LUNCH HOUR ECLIPSED BY ASTRONOMICAL EVENT—Astronomer Larry D. Oppelger, chairperson of science studies, center, was master of ceremonies for a lunch hour that began near its peak shortly after 1 p.m. For those who missed the view, the next such eclipse visible in Michigan will occur in the year 2024.

Hybrid electric vehicle getting ready for the ‘challenge’

For several months, an area of the Center for Optics Laboratory in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering has been strewn with exhaust systems, tires, suspension pieces, seats and other parts belonging to a 1994 Saturn. But over the past few weeks, those parts have been put back together and the vehicle is emerging from the confines of the laboratory— a car that looks like any Saturn on the road. This one, however, is virtually silent, its silence broken only by the slight hum of electric motors.

A team of students from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences and Haworth College of Business has been working on converting a car donated by the Saturn Corp. from gasoline- to electric-powered. The students believe that when their work is finished, they’ll have a car that should do well at the 1994 "Hybrid Electric Vehicle Challenge" June 14-20 at the General Motors Proving Grounds in Warren.

The HEV Challenge is a North American intercollegiate competition sponsored by the Saturn Corp., the U.S. Department of Energy, the Society of Automotive Engineers and Natural Resources Canada.

Last September, the Saturn Corp. provided WMU and 11 other institutions of higher learning with cars to be used for the research and development of hybrid vehicles and to compete in the HEV Challenge. They will participate in the "Saturn Conversion Class" of the competition. Teams from 30 other schools will compete in the "Ford Conversion" and "Ground-Up" classes. Those teams are either building cars from the ground up or converting donated Escort station wagons from gasoline power to hybrid electric power.

Hybrids use electric motors and liquid fuels like ethanol and methanol for performance, fuel efficiency and acceleration. The cars provide high fuel economy, produce low emissions, employ smaller engines and therefore weigh less than electric vehicles, and are the least expensive and the easiest of all electric vehicle technologies to implement. The vehicles never need to be plugged in, so recharging facilities are unnecessary.

Since the University was selected to participate in the event, the team of more than 75 students has worked diligently to develop a new and improved Saturn. Students majoring in business, graphic arts and computer science are assisting engineering students by securing project sponsors and financing, preparing charts for visual presentations and developing the car's computer system.

WMU student team leader Christopher C. Bennett of Wyoming and David R. Lach of Freeland are confident their car will be ready for the challenge.

"We have a very good chance to do well at the competition," Bennett says. "Our team is pretty confident that we don’t have any problems with our car — and we don’t anticipate any — so we should perform some of the cars that will be entered by the other schools."

The hybrid’s engine appears like a conventional automotive motor. A closer look at the additional features under the hood and underneath the car’s rear, however, tells a different story.

A small 1,000cc internal combustion engine powers the front wheels. The engine is fueled by 85 percent methanol for cruising. The car also features an environmentally safe battery system, which uses a gel acid instead of liquid, and an electric motor for acceleration. Two electric motors are attached to the rear wheels for traction control as well as weight distribution and energy transfer, creating an all-wheel drive vehicle.

"By combining the powerplant strategies of the electric motor and batteries with our methanol engine, we can optimize each to fit the needs of a regular normal driving cycle, including city and highway driving, and utilize the benefits of each system for their purpose," Bennett says.

"In city driving at speeds less than 30 miles per hour, we will rely on our electric motors," he explains. "It will eliminate pollution and save on methanol. On the highway, our car will be able to extend its range by using the methanol engine."

One of the first trials for the WMU car was emission testing in Ann Arbor on May 25. "I’d say so far we’ve jumped most of the hurdles at this point," Bennett says. "We’re right on target."

The HEV Challenge will test the schools on energy efficiency, emissions testing, range, acceleration, urban maneuverability, drivability, written design report, vehicle design inspection and oral design presentation. Cash awards will be presented to the six top finishing schools.

Regardless of where WMU places in the competition, Richard B. Hathaway, mechanical engineering, who is a faculty adviser to the WMU team, believes the University will accomplish more important goals.

"Those goals are to expose our students to new technologies and new ways of looking at the age-old problem of getting the most we can out of our fossil fuels," Hathaway says. "They have learned a lot about internal combustion engines and vehicles in general. Exposure to this helps us to be more productive in some of the cultural hurdles they face during their early months in the United States. Trips to a campus bookstore, a health center and a public laundry is part of their week’s schedule."

Following the campus tours, the international advisers will tour the other three host sites, located in Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania. The group touring the West Michigan site will visit three host schools: WMU and two other institutions of higher education selected by the U.S. Department of Education and the Fulbright Program. The group will tour the other three host sites, located in Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania.

