Researchers putting stock in office waste paper

Those office memos you’ve stashed in your recycling container may someday show up in the pages of a newsmagazine. WMU researchers are getting ready to produce publication-quality printing stock from mixed office waste paper under a $1.3 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The first samples, which will be a similar grade of paper to that used in newsmagazines like Time and Newsweek, are expected to roll off the University presses during the next few months.

The WMU researchers have been working for the last two years to set up a process that will overcome the technical problems traditionally associated with such a transformation. They hope to turn the mixed office waste paper from one of the least used sources of recycled products to one of the most readily used sources.

“The reason for picking on mixed office paper is that it is a category of waste paper that is recycled least,” says Ellsworth H. Shriver, paper and printing science and engineering who is directing the project. He notes that only about 15 percent of such office paper is currently recycled, compared with more than 45 percent of such paper products as newsprint and corrugated paper products.

“We’re establishing new capabilities and, with the equipment we’ve installed, we have the only pilot system in the country for doing this,” Shriver says. “The federal government is certainly going to get its money’s worth with this research.”

WMU is the only university in the world with paper and printing pilot plants on the same campus, giving the University the capability of going from pulp to a final printed product. The project, begun in August 1992, is scheduled for completion in July 1996. The initial two years were devoted to acquiring equipment and setting up additional work space in the University’s existing McCracken Hall paper pilot plant to carry out the research.

While equipment for the work was being gathered, researchers sought a representative supply of mixed office paper. Using only campus recycling efforts as originally planned, Shriver says, would not result in a truly representative sample. The researchers turned to a local commercial firm, Michigan Disposal Services, for a sample that is being gathered from a seven-county area around Kalamazoo. Recent months have been spent completing benchmark laboratory testing on that sample.

Most of the new equipment is now in place and University researchers are ready to begin the recycling process with the mixed office paper sample that has been hand sorted into five categories. A specified percentage of each category will be used in the initial testing sample. Shriver expects the first recycled product — the publication quality paper similar to that found in popular newsmagazines — to roll off the paper pilot plant machines in March. By April, tests on the printability of the new product will begin at the department’s Welborn Hall printing plant. Once satisfied with the quality of the initial level of paper product, Shriver and his colleagues will turn to higher grade papers and eventually to unsorted samples of office waste paper.

“The real challenge in this project will be when we move to unsorted mixed office paper,” Shriver says.

The project pilot plant, under the direction of William K. Forrester, has been the site of all of the equipment installed for the project. New machinery there includes a sheeting machine, a paper feed, and a clarifying machine. All will be employed in the research along with some of the traditional papermaking steps such as pulping, bleaching, de-inking, screening and centrifugal cleaning.

Researchers will experiment by varying the order in which the steps in the papermaking process occur as they try to...
PUTTING IN A PLUG FOR PERFORMANCE — Mark A. Els, left, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, describes the testing procedures he is using to evaluate a new premium spark plug to a General Motors video crew on campus Jan. 12. The crew was gathering footage to use in a presentation when the new product — the AC RAPIDFIRE performance spark plug — is introduced to the automotive press at a special media day in Phoenix Jan. 30. Els is under contract to complete independent testing of the high performance spark plug that is manufactured by AC Delco Systems and will be marketed this spring by the GM Service Parts Organization. He also will attend the Phoenix event to demonstrate and answer questions about the test procedures.

Grants support research and public service projects

The University received more than $3.3 million in grants during October and November, bringing this fiscal year's total to $15.1 million. The grants were announced in a report presented Dec. 16 to the Board of Trustees.

The largest single award during the reporting period was a $140,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek to the School of Social Work. The grant will be used to help train school social workers and the social service professionals in Kalamazoo as well as students who are preparing for careers in social work.

Other large grants totaling $681,258 and November awards of $2,648,867 brought the total of external funding received since the July 1 start of the fiscal year to $8,301,183. Of the amount reported, more than $5.1 million was for research projects and $1.4 million will fund public service projects.

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ELs

The Michigan Department of Education awarded more than $1 million in grants for projects ranging from research in the areas of mathematics and science education to programs designed to increase the number of minority students in higher education. Two of the largest grants, totaling more than $1 million, are for academic enrichment education projects that focus on Michigan public schools.

