Cutting-edge programs in paper and printing

Also in this issue
- Rural health care gets a boost
- Creative writing students learn from a pro
- Bronco mascot goes high-tech
Dear Friends,

In the pages of this magazine you will see feature stories and news reports from our colleges that refer to the wonderful research being conducted at your University.

Many of you may wonder why such an emphasis is placed on research. The answer is simple. Aside from the education we provide to our students, the research we conduct is the most significant return on investment we deliver to our investors—the people of Michigan, our students, alumni and friends.

It is important to recognize and celebrate the truly significant and meaningful research our faculty and students conduct. To put these activities into perspective, one only needs to know that among the state's 15 public universities, the amount of research conducted at WMU trails only that of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

Does this mean that we are trying to model our University after these other nationally regarded institutions? No, we will always remain true to our identity and faithful to our own unique capabilities. The research we conduct here is done in areas in which we have traditionally excelled, such as education, the paper and printing sciences, geosciences, medieval studies, mathematics and engineering.

The findings of our research contribute in many ways to our quality of life, the efficiency and competitiveness of our businesses, the effectiveness of our schools and the solution of some of our more vexing everyday problems.

Moreover, by creating an environment that encourages and supports research, we attract and retain faculty and students of the highest caliber who come to our University to be part of a vibrant learning community.

Finally, and importantly for those of you who are alumni and students, the reputation created by our research achievements is one of the most significant ways by which we enhance the value of your WMU degree.

We will talk increasingly about our research accomplishments and aspirations in this publication and in other forums. I hope this has helped you understand why the topic has become such a high priority at WMU.

Elson S. Floyd
President
What's happening on campus?
Planning a visit to Kalamazoo? Check the WMU News Web site for the latest information about campus events that you can attend. Calendar listings are currently available through June and are regularly updated at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events/calendar1.html>.

FEATURES

On the cover
Paper Broncos
There's no paperless society in sight for this pair of high-tech programs.
COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GILROY

A Mechanical 'Mane' Attraction
A sophomore robotics whiz has put a 21st century spin on the University mascot.

Taking the Rural Route to Good Health
WMU initiative is aimed at putting health care in its place.

Master of the Craft
When it comes to teaching, award-winning author Stuart Dybek has the write stuff.

SECTION S

University News
College News
Alumni News
Classnotes
Obituaries
Athletic News
Home planned for College of Health and Human Services

WMU President Elson S. Floyd has announced a $45 million plan to consolidate the College of Health and Human Services on the newly acquired Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital property, which was transferred by the state to WMU last fall.

“...the health sciences are a major area of growth and emphasis for the University...”

Floyd said in announcing completion of the property transfer. “The consolidation is very appropriate because of the property’s historic use and its easy access for what is emerging as a major health corridor for our community and the region.”

Health and human services facilities already located on the 107-acre site include a building that houses WMU’s nursing and occupational therapy programs and the University Medical and Health Sciences Center, which is home to WMU’s Unified Clinics and the Michigan State University Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies. In addition, the Michigan Department of Community Health continues operating on the site, leasing back 53 acres in the center of the former KPH property for $1 a year.

Under the University’s consolidation plan, one new structure will be added to that mix of facilities. In addition to renovating the building that houses nursing and occupational therapy, a new structure will be constructed for the College of Health and Human Services’ five remaining academic units and administrative offices.

Funding requests focus on key University goals

The Board of Trustees this fall approved an ambitious legislative agenda designed to provide WMU with the tools it needs to achieve a formal classification as a research institution and boost its ability to serve students and Michigan citizens.

“We need to consistently and persuasively communicate that legislative agenda,” President Elson S. Floyd says, “for our funding requests to the state include many of the tools we’ll need to reach those goals.”

WMU has requested base funding increases in several areas as well as one-time appropriations for capital outlay (bricks and mortar) projects.

Base funding

Tops on the current list of base funding requests is $3.75 million to increase faculty salaries to keep and attract outstanding teachers and researchers. The remaining requests seek funds to:

- Support the School of Aviation Sciences.
- Help WMU hold the line on tuition.
- Increase student financial aid.
- Improve instructional and information technology.

Capital outlay

Building a new home for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences is the University’s No. 1 capital outlay priority. The state already has appropriated $37.5 million for the project, but WMU must contribute an additional $12.5 million to receive the funds. Leading the current list of projects that have yet to be funded is consolidating the College of Health and Human Services (see previous story in this section). The remaining requests yet to be funded are:

- Renovating Welborn Hall as a student services building.
- Upgrading Sangren Hall for the College of Education.
- Renovating and expanding Kohrman Hall for design programs and computer science.
- Restoring East Campus.
- Constructing a new chemistry building.
- Meeting deferred maintenance needs.
- Making infrastructure improvements.

Legislative relations emphasized

Jeff Breneman, B.A. ’91, has been appointed assistant vice president for legislative affairs. The appointment strengthens WMU’s commitment to legislative relations and will enhance its ability to communicate the University’s accomplishments, needs and aspirations.

Breneman had been deputy chief of staff for district/state relations for U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, serving as a senior adviser on 6th District and Michigan political activities. He had been an Upton staff member since graduating from WMU.

Last call at Knollwood Tavern

After decades of notoriety as a local watering hole, the Knollwood Tavern has shut off the beer tap and turned off the lights.

Years of negotiations culminated Nov. 9 with WMU purchasing the popular student hangout, along with its West Michigan Avenue neighbor, the Discount Den.
The University has sought to acquire the properties at the west edge of campus as they become available in order to enhance the appearance of one of its most visible campus entry points. The Discount Den remains in operation while the Knollwood has closed its doors.

Loyal fans flocked to the tavern Nov. 6 and 7 during its closing days to roast a fond farewell to one of their favorite haunts.

Scholarship named for Morris Hood Jr.
A Medallion Scholarship, one of WMU's most prestigious merit-based aid awards, has been named in honor of the late State Rep. Morris Hood Jr. of Detroit. Hood, who was famous for his support of Michigan's 15 public universities, died Oct. 8.

He began his legislative career in 1970 and, at the time of his death, was the longest serving member of the state House of Representatives. WMU also honored Hood in 1988 when it awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Jack Moss given honorary degree
Jack Moss, longtime sports editor for the Kalamazoo Gazette, received an honorary doctor of public service degree during December commencement ceremonies. The degree was bestowed in recognition of Moss' 50 years of dedicated service to athletics and the Kalamazoo community.

The 71-year-old veteran reporter, columnist and editor was attending WMU in 1948 when he left college to join the Gazette full time. He began as a sports writer and was named sports editor in 1967.

Over the years, Moss has become one of the newspaper's most prolific and well-read writers. He also is recognized as a giving community volunteer as well as one of the Kalamazoo area's most popular personalities and busiest toastmasters.

Foundation honors volunteers
The WMU Foundation has paid tribute to two outstanding volunteers by presenting them with 1998 awards. Gary Cramer, B.S. '64, M.A. '72, was named Volunteer of the Year and Dr. Lloyd J. Schmaltz was chosen to receive the Bill Brown Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership.

Cramer has worked with the Mike Gary Athletic Fund for the past 17 years, consistently serving in a variety of leadership roles. A former elementary principal, he has been supervisor of the Charter Township of Kalamazoo since 1996.

In 1998, Cramer and his wife, Janice, B.A. '64, established a scholarship for students from Kalamazoo Township to attend WMU.

Schmaltz has served the University as an employee, volunteer, donor and ambassador. The professor emeritus of geology and past chair of the Department of Geology joined WMU's faculty in 1959 and retired in 1988.

His many volunteer and service activities during the past 20 years have included strengthening relations with students, alumni and donors as well as creating or helping to create student scholarships.
That's how Katie Pershell, a paper engineering major from Baroda, Mich., responds when asked what part of the paper industry she's heading for after graduation in December. She's come a long way from her freshman days at WMU when, she admits, she didn't have a clue about the paper industry.

"If you had told me I'd be a paper science major when I was a senior in high school, I would have laughed in your face," says Pershell, who now heads a student organization of paper science and engineering majors.

After more than three years in the program, a job in WMU's Paper Pilot Plant, two industry internships, and two successful appearances in national engineering competitions, Pershell has a good grasp of life in the paper industry and a promising future. In fact, with a near 100 percent placement rate and many new grads choosing from among three or four job offers, the future looks bright for all of the students in the University's celebrated Department of Paper and Printing Science and Engineering.

"Our graduates get jobs, and they progress rapidly to the top levels of the industry," says Dr. Thomas W. Joyce, department chairperson. "What more could you ask for in a program?"

Ask or not, Joyce notes, the paper and printing programs, which have been linked on campus since the 1950s, have plenty more to offer. Counted among the programs' strengths are:

- A 40-year-old Paper Technology Foundation made up of industry supporters and loyal alumni who boost the program with more than $100,000 annually in student scholarship funds and who actively search for ways to meet the department's equipment needs;

Dr. Raja Aravamuthan and Katie Pershell in the Paper Pilot Plant
Papering the community with opportunity

Paper and printed material surround us in everyday life, but few people stop to think how that happens.

That's true even though paper manufacturing is one of Southwest Michigan's largest industries—employing more than 10,000 in the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek area alone—and students who earn a bachelor's degree in the discipline have an average starting salary of around $48,000.

To take the wraps off the profession, WMU's Department of Paper and Printing Science and Engineering has taken on a community outreach effort to alert area school children to career prospects in an industry that has a need for skilled workers.

- A top-notch student body that includes one of the University's largest concentrations of students who come to WMU through its Medallion Scholarship competition, which is one of the largest merit-based scholarship programs in the country;
- An international group of faculty members and research staff who have extensive industry experience and who undertake more industry research than any other such program in the nation;
- A campus Paper Pilot Plant and a Printing Pilot Plant, research facilities that make WMU the only university in the world that can go from pulp to printed material on a single campus;
- Internship programs for students that regularly place undergraduates with such firms as the Wall Street Journal, DuPont, International Paper and Mead; and
- A string of cutting-edge research centers making inroads into pressing industry problems such as waste recycling, new fiber sources for paper and the development of environmentally safe inks.

