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/HUD Appropriations Bill. The $1 million will be used by the University’s new Environmental Institute to conduct a variety of studies, establish a wetting 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.

“I think 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, legal 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 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 competitive competitions we’ve ever seen 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 Tuesday, Nov. 9, as part of the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series.

Brown will describe “Some Lessons in Leadership 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.
Self-study under way for North Central re-accreditation effort

Continuous improvement is at the heart of a campus-wide self-study effort now underway to secure re-accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, a process that occurs every 10 years.

"This is an opportunity to see where the University has been, where it is now and where it is going," said Kelli D. Peck, re-accreditation administrator.

The process, which began with input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, community and Board of Trustees representatives, was mandated by the North Central Association in December 1997.

To accomplish the goal, President Floyd has created the NCA Re-accreditation Self-Study Task Force, chaired by Elizabeth Richard Wright, associate vice president for research. The task force includes members of key constituency groups, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, community and Board of Trustees representatives.

"This truly is a total University effort," Wright says. "We're counting on the full participation of the entire University community, and everyone has a role to play 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 in the process, and a copy of the site can be reached at www.wmich.edu/nca.

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

"The result of our efforts will be the continued recognition of WMU by the NCA as an institution of higher education that accredits colleges and universities," Wright says. "It's all about accountability and maintaining the best University that each of us can work together to make it."

Wright stresses that the self-accreditation process is largely self-directed and that NCA evaluators, who come from other campuses across the country, see much more as consultants than critics.

In January, WMU's advisory board will select areas of emphasis that the University intends to explore in its self-study efforts.

"An organized filing and index system has been developed for all resources collected during the self-study effort," Wright says. "And, for the first time, we're creating an electronic database that can be used for all of the University's future accreditation efforts.

The self-study report is to be presented to the NCA a year from now, by Nov. 1, 2000. Then, on Feb. 18-21, 2001, a team of NCA evaluators will visit the campus and meet with key constituency representatives. A final disposition is expected in spring 2001.

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 presented to the WMU 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, director of the re-accreditation office, which will be submitted to the NCA and the name of the chairperson assigned to each address. The criteria are designed to ascertain whether the institution:

- Has a clear and publicly stated purpose, job descriptions and performance expectations that all faculty, staff and students in a department or program can achieve.
- Has effectively organized the human, financial and physical resources necessary to accomplish its purposes. Criterion 2: Betty J. McKenney, director of the Fiscal V
- Can continue to accomplish its purposes and strengthen its educational effectiveness with support from Grace C. Tiffany, vice president for faculty and academic affairs.
- Has demonstrative evidence of its policies and relationships, Criterion 3: Andrew A. Rivers, Office of the President.

Year-end countdown spells trouble for those who are Y2K complacent

If you are "Y2K complacent" instead of Y2K compliant, the time to address potential problems may be running out.

"There may be as many as 600,000 imperfect dates left until Christmas, but there are also only 64 days left until Jan. 1, 2000," said Tony De Rose, director of the regional center. "If I'm complacent, I'm confident that Kendall Center hardware and software is as ready as it can possibly be.

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Brazilian wilderness area is subject of film

The world's largest wetland, the Pantanal in Brazil, will be the subject of a film program at WMU, Nov. 3-5 by a well-known science writer and photographer. William Stiver, known for his award-winning film "The Pantanal: Brazil's Forgotten Wilderness" at noon in 1710 Wood...
 WMUK's fall fundraiser soars to successful finish

Phew! Or Wow!

Those two exhalations both describe WMUK's successful fall fundraiser this year. The University's National Public Radio station met its goal of $20,000 at 8:33 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, after posting its biggest November on-air day in station history.

The 15-day pledge drive totalled $30,826, of which about $5,500 came in by mail, for about $25,000 in on-air pledges, says Floyd Pietanka, 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 $37,033 in pledges came in on Friday, of which $8,500 came in by mail, leaving about $35,000 in phone pledges.

Ideally staggering to me. Pietanka says. "Given our prior experience, we are really overwhelmed. We're really, really thankful to everyone who participated, both the donors and the listeners."

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 aerobics classes, will now take place at West Hills.

The aerobics class schedule has remained the same, with the exception of the Tuesday/Thursday Cardio Combos class, which is now held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday. This switch was made so Jazzercise could offer an evening part of the Zest for Life aerobics program. Jazzercise is held from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. The noon class 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. You will need information on the screening process or about the aerobics schedule, contact Judy Stone at 734-583. The Zest staff looks forward to welcoming you to West Hills.