The awards were Higher Education Competitive Grants made available through the auspices of the federal government's Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Program.

One of those awards, a $492,188 grant to Christian R. Hirsch, mathematics and statistics, will support a curriculum and professional development project to change mathematics teaching in Michigan's public high schools. The funds will be used to help high schools throughout the state restructure their mathematics programs by supporting staff development for school-based teams, professional development for teachers and technical assistance to schools pilot testing the Core-Plus Mathematics Project curriculum. Core-Plus is a national curriculum development project also directed by Hirsch and supported by the National Science Foundation.

A $374,600 Eisenhower award to Rob- ert A. Laing, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and Ruth Ann Meyer, chairperson of mathematics and statistics, will fund inservice training during 1994-95 for Michigan's 10th-grade mathematics Inservice Project. That program is designed to update the math- ematics teaching methods of Michigan elementary and middle school teachers to help them accomplish the goals of the Michigan Goals and Objectives of Mathematics Education. A new initiative funded in part of the project is the 1995 Michigan Mathematics Leadership Program, which is designed to facilitate mathematics reform at the middle school level. This program will be conducted at 15 sites across the state through the Michigan Math/Science Centers Network.

Two Michigan Department of Education awards totaling $112,954 were made to campus researchers working toward improving science education in Michigan schools. Richard H. Poel, Center for Science Education, and DeWayne Anderson, education and professional development, were awarded $59,652 for their work on Workshops for Effective Science Teach- ing. The project will involve presenting workshops on science content and teaching strategies to elementary and secondary teachers in five Southwest Michigan focus districts as part of the Michigan Statewide Systemic Initiative. The districts are Caledonia, Delton-Kellogg, Covert, Cassopolis and Benton Harbor. A second grant for $53,302 will fund Poel's work on the Making Elementary Science Happen project. He will conduct a summer science institute and do follow-up support for teach- ers in selected schools in Muskegon, Ot- tawara and Newaygo counties.

Grants from the Michigan Department of Education to the Graduate College and the Division of Minority Affairs will be used to increase minority participation in post-secondary education through the University's Martin Luther King Jr./Cesar Chavez/Rosa Parks Projects. A $14,492 award to the Graduate College will provide funding for four doctoral fellowships to minority students. A $302,827 award will be used by the Division of Minority Affairs to introduce minority children within a 90-mile radius of WMU to the potential of a college education by bringing them to the campus for a series of visits and special events.

Also received during the period were three grants totaling $435,263 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support the continuing work of WMU's Center for Developmentally Dis- abled Adults. The center provides services such as living and socialization skills training to the county's population of persons age 26 and older who have developmental dis- abilities.

Also received were two grants totaling $174,209 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to support WMUK-FM, the University's public radio station.

Travel funds of up to $400 available for researchers

A new program sponsored by the Office of the Vice President of Research is designed to help faculty members travel in pursuit of funding for their research or creative work.

The Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund Sponsor Visit Program has just been established. Awards of up to $300 are immediately available for faculty members traveling to Washington, D.C., or other spon- sored activities. The funds are intended to help researchers support the travel of- fice and to encourage the presentation of research by the faculty member at the University for Research or by calling 7- 8298.

Talk to compare dilemmas faced by Clinton, Roosevelt

A comparison of how the choices faced by President Clinton today regarding the dilemmas confronting him are similar to those confronted by President Teddy Roosevelt nearly 100 years ago will be available in a lecture at WMU Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Pet Arnold, professor of government and history at WMU, will present a lecture titled, "The Dilemmas of the Progressive Presidency," today.

As the first four consecutive terms of the most extensive research on the presidency and executive branch organization, including spending more than half his presidential archives. His 1986 book, "Making the Managerial Presidency: Comprehensive Reorganization Planning, 1905-1913," was awarded the Award of the National Academy of Public Administration.

The presentation will take place at 1-3 p.m. in the University's public radio station.

Research fellowship applications due Feb. 17

Graduate students are invited to apply by Feb. 17 to the 1995-96 University Research Fellows competition sponsored by the Office of the Vice Presi- dent.

