WMU study of Lake Michigan coastal bluff could provide Army with new ‘dirt’ on stability

The study of a Lake Michigan coastal bluff by WMU geologists could supply the U.S. Army with new information on the stability of steep slopes in other parts of the world.

Ronald B. Chase and Alan E. Kehew, both geology, have been awarded $176,000 by the U.S. Army Research Office’s Terrestrial Sciences Program to determine the effects of geologic processes on naturally occurring slopes and to develop methods to predict the stability of land being considered for use. A $95,000 award will fund the first year of the planned three-year project.

“The information will have universal application,” Chase says. “Lake shore bluffs like the one we’re studying as well as valley walls around river systems are subject to the same kinds of problems. The Army Corps of Engineers is interested because it has responsibility for slope stability at federal installations. The army also has a need to know how terrain reacts when planning ground maneuvers.”

Chase and Kehew will work with William W. Montgomery, a geology doctoral candidate, to study a shoreline bluff between the Michigan towns of South Haven and Saugatuck. Because the glacial deposits that make up the underground layers of the bluff are exposed, they can easily see and sample the materials with which they are dealing. The bluff rises up to 100 feet above the lake, is about 18 miles long and is in a sparsely populated area where little beach protection work has been undertaken. “There is no other place in Southwest Michigan’s leading public universities is reflected in several measures, including its size and support.

- With a total enrollment of 26,537 students, WMU is the largest of the nation’s 28 public Doctoral Institutions. The smallest is the University of Missouri at Rolla, with about 5,500 students.
- WMU ranks fourth in the state in the level of support its faculty receives for research, at more than $21 million annually, and in the private support it receives annually, at more than $14 million.

New day care center to open

A new day care center will be available to children of students, faculty and staff beginning with the start of the fall semester.

The Children’s Place Day Care Center will open Aug. 28 in the former St. Aidan’s Chapel at 2210 Wilbur St. on campus. Hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The center has openings for up to 40 children at one time between the ages of 2-1/2 and 9. Activities will be designed to meet the physical, emotional and creative needs of children in a safe and secure environment. Special emphasis will be placed on activities that promote a multicultural approach to learning.

Goalball teams here on way to Atlanta games

The Australian and Canadian national goalball teams will come to WMU Aug. 8-10 to play in a three-day warm-up tournament before heading to Atlanta for the Paralympics, a 16-nation competition for athletes with disabilities that is scheduled for Aug. 15-25.

The men’s and women’s teams from both nations will scrimmage against each other and members of WMU’s nationally ranked teams in games set for 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8; 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9; and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 10. The Thursday and Friday games will be played on the third floor of the Student Recreation Center and the Saturday game is set for Oakland Gym. Five or six games will be completed during each of the three times scheduled.

Goalball is a fast-paced, goal-oriented sport similar to hockey or soccer. Visually impaired athletes play the game in an area similar in size to a volleyball court and use a 3.5-pound ball that contains a bell so they can hear it. The ball travels at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour.
Journalist with roots in many cultures to discuss her heritage in Aug. 21 lecture

A journalist with roots in Black American, Jewish, Russian and African cultures will tell her story at WMU in a lecture Wednesday, Aug. 21.

Yelena Khanga, author of the book, “Soul to Soul: The Story of a Black Russian American Family 1865-1992,” will speak at 2 p.m. in 3760 Knauss Hall. Her free address is titled “Soul to Soul: How a Black/Jewish/Polish/Russian/African Woman Found Her Roots.”

Khanga is the granddaughter of two American communists. Her grandfather was an African-American agronomist from Mississippi who became involved in the socialist movement and her grandmother was a Jew who had emigrated from Poland. The two met in New York City and moved with a group of African-American families to Uzbekistan in 1931.

Khanga’s father was an Oxford educated political leader from Zanzibar who was instrumental in that island’s independence from Great Britain. He later helped in the creation of Tanzania before being assassinated in the late 1960s. Her mother helped establish the Soviet-African Studies Institute in Moscow.

