Michigan Tech Professor Spends Decades Working for Diversity in Engineering

Since her first day as a Stanford University undergraduate, Martha Sloan has been forging new paths for women in engineering. Of the 1,200 students in Stanford’s College of Engineering, Sloan was the lone female. Her experience was indicative of the industry at the time—in 1960, less than 1 percent of all engineers were women.

“It was lonely to be the only woman, but I was fortunate enough to make great friends in the class ahead of me,” said Sloan.

Sloan thrived in the university’s demanding academic environment and graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1961. She went on to earn her MS in Electrical Engineering and PhD in Education, at a time when women earned less than 11 percent of all doctoral degrees.

Since her early days as a pioneer at Stanford, Sloan has tackled many frontiers that were previously unexplored by women in the academic and engineering worlds. In 1969, she became the first female professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at Michigan Tech. Later, she was named the first ECE Professor Emerita. In 1993, Sloan received international recognition when she was elected the first female president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Throughout her career, Sloan has been consistently recognized for acting as a strong advocate for female STEM students and faculty. She had a hand in developing a number of campus resources designed to help Michigan Tech women succeed. She drove the
creation of the IEEE Women in Engineering Affinity Group, the ECE Women’s Center, and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)—a program that seeks to build supportive communities, enhance professional development opportunities, and help women find and become empowered colleagues. Upon receiving Tech’s 2012 Distinguished Service Award, Sloan was commended for her “unflinching advocacy of women at all levels.”

In addition to her decades of service, Sloan has a long history of generous giving to Michigan Tech. She supports two endowed scholarship funds to help deserving students complete their undergraduate educations. The Norman Sloan Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which was named for Sloan’s late husband, offers financial assistance to a senior student in the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. In honor of Norman Sloan’s teaching legacy, scholarship recipients must have a record of service in the School and a demonstrated interest in wildlife. The Martha Sloan Endowed Scholarship provides tuition support to a senior “Woman of Promise” in the ECE Department—a well-rounded student who surpasses expectations in the realms of academia, leadership, and citizenship.

In 2014, Sloan received the Michigan Tech Honorary Alumni Award in recognition of her years of support and service to the University. The annual award, given by the Michigan Tech Alumni Association, is reserved for the strongest non-alumni supporters of the University—a true testament to Sloan’s work as a faculty member, role model, and mentor.

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Call our Office of Gift Planning at 906-487-3325, or return the enclosed reply card, to learn more about the benefits of gifting appreciated securities.
Year-End Tax Savings Checklist

As 2014 comes to a close, so too does the opportunity to reduce income taxes for the year. A few minutes of review can save you many hours of disappointment. Here are some common ways to plan and save money.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
Give before the end of the year and reduce your income taxes. Review your gifts to date to ensure you have given to the causes important to you in the amounts you intended. Now is also a good time to make sure you have proper receipts and documentation.

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS
If you have contributed to a Flexible Spending Account, make sure you have used all of the money available. Now might be the time to get that eye exam or other medical procedure you have been delaying.

MORTGAGE INTEREST
You can make your January mortgage payment early and add to your mortgage deduction this year. Just check with your accountant about how to do this, especially since the number you report might differ from what your lender sends on Form 1098.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES
Call your accountant now to ask which state and local taxes may be paid in 2014 to reduce your federal income taxes for the same year. Alternatively, if delaying payment may help you, determine the best strategy.

INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING
After calculating your taxes for 2014, work with your accountant to see if you should adjust the withholding on your employer’s W-2 Form.

STAY UP TO DATE
Congress may pass new laws at the end of the year that will affect your taxes. Check our website, www.mtulegacy.org, and subscribe to our newsletter to gain additional tips and ideas.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY
End this year with a tax deduction and start the next with a check back to you every three months for life. Payments are fixed and may offer capital gains and estate tax savings.

If you have questions, contact your tax advisor or call us at 906-487-3325 for more ideas about how to save money on taxes.

Current Information at Your Convenience
Visit our website at www.mtulegacy.org to enjoy the latest articles on personal planning, savvy living, Washington, and financial news. These articles are updated weekly, so visit us often. Also, don’t forget to sign up for our monthly eNewsletter.
In late September, thousands of Michigan Tech students from across campus swapped casual clothes for business suits and descended upon the SDC for the biannual Career Fair. The fall fair, which was the largest in Michigan Tech history, attracted a record-breaking total of 340 employers. More than 1,100 company representatives were on hand to meet students, review résumés, and conduct interviews. The Career Fair spread throughout the SDC, with employers occupying every inch of space in the Multi-Purpose Room and the Varsity Gym. Over the course of the Fair, students enjoyed personal access to many of the top employers in the country, including Ford, Amazon, and Kimberly-Clark. For the first time in Career Fair history, representatives from Google were on campus to interview students.

In a testament to the enduring legacy of a Michigan Tech education, numerous alumni were among the employer representatives. Jamie Linna ‘99, a Management Information Systems alumna, recruited for her company, Dow Corning. She described the experience as incredibly exciting. “The turnout of students and companies was amazing—almost overwhelmingly so,” said Linna. “I tried to select the students who could be my boss someday, the people I would want to work for.”

The Career Fair was the culmination of a multi-week process designed to prepare students for the rigors of a professional job search. In early September, representatives from Ford visited campus to conduct mock interviews and participate in multiple Résumé Blitz critique events. In the days leading up to the September 30 event, major employers held information sessions on campus, giving students the chance to ask questions in advance of formal interviews. The weeklong event went off without a hitch, and employers were delighted with the quantity and quality of the students in attendance. “It was incredible to see the next generation of talented Huskies,” Linna said. “These students will make an impact on their fields and on the world.”

Michigan Tech’s McNair Society

The McNair Society, named after Fred McNair, president of the University from 1899–1924, honors alumni and friends who leave a legacy for Michigan Tech through their estate plans. We welcome the following new members to the McNair Society:

**Anonymous ’56**
**F. William ’56 and Sheila Baxandall**
**Robert ’56 and Carol (dec) Johnson**
**William ’61 and Lois Rosenthal**
**William A. Stephens ’79**

Please contact our Office of Gift Planning if you have provided for the future of Michigan Tech through a bequest or a planned gift. We want to recognize you too with membership in the McNair Society.