



## *MICHIGAN TECH CONCRETE CANOE NEWS*

*"I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."*  
-Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

At this time a year ago, the Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe team was still reeling from defeat. We'd returned to Houghton with our tails between our legs after letting the title slip out of our grasp. For the first time in over seven years, someone else would be representing the North Central Student Conference at the national level. We're pleased to announce that the mourning period is OVER! The first place trophy is back in Houghton and the team is heading to California to compete for a national title. Let's recap how we got to this point:

Going back to our roots, the team decided to use the Upper Peninsula (UP) as our inspiration this year. The canoe was named Yooper in honor of the title given to residents of the area. The diverse natural wonders of the region inspired the team to create something beautiful as well as technical.

This year there was a push to get the mix design finished early so that the canoe could be cast during the first semester. This would allow for more time to add aesthetic appeal to the canoe as well as complete other areas of the competition such as the technical paper and display. The determination and devotion of the mix design crew, led by Lars Leemkuil and Brian Place, allowed for completion of research and development in five fewer weeks

than last year without sacrificing quality!

As you can see in the photo section, aesthetics were a focus this year and the team experimented with outlays as well as airbrushing water-based stains. The inlaid university and canoe names located on the exterior of the canoe were updated with a subtle inlaid shadow effect. Aesthetics chairperson Katie Zimmerman had a vision for how the canoe should look and was able to bring the beauty of the U.P. to life.

The outlays on the interior of the canoe represent significant staples and landmarks scattered throughout the Upper Peninsula: the Portage Lake Lift Bridge, the Superior Dome in Marquette, Pictured Rocks State Park, an ore freighter, the Mackinaw Bridge, a logging truck, the Copper Peak Ski Jump, and the Quincy Mine Hoist. The stain along the outer side walls represents a maple tree changing through the seasons while the images on the bottom of the canoe depict activities enjoyed by Yoopers and visitors alike during each season. The hard work resulted in a first place in the Final Product portion of the competition.

The accelerated schedule also allowed for the Technical Paper to be completed early and we appreciated the help of many alumni and members of industry as well as faculty and family who helped to





proofread and edit the paper. We were told that this was the best paper the head judge had read since he's been involved with the competition. Credit for the first place finish in this category goes to Amanda Malburg for her dedication as chairperson of Technical Paper.

The Technical Presentation Portion of the competition was the only second place the team received this year. The audience was impressed by a time lapse video of Casting Day which showed the construction process of Yooper. The presentation team answered tough questions from the judging panel and showed both poise and a keen understanding of the technical aspects of the competition.

Showing brawn as well as brains, tradition was held on Race Day as MTU swept all 5 races yet again. Our women's endurance paddlers bested not only their field of competition, but also all of the men's teams except for their own teammates. We're excited to see how we will stack up to the competition in California.

The team was able to accomplish all of this with minimal

departmental funding. We were forced to tighten our belts this year and implement a strict budget as well as an unprecedented team participation fee for each member attending competition. Additionally, local fundraising efforts included waiting tables for tip money at Pizza Hut and bagging groceries for donations at EconoFoods as well as selling concessions during the university's Winter Carnival. The cost of traveling with such a large group adds up quickly, but not having to leave teammates behind makes up for the financial cost. Currently the team through the generosity of our sponsors has raised \$10,000 of the necessary \$15,000 to participate at competition in California. If you are interested in assisting the team reach their fundraising goal please contact Jon Zalud at [Jwzalud@mtu.edu](mailto:Jwzalud@mtu.edu).

A special thank you goes out to all of our sponsors and supporters who have helped us get this far! We appreciate the opportunity to represent you at competition and hope that we have made you proud!

**Connect with the team via:**

MTU concrete canoe website:

<http://www.cee.mtu.edu/asce/canoe/index.htm>

Become a facebook fan of: Michigan Tech Concrete Canoe Team

Become a twitter follower: [http://twitter.com/MTU\\_Canoe](http://twitter.com/MTU_Canoe)

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Prior to casting Yooper, different mix designs were tested until the final mix Kippis was chosen.



Working together, the team was able to cast Yooper in 3 hours.





An accelerated schedule this year allowed for extensive and detailed finishing making Yooper stand out among other concrete canoes.



Despite poor weather, the MTU paddlers managed to sweep the races for the fourth year in a row.



The team looks forward to representing Michigan Tech at the national competition in San Luis Obispo, California.