Faculty and staff work to make Kalamazoo a ‘telecity’

Several WMU faculty and staff members are working overtime to assure that Kalamazoo becomes a major way station on the nation’s information superhighway.

At the same time, they may be paving the way for WMU to become a "virtual university," says Andrew S. Targowski, business information systems and executive director of Kalamazoo’s Telecity Development Project. The project is a community-wide effort to create for Kalamazoo a new generation of information, communication, entertainment and other services that will operate along a fiber-optic network and will affect business, education, government, medical care and personal entertainment.

"In the future, WMU may exist only as an electronic clearinghouse for information gathered from all over the world," Targowski speculates.

While such a development may be more a generation away, he and his planning colleagues in the community predict that within the next two years, Kalamazoo residents may get their first taste of communication services that will put the area on the cutting edge of economic development and an improved quality of life.

Joining Targowski on the project are seven WMU faculty and staff members who serve as project leaders and chairpersons of telecity task forces charged with designing a basic framework for the project and adapting the plan to specific area needs. They are: Harley Behn, University computing and communication services, who is working on an adaptation of Cleveland’s Freeway project to bring a community-wide communication network to Kalamazoo; James J. Bosco, education and professional development, who heads the K-12 education task force; David G. Dickason, geography, who heads the area Geographic Information Systems task force; Richard A. Gershon, communication, who heads the policy and planning task force; Neil Lewinski, telecommunications, who heads the data base services task force; Howard R. Poole, medical services, who heads the higher education task force; and Jon H. VanderMeer, telecommunications, who is investigating an electronic intracommunication system.

The WMU participants in the planning project are part of a larger group that includes representatives of civic, corporate, medical and governmental organizations from across the community. Work has been under way since early 1992 when James Holgersen, then Kalamazoo city manager, formed an Electronic Global Village Task Force to investigate ways in which the city could take advantage of emerging communication technology.

The Electronic Global Village Task Force produced a 120-page plan last winter for the next several years. Members of the task force became the core of the current effort, the Kalamazoo Telecity Development Project. Anyone with an interest in working on any of the task forces may contact the appropriate chairperson to find out when they meet.

"Now we are in the process of moving from developing a vision to implementing pilot projects to implement that vision," says Targowski, who also headed the Electronic Global Village Task Force. He says Kalamazoo Mayor Beverly Moore and City Manager Marc Otth have been strong supporters of the telecity concept and have indicated that the project is a strategic goal for the city.

During the next two years, information kiosks around the city may become the first visible signs of telecity for those without technology in the home. More technically advanced residents may be served by a Metropolitan Area Network that would take advantage of the new fiber-optic ring with which Michigan Bell recently encircled the city. Such a development would make Kalamazoo only the second city in the U.S. behind Tallahassee, Fla., to be fully wired in a way that would make it possible for local residents to communicate via video.

"The fiber optic ring is a conduit for information," Targowski says. "With high-speed switching equipment, one personal computer will be able to ‘talk’ to another and transmit video so computer users can see each other while they talk.’

"Our strongest resource," he says, "is the fact that we have about 100 volunteers — each one of whom has the potential and interest to heighten the concept of a telecity that is being born. We want to take each of these volunteers and place them on the right tasks. Without question, this will become the standard in the city in the future. It is going to happen. We’re just making sure Kalamazoo is a leader, not a follower."
Delegation attends dedication of campus in Malaysia

WMU sent a delegation to the recent dedication ceremonies for the new Sunway College campus in Malaysia.

James S. Brady, grand rapid, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, led the WMU delegation that consisted of Howard J. Dooley, Timothy Light and W. Wilson Woods, all international affairs. Richard Pippens, biological sciences, is WMU's resident director at Sunway. WMU is the only U.S. institution of higher education that has participated in the Malaysian Government's "twinning concept" that includes similar arrangements with three Australian universities and one each from England and New Zealand. Under the twinning arrangement, students complete the first two years of their studies at Sunway College before transferring to a cooperating foreign university to complete the remaining years of their degree.

