Carls Foundation gift will help kids hear

Imagine not being able to clearly hear people talk. Now imagine that you’re a baby or a toddler.

Youngsters who can’t hear clearly may never learn how to speak like other children.

With that in mind, the Carls Foundation of Detroit has given a $300,000 gift to the WMU Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

The gift will allow the WMU Unified Clinics to expand services and programs for infants and children with hearing impairments, including those with cochlear implants.

The number of children with hearing deficiencies is large. It is estimated that two out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born profoundly deaf—a statistic that has not changed for decades.

What is changing, though, is the number of those children under a year of age who are screened and diagnosed with a hearing loss and whose families are counseled regarding hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive communication options.

Cochlear implants are electronic devices that mimic the function of delicate cells in the inner ear. The implants have long been endorsed for adults, but until recently, their use in young children has been limited.

Studies published in the past two years have delivered what many experts say is conclusive evidence that the devices are safe in babies and toddlers and also allow most children to develop spoken language like that of their peers.

“Recent research shows quite remarkable outcomes for those implanted at the youngest ages,” says Ann Tyler, chair of speech pathology and audiology. “It is crucial, however, that the speech-language pathologists and audiologists working with these young children have received specialized training in working with this young population. This is another initiative of the grant, to educate a new cadre of professionals.”

Faculty Senate announces new leadership roster

The organization’s eight-member officer corps is composed of the president, vice president, immediate past president and five directors. Except for the immediate past president, officers are elected for two-year terms. The new officers are as follows:

- President, Peter Krawutschke, foreign languages.
- Vice President, William Rantz, aviation.
- Past President, John Jellies, biological sciences.
- Director, Osama Abudayyeh, civil and construction engineering.
- Director, Van Cooley, educational leadership, research and technology.
- Director, Mary Lagerwey, nursing.
- Director, Judith Rypma, English.
- Director, Delores Walcott, University Counseling and Testing Center.

The Faculty Senate shares in governing WMU by formulating, reviewing and providing advice on policies and other matters of institutional concern.
Free evening jazz concerts offered
Free evening concerts Monday, June 28, through Friday, July 2, will feature the participants from this year’s Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp. The camp attracts attendees from around the world to Kalamazoo to work with the University’s internationally acclaimed vocal jazz instructors. It will conclude with a final free concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 2, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Financial seminar to be repeated
For those who missed the first time, Human Resources is again offering the seminar on “Managing Your Assets in a Volatile Market.” The session will start at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 29, in Schneider. To register, contact Sanford Advisory Services at 488-6900.

Annual bike criterium set for July
Registration is open for the 2011 BTR Park Criterium on the Parkview Campus. The multi-event criterium will be held Saturday July 17. Racing will start with the Men’s Elite 4s at 8 a.m. and will finish with the Junior Women at 4:11 p.m.

Booth registration under way for Bronco Bash 2010
Booth applications are now being accepted for Bronco Bash 2010, which is set for 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10. The early registration deadline for booth space is Friday, July 23. Applications submitted after July 23 will be assessed a late fee and processed pending space is Friday, July 23.

Booth applications are now being accepted for Bronco Bash 2010, which is set for 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10. The early registration deadline for booth space is Friday, July 23. Applications submitted after July 23 will be assessed a late fee and processed pending space is Friday, July 23.

Exchange

For sale—Two-bedroom brick home on large corner lot in WMU-Kalamazoo College area. Suitable for couple or single individual. Call 572-8094 and leave a contact number.


For rent—Nicely furnished two-bedroom apartment in Parkview Hills. Second bedroom used as office with space for a bed or desk. Two bathrooms, large living-dining room with spacious balcony. Includes washer, dryer, dish washer, exercise bike, TV, VCR, DVD unit, stereo and classical CD collection. Access to indoor and outdoor pools, Jacuzzi, tennis courts, exercise room, hiking trails and more. Available now through August 2011. Minimum six-month commitment. $1,200 per month plus utilities. Contact carl.ratner@wmich.edu.