And if all those components aren't enough to recommend it, Joyce says, the program has one more ace headed its way from the other side of the nation. It's a development that will enhance the status the department already enjoys as one of the top three programs in the nation.

Equipment gift will propel program into the future

"Game, set, match," that's how one University official describes the acquisition of $25 million worth of paper making and paper coating equipment headed for WMU from Fort James Corp.'s recently closed Camas, Wash., research facility.

By year's end, the department will take delivery on equipment that will make it unique in its ability to train personnel and carry out research for industry. In the future, the department will offer both services in a near state-of-the-art facility with capabilities comparable to those of a modern paper mill.

"Every university needs a couple of leading-edge programs for which it's known," says Joyce. "This is one of those programs for WMU. And this development is a unique opportunity for the University that can only enhance our ability to train students and serve industry."

Fort James' gift is massive in both value and size. The high-speed paper coating machine alone is more than 35 feet high and 100 feet long. To accommodate the new equipment, a new facility is being planned to house it and to join the department's paper and printing research facilities—now located in different buildings on the Kalamazoo campus. That's a development that can only have a positive impact on the department.

"Our pilot plants are what set us apart—what's really special about this program," Joyce says. Industry representatives from around the world come to Kalamazoo to do research and test their products at our pilot plants."

Research

The Department of Paper and Printing Science and Engineering has five active research centers and a number of initiatives focused on improving paper and printing technology and training for the industry. Among the questions addressed are:

- Can quality paper pulp be made using banana leaves, cornstalks, wheat or bamboo? That's the focus of research in the department's new Center for Non-Wood Fibers, which was funded through a University-wide research support initiative and addresses the coming global wood fiber crisis triggered by the decreasing availability of wood forests and increased demand.
- Can postage stamps be printed in an environmentally friendly and efficient way? When the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing wanted to make sure new stamps were printed using the cleanest technology available, it brought its staff to WMU's Printing Management and Research Center for research and training on the use of water-based inks.
WMU already has more research equipment and does far more industry testing than any other school in the nation. It also has an even more business for the pilot plants. Joyce says that's the kind of attitude that keeps the department graduates in demand.

Barbara L. Reed, director of conferences and training, recently came to WMU from Fort James Corp. and she's been taking the department's show on the road. She approached middle and elementary schools last November, offering to bring hands-on paper-making and printing programs into the classroom and give campus tours of paper and printing facilities. Within days, she was deluged with positive responses. By the end of April, classroom visits and tours involving more than 1,600 students in 66 classes will have taken place.

Barbara Reed and Eric Bauer, a paper science junior, make paper with students at East Elementary School in Comstock, Mich.

Pilot plants put students in touch with industry

For students and faculty, that kind of traffic means an unmatched opportunity to interact with representatives from the industry's leading firms. For students, it also means a chance to compile industrially relevant experience and see cutting-edge technology getting a test-run. Katie Pershell found that out early.

"Like a lot of students here, my first professional experience was a job in the Paper Pilot Plant," she says. "I had a chance to talk with a lot of clients coming in to test their products. There was just unlimited opportunity to interact with people in the industry."

Pershell followed that experience with a summer internship at Ft. James Corp. in Kalamazoo where she was involved in daily operations. Her next summer internship was in the environmental department at Mead Corp. in Escanaba, Mich...—a job that gave her a good overview of a modern mill and exposure to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On campus, Pershell has had a chance to work with faculty members like Dr. Raja G. Aravamuthan, the Gordon H. Sindecuse Professor of Paper and Printing Science and Engineering. Dr. Raj, as his students call him, has carved out a reputation as a faculty member who loves to work with promising students, acting as mentor to more than three dozen student researchers. He calls Persshell a star student.

This summer, she's planning to polish that star a little more and expand her horizons by spending the summer in Germany working in the international paper arena. With some hefty work experience and an already impressive resume to build on, she can't imagine a profession that would better fit her talents.

"It's just a 'hands-on' chemistry, math, nerdy kind of thing," she says, noting that her original idea of being a chemical engineer now pales by comparison.

Joyce says that's the kind of attitude that keeps the department graduates in demand.

"This is an industry where you walk into a firm and you are expected to give value from your first day on the job," he says. "Our students are ready to do that."

Ten years from now, Joyce expects his department to be one the survivors in the small world of paper and printing science. Not only will it survive, he says, it will thrive.

"Paper and printing go together and when people think of them. They're going to think of WMU first," he says. "No one else can put it together like we do."

Can safer water-based ink technology be used to produce more consumer packaging?

When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wanted to spread technical information to the industry that produces such items as snack food packaging, it turned to WMU to write a new industry "bible," providing data on water-based and ultraviolet cured inks.

Can distance learning tools ranging from the Internet to CD-ROMs be applied to training in such high-tech areas as paper coating?

The department has just unveiled its first distance course "Principles of Coating," for delivery on the Internet. The initial offering, funded by Buckman Laboratories of Memphis, Tenn, is scheduled for use by that firm this spring.

STORY BY CHERYL ROLAND
IMAGES BY JOHN GILROY AND NEIL RANKIN
www.wmich.edu/ppse/
WMU team finds site of lost fort

Its location has been a mystery for more than a century, but a team of archaeologists has discovered remains of what it believes is a colonial occupation associated with the 300-year-old site of Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Mich.

The team, led by Dr. Michael Nason, associate professor of anthropology, disclosed its findings Nov. 5 at a news conference near the site. After showing a sample of uncovered artifacts, team members announced they would search for funding to mount a full excavation of the historic site.

The fort, established by French colonists and crucial to the French control of trading in the region, is known as the Four Flags fort because it had the flags of four different nations fly over it during its existence from 1691 to 1781.

Specialists evaluate Detroit school reform initiative

Two WMU science and mathematics evaluation specialists have been awarded nearly $2 million to evaluate the Detroit Schools' 21st Century Initiative, the largest and most comprehensive reform effort ever undertaken in the district.

Dr. Zoe A. Barley and Dr. Mark Jenness, researchers with the University's Science and Mathematics Program Improvement Project, are leading a team that includes researchers from the University of Michigan and two private firms in an evaluation of the first five years of work in the Detroit initiative. The effort is one of 11 large urban school projects in the nation sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation.

A new Wood Hall emerges

A retrofitted Wood Hall opened to students and faculty at the start of the fall semester, consolidating the undergraduate and research components of the University's science areas.

Renovation of the 1960 vintage building is part of a $44.4 million project designed to provide cutting-edge facilities for science research and teaching. The entire project is scheduled for completion this winter when final touches are put on Haenicke Hall, a new 94,000 square-foot research facility.

Wood Hall now houses the departments of biological sciences, geography, psychology and chemistry as well as the Center for Science Studies and the Science and Mathematics Program Improvement project.

Classrooms, faculty offices, newly outfitted laboratories and greenhouse facilities are part of the project.

Programmers earn honors

A computer science team from the University was one of three high-placing U.S. teams at a November competition in Canada.

The three-member student team finished in 10th place in the East Central North America Programming Contest of the Association for Computing Machinery. The IBM-sponsored event was held at the University of Waterloo in Ontario as a prelude to the world finals in the Netherlands.

Only teams from the Universities of Waterloo and Toronto and McGill University in Canada and from Carnegie-Mellon and Case Western Reserve universities in the United States finished above the WMU team. The winning team was from Waterloo, with a second Waterloo team finishing in fifth place. The WMU team finished above strong squads from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, Purdue University, the University of Notre Dame, DePauw University and several others among the 92 teams competing.

Book chronicles small town life in Southwest Michigan

It's been the subject of literary works by authors ranging from Thornton Wilder to Thomas Wolfe. Now, authors from villages and hamlets across Southwest Michigan are sharing their perspectives on small town life in a new book published by WMU's New Issues Press.

"Home and Other Places: Voices of Southwest Michigan" features more than 100 authors and was compiled and edited by members of the Rural Voices, Country Schools research project, affiliated with WMU's Third Coast Writing Project and the Annenberg Rural Challenge.

Ranging in age from 7 to 102, authors submitted their work in response to a call for manuscripts posted in such places as libraries, bookstores, retirement homes and coin laundries. People sent more than 1,000 entries, of which 103 were published, covering such subjects as pickles, fishing off a pier, Election Day and cows outside the window.

The book is being sold for $5 and is available from New Issues Press by calling (616) 387-2581.
Haworth College of Business

New lecture series focuses on Asian/Pacific business

The experience of those who have been there is the focus of a new lecture series launched this fall on doing business in the Asian/Pacific region.

Executives from two well-known international firms were the first two speakers in the series that will bring two international business experts to campus each semester.

John Ameli, vice president of Asia/Pacific Operations for Haworth Inc. of Holland, Mich., launched the Global Business Lecture Series in November by relating his company's experiences in opening sales offices in Australia, China, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand and manufacturing operations in Malaysia and China.

Fernando Leal, senior vice president and president of market region Latin America for Pharmacia & Upjohn of N.J., visited campus in December to describe the successes and disappointments of that firm's China entry strategies.

The lecture series, sponsored by the Haworth College of Business and the U.S. Department of Education, is an outgrowth of the college's Asian/Pacific Education Project. The project is designed to increase understanding, awareness and expertise about doing business in the region.

Partnership with India launched

The Haworth College of Business has launched a new international partnership that will bring students from India to WMU to earn MBA degrees.

Students from the Rajagiri International School for Education and Research in Cochi, Kerala, India, will be admitted to the master's degree program in business administration after completing a year-long preparatory business curriculum in India that meets all requirements for graduate study in the college.