Khanga was born and raised in Moscow. She was a reporter for the Moscow News, the most widely circulated independent weekly newspaper in the former Soviet Union. In 1987, she was the first Russian woman reporter selected for a Soviet-American exchange of journalists with the Christian Science Monitor. She witnessed the first Washington summit between Presidents Gorbachev and Reagan.

In 1990, she received the Rockefeller Foundation’s Warren Weaver Fellowship to trace her American roots. Her 1992 book, written with Susan Jacoby, details her family’s multi-faceted heritage. Khanga, who currently lives in New York City, has been praised for thoughtful observations on American and Russian life.

Khanga will spend much of her visit to this area in Battle Creek as a participant in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Expert in Residence Program. In addition to her lecture at WMU, her Kalamazoo schedule includes a book signing at the Robinson Collection, 505 S. Kalamazoo Ave., from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Khanga’s appearance at WMU is being sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, WMU’s Black Americana Studies Program and the West Michigan Chapter of Women in Communication. For more information, persons may contact Benjamin C. Wilson, black Americana studies, at 7-2667.

Distance education publications win awards

WMU’s Department of Distance Education has won three awards for publications it has produced.

The department’s 1995-96 Self-Instructional Programs Catalog was awarded meritorious honors in the Fifth Annual Catalog Competition sponsored by the National University Continuing Education Association Independent Study Division. The department, a part of the Division of Continuing Education, also won two regional awards for a postcard series that encourages students to return to school and for a guide that makes it easier for off-campus students to access University computers.

A panel of eight judges selected WMU for the national award from among 70 entries. Schools were divided into categories based upon their independent study enrollment, and vied for distinguished and meritorious awards. The judges included professional members of the NUCEA.

“The judges really go over these catalogs with a fine-tooth comb. If a school wins a distinguished or meritorious award, they’ve done a good job,” says Leslie Dykstra of the University of Arizona Extended University, chairperson of the catalog competition.

WMU’s catalog was designed and produced by Teresa J. Oakes and Kay D. Fischoff, self-instructional programs. Geraldine A. Schma directs the Department of Distance Education, which includes the Office of Self-Instructional Programs.

Competition judges gave WMU’s catalog high marks for layout, page organization, graphics, pictures, enrollment form, writing and editorial consistency. Schma says the judges especially liked the catalog’s readability and layout.

The regional award-winning postcard series features a “Huckleberry Finn-like” character and provides students who have dropped out of college with information on how they can return to finish their degrees.

The second piece, a computer support program, was created as a joint effort between University Computing Services and the Department of Distance Education. The user friendly guide provides detailed instructions on how students off campus can access University computers via telephone lines and is used by the department’s telecourse students.
Board OKs promotions of 21 faculty members

The promotions of 21 faculty members were approved June 21 by the Board of Trustees. Seven faculty members were promoted to full professors and 14 to associate professors. All promotions are effective with the beginning of the 1996-97 academic year.

The faculty members and their departments, by the academic rank to which they are being promoted, are: professor—Susan Carinella-MacDonald, sociology; Satish Deshpande, management; Judith H. Halseth, social work; Robert Spradling, music; Judith F. Stone, history; Larry E. Syndergaard, English; and Paul Yelsma, communication.

Associate professor — JoNina M. Abron, English; Sanjay L. Ahire, management; Estella A. Atekwana, geology; Alan I. Blankley, accountancy; Liwana S. Satamaria, who resigned.

Hovestadt named to New Position

Stephen M. Keizer has been named assistant director of the annual fund in the development office. Since 1994, he has been assistant director for facilities in University recreation programs and facilities, helping to manage WMU’s $35 million Student Recreation Center.

In his new post, he will assist in the management and implementation of the annual giving program. His responsibilities will include administering the phonathon and spearheading class reunion gift campaigns. He replaces Karen Santamaria, who resigned.

Keizer holds his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WMU and currently is pursuing a doctoral degree. He previously worked in the fund-raising area at WMU as a graduate assistant and intern from 1990 to 1992. He also was a presidential intern in WMU’s alumni relations office and an intern in University recreation programs and facilities.

