



Western News

For and about WMU faculty and staff

MARCH 15, 2018
Volume 44, Number 12

WMUK spring drive begins March 20

WMUK 102.1 FM will begin its on-air Spring Membership Drive Tuesday, March 20. Listener contributions financially support the production of award-winning local news and arts content, as well as popular NPR programs such as "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered." To contribute, go to wmuk.org or call (269) 387-1021 during the on-air portion of the spring campaign.

Elearning lunch-and-learn event set

Are you interested in creating an electronic bookshelf to house reference materials? How about creating training modules and assessments for your direct reports? Check out Elearning's many applications and features from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in the Bernhard Center's Faculty Dining Room. Registration is required at wapps.wmich.edu/workshops/registration.jsf#.

WMU-CMU challenge coming up

The Bronco Blood Bash is set for 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at the Student Recreation Center. Everyone in the WMU and Kalamazoo-area communities may participate in this friendly competition with Central Michigan University to see which school can collect the most pints of blood.

Walk-ins are welcome; however, making an appointment will result in faster processing. To make an appointment, go to the American Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code `broncobloodbash` (all one word), download and use the Blood Donor App, or call (800) 733-2767. For more details, visit wmich.edu/news/2018/03/45727.

Retirement-related workshop planned

The Social Security Administration will host a Pre-retirement Planning Workshop from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, in 157-159 Bernhard Center. No registration is necessary, and participants are welcome to bring their lunch and a guest. For more about this event and other helpful information, visit wmich.edu/hr/resources/training.

Apply for visiting scholar, artist funds

The WMU community has until Wednesday, April 11, to apply for the Visiting Scholar and Artist Program. The program provides funds for academic units to bring distinguished scholars and artists to campus. For details, visit wmich.edu/facultydevelopment/awards/visitingscholarsartists.

Volunteers needed for marathon

Volunteers are needed to help host campus water and aid stations and excitement zones for runners participating in the Kalamazoo Marathon Sunday, May 6. The two-hour opportunity will begin at 7:30 a.m. and conclude around 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit wmich.edu/news/2018/03/45675.

Business college receives new naming gift

The Haworth College of Business has received a major naming gift from alumnus Robert Kaiser, owner and chief executive officer of Gallagher-Kaiser Corp., based in Troy, Michigan.

The gift funds the renovation and expansion of the business college's sales lab facility. The Robert S. Kaiser Sales, Negotiation and Leadership Lab will serve the growing number of students in the sales and business marketing major.

At the program's inception, there were 49 majors. Now, 18 years later, enrollment has topped 320 students, necessitating a lab expansion to accommodate the major's growth. The gift will upgrade the current lab to a state-of-the-art space.

"Over the years, I have been fortunate to be in a position to give back to many organizations and to make contributions

that result in impactful change," Kaiser says.

"Perhaps one of the greatest opportunities is the chance to give back to where it all started. It's an honor to help advance the education of my fellow Broncos—the next generation of business leaders."

Steve Newell, marketing, notes that the University's sales program is recognized by the Sales Education Foundation as one of the country's premier sales programs, while *study.com* ranks it No. 1.

He adds that the renovation and expansion of the lab will help secure that reputation. And with a 100 percent post-graduation success rate, the sales program is more in demand than ever.



Kaiser

WMU unit named No. 3 in nation for safety initiatives

The Department of Public Safety was recognized in late February as the No. 3 such department in the nation for its campus safety initiatives.

Deputy Chief Carol Dedow was on hand to receive the award during the National Campus Safety Summit in Las Vegas. The three-day gathering attracted university police chiefs and senior-level university administrators from around the country.

WMU's police department was one of three university forces recognized at the meeting. Kennesaw State University placed first, Old Dominion University came in

second, and WMU placed third in the Department of the Year Awards. The three honorees were selected from among public safety

departments at 4,706 eligible U.S. colleges and universities. The three schools lead a "top 25" list of public safety departments developed by Safe Campus, a national organization that coordinates the awards.

Linda Shaw, director of Safe Campus, noted that WMU police do an outstanding job working

with area law enforcement and communicating with the University community.

Specific initiatives leading to the award included newly created Facebook and Twitter

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Dedow accepts WMU's award. (Photo courtesy of WMU Department of Public Safety)

Criminologist tapped for expertise on video games, violence

In the wake of recent high-profile mass shootings, Whitney DeCamp, sociology, has been serving as an expert for media nationwide on the question of whether such violence is linked to teen video game use.

The answer to the question, he says, is that there is no real relationship between the two. The real predictors of violent behavior, his research shows, are whether a child comes from a safe home and whether a child has experienced violence in the home.

