Historic gift news covered nationwide

Just moments after WMU President John M. Dunn made a March 22 an-
nouncement of an anonymous $100 million gift to support the new medical
school, the news was circling the globe.

By day's end, the story had appeared in some 160 news outlets, ranging from
the "CBS Evening News" to the Wall
St. Journal and Business Week. By week's
end, the number of local and national stories had soared past the 200 mark.

The official WMU news release was sent on the day of the announcement at 9:30 a.m. to reporters who were on standby to expect the story at such organizations as the Associated Press, the Detroit News and Free Press, Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, and Bloomberg.

By 9:45, with the gift news conference just drawing to a close, the story was on the AP wire and over the next 45 minutes began appearing in the online editions of newspapers and TV stations in Chicago, Anchorage, Sacramento, Houston and Seattle.

Over the next few days, the story was tweeted by national bloggers. Among those forwarding the tweet were Paul Fine, a former senior education writer for the Washington Post and an online columnist for the "Washington Post Education Watch" blog.

"Another 9-figure gift for a Rustbelt public U. Guess there's still money in the Midwest."

Study shows much-vaunted charters not for everyone

A new report released March 31 by researchers in WMU's College of
Education and Human Development and Teachers College at Columbia
University raises serious questions about the high attrition rate of students
across the country who attend the nationally heralded charter school program known as KIPP—the Knowledge is Power Program.

The report, "What Makes KIPP Work? A Study of Student Character-
istics, Attrition and School Finance," also suggests that KIPP relies too
heavily on a large infusion of dollars from private sources, which may
make it hard to sustain the program over time. WMU's Gary Miron, edu-
cational leadership, research and technology, is the report's lead researcher.

KIPP operates 99 schools in 20 states and is renowned for its "no excuses method," by
which generally high-poverty students attend school for a longer day and year than public
school students in more traditional school settings. It has been widely praised by both the
Bush and Obama administrations as a model for a successful charter school and viewed by
some as a possible management option for failing Detroit schools.

But little attention has been paid to the kinds of students entering KIPP schools, the
kind of students who attend the nationally heralded charter school program known as KIPP.

"I am surprised that KIPP gets more money from the federal government especially because
the Chronicle's
APRIL 7, 2011
Volume 37, Number 14
Western News
For and about WMU faculty and staff
Board of Trustees to meet Friday
Consideration of a small residence hall and
apartment rental rate increase and the transfer
of property known as the Northwest
Unit of the former Kalamazoo Psychiatric
Hospital to the city of Kalamazoo will top the
agenda for the next WMU Board of Trustees
meeting. The board will meet at 11 a.m.
Friday, April 8, in 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Grant applications due tomorrow
Grant applications for the 2011-12 Visit-
ing Scholars and Artists program are due
April 8. Visit www.wmich.edu/provost
VSAP for details and an application.

Faculty asked to take part in survey
WMU is participating in the nationwide
Faculty Survey of Student Engagement.
Faculty members receiving an invitation to
complete the brief online questionnaire are
encouraged to do so. Their anonymous input
will help identify aspects of the undergradu-
ate experience that may need attention.

Special pay plan goes into effect
The University's new TIAA-CREF 403(b)
Special Pay Plan went into effect April 1
for eligible employees. Upon resignation or
retirement, payouts for annual leave, sick
leave or other designated payments will
go to a 403(b) created for the employee.
More details are available on the Human
Resources website.

Register for Medieval Congress for free
Kalamazoo County residents and members
of the WMU community may attend the
46th International Congress on Medieval
Studies for free if they register online or in
person by Wednesday, April 27. The event is
set for Thursday through Sunday, May 12-15.
Register online at www.wmich.edu/me-
dieval/congress or in person at the Miller
Auditorium Ticket Office. Those who call
(269) 387-8745 and register by mail or fax
will only pay a nominal handling fee.

Don't forget to use up annual leave
The new annual leave program means
many employees may only carry over 120
hours into the fiscal year beginning July 1.
Detailed information about the new annual
leave program for all benefits-eligible, non-
bargaining employees is available on the
Human Resources website.