Leja wins Fulbright award for work in Taiwan

A WMU faculty member has won a Fulbright Scholar Award to spend a year in Taiwan teaching and helping that nation develop training for blind rehabilitation professionals.

James A. Leja, blind rehabilitation, will spend the 1994-95 academic year teaching at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, conducting research and continuing earlier efforts to help Taiwan establish its first professional training program in blind rehabilitation.

Leja’s award is one of 2,000 made by the American scholars this year in the federal program that fosters educational and cultural exchange between the U.S. and other countries.

The award will enable Leja, a WMU faculty member since 1986, to make his third trip to Taiwan since 1991, when he was invited there to spend a summer teaching for the Committee for the Blind of Taiwan. Since then, he has been working with Taiwanese officials to help them develop a university program that will train professionals to work with the blind. Leja also has been investigating the possibility of establishing a formal linkage between the proposed Taiwanese university program and WMU’s internationally renowned Department of Blind Rehabilitation.

While in Taiwan, Leja will work with students at the undergraduate through doctoral level in the university’s Department of Special Education. He also hopes to visit the country’s facilities for the disabled and do some teaching to help Taiwanese blind develop a sense of blindness in the context of Taiwanese culture.

"They would like me to bring what expertise I have and I am interested in learning about their rehabilitation system and how disabled persons fit into their culture," Leja says. "Understanding the intersection between culture and disability as well as the politics of establishing a new program for the disabled will help us as we investigate and try to (Continued on page three)
FACING NORTH/FACING SOUTH — More than 120 trade and cultural specialists from the U.S. and countries of the former Soviet Union gathered from May 13-14 for a conference on “Facing North/Facing South: U.S.-Canadian-Mexican Relations and NAFTA.” From left, conference organizers Zahir A. Quraeshi, marketing, and Roger Y. Wang, Tanana Valley Community College, chair of the days “science” panel. Also shown, conference President Haenickly, Ley S. Smith, president and chief operating officer of the Upjohn Co., U.S. Ambassador to Canada James J. Blanchard and David B. Vellenga, howard College of Business. Blanchard and Smith gave opening keynote addresses for the event.

Regional center cited for community service

Staff members in WMU’s Division of Continuing Education recently received two awards from organizations in the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor area.

WMU’s South-West Regional Center in St. Joseph has received the “Superior Leadership Giving” award from the United Way serving the communities of Blossom and Redbud Harbor Country. The honor recognizes consistently increased giving by staff members at the center and the community.

Tanja L. Ryskind, director of the center, has served on two committees of the United Way’s Education community. In addition, she was the club president for educational institutions in the most recent campaign.

Ryskind also has received the “Portraits of Success” award from the Twin Cities Area Business and Professional Women’s Club. The award recognizes her work in helping women entering the workforce. It is given to non-members of the club in recognition of community service.

Ryskind provides career counseling to men and women using WMU’s Career Guidance Inventory, which was developed by faculty members and student notified of a change in grade possible.

Apple award helps update music laboratory

Student and faculty musicians will have new technical tools for music composition and production as a result of a recent award to the School of Music through the Apple Academic Partnership Program.

The award allowed James F. McCarthy, professor of music and director of the school, to establish an ad hoc committee to develop a “coherent grade policy where the grade may be given or changed by departmental instruction only.” There currently is no policy governing the policy.

The senate’s executive board is to develop a charge to the ad hoc committee based on the PCC’s report. It included the suggestion that a faculty committee be established and student be notified of a change in grade possible.

Williams elected to post

D. Terry provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective with the start of the fall 1994 semester.

The new rates are believed to be in the mid-range of such increases among the state’s 15 public universities, said Robert M. Beam, vice president for business and finance.

The increases, which were tabled at the board’s March 17 meeting to allow time for student input, reflect changes in costs for staff compensation, inflation, supplies and debt service, Beam said.

In addition, the board accepted recommendations to close the Draper-Stechschultz dining unit, the smallest and oldest of seven dining units the University operates, and to take Hoekje Hall “off line” for repairs for the 1994-95 school year.

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Funds support scholarship and education efforts

The University received more than $1.2 million in grants and more than $375,000 in gifts during March, according to reports presented to the Board of Trustee April 22. Grants received during the month amounted to $1,231,496, bringing the 1993-94 fiscal year total to $10,731,541. Cash gifts received during the month amounted to $3,251,874, bringing the year-to-date total to $5,152,858 from the Cereal City Development Corp. of Battle Creek to continue support of the Upjohn Co. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, which will be added to the previously established Margaret Black endowed Scholarship in the College of Education. Dorothy Black, who died in June 1992, was a 1932 alumna of WMU who retired in 1972 after 58 years as an elementary school teacher. The scholarship is named for Black’s sister, who preceded her in death.

