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By undertaking a multitude of computer networking projects, WKU is traveling the fast lane on the ‘Information Highway.’

Stories and Photo by Bob Skipper

The NEW TECHNOLOGY

Imagine taking a tour of the Vatican, conversing with a colleague in Australia, submitting or grading a term paper or gleaning reference materials from the library, all without leaving an office or residence hall. "Sound like a science fiction movie? It is rapidly becoming reality at Western.

"We are headed to a fully networked, or connected environment in which every student in the residence halls, every faculty member, every administrator and staff member would have access to computer services," said Dr. Charles Anderson, assistant vice president for Finance and Administration.

The University is undertaking a multitude of projects that are keeping WKU among the leaders nationwide in computer support. Those projects include:

- Installing a high-speed, fiber optics-based communications backbone to link campus buildings.
- Wiring residence hall rooms for connection to the campus-wide information system.
- Providing personal computers to every faculty member who wants one.
- Connecting administrative offices into a local area network, or LAN.
- Wiring classroom buildings into LANs.
- Identifying and updating services to be available on the campus-wide information system.
- Establishing network access to CD ROM materials in the library.
- Establishing voice mail and voice response technology.
- Expanding interactive television from Ft. Knox, Owensboro and Glasgow to include interactive TV and conferencing possibilities at the Institute for Economic Development.

"Rather than one or two or three balls up in the air, we have about 12 balls up in the air," Dr. Anderson said.

Western has been aggressively enhancing computer access since 1991, Dr. Anderson said, when an administrative reorganization created an information/technology grouping.

"We have been able to leverage the resources — financial, technological and human — to accomplish a lot within the existing budget and personnel constraints," he said.

Class comments by computer

One aspect of Pauline Jones' technical writing class is to give the students the chance to review and comment on each other's work. A computer program on a local area network is the tool she used for making the review more feasible.

Ms. Jones, an assistant professor of English, has been using a program titled "For Comment," which was actually written for corporate use. The idea came from casual conversation with Dr. J.J. Sloan, WKU's head of Academic Computing and Research Services.

What's Inside

IS FILIBUSTERING CONSTITUTIONAL?

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ABOUT YOU AND HOT OFF THE PRESS

Pages 4 & 5
Traveling the information highway

Once the buildings are wired and LANs developed, computer users will have the opportunity to experience a variety of computer wizardry.

The vision is to provide the user with an easy-to-use menu of services available, from electronic mail, scheduling, access to library holdings, access to Internet and, for those authorized, access to the mainframe administrative computer for budget information, student and personnel information.

"In addition to all those things, there would be a number of University information resources identified and placed on the campus-wide information system," Dr. Anderson said. "Those might include things like the telephone book, the University catalogue, schedule bulletins, job listings in Career Services and other resources."

He said he envisions a system in which "you are presented a menu of icons when you turn you computer on with options for which you are authorized. Then you can easily access those and navigate through the resources available on this campus."

The limits to what can be done once all the technology is in place may be defined by the users

Central Stores, could be filed electronically, saving paper, speeding transactions and creating a more reliable system.

Eventually, the University may invest in "information kiosks," he said. These would be computers users can activate by touching symbols on the screen to gain general information, campus maps and tours, calendar information and other information.

In the future, students may learn to use the library via computer

"The library now does an enormous number of training courses on the use of the library," Dr. Sloan said.

In a joint project with Western's Educational Television Services, multi-media materials are being prepared that can be put on the computer network. A personal computer user could access the information, taking a tour of the library that would include explanations on how to use each of the areas, Dr. Sloan said.

Already some computer users can access the library's TOP-CAT catalogue and some of the reference resources. A project is underway that would bring the library's CD-ROM holdings on line as well, meaning a large amount of reference material will be available to people on their computers.

Computers are not new to the Hill.

Computers are not new to the Hill. Already on campus are seven general access student computing labs with about 200 computers. There are also a number of departmental computer labs that are more specific in purpose.

"Those general access labs provide a ratio of one computer seat for every 61 students on campus," Dr. Anderson said.

"That puts us in the lead among institutions nationally in the provision of laboratory services for students."

Those computers, purchased on long-term lease-purchase plans, are paid for through a student computing fee. They will be updated to the latest technology during the summer, Dr. Anderson said.

"Once we have established the connectivity in the residence halls and replaced all these computers, we'll be among the leaders nationally in providing computing support for students," he said, adding it is appropriate that the many of the resources were first focused on computing services for students.
Computer Logic

Students in Cassandra Pinnick's logic classes spend one of their class meetings in the computer lab in Thompson Complex learning the basics of the VAX network. From there, they can take advantage of many of the network's capabilities, including accessing a news board for their class.