Work on the partnership began in 1995. The first group of students will arrive in 2000.

"We look forward to welcoming many highly qualified students to WMU through this partnership, which demonstrates once again that we are truly a global institution," says Dr. James W. Schmotter, dean of the college.

Distinguished Speaker Series continues to attract top corporate names

Two of the state's best known corporate leaders shared their insights with campus and community audiences in the fall as the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series moved into its third year.


The first speaker scheduled for the series during the winter semester was banking executive David A. Daberko, chairman and chief executive officer of National City Corp., which recently merged with Michigan's First of America Bank.

College wins award for innovation

An award for "Innovations in Education for Business" was presented to the Haworth College of Business and two of its faculty members at the recent annual meeting of the deans of the Mid-continent American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business.

WMU was one of three schools that received awards from a field of 14 entries. The mid-continent region includes Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The award is given to projects that demonstrate and encourage innovation in business education. WMU won for "Integrating the Core Curriculum Using Communication Technology: The Haworth College of Business BBA Electronic Portfolio Project" written by Dr. Pamela S. Rooney, associate professor, and Dr. Alan I. Rea, assistant professor, both in the Department of Business Information Systems.

WMU students lauded for advertising essays

Essays about self-regulation in the advertising industry by two WMU students won first and third place in the 1998 James P. Hoppin competition sponsored by the East Michigan Better Business Bureau.

Raja Izan Bin Raja Said Abidin, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in business administration, took top honors, while Mary Lobbestael, a senior majoring in advertising, finished third in the contest.
Laptop-Mentor Project begins
A new pilot project combining modern laptop computing technology and old-fashioned personal mentoring got off the ground and into cyberspace in November when WMU President Elson S. Floyd helped deliver a shipment of laptop computers to first-year Kalamazoo Public Schools teachers.

Floyd, joined by University faculty and administrators and Kalamazoo Public Schools personnel, kicked off the Laptop/Mentor Project during a gathering at Spring Valley Elementary School. The new education initiative is designed to help beginning teachers make the transition from student to teacher, pairing them with a College of Education faculty mentor and equipping them with a laptop computer and access to the University's computing resources.

"We want to extend the partnerships we've already developed with schools to train new teachers," Floyd said when presenting the computers. "Working with our colleagues in the public schools, we want to continue to provide the kind of support that will enable those teachers to become the very best educators for our children."

University to authorize charters
The University has taken the first step toward becoming an authorizing body for public school academies.

At its December meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees accepted a resolution exercising the University's right to charter schools. The resolution delegates authority to President Elson S. Floyd to proceed with plans to eventually bring charter recommendations to the board, which would then approve the charters.

The charter recommendation also includes a position statement by College of Education faculty and area public school superintendents that outlines the University's approach to chartering schools. The statement affirms the University's continued support for public schools and its commitment, through partnerships, cooperation and collaboration, to redefine and shape the character of charter schools in the state.

"Charter schools need not erode support for public education," says Dr. Frank Rapley, dean of the College of Education, who predicted that the University could charter as many as six schools this year. "We can partner with public schools in creating charters that provide opportunities for all children for higher levels of learning and that offer innovations that may currently not be available."

Special Olympics salutes WMU
Special Olympics Michigan has chosen WMU as its Outstanding School for 1998, noting almost three decades of support.

The award, one of a series of awards the organization makes, is presented to an organization or business that truly stands out for its contributions to athletes' success, said Lois Arnold, executive director of Special Olympics Michigan.

The University's 30-year history of support for Special Olympics began in 1969 when it hosted the first Michigan summer games. More recently, the University has taken the lead in Unified Sports, a new initiative designed to provide developmentally disabled athletes with the opportunity to interact with athletes without disabilities to build friendships as well as muscles. WMU students and area community members volunteer to compete and serve as coaches for sports leagues that include disabled athletes.

The project, directed by Dr. Jody A. Brylinksy, associate professor of health, physical education and recreation, is now in its second year.

Golden Apple goes to educators
The College of Education Alumni Society has started a new award designed to honor outstanding educators.

The first Golden Apple Awards were presented in October to three distinguished Michigan educators: Bettie L. Goodman of Flint, Patricia Reeves of Vicksburg and John M. Gazella of Owosoo.

The awards, which will be given annually, were presented on campus at an inaugural ceremony and dinner during October Homecoming celebrations.

Goodman, who teaches business and computer classes, is a professor at Flint's Mott Community College. Reeves is superintendent of Vicksburg Community Schools, while Gazella teaches at Corunna Public Schools, where he also has served as football coach for 29 years and track coach for 18 years.
College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

**Partnership brings $50 million CAD system to college**

A West Michigan corporate/University partnership is putting more than $50 million worth of state-of-the-art, computer-aided design software in the hands of WMU engineering students.

Genesis Modeling Technologies of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Johnson Controls Interiors of Holland, Mich., teamed up with IBM and Dassault Systemes of France to place CATIA, an integrated design/modeling system used by the world's leading manufacturers, in WMU computer labs. The first 18 CATIA workstations were up and running for the start of the winter semester.

**Student team to chase the sun**

Ladies and gentlemen, start your solar cells!

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences is now the only engineering school in Michigan and one of only a handful in the nation to have a full CATIA training facility. CATIA, developed by Dassault Systemes and marketed by IBM, is used internationally and covers the entire range of product development tasks, from design and testing to manufacturing and marketing.

CATIA, which stands for Computer Aided Three-dimensional Interactive Application, is widely used by the world's leading automobile and aircraft manufacturers, including such firms as BMW, Ferrari, Volvo, Porsche, Mercedes, Saturn, Daimler-Chrysler, Jaguar, Volkswagen, Audi, Rolls Royce, Boeing, Pratt & Whitney and Rockwell International.

"Our engineering graduates already are widely regarded by industry as being 'job ready' and having the practical experience that makes them immediately productive," WMU President Elson S. Floyd says. "This public/private partnership will take our engineering programs beyond the cutting edge and will mean our graduates will have the most sought-after skills in industry today."

**Industrial design students win competition**

Eight projects by WMU industrial design students were displayed at an international student design exhibit and competition recognizing exceptional performance by design students from across the world.

The exhibit was at Hofstra University in New York in conjunction with "Designing for the 21st Century," an international conference on universal design. A total of 27 projects were chosen from 47 entries. WMU students captured two of the four awards for excellence. Bryon Vlier received an individual award for his project titled "Information Gate," an electronic message center that allows users to find and meet each other in a virtual gathering place. Craig LaCombe and Vincent Novak received a team award for "Delphi Transit Shelter," a modular system that combines a transit shelter with an information kiosk.

Winners and their adviser, Dr. Dmitry Azrikan, associate professor of construction engineering, materials engineering and industrial design, received cash awards.

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College of Fine Arts

Longtime dean is retiring
Robert H. Luscombe, dean of the College of Fine Arts since 1980, is retiring June 30 after serving 26 years at the University.

Luscombe was performing arts coordinator for the Michigan Council for the Arts and assistant to the dean for the University of Michigan School of Music before coming to WMU in 1973 as administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Fine Arts.

He was named the college's assistant dean in 1974, associate dean in 1977 and chair of the Department of Theatre in 1978 before becoming college dean in 1980.

In addition to his many years of service at WMU, Luscombe has been recognized for his wide range of volunteer roles over a quarter century that helped nourish the Kalamazoo-area arts scene. His recent efforts include serving as board president of the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, chair of the advisory council for Education for the Arts and co-founder of the Plaza Arts Circle.

Play by faculty member gets Chicago premiere
A play by Dr. Von Washington, WMU professor of theatre and director of Multicultural Theatre, premiered at a Chicago theatre in November.

Looking for a Good Thing opened Nov. 19 at Chicago's Theater of ETA Creative Arts Foundation. The play ran through Dec. 27.

The new play blends drama with humor and tells the story of George Long, a recently widowed African-American male, who is about to launch himself back into the dating scene. Along the way, he finds that perhaps he might have jumped too soon.

Washington has been involved as a writer, director or performer in more than 150 productions in three different performing arts areas. His credits include a role on television's A Different World and a 1990 spot portraying a college professor on a dramatic TV commercial for Apple Computer Inc. that was widely praised.

Outdoor sculpture sails on campus
An internationally acclaimed sculptor, painter and printmaker recently docked on campus to build one of his signature ship forms as part of the ongoing WMU Sculpture Tour Program.

Art students and others interested in the unique project were asked to embark with Kansas City, Mo., artist Robert Stackhouse and help build the large, outdoor sculpture in a grassy area between Sangren Hall and the Wesley Foundation.

Since the early 1970s, Stackhouse has created large-scale, semi-abstract constructions often resembling boat or serpentine forms. His spare, curved, often A-Frame shapes, made of simple, rough-sawn wooden strips and beams, also suggest massive skeletal structures or archaeological remnants.

Born in Bronxville, N.Y., Stackhouse studied at the University of South Florida and the University of Maryland. His work is part of many public and private collections, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York.

High stepping
Two internationally renowned dance artists are visiting WMU as part of the King/Chavez/Parks Visiting Professor program.

Donald McKayle and Mary Hinkson are artists-in-residence in the Department of Dance for the 1998-99 school year. In addition to teaching dance courses, the two artists are sharing their life experiences with students in the Departments of Theatre and History, the Division of Minority Affairs and the Black Americana Studies Program.

McKayle is a distinguished professor of dance from the University of California at Irvine and has an extensive list of credits as an international dancer, choreographer and director in film, television, concert dance and the musical stage. He has worked with such companies as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble.

Hinkson was a principal dancer for the Martha Graham Dance Company, Glen Tetley's Contemporary Dance Company and the New York City Ballet. She has been a guest teacher at several universities and has introduced contemporary dance techniques for many well-known international companies.

www.wmich.edu/cfa/
$1.5 million gift establishes nursing chair

A $1.5 million gift from an anonymous donor has led to a permanent endowed chair in WMU's School of Nursing.