Major grants supported during March included three awards totaling nearly $4,000 from the Michigan Department of Correc- tions to the University for the Project Development De- partment of Human Services to the University’s Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse within the Department of Human Services. An award for $192,077 from MADC will provide outpatient sub- stance abuse treatment services in five centers of the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek correction centers. The second MADC award, for $192,077, will provide case management for inmates of the Florence Crane Women’s Facility in Coldwater. An $86,283 award from Kalamazoo County will fund case management treatment for cocaine abusers. All three grants are directed toward specific needs.

Defaul t editor on VAX/VMS changed from EDT to TPU

Users of the VAX/VMS computer system should be aware that the default editor has been changed from "EDT" to "TPU." Both the Digital Equipment Corp. and University computing services will no longer offer technical support for the EDT editor.

 Choosing an editor is important for using PMDF mail, confer and editing text files of programs and services. The new editor, TPU, automatically will be set to use the TPU text editor. People using EDT already will not see a change.

Information on how to change from EDT to TPU is available on VAX NEWS and on the University’s Digital Equipment Electronic Conference (DECnet confer). Persons with questions may contact the Help Desk at 7-5161.

WMUK-FM wins awards for broadcast excellence

WMUK-FM, the University’s public radio service, has won nine awards for broadcast excellence and commentary from the Associated Press of Michigan.

In addition, a number of awards for news and sports, as well as the station’s overall performance, have been distributed.

WMUK-FM received the following awards for its work during the year:

- First place award for best newspaper feature.
- Third place award for best sports newswriting.
- Third place award for best newspaper commentary.
- Second place award for best news series.
- Third place award for best public affairs/campaign program.
- Second place award for best news story.
- First place award for best commentary.
- Second place award for best special event.
- Third place award for best news service.

These awards were presented by the Associated Press of Michigan.

Maier book a best-seller

"A Skeleton in God’s Closet," the theological thriller by Paul L. Maier, history, is enjoying the全国性 of its publication. The book has been honored in the religious best-seller list, according to Publishers Weekly.

The book was published in January by Thomas Nelson Publishers of Nashville, the book first appeared on the best-seller list in February and remained on the list in March. The book is a religious fiction category. It currently remains in that position. More than 700,000 copies of the book have been sold. The book is available in a hardcover, paperback and audiotape format, and has been translated into six languages.

Obituaries

Mary K. Johnson, retired from dining services, died April 27. She was 71.

John Johnson, who worked at WMU for 23 years, retired as a supervisor in dining ser- vices in 1985. He was one of the students who moved out of Food at Northwind Apartments, a complex for senior citizens and the disabled.

William C. Van Deventer, emeritus in biology, died May 4. He was a professor in the WMU faculty in 1953 as chairman of the Department of Biology. He stepped down from that position in 1965 to devote more time to teaching. He retired with emeritus status in 1979.

From 1962 to 1979, Van Deventer was a member of the Science Curriculum Committee of the Michigan Department of Public Instruction and chairperson of the committee’s High School Project. His involvement included co-writing a junior high school interdisciplinarian science education curriculum that was sent out in hardcopy to 50 United States and 35 other countries.

On campus

Helping High-Risk Students - Helping first-generation and under-represented students—those that at high risk to not graduate from college—has been one of the major jobs of Susanne M. Ehsen-Burns. She’s the academic vice president for the Student Support Program in the Center for Academic Support Programs.

She has worked at the University since 1992, the year she was appointed from WMU with a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology. Her job is two-fold: coor- dinating tutorials and acting as a student advocate. Currently, about 230 stu- dents are involved in the SSP.

There are two main components: referred by advisers, staff mem- bers in the University cur- riculum office and faculty members. About 50 of the students participate in the tutoring portion of the program.

Ehsen-Burns is responsible for lining up some tutors and making sure they complete a 22-hour training program. She then gets the tutors together with the students in the SSP, "We provide study skills tutoring," she says. "This is the case or getting the students through the courses they’re in. It’s a personalized service.”

In addition to keeping tabs on the students in the tutoring program, Ehsen-Burns is responsible for making at least annual contact with the office of the SSP. Her role as student advocate involves providing not only academic support but other kinds of assistance as well. “Sometimes I’ll talk to the parents of the students,” she says. "Because their children are the first in their families to attend college, the parents don’t understand what college life is like.” Ehsen-Burns says many of the students aren’t good advocates for themselves. "Part of my job is to teach them that they can ask for help,” she says. "And that the kind of work they're doing, the parents don’t understand what college life is like.”