The annual competition offers research fellowship awards of $10,000 to graduate students working in mentoring relation- ships with graduate faculty members at the University. The faculty mentors of the stu- dents selected as fellows also will each receive $1,000 to cover project expenses.

The fellowship program was established in 1991 and is intended to improve the scholarly and research environment for both faculty and graduate students, to demon- strate the University's research ca- pabilities and to enhance the quality and character of the academic interaction be- tween individual faculty members and graduate students. To date, 20 fellowships have been awarded through the program.

Five fellowships will be available this year. Applications will be judged on the quality and significance of the proposed or continuing research, scholarship or creative work; the prospect for development of a productive mentoring relationship; the significance of the graduate student’s role in the research project; the faculty member’s recent scholarly and research efforts; and the academic record of the graduate stud- ent.

Funded projects must last at least one academic year and must be completed by the end of the summer 1996. Fellowship funds will be made available July 1, 1995.

At the end of the fellowship year, a University forum will be convened for presentations by recipients. The monograph series of fellows’ projects will be published.

Applications and additional information about the competition are available from the Office of the Vice President of Research. For more information contact Eileen B. Evans at 7-8283. Completed ap- plications will be accepted by that office until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17.

Gifts reported to board

The University received $374,896 in cash gifts during October and November, the Board of Trustees learned at its Dec. 16 meeting.

October cash gifts of $278,997 and November cash gifts of $295,399 brought the fiscal-year-to-date total of cash and deferred gifts to the University to $1,708,615.
Latino students and community service projects will benefit from new grant-funded program

WMU has been selected as the site of a program that will give local Latino students an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, learn about enterprenurship, and help their local community. The National Council of La Raza and the United Communities Fund Inc. have chosen WMU as one of five Michigan sites for Liderazgo en Equipo de Servicio, which means Team Leadership in Community Service. External funding for the project’s first year will come from two groups. The Michigan Educational Opportunity Fund is one of 10 non-profit organizations in the state that also supports the National Council of La Raza to promote educational advancement by Latinos and other disadvantaged groups.

For three college students and a dozen high school students, WMU’s selection as a site means a chance to practice personal development and community service as well as a weekly paycheck. Michelle Martin of Decatur, Illinois, is a Galesburg graduate student majoring in history and an assistant in the Division of Minority Affairs, who will serve as a coordinator and liaison with the state coordinator. She says recruitment of college students for the project will begin soon and the selection of high school participants will begin in February. The college students will work together in three teams to implement community service projects that build leadership skills, foster group communication, increase self-assurance and enrich the local Latino community, she says. The teams may draw from among the 8,000 Latino students and community projects or develop their own community service project to implement. Feasible summer projects may include surveying local Latino populations about health needs, assembling a list of community organizations, and working with university officials to develop bilingual recruiting materials. The issues of gang violence, teen pregnancy and dropout rates in the Latino community also are among topics that might be addressed by team projects.

For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson. The list of positions includes those of professors and associate professors in the departments of Business, Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and Health Economics.

Please call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

Several positions are currently filled, so interested candidates are urged to call for information on current opportunities.

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 eligibles must submit a job opportunity transfer application or position bid sheet during the posting period.

1. (N) New EO Replacement

2. Zest for Life

Zest for Life

It’s not too late to keep that New Year’s resolution of trying to improve your health. Zest for Life is offering a number of programs for faculty and staff. The “Set Yourself Free-Smoking Program” is scheduled for 5:15 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 24–March 30, in the third floor of the Bernhard Center. This workshop will help smokers explore their relationship to nicotine and develop a plan to overcome short-term effects of physical withdrawal. Relaxation techniques are integrated with skills training to help with weight control, preventing weight gain, managing stress and building a lifestyle focused on healthy nutrition.

“Introduction to Meditation” will be offered from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 30–March 20, in 306 of the Bernhard Center. Meditation has wide personal potential to calm the mind and improve one’s ability to concentrate. A groupstructured setting is an important ingredient in nurturing the inner life and can encourage spiritual growth. This workshop, instructed by Frank and Paula Jamison, will provide an experiential introduction to two basic meditation techniques. While the focus is on religious practice, the workshop will draw heavily on Eastern thought and tradition. Workshop sessions will move from meditation to full practice.

