

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY WESTERN NEWS

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Electronic conferencing system debuts at WMU before national introduction

A new electronic conferencing system that is expected to be introduced nationally soon is undergoing its final test at WMU.

After 18 months of developmental work, WMU's Academic Computer Center staff, in concert with Robert Parnes, president of Advertel Communication Systems Inc., unveiled "Confer V" on the campus July 14.

Confer V is a computer teleconferencing system based on the highly successful Confer II system developed by Advertel and first used at the University of Michigan. The new system is designed for use on Digital's VAX/VMS computers, offering conferencing capabilities to a wider range of computer users. The original system was developed for use on IBM equipment.

Confer V has been tested internally by the Academic Computer Center. The July 14 de-

but for 25-30 regular users of computer conferencing marked the beginning of a final campus test before Advertel releases the new product on the national market. Confer V will allow institutions with VAX/VMS equipment to enjoy the same computer conferencing system that now serves the U.S. Army, the Hewlett-Packard Co. and the Kellogg Foundation, among others.

Parnes, the creator of Confer II, says that his Ann Arbor firm, Advertel, plans to begin aggressively marketing the system in the fall but expects initial inroads in the market to be made as a result of the same kind of "word of mouth" advertising that characterized the early years of Confer II's existence. He is aware of a number of VAX-based organizations already interested in the system that he characterizes as "a powerful tool."

In addition to conferencing, Confer V includes such features as electronic mail, data base management and information storage and retrieval, according to Thomas C. Gabriele, Academic Computer Center. Since the system operates from a mainframe computer, it is capable of gathering and storing information from hundreds of groups or conferences operating simultaneously.

According to Gabriele, computer conferencing is a tool designed to facilitate dialogue on any topic. The use of computer conferencing can alleviate the geographic and time constraints that arise when members of a conference try to physically meet to discuss a topic. Using computers, conference members can take part in discussions from any location and at any convenient time.

Since its introduction at U. of M. in 1975, Gabriele says Confer II has come to be recognized as "the premier conferencing system nationwide." In fact, he says, Confer II has been widely copied and used by organizations that wanted access to Confer II features but did not have the IBM mainframe equipment for which it was designed.

The advantages of the new system are speed, efficiency and simplicity, Gabriele says. Conference participants need little instruction to participate. Confer V also offers a sophisticated indexing or information sorting function. The multi-level in-

dexing or information sorting feature allows material entered for the attention of conference participants to be categorized and broken up into as many as four sub-headings. Each conference member also can sort information and store it according to his or her own indexing needs.

Gabriele expects Confer V's introduction into the computing world to be significant, because of the prevalence of the VAX mainframe in academic computing. He also expects Confer V to open up a whole new world of computer conferencing on campus.

Tuition increase on agenda for Friday Board meeting

The Board of Trustees is expected to act on a proposed 9 percent increase in tuition and fees for fall 1989 at its next meeting Friday, July 28. The trustees will meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the Bernhard Center.

Action on the increase was postponed at the Board's June 23 meeting to allow time for public comment. Under the measure, a Michigan freshman taking 31 credit hours would pay \$2,195 in tuition and fees for fall and winter semesters — an increase of \$180.25 or 9 percent over last year's figure of \$2,014.75.

The Board also will hear a year-end report on grant activity for 1988-89. The total is expected to exceed last year's record figure of \$8 million.

Also on the agenda is a proposed general fund operating budget for 1989-90 totalling \$124 million. In addition, the Board will consider recommendations on new master's degrees in comparative religion and in philosophy, and a new doctoral degree in physics.

Other agenda items include the personnel report and a recommendation to award the construction contract for the new facility to house the Carl and Winifred Lee Honors College.

These Board committee meetings also are scheduled for Friday in the Bernhard Center: Budget and Finance Committee at 8 a.m. in Room 204; and Academic and Student Affairs Committee at 9:15 a.m. in Room 205. All meetings are open to the public.

Affirmative action programs reviewed during on-site audit

Representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program began the on-site portion of its compliance audit at WMU July 25.

David A. Glenn, affirmative action, indicated that the University previously complied with the requirements of the desk audit portion and is explaining its affirmative action plan during the on-site procedure. The desk and on-site audits are part of a routine procedure performed or conducted by the Department of Labor on all federal contractors and subcontractors.

"The on-site discussions will involve an intensive review of our affirmative action programs, results and any issues defined by the auditors from our desk audit submissions or during the on-site visit," he explained.

