Varatech's $1.92 million award brings engineering software to Kohrman

WMU engineering students will learn how to translate the precise drawings produced by computer-aided-design programs into the real-world requirements of product manufacturing, thanks to a $1.92 million award from Varatech of Holland, Mich.

Varatech, a leading provider of variation analysis software for the mainstream design market, announced May 11 that it has awarded 100 seats of the company’s Sigmund software to the nation with the ability to train future engineers to use the software, which provides a bridge between the virtual realm of CAD and the real world of manufacturing.

Sigmund software is designed to help companies increase product quality, reduce production costs and get their products to market sooner. It factors into CAD product design a sense of some of the dimensional variations that are inevitable result of the manufacturing process.

The software helps engineers identify and correct those dimensions whose variations are causing production problems.

"Sigmund was a wonderful tool -- very crisp and precise," notes Mitchell Keil, industrial and manufacturing engineering, who has been working with Varatech officials on the project. "The problem with CAD is that students have the view that the real parts made from their CAD drawings will be just as precise. But they’re not, because dimensional variations occur in every manufacturing process. Sigmund is a tool that integrates with CAD and gives you a sense of those variations. It makes a connection between CAD and the real world of manufacturing."

Sigmund will be integrated into a variety of degree programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, exposing a large number of engineering graduates to the innovative design tool. WMU and Varatech officials predict it will impact the employment prospects of future graduates.

"WMU is a great engineering school," says Robert Gardner, president of Varatech. "WMU graduates are employed by many industry leaders and Sigmund customers. WMU’s decision to use Sigmund as a primary teaching tool demonstrates the popularity of the software in the mainstream engineering industry. Companies are using Sigmund on a day-to-day basis and are recruiting graduates based on their knowledge of the software. We are proud to be a part of WMU’s outstanding curriculum and are looking forward to supporting this campuswide implementation.

The software, which has recently been installed in the Computer-Aided Engineer- ing (CAE) lab at the University Center in Kalamazoo Hall, is reserved for such undergraduate courses as Designing for Production and Statistical Quality Management.

"Control as well as the graduate-level course, Advanced Quality Management," says David Lyth, industrial and manufacturing engineering, says ease of use was a major factor in WMU’s desire to integrate Sigmund in its engineering courses. "These courses are very intensive and there’s not a lot of time to spend teaching students how to use software," Lyth notes. "With Sigmund, that’s not the case."

June ‘Facing East/Facing West’ conference set

Academic and corporate experts from around the nation and the world will convene on campus Friday and Saturday, June 2-3, for a conference on North American business and Pacific Rim countries.

The third ‘Facing East/Facing West: Conference: North America’s Relations with Asia’ will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fetzer Center. The multi-cultural BOT sets room, board rates

Increases in operating costs have prompted a corresponding rise in room and board and apartment rental rates for 2000-01 at WMU.

The increase, approved April 20 by the Board of Trustees, will average 5 percent for both room and board and apartment rental rates. The University operates 22 residence halls, six full-service dining facilities, five cash dining facilities and three apartment complexes.

"The new rates will allow us to absorb expected increases in our operating costs, including compensation, utilities, food and maintenance," says Robert M. Beam, vice president for business and finance. "The increases also reflect the cost of renovating and updating the University’s dining facilities."

The cost to live and eat in a residence hall for the 2000-01 academic year will be $4,557 for 12 meals per week, a decrease of $217 from the current rates. Fifteen- and 20-meal plans will cost $238 and $242 more per year, respectively, than the comparable plans are priced this year. Apartment rental rates will range from $434 per month for a one-bedroom, unfurnished apartment in Goldsworthy Hall to $692 for a two-bedroom, furnished unit in the Elmwood Apartments.

Mazzie to be honored Saturday after NYC theatre performance as ‘Kate’

After Saturday night, Broadway actress Marin Mazzie will have an honor- ary degree from her alma mater in hand to add to her long list of accolades. The Board of Trustees voted April 20 to award Mazzie, a three-time Tony Award nominee, an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree. Mazzie, currently starring in the hit Broadway musical "Kiss Me, Kate," graduated from WMU with a degree in theatre in 1982.

"Mazzie will be presented with her honorary degree on Saturday, May 20, on the stage of the Martin Beck Theatre, where "Kiss Me, Kate" currently is playing. The presentation will be made immediately after the curtain call, with Brian Stokes Mitchell, the male lead in the play, inviting the audience to stay for a brief ceremony. Mitchell also performed opposite Mazzie in the Broadway smash "Ragtime."

A University group will travel to New York to make the presentation. The delegation will include President Floyd and his wife, Carmenate; George Franklin, chairperson of the Board of Trustees; trustees Joan Krause, Lori Waddles, and Richard Chormann; Timothy Light, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Janet Stillwell, interim dean of the College of Fine Arts; and D. Terry Williams, chairperson of the Department of Theatre.

Those who have watched Mazzie’s Broadway career unfold have seen her become one of the top actresses in her profession, known for her outstanding singing voice.

