NSF award will boost doctoral research in new field

The National Science Foundation has awarded close to $2.8 million to a new and innovative doctoral research and training program being offered through Western Michigan University and 11 other participating institutions.

The BioSphere Atmosphere Research and Training program, dubbed BART by organizers, will take a multi-disciplinary approach in studying how changes in atmospheric conditions can profoundly affect living organisms and how those altered organisms can, in turn, affect the atmosphere.

The novel, residential program will train students to address a range of key questions about how the biosphere and atmosphere interact. But students will have to look outside their own disciplines into other fields to search for answers.

The National Science Foundation is trying to advance science and create a research field that doesn’t exist by combining disciplines that already do exist," says Steven Bertman, chemistry, who helped design the model program. "They want to build bridges between disciplines.

The program is being billed as a "total immersion experience" in which students spend two summers at the University of Michigan Biological Station in Pellston. There they will take part in a series of education activities involving ongoing research programs that will prepare them to conduct their own pioneering research.

Students will continue their training at their home institutions during the academic year. The proposal has been in the works for more than two years. The $2.8 million grant is actually awarded to the U-M Biological Station. WMU will receive about $2.5 million to coordinate the project.

In addition to using the station’s advanced facilities, students will work with faculty mentors, who will guide them in joining a new cadre of scientists prepared to address complex issues in the 21st century.

The grant is through the NSF’s Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training program. Each BART student receives a $15,000 yearly stipend, funding for tuition and fees, travel support, and support for equipment and supplies. In addition to 10 intensive weeks at the biological station and conducting research, students will take part in group Internet discussion and data analysis and attend two BART conferences and two national conferences.

Other participating institutions include Bowling Green State University, Indiana University, Michigan Technological University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, the University of Miami, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia and Washington State University.

Among a wide range of topics students could study the effects of mercury deposition in the Great Lakes, elevated carbon dioxide levels or high concentrations of ground level ozone.

"One of the fastest ways to advance science in this country is to identify fruitful mergers of existing disciplines -- to spot interdisciplinary areas that would generate terrific synergisms between what we recognize as existing, separate disciplines," says David Karowe, biological sciences, who also helped design the program and has studied the effects of elevated carbon dioxide levels on plants and animals.

Karowe and Bertman say that the BART program was fortunate to receive NSF funding. Between 500 and 600 proposals were submitted to the agency, of which 21 were selected. Of those 21, all except the BART program involved just one or, in a few cases, two institutions.

"At P&G, we’re driven by innovation," Brunnertold when announcing the gift. "Each year we invest over $1.7 billion in research and development, and are awarded about 3,000 patents. We currently have over 25,000 patents in our portfolio. Very simply, we invent more innovative technologies than we can develop.

"WMU’s paper technology program is uniquely qualified to bring this packaging technology to market quickly. Since P&G spends about $400 million a year on shipping containers, it makes good sense to donate this technology to WMU so it can develop Enhanced Paperboard Technology to provide opportunities for companies like us to benefit from future cost savings. WMU is in the paper business, and P&G is in the business of creating and improving consumer products. It’s a win-win situation.

"WMU researchers say the use of the technology and its potential economic impact are not limited to the packaging or linerboard industries. Future applications could include such products as building materials, temporary disaster housing and automobile insulation—anything that requires strong, lightweight, humidity-resistant material. Widespread use of this technology also has the potential to create new markets for agricultural by-products that researchers believe could become key ingredients of the new material.

"We’ve said many times that creating University/corporate partnerships is the key not only for the future success of our University, but also for the economic development and well-being of the citizens we serve," said President Floyd in accepting the gift. "We are delighted at the opportunities this gift will create. Not only will this allow one of our top programs to expand its impact, it also will mean we can offer our student chance to be involved in developing cutting-edge technology."

Enhanced Paperboard Technology

Enhanced Paperboard Technology involves substituting resins and calcium lithium sulfate for the paper pulp process, for part of the wood fiber typically used in linerboard production. The resulting material is strengthened so much that enhanced 55-lb. linerboard can be substituted for packaging currently requires the stronger 55-lb. linerboard. This saves 25 percent of the wood pulp that would ordinarily be used for the stronger box.

Paperboard products, which include linerboard, comprise nearly 60 percent of the paper industry, which is the nation’s fifth-largest industry. In Michigan, the paper industry accounts for 9 percent of the
WMUK sweeps news documentary awards from Michigan press broadcast group

Radio station WMUK-FM, the University’s public radio station, captured two new in the News Emmy Documentary category this year’s Michigan Associated Press Broadcasters Association competition.

A documentary titled “City Commissioner,” produced by Gordon Evans, won the first place award. Evans spent two weeks following Kalamazoo City Commission candidate Sean McCann before

Host families needed
Host families for professionals visiting the Kalamazoo area are being sought by a non-profit international organization with headquarters in Kalamazoo.