Film buffs needed

The Western Film Society is looking for volunteers to help sell and take tickets for its many events. The society is a non-profit organization, a ticket-taker and seller and her/his guest receive free tickets for a WFS show.

Interested parties should contact Judith Stone by phone at 734-594 or by email at judith.stone@wmich.edu.

Obituaries

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

Burns had been a faculty member since 1996 and was an organic chemist. In late 1996, she was awarded nearly $100,000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for her work on the natural ability of water to degrade pollutants.

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

In addition to being a active researcher in the area of environmental chemistry, she served as a teaching assistant and graduate student in her graduate degree program and was married in 1994 so she could remain at Kalamazoo College.

Her husband, Matt, is a professor of computer science and was a published researcher in the field of environmental technology.

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

She was born in South Bend, Ind., and moved to Kalamazoo when she and her husband, Jack, moved to Kalamazoo from Louisville, Ky., to take jobs as Fortune 500 management information systems director, athletic business manager and director of alumni and advancement services. His wife, a former supervisor of students, was an administrative assistant at the university, and was married in 1946 so she could remain at Kalamazoo College.

He died in 1990.

In recent years, she served as regent of the local Lucinda Hinsdale Elementary School. She was also a member of the Kalamazoo Historical Society.

For more information about Zephine S. Culp, please contact the WMU Women's Association.

Exchange

For sale—Kazuki Sidekicke, JU, 4WD, $100, runs well and looks great. Excellent condition. Rated as one of top-used cars by Consumer Reports. $5,450 or best offer. Call Bob Moss, 7,267-688-4963.

For sale—TASCAM Porta One, S-E2, 4-track cassette recorder. Perfect for professional musicians or recording hobbyists. Like new. $300. Call 345-678-9123.

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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. Ameritech’s 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 Ellson S. Floyd says. “We applaud and appreciate the commitment that Ameritech has made to remedy 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 increase the face of teacher preparation and recruitment in West Michigan and across the country," says Robert Cooper, president of Ameritech’s Michigan operations. "We have a well-established tradition of support for initiatives that address the critical issues of education for all." 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.

The Ameritech TEAM Program is the multi-focused, comprehensive minority student recruitment and retention program in Michigan, and one of only a few in the nation,” Garman says. "We offer only recruitment or retention but not both, and most are only single focus in design. "TEAM’s focus is both external and internal, 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," Garman continued.

The grant will enable the College of Education to establish the Ameritech TEAM Program, which offers students a "personal support system as they seek to enter the teaching profession," says project director Arthur Garmon, teaching, learning and leadership. The acronym stands for Teacher Education Assistance for Minorities.

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

Making the presentation were Lisa M. Hamway, director of corporate contributions for Ameritech in Detroit, and Thomas C. Drabik, director of community relations for Ameritech in Kalamazoo. The grant will enable the College of Education to establish the Ameritech TEAM Program, which offers students a "personal support system as they seek to enter the teaching profession," says project director Arthur Garmon, teaching, learning and leadership. The acronym stands for Teacher Education Assistance for Minorities.

VanValley honored by national sociology group

A WMU professor, who was recently named a member of the Department of Sociology, has been honored for his outstanding contributions to teaching undergraduate students.

Thomas L. VanValley, chairperson of the Department of Sociology, was selected by the Executive Council of the American Sociological Association to receive the prestigious 1999 Hans O. Mauksch Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education in Sociology.

VanValley received his award during the ASA Undergraduate Education Awards Business meeting held in conjunction with the ASA’s annual meeting Aug. 10 in Chicago. The national award is given to one person annually.

In addition to the award, VanValley has been invited to prepare the keynote address for the Section’s next meeting in Washington, D.C., August 2000.

“We recognize Thomas L. VanValley for all his efforts on behalf of teaching locally, regionally and nationally,” said Janet Huber, ASA Section on Undergraduate Education Awards committee chairperson, during the award presentation. “He is a teacher and practitioner of sociology education. He has helped many teachers understand the value of teaching. More than half of the presentations has focused on the changing use of information technology in teaching. of

Friday, Nov. 5

Film showing and presentation, “The Pantanal: Brazil’s Forgotten Wilderness,” with photojournalist and science writer Vic Banks, 1710 Wood Hall, noon.


