Four generations
A Tech family legacy
A natural solution
Beetle-eating wasps take on the emerald ash borer

Four generations of Harrises
A Tech family legacy

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The Harris family, which has produced twelve Tech alumni over four generations, visited the University to help kick off Generations of Discovery—The Campaign for Michigan Tech.
Photo by Adam Johnson ’98

Inside cover
Tugs-of-war are serious Homecoming fun.
Photo by Jonathan May

Clare Rosen, design and illustration
Marcia Goodrich, editor

Feedback
Read your letters to the editor at mtu.edu/magazine/winter1011/stories/letters.
They call it fighting fire with fire. Or in this case, fighting bugs with bugs.

The emerald ash borer, an invasive, iridescent green beetle with a voracious appetite for ash trees, was found in the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 2007. In 2008 a population over 200 miles to the northwest was identified in an abandoned cemetery in Laurium, about ten miles north of Michigan Tech on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Adult emerald ash borers lay their eggs on ash trees, and the larvae tunnel beneath the bark. There, they eat the living part of the tree, known as the phloem, through which nutrients flow from the roots to the leaves. Ultimately, they kill the tree.

Now Michigan Tech’s Andrew Storer, a forest insect ecologist, is heading Houghton County’s battle with the bugs. Part of a $2.2 million, four-county project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the emerald ash borer management program is called SLAM (SLow Ash Mortality). Michigan Tech received $651,000 from the federal grant.

Two of the more unusual weapons SLAM is using are wasps—*Oobius agrili* and *Tetrastichus planipennisi* specifically. The wasps, which originate in China, are bred in this country by the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and a Forest Service lab in southeastern Michigan.

They are tiny, stingless insects whose favorite meal is emerald ash borers. In fact, their taste is even more refined than that. *Oobius agrili* favor emerald ash borer eggs, while *Tetrastichus planipennisi* prefer the ash borer larvae.

One muggy August day, Storer and the SLAM team are tromping through a wooded area near Calumet. They stop at a tree where a purple trap has caught emerald ash borers infesting the tree. Stripped bark reveals a heavy infestation of ash borers, the eggs already hatched into larvae. Storer lifts a jar of *Tetrastichus planipennisi*—the larvae-eating wasps—from a battered cooler. “This is the technical part,” he quips. “We take the lid off.”

What flies out is nothing like a swarm of wasps. In fact, the tiny parasites are almost too small to see. Storer taps the open container against the bark. “The idea is to get them to go on the tree,” he explains.

The female wasps can sense the ash borer larvae through the bark, so they lay eggs where they know their offspring will find food.

The team moves on to a tree where ash borer eggs that have not yet hatched have been identified.
There, they open a flask of *Oobius agrili* and urge the miniscule wasps toward the tree.

There are those who raise questions about releasing one exotic species to control another. Isn’t there a risk that the wasps in turn will become the next problem?

“It’s true that once we release the wasps, the genie is out of the bottle,” says Storer. “But there has been extensive testing of these parasites against closely related and unrelated species, and the results show that the wasps are specific to the emerald ash borer. That’s essentially all they eat, so they don’t pose a threat to native insects.”

Emerald ash borer–munching wasps have been released successfully in lower Michigan and Minnesota. They have become established at a number of sites, and the scientists hope that they will help to control the beetle populations there with no side effects.

APHIS conducted an environmental assessment comparing two options: taking no action against the emerald ash borer and releasing the parasitic wasps. “The analysis indicated that taking no action to suppress the emerald ash borer could potentially put the nation’s ash tree resources and their associated habitats at risk,” said Leah Bauer, a research entomologist with APHIS in East Lansing. “Host-specificity testing in China and in laboratory studies in the US indicated that the wasps are not expected to attack other insect species besides the emerald ash borer.”

Storer adds, “You have to weigh the risks against the benefits. The benefit is that reducing the density of emerald ash borer populations could slow the rate at which ash trees die. That could save our ash tree population, which is a valuable resource.”

“Given the devastating impact of emerald ash borers and the apparent high specificity of the wasps,” Storer says, “this is considered to be an acceptable risk.”

Storer calls the wasps “one tool in a pest management toolbox, not a silver bullet. I believe that a successful management strategy will involve multiple tools.”

The SLAM project is also using other approaches, including girdling groups of trees to act as “sinks” that draw the ash borers away from other trees in the vicinity; injecting trees with a powerful insecticide; and removing severely infested trees that are not suitable for other kinds of treatment. To track the pests, Storer’s team has hung purple prism traps in ash trees and in girdled trap trees in a grid around known infested areas.

Girdling involves cutting a shallow ring of bark off the tree, stressing it, which seems to attract the opportunistic ash borers. The insecticide, called TREE-age, is costly and impractical on large scales such as in natural forests. Removing infested trees works, but one of the goals is to save the ash trees, not chop them down.

Also at work in Delta, Schoolcraft, and Mackinac Counties, the SLAM project involves collaboration with Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the US Forest Service, and the state Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The overall project has created thirty-eight jobs, including ten at Michigan Tech.

“This work is labor-intensive,” says Storer. “We need people out in the field, setting and checking traps, treating infested trees, collecting data, and assessing results. We couldn’t have done it without the ARRA funding.”

Once the SLAM project is completed, the data it generates will be used to develop models for effective management of the emerald ash borer. So far, the beetle has been identified in thirteen states and Canada.

Ted ’49 begat Michael Pingel ’95 and Thomas; and Thomas begat Laura, Class of 2014. Jerry ’53 begat Geri Lynn, Michael ’80, Steven ’81, Gregory ’83, James ’85, and Donald ’89. Geri Lynn begat Jessica Mariano ’09.

And, in conclusion, at least for the moment, Michael ’80 begat Ben, Class of 2011. All told, that’s twelve alumni, a senior, and a freshman, all members of the Harris clan, whose Tech connections began in the 1930s with Uncle Bernie. That’s not even counting the Harrises who attended Tech but didn’t graduate, the alumnae spouses, and those who chose a different path all together.

Three of the Harris alumni and the two Harris students helped the University kick off the Generations of Discovery capital campaign in September during Homecoming 2010: Jerry, Mike, Jessica, Ben, and Laura.

Jerry’s story began in the late 1940s while he was still a high school kid in Escanaba. On weekends he would travel up north to ski with his three brothers, who were already at Tech on the GI Bill. Jerry passed on a football scholarship at Case Western Reserve because he wanted to be an engineer, and, from his brothers, he knew Tech was the place for engineering. Plus, the skiing and golf were too good to pass up. “Michigan Tech had no competition,” he said.

Since earning his civil engineering degree in 1953, Jerry has lived several professional lives: first as an officer in the navy’s Civil Engineer Corps, then as an engineer with the Michigan State Highway Department and Standard Oil. Next, he managed a cable television company, taught at Northern Michigan University, and finally consulted in Indonesia with the Louis Berger Group.

He never regretted his decision. “Everything I’ve done in my life after college was influenced by Michigan Tech,” he said. His schooling laid the groundwork for a successful career, but the best outcome, Jerry insists, was his wife, Carole. “The highlight was the commission in the US Navy,” he said. “There I met the very attractive daughter of one of my fellow officers.”