"My hope is that most students will get hooked on the VAX," Dr. Pinnick, an assistant professor of philosophy, said.

In the Introduction to Logic class, which includes 100-150 students a semester, the VAX User's Guide is required reading and students are required to submit some of their assignments via the network. Students can also communicate with each other and with Dr. Pinnick, as well as add items to the news board.

Students also know the times when she is logged into the network and available to give immediate feedback.

Dr. Pinnick said she requires students to keep up with class assignments, even when they have missed a class. Those assignments are posted on the network, along with other important information, such as study questions for exams.

Her reasoning for using the network is two-fold: the computer network helps her with class and the students get to take advantage of the University's computer facilities.

"I'm very pleased with the level of facilities on campus and with the commitment the administration has made," she said.

Looking for something to do?

Call the Campus Events Line for the latest activities on campus.

WCEL (Western's Campus Events Line) is a two-minute recorded listing of campus activities, such as concerts, lectures, theatre productions and sporting events.

It's recorded three of four times a week by Jeff Younglove, Coordinator of Radio and TV Services, in the Office of University Relations. Dial 4620, and find out what's happening.
Society Outstanding Graduate in Gov. Brereton awarded the Bowling Green Rose ond Language Teacher, was Roundtable.

Finance and Administration, has been reappointed by Gov. Brereton. Cindy Etkin has been appointed by Dr. Kevin Charles as a member of the Kentucky Economic Roundtable.

Science, Technology and Health

ALLIED HEALTH

Dr. Ruby F. Meador presented Legal & Ethical Dilemmas in Dental Healthcare to the Northern Kentucky Dental Hygiene Component at Northern Kentucky University last month.

BIOLOGY

Dr. Val Dunham, Department Head, was a member of the SACS Visitation Team for the accreditation review of Southeastern Louisiana in Hammond, La. last month. Dr. Dunham also was elected to the statewide Kentucky EPSCOR Committee last month. The committee reviews and approves grant applications made to the EPSCOR Program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation and State government.

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Wayne L. Hoffman and James L. Davis presented Academic Quality and Chairperson Leadership: Guidelines for Success at the national meeting of Academic Chairpersons in Orlando, Fla. last month.

NURSING

Sue Bryant, Ph.D., RN, presented Elderly Women Coping with Chronic Illness: Perseverance, Withdrawal, Acceptance, at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Chapel Hill, N.C. last month.

Student Affairs

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE

Dr. Kevin Charles has been selected for Fellow Status in the American College Health Association. Election of a member recognizes superior professional stature and performance in the field of college health and outstanding service to the association.

University Libraries

LIBRARY PUBLIC SERVICES

Cindy Etkin has been appointed to the U.S. Depository Library Council's Task Force on the Future of Regional Depository Libraries. She has also been appointed as Legislative Liaison for Kentucky for the Association of College and Research Libraries Government Relations Committee.

Dr. Pat Carr, English, has three books published in the summer of 1993: Bluebirds, a novel from Southern Methodist University Press; Our Brothers' War, a collection of Civil War stories, Sulgrave Press and a second edition of The Grass Creek Chronicle, a novel from Nightshade Press. She has a second edition of Sonalchi, a collection of myth tales from cinco Puntos Press, out last month, and has two stories, Nine Hundred and Thirty Acres, and The House on Pytanya, scheduled for spring publication in Texas Short Fiction and Emrys Journal.


Martha Houchin, MSN, RN, Department of Nursing, had an article, Preparing Students Psychologically for the NCLEX-RN, published in Nurse Educator, Jan./Feb. 1994 issue.

Dr. Tom Richmond, Mathematics, and Darrell Kent have Ordered Compactifications with Countable Remainders appearing in the Vol. 49, 1994 issue of the Bulletin of the Australian Mathematical Society, pgs. 483-488.

Dr. Claire Rinelhart, Biology, is one of the principal programmers in a new book published by the University of Wisconsin Press, Cross-over Concepts and Applications in Genetics, Evolution and Breeding, An Interactive Computer-based Laboratory Manual, authored by J.E. Staub.

The Political Writings of Samuel Putendorf, edited by Craig L. Carr (Purdue University), translated from Latin by Michael J. Seidler, Associate Professor of Psychology, WKU, was published in January by Oxford University Press, 320 pgs., $45.


In addition, Slocum has authored Metal-halogen Exchange Metallations of Aryl and Heteroaryl Ring Systems Using Alkylithiums for the Lithium Link newsletter of the FMC Lithium Division, Winter, 1993-94.