These offices are staffed to remain fully operational from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are scheduled to work during core hours of operation from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Flexible hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The availability may be scheduled for one-half hour or one hour, between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. This office is open to all students and prospective students will follow the policies for extended hours governing their area.

Service

These employees are recognized for five, 10, 15 and 20 years of service to the Univer-
sity.

20 years - Janice K. Argue, grants and contracts; Margaret E. Chapman, mathematics and statistics; Randall K. Lang, printing services.

15 years - Clyde W. Gillette, physical plant buildings and grounds; Nancy J. Johnson, cashiering; and Herman Kuhlmann, physical plant-administrative services.

10 years - Krista J. Cekola, grants and contracts; Margaret E. Chapman, mathematics and statistics; and Randall K. Lang, printing services.

9 years - Krista J. Cekola, human resources; J. Harvey Stewart, media services; and Jack B. Zabel, Waldo Library.

5 years - administrative leadership; Paul Hildemand, technical services; and Krista J. Cekola, human resources; and student services; Kendeis-Toi Marshall, human resources; Denise A. Richards, Felzer Center, S. Younike, Student Services; and Diane M. Snyder, Haworth College of Business.

Jobs

There are no jobs available this week through the Job Opportunity Program. Please call the Applicant Information Service at 7-5465 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies avail- able to external applicants.
Five graduate students have been named WMU Research Fellows for 1994-95 and will receive $10,000 each to complete research projects with their faculty mentors.

The five students, their academic programs and their faculty mentors are: Jeffrey Abraham-Seale, a master's student in philosophy, who is working with Curtis Rhodes, art; Kristin A. Andrews, a master's student in anthropology, who is working with John J. Simon, anthropology; Stephanie D. Miner, John E. Brandt and Jeffrey Abraham-Seale. The fifth fellow, not pictured, is Kristin A. Andrews.

Each project according to the fellowship program will work during a two-tier review process in which reviewers, working independently, ranked each project according to the fellowship program's criteria. Projects were judged on the basis of the quality and significance of the proposed research, scholarship or creative activity; the significance of the graduate student's role in the research; the prospect for development of a productive mentoring relationship; and the academic record of the student and the faculty member's recent scholarly and research efforts.

To be selected, a project also had to demonstrate that it would contribute to the student's scholarship and professional growth and sustain a mentoring relationship that would enrich the scholarly work of both the student and faculty mentor. At the conclusion of the research year, the students must submit a final report as well as a thesis, dissertation or evidence that the research has been or soon will be published in a refereed publication or presented at a refereed conference.

Awards totaling $1,000 will be made to both the students and their mentors for each project, and each student will receive an additional $1,000 to assist with project expenses.

The research and creative projects selected for funding are expected to add to the quality of the body of knowledge in a variety of fields, clarify current scientific discussions of the interplay between archeological artifacts and historical records when studying the town of Plainwell, Mich., to understand the significant social change that has occurred there over the past 150 years.

WMU awarded grants to become host site for critically-acclaimed National Writing Project

WMU has been selected as a host site for the National Writing Project and will begin that critically-acclaimed professional development program for teachers with an intensive four-week training session on campus this summer.

Ellen H. Brinkley, English, has been awarded $15,000 by the University of California at Berkeley to establish a site at WMU and to offer the first year's activities in the university-based program, which is built on the concept of teachers teaching teachers. Additional funds will be matched with funds from WMU and participating school districts as well as with support from other area education organizations.

The WMU site will join a network of 155 sites across the United States, through which 125,000 teachers of grades 1 through 12 have been trained. The program respects the fact that many teachers are very effective and utilizes the skills they already have, Brinkley says. She notes that teachers invited to take part in the summer program are carefully selected through a process of nominations, applications and interviews. Those selected are successful teachers who have potential as promising teachers of other teachers. The program is designed to help each of such teachers broaden his or her perspective, tailored to reflect the ethnic diversity of the area in which it is offered.

As part of the summer institute, the newly-trained teachers are expected to act as a corps of writing teachers who can effectively share successful approaches and practices with teachers. With the help of others trained through the National Writing Project, they plan and conduct professional development workshops on the teaching of writing for schools in their area.

The National Writing Project receives federal financial support and has accumulated $3 million in grants and donations from organizations such as the American Association for Higher Education, the Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Council of Teachers of English and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Drivers still will have access to the Sincaduce Health Center from North Dormitory Road. Access to the residence halls will be off Howard Street, down Valley Drive to Rankin Avenue and Goldsworthy Drive.