At its September meeting, the University Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Bernardine M. Lacey Nursing Chair in honor of the founding director of the nursing school. The endowment will fund a full-time professorship in the nursing school.

Lacey came to WMU in 1994 from Howard University and the Homeless Project in Washington, D.C. Under her guidance, the School of Nursing gained national accreditation after only four years of existence and is carving out a growing reputation for its role in promoting community-based nursing education. Lacey will retire from the University at the end of June and return to Washington.

"This very generous plan will allow us to build on the tremendous base the School of Nursing already has established and enhance the program by hiring another preeminent health care educator," WMU President Elson S. Floyd said in announcing the gift.

Grant helps students meet needs of elderly

The University is teaming up with a federal agency to meet the changing needs of a U.S. population that is steadily aging and becoming more diverse.

A $150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources Service Administration will fund the first year of Project AGE, which will prepare University students to work with senior citizens, especially those in underserved rural, multi-cultural communities. Similar grant amounts will fund Project AGE in its second and third years, for an expected total award of nearly $450,000.

Project AGE, the Alliance for Gerontology Education, is using an interdisciplinary approach to expand teaching and place a greater focus on the needs of a rapidly growing, culturally diverse geriatric population. The project came about after a committee of WMU faculty and administrators suggested the University fine-tune its curriculum.

The project pairs geriatric education efforts with other core allied health disciplines to prepare both graduate and undergraduate students for practice with older citizens.

Geriatric assessment centers open

The College of Health and Human Services has two new centers serving families in Southwest Michigan by providing complete geriatric assessments for senior citizens.

The Van Buren County Health Department in Hartford provides space.

The WMU Unified Clinic’s Geriatric Center in Kalamazoo also uses an interdisciplinary team of physicians, physician assistants, social workers, dietitians, occupational therapists and audiologists to gather information that may be too time-consuming for primary care physicians to assess during a routine office visit. That information is then shared with the primary physician.

Operated out of the University Medical and Health Sciences Building, the center was established through a collaborative effort of faculty and clinical resources of WMU, Michigan State University/ Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies and Ferris State University. It has the dual focus of serving geriatric patients and providing interdisciplinary training for students.

Professors focus on Native American vision problems in Canada

Dr. Susan Ponchillia, associate professor, and Dr. Paul E. Ponchillia, professor, both in the Department of Blind Rehabilitation, visited Yellowknife in Canada’s Northwest Territories in October to address the high incidence of retinitis pigmentosa in Dogrib Dene Native American communities.

The professors were invited by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to help deal with the disorder, which leads to night blindness. The Ponchillias have traveled to the area on several occasions to promote more awareness of the vision problem and bolster efforts to address it.
A Lee Honors College alumnus has won a second year of study at Wisconsin. He is cur- 
rently working on a comparative RNA study that may provide clues about the evolution-
ary flexibility of molecular systems. He plans to focus his career on problems related to evolution, either on the organismal or molecular scale.

In addition to the Hughes Fellowship, Leduc won a National Institutes of Health molecular biosciences training grant, which he declined because of the Hughes award. He previously was awarded a fellowship from the University of Wisconsin graduate school, which funded his first year of study.

Leduc, an Oklahoma native, majored in biology at WMU and completed minors in chemistry and mathematics.

Top students come from far and wide
This year’s freshman class at the Lee Honors College is made up of 300 high-
achievement students from 63 Michigan counties and 16 other states with an average high school grade point average of 3.90 and a composite average score of 27.5 on the American College Test.

The freshmen, now among 1,200 academically talented undergraduates who are members of LHC this year, include a number of National Merit Finalists and recipients of awards from such organizations as the American Chemical Society and Phi Beta Kappa.

In addition to academics, the students have displayed commitment to their schools and local communities through an impressive list of co-curricular activities and volunteer service.

The current freshman class began submitting applications in October 1997. Students were admitted to the college based on outstanding high school achievement and aptitude as measured by grade point average and college test scores. They also were evaluated by the quality of a submitted essay, their range of school and community activities, and academic recommendations.

Honors thesis leads to community arts event
A festival packed with a wide range of activities celebrated the arts on campus in October.

The first Celebration of the Arts grew out of Sean Handler’s senior thesis for the Lee Honors College and included a multiple hot air balloon launch, art fair, lectures and demonstrations, a play, and several live performances by musical groups and dancers. A fireworks finale at Miller Plaza capped off the day.

Activities drew together 350 artists, 150 volunteers and 5,000 community members. Handler, a business major from Midland, Mich., and other organizers are hoping the festival will turn into an annual event.

www.wmich.edu/honors/
Join us for Homecoming 1999!

Part of the magic of Homecoming weekend is regaining some of the youthful exuberance that makes our college days so memorable.

Broncos from across the country and around the world return home for the annual celebration. Plan now to join them for Homecoming weekend 1999, Friday through Sunday, Oct. 22-24.

Kick up your heels a little as you enjoy activities including fraternity/sorority open houses; Friday Fest, which involves current students in a variety of spirit-raising contests; tailgate parties; and the big game against Ball State University.

As a change of pace, boggle your mind with a tour of the new WMU—East, West, North and South campuses—and get reacquainted with old friends. The traditional Alumni Association Brunch is a great place to gather before the football game, but you'll also run into classmates at reunions scheduled for the Classes of 1954 and 1959 as well as at college and constituent group events taking place throughout the weekend.

And don't forget to take advantage of the many discounts the Alumni Association often arranges for its members during Homecoming, such as discounts on WMU Bookstore purchases, athletic and entertainment tickets, and hotel accommodations. To join the association, contact the Office of Alumni Relations by phone at (616) 387-8777 or by e-mail at alumni@wmich.edu. You also may write the association at: McKee Alumni Center, 1201 Oliver St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-3854.

Alumni JOBS Plus

Need a little help finding that next job? If you're an alumnus or alumna of the University, you can simplify employment searches by using Bronco JOBS Plus online for a moderate fee.

You'll have access to hundreds of job listings updated daily in business and industry; engineering; health, public and human services; and K-12 and higher education, both in and out of state. "We're delighted to offer this service to our alumni," says Lynn Kelly-Albertson, interim director of WMU's Career and Student Employment Services. "We hope it can be as helpful to our alumni as it is to our students."

Alumni may sign up for JOBS Plus at a cost of $10 per month for three or six months. Members of the WMU Alumni Association receive a significant discount, paying just two-thirds of that amount for this valuable service.

In addition, WMU has reciprocal arrangements with colleges and universities across the country that alumni can use close to home. To register or find out about the wide range of free services for alumni, call (616) 387-2745.

Making a difference?

Most of the alumni we profile in the Classnotes section of WMU, The Western Michigan University Magazine have experienced significant career success. But we also feature alumni who are making a difference in the lives of others through volunteer service.

If you're someone who makes such a difference, or if you know someone who does, please let us know by writing to: WMU Magazine, Western Michigan University, 1201 Oliver St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165. And thanks!
Classnotes

Don’t hesitate to contact us when you have news to share in our classnotes or obituaries sections. For classnotes, make sure to include your name (first, middle, last, maiden), address, degree(s), year(s) graduated and phone number. We will publish your photo as space permits.

Write: Classnotes/Obituaries
WMU Magazine
1201 Oliver St.
Kalamazoo MI 49008-9985
Fax: 616 387-8770
E-mail: michelle.hastings@wmich.edu

1950 - 1960

Kenneth R. Beardslee
BS ’50 was recently inducted into the Michigan Education Hall of Fame. Beardslee has served as an educator, administrator and school board member in the Jackson, MI, area for 46 years.

Dr. George R. Reed
MA ’57, professor emeritus of education at Albion (MI) College, recently received the college’s Distinguished Alumni Award. He has been honored as Albion’s Faculty Man of the Year and listed in Who’s Who in the Midwest.

Robert P. Dye
MA ’58, received the Ka Palapala Pu’okela award by the Hawaii Book Publishers Association for his non-fiction work, Merchant Prince of the Sandalwood Mountains: Aing and the Chinese in Hawaii’. Dye is director and secretary of University Health Care Associates and a contributing editor for Honolulu Magazine.

Lee Greenawalt
BA ’58, is serving as president of the Retired State Employees Association San Luis Obispo and secretary of the Senior Citizens’ Center, Morro Bay, CA. Greenawalt was a public school teacher for 30 years.

Dr. Frank A. Stone
MA ’60, professor emeritus of international education at the University of Connecticut since 1994, served as a part-time visiting professor at Trinity College, Hartford, CT, for the past four years and has now relocated to Deland, FL.

1961 - 1970

Frank E. Buesing
BS ’63, recently completed the Fighter Pilots, U.S.A. air combat maneuvers program, which consisted of three one-on-one aerial dog fights flying the Marchetti SF-260 airplane.

Duane R. Dunham
BS ’64, in January assumed the post of executive vice president of commercial and business development, Bethlehem Steel Corp. Dunham was previously president of Bethlehem’s Sparrows Point, MD, division.

Lydon W. Harden Jr.
BS ’64, recently retired from the Hanover-Horton Schools (MI) after 34 years of service.

R. Keith LaGore
BBA ’64, has retired after 34 years of service with the General Motors Corp., working as a finance manager at several plant locations for Chevrolet, Hydra-matic and Powertrain Divisions.

George W. Shipman
MA ’65, librarian at the University of Oregon since 1985, has achieved the distinction of holding an endowed chair—the Knight Chair—at his institution.

John H. Keiser
BBA ’66, was recently promoted to superintendent of purchasing and material control, at Bethlehem Steel’s Burns Harbor, IN, division.