Dr. Dale Wicklander, Professor of Mass Communication, Dept. of Communication and Broadcasting, had his newest book, Can You Say Ma-nip-u-lation? A Taxonomy of Linguistic Plays, recently published by Burgess in Minneapolis.

Person with print-related disabilities may contact Huda Melly, ADA/504 Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Students, 2791, for information about alternative formats for this publication.
Can we outlaw the filibuster?

By Bob Skipper

A study co-authored by a Western Kentucky University government professor says the use of the filibuster in the United States Senate violates the U.S. Constitution.

The study by WKU's Edward N. Kearny and Robert A. Heineman, a political science professor at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y., adds that "it appears that the Supreme Court has signaled that conditions are right for challenging this parliamentary device."

The paper, "The Senate Filibuster: A Constitutional Critique," will be presented at the April meeting of the New York State Political Science Association.

The use of prolonged speechmaking to delay legislative action has been an important, although relatively infrequently used technique, the authors said, adding, "there is little question that its use at key times in the 20th Century has affected American, indeed world history."

"For example, use of the filibuster to prevent legislation to effec-

tuate civil rights allowed a minority to dominate Southern politics until the mid-60s, with consequences that are still being felt in the nation."

Drs. Kearny and Heineman said that the filibuster "contravenes the Constitution and it does so most obviously on two points. First, it erects an extraordinary majority requirement for the passage of legislation in addition to those specifically provided in the Constitution."

The authors were referring to "cloture," the parliamentary procedure by which debate is ended so that an immediate vote can be taken on the matter under discussion.

"The most common means of halting a filibuster today is by the imposition of cloture, which, in most instances, requires 60 votes," they said. "It seems clear that when the constitutional system is examined in toto, the requirement of the cloture rule — that more than a simple majority is needed to end debate — is an unconstitutional arrogation of power by that body."

Secondly, "the filibuster denies the principle of "legislative parity" based on majority decisions clearly implied by the Constitution's specification of the legislative process," the authors said.

The framers of the Constitution believed that parity between the House and Senate "was essential to balancing the different interests that the two houses were expected to represent," they said. "The Constitution provides only that the majority will of the House may be checked by the majority will of the Senate, not the will of a minority of senators. The filibuster, an internal legislative procedure adopted solely within the Senate, clearly disrupts the principle of legislative parity intended by the Founding Fathers."

Drs. Kearny and Heineman said their analysis indicates that the filibuster is "vulnerable on Constitutional grounds though, to our knowledge, it has rarely been challenged on those grounds."

"Moreover, the Supreme Court in the past two decades has been increasingly concerned about the preservation of proper constitutional boundaries at the national level."

They argue that "there is little question that recent cases have signaled the Supreme Court's willingness to insist that constitutional boundaries on the intragovernmental institutional powers of the legislative and executive branches be maintained."

Take the "Chadha case of 1983, where the High Court struck down the use of the legislative veto, even though the practice had a long history and was widely used by Congress," they said.
Calendar of Events

APRIL 9
"Lincoln and His Contemporaries: Photos by Mathew Brady From the Frederick Hill Meserve Collection." Harry L. Jackson Gallery, Kentucky Museum. Circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. (Closes May 22, 1994)

APRIL 19
Western Authors Reception, 2-3:30 p.m., Kentucky Museum’s Galleries K & L. Faculty Library Award presented at 2:30.

About the Authors Reception
On April 19th, University Libraries will host the Seventh Annual Western Authors Reception. This year’s reception, which honors WKU faculty and staff who have published books and articles during 1993, will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in The Kentucky Museum’s Galleries K & L. The Faculty Library Award will be presented also during a brief program at 2:30.

To make sure all authors are included, forms were mailed to faculty and staff on which to list their 1993 publications. The completed forms were to be sent to Connie Mills at the Kentucky Library by March 25.

Authors are now being contacted, and arrangements made to pick up the publications for exhibit at the reception. All materials will be returned.
Contact Earlene Chelf, 5263.

The Faculty Development Committee
The Faculty Development Committee will meet the second Friday each month to consider applications for funding. Applications must be received in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs by the last Friday of each month, dates varying to accommodate holidays.

For application materials and guidelines, contact either your college dean’s office or the Office of Academic Affairs, 2296.

Get your news to us.
Call 4295 or come by
University Relations,
Wetherby 119

Lincoln and His Contemporaries

By Nicole Williamson, Public Relations Intern, Office of University Libraries’ Special Events Coordinator

Mathew Brady is well-known for his photographs of Civil War battlefield scenes, but he earned his living capturing the faces of people who were making history in the 1800s. He once said, “I regarded myself as under obligation to my country to preserve the faces of its historic men and mothers.”