Service

Editor’s note: Service anniversaries for July and August will be posted this summer on the Human Resources website and printed in the first fall issue of Western News.

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.

Staffer honored for community service
Kathleen Cantley, Facilities Management-landscape services, received the 2010 Walter Campbell Community Services Award from the Michigan AFL-CIO. Cantley is the chief steward for AFSCME Local 1668, an active member of the local’s Community Services Committee and a WMU student.

The award was presented during the annual state AFL-CIO Community Services School, which is co-sponsored by the Michigan Association of United Ways and was held May 10-14 at the UAW Family Education Center in Black Lake, Mich.

The prestigious prize recognizes a late labor leader who embodied the qualities of honor, loyalty, integrity and unmatched passion for community service.

Fifth Bronco hockey coach named
Jeff Blashill was named WMU’s fifth head hockey coach in May. Blashill brings to WMU 12 years of coaching experience, the last two as head coach and general manager of the Indiana Ice of the United States Hockey League—the nation’s top juniors league.

Under Blashill’s direction, the Indiana Ice went to the USHL playoffs twice and captured the Clark Cup as the 2009 USHL playoff champion. Several of his players have signed letters of intent to play college hockey or are already playing at the college level.

Previously, Blashill was an assistant coach at Miami University, where he helped build that school’s hockey program into a national powerhouse. He also spent four years as an assistant hockey coach for his alma mater, Ferris State University.

Official tapped for new state council
Linda H. Zoeller, director of the Bronson School of Nursing, has been appointed to a new state board charged with transforming nursing education in Michigan. Zoeller is one of 17 people appointed to the new Michigan Nursing Education Council. The council is a leadership group composed of nursing educators, nursing practitioners and policy makers who will act as an advisory board in the face of what is predicted to be a severe nursing shortage in Michigan.

The council was established by the Office of the Chief Nurse Executive within the Michigan Department of Community Health and will ensure that recommendations by the department’s Task Force on Nursing Education are implemented.

Those recommendations include creating a system of nurse residency programs in Michigan for newly licensed graduates, giving high priority to quality and safety in all nursing education programs, and increasing the number of registered nurses educated in the state.
Board of Trustees approves promotions of 53 faculty members

The promotions of 53 faculty members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its May 26 conference-call meeting.

The faculty members and their academic areas, by the academic rank or position to which they are being promoted, are:

- Professor—Ella Maaike Quack, electrical and computer engineering; Mary Z. Anders, counselor education and counseling psychology; Robert L. Anemone, anthropology; Louann A. Bierlein-Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology; Gary H. Bischof, counselor education and counseling psychology.
- Associate professor—Sharon L. Garber, dance; Harold Glasser, environmental studies; Susan Hoffman, psychology; Daniel G. Karpov, computer engineering; Louann A. Bierlein-Palmer, educational leadership, research and technology; Gary H. Bischof, counselor education and counseling psychology.
- Assistant professor—Samantha S. Koushanova, teaching, learning and educational studies; Mary D. Lagerway, nursing; Gary D. Lawson, speech pathology and audiology.

Many Facilities Management employees are taking WMU’s sustainability policy to heart by using bikes instead of cars to get around. They include, from left, George Jarvis, Norm Risk, Kirk Dillery and Erik Dantes. Facilities Management officials have taken numerous steps to reduce energy consumption across the workplace, including introducing electric and other energy-efficient vehicles. They continue to research alternative methods for more sustainable options to reduce energy usage. (Photo courtesy of Facilities Management)

The promotions of 53 faculty members are:

