Speedy supercomputer to aid in groundbreaking research

The University has unveiled the most powerful supercomputer of its kind in Michigan, a machine WMU purchased with funds through a highly competitive grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Powerful enough to solve problems that conventional supercomputers cannot address, the new machine will be used to aid groundbreaking research.

"With the NSF grant and the equipment it helps to support, WMU moves into the big leagues of supercomputing," said Provost Nancy S. Barrett. "This represents national recognition of our ability to do first-rate work in computational science and thus to serve as a significant resource for both science and industry."

An early collaboration for the center will be with Upjohn, which has formed an interdisciplinary team at the Upjohn-Co. in Kalamazoo, who will be working on several problems of interest to the company, said Gerald M. Maggiora, director of the Upjohn Department of Toxicology and computational chemistry at Upjohn.

"We see these projects as an opportunity to explore the benefits of parallel computation with the help of knowledgeable faculty experts,” said J. Donald Nelson, chairperson of the department of chemistry at Upjohn.

"This new equipment will strengthen our collaborative efforts with Upjohn,” said John A. Kapenga and Elise de Doncker, the computer science, spoke about the great capabilities of the University’s new supercomputer, unveiled at a news conference Feb. 14. The computer, which is housed in Dunbar Hall, can perform 1 billion calculations per second. It will form the core of the new Computational Research Center, which is directed by de Doncker and Kapenga.

"Our ongoing collaboration in computational science and computer science, and the new initiative in computational chemistry at Upjohn, demonstrate our commitment to the advancement of knowledge in science and technology.

Kapenga explained what makes the new machine special. "This powerful supercomputer will allow us to solve problems that are impossible to solve with conventional computers."

"The supercomputer is smaller but more powerful than most other computers,” de Doncker added.

"The supercomputer is one of a new kind of computer that can perform calculations at a rate of 100 times faster than any other computer at WMU."

The supercomputer, unveiled at a news conference Feb. 14, is one of the world's fastest parallel supercomputers. It is housed in Dunbar Hall, can perform 1 billion calculations per second. It will form the core of the new Computational Research Center, which is directed by de Doncker and Kapenga.

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WMU already is offering the state's only live televised master of business administration degree program through a statewide educational network. The program is being offered by the Haworth College of Business and the Division of Continuing Education.

In addition, the new teleport can be leased by commercial clients such as the Upjohn Co., which will use the teleport to support its own worldwide video communications network, and by public clients such as local school districts, libraries and governments. "The Upjohn Co. is our first commercial client," said Frank R. Lamison, WMU technology initiatives. "This is a classic example of cooperative effort between the public sector, the private sector, the academic community, and the private enterprise, and we look forward to working with many other groups and organizations in the future."

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WMU is among several local organizations that have formed PACT — Partners in Advancing Computational Technological Opportunities — to foster cooperation in the development and use of the latest communications technology.

Among PACT members is Michigan Bell, which has announced that it will install a fiber-optic cable network in Kalamazoo by the end of the year. Such a network will greatly enhance the community’s ability to use new communications technology, including WMU’s teleport.

Other PACT members include the city of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, the CEO of the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce, and the Kalamazoo County Economic Development Corporation.

"WMON THE WORLD" — This satellite dish on the antennafarm on East Campus is used to transmit television signals to satellites in orbit over the earth, which then retransmit the signals to ground stations anywhere in the world. The teleport is being used by WMU for its statewide master of business administration degree program and is available for lease to clients in both the public and private sectors. (Continued on page four)

(Continued on page four)
WMU race team again seeking "suns" more for the road

A crew of WMU students will again be racing their solar-powered car on a cross-country race June 26-29, 1993. WMU is one of 13 schools in the state of Michigan that have entered an intercollegiate competition for 36 solar-powered cars that will race 2,000 miles in 11 days between Dallas-Fort Worth to Minneapolis-St. Paul. The cars are expected to average 143 miles per gallon of water at the starting line.

WMU teamed up with Jordan College near Kalamazoo, Mich., and partner with a car from Florida to Michigan in 1990. Their car, "Sunseeker," took eighth place and won awards for sportsmanship and innovative design in GM Sunrayce 1990. The team also captured fourth place in the first Solar & Electric 500 and second in the Governor's Cup Solar Challenge, which both took place in Phoenix in 1990.