The Kentucky Museum is proud to host a new Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition featuring 60 small-format prints produced from Brady negatives in the National Portrait Gallery’s Meserve Collection. “LINCOLN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES: Photographs by Mathew Brady From the Frederick Hill Meserve Collection” will be displayed April 9 - May 22 before moving on.

Mathew Brady began his photography career in 1844 by opening a daguerreotype studio in New York and soon became popular among contemporaries for photographing the prominent and famous. This proved to be not only beneficial to prominent clientele who were often seeking to improve their public profile, but also helped Brady market this new industry to the general public.

Although Brady didn’t actually operate the cameras, he is given credit for managing the business and mastering the subterfuge often used in his photography to enhance his subject’s appearance, such as stuffing gaunt cheeks with cotton, pasting back big ears, and adjusting camera angles to soften a distorted face.

Most photographs in the exhibition are in carte-de-visite format, because they are about the size of a calling card of the time. In addition to five portraits of Lincoln, images of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, author Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edward, Prince of Wales, ringmaster P.T. Barnum, and Charles Sherwood Stratton, also known as “General Tom Thumb” will be displayed.

The Wedding of Thom Thumb & Mrs. Stratton' by Mathew Brady is one of the photographs on display in the Smithsonian traveling exhibition currently at the Kentucky Museum...
Comming Up

Additional information regarding campus and community events is available on the
EVENTS LINE: Call 745-4620. Add items to Coming Up by calling Lou Anne Beckharn, 2497.

March

30

4 p.m. - Topper Baseball vs Tennessee-Martin, Denes Field.

Freshmen Register for 1994 College of Education, Arts and Humanities. Contact: Academic Services, 4241.

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - KMEA Choral Festival (tentative), DUC 340, Theatre, contact: Joe Stites, 4042.

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8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - KMEA Choral Festival.

Fiction Reading by Peg Steele, David LeNoir and Pat Carr of the English Department. 2:30 p.m., Cherry Hall 125. See page 5.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Special Olympics Reception, DUC 226.

April

1

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Regional Science Fair, Garrett Conference Center 101, Ballroom, Memorial, and Executive, contact: Pat Thomas, 4448.

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - KMEA Choral Festival.

10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Graphic Design Expo, Ivan Wilson Center Gallery, contact: Marsha Heidbrink, 6403.

2

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Regional Science Fair, 4448.

8 a.m. - WKU Block and Bridle, Ag Expo, contact: Jason Pool, 782-7405.

4

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Regional Science Fair.

5

All Day - Corporate Communication Career Day, contact: Amos Gott, 4395.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Careers in Communication III Strategies, Garrett Conference Center.

8 p.m. - "Do" Spring Musical, Ivan Wilson Center Recital Hall.

8 p.m. - The Heidi Chronicles, Ivan Wilson Center RMT.

6 p.m. - Topper Baseball vs Tennessee Tech, Denes Field.

6

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Regional Science Fair.

7

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Regional Science Fair.

7 p.m. - 11 p.m. - Miss Black Western Pageant, Garrett Conference Center Ballroom, contact: Nikita Stewart, 3905.

7 p.m. - Sigma Kappa Greek God and Goddess, Van Meter Auditorium, Scott Taylor, 2459.

8

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Regional Science Fair, 4448.

H Bar Rodeo Company - PRCA Rodeo, Ag Expo, contact Don Bramer, (812) 969-3211.

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. - NAACP Student Chapter Spring Formal, Garrett Conference Center Ballroom, contact: Dr. Cassandra Pinnick, 3136.

10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Graphic Design Expo, Ivan Wilson Center

8 p.m. - WKU Jazz Band, Garrett Conference Center Ballroom.

13

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Health Enrichment Week, contact: Carol Wetherton, 5033.

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - FFA Conference, Garrett Conference Center Ballroom, DUC, 3151.

11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Counseling Advisory Council, DUC Executive, contact: Dr. Dinkmeyer, 4953.

6 p.m. - Topper Baseball vs Louisville, Denes Field. ALL MONTH

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - "Hand Me Down: A Photographic Celebration of Traditional Crafts," Kentucky Museum, through 18.

3 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Girl Scout Cookie Sales, DUC lobby, through 20, contact: Sherry Vincent, 781-3922.

7:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2 p.m., Sundays, Music and Motion, Hardin Planetarium, contact: Dr. Roger Scott, 4357.