Robert L. Kowaleksi
BS ’66, recently retired after 32 years of teaching for Warren (MI) Consolidated Schools. He was also a baseball scout for the Philadelphia Phillies for 13 years and the Toronto Blue Jays for 4 years.

Dr. John Mayne
MA ’66, was recently appointed chairperson of the math and computer sciences department at Loyola University Chicago’s College of Arts and Sciences. Mayne is an associate professor and has been a faculty member since 1972.

Members for Life

We at the WMU Alumni Association would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest life members. We thank you and commend you for your continued interest in your University through life membership in our association.

David M. Burg
BBA ’85, Newton, MA

Beth L. Frank
BS ’88, Crestwood, IL

Scott A. Kilgren
BBA ’93, Chicago

Brenda Luckner Kuhn
BS ’83, Schoolcraft, MI

Ronald J. Kuhn
BS ’80, Schoolcraft, MI

Janice Yoak-Newman
BS ’77, Haslett, MI

Michael R. Newman
BBA ’73, Haslett, MI

Joseph Repya Jr.
BA ’69, Eagan, MN

Frank P. Smith
BS ‘83, Pontiac, MI

Michael G. Till
BS ’93, Pontiac, MI

Paul J. Toohey
BBA ’73, Anaheim Hills, CA

Frans P.J. Vogel
BS ’68, Middleville, MI

Josephine Busser Vogel
Middleville, MI
D. James McDowell  
BS ’66, was recently elected president and CEO of AAA Arizona in Phoenix. McDowell was previously executive vice president.

Judy L. Nicholas McGowan  
BS ’66, an educator in the Kalamazoo Public School system, was recently recognized as the 1998 Michigan Life Management Teacher of the Year at the Michigan Life Management state conference.

John A. Campbell  
BBA ’67, was recently installed as the 1999 state national director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Pennsylvania. Campbell is president of Campbell Insurance Associates, Washington, PA.

John R. Kouris  
BA ’68, was recently named executive director for the Defense Research Institute in Chicago. For the past 10 years, he has served as chief operating officer of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.

Thomas A. Baird  
BBA ’69, MS ’78, recently retired from the U.S. Army as Operations Officer, Army Element, Iceland Defense Force. Baird is currently employed as a production supervisor by GM Powertrain Group, Bay City, MI.

1971 - 1980

Lt. Col. George L. Peacock  
BS ’71, is site director for the U.S. Army Reserve Regional Medical Training Site at Fort McCoy, WI. He provides training, training support and logistical support to field military hospitals.

Gail Corbett Dunham  
BS ’72, MA ’75, recently retired as director of career programs at Michigan State University. Dunham was formerly a career consultant for the Michigan Department of Education.

D. James McDowell  
BS ’66, was recently elected president and CEO of AAA Arizona in Phoenix. McDowell was previously executive vice president.

Carol Bothamley Gaumnitz  
BS ’72, MS ’76, was recently named assistant professor of accounting in Metropolitan State University’s College of Management in St. Paul, MN.

Rev. George H. Hosko  
MLS ’72, a member of the Basilian Fathers, was promoted to interlibrary loan librarian at the University of St. Thomas, Houston.

Bernadine Salvadore  
MA ’72, defended her tennis singles state championship and won the mixed doubles in the Michigan Senior Olympics competition, entitling her to compete in the National Senior Olympics at Disney World in October 1999.

Robert W. Galea  
BBA ’73, was recently appointed senior vice president and director of marketing and public relations for Imperial Bank, Los Angeles.

Lt. Col. David W. Lubbers  
MBA ’73, recently retired from the Michigan Air National Guard after a distinguished 30-year career. He recently served as state public affairs officer assigned to headquarters in Lansing, MI.

John F. Murphy  
MS ’73, was recently named vice president of information services for Solvay Pharmaceuticals Inc., Mariett, GA. Murphy was previously vice president of corporate management information services for Siemens Energy & Automation.

Dr. Terry L. Penniman  
EdD ’74, has been appointed a faculty member in health care administration at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, IA.

Michael C. Fisher  
BS ’75, was recently named president of the Systems Division of Dorner Manufacturing Corp. in Hartland, WI. Fisher was previously vice president of manufacturing for Dorner.

Velvie C. Green  
BBA ’77, MA ’80, was recently promoted to acting dean, School of Workforce Development, Grand Rapids (MI) Community College. Green joined the college as an instructor in 1982 and had been assistant dean since 1996.

Andrew J. Neuwirth  
BBA ’77, was recently named senior vice president and auditor for Community Central Bank, Mt. Clemens, MI.

Dr. Eric J. Karson  
BS ’78, is an assistant professor of food marketing at St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia.

Jerone L. Blakemore  
MSW ’79, was recently appointed director of Loyola University Chicago’s undergraduate social work program. Blakemore joined Loyola’s faculty in 1995.

Brian R. Balow  
BA ’80, has joined the Bloomfield Hills, MI, office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PC. as a shareholder. He was previously corporate counsel and director of legal affairs for FANUC Robotics North America Inc.

Scott A. Kooistra  
BBA ’80, MBA ’82, operations manager for KYNT/KKYA Radio in Yankton, SD, recently set a world record with a continuous broadcast of 170 hours as a fund raiser for a local youth center and women’s shelter.

Rick W. Sanders  
BBA ’80, was recently promoted to director of human resources for Deloitte & Touche Central Europe. Sanders will be based in Prague, Czech Republic, and have responsibility for 17 countries.

Bradford J. Tallman  
BBA ’80, an Edward Jones investment representative in Deltona, FL, has accepted a limited partnership offering in the firm’s holding company, The Jones Financial Co., St. Louis.
1981 - 1990

Lee A. Bailey
BBA '82, was honored for corporate success by Crain's Detroit Business in the Oct. 5, 1998, edition. Bailey is the general manager of Triple M Financing Co., Ferndale, MI.

Steven R. Hubbell
BBA '82, assistant vice president of lending at Randolph National Bank, Randolph, VT, was recently awarded the Certified Lender-Business Banking (CLBB) designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers.

Dale R. Sielski
BS '83, a metallurgist with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was recently highlighted in a Fortune magazine article on tribology, the study and prevention of wear. Sielski is currently in charge of developing, purchasing, co-designing and establishing a business plan for a corporate operation to combat wear and solid particle erosion for the TVA.

Patrick J. Wenstrup
BBA '83, was recently named general manager of Joseph T. Ryerson & Son Inc., a nationwide distributor of metals and industrial plastics in St. Louis.

Mark K. Witt
BBA '83, was recently promoted to real estate vice president at MONY Real Estate Investment Management in Chicago.

Thomas S. Pietras
BBA '84, has been promoted to director of account services at Malcom Marketing Communications, Madison, WI. Pietras was also selected as a member of the Madison Ad Federation's Blue Ribbon Committee.

James D. McLain
BBA '85, was recently promoted to manager of Global Brand Management, Personal Care Division, Amway Corp., Ada, MI. McLain has been with Amway for nine years and previously served as business line marketer.

Rev. Robert A. VandeVord
BS '85, recently accepted to serve the Silver Creek Reformed Chuch in Silver Creek, MN.

A positive force
After more than 30 years in education, Anitta Y. Rutherford Orr, B.S. '66, has left an indelible mark on hundreds of students, parents and colleagues as well as her community.

Involved and leading change
Anitta Orr knew she was going to be a teacher, but she also wanted an interesting career that would allow her to focus her talents.

She realized her dream by majoring in speech correction at Western Michigan University then becoming a teacher of the speech and language impaired in her hometown of Detroit. Currently, she trains new teachers and coordinates the testing and evaluation of a wide variety of students for half of the city's public schools.

Orr, who earned a master of science degree from the University of Michigan in 1974, says the education she received at WMU has served her well, but its real value goes beyond traditional book learning and skill building.

"College is not the end-all, solve-all," she says. "It prepares you to think and to have an open mind so you can process the information and make the appropriate applications."

Armed with that philosophy, Orr continues tackling her biggest professional challenge: getting parents and other educators to understand that all children learn, they just don't all learn and process information the same way.

"I have to make what I teach understandable for the child, so there almost has to be an individualized approach to every child's education," she says. "As an educator, I have to lead the change."

Such willingness to get involved permeates Orr's life. A charter member of the Michigan Association for Mediated Learning, she's also a former president of the Michigan Speech Hearing Language Association, a board member of the Michigan Association for Deaf Hearing and Speech Services, a member of the Detroit Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (former national, state and local officer), and a three-time president of the YWCA of Metropolitan Detroit. She even goes out on radio patrol with her neighborhood watch group and serves as its secretary.

"I see where the skills I've mastered in community organizations can be used in my professional life and where what I've learned professionally can be used to help the community," she says. "I kind of feel like I'm driven. If you don't share your skills, what good are they. The only way we're going to effect change is if we're involved."
An intergalactic entrepreneur
Stardock, the computer software firm that Brad Wardell, B.S. '94, founded the year he graduated, has both a games and a business division.

Persistence, not risk, pays off for Brad Wardell

"I am not a risk taker," says Brad Wardell, B.S. ’94, who, at the tender age of 27, heads his own computer software development company with annual revenues exceeding $1 million.

Yeah, right.

But that doesn’t mean he didn’t have help. The success of his first computer strategy game, Galactic Civilizations, which he hacked out in his room in Smith Burnham residence hall in 1993, inspired IBM to ask Wardell to develop a similar product, Star Emperor, for its OS/2 operating system.

“If that game hadn’t generated several hundred thousand dollars, I’d probably have been perfectly content as an electrical engineer for some company,” he says. “I would have been insane not to take that kind of risk.”

Only when OS/2 “went away” did Wardell and his company, Stardock Systems Inc. of Livonia, Mich., near Detroit, turn their attention to that other computer environment, Windows by Microsoft. This led to Entrepreneur, another strategy game based, interestingly enough, on Microsoft’s aggressive business practices.