For more information or to register for the above programs, call the Office for Health Promotion and Education in the Sindecuse Health Center at 7-3263.

Libraries

The University Libraries are sponsoring a brown bag lunch session next week — and sign up early!

Mark your calendar for noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9. The Department of Human Resources is sponsoring a brown bag lunch session in the Bernhard Center. Those geared up for a little more strenuous activity might consider the “Total Fitness Aerobics” classes from 12:05 to 12:50 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Kiva of the Faunce Student Services Building; or from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and in the Kiva of the Assistance Services Building; or from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays in Room 16 of Oakland Gymnasium. In addition, those interested in a “Chair Exercise” class is back with a new instructor, Rachelle Koester, graduate assistant, and a new location — the Kiva of the Assistance Services Building. We encourage employees of all ages to try this invigorating new class as a great source of stress relief.

The “Swim Technique and Conditioning” program is designed to work with your skill level to improve stroke technique or to teach new skills. The instructor guides the lessons to meet the specific needs and goals of the participants.

WMU employees and spouses are encouraged to join in the fun of the 1995 Kalamazoo Corporate Games (a local office sports league). This year’s event is scheduled for Sept. 15–16. Contact Zest for Life at 7-3262 if you would like to be placed on the mailing list (1994 participants are already on the list).
New service available at Fetzer Center helps make meetings more productive and efficient

It’s a typical strategic planning meeting at the S.S. Widget Co. The dominant person on the staff is monopolizing the conversation, while the new employee with some innovative ideas hesitates to speak up. Can this meeting be saved? It could with the help of a new service now available at the Fetzer Center.

The center, which has offered training programs and meeting facilities to businesses and organizations in Southwest Michigan for more than 10 years, has acquired a software package called "Group Systems V" for use in its computer laboratories. The software, manufactured by the Ventana Corp. of Tucson, Ariz., is ready to provide group decision support for all types of meetings conducted at the center.

The center’s laboratory has a network of "Group Systems V" on which 12 individuals have access. The software enables 12 users to conduct a meeting "electronically" using a variety of tools to brainstorm, generate solutions and vote on options.

The process usually begins with a facilitator posing a question or stating a problem and asking for responses from the participants. All 12 users begin key-boarding their ideas. A primary advantage of the system is that information is being processed simultaneously. So, having 12 people in a meeting all talking at the same time, says Richard P. Atwell, Fetzer Center, "The information flows resistant and the time saved is amazing."

During a traditional one-hour meeting in which only one person can talk at a time, each person in a group of 12 might get an average of five minutes to speak. With the new system, each participant gets a full 60 minutes to speak. In test sessions at the Fetzer Center for such activities as brainstorming groups, they have logged 100 ideas in 15 minutes.

Another advantage of the software is that anonymity and confidentiality are preserved. Users can see other participants’ responses on their own screens and on a large projector screen. But they don’t know who is writing the information.

This feature is particularly attractive for meetings with people from different layers of the hierarchy. Atwell says, because all users can speak with the same authority.

Can this meeting be saved? It could with the help of a new service now available at the Fetzer Center.

Meeting, Education and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 10 a.m.
Meeting, Board of Trustees, Board Room, Bernhard Center, 11 a.m.
Graduate Student Advisory Committee Evening Forum Series, Lee Honors College, 7 p.m.
University Film Committee showing, "Jit" (Zimbabwe, 1993), directed by Michael Jutarwana, thru 26 Jan.
Exhibition, three photographers: Liz Birkholz, Seattle, and Gloria DeFilipps, thru 31 Jan.
University libraries display on the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr., third thru 19 Feb.
Western News, Thursday, January 19, 1995

*Women's basketball, WMU vs. Kent State University, University Arena, 2 p.m.*
*Performance, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, lona Brown, artistic director, Miller Center, 8 p.m.*
*Breakfast program for alumni and friends, "Study Abroad: Students’ Stories About Their International Experience," Christina Sonneville, international affairs, and three WMU students, Fetzer Center, 7:15 a.m.; call 7-8777 for reservations.

Fetzer Center as a leader in meeting facilities," Shriver says, "but I really think we’re going to do some business and we’re going to do it well."