New Hydro Aluminum engineering unit may lead to more Michigan jobs

A corporate reorganization by Hydro Aluminum North America will bring a new engineering group to WMU’s Business Technology and Research Park in a move designed to consolidate engineering functions for the firm’s transportation sector initiatives.

A 10-person staff will open its offices in the park’s ProLine Tech building in mid-December. The unit will be headquarters for the firm’s Hydro Aluminum Transportation Components unit and will have engineering operations responsibilities for facilities in Sydney, Ohio, and Fayetteville, Tenn., as well as sales engineering responsibilities for the company’s seven other North American sites that produce parts for the transportation industries. To round out the unit’s capabilities, at least two new engineers will be added to the Hydro staff in the near future.

According to Jack C. Pell, Hydro’s vice president and general manager for transportation components, the reorganization has been in the planning stages for 12 months. A successful transition could set the stage for an additional Hydro manufacturing facility in Michigan, possibly in the Kalamazoo area.

“If Transportation Components grows and is successful, there will be opportunities for more work in the future in Michigan,” Pell says. “While we’ll have operational control for facilities in other states, we chose to stay here, because this is where our market is. In five years, one metric for our success would be the launch of an additional manufacturing facility in Michigan.”

International students come from record 110 countries

International student enrollment has dipped nearly 10 percent at WMU, despite 110 countries being represented on campus, shattering the previous high of 103 countries represented in 2001.

The University’s fall 2003 enrollment tallies are being reported in conjunction with this year’s national celebration of International Education Week, which began Monday, Nov. 17.

Howard J. Dooley, international affairs, says 1,721 international students are enrolled in degree programs this semester, down 186 students, or 9.75 percent, compared to the 1,907 students enrolled last fall. The University’s international enrollment peaked at 2,002 students in fall 2001, just before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. Since then, enrollment has declined by 281 students, or 14 percent.

“WMU’s international student enrollment is beginning to show the effects of the increased security measures implemented in the aftermath of 9-11,” Dooley explains. “Except for European Union countries and Japan, it’s now much more difficult and time-consuming for anyone to come to the United States as a student, business person or tourist.”
Campus landscapers get national award

WMU’s landscape services team was recently honored with a national award for its work from the Professional Grounds Management Society.

Tim Holysz, physical plant-landscape services, accepted a 2003 Green Star Award on behalf of his team at St. Louis at the organization’s Professional Grounds Management School Nov. 5-8. WMU was recognized for the quality, challenge and level of maintenance of its grounds. The awards are designed to bring national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence.

Norm Risk, also physical plant-landscape services, led the team that assembled the submission materials, which included 15 color slides and 10 photos of the campus grounds, along with detailed descriptions of the site. Paul Macellis, director of landscape services, initiated the submission process before being called to active military duty last spring.

“The Green Star Award is a significant achievement for landscape services and WMU,” says John Goes, director of physical plant. “The team began gathering historical data, project documentation and photos well over a year ago. Their submission was impressive, and we’re very proud of our top-notch team.”

PGM S recognized 16 grounds programs nationwide with its 2003 awards.
Thanksgiving dinner aid sought

For most students, Thanksgiving means a trip home and a big family dinner. But for many international students, this most American of holidays can be a lonely time.

That’s why WMU employees and friends are encouraged to help offset the cost of staging International Thanksgiving Dinner 2003, which will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, in the Fetzer Center.

The dinner is free to students and serves as an intercultural social activity that gives international students a chance to experience Thanksgiving. In addition to a feast, it features speakers, music, fun and fellowship.

It costs $25 per person for International Worship at WMU, an on-denominational Registered Student Organization, to put on the event. Tax-deductible donations of any amount may be sent to International Worship at WMU, 1140 Kanley Chapel. Checks should be made payable to International Thanksgiving Dinner.

Libraries use Web technology for access

University libraries are making it easier to access library resources through the Web, and faculty and staff are being asked to take a few simple steps to facilitate the transition.

Currently, members of the University community can access library databases, e-books and full-text journals by making changes to their Web browsers. Under the new system, slated to begin in January 2004, users will need only a Bronco Net ID, formerly known as a unified account.

“Faculty, staff and students have let us know that the existing process is cumbersome,” says Bradford Dennis, education librarian. “We expect this new system to make it much easier for our patrons to access the information they need.”

