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Rail News

Michigan Tech Transportation Institute

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Spring 5-20-2016

## **Rail News Spring (Jan-Apr) 2016**

Rail Transportation Program

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The Michigan Tech Rail Transportation Program (RTP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Rail present the 4th Annual Michigan Rail Conference. The event will take place on August 17-18, in Marquette, MI. This will be our first foray

into Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the conference will be hosted at the Northern Michigan University campus. The event starts with a full day of technical presentations on Aug 17th. Keynote speakers will be Mr. Tom Baldini, and Mr. Frank Patton, Managing Partner of Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. We will follow the technical program with a field trip to rail industry facilities in both the Marquette and Escanaba areas. For more information, registration and sponsorship opportunities, please visit the Conference Web site at: <http://www.rail.mtu.edu/event/4th-annual-michigan-rail-conference>



**Keynote Speaker: Frank Patton, Managing Partner, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.**

## REAC Spring Trip to CN Facilities in Homewood - visits to Nordco and EMD

The spring 2016 field trip for the Railroad Engineering and Activities Club (REAC), took the club to Chicago for a weekend highlighted by a tour of the new CN training campus in Homewood, IL. CN also provided a tour of the locomotive shops in Homewood, and the Kirk Yard in Gary, Ind. The club also visited the Nordco facilities in Oak Creek, WI, and the EMD and Progressive Rail plant in Lagrange, IL. In spite of the whirlwind nature of the trip, club members also had time to see some sights in the big city, and take in a concert in Madison.



## Minor in Rail Transportation

The RTP has worked with Michigan Tech to establish a new Minor in Rail Transportation! The new minor will be available starting in the fall of 2016, and is open to students from all disciplines. All students will be required to take our basic rail classes, a communications or leadership option, and 9 technical elective credits with a rail focus. More information is available at <http://www.rail.mtu.edu/minor>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [The Rail Academic Conference \(TRAC\)](#)

– Jul 12-14

TRAC will combine the Railroad Engineering Education Symposium and annual NURail Meeting into one conference for rail industry educators.

### [Rail and Intermodal Transportation Summer Youth Program](#)

– Jul 17 - 23, 2016

The 7th annual program will be again hosted by Michigan Tech and University of Wisconsin – Superior

### [Michigan Rail Conference](#)

– Aug 17- 18, 2016

The fourth annual Michigan Rail Conference comes to Michigan's Upper Peninsula! This year's program is hosted at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI

### [AREMA 2016](#)

– Aug 28-31, 2016

AREMA 2016 is in Orlando, FL at the end of the summer this year

## Get Ready for Railroad Night and Rail Day/Expo!

RTP and REAC will again host Railroad Night and Rail Day on the Michigan Tech campus. This year's event will be earlier than in the past, with Railroad Night XII on September 22 and the 3rd Annual Rail Day and Student Expo to follow on September 23. The event will precede the university wide Career Fair, giving industry recruiters a head start with our students and allowing them to combine both events to a single visit.

Railroad Night will move to a new venue this year as well. We will take advantage of the bright, airy atmosphere of the Rozsa Center to put on an absolutely fabulous event!



Go to <http://rail.mtu.edu/event/rail-night-xii> for more details, registration and sponsorship information.

## Joint Rail Conference 2016

Pasi Lautala and eight students from Michigan Tech attended the Joint Rail Conference in Columbia, South Carolina April 12-15. All eight students received scholarships from ASME to attend, and Sumanth Kullari brought home the 2016 Best Student Technical Publication award for his paper, *Toward Integrated Life Cycle assessment and Life Cycle Cost Analysis for Road and Multimodal Transportation Alternatives – A Case Study of the Highland Copper Project*.

## Student Project Highlights



Hump Yard Sensor Test Stand

Student projects continue to be a focus of the RTP program. This spring included three completed projects. Material Science students were working with CN to explore options for identifying rail defects in the field. Electrical Engineering students were working with NS Railroad on a sensor system to identify wheel contamination on cars entering a hump yard. Civil and Environmental Engineering students were working with Lake State Railways to provide preliminary plans for drainage improvements, a new locomotive wash facility, and track extension to accommodate unit trains. More details on these and other RTP student projects can be found at <http://www.rail.mtu.edu/student-projects>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 3rd Annual Rail Day/Expo and Rail Night XII

– Sep 22-23, 2016

Railroad Night XII will be hosted by the Michigan Tech Rail Transportation Program and Railroad Engineering and Activities Club (REAC) on Sept 22nd, followed by Rail Day on Sept 23. Come enjoy the fall colors!

## IN THE NEWS

- Tom Bartlett, Mich Tech Alumnus (EE,08) featured in UP Career Corner <http://www.up.com/aboutup/career-corner/tombartlett.htm>

## ON THE ROAD

- 1/10-13/2016 Pasi Lautala and students at Joint Rail Conference in Columbia, SC
- 1/28-30/2016 Dave Nelson and 14 senior CEE majors at Lake State Railway Saginaw Yard for senior design field trip
- 2/25-27/2016 Dave Nelson at AREMA Committee 24 meeting in Fort Worth, TX. Roles in PGRE rewrite and REES 2016
- 4/6/2016 Pasi Lautala participated as a “transportation expert” in the breakfast panel discussion of the Keweenaw Economic Development Association

## VISITORS TO TECH

- 1/18-19/2015 Derek Yu, Product Solutions Engineer at Alstom USA talked with REAC and the Rail Seminar about Signals and Alstom career opportunities
- 2/9/2016 Phil Pasterak, WSP - Parsons Brinkerhoff, presented **High Speed Rail and Urban Rail Systems** to REAC and the Rail Seminar, respectively
- 2/16/2016, Rail Industry representatives from Rempres, Loram, CN, and AECOM met with students for pizza and talk after the career fair
- 3/1/2016, Brad Howard from New York Airbrakes talked with students in the Rail Seminar about using train simulators to understand operations issues, and to REAC about Autonomous train operations
- 3/3/2016, Ian Weiner from CN and Troy Elbert from Herzog were on campus discussing rail testing projects
- 4/5/2016, Martita Mullen—REAC presentation on experiences at CN, Rail Seminar on Rail Production, Installation and Maint.

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