



USG Hosts Campus Capture The Flag

Hannah Marlor, Emily Kehoe

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) hosted its first Capture the Flag event across campus on Monday, Aug. 25. This welcome week event allowed new students to explore campus while connecting with USG and organizations such as WMTU and MTU Waterski. There were two teams on opposite ends of campus, with USG members spread throughout to help students navigate campus and ensure all the rules were met. The two teams, red and blue, wore belts with their respective colors, similar to flag football belts. Teams would run across the center line to find the other team's flag, and if they got their belt stolen by the other team, the student tagged had to go to the other team's jail. The new Huskies were enjoying themselves, as there were many laughs and screams as they sprinted across the center line. "We were excited to see so many huskies show up, and we hope to see even more in years to come," said Ford Schoonover, President of USG... Student organizations provide great opportunities for students to explore their interests and make friends while building leadership, teamwork, and networking skills. Michigan Tech has over 220 registered student organizations. With USG being one of the biggest on campus, they help run most of



David Reeves, USG Treasurer

the student orgs on campus. If you are interested in joining USG or any other organization, you can check out the MTU involvement link at www.involvement.mtu.edu. The USG serves the Michigan Tech community by supporting

Tech's numerous registered student organizations, creating and preserving campus traditions, and representing students in fighting for causes that are important to them. Students who are interested in joining USG can learn more

about it by visiting their website at usg.mtu.edu or by stopping by a USG meeting from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Alumni Room in the MUB.

Michigan Tech students excited for upcoming hockey season

Lauren Wiegand, Jos Olson

Michigan Tech's student body is getting ready for another season of Huskies hockey. The Huskies hockey season starts on Oct. 3 at the University of Minnesota in Twin Cities. The home opener will take place on Friday, Oct. 24, against the Ferris State Bulldogs, with the scheduled puck drop taking place at 7:07 p.m. Students can get into all home hockey games for free as part of the Experience Tech program.

Michigan Tech's student body prides itself on being hockey fans, with an entire student organization, Mitch's Misfits, dedicated to

supporting the team, as well as the Huskies Pep Band, which is a huge part of the hockey culture at Michigan Tech. Catherine Huston, a materials science and engineering graduate student, has been with the Pep Band for five years. When asked about her thoughts on the upcoming season, Huston said, "I think having a new head coach will be a good change of pace. I'm looking forward to seeing what Coach Muckalt can do with the team, and hoping for a successful season." Huston is also looking forward to the annual Great Lakes Invitational, happening in December in Grand Rapids, as well as the Winter Carnival Series, taking place Feb. 6 to 7 against the Augustana Vikings at the John MacInnes Student Ice Arena.

Stella Licari, a member of both Mitch's Misfits and the Huskies Pep Band, looks forward to the hockey season every year. When asked about her favorite part of the hockey season, Licari said, "It's so hard to choose my favorite part of hockey games. I only really became a fan of hockey after coming to Tech, so the combined energy of the Pep Band and the Misfits just make it a great place to fall in love with the sport."

With a new head coach, many students are looking forward to



Conlan Houston, UMC

a new era of Huskies hockey. The new coach, Bill Muckalt, brings a wealth of experience to Tech, both as a player and a coach. As a player, Muckalt has been on the ice with four different National Hockey League (NHL) teams: the Vancouver Canucks, New York Islanders, Ottawa Senators, and Minnesota Wild. As a coach, he has worked with various colleges and minor league teams, and served as the

Assistant Coach for Michigan Tech from 2011 to 2015. With his extensive background in both collegiate and professional hockey, students are ecstatic to welcome him back to the community.

For more information on the upcoming hockey season, visit the SDC ticket office online or in person.



MTU's new hockey head coach, Bill Muckalt

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Note From The Editor

Conlan Houston

As we enter the new school year, The Michigan Tech Lode enters a new era. Readers may have noticed the new layout of the publication, and here at The Lode, we are enjoying the wonderful new design. The layout harkens back to how our paper used to look in the late 1990s to early 2000s; we have even brought back our “World Beat” column. To align with our new style, we unfortunately have had to cut some content. Our upcoming events column has been removed, along with the weekly sports scores. However, if you disagree with these omissions, you may send us a message at our email address, mtulode@mtu.edu. We want our readers to be happy with the paper, and we are always open to suggestions and feedback!

