World's graph theory specialists to connect on campus next week

More than 250 of the leading minds related to the development of graph theory, including those from airline routes, DNA coding and telephone and communication networks will come to campus next week to discuss the latest research in their field. The Ninth Quadrennial International Conference on Graph Theory will be held from June 8-11 at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare and will attract more than 100 world leaders in the fields of mathematics, chemistry, electrical engineering, computer and communication science, and operations research. They have also found practical use in disciplines as varied as economics, psychology, geography, biology and anthropology.

"Much of the development of graph theory and combinatorics has been influenced by the graph theory," Alavi says. In turn, this field has had a major role in the development of computer science through areas such as network design, parallel computing and the analysis of algorithms.

Simply put, a graph is a set of points and the lines connecting some of the points. Graph theory, which explores the relationship between these objects, applies naturally to problems such as determining air- line transportation routes, chemical molecular structure, DNA genetic codes and even the design of telephone and communication networks.

Co-directing this year's conference with Alavi are John W. Petro, chairperson of mathematics and statistics; Allen J. Schwenk, mathematics and statistics; Ronald L. Graham, senior science remem- ber of the Mathematics Sciences Research Center at AT&T; and Don R. Lick, chair- person of the Department of Mathematics at Eastern Michigan University.

The conference is sponsored by WMU and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and its proceedings will be published and used as reference and research tools by mathematicians and applied scientists.

For more information about the event, persons should contact Alavi at 7-4591.

Sky Broncos nab ninth ‘top three’ finish at NIFA

WMIU’s flight team, the Sky Broncos, took third place at the Ninth International National Intercollegiate Flying Association competition that concluded Saturday, May 21, in George, Miss., making this ninth consecutive year the team has earned a top three national ranking.

The 14-member team, which repre- sented the College of Aviation, turned in outstanding performances in the navigation and aircraft recognition events and took second in both the overall flight and ground portions of the competition. The University of North Dakota won the cham- pionship and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott, last year’s winner, came in third. Delta State University was the host team for this year’s event.

The Sky Broncos have placed in the top three at the NIFA championship event of the past nine years and last won the event in 1998. The team finished in third place last year.

"I am extremely pleased with the team’s success," says Dean Richard Wright, avia- tion. "It was a very difficult competition and they did an excellent job in retaining, for nine years running now, their standing in the top three in the country. It was an outstanding performance and I’m very proud of them."

At the NIFA’s championship, team members compete in six ground events and four flight events for a total of 10 opportunities to earn points. Team points are earned by competitors who place in the top 10 in each of the judged events. More than 150 pilots from 31 teams took part in this year’s event.

"Overall, the team did a really good job and put in a very balanced performance," says head coach Ryan Seiler. "We im-

(Continued on page four)
Grants to the University during the first three months of the year 2000 topped $7.5 million, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees April 20. The report noted that the University, WMU during January, February and March reached $7,978,714, pushing the total of grants received during that time to $13,136,988, or $34,136,008.

More than 100 grants were awarded to WMU during the first three months of the year 2000. That figure is almost half of those that were for new projects.

"The number of new grants is an indication of the growth and dynamic efforts of our faculty and staff in the areas of research, public service and instruction," says Donald H. Westerfield, WMU professor and dean of the Graduate College. The largest grant received was a $1,205,000 gift from the Department of Corrections to C. Dennis Simms, head of Health Services, and Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and James Kendrick, community health services, to continue the substance abuse program at Camp Branch in Coldwater, Mich., the state's only minimum-security prison for women.

Middle school mathematics reform efforts by Robert Laing, mathematics and statistics, and Ruth VanMeyer, emergent education and mathematics, received a grant of $161,000 from the National Science Foundation. That figure is more than five times the $272,784 received during all of the previous fiscal year.

Year-to-date gifts for 1999-2000 fiscal year surpass last year's total by $3.2 million.

With three months still to be reported on in this 1999-2000 fiscal year, WMU has already surpassed the total of cash gifts received during all of the previous fiscal year.

According to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its April meeting, cash gifts received by the WMU Foundation during the 1999-2000 fiscal year, which began July 1, 1999, stand at $12,088,346. That constitutes an increase of more than $3.6 million compared to the same nine-month period of the preceding fiscal year. The highest grant received during that period supports the paper programs at WMU, reported fiscal year-to-date cash gifts received from the 33rd Annual Paper Technology Foundation, an innovative new doctoral research program, an additional $631,100 was received through the Paper Technology Foundation, bringing the three-month total in cash gifts to WMU to $4.2 million.