Jordan College is now devoting its at-tention to the solar-powered car as a partner for the '93 race, but it has offered to consult with the WMU team.

Richard C. Schubert, Energy Research Institute, who is the faculty adviser for the project, said changes for the 1993 race provide a more level playing field for us. We expect to do even better in 1993 than we did in 1990 because we have experience with the type of car required for the 1993 race. All cars in Sunrayce '93 will use ter-restrial grade solar cells, as Sunseeker did in 1990. Some competitors in that race used space grade cells, which are much more expensive.

"The University hopes to raise nearly $50,000 in cash and materials to fund the design, construction, testing and competition phases of the project," Schubert said.

Schubert is enthusiastic about the edu-cational value of students' work on the car and the experience of engineers chosen to participate in Sunrayce '93, an intercollegiate competition for 36 solar-powered cars. The project is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Schubert predicts that electric and solar cars will draw increasing interest in the marketplace as issues of global warming, clean air, oil spills and dependence on foreign oil continue to make headlines.

A California initiative mandates that by 1998, 2 percent of all vehicles sold in the state must be electric-powered. By 2010, California expects that in some regions the percentage could grow to 5 percent. "It's important to demonstrate that solar power really does have potential in the market," Schubert said.

He pointed out that the existence of solar and electric cars is greater, and maintenance is simpler and less expensive than for conventional gas-powered cars. Solar and electric cars have no raditators, water pumps, carburetors, distributors, exhaust emission systems, hoses, fuel pumps or spark plugs. They require no oil changes — only a battery replacement every two to four years.

"Not much will happen until administrators force physicians to look at the question the way we do," Schubert said. "We believe there is respect from physicians for the nursing profession, but they really need is respect from physicians..."
Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ali- son Lurie will speak at WMU's University Wednesday, Feb. 26, as part of the Visit- ing Scholars and Art- ists Program. She will read from her work at 8 p.m. in 7330 Knauss Hall. In addition, she will present an in- formation seminar on children's literature at 1:30 p.m. on the 10th floor of Spraw Tower. Both events are free and open to the public.


She is also a member of the Department of English. For more information, persons may contact Norman E. Carlson, English, at 7-3263.

Consortium panel to focus on diversity in higher education

A panel discussion on "Cultural Diversity in Higher Education in the 1990s" is planned for Wednesday, Feb. 25, in Room 4310 at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Panelists and their specific topics will be: Earl M. Washington of WMU's Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations, racial diversity; Virginia P. Curzio of Nazareth College, on the increasing role of women in higher education; and Barbara Patterson of Davenport College, on socioeconomic status.

For more information, persons may con- tact Mary Ann Bowman, WMU faculty development service, at 7-5300.

SUSTAINING SOFTWARE SUPPORT — Thomas R. Wolf Jr.'s office in the new computing center will be a "window" over where he spent his first few weeks on the job at WMU. When he joined the staff of what was then administrative data processing, a huge new computer, his temporary office was in a base- ment apartment. For the job that will ap-propriation programmer/analyst with University computing service, Wolf worked for a loan or a back bank before arriving at his alma mater. "Here, I work with someone for a few months, then I'm on to another department," he says. "I'm not stuck in one niche for years — that's so re- freshing compared to other jobs I've had." In his spare time, Wolf participates in Corporate Olympics as the event captain for basketball. He is also involved in WMU's Zest for Life program and in Gull Lake city league basketball. In addition, Wolf is taking some graduate classes in environmental studies in order to "make more informed decisions about issues to me that are pretty critical."

Media Services

Chrysa K. Richards has joined the Office of Faculty Development Services at Sangen Hall as half-time secretary to coordinator Mary Ann Bowman. Richards transferred from the psychology and area development area in the Department of Human Resources. For information about our faculty development services, call her at 7-5305 between 8 a.m. and noon.

The 30-volume "JVC Video Anthology of World Music and Dance" presents the cultures of more than 100 countries through their unique music and dance and colorful costumes. This series, recently acquired by the University video tape library, is divided into nine major world regions: Asia (excluding Japan); the Middle East; Europe; the Soviet Union, the Americas; and Oceania. For more information, persons may contact Frank R. Jamison, human resources, at 7-5070.

