Consumer giant Kimberly-Clark transfers patents to Paper Technology Foundation

Patented technology that could turn paper-mill sludge into viable consumer products and boost the usefulness of recycled paper will be developed by WMU, thanks to an April 1 technology transfer made to WMU’s Paper Technology Foundation by consumer giant Kimberly-Clark.

The firm has presented seven patents on three technologies related to fiber and by-product processing to the Paper Technology Foundation. The technologies will spark three separate research initiatives on campus, as faculty researchers develop and commercialize the technology. Kimberly-Clark’s gift also includes funds and equipment to support the research projects.

“These gifts to WMU are just another example of how we continue to strengthen our overall industry-university relationships,” says Cheryl Perkins, Kimberly-Clark’s senior vice president and chief technical officer. “We are delighted to have identified such a quality institution that will further advance these technologies and pursue the commercial opportunities they present.”

WMU President Judith I. Bailey notes that the gift honors University personnel. “It’s a tremendous compliment to have such an industry leader recognize the University’s faculty for its expertise, and to entrust important technology to us so that it can be developed and commercialized in a way that will make a real difference in the marketplace,” Bailey says.

Pfizer makes $2.9 million equipment donation to University

More than $2.9 million in scientific equipment has been donated by Pfizer Inc. to WMU to support University research and boost Kalamazoo’s life sciences initiatives.

“Pfizer is proud to further its relationship with Western Michigan University through this donation of laboratory equipment,” says Robert T. McDonough, Pfizer’s community relations manager in Kalamazoo County.

The firm made the $2.9 million donation in December during the final month of the University’s centennial capital campaign.

The donated equipment will be used for such research tasks as DNA sequencing, peptide synthesis, protein sequencing and continued on page 4
Thunderstorm expert to speak

Donna Tucker, a meteorologist and pilot who is an expert on thunderstorms and the tornados that grow from them, will give a free, public talk on “The Initiation of Summer Thunderstorms in the Rocky Mountains” at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 8, in 2734 Wood.

Tucker is an associate professor of geography at the University of Kansas. She teaches weather forecasting and also is a private pilot. For more information, contact Elen Cutrim, geography, at 7-3442.

Event spotlights senior projects

The 34th Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects is set for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences’ facility on the ParkView Campus. The semiannual event showcases the work of senior engineering students.

Fund-raiser features the blues

The School of Social Work will stage a blues music fund-raiser later this month to help raise money for the new College of Health and Human Services building. The annual event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in the Union, 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall, in downtown Kalamazoo. Just as last year, it will feature the Blue Moon Blues Band of Kalamazoo, which includes social work graduates Dale Heintz on harmonica and Bill LaValley on bass.

A $10 suggested donation will be collected at the door. For more information, call John P. Mellein, social work, at his office at 7-3193 or at home at 673-8226.

Waldo Library debuts art exhibit

Works of art are on display at Waldo Library as part of its new “Art at Waldo” exhibit. The rotating exhibit, which opened March 15, features the work of WMU alumni, faculty, staff, emeriti and retirees.

The first show, running through May 15, features forged and raised copper work by 2002 fine arts alumnus David Linder. Linder is currently a student in the master of fine arts metalsmithing program at Colorado State University.

Uchimura to conduct ‘Requiem’

The University Symphony Orchestra, the Grand Chorus and guest vocal soloists will present the “Requiem” by Giuseppe Verdi at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in Miller Auditorium. Verdi’s “Requiem” is a work of epic proportions and will be the sole work in the program.

The performance will be conducted by Bruce Uchimura. The Grand Chorus is being prepared by Joe Miller, director of choral studies.

Time capsule to be dedicated

A dedication ceremony for the Centennial Time Capsule will take place at 5 p.m. Monday, April 19, near the Centennial Sculpture in front of the Seibert Administration Building. President Judith I. Bailey will speak at the event. The capsule will be placed in the base of the Centennial Sculpture and opened in 2053 on May 27, WMU’s Founders Day.

Western News to go on hiatus

This issue of the Western News is the last one of the spring semester. Publication will resume at the beginning of the Summer I session, with issues scheduled for May 6, May 20, June 3 and June 17. The deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. the Friday preceding publication.

The Western News will not be published during the Summer II session.

Student wins best paper award

Laurence Picq, a WMU graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in geography, received a Best Paper Award from the Association of American Geographers Water Resources Specialty Group during the association’s centennial meeting in Philadelphia, March 14 through 19.

Her paper, “Assessing Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation in the Macatawa Watershed, Mich., Using Soil and Water Assessment Tools,” was about simulating and evaluating effects of best management practices in reducing phosphorous loading in the Macatawa watershed, which is located in Holland, Mich.

