The Telegarden, a World Wide Web-based robotic installation designed in part by Ken Goldberg, assistant professor of industrial engineering and operations research, has been named a finalist for the 1996 National Information Infrastructure (NII) Award for Telecommunication. The project was also a semifinalist for the NII Award for Community. The NII awards recognize, “innovation and excellence in use of the ‘information highway.’”

The Telegarden, located at http://telegarden.aec.at, is an engineering feasibility study that enables remote users to tend a live garden via a
robotic arm hooked up to the internet. Goldberg, who joined the faculty in 1995, designed the project with collaborators at the University of Southern California and continues to serve as a co-director. The NII awards were presented at a Dec. 3 ceremony in New York City. The Telegarden, currently on exhibit at the Ars Electronica Center in Austria, will remain in operation for the year.