Jerry and Carole raised six children in Escanaba, and all five sons followed their father’s footsteps to Michigan Tech. Mike was the first. “I was looking at schools that were reasonably close and affordable,” he remembers. He also wanted to study premed, “but didn’t want to go to a big downstate school.” And, like his father, the skiing and the outdoors lured him to the Keweenaw.
Mike enrolled at Tech in 1976 and was followed in quick succession by brothers Steven, Gregory, James, and Donald. Jerry and Carole, faced with a steady stream of sons attending the same university, developed a cost-cutting strategy.

“After my junior year, Dad bought a house on Wright Street in Hancock we called the Harris Hilton,” Mike said. “We converted it into a guys’ dorm. At the end of their freshman year, each of my brothers would move into the Hilton. We’d split the utilities, and the non-Harrises paid rent. There was room for eight.”

“Carole and I also provided a car, though there was sometimes a question as to whether or not it would work,” Jerry said.

In any event, transportation to Tech was never a problem in those days. “You could always get a ride,” said Mike. “If you’d walk out on the street, invariably someone would pick you up.”

Mike came to Tech because he hoped to get into med school, and he did, at the University of Michigan. There, he soon learned to appreciate his undergraduate preparation and the Tech culture.

“There was a certain attitude among some of the med students,” he said. “You could always tell who went to certain universities because they were better than everybody else—just ask them.”

He also was surprised to learn that competition was so rabid in other schools’ preprofessional programs that students would sabotage each other’s work. It didn’t pay to leave a lab in mid-experiment. “But here at Tech, we formed a society to encourage success among our peers,” he said. The results spoke for themselves: fourteen of Mike’s fifteen classmates who applied to medical school were accepted.

Mike recently closed his urology practice in Traverse City and is now in the Detroit area researching the effectiveness of various prostate cancer treatments. He practices at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and West Bloomfield Henry Ford Hospital and is the chief of urology at the Dingell VA Hospital.

Studying biological sciences at a school best known for engineering helped make it possible, said Mike’s wife, Joan. “He understands the logistics of everything, from business to quality assurance,” she said. “The foundation that Tech gave him and his brothers is just phenomenal.”

Mike’s brother Jim followed a similar path. After graduating from Michigan Tech and the University of Michigan Medical
School, he completed a surgical residency and a fellowship at Harvard and now is a surgeon in North Carolina. Brothers Steve, Greg, and Don all are successful mechanical engineers. The next generation of Harrises is carrying on the Tech tradition. Freshman Laura is still settling in: “So far, so good,” she says after her first month of classes.

She became enamored of the Upper Peninsula during childhood visits to her grandparents’ farm in the tiny town of Trenary. Later, when she began taking aptitude tests, environmental engineering kept popping up to the top of the list. “The more I learned about it, the more I fell in love with it,” Laura said. “I chose Michigan Tech once I decided on engineering.”

Her second cousin Jessica Mariano became the first female in the Harris line to earn a Michigan Tech degree, in 2009. Despite the preponderance of engineers and scientists in her family, Jessica soon realized that engineering wasn’t for her and majored instead in psychology. She earned her degree in 2009 and is now in graduate school at Western Michigan University.

Jessica has discovered that, like her uncles and grandfather Jerry, Tech prepared her very well. “We were doing things in our research methods class at Western that I had done as an undergrad,” she said.

Ben has participated in Tech’s Enterprise program, conducted research, and volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. He was also a program coordinator in Wadsworth Hall and a resident assistant in Douglass Houghton Hall. Plus, he plays his heart out in broomball and frisbeockey, a relatively new Tech tradition combining hockey and ultimate Frisbee.

Ben has no doubt that he will be ready to uphold the Harris legacy when he crosses the podium next May at Spring Commencement.

“Being here,” he said, “has made me think like an engineer, perform like a professional, and play like a Husky.”

Learn more about the Campaign for Michigan Tech at techtube.mtu.edu/generations.
Michigan Tech’s Leaning Tree, a grand white pine in the center of the campus, died on Tuesday, August 17, 2010, in the small hours of the morning. She was cut down lest she fall down and, in dying, take with her any bystanders unfortunate enough to be loitering in the vicinity. Also known as the Inclined Pine and the EERC Tree (the latter for her proximity to the Electrical Energy Resources Center), she was 139 and in ill health, her once green and graceful limbs mostly brown and barren.

Her family tree extends back hundreds of years, to the big, long-lived white pines that are native to the Great Lakes states. She will be remembered for her resilience in the face of what one observer calls a “hardscape” environment of encroaching concrete. She succumbed to the sometimes harsh, unsentimental hand of urban forestry, which has to routinely deal with stingy and challenging conditions, as well as safety.

From humble beginnings as a mere seedling, the Leaning Tree grew to lofty prominence. In her lifetime, she saw the world transformed—from the overcutting of her forebears to the birth of silviculture. As well, she cast her shadow equally on the mighty and lowly; she witnessed the ascendancy of nine Michigan Tech presidents; and she saw the coming of age of the institution—evidenced by a graduating class that went from a mere seven to more than one thousand.

It is uncertain whether her place as the natural centerpiece of the campus was accidental or intentional. Regardless, she fulfilled the role splendidly. “I recall the tree’s big beauty,” said Mark Dion ’83, of Houston. Tim Collins, a former dean of the School of Technology, says that she started her lean in the late 1960s with the placement of the campus steam tunnels: “I can remember a guy wire on the tree during construction to keep the tree from falling into the excavation.”

It took just minutes for the hand of man to cut through time and topple her with a resounding crash. Her last words, for those who could hear them, were, “Just as the worm forgives the plow, the tree forgives the chain saw.”

Another white pine has been planted where she stood, and it is hoped that this heir will be ever green.

“This is a sad, sad day for any Michigan Tech student,” said William Morris ’02. “The EERC Tree is dead. Long live the EERC Tree. May EERC Tree 2 have a long reign.”

The felling of the Incline Pine was announced on the Michigan Tech Facebook site, and many members of the Tech community posted their condolences. You can read what they have to say by going to www.facebook.com/michigantech and scrolling down to “The EERC Tree was removed today,” posted on August 17.
A CROWN for the MIGHTY MAC
By Marcia Goodrich

It is 1970 or so. Six-year-old Tess, her sister and two brothers, and their pet wiener dog are packed into the family station wagon, with a borrowed travel trailer bouncing along behind. It’s the first day of vacation, and the Carbary family has been on the road for four hours since leaving their Bay City home, a pretty long haul in those days.

The weather is cool, gray, and foggy, as summer days once were in Northern Michigan. Dad pulls into a small roadside park, so the dog can do her business and the bickering kids, all bundled in sweatshirts, can stretch their legs. Next, they’ll head over for a quick meal at a drive-in in Mackinaw City and then set up camp.

Tess loves vacation, and she loves camping, and she wishes they would just go straight to the campground instead of wasting time in this dumb park. Then, as she clambers out of the back seat, she slows. She inhales the primal air of the Mackinac Straits, and a breeze ruffles her fluffy red hair.

The mist rises like a curtain, and the sky brightens to turquoise over deep blue water. Suddenly Tess is looking at the most wonderful thing she has ever seen. Minutes later, she vaguely hears her mother calling, “Theresa, get in the car, we’re ready to go,” but she can’t move. All she can do is stand in the little park and stare at the Mackinac Bridge.