“We got the idea for Entrepreneur from hearing people complain about Microsoft and other aggressive companies,” Wardell explains. The object, says a Stardock news release, “is to battle it out with other ruthless competitors by managing your research, manufacturing and marketing.”

Entrepreneur, it turns out, is the last game Stardock has published and distributed itself. The costs, Wardell says, became too great. Now he and about a dozen associates develop software for other publishers. His wife, Debbie, B.S. ’94, handles book keeping and other administrative chores for the company.

One of those other products is an expansion pack for StarCraft Retribution, the world’s leading computer game, published by GT Interactive. That meant developing new levels, new maps and a new story.

None of this, Wardell says, has come about because he is particularly smart or even lucky. “It’s not intelligence,” he maintains. “It’s doggedness. It’s persistence. It’s pushing a project through after it ceases to be simply fun.

“That,” he says, “is the difference between a hobby and work.”

Robert Carl Bischoff
BA ’86, is currently employed by the Internal Revenue Service, Examination Division, Special Features and Suspense Unit, Chicago.

Dr. Shirley Lewis
EdD ’86, was recently named dean of curriculum at Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI. Lewis, who has been with the college since 1987, oversees the development and delivery of general education courses.

Richard A. Maloney
BA ’86, received the LCI Mid-American Coach of the Year Award for the 1998 season. Maloney is head coach of the Cardinals baseball team at Ball State University, Muncie, IN.

Steve J. Kilberg
BBA ’88, recently completed work for his MBA in marketing at the University of Colorado-Boulder and was hired as an account manager for Matchlogic Inc., a subsidiary of Excite, Louisville, CO.

Ronald M. Stella
BBA ‘88, recently became a shareholder in the law firm of Law Weathers & Richardson in Grand Rapids, MI. Stella specializes in litigation.

Marine Capt. Randy L. Anderson
BS ’89, recently reported for duty with the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Jacksonville, NC.

David J. Gromacki
BA ’89, was recently promoted to general manager of AuditForce Inc., Minneapolis. Gromacki was previously regional director of business development.

Steven A. Marovich
MA ’90, received five national publications citations at the June College Sports Information Director of America (COSIDA) workshop in Spokane, WA. Marovich is sports information director at Carthage College, Kenosha, WI.
1991 - 1998

Louise Rabidoux
BSW '92, is a counselor and adviser for the Women's Resource Center at Lansing Community College. Rabidoux received her master's in counseling from Michigan State University in 1997.

Dr. Anthony R. Tersigni
EdD '92, was recently appointed to the board of directors of Community Central Bank Corp., Mt. Clemens, MI. Tersigni is president and CEO of St. John Health System, Grosse Pointe, MI.

Christina Secor Gourlay
BA '94, is the director of communications at Family & Children's Center Foundation, South Bend, IN. She was previously marketing coordinator and grant writer for the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department.

Scott A. Gourlay
BS '94, is the manufacturing supervisor for K&M Machine Fabrication, Cassopolis, MI. Gourlay was formerly a manufacturing engineer.

Robert J. Kerbyson
BS '94, has joined Easco Inc. as a process engineer for its Elkhart, IN, facility. Kerbyson was previously employed by Flexsteel Industries' Dygert Division as an industrial engineer and quality manager.

Lori M. Tower
Associate AIA, BS '94, has joined the Kalamazoo firm of Kalleward-Bergerson as marketing director. Tower is a member of the leadership team for the local chapter of Business Networking International.

Royce Lacey Robertson
BS '95, is now the technology and consolidated federal programs coordinator for Orange East Supervisory Union, a K-12 school system in Bradford, VT.

Benedict P. Rybicki
BBA '96, has been promoted to director at Doeren Mayhew, a public accounting and consulting firm in Troy, MI. Rybicki joined the firm as an audit manager in 1991.

Dennis DeSantis
BM '97, placed second in the 1998 Young Composer's Competition at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN. DeSantis is co-founder of the Minimum Security Composers Collective in New Haven, CT.

Maria T. Gagnon-Markucki
BBA '97, recently joined Tower Pinkster Titus Associates Inc., Kalamazoo, as a marketing coordinator. She was previously with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, MI.

Rosalie J. Nelsen
BA '97, was recently promoted to donor relations and special events assistant in the Division of External Affairs at WMU.

Amy Drouillard
BBA '98, was hired as an account coordinator in the traffic department for Simmons Michelson Zieve Inc., SMZ Advertising, Troy, MI.

Erin Maloney
BA '98, was recently hired as a public relations associate with J.A. Francis and Associates Inc., an advertising, marketing and public relations firm in Grand Rapids, MI.

Chad D. Sikkenga
BS '98, recently joined Tower Pinkster Titus Associates Inc. in Kalamazoo as a mechanical engineering designer and engineer in training.

Gregory R. Wood
BBA '98, recently joined DC Systems as an associate systems engineer. DC Systems is a provider of information management solutions located in Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

1915 - 1925

Wesley H. Boyce

Doris Giddings Douglas
TC '21, Nov. 7, 1998, in Galesburg, MI.

Ruth Caroline Myers Wolf
TC '24, Feb. 9, 1998, in Deerfield, IL.

Mildred Duncan Harmon
TC '25, July 9, 1998, in Houghton Lake, MI.

1925 - 1930

Pauline N. Johnson
TC '26, July 6, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

Marion Wassman Knapp
TC '28, July 8, 1998, in Lawton, MI.

Ruth Rogers Kohn
TC '28, April 30, 1998, in East Lansing, MI.

Kathryn Bogue Leslie
TC '28, June 17, 1998, in Jackson, MI.

Louis E. Roberts
TC '26, BA '28, June 14, 1998, in Tampa, FL.

Abbie Brouwer Wenke

Frieda Stewart Gordon
TC '29, Aug. 22, 1998, in Fernandina, FL.

John M. Buehler
TC '27, BS '30, June 11, 1998, in Clarksville, MI.

Richard O. Wheeler

1931 - 1935

Marian Thomas Acker
TC '31, July 31, 1998, in Laingsburg, MI.

Helen Fox-Sager Austin
TC '28, BS '31, April 8, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

Arthur P. Jones

Arline Butler Campbell

Thomas H. Schuring
BA '33, July 14, 1998, in Kalamazoo.

Dorothy H. Nordberg Schwerdt
BA '33, April 26, 1998, in St. Joseph, MI.
Obituaries

Raymond V. Shoberg
BA '33, July 13, 1998, in Mecosta County, MI.

Marian Ruth Sherwood Burrell
BA '34, Oct. 1, 1998, in Galesburg, MI.

Russell B. Miller Sr.
BS '34, Jan. 5, 1998, in Falls Church, VA.

Nicholas Musselman
AS '33, BA '34, MA '47, July 22, 1998, in Wenatchee, WA.

Harold B. Nichols
BA '35, MA '54, Aug. 19, 1998, in Traverse City, MI.

1936 - 1940

Robert W. Davies
TC '32, BA '36, July 10, 1998, in Midland, MI.

Lawrence H. Russell

Jean Schulz
TC '39, BS '36, Oct. 26, 1998, in Allegan, MI.

Adeline Hyatt Bowerman
BA '37, June 12, 1998, in Charlevoix, MI.

Vivian E. Flagg
BS '37, Aug. 28, 1998, in Lawrence, MI.

Betty M. French
BA '37, June 5, 1998, in Kalkaska, MI.

John Matt Chandler

Clifford D. Reincke
BS '38, March 29, 1998, in Orlando, FL.

Iva Egler Weuring
BA '38, June 8, 1998, in Lawton, MI.

Elmer J. Garvin
BA '39, June 8, 1998, in Manistique, MI.

Rev. Stephen M. Liddicoat

George R. Timmerman
BA '39, Jan. 23, 1998, in Lizton, IN.

Albert D. Goudreau

1941 - 1945

Esther I. Berstram
BA '41, July 5, 1998, in Ludington, MI.

Wilma Comans
BS '42, Aug. 12, 1998, in Hopkins, MI.

Dr. William V. Ross
BS '42, May 6, 1998, in El Cajon, CA.

Nancy Farr Pearl
BA '43, June 28, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

1946 - 1950

Josephine Hoyt Carrington

Ellen C. Danielson
BS '46, Oct. 28, 1998, in Comstock, MI.

Marshall Morrison

Milton E. McKay

Anna Siebert Stevenson
TC '31, BS '48, Aug. 11, 1998, in Howland City, MI.

Arthur A. Neiman
BS '49, June 26, 1998, in Munising, MI.

Curt J. Prediger
BS '49, MA '75, June 25, 1998, in Muskegon, MI.

Orley H. Dull Jr.
BS '50, July 20, 1998, in Traverse City, MI.

Lawrence W. Lossing

1951 - 1955

Monty Stone Manning
BS '51, Sept. 13, 1998, in Owosso, MI.

Raymond A. Shepard
BS '51, Sept. 6, 1998, in Jackson, MI.

Elsie Beardsley Yerden
TC '31, BS '52, Sept. 26, 1998, in Allegan, MI.

Lawrence J. Beaudoin
BS '53, MA '61, Oct. 27, 1998, in Comstock Park, MI.

Harold Holtzer
BA '54, Nov. 3, 1998, in Portage, MI.

Dean J. Jardine
BS '54, May 21, 1998, in Harbor Springs, MI.

Arthur Geel Park
BS '54, Nov. 4, 1998, in Three Rivers, MI.

Albert E. White
BS '54, Oct. 29, 1998, in Centrevarie, MI.

1956 - 1960

William "Bill" Hogg
BBA '56, April 6, 1998, in Hancock, MI.

Evelyn Eber Klein
BA '56, May 24, 1998, in Warren, MI.

Robert E. Myer
BA '56, May 22, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

Phyllis Corey Sattler
TC '24, BA '56, July 14, 1998, in Jackson, MI.