Make WMU News your home page
In response to faculty and staff sugges-
tions for more news on the WMU home
page, WMU News was recently updated to
include all the same global navigation found
on the home page. Updated daily for the
past 13 years, WMU News has 10,000 news
articles archived, and posts more than 800
new stories about our University annually.
For the latest news and events, make www.
wmi.ch.edu/news your default home page.

Just one week left to respond to Chronicle survey
With the Chronicle of Higher Education
relying on feedback from faculty and staff
to determine which of the nation's schools are "America's Great Colleges to Work For," WMU employees have just one week
left to make their views known.

An anonymous email survey was sent
on March 21 to a random sample of employees—faculty, administrative
professional staff and hourly employees.
Those surveyed have until April 15 to
reply. At Western News press time, the
overall response rate was 26 percent.

This is the third year the University has
participated in the survey and the first year
it has been able to include non-exempt,
hourly employees in the survey. The
staff survey includes faculty, administrators and professional staff at
no cost," says Felicia Crawford, director of
human resources. "The decision was
made to pay the additional fee to have all
groups included for 2011, which we
hope will result in more meaningful reader
about our campus. We're really counting
on people taking the time to thoughtfully
provide us and the Chronicle with good
and confidential feedback."

The Chronicle's Great Colleges to Work
For program recognizes small groups of
colleges (based on enrollment size) for
specific best practices and policies, such
continued on page 4
continued on page 4
Final spring employee mixer slated

All faculty and staff are invited to the spring employee mixer scheduled for Friday, April 8, at the atrium of the Gilmore Theatre Complex. Complimentary light hors d’oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

Events planned for Earth Fest

WMU is celebrating Earth Fest with a week of largely student-sponsored events beginning Friday, April 8. Keep visiting WMU News at www.wmich.edu/news for stories about some of the planned events, most of which will be listed on that website’s Events Calendar.

Wounded Warrior SK is Saturday

Runners, walkers and spectators of every age are invited to take part in the Wounded Warrior 5K race Saturday, April 9. The non-certified course winds through East Campus. Packet pickup and late registration begins at 7 a.m., and the race starts at 9 a.m. Registration is $15. Proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit organization that provides care directly to wounded veterans and their families. To register, visit www.wmuwoundedwarrior.com or call (269) 235-2789.

Chemistry Research Day slated

Chemistry Research Day will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 15, in the Chemistry Building. The keynote talk will be given by R. Graham Cooks of Purdue University at 4 p.m. in room 1720. Student and faculty posters will be presented from 2 to 4 p.m. in the atrium.

Around campus and beyond

U.S.-China relations to be addressed

Gene H. Chang, professor of economics and director of the Asian Studies Institute at the University of Toledo, will speak from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, in 242 Bernhard Center.

Events focus on heterosexism

The effects of heterosexism on queer youth will be the focus of campus events Friday, April 15. The events, which are free and open to the public, will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. in 1301 Wood Hall and around the documentary film “Put This on the [Map]: Re-teaching Gender and Sexuality.” Visit www.facebook.com/wmunbdg for details.

Author to discuss new book

William Paterson University professor Thomas A. Myers, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin. GRAPHIC DESIGN: Tammy M. Boneburg.


For rent—

House in Winchell Neighborhood.

For rent— Fully furnished Lake Michigan beachfront condo in South Haven, Mich. Sleeps four to five people. Heated pool and within walking distance to town. Priced at $1,250 per week. Call (269) 333-3198.

For rent— House in Winchell Neighborhood. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, hardwood floors, finished basement and deck. Washer and dryer included. No pets. Available now for $925 per month. Call (269) 615-1224.

Retirement receptions

Paul Maier, professor of history, will be honored for his 50 years of service to WMU during a retirement celebration Friday, April 8, in 157 Bernhard Center. The deadline for dinner reservations has passed, but the campus community is invited to attend the pre-dinner reception from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and post-dinner program, which will start at about 7:45 p.m.