The Carbarys didn’t actually cross the bridge between Michigan’s upper and lower peninsulas on that vacation. Their first time for that came six years later on a family trip to Copper Harbor. Again, Tess was dazzled by the bridge and this time fascinated by an engineering school they passed on their way to the tip of the Keweenaw. She got her first chance to actually drive over the Mighty Mac herself while heading to orientation at Michigan Tech, where she would major
in (what else?) civil engineering. “I came up with a high school friend,” says Tess (Carbary) Ahlborn, now an associate professor. “I remember my friend and me and my baby blue Chevette. The bridge was so overwhelming.”

Since then, Ahlborn has crossed the Straits countless times, on visits home and on University business, and she has never stopped loving the Mackinac Bridge. So, when Tom Maxwell ’86, an old friend from college, asked her if she would help nominate it for recognition as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), she said yes in a heartbeat. “I was so honored,” she says. “The bridge is just magnificent. It’s a marvel.”

“About two years ago, ASCE National asked us to submit a nomination on behalf of the bridge, and they suggested we work with Tech,” says Maxwell. “At the time, I was president of the ASCE Michigan Section, and I knew Tess was a structural professor at Tech. When I asked her, she said, ‘I’m on it,’ and she and a grad student put it together in about four months.”

“They did a great job,” he says. “It was a wonderful thing to do on behalf of the state and the Mackinac Bridge Authority.”

Ahlborn’s nomination provides an overview of the bridge’s construction (it took three years and cost nearly $100 million), its historical significance (fulfilling an 1888 dream for an easy crossing of the Straits of Mackinac), and its unprecedented features (allowing it to withstand wintry ice and gales).

In particular, the Mighty Mac put to rest concerns raised by another suspension bridge, the Tacoma Narrows in Washington state. “Gallopin’ Gertie” collapsed under 40 mph winds in 1940. In designing the Mackinac, lead engineer David Steinman introduced new design elements, including a framework of steel girders reinforcing its entire length. His aerodynamic studies showed that the Mackinac Bridge would be able to withstand winds in excess of 600 mph.

In August 2010, when the ASCE officially designated the bridge as an Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, it became the 251st structure to earn the title. ASCE President-elect Kathy Caldwell listed a few of the others when she spoke at the dedication ceremony, held August 12 at Bridge View Park in St. Ignace. The Mackinac Bridge was joining the ranks of the Panama Canal, the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, and the Brooklyn Bridge. “Steinman built four hundred bridges around the world, and he called the Mackinac his masterwork, the greatest of all,” Caldwell said.

The bridge was more than a masterwork when it was completed in 1957. It was a godsend. Previously, motorists had to rely on ferries, and sixteen-mile backups were common, Gerrad Godley, president of the ASCE Michigan Section, told the crowd at the dedication. And anyone traveling between the peninsulas had to time their arrival in the Straits; otherwise, they could find themselves spending the night in their cars, waiting for the first ferry to leave in the morning.

Nevertheless, the challenges of building a five-mile bridge in such an extreme environment delayed construction until 1954. When it opened for traffic, the so-called “bridge that couldn’t be built” was the world’s longest suspension bridge between cable anchorages. At the dedication, Bob Sweeney, chair of the Mackinac Bridge Authority, called the bridge “an example of what happens when engineers seek to do the impossible.”

“When the Mighty Mac was completed and opened up to traffic, it changed the dialogue about what was possible with suspension bridges,” said State Transportation Director Kirk Steudle. “It was built in the worst possible conditions,” he said, “and, obviously, it was very well built.”

After the ceremonies, Bridge Engineer Kim Nowak ’85 could not have been happier. “It is really exciting to be recognized on this level,” she said. Then, without a lick of exaggeration, she added, “I have the coolest job in the state.”

As if to prove it, Nowak hosted Maxwell, Ahlborn, and a handful of others for a bridge tour. “And the next thing I knew, we were on top of the south tower,” said Ahlborn. “I thought, ‘This is unbelievable!’ Ever since I was a little girl, I always wanted to know what it looked like from the top, and now I know. It’s fantastic.”

Tech was well represented at the dedication ceremony. Pictured, left to right, are Larry Carbary ’82, Associate Professor Stan Vitton, Beth Hoy ’96, Tess (Carbary) Ahlborn ’86 ’87, Tom Maxwell ’86, Kim Nowack ’85, Gerrad Godley ’95, Julie Neph ’91, Bill Deephouse ’64 ’71, Sally Santeford, and Professor Emeritus Henry Santeford. Ahlborn displays the plaque designating the Mackinac Bridge as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

Photo by Marcia Goodrich
Sean Gohman spent last summer unearthing the past, pinpointing industrial ruins near the crossroads town of Phoenix, a half-hour north of Houghton and a century-and-a-half removed from the highway traffic zipping by just a hundred yards away.

Starting in May, Gohman filled his days scaling poor rock and slogging through swamp water at the storied Cliff Mine. “It was always an ordeal,” Gohman says, for both him and the students in an archaeology field school that helped to map the site. In August, he was immersed in paperwork, putting the finishing touches on his master’s thesis and setting off in pursuit of a doctorate in Tech’s industrial heritage and archaeology program. “It’s hard to get used to sitting inside,” he said. “It’s a weird transition.”

For this native of St. Cloud, Minnesota, Michigan’s past constitutes an irresistible tug. “I want to understand where I’m at,” he says. “I like anybody’s local history. I like spending time in the woods. I like historic
Once “a mine without rival,” the long-abandoned Cliff is now overgrown with evergreens and birches.

preservation. So this is the perfect place to be. It’s not what I thought I’d be doing, but I’m glad I’m here. I lucked out.”

The cliffs near Phoenix are part of a rocky, copper-bearing spine that runs the length of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The Cliff Mine was situated on the top and the bottom of an escarpment that rises two hundred feet above the tableland. The undertaking included a company town, a mining operation, and two cemeteries: a place to live, work, and die.

The Cliff operated from 1845 to 1870. At its peak, it employed 850 workers. Over twenty-five years, the miners wrested 34 million pounds of copper from its adits, shafts, drifts, and stopes.

It has been called “the mighty Cliff” and “America’s first great copper mine.” It was one of the early mines in the Lake Superior copper district; it had the first company town on the Keweenaw Peninsula; and it was the first profitable mine in region. Horace Greeley visited the Keweenaw in 1847 and wrote in the New York Tribune, “To-day the Cliff Mine has no rival in this region nor in the world.”

Nineteenth-century pictures of the Cliff Mine show the base of the bluff bare of vegetation. Now evergreens and white birch have reclaimed the landscape and conceal the remnants of adits (there were seven), shaft houses, chimneys, walls, and buildings. “Stuff—material culture—is our bread and butter,” Gohman says of it all. He and his workers located one wall that has stood the test of time: twenty feet high and fifteen feet long, made of mine rock, with not a speck of mortar, as sturdy as ever.

Gohman is especially interested in how landscape fashions technology, and he likes to piece together what this mining operation was like. “That big cliff decided what they could or could not do,” he says. Huge pieces of pure copper, weighing tons, were unique to the Cliff Mine, and they dictated the technology. Thus, the copper had to be chiseled apart and hoisted, by hand, whim, or engine.