Four gifts of $250,000 or more were received from January through March.

An anonymous donor contributed $602,000 in January to support resources and services for students with disabilities. In March, a partial distribution of $400,000 was received from the estate of Mrs. M. Scherer Endowment Fund. Proceeds from the Scherer endowment will go to the Department of Geography for the geographical research and study of the Pacific Basin.

The purchase of a Paciolan Ticketing System was supported with an anonymous gift of $250,000. The Paciolan system, housed at WMU, is an integrated ticketing network that will be used by arts organizations throughout the Greater Kalamazoo area.

Cotton elected to board of economic development group

William H. Cotton, Office of Business Development Services, has been elected to the national board of directors of the American Economic Development Council, the nation's largest and oldest economic development society.

Cotton assumed his current post in the Haworth College of Business in 1985. He also is di-rector of the Michi- gan Economic Development Council, and recently formed a term as president of the Michigan Economic Developers Association. He was a national keynote speaker at the Michigan Economic Development Course and received the American Economic Development Council's higher education commitment award for his work in building knowledge, forming leaders in building knowledge, and was named to the Michigan Economic Development Council's higher education committee.

Cotton earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from WMU. He is active member of the Michigan Economic Development community, Cotton serves on the Advisory Council for the Michigan Economic Development and on the board of the American Economic Development Council's higher education committee. He also serves on the board of the American Economic Development Council, the National Association of Management and Technical Assistance Centers and Action West Regional Economic Development Initiative.

The American Economic Development Council serves more than 3,000 economic development professionals and the national AEI helps members create sustain- able local economic development capa- bilities that are globally competitive; gives leadership in building knowledge, forming leaders in building knowledge, and serves as a career anchor for economic developers who are—or who wish to be—leaders in this profession. The American Economic Development Council administers the Certified Economic Developer program, which awards the CED designation to professionals who pass a three-part certification exam.
MSEA labor agreement lauded

The University and the union representing its power plant employees were honored recently for their cooperative efforts in building a new workplace partnership. WMU and the Michigan State Employees Association received the 2000 KALM Tribune-News/Kalamazoo Area Labor Management Committee award. The recognition honors the MSEA and WMU for successfully working together to build a labor agreement that will generate cost savings for the University while enhancing job security for employees.

Faced with mounting costs and technology shifts, the University last year considered selling or leasing its power plant operations to an outside vendor, according to Amy Egloff, human resources director. After reviewing proposals from potential buyers, the administration asked the MSEA to submit a proposal to streamline and downsize the power plant operations if WMU retained ownership.

In subsequent months, the MSEA/WMU labor management committee reached an agreement that would reduce costs, reassigned the remaining power plant staff by as much as one third, with retained ownership. The power plant operations if WMU retained ownership.

Campus group prepares for ‘Relay for Life’ fund-raiser

A group of staff members based in the Office of Admissions and Orientation are honoring a deceased colleague by forming a team to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Flexible work hours

Employees interested in flextime hours for the fall must request their supervisor, who will consider departmental staffing needs in making the decision to approve or deny the request.

Employees on flextime will still work 40 hours per week and must begin their workday between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Regardless of the time employees begin or end their workday, their schedule must meet a minimum of 32 hours a day, but may begin their workday between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Faculty Senate’s new leadership team takes over

Ralph Tanner, industrial and manufacturing engineering, who in February was elected as president of the Faculty Senate and University libraries, also took office as vice president. Both will serve two-year terms as directors. Raymond Alleva, management, will serve one year on the board as past president.

The recent focus of the Comp 2000 team has been the change in the compensation system, but there is another component to the new performance management system. The team has been working to build a system that better meets employees' needs while supporting the new compensation system.

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested eligible employees should submit a job opportunity application during the posting period, and may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

PSSO announces name of staff scholarship winner

The Professional Support Staff Organization has announced the winner of its Employees Assistance Scholarship for spring 2000. The winner, Vicky Meinema, accounting services, was given an award of $250 to be used during the spring semester. Meinema has been an active member in PSSO since he has been employed at the University since 1983 and is working on a bachelor's degree in recreation.