"We have also been advised that the auditors will request a number as yet unspecified of files (applicants, promotions, transfers, terminations) for review," Glenn continued. "Interviews will be conducted with staff and faculty members as requested by the auditors, along with any employee or employee group requesting an appointment." All such interviews will be coordinated by the University's Affirmative Action Office; requests for appointments can be made by calling 7-5858.

"We believe that our affirmative action program is among the best in higher education," Glenn said. "I am confident that this on-site visit will confirm that national standing."

Seminar offered on island

Faculty and staff members can learn professional publishing tips and relax on Lake Michigan's historic Beaver Island by enrolling in a program called "Publish Your Professional Article."

The week-long seminar, set for Aug. 7-11, is being presented by the Instructional Center at the Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School District in cooperation with the WMU Department of Educational Leadership and the Office of Off-Campus Programs.

Lawrence B. Schlack, emeritus in educational leadership, will direct the program, which is designed as a coached writing experience for participants in any academic discipline. He will cover article development, manuscript preparation and how to draft a query letter. At the end of the week, participants should have an article ready for submission to a professional journal.

Participants will meet daily from 9 a.m. until noon. Afternoons will be free to enjoy the island.

The fee for the course is \$100 and participants may earn one hour of credit through the Department of Educational Leadership. Participation is limited to 20 persons and the registration deadline is Tuesday, Aug. 1.

For more information about the program, persons may contact Schlack at 381-4620 or Jane Kramer in the Office of Off-Campus Programs at 7-4170.

Three join admissions and orientation staff

Three persons recently have joined the staff of the Office of Admissions and Orientation as assistant directors.

Jane Hildebrand Edwards, Terri S. Harris and Vernon Payne are the new staff members.

Edwards will be responsible for recruiting in Oakland and Macomb counties and for supervising a telephone survey taken of students admitted to WMU. Harris will recruit in southeastern Michigan and in Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. In addition, she will oversee WMU's Alumni Ambassador Program. Payne will be responsible for recruiting in Detroit and for coordinating minority recruitment activities.

A 1986 WMU graduate, Edwards went on to earn a master of business administration degree in marketing from WMU this past December. While working on her second degree, she served as a research graduate assistant in the Department of Business Information Systems.

The recipient of a certificate in interior design from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Edwards operated her own interior design firm for eight years. She also has worked as a marketing consultant.

Harris has been a residence hall director at WMU since 1984. She also has served as a



Edwards



Harris



Payne

housing coordinator for summer conferences at WMU for two years.

She was a residence hall advisor at Northern Illinois University, where she earned her master's degree in counselor education in 1984. She earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education from Central Michigan University in 1980. Harris also has been a high school English teacher.

Payne resigned March 14 after serving seven years as WMU's head basketball coach. He came to the University after serving five years as head basketball coach at Wayne State University in Detroit.

He was an assistant coach at Michigan State University from 1974-77 and at the University of Denver from 1972-74, and was a graduate assistant at Indiana University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1968 and was a starting guard on three Hoosier basketball teams.



STADIUM SEATING SWELLS — Workers from Engineered Stadium Systems of Three Rivers are busy this summer installing an additional 5,200 seats in Waldo Stadium. The stadium improvements are needed to preserve the Mid-American Conference's National Collegiate Athletic Conference Division I-A status in football. The \$200,000 project is being funded by a low-interest loan from the league. In addition to the 2,500 new seats being installed here in the northeast end zone, 2,700 portable bleacher seats will be put up in the southeast hill area on both sides of the press box. When completed at the end of the summer, the new seating will raise Waldo Stadium's capacity to more than 30,000.

Calendar

JULY

Thursday/27

(thru Aug. 4) Exhibition of paintings and constructed pieces by Leo Payton, 1240 Seibert Administration Building, weekdays, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.

*(thru 29) Seventh annual ballet teacher seminar and student conference in the Russian method, Dalton Center, all day; concluding workshop performance, Multi-Media Room, Dalton Center, 7 p.m. Friday, July 28.

Friday/28

Meeting, Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 8 a.m.

Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, 205 Bernhard Center, 9:15 a.m.

Meeting, Board of Trustees, Board Room, Bernhard Center, 10:15 a.m.

AUGUST

Wednesday/2

Meeting, Human Subjects Institutional Re-

view Board, Conference Room C, third floor, Seibert Administration Building, 8:15 a.m.

Wednesday/9

Doctoral oral examination, "Assessment Inequities of Residential Properties in Nine Michigan Townships," Sivaswami Amarnath, public administration, conference room, Graduate College, Seibert Administration Building, 2 p.m.