Colleges International is arranging for three or more groups to visit the area in May, June and October. The agency works with WMU and the U.S. government to coordinate the visits, which typically last two days to two weeks.

Volunteers also are needed to help with driving and to escort visitors on cultural tours. Call Joyce Harnden at 341-9494 for more information.

Three retirement receptions set for faculty, staff members
University community members are invited to attend three different events this spring to honor retiring faculty and staff members.

• Three retiring history professors will be honored at a reception set for 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at the Oaklands. Those honored will be Lewis Carlson, who will retire April 19; and James Ferreira, who will retire April 16 after 29 years on the faculty; and Richard Snyder, who will retire in June.

• A reception for the retiree will be held at 4 to 6:30 p.m. in 210 Bernhard Center. Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the event will be open to all faculty, students and staff members.

• A reception for the retiree will be held at 7 p.m. in 2150 Schneider Hall. Pat Conolly, Haworth College of Business, will be honored at a reception set for 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, on the Miller stage.

Ethics and intercultural communication is topic
A look at how ethical interventions can affect intercultural communication will be the focus of a presentation by a University expert this spring.

F. W. Santiago-Vallés, Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, will address the Ethics of Intervention in the Processes of Intercultural Communication at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, in 2150 Schneider Hall.

The half-hour program will feature a presentation by an intercultural communication expert who will be asked to describe an ethical intervention that worked and what was learned from the experience.

Ethical intervention is an example of an ethical intervention that works when the outcome is positive and when the ethical intervention is designed to be ethical.

Curtis-Smith adds two new music awards to his list
C. Curtis-Smith, music, has two new awards to add to his long list of accomplishments.

Curtis-Smith recently received a $60,000 Creative Artist Grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs to write and record a new composition for the VerDeh Trio, an internationally known resident faculty ensemble in the Michigan State University School of Music. The VerDeh Trio features violin, clarinet and piano and is named after its pianist, Walter VerDeh. Curtis-Smith currently is writing the piece, which should be finished by summer. One movement of the composition, entitled “Largo with a Twist,” will be performed by the trio in May in East Lansing. The entire work is to be premiered during the 2000-2001 performance season.

Extra season, new program announced for April 8 and 9, will focus on preserving tradition
Eleventh annual pow wow set for April 8 and 9, will focus on preserving tradition

More than 8,000 people are expected to turn out for the 11th annual Native American Contest Pow Wow on Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9, at University Arena.

“Handing Down Tradition into the New Millennium” is the theme of this year’s event, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The event is being sponsored by the Native American Student Organization and WMU.

Each spring, Native American peoples from across the country celebrate their traditions and spirituality through pow wows. The events include Native American dance, regalia, song, food and artwork. They are designed to increase the awareness of Native American culture and its impact on modern American life as well as to encourage children to learn more about Native American culture.

A highlight of the Kalamazoo area pow wow will be dance competitions preceded by grand entries Saturday at noon and 2 p.m. and Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. The grand entries feature dancers, singers, drummers and Native American performers in traditional ceremonial dress and are the only times all dancers are on the floor together.

There will also include a children’s drumming program. Food will be available for purchase as well as Native American jewelry, pottery, clothing and other pow wow memorabilia.

Admission to the event is $5 for adults and $3 for seniors. Children under 12 are free. Fee will be charged for four or more groups to visit the area.

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Finals Finish will help students ‘get in gear’ exams. Partially funded by the Campus Technology and Research Park went online last finals week of the academic year.”

II.

Zest for life

"This can be a hectic, stressful time for students," says Amy J. Seth, University Recreation Programs and Facilities. "We want to help them relax, recharge, and rejuvenate so they can successfully ride out the last finals week of the academic year.

The Student Recreation Center will be offering students study rooms, a computer lab and open recreation facilities as well as snacks, massages, promotional items and prizes. Members of WMU’s faculty, staff and administration volunteer to cover shifts during the facility’s extended operating hours. The newest partner for Finals Finish is the campus’ 9:24 p.m. Monday, April 17, through midnight Tuesday, April 18.

Seth says volunteers are asked to sign up for one hour block of time from 8 to 10 p.m. or 10 p.m. to midnight. Those volunteering will receive a free Finals Finish T-shirt and a guest pass to the recreation center.

Members of the University and Kalamazoo community who are not able to donate their time are invited to make a financial donation to the program. Donors contributing $25 or more also will be rewarded with a Finals Finish T-shirt and a guest pass to the recreation center.

To volunteer, use the “blue book” sign-up sheet to volunteer and staff members through campus mail or call Seth at 7-3759 or Jennifer Fager at 7-3487.

Human resources

"Verbal Judo — The Gentle Art of Persuasion" is session topic

Judo embraces the principles of balance, restraint and leverage. These principles can be used in your personal interactions at home or work.

