It began with a very talented head of an art department at a Midwestern university who felt strongly that the work done by her students should be "seen, touched and enjoyed by every one."

When that university was about to commission one of the nation’s foremost designers of stained glass windows to do the windows for its newly constructed Kanley Memorial Chapel, she stepped forward, steadfast at times, insisting that her students be assigned the herculean task. Striking down all resistance, this creative and principled artist stuck to her guns and with the assistance of one of her talented staff and all of their eager students, gave the university exactly what many have called a national treasure.

Seventy-three student designed stained glass windows and over one hundred twelve additional designs that, while they were never fabricated into actual windows, hang throughout the campus as part of the university's art collection.

A Little known MEMENTO TO WORLD WAR II

While the Chapel on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo was made possible with the generous gift of Anna Carstens Kanley in memory of her son, William, the fact that it came at the same time that the University was reeling over the loss of nearly one hundred eleven of its family to World War II, the Chapel soon became a memorial to those individuals who lost their lives, many who interrupted their studies at WMU to enlist. Every attempt has been made to acknowledge each of the fallen, adding to the list that already exists on the plaque at Walwood Hall.

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THE WINDOWS OF KANLEY MEMORIAL CHAPEL