Clinton signs bill that will bring $1 million to campus river researchers

A bill signed by President Clinton Oct. 19 will bring $1 million in federal funds to Southwest Michigan to boost efforts to clean up the Kalamazoo River. The funding, set aside earlier this year and first announced by U.S. Rep. Fred Upton Aug. 2, was part of the VA/HEHD Appropriations Bill. The $1 million will be used by the University's new Environmental Institute to conduct a variety of studies, establish a sweeping information clearinghouse, and provide scientific information on issues affecting the Kalamazoo River watershed.

"The Kalamazoo River is a leading source of PCBs entering Lake Michigan," said Upton after the bill was signed. "It's a fact that can't be ignored and so far, too many words have been spoken and not enough action taken."

"This new funding for river cleanup will mark the first year of what I hope will become an ambitious multiyear project that will bring WMU's expertise and the community's commitment together to finally move clean-up efforts forward with sound science guiding the way," he said.

President Elson S. Floyd praised the congressional efforts that led to the funding and said the river project dovetails perfectly with the University's research and public service missions.

"The work of nothing more vital to the region's quality of life and economic health than a restoration of this important natural resource," said Floyd after hearing the news from Washington. "This funding will help us marshal the resources and talents of our finest environmental researchers in the effort to achieve that critical goal.

"With Rep. Upton's leadership, we received bipartisan support for this effort," Floyd continued, "and I am extremely grateful to our congressional delegation for their work in making this funding possible."

The Environmental Institute was established earlier this year by combining the University's Center for Environmental Research and its Environmental Studies Program. The institute focuses on research in such areas as environmental chemistry, geography, geosciences, topical sciences and statistics.

"Environmental issues surrounding the Kalamazoo River watershed have been a major focus of the institute since its inception in April. The fate and transport of pollutants such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in the river are a particular area of investigation for institute scientists and that work will be funded by the new award.

"Now that the funding is finalized, our first step will be to gather all the major stakeholders on the river project and prioritize the research issues," says Charles Ide, director of the Environmental Institute. "From preliminary discussions with those stakeholders, we already know one of the initial areas of focus will be conducting a health risk assessment that will be done at the molecular level."

Sky Broncos make it seven in a row at regional NIFA competition

WMU's Sky Broncos precision flight team captured its seventh consecutive regional title over the weekend and has qualified for competition in next spring's national championship event.

The 15-member Sky Broncos team took first place in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's Region III competition that concluded Oct. 23 at Ohio State University. The Sky Broncos edged out the host team by 13 points for the first-place slot, winning top honors in both ground and flight events. Ohio University placed third in the region.

The win means the WMU team is now qualified to compete at NIFA's May 16-20 national championship event which will be held in Grenada, Miss., with Delta State University acting as host team. The Sky Broncos team has finished in the top three in national competition for the past eight consecutive years. The team captured the national championship in 1998.

"The level of competition at regionals was high this year and it was one of the more exciting competitions we've ever had at that level," says Sky Broncos head coach Ryan Seiler. "Our students performed very well and the team turned in a very balanced performance."

Leading the Sky Broncos in the competition were team co-captains Jay Orwin, a senior from Carelton, Mich., and Jesse A. Coeling, a senior from Hudsonville, Mich. Orwin took top pilot honors for the regional event, while Coeling came in third.

Stryker's Brown is next Haworth speaker

John W. Brown, chairman and chief executive officer of Kalamazoo's Stryker Corp., will speak Wednesday, Nov. 9, as part of the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series.

Brown will describe the company's leadership Lessons for Business at 7:30 p.m. in the Brown Auditorium of Schneider Hall. He is expected to discuss some important lessons for business leaders which he has learned during his many years as a corporate chief.

Brown, whose background is in chemical engineering, became president and CEO of Stryker in 1977 and added the role of chairman in 1980. In addition to his role as head of the medical products leader, he serves on the board of directors for National City Corp., Lunar Corp. and Arthur D. Little Inc. He also is director of the American Business Conference and of the Health Industry Manufacturers Association.