Associate Professor Tim Scarlett and Assistant Professor Sam Sweitz oversaw the field school. Scarlett describes the Cliff as “one of the most important mines in nineteenth-century America, historically, socially, technologically, and economically.”

Ghost towns and mining ruins are Scarlett’s passion. “What they represent has

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**Glossary**

- **Adit** a horizontal excavation into a hill or mountain
- **Drift** a horizontal excavation from a shaft
- **Poor rock** piles of waste rock, from which copper was extracted
- **Shaft** a vertical excavation that connects the surface with underground workings, including the hoisting of miners and materials
- **Stope** an excavation, overhand or underhand, from a drift
- **Whim** a large vertical drum and cable, to which a horse can be yoked, to raise ore out of a shaft

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Born into a culture largely alienated from the means of production, Sean Gohman is fascinated by early miners’ struggles to wrest copper and their livelihoods from the hard rock of the Keweenaw Peninsula.
fallen from the public consciousness,” he says. “People are almost entirely divorced from the work needed to produce the materials we consume.” Turn the lights on? You need copper wire. “It’s not magic,” he notes. “It’s based on an extraction and production process that meets a demand. It teaches us. It reminds us. We look to the past to think about the future.”

The long-range goal at the site is historic preservation, but “before you do that,” Gohman says, “you have to know what’s there.” His initial hope: interpretative signage, so visitors can tell what they are looking at. His broader dream: excavation. “I’d like to get deeper”—he’s talking literally and figuratively—“and see what more there is.” For his PhD, he wants to conduct further study on the early mining technologies of the Copper Country.

As the class wound up, the students and faculty hosted tours of the mining site. Word spread, and people, including alumni, came from as far away as Indiana and Illinois. “There’s a sense or excitement in the community broadly,” a gratified Scarlett says. The industrial leftovers impressed one June visitor: “It takes your breath away.”

The tours marked the end of the field methods course, where students endured a down-and-dirty apprenticeship in tools of the archaeological trade: surveying, measuring, and mapping in meddlesome terrain. One of Gohman’s helpers was third-year anthropology student Steve Moray, who wrote about his experience:

> Here we are at the end of field school, and I’m scratched, bruised, bug-bit, and sunburned. I’ve been hot, cold, soaking wet, tired, and sore. I’ve met some fantastic people and learned so much more than I ever could have in just a classroom. I paid tuition to work for ten hours a day, but it was worth it. I absolutely love it, and I wouldn’t trade a minute.

The Cliff Mine site is owned by the Keweenaw County Road Commission. The mapping project was funded by the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Council and the LSGI Technology Venture Fund LP.

More on the Cliff Mine and Michigan Tech’s industrial archaeology people and program is available at these websites:

cliffmine.wordpress.com
www.industrialarchaeology.net
www.ss.mtu.edu/people/scarlett.htm
www.ss.mtu.edu/people/srsweitz.htm
The Michigan Tech hockey season started a little early this year. The team took advantage of an NCAA exemption that allows international competition every four years and traveled to Germany and Austria for a working vacation. Tech was one of four teams to compete in the Joker Cup, which featured professional teams from three European leagues.

“We had an amazing time on our trip to Europe,” said head coach Jamie Russell. “From the hockey we played, to the sights we saw, to the exposure we got to different cultures, it was truly an incredible adventure. It was also extremely beneficial from a team-building and bonding experience.”

The Huskies had skated together for just ten days prior to their departure on August 11. They wasted no time upon their arrival in Kaufbeuren, Germany, heading to the rink for practice. They were surprised to find the ends of the rink open to the outside air, the first of several small culture shocks.

“I noticed many different things in terms of both the hockey and the culture,” said junior Bryce Reddick. “I was surprised how skilled the hockey was as well as how nice the people were.”

Tech found success early on in the tournament, defeating Kaufbeuren 3–0 in its first game. The Huskies would fight hard in their next two games but didn’t come out on the winning end, falling to Linz (2–0) and Augsburger (5–2). Despite the losses, defenseman John Kivisto’s impressive play earned him tournament MVP honors.

A surprise awaited the team at its next stop in St. Polten, Austria. The Huskies were greeted at the Okanagan Hockey School by one of their alumni, Elie Vorlicek (1970–74). Vorlicek, a former forward, is now an instructor at the school that would host the game between Tech and the Vienna Capitals.

Tech would prevail in the offensive shootout against Vienna, 6–5. The following day the team ran out of steam playing its fifth game in six days, falling to Klagenfurt 7–2.

The trip was funded entirely through private donations. Joe and Vickey Dancy, Greg and Cindy Baker, and Dave and Barb Baker provided funding, and many of the players’ families contributed.
It’s not their parents’ residence hall
Hillside Place, Michigan Tech’s new apartment building, is so nice that tourists might try to check in. It opened this fall and gives students a housing hybrid: the social benefits of a residence hall with independent, apartment-style living.

Hillside Place was designed and built in consultation with students to satisfy growing demand for a different kind of university housing. “Nationwide, students are preferring to live on campus,” said Les Cook, vice president for student affairs. “They want a quality, safe living experience, and this certainly accomplishes both.”

The lobby features vaulted ceiling, massive fireplace, full kitchen, big screen TV, lots of lounging area, and adjacent workout area and sauna. The textures—wood, granite, Wisconsin fieldstone, and corrugated metal—were chosen to reflect the campus and the Keweenaw that inspired its design.

The room has a northwoods lodge feel, with three wall lights decked out as illuminated moose heads and supporting posts disguised to look like tree trunks.

The $16.5 million structure is funded not by taxpayers but by rental fees paid by the residents. It has room for 192 students, and their living quarters are something new for Tech. The forty-eight four-person suites each feature a common kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances and a living area with floor-to-ceiling windows. On both sides are two private bedrooms and a bath. Heat radiates through the floors, and, for the first time in the history of student housing at Tech, the rooms are cooled via central air conditioning.

“I love it,” says Katie Valenzuela, a third-year environmental engineering student from Fort Collins, Colorado. “I’m on the fourth floor, and I’ve got a great view of Portage Lake and the hillsides across the way. I love the convenience, too. And the AC was wonderful in August when it was so hot.”

The hallways are bright, illuminated by windows at both ends; study rooms at the west end of each hall provide panoramic views of campus and the Keweenaw Waterway. There are other rooms for studying and presentations, along with the usual laundry facilities and whiteboards flanking each doorway.

Andrew Whiteside, a fourth-year premed student, was happy, too. Living on the ground floor, his only problem was an occasional Frisbee hitting his window. “I was the first person to move in,” he says. “It was a little creepy, all alone, kind of like The Shining.”

He’s not isolated anymore. “We are at 85 percent capacity,” says Heather Simpson, assistant director of housing and residential life, a couple of weeks into fall semester. The problems have been few. “Burning popcorn in the rooms has set off a few smoke detectors,” she says.

Overall, however, the atmosphere in Hillside Place is peaceful, almost serene, a far cry from popular perceptions of college life. Mike Rinke, a third-year mechanical engineering major from Shelby Township, relaxes in his living room, where windows open onto a woody green that catches the evening light. “I love the quiet,” he says.

