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Ceremonial Mace Completed

Dr. H. Terry Leeper fabricated the new WKU ceremonial mace in time for the inauguration of Western's new president on May 8th, 1998. The mace was used again for the Commencement exercise in Smith Stadium on May 16th, 1998.

The initial design for the mace was by John Oakes and some design modifications were made by Dr. Frank Pittman and Dr. Leeper. Components of the mace were turned on a lathe. Cherry wood was used for the mace components since the wood is native to Kentucky. The finish was applied by Dr. Pittman.

The mace is complete with a jeweled base of stones that represent each of the colleges that make up Western Kentucky University. Dates have been engraved on the mace that represent significant milestones of Western's past. The mace will be used in future ceremonies and commencement activities.

NSF Project: Virtual Factory components begin to appear in the department

The Stratasys Rapid prototyper was demonstrated in a training session for the NSF project participants. The prototyper uses a plastic filament that is fed to a heated nozzle. The data from the *.stl file is interpreted by the prototyper as it creates "roads" that solidify quickly and become "layers." The roads and layers eventually result in a solid model. The model can be tested to check that other parts join together properly and that the part functions as designed. After the prototypes have been tested and approved, manufacturing can begin. The prototyper will avoid the cost and time needed to build an actual model by hand. Pictured above: a student removing a prototype. Left: an example of the prototypes that have been created with the prototyper.
TSA Regional Competition

Students from surrounding counties engaged in competitions in several areas of technology. The students' skills were tested in the following areas: board drafting, AutoCAD, robotic controls, problems solving, static displays, CO2 car construction, photography, graphic arts, construction, aerospace, technical writing and oral presentations. Over 200 students from 11 regional schools were represented at the Spring 1998 Regional TSA competition.

Digital Camera

The IT Department has recently received a new SONY Mavica Digital camera. The camera displays an image on a small screen which allows you to view the picture before capturing the image. The images are stored on a 3.5" floppy which is inserted into the camera. The disk can hold up to 40 images and the camera is rechargeable.

Teachers and volunteers check the quality of the students' work.

Don't forget to come to Homecoming 1998 and the IT Alumni Brunch.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Send e:mail to IT faculty using the following address protocol. firstname.lastname@wku.edu
Most faculty check their e:mail daily, and are always glad to hear of alumni successes.

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