

## Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe 2009-2010

2009-2010 proved to be an exciting and successful year for the Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe Team. After just barely missing the opportunity to represent the North Central Regional Competition at Nationals in 2008-2009 for the first time in seven years, the team was more determined than ever to show that the concrete canoe team of Michigan Technological University was not one to underestimate.

Keeping true to our roots in our attempts to bring canoe pride back to Houghton, the team's inspiration for the 2009-2010 aesthetic design came from Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Implementing an accelerated schedule deemed necessary by the team to achieve the aesthetic vision of aesthetic chair Katie Zimmerman, the canoe, dubbed *Yooper* after the name given to natives of the U.P., was cast over a month earlier than in previous years on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The U.P. served as inspiration not only for the name and design of Michigan Tech's Canoe, but also for the rest of the team's display. Senior Jill Sanderson led the way in creating one of the more elaborate canoe stand's the team has ever seen; a replica of the Mackinac Bridge, representing the U.P.'s geographical position 'above' the famous bridge. Meanwhile, the cross section, made to look as though cut from a birch log, and the display table complete with a model of the Quincy Mine Shaft represented two of the region's largest industries; logging and mining, respectively.

2009-10 Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe Team At a Glance	
Name	Yooper
Weight	160 pounds
Length	20 feet
Width	31 3/16 in
Depth	16 in
Thickness	3/8 in
Colors	White

## Regional Competition

Michigan Tech arrived in Kalamazoo, MI for the 2009-2010 North Central Regional Competition, hosted by Western Michigan University, confident that *Yooper* was the finest work the team could have hoped for and our best canoe to date. The accelerated schedule had indeed allowed for an aesthetically appealing canoe, without sacrificing its structural integrity, thanks to the dedication of Lars Leemkuil, head of mix design.

Michigan Tech was impressed with the work of other teams and found that we were not the only ones to have raised the bar for the 2009-2010 competition. However Michigan Tech's dedication paid off and we left Kalamazoo with not only the trophy for first place in the overall competition, but also as the first place team in every category but one; Michigan Tech took second place in presentation. Our victory in the Technical Paper was one we are particularly proud of after placing only 4<sup>th</sup> in this category last year. Credit goes to paper chair Amanda Malburg for a paper one judge claimed was the best he'd ever read.

Competition Break Down	
Races	1st
Presentation	2nd
Final Product	1st
Technical Paper	1st
Final Results	1st

## National Competition

The 2009-2010 National Competition was held in San Luis Obispo, California and was hosted by Cal Poly University. Competition was stiff and again Michigan Tech realized that we were not alone in stepping up the level of competition, particularly in the aesthetic and technical presentation categories.

Still, *Yooper* held her ground, and Michigan Tech finished the 2009-2010 season with a 4<sup>th</sup> place National title, our second best finish to date.

Competition Break Down	
<i>Presentation</i>	8th
<i>Final Product</i>	3rd
<i>Technical Paper</i>	6th
<i>Women's Endurance</i>	6th
<i>Men's Endurance</i>	5th
<i>Women's Sprint</i>	9th
<i>Men's Sprint</i>	4th
<i>Coed Sprint</i>	3rd
<b>Final Results</b>	<b>4th</b>

2009-2010 was not only a big year for Michigan Tech because of our 4<sup>th</sup> place National achievement, but also because we achieved on a much stricter budget than we've had to deal with in previous years. Departmental funding for the team was cut drastically in 2009-2010 and the team was forced to make cut backs as well as search elsewhere for financial support. Though we manage to raise money through a pizza sale at winter carnival as well as events at the local Pizza Hut and EconoFoods, we would not have been able to reach our goals without the generous support of our sponsors. We are eternally grateful to all of our sponsors.

### **2010-2011**

Last year's taste of success gave Michigan Tech's returning team members a craving for victory that can be satisfied with nothing less than a first place National title. Though the road will not be easy and the journey may take years, we know and have what it takes to be a National contender.

This year, Michigan Tech has scheduled casting day for Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Like last year, this year's casting day is in the fall semester,

rather than spring to allow time for the extensive finishing required to compete at the national level.

### **Team Leadership**

Returning for a second year as co-captain at Michigan Tech is senior civil engineering major Jon Zalud. Jon has been a part of Michigan Tech's concrete canoe team since his freshman year, serving in the past as construction manager and helping with the team's FEA analysis. Last year, in addition to being captain, he was a paddler for the nationally ranking coed sprint team.

Stepping into a leadership position is junior materials science major John Laureto, selected this year to serve as the team's other co-captain. John has also been on the team since his freshman year, serving as sustainability chair for the 2009-2010 season and proving himself as a versatile and vital member of our team.

### **Regional Competition**

This year, the University of Michigan will be hosting the North Central Regional Competition. Michigan Tech looks forward to the trip to Ann Arbor and the opportunity to once more compete with other teams from the area.

### **National Competition**

The University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana will be the host of this year's National Competition. It is Michigan Tech's intent to once again be a team to watch at this level of competition.