She began her professional acting career as an apprentice at the Barn Theatre in Augusta while in her junior year at WMU. She continued acting at the Barn and after graduation moved to New York to fulfill her dream of becoming a Broadway star.

She didn’t take long for the aspiring young actress to make her mark on the "Great White Way." Mazzie landed roles in the

Honors college senior is University’s first Udall scholarship winner

A senior member of the Lee Honors College is the University’s first recipient of a prestigious scholarship for envi- ronmental studies from the Morris K. Udall Foundation.

Heather Gott of Elwell, Mich., is one of eight Udall Scholars from around the nation who will receive $5,000 for tuition, fees, books and room and board for the 2000-01 academic year. Gott plans to undertake environ- mental studies and public policy work in a national nonprofit organization protecting communities from polluters.

Gott was nominated for the scholarship by John E. Martell, Lee Honors College.

"The Udall Scholarship is the nation’s premier award for students of environmen- tal studies and public policy," says Martell. "Winning this award places Heather among the best students in this field. She was an ideal candidate because of her superior academic achievements combined with a long history of commitment to environ- mental projects and organizations. And she radiates the ethical quality, political acumen and social commitment the judges of all prestigious scholarships look for in candidates."

More than 400 undergraduate students applied for Udall Scholarships this year. Other winners hail from institutions such as Harvard, Duke, Cornell and Georgetown universities. Gott is one of only two college students from Michigan to receive a 2000-01 award.

Established by Congress in 1992 to honor the late Arizona congressman and his legacy of public service, the Morris K. Udall Foundation operates an educa- tional scholarship program designed to provide opportunities for outstanding U.S. students with excellent academic records. Scholarships are granted to those who demonstrate a commitment to fields related to the environment, and to Native American and Alaska Native students in fields related to health care and tribal public policy.
The Sky Broncos last won the national championship in 1998. "Our chances this year look very good," says Ryan Seiler, Sky Bronco head coach. He has many members from last year's team as seniors, including 10 of the 14 that earned points. Team points are earned by the top three placements at the national event.

"We’re a little more seasoned than last year, and we have two strong returnees as captains of the team," Seiler says another factor in the team’s success this year was the team’s particular focus on navigation. "We’re very strong in that area," he says. "We want to earn points every year we are here and do our best every year."

Sky Broncos placed third, making it the team’s third trip to the national championship in 1998. It was the team’s first national championship win. "It was amazing, an absolute dream," Aardema says. "We were so happy and proud to be able to win the championship in 1998.

Aardema earned a bachelor’s degree in Air Force cybernetics from WMU in 1998 and a master’s degree in manufacturing administration from WMU in 1985. He also earned a diploma from the U.S. Air Force Command and Staff College in 1989.

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"Many people operate in cyberspace and cyberculture without realizing the difference of being in the two realms," says Adrian N. Mihalache, a Romanian scholar who has been a Fulbright Scholar at WMU since 2000. "This is obvious, but to me it seems that it is the same phenomenon that happened when urban culture was developing."

"At first I thought information technology had developed some cultural meanings which were about to change the society at large," says Mihalache. "Instead, I saw that if was not the changing of a culture but the advent of a new culture, an alternative to the real life culture. People who live in cyberculture are also part of real life. It is a different way of existing."

"When people still had something to do with nature—they still ate vegetables and meat—but the most meaningful part of their lives was spent in banks, in libraries in industrial companies, which is another space. You cannot feel and touch cybertulture, but it is real culture—another space."

This is part of his research, he is collaborat- ing on a book, "The Ethnology of Cyberspace," with Arthur Helweg, anthropologist. Helweg and Mihalache met while working together on an academic collabora- tion in 1993 at the Black Sea University of Technology in Romania. In addition to proving that cybertulture is evolving as a "real life" culture, the scholars seek to compare and explain similarities between cyberspace communities and communities in the "real world." Mihalache and Helweg have already presented and published several of their papers.
Obituaries

Philip S. Denenfeld, WMU provost and vice president for academic affairs, died May 4 in Kalamazoo. He was 79.

Denenfeld retired at the end of 1996, after serving 26 years as a member of the faculty. He joined the faculty in 1960 as assistant professor of English. He was a longtime member of the Michigan Civil Liberties Union and served as chairman of that organization from 1963 to 1970 and from 1983 to 1985.

Denenfeld also served for a period on the national staff of the Washington, D.C., office of the American Association of University Professors and was the first chairperson of the AAUP's Special Committee on the President's Task Force on the Status of Women. He also served as professor, professor, associate dean in the office of the American Association of University task forces and committees, and he served as acting president of WMU for a brief period in 1980.

Denenfeld served on the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, and associate vice president for academic affairs. He served on the faculty for academic affairs in 1983. He also served as president of WMU for a brief period in 1980.

Denenfeld headed a wide array of University task forces and committees, and he was active in a number of national organizations. He was a longtime member of the Michigan Civil Liberties Union and served as vice chairperson of that organization from 1963 to 1970 and from 1983 to 1985.

