Carbon storage research garners $600,000 grant

Armed with more than $600,000 in new federal funds, a WMU-led effort to store greenhouse gas emissions deep below the ground is picking up steam.

The effort is helping to position Michigan in the forefront of states exploring carbon capture and geological sequestration and is providing the geological background for tens to hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to the state.

WMU researchers, led by Dave Barnes with Bill Harrison and Duane Hampton, and graduate students and staff in the Department of Geosciences and the Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education, have been actively pursuing the security and validation of this new technology since mid-2004.

Their efforts were greatly enhanced by the recently awarded federal earmark of $601,158, which was sponsored by U.S. Rep. Fred Upton. Previous and subsequent grants from the U.S. Department of Energy are contributing to the help Michigan actively address greenhouse gas emissions from stationary emission sites, such as electric power plants, ethanol production plants and chemical and refining operations.

Offices relocate in wake of Bernhard Center project

Several offices have been reshuffled, making room for 35 student groups to take up residence in the new Student Organization Center next to the public cafeteria on the Bernhard Center’s main floor.

The SOC complex includes a pass-through hallway to allow access from the building’s back parking lot and main entrance. To free up space for SOC, Auxiliary Enterprises has moved to Moore, receiving visitors in Room 4046. Plans call for Student Activities and Leadership Programs to relocate to Bernhard’s second floor from the Faunce Student Services Building yet this fall.

In preparation for that move, the Advocacy Office for Transfer Students and Military Affairs is now housed in 1333 Ellsworth, while the Office of the Ombudsman is housed temporarily in 2104 Sangren until its new space is completed in Faunce.

In a related action, the Bernhard programming office, located on Bernhard’s lower level, has been renamed the Resource and Graphic Design Center. The office is more clearly focused on assisting student organizations, and graphic design staff will be available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Landscape services team earns national award

For the second time in recent years, the Facilities Management-landscape services team has been honored for its work by the Professional Grounds Management Society.

Tim Holysz, the unit’s manager, accepted a 2009 Green Star Honor Award from the society Oct. 31 on behalf of the team. WMU was recognized for the quality, challenge and level of maintenance of its grounds.

The Green Star awards bring national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence.

PGMS recognized 16 grounds programs nationwide with its 2009 awards in categories ranging from Residential Landscape to Amusement Parks to University and College grounds. WMU also was a 2003 Green Star Award winner.

“Located in an area that receives 70-plus inches of snow annually, keeping a landscape full of bloom and color can be quite a task. But that is one that Tim Holysz, director of landscape services, and his crew have mastered,” PGMS said on its web site. “The campus is full of landscape life, including fountains, hawthorns, memorials and monu- ments, and water features.”

Assembling WMU’s submission materi- als were Holysz; Steve Root, Steve Kato and Durrell Junkins, grounds supervisors; Tim Sauber, landscape projects manager; Cari Delong, Asylum Lake/environmental and Darrell Junkins, grounds supervisors; Tim Sauber, landscape projects manager; Cari Delong, Asylum Lake/environmental and Darrell Junkins, grounds supervisors; Tim Sauber, landscape projects manager; Cari Delong, Asylum Lake/environmental sustainability coordinator; and Paul MacNelles, landscape services director.

WMU’s submission included photos of the campus grounds, along with descriptions of various sites and landscape challenges.
Applications for MLK grant proposals due Dec. 14

畜禽, which encompasses King's legacy of loving thy neighbor in the face of hate. Applicants will be notified as to whether they have been awarded funding assistance.

Regardless of whether members of the WMU community are seeking funding support, those planning to hold MLK-related events during spring semester are asked to submit proposals for each of their events so that they can be included in the University's publicity for the 2010 celebration.

The upcoming celebration is being organized by WMU's MLK Planning Committee under the auspices of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Tony Dennis, associate director of diversity recruitment for the Graduate College, is serving as committee chair.

An application form for proposals, along with submission guidelines, is available online at www.wmich.edu/mlk and from the diversity and inclusion office, located in 1003 Trimpe Building. Those wishing to have these materials faxed to them should call 387-6313.

For more information about submitting proposals related to the University's MLK celebration, contact Dennis at tony.dennis@wmich.edu or 387-1247 or Jamiesha Quick in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at jamiesha.k.quick@wmich.edu or 387-6313.

United Way campaign surpasses goal—again

WMU students, faculty, staff and retirees came together again this year to show their support for the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, ultimately surpassing their $240,000 campaign goal.

"I attribute this year's success to good leadership and a strong committee of people who really went to work," said President John M. Dunn at a Nov. 12 victory celebration.

"People here get it," he continued. "This is a caring, giving University, with people who recognize that there are many, many needs in the community. Employees and retirees gave $260,000 and counting this year. Of the 1,160 contributors, 262 were people who have never made such a commitment before, and nearly 400 increased the amount of their gifts compared to one year ago. Even students stepped up their involvement this year, selling United Way T-shirts to raise money.

Although this year's campaign has officially ended, the president's office will continue to collect donations of any amount. Employees and retirees who have not already turned in their pledge cards are encouraged to do so now. Contact www.wmu-united-way@wmich.edu for information on making a gift.

Amazing GeoRace scheduled

WMU students will be competing in a timed event testing their geography skills as they race across campus from noon to 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 20, during the Amazing GeoRace 2009. The event is part of National Geography Awareness Week.