Bill Woods, associate dean of the Haenicke Institute, will be honored for his 38 years of service to WMU during a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, in the Richmond Center Atrium.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

Bronco named national coach of year

Jeff Blashill, first-year head coach of the hockey team, has been named national coach of the year by two of the sport’s leading publications.

Inside College Hockey announced April 1 its pick of Blashill as National Coach of the Year. Four days earlier, he was named National Co-Coach of the Year by College Hockey News. Blashill led a rejuvenated Bronco hockey squad to its first trip to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament championship game since 1986. WMU defeated regular-season champion Michigan in the semifinals and fell to Miami in the final game, but earned an at-large berth to the NCAA Tournament. A former assistant for stage and screen, Blashill came to WMU last April. He had spent the previous two years as head coach and general manager of the Indiana Ice of the United States Hockey League, the top U.S. juniors league.

Student wins Kennedy Center award

Mikal Hansen, a master’s student studying playwriting and a graduate assistant in English, has been named a national finalist as a Partner of American Theatre Annual Playwriting Excellence Award for her full-length play, “Viking-American.”

The Kennedy Center award is a recipient to spend a week at the center in Washington, D.C., and a week at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas as part of an intensive program in writing for theater.

Hansen earned a bachelor’s degree in creative writing at Denison University in 2007 and expects to graduate from WMU this year. After graduating, she plans to move to Chicago and perhaps teach while writing plays for theaters.

Staffer among first to be certified

Cari Robertson, Sindecuse Health Center, is among the first group nationwide to earn certification as a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. The newly created voluntary certification signifies that Robertson has met the national standards for individual health education practitioners.

Those standards include advanced-level knowledge and skills and a commitment to the advancement of the health education profession and continued professional development.

Robertson joined Sindecuse in 2006 as WMU’s director of health promotion and education. She is a member of the American College Health Association and its Health Promotion Section. She also is a member of numerous University programs and first chairs such groups as the Alcohol Risk Reduction Advisory Board, Western Employee Wellness Committee and Health Education Quality Improvement Subcommittee.
Graduate and faculty research showcased at 2011 poster day

Graduate students and faculty members will showcase their scholarly work Friday, April 15, in the Fetzer Center as part of the fifth annual WMU Research and Creative Activities Poster Day.

The free public event includes poster presentations of research from 9 to 11 a.m.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 30, 20, 15 and 10 years of service during April.

10 Years—John Barton, Facilities Management-landscape services; Jerry W. Fulbright Jr., Facilities Management-landscape services; Patricia A. Mikowski, UnitedClinics; Stephanie R. Page, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Lois J. Campbell, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

15 Years—Arthur Hudson, Facilities Management-landscape services; Yolanda A. Knight, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; James Douglas Short, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services; and Michael A. Walden, Facilities Management-powerplant.

20 Years—Kim Brown, Facilities Management-landscape services; Alison K. Czlonka, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Jennifer A. DeHaan, College of Health and Human Services; Diane D. DeZoete, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Robert H. McDonough, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids; and Michelle L. Phelps, Dining Services-Bernhard Center.

30 Years—John Barton, Facilities Management-landscape services; Alison K. Czlonka, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Jennifer A. DeHaan, College of Health and Human Services; Diane D. DeZoete, Dining Services-Bernhard Center; Robert H. McDonough, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids; and Michelle L. Phelps, Dining Services-Bernhard Center.

35 Years—John Kensey, Public Affairs and Administration.

40 Years—Martha Salazar, Department of Counseling and Guidance.

45 Years—William E. Dorsey, English.

50 Years—Karen R. Harkema, Counseling and Guidance.

60 Years—Richard W. Flores Sr. of Plainwell, Mich., died Dec. 26, 2010. He was 83. Flores retired from the general business law department in 1980 until his retirement.

65 Years—Mary Gore, English.

70 Years—Robert H. Long, English.


Obituaries

Marie Irene (Stickle) Delahousey of Yelm, Wash., died March 29. She was 93. Delahousey joined the WMU staff in 1965 and retired as a secretary in what was the general business law department in 1980 after 15 years of service to the University.