Obituary

Helen E. Master, editor in English, died Feb. 8 in Rochester, Minn. She was 93.

Master was a faculty member at WMU, 1955-90, and became involved in volunteer work as a reader to the blind, a reader in music and a book reader at the Rochester Public Library.

Media

Benjamin C. Wilson, Black Americana Studies Program, discusses the influence of African-American culture on today's music. "Focus," a five-minute interview proj- ect, will be released at 12:10-12:45 p.m. at the University videotape library, is divided searching features, such as searching for multiple concepts at once, limiting articles to a certain range of dates or searching for articles in a given language.

Guides on searching all of the WEST- NET components as well as how to access the system from outside the libraries can be obtained in the Wald Library central reference desk.

For more information, persons may con- tact Frank R. Jamison, human resource systems, at 7-3620.

MEMORIAL contributions may be made to the WMU's Zest for Life program and the Rochester Public Library.

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Human Resources

Essential Communication Skills seminar offered

Do your fingers (or eyes) ever trip up you on your grammar? Here's a chance to learn how to use proper nouns, commas and contractions we all make from 12:10 to 12:45 p.m. Wednes- day, Feb. 26, in the Red Rooms of the student center. Bernadine P. Branshaw, both business infor- mation systems, will present the seminar in the Essential Communication Skills seminar series, "Writing With Confidence: Gram- mar.

All employees are invited to bring their lunch pails and pens to this seminar which is sponsored jointly by the Administrative Pro- fessional Association, the Clerical/Technical Organization and the Department of Human Resources. Future sessions are: "Knowing Where to Pause: Punctuation," March 11, and "Building Relationships," April 15.

To enroll, call Doris J. Moore, human resources, at 7-5266.
Saturday/26

*Black History Month play, "The Meeting," with Von H. Washington, theatre, as Malcolm X, and John McCants, Civic Black Theatre, as Martin Luther King Jr., Dalton Center Recital Hall, 7 p.m. *Visiting Scholars and Artists Program presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alison Lurie, "Informalism and Children's Literature," 1000 Friedmann Hall, 7 p.m.

Sunday/27

*Black History Month play, "The Meeting," with Von H. Washington, theatre, as Malcolm X, and John McCants, Civic Black Theatre, as Martin Luther King Jr., Dalton Center Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. *Assignment confirmed

Student-run restaurant open in Kohrman Hall

Healthful meals served in surroundings that bear a touch of Japan are in store for Kalamazoo area lunch crowds visiting a special student-run restaurant open now.

Kimono, a restaurant operated by students from the Department of Consumer Resources and Technology, will be open for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The restaurant offers experience in service that is a part of the Kohrman experience.

This is the fifth year of operation for the popular restaurant that is designed to give students in food service and interior design programs an opportunity to gain required experience for their future professions. The food is prepared and served by dietetic and food service majors enrolled in a "Quantity Foods" class taught by Donna J. VanWestrienen, consumer resources and technology.

The decor is the product of senior interior design majors, who based their plans on a number of Japanese kimono that were loaned for display in the restaurant. The design students worked under the guidance of Mary Jo Peterson, consumer resources and technology.

The lunchroom menu varies daily at Kimo-

res and reservations are required because of limited seating. To make reservations or for more information, persons may call the Department of Consumer Resources and Technology at 7-3704.

Student-run restaurant open in Kohrman Hall

SERVICE WEEK — Students involved in volunteer service projects were honored at a reception Feb. 13 in the Bernhard Center. The event was part of Service Week, which took place Feb. 10-13 and was designed to encourage student volunteerism. From left, President Haenick recognized the week's events.

Haenick plans to be available in his office, 3060 Seibert Administration Building, any time of day or evening.

Open office hours today

President Haenick will conduct open office hours from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 20, to provide students, faculty and staff with an opportunity to stop by and visit him with any topic of concern.

Haenick plans to be available in his office, 3060 Seibert Administration Building, any time of day or evening.

Individuals may visit without making an appointment and will not be restricted in time unless others are waiting.

Persons may call the Office of the President at 7-2351 to make sure Haenick is on campus during activities prior to the allotted time.