lam (Concordia University, Montreal), in the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference,* vol. 56 (1996).

Michigan Tech's BS in Surveying program was featured in the January-February edition of the *Michigan Professional Surveyor Newsletter.* Executive Director Roland Self noted that the program has produced its first graduate, **Frank Casenhiser,** of Wixom, and encouraged others to consider enrolling in the program. "Perhaps others who haven't thought about surveying as a career will give this program a serious look and realize it's a way to earn a college degree and still maintain a job and a family," Self wrote.

Proposals in progress

Researchers, their proposals, and their potential sponsors are

- **Michael Mullins** (chemical engineering), "An Engineering Design Study for a Novel Zeolite-Based Catalytic Membrane Reactor," EPA/NSF
- **Charles Kerfoot** and **Sandra Hanting** (biological sciences/LaSER), "Atmospheric and Mining-Related Contributions of Mercury and Other Heavy Metals to Watersheds around the Keweenaw Peninsula," Michigan DNR
- **Wayne Pennington** (geological engineering and sciences), "Earthquake Seismology for K-12," Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation
- **Kurt Pregitzer** (SFWP), "Geomorphic and Hydrologic Controls on Riparian Ecosystem Development in Two Northern Lake States," USDA Forest Service
- **Peter Laks** and **Dana Richter** (IWR), "Soil Block Test of Propiconazole/Tebuconazole/IPBC-Treated Wood," Janssen Pharmaceutica; "Tropic Response of Mites to a Broad Range of Fungi," EPA
- **Mahesh Gupta** (ME-EM), "Prediction of Sink Marks in Injection-Molded Plastic Parts," Allied Signal, Inc.
- **Shalini Rudak** and **John Lehman** (educational opportunity), "MTU Secondary Educators' Fellowship Summer Session '97," AAUW
- **Steven Carr, Philip Sweany** (computer science), and **François Margot** (mathematical sciences), "Optimizing Register Usage in Compilers for Instruction-Level Parallel Architectures," NSF
- **Michael Renn** (physics), "Nanofabrication with Laser-Guided Particles and Atoms," ORAU
- **Judith Perlinger** (civil and environmental engineering), "Determination of Relative Reactivities of Mining Byproducts in the Reduction of Halogenated Alkanes," ORAU
- **Glenn Mroz, David Reed, Jiquan Chen, Margaret Gale,** and **Marty Jurgensen** (SFWP), "Designing Regeneration Systems for Sustainable Management of Lake States Forested Wetlands," USDA
- **Mroz, Gale,** and **Reed,** "A Proposal to Conduct Two Sessions of the USDA Forest Service Program of Advanced Studies in Silviculture," USDA Forest Service
- **Craig Friedrich, Michele Miller, Mahesh Gupta, John Sutherland, Larry Evers, William Predebon, Donna Michalek** (ME-EM), **Douglas Swenson, Walter Milligan, Bruce Pletkla, Stephen Hackney, Mohan Krishnamurthy** (MME), **Kirk Schulz, Michael Mullins** (chemical engineering), **Steven Seidel** (computer science), and **Edward Nadgorny** (physics), "Acquisition of a Micromechanical Fabrication System," NSF
- **Stephen Shetron** (SFWP), "A Two-Part Study: Residual Amounts of Bio-Solids, Inorganics, and Metals Applied to Gribben Tailing Basin Dikes: Residual Fertilizer Nutrients in Empire Tailings," Cleveland Cliffs
- **Bruce Rafert, Christ Ftaclas** (physics), **Charles Kerfoot** (biological sciences), **Ann Maclean** (SFWP), **Sarah Green** (chemistry), **William Rose, Gregg Bluth,** and **Drew Pilant** (geological engineering and sciences), "Development of an Advanced Hyperspectral Imager," NSF
- **Zhiqiang Wang** (IWR), "Nondestructive Evaluation Methods for Tree Quality," USDA

Senate picks committee reps

The University Senate elected three faculty March 26 to serve on the Vice Provost for nstruction Search Committee.