Not only can you give your opinion about the reporting of The Lode, but if you have a top-

ic you are passionate about that pertains to the campus community, we want to hear from you! Any student, staff, or faculty member can write an article for the paper. Our editorial staff will work with you to make sure it fits our standards of quality, conduct, and journalistic integrity. You are also not bound by news articles—if you would like, you can write us an opinion piece or a letter to the editor. While not in this issue, the popular segment “Husky Thoughts” will be returning this year, allowing the average student to share their opinions on current events, issues, or even casual questions about life on campus

On behalf of the writers, editors, and staff at The Lode, I would like to share my deepest gratitude to our readers and my sincere wish for all to have an excellent semester here at Tech.

Smoke Risk

According to the EGLE Air Quality Division’s report, over 21 air quality alerts graced the Upper Peninsula between the end of June and the beginning of August this year. When asked about the health risks associated with the fine particulate smoke, Peter Baril, interim director of Environmental Health for the Hancock office of Public Health, clarified, “There’s a lot of things that we’re concerned with... especially people with heart disease, people with lung disease.”

He says that, like many environmental hazards, those most at risk are young children, the elderly, and those with underlying conditions. There can be “issues with your eyes, wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, triggering asthma attacks and heart failure,” in the worst cases, said Baril

Baril urges that the most important ways to keep yourself safe during periods of heavy smoke are to keep an eye on smoke forecasts, recommending Airnow.gov for its ability to give real-time air quality measures for a user’s location: “If it looks like it’s going to be really bad on Friday and you can move your field trip to Wednesday, then that’s a really great idea.”

The smoke has been clear around campus lately, and the last air quality alert was a few weeks ago, but there’s no guarantee that the still-raging fires will not affect the area’s residents in

the near future.

“There’s been a higher occurrence of what people call ‘mega-fires,’” said Jim Schmierer, professor of MTU’s Wildland Fire course, when asked about the possibility of the smoke returning.

Professor Schmierer explained that indiscriminately suppressing both natural and unnatural wildfires, as was policy for decades, is ultimately a short-term solution that ends up leaving the next fire with more fuel, stating, “There’s been a feedback based on past practice. It’s more difficult to harness fire and to use fire as a tool when you have forests in that condition.”

Ultimately, the forests remain extremely susceptible to out-of-control burning, and adding an occasional glance to the air quality index when checking the weather may be advisable when planning to be outside for long periods of time.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Campus introductions: First hall presidents for East Hall elected

Ami Pierce

East Hall, the new residential hall that opened up this fall for upperclassmen, has found some of its very first hall presidents. With a total of 11 halls in East Hall, each one must elect members for their hall government. Seeing as East Hall has just opened this year, however, those elected have more say in the culture and traditions than those elected into established halls.

One of the elected hall presidents is Sean Willoughby, a second-year student studying robotic engineering. He was elected on Aug. 26, with his hall still deciding a name for itself. When asked about how it felt being one of the first hall presidents for East Hall, Willoughby said, “It’s fun. I like the responsibility of it” and that “It’s nice to have that kind of like, appreciation, and feel seen from the rest of the people in the hall.” When asked what his plans were, Sean brought up how his old hall at DHH had previously bonded by doing sidewalk chalk and other lawn games, which he wanted to emulate.

Additionally, Willoughby also wanted to help the residents of his hall by providing more storage. “[The] new furniture in East Hall is wonderful. ...[It’s] modern, but modern also loves minimalism, and minimalism loves getting rid of storage and so now nobody has any storage, so I’d like to give storage back to the people,” explained Sean.

The resident assistant of Sean’s hall, Jordyn Hoffman, was confident in Sean’s abilities. “I think Sean’s going to do absolutely amazing. I think he’s got a lot of good ideas and a lot of good plans that I can really see him going and following through with.”