The Distinguished Speaker Series, now in its fourth year, brings business, education and government leaders to campus to discuss a variety of topics of interest to the University and Southwest Michigan. It is coordinated by Christopher M. Korth, finance and commercial law.

Business and community leaders from Southwest Michigan, as well as WMU faculty, staff and students, will attend the event. Those wishing to attend, should reserve a spot by calling 7-5068.

CLASSIC STYLE

Nearly 850 runners and walkers turned out Oct. 23 for the first Homecoming Campus Classic 5K race and 1K kids' race and fun walk. Above, Michigan Avenue in front of the Bernhard Center was flooded with runners at the start of the 5K. Setting the pace was Mike Newkirk of Kalamazoo, front row center, who was the eventual overall male winner with a time of 14:50. Kim Lorenz of Kalamazoo, top right, was the top female runner with a time of 17:42. Both Newkirk and Lorenz are WMU students. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members participated in the event, with some contestants traveling from Texas, Missouri and Wisconsin to take part. (Photos by Neil Rankin)
Continuous improvement is at the heart of the campus-wide self-study process in an effort to secure re-accreditation through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, a process that occurs every 10 years.

"This is an opportunity to see where Western has been, where it is now and where it's going," said Kelli D. Peck, re-accreditation administrator. "We came to WMU in August and is a doctoral candidate in higher education administration at Bowling Green State University."

To accomplish the goal, President Floyd has created the NCA-re-accreditation Self-Study Committee, directed by Richard Wright, associate vice president for research. The board includes members of key constituency groups, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, community and Board of Trustees representatives.

"This is truly a total University commitment," Wright says. "We're counting on the full participation of the entire University community and on the generation of information in the preparation of our self-study report to the North Central Association."

A Web site has been established to facilitate the broadest possible participation. The site, can be reached at www.wmich.edu/nca.

The NCA, located in Chicago, is one of six regional educational accrediting agencies in the United States. It is actually the NCA's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education that accredits colleges and universities.

"The goal of our efforts will be the continuous improvement of the University and how it delivers on its promises," Wright says. "It's all about accountability and being the best University that each of us working together, can make it work."

Wright stresses that the self-accreditation process is largely self-directed and that NCA evaluators, who come from other campuses across the country, seek feedback from campus and meet with key constituency representatives. A final disposition is expected in spring 2000.

Meanwhile, the NCA has established five criteria by which WMU will be evaluated, and committees have been created to conduct the University's self-evaluation for each of the criteria. These committees have been meeting on a regular basis since the beginning of the semester, collecting materials and preparing their reports, which will be submitted to the NCA for re-accreditation office in April 2000. This will be followed by a public comment period, from June 9 to Aug. 31.

These draft reports, public comment and other elements then will be integrated into a single report by Grace C. Tiffany, associate professor of education. Tiffany, who has been selected to edit the final self-study report so that it achieves the cohesion of a single voice, Wright says.

Here are the five criteria as provided by the NCA and the name of the chairperson assigned to each address this issue. The criteria are designed to ascertain whether the institution:

• Has a clear and publicly stated purpose; and job demands and pressures at home or work ever get you so busy running that you forget where you're going?" says that in a few cases, the center addressed its hardware replacement schedule. "As a small research center, we can't invest in new and independent solutions," he says. "We need the computer dependant, so we don't want to be blindfolded. We want to be ready."

If you're just starting or need some help along the way, WMU's Y2K Web site for information about how you can be ready. Only 64 days are left.

"The world's largest wetland, the Pantanal in Brazil, will be the subject of a film this fall on a well-known science writer and photographer. Norman B. Banks will provide his award-winning film "The Pantanal: Brazil's Forgotten Wilderness" at noon in 1710 Wood Channel and based on his critically acclaimed Sierra Club book, the program has been dubbed an eco-adventure through the largest biome on earth. Banks' work has been funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution and he has worked at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. His visit is sponsored by the Department of Geography, the Environmental Institute and the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Noted fiction writer to read from his work on campus

A fiction writer who has been described as having a razor-sharp wit and "a Stephenson heart" will present a reading of his work at WMU Thursday, Nov. 1. Norman Rossiter, whose pseudonym is "Kris Shepard," will present a reading at 8:30 p.m. in 3512 Knauss Hall. A reception will follow on the 10th floor of Sprague Tower.