Join Detective Carol Dedow, WMU Web Watch

A new Web site for the Business Technology and Research Park went online April 1. Included are a site map and preliminary renderings of what the park may look like when completed. More information will be added later. Visit the new site at: <www.wmich.edu/htt>

II. You can do a site-specific search of WMU News, which allows you to search more than 1,700 university news releases by keyword. Look in the left column of any of these pages in WMU news, and click on "Search WMU News." You can find WMU News at <www.wmich.edu/wmu/news>

Fall 2000 is target time for implementation

The Compu 2000 team continues work on designing the University’s new pay and performance systems, and reports the implementation date is fall 2000. Traditionally, the University implemented one new pay adjustment every 12 to 16 months, with some adjustments coming in the fall. This year, employees will have as many as three factors affect that first pay-check, after implementation— the annual pay adjustment, the retroactive portion of the annual pay adjustment to July 1 and any merit pay increases which may result from the implementation of the new market-based compensation system.

Compensation 2000 is the University’s project to design and implement new compensation and performance management systems for clerical, technical, professional and administrative staff. Towers Perrin is the firm providing professional consulting services to the human resources team. A PERFECT FIT — Every day, Lisa J. Walker interacts with students in the Colleges of Health and Human Services and Fine Arts to “discuss life.” And if anyone should know a perfect job, it’s Walker. As the assistant director of career and student employment, Walker appreciates the sensitivities of a social worker, the abilities of a counselor, and the understanding of the health care field and a background in fine arts. As a former social worker with a degree in social work and counseling psychology from WMU and an Alma College graduate who attended school on a theatre and performance scholarship, Walker seems tailor made for her post. “My skills work really well in this job,” she admits. “I want to work with college students and love human services. I wanted to give back what I received as a student. This allows me to use a lot of my background.” Walker says that even though the career opportunities for students in such divergent colleges are quite different, it keeps her job challenging. “In a job search, health and human services students need to do resumes, interviews and have internships along the way during their college experience,” she says. “In fine arts, the students audition and create portfolios and a lot is based on who you know. It is much more competitive. My job helps students see how their skills are transferable to other areas in addition to those they studied. In general, I try to help students prepare for life after WMU.”

This year, Walker was additionally challenged by undertaking the daunting role of organizing the 13th Annual Sports Education Camps for Youths with Visual Impairments, which brought 178 employers together with more than 2,500 students. A native of Fenton, Mich., Walker married her high school sweetheart, Tim, after college and they moved to Kalamazoo so he could pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at WMU. In keeping with his passion for aeronautics, the Walkers’ 3 1/2 year old daughter, Amelia, is named in honor of the famed pilot, Amelia Earhart. In addition to pictures of her daughter, Walker’s office is decorated with her watercolor paintings, a "fantasy hobby" she’d like to pursue if she had free time.

Also in her office is a collection of stuffed lizards of various sizes, colors and shapes. "Lizards are my weakness," Walker explains. "It was a nickname given to me and then I just sort of adopted it," she explains. (Photo by Neil Rankin)

Volunteers sought for to help with two sports camps for visually impaired teen athletes

The 13th Annual Sports Education Camps for Youths with Visual Impairments are ready to blast off. Now what’s needed are some volunteers to help man the launching pad.

Eighty blind and visually impaired young athletes will take part in Fall 2000 camps of the Michigan Schools for the Blind and Flint from April 30-May 2. Camps: the Michigan Schools for the Blind and Flint from April 30-May 2. Athletes will range from 10-16 years old and will work on a broad spectrum of skills, including running, jumping and throwing, to more advanced competitive sports and recreation skills, including wrestling, swimming, gymnastics, goal ball, bowling, track and field.

Organizers are looking for anyone who enjoys children or sports and is willing to volunteer an afternoon or two to any variety tasks from coaching to dorm counseling, sports skills instruction, guiding athletes to events, keeping score and running errands.

 Especially needed are dorm counsellors to work with track and field athletes, swimmers, gymnasts, wrestlers, athletes, coaches and life guards.

Those interested should call or e-mail Paul Ponchilila, 7-3449, <paul.ponchillia@wmich.edu>, or Susan Ponchilil a, 7-3450, <susan.ponchillia@wmich.edu>. Be sure to include a description of the specific skills you possess.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services, the Department of Human Resources. Interested eligible-employees should submit a job application during the posting period, and may contact an employment services representative for more information.

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Carrick D. Craig, an attorney specializing in higher education law, has joined the Office of the General Counsel at the University as assistant general counsel. In his new role, Craig will provide legal counsel and assistance to the University administration, faculty and staff in all areas of the law.