- Michael G. Miller, health, physical education and recreation; Alexandstra Pekarovicova, paper engineering, chemical engineering and imaging; William G. Ranzi, aviation; Eve Salisbury, English; Christina Stamper, management; Ann Veek, marketing; Robert S. Wall Emerson, blindness and low vision studies; and Steven Ziebarth, mathematics.
- Associate professor—Fritz Allhoff, philosophy; Allison L. Baer, special education and literacy studies; Kathleen M. Baker, geology; Elizabeth Bradburn, English; Maia Bandza, University Libraries; Carla Chase, occupational therapy; Jon D. Davis, mathematics; Liang Dong, electrical and computer engineering.
- Autumn Edwards, communication; Anthony Ellis, English; Lin Fuouk, music; Olivia G. Gabor-Petrie, foreign languages; Elena Gapova, sociology; Caroline E. Gore, art; Jill M. Herrmann-Wilmart, special education and literacy studies; Pamela Hoppe, biological sciences; Cynthia Klekar, English; Todd Kuchta, English; Priscilla A. Lambert, political science.
- David J. Meade, manufacturing engineering; Ginger Y. Owen, art; Kornmeeth Prewitt, music; Eli Rubin, history; Scott Szwatko, English; Jacinda M. Swanson, political science; Mary-Louise Totton, art; Maarten Vondoh, biological sciences; and Kristina Wirtz, anthropology.
- Master faculty specialist—Michael Braun, Spanish; Cheryl H. Lyon-Jennings, history; and Slobodan Urdarevik, industrial and manufacturing engineering.
- Faculty specialist II—Philip G. Walcott, physician assistant.

Time to sign up to take part in Fall Welcome activities

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to get involved in the 2010 Fall Welcome week by participating in and volunteering to help out at various activities.

Fall Welcome is a weeklong program that helps new incoming students become familiar with WMU, better adjust to college life, and make new friends and connections.

This year’s program is set for Monday, Aug. 30, through Friday, Sept. 3. Faculty and staff volunteers are needed throughout the week to help out with many of the activities that have been planned.

The deadline to volunteer is July 2. Volunteers will receive the official Fall Welcome T-shirt as well as a community service button.

To volunteer, contact Eric Braman at fye-fall2@wmich.edu or 387-2338.

All faculty members are invited to join the platform party at the Fall Welcome Matriculation Ceremony slated for 10 to 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, in Miller Auditorium.

The ceremony will include an academic pledge and matriculation pinning, formally enrolling more than 3,300 new students and giving them an immediate sense of belonging to the WMU community.

For the ceremony, administrators and faculty members should wear regalia, which can be ordered online at www.wmich.edu/regalia free of charge.

Obituaries

Sheryl D. Gordon died June 9 in Kalamazoo. She was 49.

Gordon was a part-time instructor in blindness and low vision studies from 2001 to 2009 and helped coordinate the University’s sports camp program for blind and visually impaired athletes.

George F. Osmun died May 23, 2009. He was 87.

Osmun joined the language and linguistics faculty in 1964. A former head of the classics section, he retired as a professor with emeritus status in 1987 after 22 years of service to the University.

Genevieve M. O’Ree died May 11 in Astoria, Ore. She was 85.

O’Ree joined the languages and linguistics faculty in 1957. She retired as an assistant professor with emeritus status in 1982 after 24 years of service to the University.

Sarah J. Stroud of Three Rivers and Vicksburg, Mich., died Jan. 6. She was 96.

Stroud joined the faculty of WMU’s University High School in 1955 and was appointed professor of teacher education in 1971. She retired with emeritus status in 1976 after 21 years of service.

Retirement receptions

Joe Oldenhal, Facilities Management projects and construction, will be recognized for nearly 40 years of service to the University during a retirement reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, in the Fetzer Center.

Charlotte Kelley, researcher, will be honored for her 25 years of service to the University at a retirement reception Wednesday, June 30, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the main lobby of Waldo Hall.
On Campus with John Carr

John Carr is a human dynamo who shows no sign of slowing down anytime soon. A receiving and shipping clerk for the past 45 years, Carr began his University career in 1965 with the WMU Bookstore. He’s been a staff member there ever since, except for a 12-year stint with logistical services’ delivery unit. He came back in 1978-79 to take a promotion.