THE SUITE LIFE AT HILLSIDE PLACE

Four-person apartments
Semiprivate baths
Fifty meals a semester
Air conditioning
And more . . .

See a three-minute time-lapse video of Hillside Place’s construction at www.techtube.mtu.edu/hillside-timelapse.

Photos above and left by Ryan Schumacher; upper left photo by Mariusz Nowak
by Wes Frahm

On September 2, nearly fourteen hundred fans stood in unison at Sherman Field and clapped to the fight song as Michigan Tech celebrated a scoring play. No, the Huskies’ football team hadn’t found the end zone. Not yet, anyway. They wouldn’t play at home for another two weeks.

No, the cheer was for the first goal in women’s soccer history—a right-footed boot from freshman Melanie Hoffman late in the first half.

The cheer didn’t just celebrate the goal. It celebrated the quick zero-to-success run for the soccer program.

A mere ten months before, the Michigan Tech athletic department offerings included thirteen varsity sports, none of which involved soccer. But the prospect of adding a fourteenth was at the top of the list for Tech Athletic Director Suzanne Sanregret.

“I had developed a business plan for adding women’s soccer several years ago,” she said. “In September 2009, I was contacted by [Michigan Tech] President Glenn Mroz and Vice President Ellen Horsch to see if it would be feasible to put a team together for fall 2010.”

On October 8, 2009, the program was officially born, and Michigan Tech was added to the 2010 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference schedule.

Of all the reasons for adding women’s soccer, increasing the female student population was paramount. “Adding soccer was a great fit within the conference. And soccer student-athletes are traditionally great students. Most of all, the addition of the program fit the goals of the University by bringing more females to campus,” said Sanregret.

Her first big task was to find a head coach. The search led to Michelle Jacob, who had spent the previous three years as head coach at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Jacob turned Marian around from a 4–12–1 record the year before she arrived to 11–7–1 in her third year. She posted a 32–24–1 mark during her three seasons.

Jacob was hired in late January and began leading the program February 8. Priority number one: “Recruiting,
recruiting, recruiting,” said Jacob. “We had to get the word out that we had a brand-new soccer program. We knew that there were quality student-athletes out there waiting to find the right home.”

The days and weeks in the car traveling to games and tournaments paid off. She had signed fourteen student-athletes to play soccer at Michigan Tech by early August. Other members of Tech’s eventual roster were already students at Tech who tried out, including Hoffman, who tallied the historic goal.

Two weeks of practice included several scrimmages against other collegiate teams. When the Huskies officially took the field for the first time, they were ready. Except for maybe a few jitters, that is.

“We started a little slow with all the excitement and nerves, but the girls were able to calm down and focus and play our game,” said Jacob afterward.

Tech added a goal less than three minutes into the second half of that inaugural game against Concordia-St. Paul and went on to win. The crowd stayed through the final horn, then saluted the team with another rendition of the fight song.

“What an experience,” said Jacob.

“I would like to thank President Mroz and the donors for their support and resources to allow us to have this unforgettable opportunity.”

Another great sports tradition has been born at Michigan Tech.

Epilogue

Pat Nelson of Kingsford, whose generous gift launched the soccer program, passed away October 6. The widow of Charlie Nelson ’36, she supported a variety of Tech initiatives, including an endowed scholarship, the new graduate student center, and the Peace Corps, LeaderShape, Outdoor Adventure, and EcoCar programs. “Pat was a great friend to the University, especially its students, and she left them a wonderful legacy,” said President Glenn Mroz. “It’s fair to say that without her, we would not have soccer.”

Freshman Melanie Hoffman scores the first goal in Tech soccer history. The Huskies went on to win their inaugural game 2–0 against Concordia-St. Paul.

Photo by Gowtham Shankara
Tech football triumphed over Ohio Dominican 45–6, and the hockey Huskies iced the cake with a 5–3 victory over Nipissing. Everybody else just had fun. To see more Homecoming shenanigans, go to youtube.com/michigantech and search the uploads for “Homecoming 2010.”

Top photo above by Gowtham Shankara; broomball photo, far right, by George Olszewski; all other photos by Mike Blanchard
Two thousand years before the Industrial Revolution, the Greek mathematician Hero came up with the idea for the steam turbine. English engineer Sir Charles Parsons built the first one in 1884, to generate electricity. And for the last twenty years, Steven Burdgick has fiddled, tweaked, and tinkered with steam turbines and their close cousins, gas turbines, ultimately revolutionizing aspects of a stogy, old technology.

Burdgick’s fascination with turbines began soon after he graduated from Michigan Tech in 1990 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He got his first job at General Electric Aircraft Engines working on jet engines and then transferred to GE Energy, where he earned his first patent. It was an exhilarating experience, so exhilarating that he made up his mind to get at least nine more. Pretty soon he had a dozen patents under his belt, many from designing nozzles for the world’s first steam-cooled gas turbine. That innovation earned his team GE Energy’s 2001 Advanced Manufacturing Award.

Then Burdgick moved to GE’s steam turbine engineering group and thought his patent production days were over. “I was wrong,” he recalls. Very wrong, as it turns out. Apparently, there’s always room for improvement, even in a 2,000-year-old technology. Burdgick’s name is now on fifty-three US patents related to turbine design, with another twenty-five pending. Among them is yet another new nozzle, which earned GE’s 2010 Product Innovation Award.

Patents aren’t about inventing the wheel, Burdgick explains. “It’s often not pure innovation that makes a patent; it can be making vast improvements in the design or configuration of something. It is taking what you have learned or invented in one area and applying it somewhere else.”

This is what Burdgick’s team did when it developed its Steam Turbine Singlet™ nozzle. “It revolutionizes seven decades of nozzle manufacturing,” he says.

Building a better steam-turbine nozzle may not sound like the stuff of Nobel Prizes, but in fact, a corporate bottom line can hinge on innovations such as these. “Our most recent patents will mean hundreds of millions of dollars in value to the company because the turbine performance is so much better,” he says. According to company figures, it will also mean that turbines will generate power more cleanly, resulting in a nearly three million-ton reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over five years, the equivalent of taking 480,000 cars off the road.

Burdgick attributes his success in part to Michigan Tech and singles out two former professors in particular. “I will never forget the practical teaching of Dr. William Shapton and the creative teaching of Dr. Peck Cho,” he says. He also credits his childhood involvement in Soap Box Derby, including a world championship he shared with his brother. “That led me to be creative, make things fit together, and design with simplicity.”

Finally, he admits to being passionate about making things as good as they can be. “I have not been interested in just finding an answer to a problem,” Burdgick says. “I’m determined to find the best and simplest solution.”
Since 1952, the Memorial Union Building has stood as a memorial to fallen students, as well as a safe and comfortable spot to grab a cup of coffee or hunker down to study. Yet many folks may not realize that it also represents the philanthropic commitment of our alumni, friends, faculty, and staff. The MUB was the first significant fundraising effort the institution had ever mounted, and its construction planted the seed for what we know as the Michigan Tech Fund.
The June 1941 issue of the *Bulletin of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology* (the forerunner of today’s *Michigan Tech Magazine*) included details of the summer alumni reunion activities. Amidst the fun and frivolity, Wilbur Van Evera 1907, president of the alumni association, indicated his plan to discuss “establishment of an Alumni Foundation which will facilitate the reception and use of bequests by the college.”