Brazillian wilderness area is subject of film

"Nosferatu," "Lights Out in the Reptile House" and "Kiss Me" are among a collection of short stories entitled "Batting Against Castro." He also has edited a collection of poems, entitled "Unleashed: Poems by Writers' Dogs," in which well-known writers and poets write from their dogs' perspective. Writer Norman Rich calls Shepard "a deaf, autistic artist whose access to different cultures and ways of experience is truly astonishing."

For more information about Shepard's visit, contact Julie Stotz at 7-9312.
WMUK’s fall fundraiser soars to successful finish

Phew! Or Wow!

Those two exclamations both describe WMUK’s fall fundraising campaign. The University’s National Public Radio station met its goal of $220,000 at 8:33 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, after posting its two biggest days in station history.

Monday’s pledges totaled $30,826, of which about $5,500 came in by mail, for about $25,000 in on-air pledges, says Floyd Pientka, station program director. The previous one-day record for on-air pledging was $24,442, but this new record didn’t last long. It was broken the next day.

A total of $37,073 in pledges came in on Friday, of which about $25,000 came in by mail, leaving about $35,000 in phone pledges.

“Those are all figures I wouldn’t have believed were possible,” Pientka says. “Along with our spring fundraiser, we’ve realized we’re raising $238,000 plus in the past six months.”

WMUK was forced to raise this year’s goal by changes in the cost and pricing structure for NPR programs that increased the station’s costs by 15 percent.

Zest for life

The Zest for Life program has recently moved to West Hills Athletic Club, located at 2001 S. 11th St., right off of Stadium Drive. All activities previously held at Oakland Gym, including several aerobic classes, will now take place at West Hills.

The aerobics class schedule has remained the same, with the exception of the Tuesday/Thursday Cardio Combo, which is now held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday. This switch was made because Joan Lozano could offer classes as a part of the Zest for Life aerobics program. Jazzercise is held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. The noon classes offered at West Hills include Step Up on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and High Low on Tuesday and Thursday.

Remember that you must complete the Zest for Life health screening before participating in the aerobics program. If you need information on the screening process or about the aerobics schedule, contact Tammy at 7-3543. The Zest staff looks forward to welcoming you to West Hills.

WANTED

An experienced accountant, at least two years’ experience, to be employed a minimum of six months with A.C.E. Accounting. Call 7-4704 or stop by office at 7-3630.

Salary Reduction Agreement

Long-term care benefit explored

Additionally, TIAA-CREF representatives will be available for individual investment counseling sessions. Appointments are always at 7:3543. Its Oct. 7 meeting agenda will include a discussion of the Long-term Care Insurance Plan.

And the investment options, representatives from SDMG Investment Advisory Services will be available for individual appointments Monday through Thursday, Nov. 8 through Dec. 2, at the Bernhard Center. Appointments are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during 2000 and an enrollment form, also available. It is quite important that participants read both of these reference sets, since, as with many biological and historical questions, one example complements rather than supersedes the other.

Film buffs needed

The Western Film Society is looking for volunteers to help sell and take tickets for its upcoming films. Go to a WFS ticket-taker and seller and her/his guest receive free tickets for a WFS show.

Interested parties should contact Judith Stone by phone at 7-5394 or by email at judith.stone@wmich.edu.

Obituaries

Susan E. Burns, an assistant professor of chemistry, died Oct. 9 in Kalamazoo. She was 35.

Burns earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Chatham College in Pittsburgh in 1989. She went on to earn a doctoral degree in chemistry from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York--Albany in 1995.

In addition to being an active researcher in the area of environmental chemistry, she served as an advisor to graduate and undergraduate student researchers.

She was also a member of several chemistry associations, including the American Chemical Society and the American Association for Research in Science Education, and was a published researcher in the field of environmental technology.

Zephine S. Culp, former supervisor of academic records, died Oct. 17. She was 73.