WMU currently has more than 400 Malaysian students studying on its Kalamazoo campus, representing the largest contingent from another country. More than 300 students are enrolled in the WMU-bound program at Sunway College in five core programs: business administration, computer science, mass communications, engineering and applied natural science.

YAB Dato' Seri Mahathir bin Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, speaking at the dedication ceremonies, said, "Remembering Western" by Zack L. York, the home of the McKee Alumni Center.

WMU faculty members.

WMU delegation in Malaysia - James S. Brady, left, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, and Bater earns statewide honor

WMU Dean of Students Bate earns statewide honor

Bate was noted for 30 years of outstanding contributions to education, culminating in the highest professional preparation of Sunway College. He was an example of the "twinning concept" that includes similar arrangements with three Australian universities and one each from England and New Zealand.

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The weekend will conclude with a dinner at 6:15 p.m. and will include the taking of class pictures for students.
WMU to offer new doctoral degree in economics

A new doctoral degree program geared especially for economists who work outside the traditional education system will be offered at WMU. The Board of Trustees April 23 approved a plan to offer a new Ph.D. degree in economic theory, bringing to 18 the number of doctoral programs available at WMU. The first students will enter the new program as early as fall 1994.

The program will feature training in applied economics, highlighted by a series of workshops and a full-year internship in a non-academic organization. It will retain a core curriculum comparable to what is required in more traditional academic economics programs.

The Academic Officers Committee estimates that nearly 25 percent of all social science Ph.D.'s are employed outside academia, "so Prescribed day cares should provide..." the new student recreation facility will be available to students seeking to further their careers in government, business and research organizations. The internship component of the program will offer them the opportunity to apply their knowledge of economic theory and empirical methods to the actual problems faced by organizations such as state, county or city government agencies, consulting or research firms and institutions, financial institutions, businesses and hospitals.

The program requires 90 credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree. It has been approved by the University's curricular review process and has been endorsed by the Academic Officers Committee of the Presidents Council of State Universities.

Arborists earn certification

Chad H. Avery and John W. Dibben, both physical plant-landscape services, have demonstrated professional competency by successfully completing the Certification Arborists examinations administered through the International Society of Arboriculture and its Michigan chapter.

The purpose of the certification program is to improve the level of knowledge and performance of practitioners of tree care. The ISA is a scientific and educational organization devoted to the dissemination of information about the preservation of shade and ornamental trees.

Habitat going to Nicaragua

The Reformed Church in America and the WMU student chapter of Habitat for Humanity are hosting a work trip to Nicaragua July 12-24 to provide water resources to Habitat homes in that country. Persons interested in participating in the camp or in making a donation toward the project may contact Rev. Donald Van Hoeven in Kanley Chapel at 7-2346.

Jobs

The following vacancies are 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 transfer application or sign the appropriate bid sheet during the posting period.

S-01 and S-02 clerical positions are not required to be posted. Interested University employees may contact employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

(R) Refrigeration Repairperson (Repot), M-6, Physical Plant-BME Maintenance, 92/93-211, 6/1-6/7/93.

(R) Secretary III, S-06, Bernard Center Catering, 92/93-388, 6/1-6/7/93.

(R) Administrative Assistant I.P-01, Educational Leadership, 92/93-390, 6/1-6/7/93.

(R) Physical Therapist, P-05, Sinopee Healthcare, 92/93-391, 6/1-6/7/93.

(R) Utility Person, F-3, Bernard Center Catering, 92/93-397, 6/1-6/7/93.

(R) Supervisor, Custodial Services, P-03, Physical Plant-Building Custodial and Support Services, 92/93-398, 6/1-6/7/93.

(N) Key Maintenance Personnel, S-04, Public Safety, 92/93-401, 6/1-6/7/93.

For more information, please call the Applicant Information Center at 7-5070.

WMU is an EO/AA employer.

Media services

During the past year, media services purchased some 140 titles of new instructional video materials for the University Film/Video Library, representing an expenditure of more than $23,000. Each fall semester, requests for instructional materials are collected from departmental offices for purchase consideration. Faculty interested in new video materials for classroom instruction should present their request to the development chairperson.

