Fall Grades, Spring Information
Grades will be available on Banweb by December 23, 5pm. Bills are due by January 7, 5pm. On-line registration is currently open and will close January 16. Students may late-register, with the instructor’s approval, until January 21.

Repeating Courses
If a grade of CD or below is earned in a course, the course may be repeated. When a course is repeated, any credit previously earned under the course number is forfeited and the transcript will indicate NR (no grade – repeated) for the earlier attempt. The new grade in the course (even if it is lower) will replace the original grade in the student’s GPA calculation. A student can repeat a low-grade course once without special approval. If a student wants to repeat a course a second time (i.e., take a course for the third time), the student must get approval from the Student Affairs Office (170 Administration Building, 906-487-2212, studentaffairs@mtu.edu) and from the student’s academic advisor.

Students considering retaking a course during spring semester should schedule the class before returning to campus. Students with questions regarding which classes to take should contact their academic advisor.

How to Calculate Grade Point Average
To calculate a grade point average (GPA), the following equation is used:

\[ \text{GPA} = \frac{\sum (\text{Credits} \times \text{Grade})}{\sum \text{Credits}} \]

where the letter grade in a class is first translated to points earned (A = 4 points, AB = 3.5 points, etc.).

When a course is transferred from another institution to Michigan Tech, the grade is not transferred. Therefore, the credits and the grade for the transferred class are not used in the Michigan Tech GPA calculation.

Departmental GPA Requirements
All Michigan Tech engineering students start with a Foundations concentration in addition to their major. The Foundations concentration means that a student has not yet successfully completed the Foundations courses (see below). Having this concentration prevents students from taking restricted sophomore level courses specified by each department. The concentration is removed from a student's record when the student achieves the milestone Engineering GPA (EnGPA) specified by his/her department. The courses that are used to calculate the EnGPA are:

- CH1100 or (CH1110 & CH1111)
- ENG1101 or (ENG1001 & ENG1100)
- ENG1102
- MA1160 or MA1161
- MA2160
- PH1100
- PH2100
- UN1001

For students starting in the fall of 2007 and after, the EnGPA requirements are:

- Biomedical Engineering: 2.75
- Mechanical Engineering: 2.75
- Civil and Environmental Engineering: 2.25
- All other Engineering: 2.00

Students who do not meet the EnGPA requirement for their major are restricted from sophomore level courses and, therefore, can not progress with their degree. These students should meet with their academic advisor to see if there is a way for them to meet the department’s requirements or to discuss changing majors. One way to improve the EnGPA is to repeat any Foundations course with a grade of CD or below (see Repeating Courses in this newsletter for more information).

Snowball Launchers

by Ms. Amber Kemppainen

The Keweenaw Peninsula is a very popular tourist destination known for its large quantities of snow and numerous outdoor activities. Receiving an average of 200 inches of snow per year, the climate offers an ideal testing ground for the development of snow-related products. In several sections of ENG1101, students designed, built, and tested safe and effective snowball launchers for 15- to 25-year olds. Teams gathered information on the performance of their designs and developed a mathematical model to predict the ideal launch angle required to hit a specified target. Shown below is the class target (snowman), a student team, and their scale-model launcher.