



## Railway Interchange 2019—Michigan Tech Rail Alumni Gets Together

The Railway Interchange and AREMA Annual Conference provided a great setting for our growing rail alumni group to meet. This year more than 20 Michigan Tech alumni got together at “The Local” during the Railway Interchange 2019 to refresh memories and meet with the current students of the Railroad Engineering and Activities Club (REAC) sharing stories from their times at Tech and experiences from their careers.

## Three Michigan Tech Alumni Receive Awards

### Brandon Maurisak receives Transit award by Mass Transit

Brandon was featured in the September 13, 2019 Mass Transit’s “2019 40 Under 40.” Described by Mass Transit as “...our annual opportunity to recognize outstanding young individuals making a name in the public transit industry.” Per the article, Brandon is a Transit Engineer at AECOM and “described by colleagues as steadily reliable, dedicated and eternally upbeat, qualities that bode well in the transit industry where major transit projects can take decades between initial planning and opening day.” You can read the full article at the [Mass Transit Magazine](#)



Brandon Maurisak, P.E.

### Rail Transportation Advisory Board Members receive Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Honors

During the Academy of Civil and Environmental Engineers at Michigan Tech Induction Ceremony held October 3, 2019, RTAB member Tim Hoeffner was inducted to the CEE Hall of Fame.

Dave Thomson received the CEE Alumni Service Award. This award was established to recognize the contributions of alumni to the educational and research mission of the CEE Department at Michigan Tech. The day before, Dave was also given an Honorary REAC Membership as part of the 15th Annual Railroad Night Celebrations.

Congratulations to Tim and Dave on their well-deserved recognition!



Pasi with Tim and Dave



REAC Alumni at AREMA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### REAC General Business Meeting

— November 18, 2019

Speaker Bill Sproule, Michigan Tech

### REAC Fall Field Trip

— November 15, 2019

The REAC Annual Fall Field trip will be to the Humboldt Mill and Pettibone.

### Michigan Tech Spring Career Fair

— February 19, 2020

The Michigan Tech Career Fair is one of the largest in the country, bringing more than 400 companies and 2,000 recruiters to campus each year. Our biannual Career Fair is open to all students of all majors.

### Rail and Intermodal Transportation

### Summer Youth Program

— June 21-27, 2020

The 11th annual program will be again hosted by Michigan Tech and University of Wisconsin—Superior. Terrific field trips on tap! Time to sign up!

### Michigan Rail Conference 2020

— TBD

Plans have already started for the Annual Michigan Rail Conference to be held in Southwest Michigan in early August 2020.

## Rail Transportation Advisory Board Welcomes New Leadership and Members

After adding Niiko Rautiola and Bob Pokorski to the the RTAB last year, we also have added Jon Warlof (EEE 2009), Aaron Dean (EME, 2018), and Brandon Maurisak (ECE, 2011) to our board. Jon recently moved from BNSF to ALSTOM as their Lead Testing and Commissioning Engineer, and is heavily involved in finalizing their PTC deployments. After graduating last year Aaron is working for Pettibone/Traverse Lift, LLC as a design engineer. He has taken responsibility for the Speed Swing product line. Brandon is in the Portland OR office of AECOM, and was chosen by Mass Transit Magazine as part of their 40 under 40 program for 2019. See the front page for details.

In other RTAB news, Martita Mullen from CN will be leaving the Board. Bob Porkoski will replace Martita as the new RTAB chair. As a local resident, Bob will be valuable resource to RTP. Thank you to Martita for her dedication to our program, we're looking forward to continuing the work with Bob.

## Railroad Engineering and Activities Club (REAC) Student Wins Poster Session at AREMA

Eight students from Michigan Tech made the trip to Minneapolis for the annual AREMA conference and Railway Interchange. Kyle Dick and Alex Christmas presented posters in the undergraduate poster competition, and Alex took home the first place ribbon. The Tech students also placed third in the Quiz Bowl Competition.



Alex Christmas and Kyle Dick at AREMA poster session

## Donate to the AREMA Michigan Tech Alumni Scholarship

AREMA is in the process of changing their scholarship program, so this will be the last year you can donate to the AREMA Michigan Tech Alumni Scholarship. Here's how you do it:

1. Go to <https://www.arenafoundation.org/>
2. Click on Donate Now (you may need to login with your user name and password first)
3. Click on the Donate to Additional Scholarship button
4. Near the bottom of the page choose Michigan Tech Alumni Scholarship and fill in the rest of the donation details

More information on how to donate can be found on the RTP website:

<http://www.rail.mtu.edu/articles/donate-arema-michigan-tech-alumni-scholarship>

## Michigan Tech Student Scholarships for 2020 Now OPEN

As in years past, thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsor CN and program alumni, RTP is able to provide at least two awards of \$1000 to students via a competitive process. Since 2009, 51 students have received scholarships. As the AREMA scholarship program phases out individual scholarship awards we will start using this option as a way of getting support to our students. Stand by for more details in the near future!



Michigan Tech



Rail Transportation Program  
Michigan Tech Transportation Institute • Michigan Technological University

### ON THE ROAD

- Aug 19-22, Pasi at National Grade Crossing Conf in Pittsburg
- Sep 21-25, Pasi, Dave, and REAC Students to Minneapolis for AREMA/ Railway Interchange
- Nov 6-8, Pasi to Lansing for MDOT Rail meetings and to Columbus for .....

### RTP GUEST SPEAKERS

- Oct 2, Dave Thomson and Gary Potts, Hanson Professional Services gave keynote for Railroad Night
- Oct 21, Aaron Dean, Pettibone/ Traverse Lift LLC presented to REAC GBM

### RTP Launches LinkedIn Group

— October 2019

We launched a new LinkedIn Group as a way of connecting with our alumni across the industry. Go to <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12310391/> and ask to join!



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