Another one of the new presidents in East Hall is Nathan Lithgrow, a second-year student studying both mechanical and computer engineering. He was also elected on Aug. 26, for the hall Waterdeep. When asked how it felt being one of the first presidents, Lithgrow said, “I’m excited to start some traditions and do some things for the first time, and I think East Hall Council could be a super cool ex-

perience.” Lithgrow also expressed excitement towards writing the first founding documents and initiating the first events for the East Hall Council.

When asked about any traditions Lithgrow wanted to pursue, he commented that he wanted to do something similar to the Wadsworth Hall traditions, like Weenie Wednesday or the Coffee House. “Anything like that that would bring East Hall together seems super cool.”

Ryan Childers, the resident assistant of Waterdeep, was supportive of Lithgrow and his new position, saying, “I like that he has some traditions in mind that he wants to start” and “I’m glad he has the ambition, especially with East Hall Council, getting those documents written, setting the precedent for that and all that that entails.”

Any resident of East Hall who wants to join the Hall Council E-board can attend the first council meeting being held on Sept. 9 at 8 p.m.

Summer decision brings new tax aid for student organizations

Aidan Laskey

During a virtual meeting this summer, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at Michigan Tech approved a \$118,000 proposal to support student organizations with tax compliance. The vote took place on Jul. 22, 2025, with funding coming from the USG Reserve Fund. Before the proposal was approved, the reserve fund totalled \$227,000, which was nearly cut in half. Since Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) are independent tax entities, they must manage their own IRS filings, something many groups have not been aware of. USG cannot legally offer tax advice, which has left RSOs to learn the complex federal requirements themselves. To alleviate some of the burden, USG has contracted Omega Fi, a professional tax consulting firm, for four years of support.

USG treasurer and MTU student David Reeves says, “We hope that by providing RSOs and student leaders the opportunity to receive professional tax advice at little to no cost to their organization, students can be encouraged to grow their organization within the university and outside as well.

The tax-exempt status that RSOs would potentially receive has a large impact, especially as RSOs typically have yearly receipts in the thousands of dollars.”

Of the total \$118,000, \$60,000 is going towards 100 hours per year of professional tax advising from Omega Fi. \$10,000 will be used to provide a dashboard that lets USG and SLI track RSO filing status to ensure all groups maintain their tax-exempt status. Lastly, the remaining \$48,000 will offset the cost RSOs must pay on IRS forms, which will lower the financial barrier to entry.

USG is aiming to pass a more scalable constitution

Landon Kolodziej, Christina Clark, Drew Broekhuys

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is trying to get a student body majority vote to pass the constitutional amendments that they created last year. At the beginning of last year, USG went through multiple treasurers due to the amount of workload expected of them throughout an academic semester. The new amendments strive to solve this existing problem.

USG aims to “make a scalable constitution,” said Ford Schoonover, USG president. By increasing the minimum number of members allowed in USG, they can better accommodate the largest freshman class in 40 years. In addition, the document aims to “represent the upcoming freshmen,” said Schoonover. Any incoming students who have confirmed their enrollment with the Registrar would be considered a voting member of the Student Assembly. This gives USG more power to advocate for freshmen during orientation. The amendments also make changes to the Parliamentary role. “Prior there was no way to remove the Parliamentarian without removing them from the USG body,” said Schoonover.

“Part of our focus this year is ensuring that we distribute work evenly amongst our entire executive board,” said David Reeves, treasurer of USG. This means that there has to be some sort of change to the constitution. “Our constitution amendments that we currently have out are gonna be voted on.” There are two ways this can go: if the board votes yes, then the treasurer will have an assistant who

will take care of some of the load, which will relieve some of the stress that comes with that responsibility. If the amendments don’t pass, then the treasurer will have a much higher load, which could cause future problems for him and any other treasurer who decides to take on the role. In the case that the USG cannot keep the treasurer position, they run the risk of not being able to be an official organization.

The revisions need 15 percent of the student population’s vote, over 900 students, in order to pass. USG Constitutional Amendment voting is available on their website or on Fri, Sept. 5, at the USG booth in the upcoming Keweenaw Day (K-day) event. For more information on the exact changes, you can visit their website at www.usg.mtu.edu.