Richard W. Flores Sr. of Plainwell, Mich., died Dec. 26, 2010. He was 83. Flores retired as a technical associate with the Paper Pilot Plant in 1993 after 10 years of service to WMU.

Edward Galligan of Kalamazoo died March 29. He was 85. Galligan joined the WMU faculty in 1958 and retired as a professor emeritus in English in 1989 after 30 years of service to the University. He chaired his department from 1985 until his retirement.

Doris Luke of Santa Clara, Calif., died March 15. She was 99. Duke retired as a mail clerk in 1976 after 10 years of service to WMU.
Study shows much-praised charters not for everyone — continued from page 1

KIPP has limited special education services which are subsidized with federal dollars,” Miron says. “Charter schools traditionally receive less money because they provide fewer services like special education and vocational training. That is why it’s surprising that KIPP receives more money than all of our comparison groups from public sources.”

None of the 12 KIPP districts reported any private revenues in the national school district finance database; however, a separate analysis of these districts’ 990 tax forms for 2008 revealed large sums of private contributions. Per-pupil contributions for the 11 KIPP districts that the researchers included in this analysis equaled an average of $5,760, much more than the $1,000 to $1,500 additional per-pupil revenue KIPP estimates is necessary for their program.

Combining public and private sources of revenue, KIPP received, on average, $18,491 per pupil in 2007-08. This is $6,500 more per pupil than what KIPP’s local school districts received in revenues. Some KIPP students have as much as a $10,000 advantage over their peers in traditional public schools.

The report’s authors say KIPP’s claims of improving test results of the students who persist in its schools faster than traditional public schools is necessary for their program. “KIPP has been lauded as a successful private operator of public schools, but this report shows that KIPP is not able to serve the broad spectrum of public school students with the money that is currently available for public schools,” Miron says.

Just one week left to respond — continued from page 1

as compensation and benefits, faculty-administration relations, and confidence in senior leadership. The Chronicle bases its assessments on a random survey of full-time faculty, administrators and professional staff as well as an institutional audit that captures demographics and workplace policies and practices.

In 2009, the first year the University participated in the Chronicle initiative, WMU was named one of the top-10 large colleges in the nation in five separate categories. WMU’s top-10 placement came in recognition of its offerings and best practices in providing health care benefits, tuition remission, life insurance, disability insurance, and post-retirement benefits.

New Frostic fellows announced

Five students have been named the fall 2010 recipients of Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowships. They are Michelle Barger of Kalamazoo; J. Adam Bennett of Gastonia, N.C., psychology; Michael Buchalski of Stevensville, Mich., biological sciences; Katherine Ellison of Freeland, Mich., history; and Travis Hayden of Portage, Mich., geosciences.

Frostic Doctoral Fellowships are given twice annually by WMU’s Graduate College. They are made possible by an endowment from the estate of the late poet, artist and naturalist Gwen Frostic, a 1929 WMU alumna.

The competitive fellowships range from $1,000 to $4,000 and assist doctoral students in all fields with dissertation expenses, including tuition and fees, materials and travel.

Finals Finish shines the light on WMU students

Help is being sought to stage the annual Finals Finish from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.

A campus tradition, Finals Finish promotes student success by making spring finals week less stressful. This year’s theme is “Your future’s so bright, you gotta wear shades.” The Student Recreation Center will again be the main venue, offering study space, fitness classes, massages, competitive and non-competitive games, live DJ music, prize drawings and food.

Members of the campus and local communities assist in staging the event. Volunteers are needed to work a 2-1/2-hour shift from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. or 8 to 10:30 p.m. All volunteers receive a T-shirt and are assigned to the Student Recreation Center, where they greet and serve volunteers, serve snacks, monitor the study area, issue recreational and fitness equipment, and help supervise games and other activities.

Visit www.wmich.edu/finalsfinish to volunteer or obtain more information.