Beginning in January, anyone who wants to remotely access the resources listed above must have a Bronco Net ID. “We don’t want people to get caught without the ID midsemester when they need a journal article in a hurry,” notes Dennis. “We strongly encourage everyone to sign up for the Bronco Net ID before the first of the year.”

To obtain a Bronco Net ID, faculty and staff must fill out an application for an account. Application forms can be found on the Web at <www.wmich.edu/oit/faculty/accounts.html>. Those who are unsure as to whether they already have a Bronco Net ID are asked to contact the help desk by phone at 7-5161 or by e-mail at <helpdesk@wmich.edu>.

Thirty-third Senior Design Project conference is set for Dec. 2

A autonomous navigating robots, a collapsible steering column for automotive racing, a mechanical ski rope reel and a parametric 3-D model of the human spine are among the projects that will be presented at the 33rd Conference on Senior Engineering Design Projects.

The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the Bernhard Center. It is sponsored by the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and is free and open to the public.

One hundred seniors from five engineering departments will present the results of 40 projects they have completed to solve problems facing business and industry.

Obituaries

Paul B. Horton, emeritus in sociology, died Oct. 11 in Sun City, Ariz. He was 86.

Horton was a member of the WMU faculty for 33 years—from 1945 until his retirement in 1978. He was the author or co-author of several books, including “The Sociology of Social Problems,” which in 1984 became the only sociology textbook ever to be published in an eighth edition.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Kent State University and a doctoral degree from Ohio State University.

Marcia A. Kingsley, emerita in University libraries, died Oct. 25 in Kalamazoo. She was 56.

Kingsley joined the faculty at Waldo Library in 1990, and was promoted to professor in 1998. Most recently, she served as head of acquisitions and serials resources for the University libraries.

An active scholar, Kingsley published a number of articles regarding library interaction with the scholarly publishing industry. She is past chairperson of the WMU University Libraries Faculty Tenure Committee and the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program, and also served on the Faculty Senate’s Campus Planning and Finance Council.

Kingsley earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Manhattanville College and a master’s degree in the same field from Duke University. She later completed her master of library science degree at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.
Hydro engineering continued from page 1

Lance Auyer, director of business development for transportation components, says that as the reorganization evolved, it became clear it was advantageous for engineering operations to be sited away from Hydro's Parchment, Mich., facility.

"It became clear to us that Parchment should continue to be what it is—a diverse manufacturing site," Auyer says. He notes that the new engineering unit will be primarily a manufacturing support unit rather than a design or engineering analysis team. For that reason, the proximity of WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was a special draw when it came time to select a base for the Transportation Components engineering team.

"We would like to consider some technical projects that could be set up more like consulting work for students," Auyer says. "For some time, we've also felt that we'd like to look at sponsoring a senior design project, but that's tough to do when you're not right down the road and don't have easy access to students and faculty."

Pell notes that his company has a long track record of working with students on technical projects. Last summer, for instance, Hydro worked with University of Kentucky students and donated an aluminum frame for that university's solar car, which raced against WMU's Sunseeker in the 2003 American Solar Challenge.

Pell says his company also has worked on projects with young engineers from Michigan Technological University.

"Our company is in the process of sponsoring aluminum design expos over the next two years—one specifically aimed at students," Pell says. "That's also something WMU students could get involved in."

Hydro A alum inum N orth A merica is a unit of Hydro A luminum, one of the world's three leading integrated aluminum companies. Hydro A luminum has 27,000 employees in 28 countries and is part of No rs k H y dro A SA , a leading Norwegian industrial company.

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National statistics for the current semester will not be available for another year. However, a nationwide census released Nov. 3 found that international student enrollment for fall 2002 was down at many U.S. schools.

Greater difficulty in obtaining U.S. visas is the main reason WMU international student numbers are down, says Jolene Jackson, director of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. Jackson adds that one of the biggest obstacles is SEVIS, a federally mandated Internet-based tracking system that went into effect in January 2003 and through which schools must regularly report information about their foreign students, professors and researchers.

Of those international students who enrolled at WMU this fall, the largest contingent—608—hails from India. The other top 10 countries of origin are: Malaysia, 176; Pakistan, 93; Japan, 92; China, 62; Canada, 56; Kenya, 47; Taiwan, 41; South Korea, 36; and Thailand, 31.