



3rd Annual Rail Day/Railroad Night

The Michigan Tech Rail Transportation Program and Railroad Engineering and Activities Club (REAC) hosted another great opportunity for industries to interact with students from all disciplines across campus. This year's event took place on the campus mall, during the balmy September weather.

We shifted the event to the weekend before the fall career fair to give students and industry a head start in discussing the opportunities the rail industry presents for jobs, internships, and co-ops. Rail Day featured industry displays and presentations and a free lunch for students as they explored the many exciting opportunities available. Rail Industry Sponsors from eleven companies joined us to showcase all the rail industry has to offer, and to show our students that railroading is cutting edge, with jobs available for students from various disciplines!

Railroad Night XII held the preceding evening had special meaning this year, as AREMA formally recognized the 10th anniversary of REAC as the first AREMA student chapter in the Nation. Railroad Night also featured Brian Lindamood from Alaska Railroad and the out-going AREMA president as our keynote speaker.



Student Project Highlight

Fifteen seniors from the Civil and Environmental Engineering program worked together to prepare a proposal for JM Longyear for rail improvements to the Peshekee Logyard near Champion, MI. The main focus of the project was increasing log car storage from the current five cars capacity to 25 cars, along with an operations plan for staging cars in the yard. The improvements also included a transload warehouse and dock, and a fuels transload facility to diversify operations on the site.



Project team at the Peshekee Wood Yard

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

– Jul 9-14, 2017

The 8th annual program will be again hosted by Michigan Tech and University of Wisconsin – Superior

[Midwest Rail Conference](#)

– Aug 15-17, 2017

The 2017 Midwest Rail Conference "Midwest Connections: Passenger and Freight Rail Look to the Future" will be held August 15-17, 2017 in Kalamazoo, MI.

[AREMA and Railway Interchange 2017](#)

– Sep 17-20, 2017

AREMA 2017 and the Railway Interchange are back in Indianapolis this year.

[4th Annual Rail Day and Railroad Night XIII](#)

– First week in October, 2017

RTP Receives Grant from FRA to Study Driver Behavior at Grade Crossings!

In September RTP received a two year grant for \$250,000 to study driver behavior at highway-rail grade crossings. The project will utilize data from the Strategic Highway Research Program, Naturalistic Driving Study (NDS) to document what drivers are doing as they approach crossings. The NDS provides access to sensor data for over five million trips completed between 2013 and 2015. The data includes speed, acceleration, brake, and throttle data that can be used to assess driver reaction to the traffic control devices currently in use at crossings. It also includes head rotation data that can be used to investigate driver looking behavior in the approach to crossings. Phase one of the project involves collection and analysis of the NDS data. Phase two of the project will tie the NDS results to our ongoing research using driver simulators at Tech. We will build scenarios found in the NDS crossings in the simulator, and compare driver behavior in the simulator environment with the behavior we observe in the NDS. Together these two research tracks should help us document drivers' actions at crossings, and give us an opportunity to investigate potential improvements.



Minor in Rail Transportation

The RTP has worked with Michigan Tech to establish a new Minor in Rail Transportation! The new minor became 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 nine technical elective credits with a rail focus. Our first minor was awarded to Otto Freiberg at the completion of the Fall Semester. More information is available at <http://www.rail.mtu.edu/minor-rail-transportation>



REAC Fall Field Trip - Eagle Mine Facilities

On October 28 a group of 15 students visited the Eagle Mine processing facilities in Humboldt, MI. The mine and processing facilities are owned and operated by Lundin Mining and the processing facility is served by the Mineral Range Railroad. Joe Petrocik provided an excellent tour of the facilities, including the rail loadout process for the nickel and copper concentrate produced in Humboldt. On the return trip the group stopped at Hilltop Restaurant in L'Anse for a quick dinner and discussion of the tour.

IN THE NEWS

- Michigan Tech's Rail Transportation Program is covered extensively in the November Railway Track and Structures. [Rail Engineering's Educated Effort](#), page 26

https://issuu.com/railwaytrackstructures/docs/november2016de_reduced

ON THE ROAD

- 9/13-16/2016 - Pasi Lautala presented the biomass transportation logistics related work at the 2nd RCN Conference on Pan American Biofuels & Bioenergy Sustainability in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 9/17-19/2016 - Pasi participated in the Intermodal Association of America (IANA) Annual Expo in Houston, TX.
- 9/29/2016 - Pasi participated in the Commission for Logistics and Supply Chain Collaboration meeting in Lansing, MI
- 11/16/2016 - Pasi attended the Wisconsin Rail Day in Madison and gave an invited talk on Michigan Tech's grade crossing research program.
- 12/2/2016 - Dave Nelson visited Sawyer International Airport to discuss potential senior design projects.

VISITORS TO TECH

- 11/8/2016 Clint Jones from Mineral Range Railroad spoke to REAC about his experiences in the railroad industry, the Mineral Range Railroad, and shortline railroading in the Upper Peninsula
- 12/6/2016- Cory Wyka from CN talked with REAC about positive train control implementation on CN territory in the US.



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