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First USG meeting of the fall semester

Christina Clark

The first Undergraduate Student Government (USG) meeting happened from 7 to 8 p.m. on Wed, Aug. 27, in the MUB Alumni Lounge. Some of the new developments mentioned include the updated vending machines that now accept dining dollars, along with new microwaves in the library. USG also granted the Sailing Club \$952.40 for a Husky Motors rental and gas for travel to Traverse

Area Community Sailing Facility, Traverse City. The club will participate on Sept. 6 to 7 in the Gavin D. Memorial Regatta, dedicating their efforts to celebrate Gavin’s legacy and to raise awareness for suicide prevention. This is the club’s first-ever Midwest Collegiate Sailing Association (MCSA) regatta.

USG also discussed K-Day, an MTU tradition that consists of 200 different registered student organizations gathered from 1 to 5 p.m. in

Chassell Centennial Park. Students are encouraged to interact with the school’s community while enjoying the obstacle course, volleyball nets, and visiting various booths. There will also be food included, provided by Suomi, Curious Pig, Flavor Blast, and Husky Eats.

The new constitutional amendments were mentioned, specifically the need for students to cast their votes. The amendments change a number of things, including: up-

dating the equal opportunity statement to follow current MTU policies instead of those from 2011, dividing USG members’ workload to increase focus on Student Initiatives, and revisions or clarifications of broad statements.

USG also talked about the Fall 2025 representative elections and nominations, which are currently open. Nominations will last until 5 p.m. on Sept. 7. All undergraduate students have the option to par-

ticipate in nominations or run for office. USG is looking for 11 representatives total: three first-year representatives, one third-year representative, one fourth-year representative, two residential representatives, three College of Engineering representatives, and one CFRES representative.

For more information, you can email usg@mtu.edu, join the USG Discord server, or visit usg.mtu.edu.

Order of Omega hosts annual autumn blood drive

Andrew Shore, Emily Kehoe

As the school year starts, the fall blood drive draws near. Hosted by the American Red Cross and Order of Omega, the drive takes place Sept. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the MUB ballroom. The American Red Cross is asking for blood donors with the blood type O+ and O- to donate due to the nationwide blood shortage. They are asking for that specific blood type due to the ability for it to be donated to anyone with any blood type. This drive is a perfect way to find out your blood type as well as do well for the community.

“It’s nice when people just give blood, so that way, it’s a resource that’s there, so when there are emergencies, people can use it,” said Addison Jeltema, president of Order of Omega and the organizer of this event. The blood drive also helps to promote a stronger connection between students in Greek life and the community through volunteering and project setup.

The American Red Cross says that “a few minutes of facing your fears...you may find that the satisfaction makes it worth it”. The American Red Cross also provides tips for a safe donation, such as

being well-rested and eating iron-rich food before donating, as well as eating the provided snacks, and staying hydrated before and after donating. The drive is hoping to receive 185 units of blood from willing and able donors to supply the local blood bank for those in need.

To find out your eligibility and to book your appointment to donate blood, go to events.mtu.edu/event/fall-blood-drive, www.red-crossblood.org, or call this number (1-800-733-2767).



Conlan Houston

Homecoming - Where the Wild Things Are

Kyle Coenen

It’s about that time, once again, to show your Husky spirit for this fall semester’s Homecoming. This year’s theme is Where the Wild Things Are and calls for a whole lot of Husky shenanigans. Starting Sunday, Sept. 14, through Saturday, Sept. 20, there’s plenty of time to show your wild side and get involved.

Some Husky classics that you will want to experience for the wildest Homecoming possible include the football game on Saturday, Sept. 20, the cardboard boat races (Friday, Sept. 19), the crowning of Homecoming royalty, and many other games and activities to relax and kick off this semester with your friends.

To get the most out of Homecoming, students can form a Homecoming team with different organizations they participate in,

residence halls, or even a group of new or old friends. These teams have the option to compete in different activities throughout the week and make the most out of each day while showing off their Husky pride.