“It’s worked out well. I like everybody here, and our student employees are great kids. It’s good to be around them—Go Broncos,” he says, beaming with pride and then jumping up to help a visitor making a pick-up.

Carr’s energy is evident as he goes through his workload in the bookstore’s receiving/shipping area in the Bernhard Center. He and the six-to-seven students he manages unload, price and log in all of the books, supplies and soft goods the bookstore orders. They’re also on hand to receive deliveries of caps and gowns for commencement.

In addition, Carr’s duties include shipping products across the United States. These shipments include purchases made online by customers at WMU’s regional sites, unsold books being returned at the end of each semester and warranty-related items being sent back to manufacturers.

“I like what I do. It keeps me active. We’re even busier now that the bookstore has opened the TotalTech department. But regardless of how busy we are, I still enjoy coming to work.” Carr says. “It’s really challenging about a month before school starts in fall and spring, when the book rush begins. The deliveries start getting backed up. I try to unload as quickly as possible and hardly take a break. I feel like I’m helping the students out, because I’m providing a service.”

Carr and his wife, Deborah, live in Battle Creek. One of their four grown children, Jimmy, is a WMU alumnus. An avid bowler and walker, Carr loves to attend University athletic events and never misses a chance to intersperse his conversation with a hearty “Go Broncos.” But nearly all of his remaining spare time is taken up serving others.

He’s been affiliated with township fire departments for 36 years and has gone through regular firefighting training and medical first-responder training. Carr is now on call with four departments—Emmett, Newton, Leroy and Climax townships. He carries a pager and responds to about 20 calls per month. Most come in at night or on weekends, and 60 to 65 percent are medical-related calls.

“I just like helping people,” he says. “Go Broncos!”

Now good time to buy 2010-11 Miller, University Theatre tickets

Numerous high-profile shows will be staged on campus next academic year, and now is a good time to reserve tickets to ensure getting great seats for them.

Miller Auditorium’s 2010-11 season will feature 16 performances of “Wicked,” along with the area debut of five other hit musicals. Meanwhile, the 104th season of University Theatre will feature scores of talented WMU students performing in an eclectic mix of pithy and humorous productions.

Both Miller and University Theatre offer savings through subscription packages as well as discounts for faculty and staff.

Miller’s new season begins Sept. 21 with a performance of “The Color Purple” and ends May 10-11 with Monty Python’s “Spamalot.”

In between, auditorium patrons can choose to see the Blue Man Group’s fusion of music, technology and comedy and performances of jazz, big band, and Celtic music as well as such additional Broadway shows as “Legally Blonde” and “Spring Awakening.”

University Theatre’s season begins with the Pulitzer Prize-winning play “In the Blood” Sept. 23-Oct. 3 and ends with two side-splitting one-act plays, “Black Comedy” and “The Real Inspector Hound” April 14-23. The season also includes Broadway guest artists, restoration comedy, a world-premiere play, classic Gershwin and smash-hit musicals.

For more about Miller shows and tickets, visit www.millerauditorium.com or call the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858. For more about University Theatre shows and tickets, visit www.wmich.edu/theatre or call the Gilmore Theatre Complex Box Office at 387-6222.

WMU press wins state grant

Michigan poets will get some much-needed help thanks to a $7,500 grant to WMU’s literary press, New Issues Poetry and Prose.

The grant is from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and will be used to support the promotion of Michigan poets published by New Issues.

One Michigan poet to be supported by the grant is Khaled Mattawa, a University of Michigan professor and author of “Tocqueville,” a collection of poems published by New Issues in April. Mattawa is the author of three previous books of poetry.

Events supported by the grant have been arranged for Mattawa throughout Michigan, including readings and discussions.