Gabor named to international study exchange program team

Olivia Gabor, foreign languages, has been selected for Rotary International’s Group Study Exchange program, which promotes exchanges between the United States and foreign countries.

Gabor is part of a team of five people from Southwest Michigan who will be speaking in various German cities as well as to Michigan Rotary Clubs in May.

The Group Study Exchange program of the Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women. It provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries.

Staff members earn certification

Four University staff members have become Certified Meeting Professionals, following completion of a yearlong training and certification process.

They are: Dixie Edwards, legislative affairs; Janet Karpus, Conferences and Institutes; Cheri Lay, Conferences and Institutes; and Connie Peruchietti, Fetzer Center.

Poole retirement event planned

Howard R. Poole, educational studies, will be honored for his 31 years of service to the University at a reception Friday, April 16, on the 10th floor of Sprau Tower.

Members of the campus community and friends are invited by the Department of Educational Studies to stop by between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
FOR SALE—Westdale owner-occupied duplex. Two bedrooms, two baths, kitchen/dining area just remodeled, 1,134 sq. ft., single-car garage. Rental unit has two bedrooms, one bath, newly updated kitchen, 886 sq. ft. Both units have updated electricals, new roof. Also unattached two-car garage. Excellent neighborhood with good rental history. $149,900. (NOTE: An editing error led to an incorrect price being published in a previous issue of the Western News.) Call 383-2128 for showing. <www.geocities.com/joyfitz2>.

FOR SALE—Beautiful and spacious condo in the Cloisters with a huge bedroom and master bath, open floor plan and basement with lots of storage. $62,900. Call 383-3890.

FOR RENT—House in England, located in lovely, small village that is largely owned by the National Trust for the Preservation of Historic Places. Village is three miles from town of 100,000. There is direct bus service from the village to Oxford, which is 25 miles away, and 80 trains a day travel to London, which is 30 miles away. House was built in 1977, has two bedrooms, study, living/dining room, kitchen. Completely furnished, including towels, linens, etc. Terrace with views of attractive sloping garden. Immediate access to walking trails in Chilterns countryside. Call 381-6755.

Human Resources

Employees can have mail, paychecks sent to preferred mail stops

In a continuing effort to make mail stop codes more effective, each employee has been assigned two mail stop codes: a general mail code for all mail except paychecks and a paycheck code, used only for paycheck delivery. Human resources will maintain the general mail stop code and payroll will maintain the paycheck mail stop code.

Currently, the two codes are the same—each employee’s primary department. But by request, both mail and paychecks may be sent to a different stop. To change a stop, employees should call 7-3620 or go to <www.wmich.edu/hr/forms.htm> and follow the instructions on the Employee Name and Address Change form.

Obituaries

Susan H. Mundo, a former WMU Dining Service employee, died March 23 in Detroit. She was 59.

Mundo came to the University in 1986. For more than 12 years, she worked in the Bernhard Center as a cook. She resigned in 1998 because of deteriorating health.

She was a very good employee, says Kenneth Bartholomew, dining service director, and will be remembered most for her outgoing and friendly manner.

Mundo is survived by a number of area relatives, including a nephew, Mark A. Mundo, who is a WMU Dining Service employee.

AWARD-WINNING STAFF—Among those receiving honors at the joint Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization spring luncheon April 1 were (from left): PSSO Service Award winners Stefan S. Sorenious, Waldo Library, and Carrie A. Soule, human resources, and APA award winners Mary E. Ramlow, Evaluation Center, Tony Griffin Service Award; Richard G. McMullen, Center for Academic Support Programs, Outstanding Professional Award; and (not pictured) Elizabeth C. Tevictdale, Medieval Institute, Outstanding New Professional Award. (Photo by Janet Liebendorfer)

University community invited to digitization center open house

WMU Libraries’ Regional Digitization Center will be introduced to the University community during an informational open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, and 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 15.

The new center, located in rooms 156, 157 and 157A on Waldo Library’s lower level, is part of an ongoing initiative to support the research-intensive efforts of the University through expertise and specialized technology. The Regional Digitization Center has equipment funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, including a digitization lab and a digitization studio.

The digitization center offers technology and structures for planning digitization projects, specialized equipment and expertise to handle high-quality projects, and assistance with metadata planning and creation for online document retrieval.

It is one of six regional centers developed with funding from an IMLS grant program, the Making of Modern Michigan, which provides training, expertise and facilities to “mini-grantees” throughout West Michigan. The project aims to empower small to mid-sized libraries throughout the state and enable them to contribute to an online digital collection about the state’s history.

For the open house, staff will demonstrate projects on the varied systems, provide information on the center and answer questions. All members of the University community are invited to attend. Questions may be directed to <lib-mmm@wmich.edu>. For more information, visit the center’s Web site at <www.wmich.edu/library/digi>. Information about the Making of Modern Michigan is available online at <mmm.lib.msu.edu>.