On campus

Training for new performance system begins in July

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Members of the various councils of the Faculty Senate also were elected at the meeting. Those elected to the councils on which they will serve are:

• Curriculum Planning and Finance Council: Joaquin Aravanab, paper and printing science and engineering; Mary Anne Binda, educational studies; Kenneth Dautlb, political science; Mary Ann Keough, nursing; Marcia Kingsley, University libraries; David Lemberg, geography; Yvonne Liu, health, physical education and recreation; Johnny Pieritz, music; Werner Sichel, counselor education and counseling psychology; and Catherine Zucha, biology.

• Research Policies Council: Dora Kicabone, educational studies; Iskander Kizilkan, mechanical and manufacturing engineering; and Susan Stapleton, chemistry.

• Technology and Operations Council: Norman Hawker, finance and commercial purchases; Geneva Keough, nursing; Elizabeth Phillips, nursing; Howard Poole, educational studies; and William Rantz, avian studies.

• Undergraduate Studies Council: Jena Guiness, history; Randi Gedeo, University libraries; and reorganization; Elizabeth Phillips, nursing; Howard Poole, educational studies; and William Rantz, avian studies.

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Nearly 4,500 freshmen expected to attend summer orientation sessions starting June 5

By showcasing all aspects of our college community, we provide incoming students with the opportunity to ‘test drive’ the campus,” says Christopher Tremblay, admissions and orientation. “Simultaneously, we demonstrate the personable side of Purdue, and we prepare them for their transition from high school to college life at WMU.

The theme for this year’s program, “Driving in New Directions,” centers on steering the new students in the right direction and showing them all of the routes available at the University.

During each of the sessions, students are divided into small groups led by current WMU students who serve as orientation student leaders and mentors. The purpose of the meetings is to orient students to campus, take placement tests, meet with academic advisors, register for fall semester classes, familiarize them with all campus facilities and get involved in student development and social activities.

Yellow Pages

Electronic theses and dissertations talks set

John Eaton, associate provost for graduate studies and dean of engineering and technology, will visit the campus Friday, June 2, to discuss and promote the development of electronic theses and dissertations at WMU.

An open panel discussion with Eaton and selected members of the University’s electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) team will take place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Commons area on the first floor of Western Michigan University’s Lee Honors College. Students will be able to learn more about the implementation of the project at WMU and ask questions of the guest panel.

Graduate students will have their own opportunity to speak with Eaton at 3 p.m. that day when he meets with members of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee. The meeting will be open to any graduate student who wants to attend and will take place in the Connable Board Room on the second floor of the Bernhard Center.

Last week, WMU officially joined the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, an initiative founded by Virginia Tech and now consisting of more than 80 member universities and libraries from the United States, Canada, the U.K., Germany, Spain and South Africa. As a result of its NDLTD membership, WMU has committed to implementing a two-year pilot project to allow graduate students to submit and archive their theses and dissertations electronically as an alternative to the traditional paper copies.

WMU’s ETD Task Force, chaired by Dr. S. Hossein Mousavinezhad of Electrical and Computer Engineering, began its work in 1997 as a result of initiatives from the following areas: Office of the Vice President for Research, Office of Information Technology, the Graduate College, the Graduate Studies Council, University Libraries, the Lee Honors College and the Office of the General Counsel.

Eaton’s visit to campus is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Dean of the Graduate College. For more information, contact Julie Scrivener at 7-3566.

Rare book

Electronic theses and dissertations talks set

“An English-speaking world.

This donation once again shows the commitment the Tashjians have made to WMU, says Elstob. “WMU had a reprinted version of this book, but we now have a first edition, which is of great value to Anglo-Saxon scholars because it will enable us to conduct research and teach in ways that we haven’t been able to before.”

The book will be housed in the climate- and security-controlled Special Collections and Rare Books Vault at WMU’s Library. According to Amos, the book’s value can’t be determined until it is sold. However, a recent sale of a comparable copy of the same book at auction indicates that the current value ranges between $5,500 to $7,000.

Tuesday, June 6

Visiting Scholars and Artists Lecture, “Alice in K’zoland,” the mathematician of Lewis Carroll, Robin J. Wilson, is the Opening Event. You can also link directly to the calendar at <www.wmich.edu/news/events>.

Friday, June 9

“Phishing” (through June 11), KalamaZoo Film Society, “All About My Mother,” Kalamazoo. For information.

Saturday, June 10

Alumni Reunion Weekend, Walhalla and other locations on campus, call 7-8777.

*Admission charged