The topic appears to have been received favorably, and the Alumni Foundation of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology was incorporated on August 8, 1941. The first group of trustees included Van Evera, faculty members James Fisher 1893 and Roy Drier ’26, and local leaders from the mining industry (most of whom held degrees from the College, either earned or honorary).

Initial work with the foundation was interrupted, however, by the United States’ entry into World War II in December 1941. The war and its aftermath would, however, provide inspiration for the group’s work. The first postwar announcement from the foundation was a June 1947 booklet which proposed fundraising for “a much needed Memorial Union Building” for the campus. “Because it fits so closely the purpose for which the Alumni Foundation was formed, the Trustees have adopted the project as the initial and immediate objective of the Foundation.”

It was not necessarily an easy row to hoe. Numerous publications from the College alumni association and foundation office detail the elaborate bending of elbows, shaming of alumni, and general browbeating of donors that the foundation undertook to raise $300,000 in support of the project.

“Frankly, we alumni are not doing too well,” one newsletter reported in January 1948. “At the current rate of fund collections the Memorial Union building is a castle-in-the-air proposition.” Another full-page plea to alumni ended with a simple statement: “What the hell, Engineers!”

Fundraising events were held throughout the country and around the world. Alumni chapters in Chicago and Mexico City called meetings of their local members.
Back home in Houghton, local groups also made an effort to gather funding for the project. The Faculty Women’s Club undertook several events, including card parties, a “style show,” and a performance of the play *Angel Street*. A separate group, the Veterans’ Wives Club, held a bake sale and rummage sale. The local chapter of the alumni association also organized a concert of the Copper Country Choral Club in support of the building fund.

As money began to fill the coffers, administrators began some of the real work necessary for the building. Houses on the proposed site were purchased from private owners (a prelude to the demise of George’s Confectionery, also known as the “Miner’s Hangout”). Drilling was made to determine the bearing capacity of the soil, and Detroit architect Ralph Calder was commissioned to complete drawings for the building. Michigan Tech’s student council sponsored construction of a scale model of the building for display in the library and at fundraising events.

Another campaign secured pledges for $50,000 from “businessmen and concerns of the Copper Country.” In addition to a cash pledge, the Copper Range mining company donated a large oil painting of former company vice president (and former faculty member) F. Ward Paine to hang in some place of prominence.

By spring 1950, the Alumni Foundation’s pledges reached the $300,000 mark, and a self-liquidating loan of $850,000 was secured for the project. The general construction contract was awarded to Herman Gundlach Inc. of Houghton, and on July 15, 1950, ceremonial shovels turned over the first soil at the site.

Design of the building also involved a variety of inputs from students, staff, and faculty. One group did a circuit of colleges and universities in the Midwest, assessing their student union buildings, the activities contained therein, and the management structures needed for smooth operation. Another group of students journeyed to the J. L. Hudson store in Detroit to review furniture and other equipment for the building.

Heavy snows over the winter of 1950–51 slowed construction, but everyone was beginning to see the building take shape. The 1951 alumni reunion was cancelled so that returning alumni might repurpose their travel money for a grand opening the following year.

The attention of the foundation trustees, however, turned to future projects. “With the accomplishment of the first objective in sight,” noted a letter in January 1951, “the trustees of the Alumni Foundation feel that it should not rest on its laurels, but that it should develop soon a plan for a future long-term program.”

A final push in spring 1952 addressed last-minute needs. Alumni clubs around the country were asked to pledge additional monies to help furnish specific rooms. A non-alumni Committee for the Finnish Room, composed of forty local people, raised money “from people of Finnish stock in twenty-six states and one foreign country.”

Perhaps most importantly, a set of floor-to-ceiling mahogany memorial panels was installed. James Hayes, a calligrapher from Evanston, Illinois, designed and John Torrell, a noted artist and wood carver of Palatine, Illinois, completed the incising of letters and numbers for more than one hundred alumni and students who gave their lives in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. An additional panel included names of those who contributed to the building fund.

The Memorial Union Building opened its doors to the student body on May 5, 1952, to rave reviews. Formal dedication occurred at the time of Spring Commencement ceremonies, and the August alumni gathering included a third formal acknowledgement of the building’s completion.

The foundation trustees continued to discuss priorities and needs for the College. Some felt money should be directed to a wholly new “research institute” within the College; others argued for endowments for professors and graduate students; one department head even suggested funding a mining museum “to record for posterity the continuing chapter in history of the world’s premier mining region.”

All agreed, however, that a sustained program of fundraising and development was of critical importance. In 1956, the name of the organization was changed from the Alumni Foundation to The Michigan Tech Foundation, and in 1965 it was officially incorporated into a stand-alone nonprofit. A later change shortened it to simply The Michigan Tech Fund.

Likewise, the MUB itself has experienced a few changes. The building was closed from June 1988 to October 1989 for major renovations which transformed the structure. Other smaller projects—such as refurbishment of the bowling alleys in 1996—occur regularly. More recently, the ballroom floor had a complete makeover, including wall and ceiling finishes, high-tech wired podiums, drop-down plasma screens, and new furniture.

Many specific things are gone—the Finnish Room, the faculty lounge, the “hippy mural,” numerous smoking lounges, and even the portrait of F. Ward Paine. (Rest easy, gentle reader: the painting is safely preserved in your Michigan Tech Archives.)

Yet one important thing remains. On the building’s top floor, the carved wooden panels remain a silent testament to the Michigan Tech alumni and students in whose memory the Alumni Foundation raised money for this building.

As we work through the Generations of Discovery capital campaign, one wonders what equally important and lasting initiatives our current generation of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff will create.
I’m thrilled to be your new Alumni Association president and look forward to meeting many of you over the next couple years at some of the engaging events our organization hosts around the world. Our Board of Directors and new officers, along with our staff, serve you with pride and are always available to take your suggestions and address your concerns.

There are many exciting things happening on campus, including some that are highlighted in this issue, such as the new women’s soccer team, the new apartment building, various research projects, and our association’s move back to the Alumni House.

As we look at the calendar and the rapidly approaching holiday season, it’s a good time to reflect upon the things that are important to each of us. Hopefully, Michigan Tech is one of those for you; it certainly is for me. Our world-class university is now engaged in a capital fundraising campaign, Generations of Discovery. As the many generations of our Tech family consider the value of their Michigan Tech experience, it is important to highlight that a strong tradition of giving back is part of our shared culture. As a 68,000-member organization, every gift counts—whether of time, talent, or treasure.

As a proud Yooper by birth and Husky by choice, I now reside in Southern California with my wife, Tanya. We hold dear our connection to Michigan Tech and the beautiful surrounding area and truly appreciate the various ways modern technology allows us to stay in touch.

Our new association mission is “Celebrating Traditions. Creating Connections,” and we play a significant role in keeping the entire Tech community connected with tools such as HuskyLink, Facebook, and LinkedIn, along with numerous events. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities to reconnect with the campus community and your fellow alumni. You might even run into a long-lost friend.

I invite each of you to visit our newly renovated Alumni House, have a cup of coffee, and say hello.

Paul J. Ninefeldt ’96
President, Michigan Tech Alumni Association

Michigan Tech Alumni Association

Mission Statement
Celebrating Traditions. Creating Connections.

