

Burroughs Corporation Executive Selected To Head Institute for Information Technology

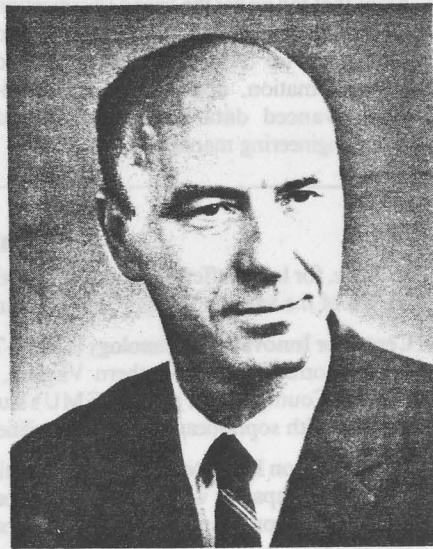
John N. Warfield, a Burroughs Corporation executive and former professor at the University of Virginia, has been selected to head George Mason's new Institute for Information Technology.

Warfield, 58, is an internationally recognized expert on information systems, who brings with him more than 30 years' experience as a university professor and corporate consultant. He will also bring to George Mason the Center for Interactive Management which he founded at UVA in 1981. That Center will become the Institute's first research division in the fall.

Warfield said from his corporate office in Birmingham, Michigan, that he foresees a bright future for the fledgling Institute. "The Institute has to be the focal point for stimulating a lot of activity with an aim to enhancing the competitiveness of industries and institutions in the state," said Warfield. He added that he accepted the position because of "the leadership that the University is giving in this area [information technology]" and "the kind of spirit Johnson has brought to the University."

Warfield will be the first faculty member to fill the Earle C. Williams Professorship in Electrical Engineering, one of two chairs in

high technology established earlier this year. University officials hope that acquiring a leader of Warfield's calibre and experience will help the Institute achieve a national reputation within five years.



John N. Warfield

"It is hoped that Warfield will provide the leadership we need in getting the programs and personnel set up for The Institute," said J. Wade Gilley, general director of the George Mason Institute, which conceived of the Institute for Information Technology and lobbied the Virginia General Assembly this January for the \$1.5 million to get it started.

Since 1983, Warfield has served as senior manager of the University Sponsored Research Program at the Burroughs Corporation in Birmingham, Michigan. Previously, he was a Harry Douglas Forsyth professor of electrical engineering at UVA. He is editor-in-chief of *Systems Research Magazine* and is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

At UVA, Warfield served as chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department. He left that post in 1978 to pursue interests that fell outside the discipline. Three years later, he formed the Center for Interactive Management at UVA, committed to applying principles of engineering and behavioral sciences to the complex problems facing policymakers. The Center relies heavily on so-called artificial intelligence-

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the use of computers to simulate human logic.

When the Center moves to George Mason in the fall, it will be led by Alexander N. Christakis, an associate professor, and David B. Keever, an assistant professor. Christakis and Keever were the Center's top researchers and administrators after Warfield left UVA.

GMU officials said they are delighted to have a research area set to go for the fall semester. "With this Center, we'll hit the ground running. The other areas will fill in from there," said David J. King, vice president for Academic Affairs.

Areas that fall under the broad classification of "information technology," and that could become topics for research, include office and library automation, applied artificial intelligence, advanced data base research and software engineering management.

The University hopes that within three to five years, the Institute for Information Technology will annually attract \$1 million in grants and research contracts.

Warfield is regarded by colleagues as a low-key administrator with a broad knowledge of many technical areas—as an experienced leader who can achieve the University's ambitious goals.

"I think the goal of earning \$1 million is realistic. In fact, I'd say it's essential," said Warfield.

Total state funding for technology programs at the University is substantial: the \$1.5 million for the Institute for Information Technology is slated for 25 faculty and staff positions. Another \$2 million has been allocated for computing equipment, and at least \$10 million has been approved to construct a new science center.

-Grace Yoder

Alphabet Soup

Here, for long-suffering laymen attempting to follow the new high-tech boom at GMU, is a list of the various "centers" and "institutes" that figure in the University's future.

Center for Innovative Technology (CIT)—This is the \$30-plus million research center to be located somewhere in Northern Virginia, probably near Fair Oaks Mall or in Prince William County. It will provide GMU's students with applied-research opportunities, and industry with sophisticated research facilities.

George Mason Institute (GMI)—a consortium of GMU officials and executives from local high-tech companies who work toward goals of mutual interest, such as the CIT (above) and high-tech programs within the University.

Institute for Information Technology—A broad group of high-tech disciplines that will be offered at GMU in the next few years. The Institute will be headed by John Warfield (see story above) and funded by \$1.5 million the state allocated this year.

Center for Interactive Management—It will move here from the University of Virginia in the fall and become the first program within the Institute for Information Technology.