

Commuter Connections

Academics and Friendship: The Study-Buddy

With only a few more weeks in the semester, it's about time to take the camaraderie of 8 A.M lecture "neighbors" to the next level; the study buddy. A partner in studying can be a great help, especially if you're not quite in the groove of the class. This person can also help you keep on top of new assignments, and motivate you to study in increments, rather than cramming it all in the night before.

Studying is also a great way to make a friend. You may sit next to a person all semester, but never have an opportunity to start casual conversation. It's hard to do it, but you've got to make the first move. Ask the potential study buddy and a friend of theirs (if available) to meet and go over notes, practice problems or another activity appropriate to your class. Get in touch on Facebook. With Facebook there is opportunity to send messages related to class, or just post on their wall, and discover shared interests.

Set the study date well in advance of any exams; you don't want to appear as though you need to mooch off of your new study buddy, and the stress before exams is not a friend-making environment.

To balance social time with academics, you might want to get a snack with them beforehand. This

provides a time to chat when you're not supposed to be buckled down. A place like the campus café is great because it is in Wadsworth Hall, which is convenient for residents, and still accepts cash from commuters like us. Attending an event afterward is also an option. Try inviting them on Facebook and in person.

Finally, follow up! Mention in class that studying together was fun and helpful, and find out when they're available to study again, hang out, or both!

What are YOU doing this Month?

As you can see from the calendar, there are many events and activities happening on campus between now and Winter Break. Although this time of year is often busy with final exams, the end of the semester, and holidays, use these opportunities to take a break from what you are doing and have fun with some friends! Check out something new this month – maybe you'll find something you love!

Andrea
aktaglio@mtu.edu

Kara
kcoikari@mtu.edu

For commuter
outreach or questions,
please contact:

Michelle Nightingale,
Assistant Director of COMPASS

COMPASS
G28 Wadsworth
Hall

mrnighti@mtu.edu
(906) 487-3558

On Campus This Month:

November

- 19* 7:00 -- 9:00 pm Gender: Male, Female, Masculine, Feminine, What Does It All Really Mean? In M&M U115
- 19 7:30 pm Mama's Night Out (Comedy Show) at the Rozsa Center
- 19 7:30 – 8:30 pm Student Life Employment Information Session in the Wads Annex *Watch for more in the upcoming weeks*

December

- 1 7:30 pm Dirty Rotten Scoundrels the Musical at the Rozsa Center
- 3* 8:00 pm Outdoor Adventure Theater in Fisher 135
- 4 7:30 – 8:30 pm Student Life Employment Information Session in the Dow 641 *Watch for more in the upcoming weeks*
- 5* 7:30 – 8:30 pm Student Activity Comedy Series presents Lee Camp in the MUB Ballroom
- 5 7:30 – 9:30 pm Jazz Cabaret Swing Dance at the Rozsa Center
- 6* 12:00 – 4:00 pm Outdoor Adventure Program Gear Swap in the MUB Peninsula Room
- 12 7:30 – 9:30 pm Boys of the Lough at the Rozsa Center

Events indicated with a * are FREE entertainment events on campus. Men's and Women's Basketball games, as well as Hockey games are FREE too.

Academics

"Hi, I'm a 9th year undecided/undeclared student." Class selection and resources to avoid being unnecessarily well-rounded Most likely you have already declared a major, so you've no fear of the above situation. However, it is a little more common to be unsure of your selection, and be considering declaring something else. The average college student changes majors three times before graduation, and everyone has their own reasons for doing this.

So if everyone's doing it, what's the problem?

You run the risk of paying for credits and classes that your final major does not require. Course changes take more than money, they take time. Many degree programs are set up as four-year, start to finish programs, with prerequisites dispersed through the curriculum. One class can hold back progress for an entire semester. It is beneficial to plan out your entire college career to avoid hang-ups like that.

Summer classes

Because you're a commuter student, chances are you're going to be in the area this summer. Use Banweb to see what courses are offered this summer and consider taking some general education requirements (for example UN2001) during this time. It's best to do it now because the more specialized and advanced classes get, the less likely they are to be offered during the summer.