Husky Court is another great way to recognize outstanding students at Michigan Tech who demonstrate leadership, spirit, and a hungry ambition for success. If that sounds like you, then make sure to register in time to represent your fellow Husky nation.

If you’re looking to register a team or simply yearning for more information regarding this year’s Homecoming events, then visit Michigan Tech’s Student Leadership and Involvement website or follow the Student Scoop, also located on the MTU website, to learn more.



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SPORTS

Michigan Tech versus Bemidji State: a victory for the Huskies 37-17

Elizabeth Becker

Last Thursday at Sherman Field, the Michigan Tech Huskies began their football season with a non-conference face-off against the Bemidji State Beavers, winning with a score of 37-17. After last year’s match at the Beavers’ home stadium in Minnesota, a 13-19 loss for the Huskies, this was a welcome victory by the Michigan Tech team as well as its fans.

The match started with a moment of silence held for former Michigan Tech Head Football Coach and Athletic Director, Ted Kearly, who passed away on Jun. 7 at the age of 93. Kearly’s commitment and contributions to Michigan Tech will be remembered.

While the Huskies quickly fell behind in the first quarter, they recovered in the second. They were

then able to secure their lead in the fourth quarter. Slot Receiver, Nic Nora, shared his thoughts on the game, stating that he is “Proud of the guys after a tough win.” Nora, who did not play last year, was able to make two touchdowns during Thursday’s match, both of which turned the lead over to the Huskies.

Additionally, in the final quarter, Running Back/Safety Jake Rueff scored a touchdown that received standing applause from the audience. After the game, he commented that he believed the match was a “great win for the Huskies, but we’ve got to keep it going next week.” Similarly, Nora mentioned that the team was happy with their results, “but it’s just one [game] and we’ve got 10 more games to go, so we’ll celebrate tonight and we

are on to South Dakota tomorrow.” While the team is excited about their win, they seem aware of the long season ahead and the need to focus on their match at South Dakota Mines on Sept. 4.

Weather during Thursday’s match was sunny, with the occasional light breeze and temperatures dropping into the 50s – decent weather for the players and the fans watching. One fan provided us with their thoughts on the game: “For the first game for Michigan Tech Huskies, they outplayed the opponent... and we came up with more big plays than Bemidji, so it was a good first win for Michigan Tech.” The next home game for Michigan Tech will be against Upper Iowa on Sept. 20.



Emily Kehoe

Funding Slash

The aerospace programs at Tech receive funding from organizations that are sponsored by NASA, a Federal agency that will see a 25% budget cut at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Along with this budget cut, an additional 47% reduction in funding that is meant for these organizations has been proposed.

One of the victims of these cuts to aerospace research is MTU’s own Planetary Surface Technology Laboratory (PSTDL). The PSTDL collects a significant portion of its budget from contracts with private companies and is therefore in

a better position to face reduced federal funding compared to other MTU research entities. However, some of the lab’s biggest and boldest projects, such as TEMPEST, T-REX, and LuSTR, rely on large research grants provided by the federal government, a prime example being NASA’s 2022 STTR grant worth up to \$850,000. While the PSTDL reports no cancellations to previously approved funds, the acquisition of new federal grants is becoming increasingly difficult.

Megabill

Starting Jul. 1, 2026, all current repayment plans will be eliminated and replaced with a new standard repayment and income-based plan, called the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP). Borrowers using the SAVE, PAYE, or ICR plans may continue those options until Jul. 1, 2028, when they must switch to either the standard plan or RAP.

Pell Grant rules are also changing. Foreign income will be included when calculating Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for eligibility, and students will no longer receive Pell funds if their total non-federal grants and aid exceed the cost of attendance.

The bill also restores FAFSA exemptions for certain assets starting with the 2026 school year. Family-owned small farms, small

businesses with fewer than 100 employees, and commercial fishing operations will not need to be reported. These exemptions, with the exception of commercial fishing, were previously in place before the 2024-2025 school year.

The Financial Aid Office declined to comment on the changes, citing a current lack of a department director able to give commentary. The vacancy was due to the previous director being promoted.