Exchange

FOR FREE — Carmel, long-haired cat needs loving home. Owner moving. Call 349-1401.


Three faculty members will be guests in the coming weeks on "Focus," a five-minute interview produced by news services. "Focus" is scheduled to air on these Saturdays at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420) with the following speakers and topics: Neil A. Pinney, political science, on political conventions, Aug. 10; Alvin S. Rosenthal, physics, on the Northern Lights, Aug. 17; and Mary Ann Bowman, faculty development services, on teaching Generation X, Aug. 24. "Focus" is also used on a regular basis by WKZO-AM (590), WMKI-AM (1360) and several other radio stations around Michigan.

Shaw book earns research award from national groups

Sondra C. Shaw, assistant vice president for external affairs, has won the 1996 John Grenzebach Award for Outstanding Research in Philanthropy for Education. She and Martha A. Taylor, vice president of the University of Wisconsin Foundation, earned the award for outstanding published scholarship in their book, “Reinventing Fundraising: Realizing the Potential of Women’s Philanthropy.”

A panel of six judges unanimously selected Shaw and Taylor for the award, stating that the book belongs on the shelf of every fund-raising executive.

In “Reinventing Fundraising,” Shaw and Taylor explore the history, dynamics and potential of female philanthropists, arguing that women will increasingly control a vast majority of the nation’s wealth.

The award is co-sponsored by the American Association of Fundraising Counsel Trust for Philanthropy and by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

“Reinventing Fundraising: Realizing the Potential of Women’s Philanthropy” was published in 1995 by Jossey-Bass Publishers of San Francisco.
Rankin photographs earn first-place honors

Neil G. Rankin, news services, has won two first-place awards from an international organization.

The awards were presented at the recent 35th symposium of the University Photographers' Association of America at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Rankin earned a top Publications Award for his work featured in "A Decade of Progress." The five-color publication was produced this spring by the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications in observance of President Haenickel's first 10 years at WMU. It features dozens of Rankin's photographs of campus people, programs and facilities.

He also received a first-place award in the Campus Environment and Landscapes category for his shot of students crossing the Goldsworth Valley bridge at sunrise.

The University Photographers' Association of America consists of college and university photographers in the United States and Canada concerned with the application and practice of photography as it relates to the higher education setting. Its more than 200 members are committed to photographic excellence through continuing education and networking with professional colleagues. Rankin is completing his second one-year term as president of the association.

Geology grant (Continued from page one)

Michigan where you can see that much detail," Chase says. "The cutaway on the face of the bluff is critical for examining the layers of clay, sand and gravel that make up the bluff as well as the fracture systems that allow ground water to emerge at all levels of the bluff."

The researchers will use ground and aerial photography, geologic mapping, geotechnical tests of subsurface materials, installation of monitoring wells to track ground water movement and devices to detect and monitor slope movements. With the data gathered, they expect to determine the strength of the bluff and the force required to erode it. With that information, they'll be able to develop predictions about which bluff areas are most vulnerable to the different kinds of erosion that plague such slopes.

Chase says that typical erosion problems encountered along the bluff include landslides, erosion from water running over the side of the bluff and slumps or cave-ins, which are the most spectacular and damaging evidence of erosion forces at work. Part of the work will involve using current analysis techniques to predict which areas of the bluff will fail over the next three years and integrating those predictions with the information they gather during the project period.

Work on the project began this spring and will continue year-round so that the effects of ground water movement can be monitored on a season-by-season basis.

The Army Corps of Engineers will receive regular technical reports and publications on the project and the researchers expect to contribute information about the study to professional journals and make it available to civilian planners. For the general public, Chase says the work may provide some solutions to erosion problems plaguing property owners and suggest ways to head off some of the pollution problems associated with bluff erosion.

Day care center
(Continued from page one)

The center will be staffed by two professional employees and a number of juniors and seniors in WMU's education programs. The Children's Place is licensed through the Michigan Family Independence Agency and its staff members meet all licensing qualifications.

For more information on rates and registration, persons may call 7-2277. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.