Two employee professional organizations schedule holiday-related events

The University's two non-bargaining employee groups, the Administrative Professional Association and Professional Support Staff Organization, have planned holiday get-togethers.

The Administrative Professional Association is sponsoring an outing-of-the-world gathering at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Planetarium from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3.

The family-friendly event will feature a social hour with appetizers followed by a 50-minute planetarium show called "Seasons of Light." The gathering will showcase the recently remodeled KVM Planetarium, which now has some of the most sophisticated digital projection technology in the world.

WMU employees and their guests do not need to be members of APA to attend the event, which costs $5 for APA members, $7 for youth age 12 and younger, and $10 for non-members. Register online at www.wmich.edu/apa by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, and pay at the door. The admission fee will be charged for registrations not canceled by 5 p.m. Nov. 30.

The PSPO has planned a "Happy New Year" holiday social from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

The event will feature a speaker, an optional ice-breaker game and a delicious lunch selection. This year's community service emphasis is Kairos Dwelling, a hospice house.

The cost is $10 for PSPO members and $12 for non-members. Go to www.wmich.edu/pspo to obtain a registration form and a list of suggested donation items for Kairos.

The form and payment are due by Friday, Dec. 4. No refunds will be given for cancellations made after Monday, Dec. 7. Contact Jessica Hutchinson at jessica.hutchinson@wmich.edu for more information.
What do you get when you cross a hard worker with a people person? You get someone like Greg Brown, who holds jobs at both WMU and Kalamazoo College.

A custodian, Brown took a full-time job at WMU in 1976. Since then, his volunteer work at Kalamazoo College gradually turned into an expanding part-time job.

“I’ve started work at Western at 5 a.m. for the past 12 years, and gone right over to Kalamazoo College when I finish,” he says. “I like keeping busy and I like the people I work with here and the people I work with there.”

Brown began his WMU career as a food services employee, moved to logistical services several years later, then joined the custodial staff in 1997. He works on the crew that tends such East Campus facilities as Walwood and East halls and the Campus Services, Earl Wilbur, and Health and Human Services buildings.

“We’re one of the best crews,” he says with pride. “Everyone is just great.”

As familiar as Brown is at WMU, he’s recognized by even more people at Kalamazoo College, where he’s known as “Hammer” and has served as the athletics department’s assistant equipment manager since 1974.

In that capacity, he takes care of laundry and locker room facilities, and is involved with most of the school’s sports teams.

In addition, Brown is responsible for building security at Kalamazoo College’s football field and supervises several work-study students. If that weren’t enough, he also serves as a manager of the college’s baseball team, a role he was asked to take on as an employee in the early 1980s after he had been volunteering with the team.

“I enjoy working at both schools. I’ve been doing this so long I’m used to it,” Brown says, noting that during football season he works seven days a week. “When I retire, I won’t miss getting up so early, but I’ll still work with students.”

Brown is a lifelong Kalamazoo resident. His mother, Helen, taught dance at WMU while his father, Madison, was the University’s first janitorial supply stores supervisor.

Brown is a big railroad buff, and has two large model train sets in his basement. He often travels to busy railway stations to watch passing freight trains loaded with overseas goods pulling cars built in places like China and Korea.

A member of the Illinois Railroad Museum, Brown takes four members of the Kalamazoo College baseball team to visit the facility every spring. He enjoys “going the extra mile” to show appreciation for all of the college’s student-athletes, and even sends cards and homemade cookies to each of them during the holiday season.

### Two student researchers earn Frostic Doctoral Fellowships

Two doctoral candidates, Petra Kohler and John Panos, are the fall 2009 recipients of the Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships.

Kohler, a biological sciences student, was awarded $3,000 for her dissertation, titled “Role of the Inositol and Rhizopine Catalytic Pathways During the Competition for Establishment and Maintenance in the Sinorhizobium melliloti—Alfalfa Nitrogen Fixing Symbiosis.” Her project focuses on rhizopines as inositol compounds, a subject of interest in agriculture around the world.

Kohler also received a 2009-10 Dissertation Completion Fellowship. Her dissertation chair is Silvia Roßbach.

Panos, a psychology student, was awarded $3,000 for his dissertation, titled “Neurochemical Effects of Amyloid-beta Oligomers in Rats.” He hopes his project, a collaborative effort involving contributions from several of the world’s leading neuroscience researchers, will contribute to the understanding of possible causes of neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Panos also received a 2009 George and Beatrice Fisher Dissertation Prize in Gerontology. His dissertation chair is Lisa Baker.

The Frostic Fellowships are given annually by the Graduate College and made possible by an endowment from the estate of the late poet, artist and naturalist Gwen Frostic, a 1929 WMU alumna. The competitive awards assist doctoral students in all fields with dissertation expenses, including tuition and fees, materials, and travel.

### Nine staffers selected to receive fall Make a Difference Awards

Nine staff members have received WMU’s fall semiannual Make a Difference Award for 2009-10, along with $250 and a commemorative certificate.

The University community is invited to honor the recipients during an awards reception at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in 157 Bernhard Center.

The honorees are: Virginia Bowby, Graduate College; Teresa Cleveland, Online Education; Douglas Gray, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; Nancy Johnson, investments and endowment management; Darrell Junkins, Facilities Management-landscape services; Robin Lenkurt, chemistry; Patricia Nelson, philosophy; Kenny O’Connor, Facilities Management-maintenance services; and Paige Warner, First Year Experience.