Avis Amoss Skidmore
TC '56, June 19, 1998, in Littleton, CO.

Lillian Dickey Bovee
BS '57, June 19, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

Eula Lawrence Kelly

Florence Avery Lutz
TC '30, BS '57, May 18, 1998, in Marshall, MI.

Sandra J. Nye

William H. Carrington Jr.
BS '58, MA '74, Oct. 19, 1998, in Paw Paw, MI.

Barbara Johnston Troy
TC '26, BS '58, MA '59, June 19, 1998, in Parchment, MI.

John D. Cutler
BBA '59, Sept. 29, 1998, in Baton Rouge, LA.

Martha G. Fruin
TC '23, BA '59, July 16, 1998, in Tulsa, OK.

Chattie E. Kriebel
TC '26, BS '59, July 11, 1998, in Jackson, MI.

Elaine Jean Schantz Thomas
BS '59, May 29, 1998, in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Gordon T. Gradwell

Ruth Marley Hurst

Eugene C. Neiman

Lyman A. Saville
Rodney W. Wissink  
MA '60, May 24, 1998, in Hudsonville, MI.

1961 - 1965

Gordon F. Burrows  
BS '61, MA '66, April 28, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

Cora Nye Flora  
TC '50, BS '61, Aug. 23, 1998, in Kalamazoo.

Steven  
BA '61, May 10, 1998, in Coldwater, MI.

William E. Thornton  
BA '61, June 12, 1998, in Shippenburg, PA.

Jay G. Endsley  

Robert J. Kukla  

Fred L. Marx  
BBA '62, April 24, 1998, in Laguna Niguel, CA.

Ann Hyland Zimmerman  
MA '62, Aug. 23, 1998, in Jackson, MI.

David W. Hoffman  
BA '64, May 20, 1998, in Douglas, MI.

Janet Whaley Maile  
BA '64, Jan. 30, 1997, in Petoskey, MI.

Aletha J. Floutz Lindstrom  
MA '65, May 4, 1998, in Charlottesville, VA.

Eleanor Coryell Whitman  

1966 - 1970

Helen L. Coover  

Wayne Stuart Greene  

Dr. Natalie Jean Glaser  
BA '67, Aug. 29, 1998, in Urbana, IL.

Samuel G. Albert Jr.  

Norman T. Dowd  
BS '69, June 8, 1998, in Plymouth, MI.

Nancy Grodrian Hallmark  
BS '69, MA '73, Oct. 26, 1998, in Wetumpka, AL.

Crystal Grinnage Stewart  
TC '62, BA '69, Oct. 15, 1998, in Holland, MI.

Kenneth J. Weller  
BS '70, July 23, 1998, in Toledo, OH.

1971 - 1975

Marie Ziomek Cowen  
BBA '71, Dec. 20, 1997, in Dublin, OH.

Daniel R. Haven  
BS '71, Sept. 3, 1998, in Orchard Lake, MI.

Paul C. Richwine  
BBA '71, May 12, 1998, in Londonderry, NH.

Duane N. Strobl  
MBA '72, June 23, 1998, in Ann Arbor, MI.

David Alan West  
BS '72, April 11, 1998, in Burr Oak, MI.

David Earl Akers  
BS '74, Sept. 11, 1998, in Kalamazoo.

Gail Knudsen Marshall  
BS '74, May 14, 1998, in Dearborn, MI.

1976 - 1985

Richard E. Gaus  
MPA '77, February 1998, in Lansing, MI.

Karen E. Werme  

Dennis A. Koern  
BS '82, April 9, 1998, in St. Joseph, MI.

Juan R. Reyes  
BA '82, June 5, 1998, in Barry County, MI.

Michael H. Estkowski  
MFA '83, June 12, 1998, in St. Joseph, MI.

Richard M. Rathburn  
BBA '83, July 3, 1998, in Galveston, TX.

Maynard E. Krum Jr.  
BBA '84, July 16, 1998, in Mendon, MI.

1986 - 1996

Joffre V. Mishall  
BS '87, July 2, 1998, in St. Joseph, MI.

James Turcotte  
BA '90, April 24, 1998, in Richmond, VA.

Judith Weber Bassett  

Jeffrey T. Sievert  
BS '91, July 3, 1998, in Palos Hills, IL.

Francis X. Dennany, II  

Darcy Dratt Dolby  

Faculty

David P. Karsten  

Deloris Jordan Phillips  
MSW '72, associate professor emerita of social work, Sept. 28, 1998, in Portage, MI.

Cornelius Loew  
former vice president of academic affairs and professor emeritus of religion, Oct. 23, 1998, in Troy, MI.

Helen Gibbens  
assistant professor emerita and nurse, University Health Center, June, 4, 1998, in Kalamazoo.

Carl Lindstrom  
associate professor emeritus of education and professional development, Feb. 2, 1998, in Battle Creek, MI.

Gangaram K. Kripalani  

Lucian Rosu  

Trustee

Philip N. Watterson  
BBA '32 and trustee emeritus, Dec. 18, 1998, in Grand Rapids, MI.
Athletic News

Athletic hall of fame inducts six

Six star athletes have been inducted into the Western Michigan University Athletic Hall of Fame for 1998. Since its founding in 1973, 132 WMU-affiliated players, coaches and administrators have been inducted into the organization.


Coach named for newest sport

Mindy Hare, B.A. '93, is coaching precision ice skating, which began its first season as a varsity women's sport in January. Since 1990, Hare has been an ice skating instructor for the Rink in Battle Creek, Mich., and the Southwest Michigan Skating Club. Since 1996, she has been a coach with Kalamazoo's Team Kinetic. Her 1998 youth squad won the Midwestern championship.

Student-athletes honored

**FOOTBALL**

Kicker Brad Selent, Mid-American Conference Special Teams Player of the Year and a national semi-finalist for the Lou Groza Award, was named to the All-MAC first team along with defensive tackle Dan Falcon, tight end Jake Moreland and split end Steve Neal. Halfback Darnell Fields, tackle Charlie Knapp and quarterback Tim Lester were named to the All-MAC second team.

Several Broncos also earned impressive national rankings. Selent tied for 10th in field goals per game with 1.64 and 10th in scoring offense per game with 8.55 points. Meanwhile, Lester placed ninth in total offensive yards per game with 296.55 and 29th in passing ratings with 136.6. points.

Other nationally ranked Broncos were: Neal, 18th in receiving yards per game with 101.91 and 30th (tie) in receptions per game with 5.73; Benny Clark, 33rd (tie) in kick return average with 24.27 yards; and Fields, 34th in rushing yards per game with 92.36.

In addition, wide receiver Mike Hutchings landed a spot on the All-America Academic second team. He also joined Lester, linebacker Scott Niles and tight end Frank Bosworth on the All-Region IV team.

**VOLLEYBALL**

Outside hitter Stefanie Rotunno set a WMU single-season record with 70 service aces. Rotunno was named to the All-MAC first team while co-captain Traci Morin, a middle blocker, was an honorable mention pick.

Rotunno also was named to the GTE Academic All-District IV first team and was a unanimous selection to the All-MAC Academic first team.

Fall season summaries

- Cross country, men's—league championship, fourth/12 teams; NCAA Region IV championship, 13th/26 teams.
- Cross country, women's—league championship, seventh/13 teams; NCAA Region IV championship, 16th/26 teams.
- Football—Mid-American Conference, 5-3; overall, 7-4; league finish in West Division, second (tie)/six teams. The squad set a new average attendance mark (21,867) and joined with the 1997 team to set a school record for most wins over two consecutive seasons (15).
- Soccer, men's—MAC, 1-7-0; overall, 4-15-2; league finish, eighth/nine teams; league tournament, lost in first round.
- Soccer, women's—MAC, 3-6-1; overall, 6-10-2; league finish, eighth/11 teams; league tournament, lost in first round.
- Volleyball—MAC, 11-8; overall, 19-13; league finish, sixth/13 teams; league tournament, lost in first round.
He walks and talks, shakes hands and sings the fight song and he has heart of—well, wire.

Robo Bronco, the product of five weeks of work by sophomore robotics whiz Gurdeep Singh, made his campus debut this winter. Robo is definitely a horse of a different color—and the color is chrome.

President Elson S. Floyd unveiled Singh’s creation in January at Michigan Gov. John Engler’s Innovation Forum, a meeting of business and government executives held at WMU. After that quick trip out of the starting gate to the cheers of business leaders from around Michigan, Robo has settled into his new life as a showcase for the University’s engineering talent.

Singh constructed the robot—his sixth—after approaching Floyd last fall with a request for funding for the project. Floyd approved the funding as well as work space on campus for Singh to create his rendition of the campus mascot.

"The project was not intended to replace Buster Bronco, but to serve as a demonstration of student ability and creativity found in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and among WMU’s many international students," Floyd says.

Singh, an industrial and manufacturing engineering major, transferred to WMU this year from a college in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. Technically a citizen of India, he now calls Dubai home and has been engaged in building robots there since the sixth grade.

"Robots are life to me," he says. "I want to make robots that are like human beings. I’m very interested in artificial intelligence."

The most "human" aspect of his latest creation involves the controls built into Robo’s arm. Singh controls Robo’s hand and arm motion with a control sleeve worn on his own arm. As he moves his hands and fingers, Robo mimics each movement. Other motions of the robot are controlled with a joystick. All movement is controlled remotely with Singh far removed from his creation.

Other components for Robo Bronco run the gamut from high- to low-tech materials. A close inspection of the six-foot, 150-pound creature reveals parts of a floor scrubber, two metal lamp shades for shoulders and PVC pipe legs. All are chrome plated to give Robo a sophisticated 21st century appearance. There are also halogen bulbs for eyes, a moving mouth and a digital display unit on his chest—all to enhance his communication skills.