Additional information on purchasing deadlines will be forthcoming. If you have any questions about this process, contact John Provancher at 7-5074 or Sara C. Evans at 7-5075.

Delivering Diversity," a 24-program series addressing multicultural relations in the United States, has been produced for the University Film/video library. Through discussions and interviews, each one-hour program introduces students to citizens from many diverse populations — Native Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic Americans, African-Americans — to help them understand the different constraints and motivations of people from different backgrounds. To obtain a description of the individual titles, contact Sara Wick at 7-5074. To arrange for a loan or playback of these programs, contact the Media Resource Center at 7-5070.
William Parfet named "Volunteer of the Year"; he and three others honored for contributions

William U. Parfet, vice chairman of the Upland Co. of Kalamazoo, has been named the 1993 Volunteer of the Year by the WMU Foundation. He and three others were honored for their contributions as fundraising volunteers at the seventh annual Academy of Volunteers Recognition Dinner at WMU April 16. Thomas E. Coyne and Russell L. Gabier, both of Kalamazoo, and John R. Strohecker, Granite Mountain, Ga., were recognized as new inductees into the academy. President Haenelke made the presentations.

Parfet chaired the University's $62 million capital campaign, which was successfully concluded in September 1992. It was the WMUK-FM earn kudos in AP broadcast news contest

The news team of WMUK-FM (102.1), the University's public radio station, earned honors in six categories of the 1992 Michigan Associated Press Broadcast News Competition at the AP's annual banquet in April. The station won four first-place awards as well as three honorable mentions, and was the only Kalamazoo radio station to be honored during this year's competition.

Judges for the AP determined two reports were worthy of first-place honors in the spot news category and WMUK won both. The station's news team captured the top spot for coverage of President George Bush's visit to Kalamazoo and Bill Clinton's visit to Battle Creek.

In addition, Tony Griffin and Andy Robins won first-place honors for enterprise reporting with a series on AIDS in Kalamazoo. The series received honorable mention as 1992's best news documentary.

Lorraine Goodrich won first place in the feature category for a report called "Kalamazoo Man," an enterprising gentleman with a unique pitch who sold campaign buttons during the Kalamazoo's major political campaign in Kalamazoo. Goodrich also won honorable mention in the individual reporting category for explaining the problems of the day care industry and among parents trying to adopt children.

For the fourth consecutive year, Robins received honors for his use of natural sound in reporting. His 1992 honorable mention award was for a report called "Flying Minis," a small aircraft now servicing Kalamazoo. The report also won first place for best use of natural sound in the annual Associated Press Broadcasters News Competition at a ceremony in May. WMUK News also was awarded a plaque by AP for being among the top news contributors for 1992.

Van Hoveen leads local group

Shirley A. Van Hoveen, communication, has been elected to a one-year term as president of the Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity. She has indicated that she sees the organization passing through a period of growth where buying more than one or two houses on a street has been past practice. Buying groups of houses as a way to buy low would have a positive impact on entire blocks and neighborhoods. To date, KVHH has built or renovated 31 houses in Kalamazoo.

The largest fund-raising effort in the history of the school. For three years during the campaign, Parfet also served as chairperson of the WMU Foundation, an independent corporation created in 1976 to promote and provide private financial support for the University.

Under Parfet's leadership, annual private support for the University more than tripled during the first three years of the campaign, WMU received more private support than in any previous year in the University's 90-year history.

Coyne, a WMU graduate, was cited for his work in obtaining gifts for a new wing for the Department of Theatre and for the University's new track and field complex. He retired in 1992 as vice president for student services following a 30-year career with the University.

Gabier also was recognized for his work in raising funds for the University's track and field complex. He served as the first president of the WMU Foundation from 1976 until his retirement in 1986. In 1992, he joined the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation of Kalamazoo as his executive director until he retired from that post in 1992.

Teugh was noted for his role in funding three endowed scholarships to benefit students in WMU's paper science and engineering curriculum. He earned his bachelor's degree in paper technology from WMU and has been a devoted supporter of that program for more than a decade. He is a product manager with the Georgia-Pacific Corp. in Atlanta.

