The National Science Foundation is so keen on the University's new engineering initiative that, after reviewing a funding request for the project, agencies and their top researchers leading the effort increased the amount requested and speeded the pace of their research. The result is a new $139,045 award to WMU—up nearly $40,000 from the original amount requested—that will be used to develop a teaching laboratory that will offer students online access to realistic, hands-on parts of their courses. The effort, eventually targeted for national dissemination, will be showcased by the NSF at a national engineering conference in June.

Johnson Asumadu and Ralph Tanner, both electrical and computer engineers, are using the funding to develop a Remote Wiring and Measurement Laboratory that will allow students to physically and electronically test circuits and perform real measurement of outputs through Internet access. The result will be a Web-based electrical engineering course that will allow students to benefit from the same hands-on lab experimentation they would experience if they were physically on campus.

"This is not a simulation or a virtual lab,” says Tanner. “This is a real lab that will allow people to try their hand at wiring. They will build a circuit online and our software will physically make the connections in a real lab. If they've made a mistake that results in a short circuit, they'll smoke the power supply and have to begin again.” He notes that expensive components in the lab would be fused to prevent damage.

According to Asumadu, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, the teaching of electronics and circuit construction theory must be accompanied by providing students an opportunity to physically construct a circuit and measure the output in a series of lab experiments.

Producing a schematic that outlines the design is easier than actually figuring out how to do it and make it work, he says. Simulations, which have been available for years, are no substitute for the real experience.

The new Great Lakes Hydrological Center will accommodate as well as the student response to building circuits without physically being in the laboratory.

In June, the work will be showcased by the NSF in Albuquerque, N.M., at the annual meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education, a leading professional organization for college and university engineering educators.

Curiosity about a common weed and the U.S. Constitution brought two scholar-halfway around the world to WMU.

Mohammed Manaa, an associate professor of foreign languages and translation at the University of Annaba in Algeria, and Gabor Gallner, a senior research specialist at the Plant Protection Institute at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary, have both come to the University this year as part of the Fulbright exchange program.

Manaa, who left on March 12, arrived in September and spent the past six months researching the U.S. Constitution and system of government. An instructor of American studies in his home country of Algeria, Manaa admits that being in America during the past presidential election was an unforgettable experience.

"Algeria is a young democracy,” he says. "We look at America and are amazed at how the United States can have the oldest constitution in the world and that it never changes. At the same time, however, my students don't understand the Electoral College and how a candidate can get the most votes but not be elected president. This last election may make it even more difficult to understand.”

Manaa says he is fascinated and impressed by how the governmental transition between presidents and parties has occurred. "The transition has gone on smoothly and without disruption. Even as the nation debated the political matters surrounding the election, the most important thing was that the country kept functioning.”

Manaa will use his experiences and research here to create a study guide on the American constitutional system of government.

This is not the first time Manaa has been to North America. He lived in Canada while attending Laval University in Quebec and attended a summer institute in Boston in 1994. With three children and a job in Algiers, Manaa admits the separation was hard. Without a lot of international news available in American media, getting news about the world outside of Algiers and the borders of the United States, especially about Algeria, had been a challenge for him.

"The lack of news and the separation in America, however, did captivate his interest: the easy accessibility of telephone service. While most Americans take for granted that most of their apartments and homes are wired for phone service and many carry cellular phones, that access is
Four candidates vying for the title dean of libraries at WMU will visit the campus next week to discuss future library needs.

The four finalists for the position will give public presentations on "The Future of the Academic Library in the Electronic Age" at 4 p.m. in the Lee Honors College Lounge on the days of their visits.

The candidates and the dates of their visits are:

- **Dr. Robert Holley**—Monday, March 26. Since 1999, Holley has served as interim dean of Wayne State University Libraries. He also has served as interim dean since 1998. He also has held library posts at the University of Utah and Utah State University.

- **Dr. Sohar E. Elbaz**—Wednesday, March 28. Since 1992, Elbaz has been dean of libraries at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Prior to being named dean, she worked as library director and interim director of libraries. She also has held marketing and information technology positions in Egypt, working for government, academia and private industry.

- **Dr. Delmus E. Williams**—Monday, April 2. Williams is dean and CEO of the more than 100-year-old University of Arkansas Libraries, the Missouri Library Network Corp., Saint Louis University Law Library and WMU libraries.

The four finalists for the position will give public presentations from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, March 26-27, in the Bernhard Center for the Arts and Sciences.

Confidentiality attendees can choose from a series of 10 breakout sessions, which are designed to "help girls reach their full potential. This program will utilize technology to reach out to a diverse audience."