Thursday/10

* Concert, "Take Six," Grammy award winning acapella gospel singing group, Miller Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

* Admission charged

CELCIS seeks host families

The Career English Language Center for International Students is looking for families willing to play host to three or four international students for an evening. Interested persons should contact Laura Latulippe at 7-4800.

Surplus sale set for Aug. 11

University stores will conduct an open house sale of surplus items from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11, in the HOI Building.

All items will be prepriced for convenience. All terms are cash or check and this is an "as is" sale.

Jobs

The listing below is currently being posted by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested fringe benefit 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 an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

(R) **Secretary II**, S-06, Continuing Education, 89/90-031, 7/25-7/31/89.

(R) **Instructor** (Temporary, 1-Year Position), I-40, Marketing, 89/90-032, 7/25-7/31/89.

(R) **Secretary III**, S-06, Continuing Education-Grand Rapids Regional Center, 89/90-033, 7/25-7/31/89.

(R) **Secretary II** (0.77 FTE, Academic Year), S-05, School of Music, 89/90-034, 7/25-7/31/89.

(R) **Coordinator, Writing Lab**, P-05, Academic Skills Center, 89/90-035, 7/25-7/31/89.

(N) **Project Assistant, Phone/Mail Program** (Term ends April 1991), S-06, Development,

Media

Two faculty members will be guests in the coming weeks on "Focus," a five-minute radio interview produced by the Office of Public Information. "Focus" is scheduled to air on these Saturdays at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420) and at 5:45 p.m. on WKZO-AM (590) with the following speakers and topics: Jay D. Lindquist, marketing, on the problems and benefits of telemarketing, July 29; and Frederick Sitkins, engineering technology, on the role of robotics in the 21st century, Aug. 5.

"WMU Forum," a program produced by media services for Kalamazoo Community Access Television, will air at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, on Channel 32. Host Ronald C. Kramer, sociology, will talk with Robert A. Palmatier, languages and linguistics, and Harold L. Ray, health, physical education and recreation, about their new book, "Sports Talk: A Dictionary of Sports Metaphors." The program will be repeated at: 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, on Channel 30; 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, on Channel 32; and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, on Channel 32.

Correction

Due to incorrect information supplied to news services, the pronunciation for the last name of the new dean of the College of Health and Human Services was wrong in the last issue of Western News. Her name is Janet L. Pisaneschi (pronounced pees-ah-NEH-skee).

Exchange

AVAILABLE FOR BID — Lanier typewriter word processor. Single unit, dual disk drive, 5-1/4-inch floppy disk, 12-inch display screen, self contained desktop unit complete with keyboard, half-page display and daisy wheel printer. Minimum bid: \$350. Call University stores at 7-8806 to request bid form.

AVAILABLE FOR BID — Cordata (Corona) IBM compatible portable computer. 740K, 10MB hard disk, math co-processor, software. Minimum bid: \$750. Call University stores at 7-8806 to request bid form.

FOR RENT — Two-bedroom house, 1340 Burlington, Gull Lake. Stove and refrigerator furnished. \$400 per month from 9/1/89 to 5/1/90 (negotiable). Deposit required. Call Sandy at 7-2714 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., or 731-2386 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE — Pram sailboat. New sail, excellent condition. Call 375-6763 after 5 p.m.

FOR SALE — 1974 Camper Special Chevrolet with 11-foot Dreamer Camper, \$2,500. 1986 Dodge pick-up D-50 with custom aluminum cap, \$4,295. Call 668-2695.

WANTED — Female roommate needed approximately Aug. 26. Must be clean, quiet and non-smoker. Westside apartment, \$240 a month, plus phone and electric. Contact Loretta at 7-6014.

Obituary

Dawn A. King, a WMU employee for nearly 10 years, died July 7 from complications from cancer.

Since 1987, King had been a part-time secretary in the gerontology program. Previously, she was a custodian in custodial services between 1981 and 1987 and a secretary in the Office of Public Information in 1980-81.

A graduate of Michigan State University, she was active in the Unity Church of Kalamazoo. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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Western News is distributed without charge to faculty and staff members, retirees, members of the Parents Association and other friends of the University including students, who may obtain copies at several campus locations.

Deadline: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of Public Information by noon Tuesday of the week of publication. Offices that receive too many copies -- or too few copies -- are asked to call 387-4100. WMU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

On Tuesday, Aug. 1, the employment services office will begin accepting applications for dining services, custodial and grounds positions. All persons wishing to be considered for these positions should apply between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 1300 Seibert Administration Building.