But it’s Robo’s horse-like head that is at the heart of his appeal. The Fiberglas creation was made from a mold that began as a piece of Styrofoam sculpted by Singh’s brother Gurmej, an art student at Emporia State University in Kansas.

"That was the real challenge, making him look like a Bronco," Singh reports.

STORY BY CHERYL ROLAND
IMAGES BY JOHN LACKO
On most days, Sarah Hegeman is like any other nursing student, with books on human anatomy or growth and development piled into a backpack she lugs to her next class.

But once a week, Hegeman is transported far from the bricks, mortar and concrete of the WMU campus to the forests and fields of rural Southwest Michigan. It is here that she works with and learns more about people living in small-town mid-America and becomes part of a national effort to attract more health and human service professionals to rural communities.

Hegeman is enrolled in WMU’s Rural Health Education Program, which since 1990 has forged a link between University classrooms and underserved clients in outlying areas across southwestern Michigan.

The effort was prompted by federal grant money from the Bureau of Health Professions, a division of the Health Resources and Services Administration under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The agency was seeking to reverse a decades-old trend that had drained health professionals away from small towns to large urban centers.

WMU’s College of Health and Human Services started the program using an interdisciplinary approach to not only train students for rural practice, but also foster a collaborative spirit among students in different subject areas and health care providers in rural communities.

For Hegeman, that’s been one of the most beneficial things about the program. Paired with Christine Van Husan, a nurse for the Lewis Cass Intermediate School District, and placed at school and facilities in Dowagiac and Cassopolis, Hegeman has worked with occupational and physical therapists, social workers, speech therapists, and other health and human service providers.

“I think the biggest thing I’m learning is about the other disciplines by working together with people in other areas,” Hegeman says. “I’ve learned a lot about what kinds of things they do and what it’s like to be working in a rural community.”
The program is in the midst of its third three-year grant. Each grant provided about $150,000 a year or $450,000 for three years. The grants distinguish the University as being among a select few to operate rural health programs.

“There are currently 20 grants like this funded across the country,” says Kathi Fuller, the program’s director. “So I would say we are one of very few programs like it.”

Fuller says that most of Southwest Michigan is designated as rural and underserved when it comes to health and human services. That makes the region very much like other rural areas across the nation where federal grant money has been funneled to boost the number of health professionals.

WMU’s program appears to be making a difference. Fuller says that 54 percent of program graduates have gone on to work in rural areas, with 28 percent staying in rural Southwest Michigan.

The program’s interdisciplinary approach is a key ingredient to its success, Fuller says. It pulls together health and human service students from 11 departments at WMU along with pharmacy students from Ferris State University and professionals from health and human service agencies surrounding rural communities.

“The reason many health professionals don’t stay in rural communities to work is because they feel isolated,” Fuller says. “So the idea is that if they learn to work together with other professionals while they are students, once they locate in a rural community they will see other professionals in other disciplines as valuable resources and thereby decrease the feeling of isolation.”

The program, offered three times a year in the fall, winter and summer, also focuses on cultural sensitivity because of the often multi-ethnic nature of rural life. A Summer Institute emphasizes migrant farm workers and the Latino culture, while Amish, African-American and Native American cultures are examined along with the Latino culture throughout the rest of the year.

One of the program’s most recent developments was the opening of a geriatric assessment clinic last summer in rural Van Buren County. Nine consortium member organizations donate staff time to assemble a countywide pool of professionals that operates the clinic. Assessments are provided by registered nurses, dietitians, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and pharmacists.

The clinic offers students the chance to improve services to isolated older residents, many of whom may not have a physician, medical insurance or even a phone.

Fuller says some students take the course not because they are required to, but because they are drawn to the rural life.

“We’ve found here at Western that many students are interested in working in a rural area,” Fuller says. “Many students came from rural communities themselves. And when you start talking to them about it, they realize that they really liked growing up in a rural area, but most of the emphasis at the University is on urban practice. So many students find it refreshing to find a course and an internship opportunity that really focuses on their interest.”

Christine Yeomans, an occupational therapy student in the program, is a good example. Raised in the small town Marcellus, Yeomans always planned to work in a rural area and has found the program fits well with her interests. She says the cultural sensitivity she gained, as well as learning about professionals in other fields, will serve her well after she graduates in June 1999.

“I think I enjoyed it more than I thought I would,” Yeomans says. “I’m from a rural area anyway. But I think it’s an especially good program to have for students who are unaware of rural settings and what’s needed out there.”

Hegeman, who graduates in December 1999, hasn’t ruled out working in a rural area, but probably will return to her home in Brighton near Ann Arbor and look for work in a larger city. Still, she counts her stint in the Rural Health Education Program as time well spent.

“I’m glad I did it,” she says, “mainly because I learned a lot about other cultures and I really enjoyed working with health care providers in other fields. I really got a lot out of the interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Story by Mark Schwerin—Mark.Schwerin@wmich.edu
Images by Neil Rankin
There was a day in author Stuart Dybek's life when geography was more important to him than good writing.

He had been accepted to the prestigious writing program at the University of Iowa but the Chicago native wasn't sure he wanted to leave the Caribbean paradise where he was teaching eighth graders to return to the relative flatness of the Midwest. He told a professor whom he was close to that he was thinking about going to the western United States instead.

"I told him I was thinking about going to Utah to another program that had just started, 'it's in the mountains,' I said," Dybek explains. "And he said, 'you are really a dumbbell. You think the important thing is the geography.'"

Dybek did ultimately go to Iowa and is the first to admit that the decision was a pivotal one—a decision that would lead to the development of a writing style that has brought him a list of prestigious literary awards with titles like Lannan, Whiting and O. Henry, of which he's received four. It's writing that has won rave reviews, appeared in numerous magazines and journals, and been published in two short story collections and a book of poetry.

The lessons he's learned about good writing are the ones he now tries to impart in his other job as a WMU professor of English. For 25 years, he's been both inspiration and mentor to students in the University's celebrated creative writing program.

"It is what I could only have learned about writing through writing that I now try to convey to my students," he says.

Teaching is about developing talent, Dybek notes. One major way that talent is developed is through acquiring the tools of the trade.

"One of the things that is hard to convey to young writers is the enormous effort and self-schooling that goes into writing," he says. "But yet, they understand that intuitively about every other art form, like music. People understand that if you want to be a musician, you're going to practice five or six hours a day sometimes. But nobody sits down and practices the craft of writing."

It was teaching, not writing, that Dybek had in mind as a career. He had originally been accepted to Iowa's doctoral program in English education, but through happenstance, and a lucrative fellowship, ended up in the school's master of fine arts program in writing. As a result, writing became his primary emphasis and teaching a natural byproduct.

"I have always been intrigued by teaching. Of all the jobs I'd had, teaching,
especially teaching disadvantaged students, was the single job that seemed to me to be socially relevant," he says. "I saw education as a way someone could participate in social change. It was only in the classroom that an individual could make immediate change.

"Teaching has remained for me a hallowed profession. My heroes are the people in the trenches, grade schools and high schools. I consider it a real privilege to continue to have contact with the young. The purpose of a teacher is to serve, not to rule."

One of Dybek's former students and now a published author herself, Bonnie Jo Campbell, says Dybek does more than espouse his theories in the classroom, he practices them. Campbell says Dybek taught her that while literature classes focus on themes, symbols and recurring images, that is not the way fiction is written. Instead, writers must focus on the story, and then those themes and symbols follow naturally.

"Stu actually draws diagrams on the board. He diagrams stories to show how various parts work together," she says. "There's plenty about the art of writing that really is mysterious but he tries to instill the practical aspects of writing."

Creative writing is a touchy subject to teach, since the egos of students often bruise easily. The input and comments from an instructor who is published and lauded by the literary world can, and do, carry heavy weight.

"Students are looking not only for the affirmation from the person teaching them, but for someone to be honest about 'do you have it or don't you?' I can remember myself that what I needed from the graduate program at Iowa was some kind of affirmation from people whose writing I respected and whom I could believe as professionals," he says. "On some level I needed permission to continue to work at it.

"Good teachers will wiggle out of being put into that situation because they know they are fallible and that they are only encountering a student along this line of time," he continues. "I don't want to deal in those kinds of absolutes."

Being cruelly and calculatingly critical with a student's work, or "savaging" it as he calls it, is the one lesson from his own education as a writer that Dybek rebels against as a teacher. "I don't believe that's the way people really learn," he says. "You can at least convey the bad news, if that's what it is, in a humane, constructive way.

And while Dybek admits that his work as a teacher now is not full of those opportunities to exact the social change he once dreamed of, he does find that it offers rewards of another kind. He tells the story about a sixth-grade boy he taught during his first year as a teacher. The class was discussing the Pied Piper of Hamelin and Dybek posed the question, "What are the rats?"

"You know that cliche about the light bulb going on? Well, I could almost see that blast of light in Dale's eyes when he suddenly realized that the rats were real rats, but they were also symbols—symbols of everything that was wrong with this town, all the corruption, all the hypocrisy. It was the rats," he relates. "When that kid had that insight in the classroom he became one of the best students in the class. It was a huge turnaround. What I learned from that was how gratifying it is to be a teacher. You become hungry for those moments. You want to see those breakthroughs."

Dybek says you don't have to be twelve years old to have the light bulbs go on in that way and that he experiences those kinds of breakthroughs with University students as they develop individual pieces of work.

"You'd like it to happen three or four times in a class," he says, laughing. "But once a semester is pretty good. If you get one a semester, you're doing all right."
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THE GOODS
This original block print by Gwen Frostic, B.A. '29, a distinguished artist, poet and naturalist, was a gift from Frostic and is part of the University's Permanent Collection. Frostic is the owner/manager of Gwen Frostic Prints and Presscraft Papers of Benzonia, Mich. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a 1965 WMU Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 1986 was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. The second floor reading lounge in Waldo Library, where this print is exhibited, is named in her honor.