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Real estate moves OK’d by trustees

The sale of one piece of property to Kalamazoo College and the purchase of two additional pieces of property in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek were approved by the University’s Board of Trustees April 20.

Acting in executive session, the board approved the sale of 31 acres of land in Oshtemo Township to Kalamazoo College. The land, which came to the University in 1975 from the estate of Estella Buckham, is located near M-43 and is accessible only through the property of adjacent land owners, one of which is Kalamazoo College.

Trustees accepted Kalamazoo College’s offer of $84,000, the appraised value of the lot. Proceeds from the sale will be used to set up a student loan fund for students in the Food Marketing Program, in keeping with Buckham’s wishes.

Trustees also approved purchase of the Dairy Store building, located at 5040 West Michigan Ave., on the west edge of the WMU campus. The purchase price approved by trustees was $370,000, which will come from the University’s parking system funds.

A third real estate action approved by the board was the acquisition of a hangar facility adjacent to the College of Aviation’s hangar at W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek. For two years, the college has been leasing the hangar, which includes the offices, two classrooms and shops areas.

Trustees authorized the purchase for $400,000. The facility, which is located immediately north of the University’s Aviation Operations Building.

National report lauds University’s HIV prevention education efforts

A national report on model campus-based programs aimed at HIV prevention education is prominently features WMU.

"A national report on model campus- based programs aimed at HIV Prevention Education in Colleges and Universities" is the culmina- tion of a $1 million project funded by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators with grant support from the Centers for Disease Control. The project was designed to identify exemplary campus-based educational programs related to HIV, the virus associated with AIDS, and deter- mine characteristics that make them so successful.

"Regarding Western Michigan University," the report specifically focused on the innovation and comprehensive nature of our program directed by Chris Zimmer," says Scott Musial, assistant director of the center’s Office of Health Promotion and Education.

"Chris is one of the health center’s and the University’s greatest assets. Her con- tributions over the past 20-plus years have been vital to the success of Sindecuse, the Division of Student Affairs and WMU."

"The report reviewed five components of our program and commented on Chris’ powerful and extremely dynamic leadership and her motivation, organization and ability to succeed with limited resources," Musial adds. "Having strong, effective lead- ers who work across campus boundaries is one of the four key characteristics that NASPA concluded are necessary for HIV education programs to be successful."

"The other three characteristics concern the structure of the programs, the provid- ing institutions’ setting and structure, and the direction and support the programs receive from their institutions and indi- viduals within their institutions."

"To obtain a copy of the prevention education report, call the Office of Health Promotion and Education at 7-3723."

Pilot health programs to focus on diabetes, heart disease

Are you a WMU employee who suffers from diabetes or heart disease? Does your spouse, daughter or son suffer from one of these diseases?

If so, the University Health Manage- ment Group invites you to participate in focus groups related to WMU’s diabetes and heart disease management pilot pro- grams. These programs, along with an asthma pilot program, are the health man- agement group’s top priority for 2000.

Disease management is a coordinated effort to provide health care, support and education to individuals suffering from medical disease or condition. The main objective of WMU’s disease management program is to provide University faculty and staff and their dependents with infor- mation about their disease that can improve their health and quality of life.

Participation in the diabetes and heart disease focus groups involves attending a two-hour evening meeting, with dinner pro- vided. The groups are tentatively sched- uled to meet at the end of this month or in June.

Those who expressed an interest in the previously announced asthma focus group will be contacted in the near future.

For further information, contact Linda Spiker, Sindecuse Health Center, at 7-3823.

Rutgers University, where he had been a founding director of WMU's Bronson School of Nursing, who retired last year. Peters replaces Bernardine Lacey, the founding director of WMU's Bihoreau School of Nursing, who retired last year.

Peters has been a WMU faculty mem- ber since 1993. He comes to WMU from Rutgers University, where he had been a faculty member in the Graduate Department of Public Policy and Administration at the College of Nursing in 1962, 1965 and 1988, respectively.

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Facing East/Facing West

Four keynote speakers will share their expertise in East/West relations at the conference.


"I’m really excited about speaking on this topic," says O’Leary. "I think everyone who is involved in business in the Asia-Pacific region should be aware of the importance of understanding the differences in business practices between the U.S. and Asia."

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"Sharing the wealth," Patricia S. Granberry, associate director, Ford Asia Pacific, will speak about "Ford Asia Pacific: The Road to Recovery—Ford’s Strategies and Operations" on Monday. The event is the third WMU-sponsored conference on Asian/Pacific trade issues, the others taking place in 1990 and 1995. The conference is part of the Haworth College of Business’ Asia/Pacific Education Program. That program’s 1999-2000 offerings also include a series of lectures by business leaders with Asian/ Pacific expertise, a study tour to Malaysia and Singapore, and a workshop on exporting to Asian/Pacific countries. The Asia/ Pacific Education Program is coordinated by Hong Kong. Most sessions will include the delivery of three or four papers on the featured topic, with a total of more than 50 papers presented over the course of the conference.

A pre-conference reception and regis-