Vision
We are passionate champions of Michigan Tech’s unique traditions, and we continuously strengthen our alumni community.

Board of Directors

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President
Paul J. Ninefeldt ’96
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Jeffrey A. Sudderth ’06
Timothy N. Thomas ’81
Richard G. Timmons ’69
Scott K. Usitalo ’81
Robert G. Wojcik ’91
Jeffrey J. Zeman ’97

Brenda Rudiger—Director, Alumni Relations
If you have a question or suggestion, please contact the Alumni Relations office toll free at 877-688-2586 or email alumni@mtu.edu.
Alumni Association returns to its old home

The Alumni House, majestic in its day, handsome yet, is once again the home of the Michigan Tech Alumni Association, which moved into the building in September.

The brick structure was built in 1916, given to the University in 1961, and housed the association from 1980 to 1997. “Now we’re back home,” says Paul Ninefeldt ’96, president of the Board of Directors.

The remodeled building is envisioned as “a warm and welcoming place” for alumni to stop by and reconnect, says Ninefeldt. It features a spacious and cozy area to swap tales, look at old yearbooks and memorabilia, take photos, and reminisce. “Basically,” Ninefeldt says, “we want alumni to visit us and share their stories.” Besides the main room, there will be a kitchenette, a large monitor with Internet access, as well as a conference room in the basement.

Since 1997, Alumni Relations has been housed in the Meese Center, off the main campus. “It’ll be beneficial to be handy,” Ninefeldt says. “We’ll be visible and inviting.”

The full-time staff of Alumni Relations numbers six; they will occupy all of the first floor; on part of the second floor there is an office for the Michigan Tech Student Foundation and an office for use by visiting alumni.

“We are excited about the opportunity to host more student activities in the House,” says Ninefeldt. “This will allow students to become aware early on of the importance and value of networking with alumni. We want to cultivate that kind of communication all the while they’re in school. We consider them alumni long before the graduate.” Now that they’re nearer the students, Alumni Relations will also get involved in other student activities, such as offering free coffee and bagels during exam week and participating in the orientation week scavenger hunt.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors provided the funding for the renovations. “There was no hesitation to lend their support for this project,” says Brenda Rudiger, director of alumni relations. “They gave us sound direction and for that, we are grateful.”

It’s Your Year! Save the date for Alumni Reunion 2011
August 4–6

Make plans to reconnect with your classmates and check out what’s new at Michigan Tech—and what has not changed at all. Featured classes will be the Golden Ms (those who graduated fifty-plus years ago) and the classes of ’61, ’71, ’81, ’86, ’91, and ’01. The featured athletic teams will be volleyball, cross-country, and track.

Make your plans early! Visit www.mtu.edu/reunion for more information.
Happy Birthday, Michigan Tech

It's 2010, and that means that Michigan Tech is celebrating its quasquicentennial. Our history is rich, filled with stories of inspiration, ingenuity, and innovation. Alumni and friends have had an important influence on this journey through their long-standing tradition of support. Throughout the years, annual contributions have impacted all areas of the University and they continue to do so today.

Your gift to the Michigan Tech Annual Fund helps the University educate highly qualified students through innovative programs; recruit some of the nation's top faculty; attract substantial research funding; provide first-class laboratory and classroom facilities; and maintain its national ranking.

Please make a gift by December 31, 2010, in honor of our special 125th anniversary!

www.mtu.edu/giving

The Michigan Tech Annual Fund
Call toll-free 1-877-386-3688

Give every year. Make a difference every day.
Victory at sea
Alum wins the Race to Mackinac

By Marcia Goodrich

Mike Stewart ’94 and a resourceful six-man crew have won the 2010 Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac, beating the big guys and bringing honor and glory to their hometown on Lake Michigan’s eastern shore.

Muskegon is a perfectly respectable town with a perfectly respectable harbor. Yet no member of the Muskegon Yacht Club had ever won the longest annual freshwater sailing race in the world, which just happens to take place in their backyard.

That’s because the competition in the century-old event is world-class. “Just about every famous sailboat racer has done this race,” says Stewart. The record for the Race to Mackinac is held by the late Roy Disney, a famed yachtsman and senior executive of the company that bears his uncle’s name. Other contenders have been Americas Cup winners Ted Turner and Dennis Conner.

What makes the victory doubly sweet is that Stewart managed it in only two tries, a privilege usually reserved for seasoned veterans. “I talked to someone who had done it sixty times and never won,” he says.

Stewart’s boat, Lady K, left Chicago around noon on Saturday, July 24, and arrived at Mackinac Island on Monday evening, finishing in 53 hours, 49 minutes.

It was not the first boat to complete the 333-mile voyage, but it had the fastest corrected time, which is the boat’s competition time when compared with other boats of various sizes. Lady K’s corrected time was 46 hours, 53 minutes, and 5 seconds, just 19 seconds better than its nearest competitor, a boat from Ontario called Smokum Too.

As luck would have it, Smokum Too found itself snarled in the watery equivalent of road construction at the tail end of the race. Approaching the finish, it became mired in the waves kicked up by ferries taking visitors to Mackinac Island and lost a few precious minutes.

Winning a marathon event like the Race to Mackinac isn’t just about having a good skipper and a good boat. You have to have a good crew, because nobody can stay sharp for two days running. “We take shifts,” Stewart explains. “There were seven guys on the boat, and at least four were on deck at once.” The rest of the time, they eat, rest, and try to sleep. “That’s hard when you are beating six-foot waves,” he says. “But it’s important. After two-and-a-half days of no sleep, you start making poor decisions.” When fatigue was setting in, crew member Jim Fetters kept repeating the crew’s motto: “Win first, fun second.”

There are some perks involved in staying up late, however. The wind is always changing, and sometimes nighttime is the best time. Lady K had some of her finest moments during a four-hour stretch that began at 3:00 am Monday.

“The sea was glass, the moon was full, and we caught a breeze that had us cruising along at six-and-a-half knots past boats doing three or four knots,” says Stewart. It was just as magical as it sounds, he adds. “Racing is a big part of it, but we like to go sailing even if we’re not racing.”

Mike and his brother Jim ’90, who crewed on their championship voyage, grew up cruising the Great Lakes with their father. But Mike is the only one who got his own boat. He has some advice for any would-be sailor wanting to enlist the support of a spouse.

“I heard from a wise man that it’s always good to name your boat after your wife, and my wife’s name is Kerry,” he says. “You can’t get in too much trouble that way.”

Charles Hughes ’81 is associate vice president for academic effectiveness at the University of Central Oklahoma, in Edmond.

In April 2009, Lieutenant Commander Kim J. Pacsai ’82 retired after twenty-six years of active duty (eight in the Marine Corps, eighteen in the Coast Guard). He lives in Traverse City and currently flies for the University of Michigan’s Survival Flight helicopter EMS provider.

Peggy Barchi ’85 works at Fort Nisqually Living History Museum in Tacoma, Washington. She is the special events volunteer coordinator and editor of the fort’s publication Occurrences—The Journal of Northwest History During the Fur Trade. She reports that as a student she had two summer internships working as a living history interpreter at Fort Wilkins. “I never imagined back then that I’d actually get to work in a living history museum in the future.”