Two-month grant total exceeds $2 million, trustees learn

More than $2 million in grants awarded to the University during February and March surpassed the University's fiscal-year total of $1.2 million, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its April 23 meeting. The report noted that February awards of $743,279 and March awards totaling $1,300,943 brought the year-to-date total of grants received to $1,178,936, which is 3.5 percent higher than the total for the same period last year and just 1.2 million in grants received during the first quarter.

Another 205,062 in cash gifts received by the University during March. That figure brings the year-to-date total of gifts received to $3,411,158.

Michigan received during the two-month period was a $421,029 award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek to update the PA curriculum at the University's Institute of Water Sciences to provide three years of support for the Groundwater Education in Michigan (GEM) Regional Partnership Center for the purpose of the center's establishment at WMU in 1989. It is to improve and protect groundwater quantity and quality. and health in Southwest Michigan through adoption-oriented groundwater protection programs. David G. Dickinson and Richard N. Pusser, both geography, will oversee center activities that will include a focus on the Interstate 94 corridor in Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Berrien counties, to address current and likely future risks to the area's groundwater resources.

Other notable grants received included a series of federal grants to provide assistance for pre-college youth, expand training opportunities for workers and support research. A $310,772 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the 27th year of operation for Upward Bound, a pre-college program that provides academic and cultural enrichment to high school students from disadvantaged families to help them prepare for success in college.

A $135,172 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to WMU's Department of Physician Assistant will be used to expand and enhance the clinical rotation sites where PA students get practical experience under the guidance of physicians. The grant will also be used to update the PA curriculum.

A $96,303 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to Billie A. Cheatham, health, physical education and recreation, will continue support of a graduate degree program to prepare students to meet Michigan's requirements for approval as teachers of physical education for children who are disabled.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded $131,790 to Leonard C. Ginsberg, chairperson of biological sciences, and Susan R. Stapleton, chemistry and biological sciences, to support their fourth year of research to determine the nature of genetic changes caused by exposure to alcohol.

State and county grants received during the period included $10,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Minority Equity to continue a successful four-year-old program directed by the WMU's Office of Admissions and Orientation and designed to increase the number of minority students who transfer from community colleges to the University. The Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Partnership Institute resulted in an increase of more than 160 percent in the number of minority students who successfully transfer from IVCC to WMU. The program's first graduates received bachelor's degrees last summer.

Three grants totaling $730,738 were awarded by the Kalamazoo County Human Services Department to WMU's Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults. The grants will support the CDDA's ongoing work in supplying daily living and socialization skills to the county's population of adults with developmental disabilities at four Kalamazoo sites. Activities at the sites include speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, community living skills training and recreational activities.

Also received during February was a $108,522 grant from the Michigan Department of Public Health's Center of Substance Abuse Services to C.Dennis Simpson, community health services and Specialty Programs in Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The grant will fund WMU's continued management of the state's training and certification system for substance abuse professionals.

Among notable gifts received during March was a $29,378 donation to the Department of Chemistry from Robert E. Harmon, chemistry, and a $10,338 gift annuity from Raymond B. and Jean E. Perkins of Belkire, Bluff. His is a retired captain in the U.S. Navy and a 1935 WMU alumnus.

Two-month grant total exceeded $2 million, trustees learned

Wygant wins award for work on MODAPTS language

Robert M. Wygant, industrial engineering, has received the G.C. Heyd Award in recognition of his contributions to and his promotion of the MODAPTS language for understanding work.

Wygant stands for Modular Arrangement of Predetermined Time Standards. The system describes in human rather than mechanical terms the work that people do. Observed body movements and optimum work times are integrated into a computer program with desktop processing capabilities. The system is used for production planning and scheduling, cost estimating and analysis, ergonomic evaluation of manual tasks, and the development of labor standards.

The award was presented at the annual meeting of the International MODAPTS Association in Washington, D.C. Wygant was a founding member of the IMA and has been the executive director since its beginning in 1989. The association is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.