Students applying for loans in 2026 should prepare for the new repayment plans, and current borrowers must switch by Jul. 2028. Foreign students may see changes in financial aid eligibility based on family income abroad.

18 new faces join the MTU hockey team

Zachary Brewer, Derek Warner

With several senior players being sent off in the spring, a large recruitment effort was made for new hockey players. The incoming group includes 10 forwards, seven defencemen, and a goaltender. With five transfers and 13 freshmen, these players come from all walks of life. One such player is Owen Bartoszkiewicz, the new goaltender from Lindenwood University.

“Yeah, all the guys are pretty tight,” Bartoszkiewicz said. “I mean, they had a tight group from last year, so I don’t think bringing in a couple of guys can really change anything. I think they have

a good culture here, so I’m just trying to build off that.”

For the new players, integrating into a new team includes getting to know their new coaches. When asked about the head coach, Bartoszkiewicz said, “He’s passionate about the game, and I think that kind of gets a lot out of the guys; like as a goalie, you kind of want a coach that’s fiery and gets the guys going a little bit”.

Bartoszkiewicz expressed how excited he was to start this new season and to get back out on the ice. “I’ve been itching to play, itching to just have team practice, really... Yeah, like super excited, super stoked. I think we’ll have a really

fun and exciting year.”

With the start of the season quickly approaching, the Huskies are putting their full effort towards getting the recruits primed and ready. They are putting their full effort into making this season exciting and one worth watching. Their journey begins on Oct. 3 and 4 against the Minnesota Gophers in Minneapolis, followed by a game against the Alaska Nanooks on Oct. 17 and 18. Tickets can be purchased through the official Michigan Tech Hockey website at mtu.universitytickets.com, with free admission for MTU students.

The new players joining the MTU Hockey Team are:

Jack Anderson	Lindenwood University
Owen Bartoszkiewicz	Lindenwood University
Luca Fasciano	Lakehead University
Carson Latimer	University of British Columbia
Joe Prouty	Lindenwood University
Ryan Abraham	Livonia, MI
Reid Andresen	Saskatoon, SK
Carson Birnie	Arcola, SK
Brayden Boehm	Nanaimo, BC
Michael Cicek	Winnipeg, MB
Reid Daavettila	Howell, MI
Rylan Gould	Headingley, MB
Max Matthews	Arlington Heights, IL
Kalem Parker	Clavet, SK
Braden Pietila	Howell, MI
Noah Reinhart	Dundas, ON
Teydon Trembecky	Strathcona, AB
Matthew Van Blaricom	Southy, SK

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Past to present, campus continues to build and evolve

Skylar Zajac

The early 2000s were a busy time for Michigan Tech. On Sept. 11, 2002, The Lode ran a retrospective on campus construction in the 1970s, comparing the rapid pace of buildup of that decade to the slate of projects recently completed or in progress in 2002. Written by Lode staff writer Jana Jones, the article points out the university’s past while offering a window into what eventually came to be in the present day.

From 1967 to 1975, some of Tech’s most iconic buildings were completed, such as the SDC, the Raymond L. Smith Building (for-

merly the MEEM), and McNair Hall, while in 2002, the Rozsa Center had only recently been constructed, with Rekhi Hall and an extension to the library on the horizon. These projects continue to serve important functions to the university: for example, Rekhi Hall hosts the College of Computing, which has grown rapidly since 2002 to become an integral part of the university, and it is difficult to imagine MTU hockey without the John MacInnes Ice Arena.

Now, with buildings such as East Hall and the H-STEM only having been completed within the past two years, it is clear that Mich-

igan Tech’s campus environment has been defined by continuous change for much of its history, and will most likely continue to evolve as the university continues to grow.



Sudoku

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2		3	5			6	7	
	7			1			9	8
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3		5		2		9	6	
		1	9		4	2		3
1		4	8		3	7	2	5
5			2		1		4	6
		2		7	5		3	

		4		9	2	6	1	8
	8	2				4		
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			7		2	1		
	7	5	4		1		3	
			5	8	3	2	6	
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5	6	2	3	1	9		7	8
		4		2				5