Faith Morrison (chemical engineering) will epresent the College of Engineering, with **Philip Sweany** (computer science) chosen from the College of Sciences and Arts. **Kurt Pregitzer** (SFWP) epresents the Schools of Technology, Forestry and Wood Products, and Business and Economics.

The new vice provost will be chosen from among current MTU faculty and will focus on teaching issues, particularly undergraduate nstruction. The Board of Control authorized the new position March 14.

The senate also opted to extend the nominating period for at-large senatorial candidates. After the one-week nominating period, only two persons had been nominated to fill the two vacancies. Senate Vice President **Ted Soldan** said the short slate not only leaves voters with no choice, it also makes no provision for senate alternates. (The second-highest vote-getters in senate elections serve as alternates for the elected senators.)

Senator **Christa Walck** (SBE) argued against extending the deadline, suggesting that it was unfair to those who get their nominations in on time. "I find it disturbing to continually do this," she said. "I think it looks bad."

Senator **Laurie Whitt** (humanities) suggested that the senate develop a policy that would allow them to solicit candidates after a deadline if a minimum number of candidates have not come forward.

Positions available at MTU

The following positions will be posted Friday, March 28, 1997, at 1:00 p.m. through noon, Friday, April 4, 1997, in the Human Resources Office.

Coordinator, Conferences and Institutes—Educational Opportunity

Associate Dean of Academic Programs—Dean of Engineering

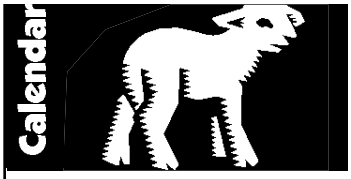
Technical Staff Assistant—Chemical Engineering

Assistant Professor—Physics (temporary, one-year position)

Assistant or Associate Professor (dependent on qualifications)—Physics

Secretary II (N4)—Civil and Environmental Engineering (FULL-TIME, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL UAW POSTING)

University employees are reminded to apply in writing prior to noon, Friday, April 4, 1997, to be considered as internal candidates. Applicants from the recall pool will be given first consideration for non-bargaining-unit positions. 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.



March

National Women's Month

28 Friday

4:00 p.m.—Remote sensing meeting—Memorial Union Alumni Lounge

4:00 p.m.—Anne Balsamo, "Myths of Information: The Cultural Impact of New Communication Technologies"—Walker 109

6:30 p.m.—*Surname Viet Given Name Nam*—Walker 134

8:00 p.m.—Club MUB: Brad Lowery—Keweenaw Commons

29 Saturday

8:00 p.m.—Club MUB: Brad Lowery—Keweenaw Commons

31 Monday

4:00 p.m.—Victor Bright, :Micro Systems: Research and Development at the Air Force Institute of Technology"—EERC 100

7:00 p.m.—Refuse to Be a Victim workshop—Fisher 135

April

Fair Housing Month

1 Tuesday

8:00 p.m.—Clifford Stoll, "Silicon Snake Oil: Second Thoughts on the Information Highway:—Fisher 135

4 Friday

2:00 p.m.—Katherine Rowan, "Communicating Controversial, Complex Science"—Walker 134

3:00 p.m.—James Chickos, "Sublimation Enthalpies: Their Measurement and Estimation"—Chemical Sciences and Engg 102

5 Saturday

1:00 p.m.—Women's tennis, MTU vs. St. Scholastica—Gates Tennis Center

6 Sunday

1:00 p.m.—Women's tennis, MTU vs. NMU—Gates Tennis Center

11 Friday

8:00 p.m.—Wind Symphony and the Troupe: Cabaret, Spike Jones Style—Dee Stadium

12 Saturday

8:00 p.m.—Wind Symphony and the Troupe: Cabaret, Spike Jones Style—Dee Stadium