Matthew Nitz at his graduation from Dow High School, in Midland, last spring. He enrolled at Tech in the fall and is now studying chemical engineering. He follows in the footsteps of his mother, Jayne Reuschel Nitz ’88, his father, Mark Nitz ’90, his grandfather, Ted Reuschel ’64.
1990s

Matthew Loew ’95 has joined the part-time faculty at Milwaukee School of Engineering. He will be teaching two sections of Modeling and Numerical Methods (his favorite class as an undergraduate) and advising the Formula Hybrid team. Matthew continues to work for Infotech Enterprises as a consultant, leading projects for clients in mining equipment and defense. He lives with his family in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

J. Carson ’95 and Helen (Hamlin) Mantooth ’97 announce the birth of their fourth daughter, Elyse Lauren, on June 24, 2010.

Stacy Carr ’97 recently graduated from the Executive MBA program at the University of Michigan. She now works as an account manager for Root Learning Inc. in Chicago.

Melissa and Brad Rickert ’97 have been blessed with the addition of Andrew William Rickert. His adoption has been finalized. He was born in Detroit in October 2009.

Ryan and Melissa (Cheney) Boniface ’99 are the owners and operators of Visionary Technologies in Holland as of July 2010.

2000s

David Barker ’00 and Jocce Weatherly announce the birth of their first child, Athena Joy Barker, May 27, 2010.

Jody Kositzky ’01 and Daniel Schaub were married on June 26, 2010. The couple resides in Howell.

Adam ’04 and Beth Podleski ’04 welcomed into the world their first child, Cole Michael Podleski, on May 29, 2010.

Charles ’02 and Diana (Valentino) Burch ’04 announce the birth of their first child, Henry Thomas, on July 7, 2010.

Jessica Pontius ’08 and Jason Rickli ’09 were married on July 17, 2010, in Columbia, Maryland. The couple resides in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Hans Korth ’08 and Nora Peterson ’09 were married June 19, 2010, in Beverly Hills, Michigan, and reside in Lebanon, Ohio.

**Only Bees Die: Alum pens memoir of Peace Corps service in Albania**

After earning degrees in both business and civil engineering technology, Robert Keller ’01 entered the Peace Corps. He spent a year and a half in Albania, which inspired *Only Bees Die: Peace Corps Eastern Europe*, on his life as a volunteer.

“Essentially, I wrote the unofficial guidebook I wish I’d had: everything anyone should know who wants to serve in the Peace Corps,” said Keller.

In his introduction, Keller admits that his book may seem “like a long list of complaints about the Peace Corps.” But despite the difficulties, he said, “At the end of the day it boils down to this: I loved living and working in Albania. Even when it sucked, I loved it.”

The reviews on Amazon.com had nothing but praise for *Only Bees Die*. “I wish this book had been around for me to read before my service,” wrote a former volunteer. “While Mr. Keller doesn’t sugarcoat anything, it’s clear that he loved his time as a volunteer and thrived even while undergoing his most difficult lessons (such as learning how not to burn down his house while lighting a wood stove, or how to survive an Albanian wedding).”

**Horstman Elected Fellow of the American Society for Quality**

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) has awarded fellow status to Brian J. Horstman ’79 “for distinguished service, dedication, and significant contribution in the advancement of quality through his leadership; for promotion of quality concepts, tools, and methodologies by setting the example; and for his commitment to the development of other quality professionals through mentorship and training.”

He is a senior quality engineer in Product Development and Launch Quality Assurance for office furniture giant Steelcase Inc. He has been a member of the United States Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 176 on Quality Management and Quality Assurance, was a member of the American National Standards Institute Committee Z-1 on Quality Assurance, served as a member of the Michigan Quality Leadership Award Board of Examiners, and has held a number of local and national positions in the American Society for Quality.

Horstman serves on quality curriculum advisory committees at Grand Rapids Community College and at Ferris State University, where he was instrumental in developing and implementing certificate and degree programs in quality engineering technology. He holds ASQ certifications as a quality auditor, quality engineer, manager of quality and operational excellence, and Six Sigma black belt.

ASQ fellows must have at least fifteen years of quality-related experience, meet minimum score requirements across six professional categories, and have been a senior member for five years or longer. Horstman was nominated by ASQ Grand Rapids—Section 1001.
In memoriam

The Michigan Tech family extends condolences to the relatives and friends of those who have passed away recently.

1935
Charles A. Highhill

1945
Albert B. Robbins

1946
Elmer R. White

1947
Lane E. Lyberg

1948
William E. Boggs
Robert V. Preston

1949
Arthur G. Bernholdt Jr.

1950
Donald W. Cargo
August J. DeRubeis
Roger E. Peterson

1951
John A. Galicki
Robert F. Ziems

1953
Joseph de Bastiani

1954
Kenneth H. Hallgren
Jacqueline A. (Burns) Rabe
Gordon S. Soine

1955
Dorothy A. (Rautio) Byrd
Marvin L. Johnson
Robert J. Tulikangas

1956
George J. Sperry

1957
Clifford G. Pelkola
Gilles J. Rivet

1958
Jon E. Miller

1959
Reynold G. Anschutz Jr.
Andrew G. Bartoes
Norman J. Reiley
Theodore Schuurmans Jr.

1960
Ralph L. Merklin Jr.
Allan E. Saari

1961
Dennis A. Middleton

1962
Martin E. Storm

1964
Carl K. Dahl

1969
Richard T. Reese Jr.

1971
Paul D. O’Leary

1972
Walter J. Stringham Jr.

1973
E. Victoria (Hess) Parkerson

1974
John M. Fiebelkorn

1975
James T. Neher

1976
James J. Sarzynski
Craig A. Suter

1977
Dennis P. Regan

1983
Phillip G. Hoffman

1984
Donna L. (DeMattia) Cline

1987
Matthew P. Macker

1995
Nicola E. Kostka

1996
Edward J. Bohley

1997
Fr. Richard Lewnau
When Tanya and I included Michigan Tech in our estate planning, we were thirty-two years old, some of the youngest members of the McNair Society. But we had reached a point in our lives when it was important to establish a will; we didn’t want the courts or our family members to decide what to do with our assets. It was natural to put the University at the forefront of our giving, since we are both passionate about Michigan Tech, and I have been giving annually since I graduated. Also, when attending Tech, I benefitted from a scholarship. I’ve always appreciated that and now hope to help future students. It’s a circle of giving, a culture of philanthropy.

Paul J. Ninefeldt ’96
President, Michigan Tech Alumni Association
Business unit manager for RF Coaxial Products, Delphi Corporation, Irvine, California
You’ve shared your education and the stories of your time at Michigan Tech with your children and grandchildren. Encourage them to share your legacy.

**Alumni Legacy Award**

Children and grandchildren of Tech alumni automatically receive the Alumni Legacy Award. Michigan residents receive $1,000 over four years (eight semesters) of study.

Non-Michigan residents receive an award equal to the difference between nonresident and resident tuition.

For more details or to recommend a student, visit [www.admissions.mtu.edu/legacy](http://www.admissions.mtu.edu/legacy).

John Walikainen graduates in spring 2011. He will owe his bachelor’s degree in computer network and system administration to his own hard work and to scholarship support, including a $1,000 Alumni Legacy Award.