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 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.”
Twelve staff members honored for excellence

Twelve University staff members have been selected to receive fall 2003 semiannual Staff Service Excellence Awards.

The winners were selected by a committee of peers from the participating employee groups of AFSCE, APA, MSEA, POA and PSSO. The recipients will each receive $100 and a commemorative certificate.

The recipients include Teresa M. Cronkhite, Bernhard Center Dining Service, from the AFSCE ranks and 11 members of the Staff Compensation System: Kimberly Cho, CELCIS; George Boston, University libraries; Mary Lou Brooks, blindness and low vision studies; Amy Burns, College of Education; Betsy Drummer, business information systems; Turea Jordan, finance and commercial law; Pamela McCarter, chemistry; Yolanda Mihalco, teaching, learning and leadership; Carol Reid, Academic Skills Center; John Brusk, health promotion and education; and Linda Ickes, Career and Student Employment Services.

Wiener honored for life's work

Dean William Wiener, the Graduate College, recently was named winner of the Jim Neubacher Lifetime Achievement Award by the Disability Resource Center of Southwestern Michigan.

The award honors a person, with or without a disability, who has promoted the needs of people with disabilities over a lifetime. It is named after Neubacher, a reporter for the Detroit Free Press, who had a disability and wrote about the needs and civil rights of people with disabilities.

Wiener, former chairperson of blind rehabilitation, now blindness and low vision studies, was selected for dedicating 34 years as an educator in the field of orientation and mobility and blind rehabilitation—29 years in a university setting, 17 of those at WMU.

The organization noted that Wiener has excelled throughout his professional life as a teacher, researcher, leader and volunteer, as well as being a prolific writer in the field of blindness. A textbook Wiener co-edited is acknowledged as the leading work in orientation and mobility in the world.

The award was presented at the organization’s annual meeting in October.

Karwoski is coach of the year

The record-setting season by the men’s soccer team has netted coach Chris Karwoski the 2003 Gary V. Palmisano Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year Award.

Only two teams in program history have won more games in a season than the Broncos’ 11 victories this season under sixth-year mentor Karwoski. The team earned its first regional ranking in 15 years earlier this season and posted a school-record in MAC regular season wins. That success helped the Broncos claim the No. 3 seed in the MAC tournament, the highest-ever by a WMU squad.

On Nov. 16, the Broncos beat Bowling Green for the MAC Championship. Their win gave them an automatic NCAA tournament berth, and they will play the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the opening round.

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 Honor Award on behalf of his team in 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 McAnellis, 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.
'Nemo' helps food drive

The year’s most-popular movie, “Finding Nemo,” will be shown on the big screen in Miller Auditorium this evening—Thursday, Nov. 20—and those who bring two cans of nonperishable food to support the Greater Kalamazoo Area Holiday Food Drive will be admitted free.

The Campus Activities Board will present the hit movie at 9 p.m. A donation is $1 with a valid WMU student ID and $2 without. One person will be admitted free with each two cans of nonperishable food brought to the showing and donated to the University food drive.

The food drive is sponsored by student organizations that have teamed up to collect canned foods as part of the annual holiday effort. The drive continues through Dec. 5, with campus collection points at the Bernhard Center candy counter, Waldo Library, Faunce Student Services Building and Wesley Foundation.

Members of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department—organizers of the annual drive—have again challenged WMU students to collect more canned food than the public safety officers and deputies do.

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 onedependent 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 she 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.

FOR SALE—Two-bedroom duplex in the Berkeley Street, West Main Hill area. Close to campus. Refinished yellow pine floors, two bay windows. A apartment on second floor to rent, or rent both units. $97, 900. Call 383-9648.
Hydro engineering

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 luminum North America 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 Norsk Hydro ASA, a leading Norwegian industrial company.

International

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.

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.