Previously, Craig was a shareholder and partner of Green, Green, Adams, Palmier & Craig, an Ann Arbor law firm which specializes in civil rights, civil liberties and employment matters. Primarily representing plaintiffs, he tried numerous cases to conclusion. His areas of specialty include sexual harassment, civil rights defense and verdict in an employment discrimination case. Craig also served as an associate attorney with three other east Michigan law firms and as a staff attorney with Citizens Insurance Company of America.

Craig earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Adrian College and his law degree from Wayne State University Law School.

P&G gift (Continued from page one) state’s workforce, making it the fourth-largest industry in the state.

According to Thomas Joyce, chairperson of paper and printing science and engineering, Enhanced Paperboard Technology could have a significant impact on the paper industry and will enhance WMU’s global reputation. In addition, the work could lead to new sales of papermaking technologies, chemical suppliers and equipment manufacturers. One of the initiative’s other major effects, he said, will be its impact on student recruiting.

“The revenue that will eventually be realized from this P&G technology donation will be used to enhance our scholarship fund,” Joyce said. “I can think of nothing I’d like to see more than having full ride scholarships to offer to talented students headed for careers in the paper industry.”

Other innovations to find new homes

The March 30 announcement, Brunner said, is an example of Procter & Gamble’s long-term strategic initiative to open its technology vault. P&G uses independent experts to match the best technologies with the best partners. Some technologies, he noted, will be donated and others will be licensed or sold.

“In the case of Enhanced Paperboard, by donating the patents to WMU, the technology will be developed faster than if it were licensed,” said Brunner. “In fact, we want to be one of WMU’s first customers.”

Brunner noted there are “dozens and dozens of fine universities and research institutions” to whom the company could have donated the technology. To find the perfect fit, he said, an independent expert was hired to conduct an intensive search and recommend the best university candidate to develop and commercialize the technology quickly.

“We couldn’t be happier to find this well-deserving university just a state away from our world headquarters,” Brunner said. “Western Michigan University clearly is at the cutting edge of paper science in the world today.”

About Procter & Gamble

P&G markets more than 300 brands to nearly five billion consumers in more than 140 countries. These brands include Crest, Tide, Pantene, Pampers, Oil of Olay, Vicks and Pringles. P&G, which has its headquarters in Cincinnati, has operations in 70 countries and employs more than 110,000 people. In fiscal year 1998-99, its sales were $38 billion.

Wednesday, April 12

Softball doubleheader vs. Oakland, Ebert Field, 3 p.m.

Performance, University Trombone Choir, directed by Steve Wolflinburg, Dalton Recital Hall, 7 p.m.


Friday, April 14

Third Annual Educational Technology Coordinators Conference, Fetzer Center, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Open house, Virtual Learning Lab, Center for Teaching and Learning, 3310 Sangren, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Women’s tennis vs. Ball State, Sorenson Courts, 1 p.m.

Softball vs. Eastern Michigan, Ebert Field, 3 p.m.

Retirement reception for Pat Conolly, Haworth College of Business, 2150 Schneider Hall, 3-5 p.m.

*Film showing (through April 16), Hayao Miyazaki’s “Princess Mononoke,” Campus Cinema, Oakland Recital Hall: Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15, and 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

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*Performance, Kalamazoo Symphony season finale, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 16

Women’s tennis vs. Bowling Green, Sorenson Courts, 1 p.m.

Baseball doubleheader vs. Eastern Michigan, Hyames Field, 1 p.m.

Softball doubleheader vs. Eastern Michigan, Ebert Field, 1 p.m.

Monday, April 17

Exhibition (through April 21), BFA Show, ceramics by Kristen Henning, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 21, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition (through April 21), BFA Show, sculpture by Jim Garrison, South Gallery, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, April 21, 5-7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 18

Softball doubleheader vs. Northern Illinois, Ebert Field, 2 p.m.

Retirement reception for Richard Snyder, main stage, Miller Auditorium, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20

Board of Trustees meeting, Bernhard Center. Meeting times TBA.

Saturday, April 22

Winter semester ends.

Commencement, Miller Auditorium: College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, College of Business, College of Health and Human Services, 9 a.m.

College of Aviation, College of Education and General University Studies, noon;

and College of Arts and Sciences and College of Fine Arts, 2:30 p.m.

Women’s track, Western Michigan Quarangular Meet, Kent Track.

Baseball doubleheader vs. Central Michigan, Hyames Field, 1 p.m.

Men’s tennis vs. Ball State, Sorenson Courts, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25

Baseball vs. Notre Dame, Hyames Field, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 27

Women’s tennis (through April 29), Mid-American Conference championships, Sorenson Courts.

Saturday, April 29

*Concert, Gilmore Keyboard Festival opening concert, Andre Watts, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Monday, May 1

Spring session begins.

Tuesday, May 2

Softball doubleheader vs. Detroit, Ebert Field, 2 p.m.

* Admission charged