She was born in South Bend, Ind., and moved to Kalamazoo when she and her husband, Bob Moss, were married. Bob Moss, 7-2678 or 668-4963.

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FOR SALE—TASCAM Porta One Mini-studio 4 track cassette recorder. Perfect for professional musicians or recording hobbyists. Like new. $300. Call 345-4669 or 693-0214.

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For her mother, Clarissa Strand, retired as a secretary in economics in 1982. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

FROM KALAMAZOO

TO KALAMAZOO—Once a year, Barbara Shouse casts off her usual duties of advising most of WMU’s 1,650 students from 100 other countries as an international student services and hits the road to recruit students from the Middle East. In fact, all those she is now—on a whirlwind tour with two dozen other American college and university recruiters, visiting 10 cities in eight countries from Amman, Jordan, to Istanbul, Turkey, in 22 days.

But before anybody gets the idea it’s a paid vacation, consider this. “It’s non-stop go, go, go for 12 to 16 hours a day, off, beginning and ending with 25 hours in transit,” Shouse says, with no complaint in her voice. “Every day is Monday.” But it has its rewards. “One year I was invited for a week by a sheik at his palace,” she notes. She also recently published an article, illustrated with color pictures of WMU, on how to apply to an American college or university. It appeared in Alboom, a magazine read by prospective students throughout Kuwait. Her favorite part of the job, however, is to come home. “I have meeting students from all over the world and helping them succeed here at WMU,” she says. “It’s an honor and a privilege.” A 1976 WMU secondary education graduate “who never got a teaching job,” Shouse began her career as an advisor in the Office of International Student Services the year she graduated. She became an admissions counselor there a year later and in 1980 became a foreign student advisor and assistant director, earning her master of public administration degree the same year. Hers is a WMU family. Three siblings are WMU graduates; she is married to Dennis Shouse, an adjunct faculty member in the School of Community Health; and her mother, Charissa Shouse, retired as a secretary in economics in 1982. (Photo by Neil Rankin)
Ameritech grant will support ‘TEAM’ effort aimed at boosting number of minority teachers in schools

Ameritech has awarded WMU a grant of $150,000 to address one of the critical issues facing the nation’s education system, an acute shortage of minorities in the teaching profession.

The grant will help the College of Education to both recruit and retain more minority students in its programs. The goal is to increase the number of African American, Hispanic and Native American teachers in the nation’s schools.

“We expect this unique program to be a national model,” President Elson S. Floyd says. “We applaud and appreciate the commitment that Ameritech has made to remedying what clearly is a crisis in American education.”

“This program exemplifies current knowledge regarding some of the best practices in the recruitment and retention of minority students,” Floyd notes. “The program draws on and extends ideas that have proved successful in a wide range of higher education settings.”

“Ameritech is proud to play a part in this important effort to face the critical shortage in the face of teacher preparation and recruitment in West Michigan and across the country,” says Robert Cooper, president of Ameritech-Michigan. “We have a well-established tradition of support for initiatives that address the critical issues of equity and opportunity.”

Both leaders affirmed the need to help the composition of the nation’s teacher corps more closely resemble that of students in the nation’s schools. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 33 percent of today’s students are minorities while only 9 percent of the teaching force is of minority heritage.

“TEAM’s focus is both internal and external and concentrates on both recruitment and retention at both the University and college level,” he added. “That’s the multi-focus nature of the TEAM program.”

“TEAM leaders believe the program gives WMU’s College of Education the potential for more than doubling the number of minority students who graduate from its teacher preparation programs within the next five years,” says Drabik. “We have a track record of certifying 100 or more minority teachers each year.”

WMU will recruit prospective students from 20 high schools and eight community colleges in West Michigan, primarily within a 90-mile radius of Kalamazoo. Most of the high schools have a significantly greater than average number of minority students, totaling 47 percent minority enrollment.

Making a check presentation to President Floyd Oct. 7 were Thomas C. Drabik, director of community relations for Ameritech in Kalamazoo, and George F. Traynour, director of corporate contributions for Ameritech in Detroit. (Photo by Neil Rankin)