Double majors, Second Degrees, Certificates, & Minors

These are ways to get the most for your time at Tech. A double major works well for degree programs with similar requirements because you can "double count" some credit hours towards both degrees. Two majors for the price of one degree. Mathematics and engineering are a good example. What about exercise science and biology? If you have a hunch that two programs overlap, ask your advisor for a hand. All of the information about which courses are required to complete each major are listed on degree audits found on the Student Records and Registration website (<http://www.admin.mtu.edu/em/students/graduation/audit/index.php>) or type in "Degree Audit Search" on the Michigan Tech website search. If you're interested in exploring two or three majors, go to this site, download the degree audits for each major, print them out, and highlight classes that apply to both degrees.

But what do I want?

The Career Center can help you sort it out. Use MyPlan (<http://www.career.mtu.edu/students/myplan.php>) to get a feel for what your skills and interests are at this point in your life, and how that translates to a future career. You can even make an appointment to discuss your results, and the options that fit you.

This is overwhelming

It absolutely can be. Remember that you not only have your friends, academic advisors, and professors, but two commuter mentors who can do a little digging for you too.

Experience Tech!

While you were looking at your bill on Banweb this semester, you may have noticed a fee called Experience Tech. This fee is new to Michigan Tech this year, and all students are required to pay it. As long as you bring your Michigan Tech Express ID Card with you, students now have *FREE* access to Mont Ripley Ski Hill, Gates Tennis Center, Portage Lake Golf Course, Husky Hockey events, Intramural Sports, and events by the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

In the past, students had to pay for each of these, but no more! However, there is a small catch. There are only a certain number of slots set aside for students at each event, so plan ahead. For example, hockey tickets must be reserved the Tuesday before the series, times should be scheduled in advance for the Gates Tennis Center and Portage Lake Golf Course, and you may want to get to Mont Ripley early if you want a pass for a day.

So now that you know all that, get out there and Experience Tech!! For more information, please visit www.usg.mtu.edu/techexp/.

Michigan Tech

From experience...

Now that the snow is starting to fall and walking outside feels like stepping into a freezer, the walk across campus doesn't seem as trivial as it used to. Use these tips to stay out of the cold during your treks between classes.

-- **Cut through buildings** Most buildings in the heart of campus are connected, and cutting through them will keep you out of the cold. (ex: When walking from the Rozsa, cut through Dillman, Dow, and EERC to get to Chem Sci)

-- **Use the side doors** Going from one building to the next through the side doors keeps you out of the cold for longer!

-- **Use the bridge** between Rekhi and the Library
-- **Cut through Walker and the Rozsa** to get to the commuter lot



Wait, what's with that?

Hello Commuter Mentors,

I guess I'll get straight to the point. I really don't feel connected to campus. With all the exciting events going on, I keep missing them. There is no one giving me all in inside scoop like there is for students in the dorms. I find out about the cool events after they're over! What can I do to actually find out about this stuff so I can find people to go with?

-Lost in Transition

Dear Lost in Transition,

To answer that, let's start by asking you questions. Have you checked out the table tents? Table tents usually posted close to the time of an event, and only stay posted for few days, so you have to keep up to date on your reading. Have you made a friend in the residence hall? Getting the help of an insider is one of the easiest ways to find out about events, and then you've got someone to go with. Are you perusing any of your interests at Michigan Tech, for example, if you were a baseball player in high school, watch a practice of the Michigan Tech Baseball Club. Maybe your interest is not represented yet, you and ten friends can create a student organization (email me for details!).

Lost in Transition, you are asking the right questions, and your attitude of looking for opportunity is a plus. Events and friendship and fun don't chase you down, so you might have to stick your neck out and ask a resident for the scoop on the weekend. All else fails, shoot us an email!

Remember to keep sending in your questions and we will publish them in the next newsletter!!

Watch Out! Commuter event coming up soon!! More information to follow.