

I can't believe how fast the semester has gone by. My parents always told me that life goes by more quickly when you're old - I guess I'm old! But that's another discussion. I have just a few items to note in my December Report. They include the introduction of a new academic calendar, announcement of extended library hours, announcement of a Senior Citizen Audit Policy, a report on collaboration with the JCMU, information of two study abroad programs for the summer of 2012, and information about upgrades for IT.

Academic Calendar:

The 2013-2014 calendar was approved by the President last month. The calendar contains a new holiday; fall break. It happens to fall on the same day as the Canadian Thanksgiving! This new holiday will be a bit tricky to implement but faculty and administration felt that the break and recognition of the Canadian holiday were worth the effort.

Extended Library Hours:

At the request of student government, the library hours were extended by three hours on Sundays. The library now opens at 10am on Sunday morning and will continue to do so through the end of the academic year.

Senior Audit Policy:

In an effort to expand educational opportunities to the community, we have instituted a Senior Citizen Audit Policy. The policy states that...

Residents of Michigan who are 60 years of age or older may take undergraduate courses at Lake Superior State University without paying tuition (tuition is waived). Such residents may register on an audit basis for any undergraduate course offered by the University, provided that space is available, and the individual meets the prerequisites or has the permission of the instructor. The application for Auditing a Course Form can be found online at: <http://www.lssu.edu/registrar/documents/Audit.pdf>. Verification of age must be provided to the Registrar.

Those participating in course work under this program shall be entitled to full classroom participation, and may complete all assignments and examinations for evaluation by the instructor. The purchase of textbooks, program fees, special course fees, and required materials shall be the responsibility of the participant.

Any questions about the Senior Citizen Audit Policy can be directed to the Registrar's Office (906-635-2682) or registrar@lssu.edu.

Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU):

The Japan Center for Michigan Universities visited campus last month. Last year (November 2010), Jim Moody, Greg Zimmerman, and Morrie Walworth worked with the JCMU to submit a grant proposal that would bring a visiting professor to LSSU and four other Michigan Universities. That grant has been approved and we are slated to be the first or second university that the professor will visit. The initial proposal was to seek someone in the environmental science area, but that has been expanded to include the possibility of the fish health or fisheries areas. The professor would be at LSSU in the Fall of 2012 or Spring of 2013, and would teach one class while here. The remainder of his/her time would be spent on outreach programs.

Study Abroad:

We have two study abroad programs ready for this summer. The first is entitled “Essence of Europe”. Essence of Europe is a 19 day tour led by Education First (EF) College Study Tours. While overseas, travelers will immerse themselves in the history and culture of major European cities, such as Munich, Venice, Rome, Florence, Paris, and London, as well as smaller towns and regions. Travel will emphasize an interdisciplinary arts experience, highlighting a variety of European artworks from theatre, dance, music, painting, sculpture, and architecture. Dr. Patrick Santoro is leading this trip.

The second trip is entitled “Introduction to Tropical Ecology: Costa Rica Biodiversity”. Professor Tom Allan is leading this fully enrolled trip. The Introduction to Tropical Ecology: Costa Rica Biodiversity trip will provide two hours of lecture/week during the spring semester which will be followed by a 10 day laboratory field experience at the end of the semester (approximately 80 hrs). Lecture will cover the abiotic and biotic factors significant to tropical environments, the types of ecosystems found in tropical environments, and will introduce the flora and fauna of Costa Rica. Threats to tropical biodiversity, tropical conservation, sustainability, and cultural considerations will be discussed. The Laboratory experience will include tropical cloud forests, lowland jungle, coastal ecology/coral reefs, ecotourism, and sustainability.

Additional information about Study Abroad opportunities can be found at <http://www.lssu.edu/studyabroad/>.

Upgrades for IT:

LSSU's IT department has been busy working with Merit Network Inc. to expand the area's bandwidth. LSSU houses much of the Merit equipment which serves our region and of course, the campus. This is one the many ways that LSSU connects to the region.

The new fiber and equipment is part of Merit's REACH-3MC (Rural, Education, Anchor, Community, and Health care - Michigan Middle Mile Collaborative), project that will improve the existing network infrastructure in Michigan and build infrastructure in areas of the state that are currently unserved or underserved.

The new fiber and equipment will provide redundant connections from LSSU to the Merit backbone, will also provide additional redundant connections for the UP, reducing the chance of Internet outages affecting the area (or the entire UP). The connection serving LSSU and other Merit members of the local community will increase from 1Gbps to 10Gbps.

The new equipment was installed on our campus on November 16; Merit is planning to bring it online before the end of December. An executive summary of the REACH-3MC proposal is at the link below.

<http://www.merit.edu/meritformichigan/execummary.php>