Jobs

Although a campuswide job freeze remains in effect, the following vacancies have been approved for posting as positions that are essential for the continued operation of the unit represented. All position authorizations must have the approval of a WMU vice president to be posted during the hiring freeze.

Vacancies are posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact a human resource services staff member for assistance.

Employees may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings.

(R) Assistant Professor (term appointment ending one year from start), 130, School of Art, 03/04-4293, 4/5-4/12/04

(R) Research Fellow (term appointment, ends 3/31/05), Q01, Chemistry, 03/04-4294, 4/5-4/12/04

(R) Nurse, 16, Sindecuse Health Center, 03/04-4296, 4/5-4/12/04

(N) SIS Project Associate, 16, Office of Information Technology, 03/04-4297, 4/5-4/12/04

N= New, R=Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Pfizer continued from page 1

Research on the patents will be done primarily in the Paper Pilot Plant located in McCracken Hall, and will involve students and faculty members from the Department of Chemistry in addition to students and faculty members affiliated with the paper engineering program.

Said AbuBakr, chairperson of paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging, describes the gift and the opportunities it represents as a major step forward in enhancing departmental research resources and supporting graduate students.

Finals Finish seeks volunteers

Faculty, staff and administrators have until the end of the day Friday, April 16, to sign up as volunteers for this year’s Finals Finish. The event, which helps students ease into finals week, runs from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 19 and 20, in the Student Recreation Center.

Several more volunteers are needed to work two-hour shifts so that the event will go smoothly. A volunteer form is available online at <www.src.wmich.edu>. For complete event details, read the Finals Finish article on the WMU News Web site: <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>.

Calendrier en ligne

Check www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/events for a complete list of public campus events and activities

Kimberly-Clark

Talks with Kimberly-Clark representatives have been under way since June, and company executives made several visits to campus to tour WMU’s engineering facilities and meet with members of the faculty and Paper Technology Foundation. Company officials say it was the quality of WMU’s programs that led them to donate technology to the University.

“Western Michigan University was selected as the recipient for these technologies because of its strong engineering program in paper and printing science,” says Corrine Sukienik, director of Kimberly-Clark Worldwide’s Global Technology Transfer program. She cites the existence of WMU’s pilot paper facility and the support of industry through the Paper Technology Foundation as key resources that will be used to develop the technology.

According to James Tanner of Kimberly-Clark’s technology transfer team and John Ferguson, executive director of the Paper Technology Foundation, the three technologies given to WMU all share a basic similarity. They involve the treatment of paper fiber and the by-products of paper processing to modify fibers so they can be reused to produce consumer products.

On Campus with Martin Klemm

Martin Klemm, WMUK, found his calling in the recording studio.

“My love of music drew me into the studio inside Dalton Center back in 1992,” he says. “That was the closest I could get to being the ‘rock star’ many twenty-something males tend to want to be.”

“Studio work allowed me to stay inside of music, and allowed me to be creative, producing something tactile,” he says.

More than a decade later, the WMUK broadcast engineer is still mixing it up and dishing up tunes.

As a broadcast engineer at WMUK/102.1 FM, Klemm is responsible for recording local classical concerts for the station’s “In Concert” program and recording music for “Jazz Scene,” “Broadway Revisited” and “Alma Latina.”

He also maintains and repairs the WMUK transmitter and studio equipment.

Klemm, who earned a bachelor’s degree in audio from WMU, worked in Los Angeles making records for a few years before returning to Kalamazoo.

A decade of studio experience helped him make a smooth transition to radio, Klemm says.

“What I enjoy most about my work is the variety,” he says. “The evening concerts, the challenges of figuring out problems and the other folks at the station are all part of it.

“I’ve always felt public radio was a very hip environment to be a part of,” he says. “I’m very glad I am.”

Pfizer continued from page 1

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance-NMR-spectroscopy. Medicinal chemistry equipment donated includes a mass spectrometer for measuring molecular size and quality; robotic platforms for toxicology studies and handling large quantities of liquid samples; a gene chip machine for examining gene expression and the impact of environmental substances; and a number of fluorescent microscopes.

“This generous gift from Pfizer will enhance University research and boost the capabilities of both our Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center and promising startup companies in Kalamazoo,” says President Judith I. Bailey.

“We have already chosen to make some of the Pfizer equipment available to three life sciences startup firms. Both the University and the community’s economic development initiatives will reap the benefits as these sophisticated tools are used to build Kalamazoo’s reputation as a life sciences commercialization center.”

The equipment, already incorporated into Haenicke Hall labs, is being used for research in biological sciences and chemistry. It also is being used in the labs of some Kalamazoo-area life sciences startup firms.