"When adults are excited about their professional development, that enthusiasm will spread to the girls," she says. Ford and Dempsey also recommended that GSGEC modify its current training efforts from a "training model to a "development model," which is structured around the behavior-oriented goals and the attributes identified in the study. The study is the first of a two-pronged research effort conducted under the auspices of the Building Girl Scout Futures initiative. Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, this initiative supports partnerships between universities and nonprofit organizations to foster development of nonprofit management professionals. Ford is currently leading the second phase of the project, which will assess the impact of various training techniques on GIRL Scout volunteers. According to Ford, a team of graduate students is working with her to identify community practices that would most strongly influence volunteer satisfaction and retention at those organizations.
The following employees are recognized: 10 years—Carol L. Hustoles, Office of the General Counsel; Stephen Wagenfeld, Haworth College of Business; and Lisa K. Hotchkiss, Research Services. 15 years—Linda Knox, multiracial affairs; Judith K. Phelps, Admissions and Orientation; Elizabeth Richardson, multiracial affairs; Debra R. White, Haworth College of Business; and Raymond Wolfram, campus facilities. 20 years—Carole L. Hustoles, Office of the General Counsel; Stephen Kettner, information technology; and Niharika Basu, Information Technology. Five years—Dennis W. Brooks, WMU Bookstore; Gerald R. Ditto, Student Financial Aid; Donna S. Dues, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Deveta R. Gardner, Career and Student Employment; and Joseph J. Proctor, Joel Kendrick, Paper Pilot Plane; Suzette A. Kohler, Sincere Health Center; Tracey Scott-Overkamp, physical plant-maintenance services; and Jennifer Clements, Haworth College of Business.

Fullbright scholars...
WMUK gearing up for annual spring fund-raiser

A check in the bank is worth two on the air.

With that spirit in mind, WMUK, the University’s public radio station, is gathering donations now for its spring fund-raiser in hopes that on-air pledging can be cut shot.

As of one week ago, the station had $54,000 or 45 percent of its $120,000 campaign goal already in hand, says Floyd Pietrka, station general manager. On-air pledging starts on March 21 and is scheduled to run through April 6 unless the goal is reached before that.

“I think it’s possible that we could finish up early,” Pietrka says. “That the reason things are going well is that we are celebrating our 50th anniversary. I think that is a significant milestone and makes people think a little more about giving.”

Pietrka says the record for mail-ins for the station’s spring fund-raiser is $60,000.

“But I think that’s double and plausible,” he says. “You never know until it’s here, but I’m optimistic.”

The campaign goal is up $5,000 or about 4 percent above last year’s $115,000 target.

Pietrka says the increase is needed in part because the station’s fall campaign fell about $9,000 short of its goal.

All the money raised in the drive will go to purchase programming from National Public Radio and Public Radio International, and to create local programming.

None of the money will be used for new equipment purchases.

The station also is trying to make on-air pledging a little more palatable for listeners. Pietrka says there will be no live pitching after 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or after 1 p.m. on weekends.

“We are trying to make the campaign a little more listener friendly,” he says.

Scholars explore race categories in America

Using archaeology to help understand the racial categories that evolved in America will be the topic explored by a scholar visiting the University Monday and Tuesday, March 26 and 27.

Robert Paynter, professor of anthropology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will discuss “Race and the Historical Archaeology of Color Lines” from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, March 26, in 1714 Wood. He will be on campus as part of the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. His lecture is free and open to the public.

Paynter is a recognized authority on the historical archaeology of New England and the role archaeology can play in understanding the construction of racial categories in the United States. He explored the latter topic in his most recent book titled “Lines that Divide: Historical Archaeologies of Race, Class and Gender.” His current research includes an archaeological investigation of NAA/Plains Indian Indian boyhood home in Great Barrington, Mass.

Post writer on campus to read from her work

Martha Sherrill, a Washington Post staff writer and author of the creative nonfiction book “The Buddah From Brooklyn,” will present a reading of her work on campus Wednesday, March 28.

Sherrill will read from her work at 8:30 p.m. in 3512 Knauss. A reception will follow in the lobby of Knauss, and books will be available for sale at the bookstore. The reading is sponsored by the Department of English and is free and open to the public.

A staff writer for the Style section of the Washington Post since 1989, Sherrill has covered politics, entertainment and the arts. Her writing has focused particularly on celebrity profiles, recent featured talks on Clint Eastwood and Bernardo Bertolucci to an award-winning series on Hillary Clinton. She also has written for Vanity Fair and Esquire about such personalities as Don Imus, Steve Martin and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Sherrill lives in Virginia.

For more information, persons should contact Julie Stotz at 373-9212.