DeCamp, an expert on criminology and director of WMU's Kercher Center for Social Research, has been reporting the results of his own extensive research on the topic, which includes five studies on video games, three of which focus on the relationship between violent video game content and behavior. His findings contradict views expressed by some politicians, including the nation's president, who attribute an increase in mass shootings to the propensity of young men to play violent video games.

In recent weeks, MSNBC, Michigan Radio, Cleveland's CBS outlet and the publication *PC Gamer* have been among news outlets turning to DeCamp for data. Closer to campus,

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Screenshot of DeCamp

Around campus and beyond

Natural disasters to be discussed

Preparing for future natural disasters by responding to and anticipating changing climates is the topic of a lecture at 3 p.m. Friday, March 16, in 2119 Wood Hall. Carol P. Harden, former president of the Association of American Geographers, will speak on “More Disasters or a More Sustainable Future? Challenges and Opportunities of Climate Change.”

Renowned education expert to speak

A leading national advocate for public education will speak about her plan to preserve and improve the country’s public schools during a public lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 22, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Diane Ravitch, author and renowned research professor of education at New York University, will speak on “Education Reform and the Promise of Education” as part of WMU’s Center for the Humanities Promise of Education speaker series. She will be introduced by WMU President Edward Montgomery.

International Festival scheduled

The music, dance, food and fashions of nearly two dozen cultures will be showcased during the 29th annual International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 25, on the second floor of the Bernhard Center. For more information about this popular annual event, which is free except for food, visit wmich.edu/news/2018/02/45418.

Senior prom still going strong

It’s time for area senior citizens to slip on their dancing shoes in preparation for the 30th annual Senior Prom, set for Thursday, March 29, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The prom is an elegant and nostalgic evening of dancing and entertainment that bridges the generations between WMU students and Kalamazoo-area senior citizens. Pre-entertainment begins at 5 p.m., casino tables open at 6 p.m. and the dance runs from 7 to 10 p.m.

Women’s caucus to discuss book

The College of Arts and Sciences Women’s Caucus will host an author-led discussion of the book, “Our Lady of the Prairie,” from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, in 3025 Brown Hall. The book is by Thisbe Nissen, English, who received the 2018 CAS Gender Scholar Award. For more about the caucus, visit wmich.edu/arts-sciences/about/womenscaucus.

Finance expert to present talk

Chris Burns, senior fixed income analyst at Greenleaf Trust, will present “Feeling Vertigo? An Update on Financial Markets and the Economy” at 8 a.m. Friday, March 30, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The free breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.

Reservations are required at wmich.edu/business/mercantile-rsvp or (269) 387-6059.

Professor co-authors first book

Yvette D. Hyter, speech, language and hearing sciences, has co-authored a book titled “Culturally Responsive Practices in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.” The textbook was co-written with Marlene B. Salas-Provance, an associate dean and professor at the University of Texas, and released this past December by Plural Publishing.



Hyter

Key features of the text include case studies, journal prompts, activities to engage students and suggested readings from the existing literature. In addition, a PluralPlus Companion Website with supplementary resources for students and instructors has been developed.

Hyter focuses on culturally and linguistically responsive services for children and families at risk for being marginalized in education and health systems, as well as on macro-level structures that affect full participation in daily life.

Researcher pens sixth book on Iran

Erika (Friedl) Loeffler, emerita in anthropology, has written her sixth book about Iran. Titled “Folksongs from the Mountains



Loeffler

of Iran: Culture, Poetics and Everyday Philosophies,” it was published last month by I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd. and is based on more than seven years of anthropological fieldwork by Friedl between 1965 and 2015.

The book is the third volume in the author’s presentation of facets of folklore from a Persian tribe in an ethnographic frame. Like the last two books, this one, too, concentrates on the ethnographic content in folklore from a tribal area in Iran.

Friedl is the Edwin E. Meader Professor Emerita of Anthropology and a recipient of WMU’s Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award. She retired in 2000 after 30 years at the University but has continued her research in and about Iran.

Film chosen for area festival screening

Jennifer Machiorlatti, communication, is the co-producer of a film chosen for this year’s Grand Rapids Film Festival, which



Machiorlatti

is set for Friday through Sunday, April 13-15. “Peace During War” will be part of a selection of transformational films that start screening at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Wealthy Theatre, 1130 Wealthy St. SE.

Co-produced by Machiorlatti, Yafinceio Harris and Michael Wilder, the film is a 16-minute documentary about two former gang members who found their way to forgive each other and founded a mentoring program for youth in Kalamazoo.

It is one of 38 films that will be exhibited on two screens that day from noon to 11 p.m. All blocks will have filmmakers present to answer questions. Tickets cost \$5 per block of films. For more information, contact Machiorlatti at jennifer.machiorlatti@wmich.edu.

Southwest Michigan slates 2018 Chávez awards dinner

Southwest Michigan will celebrate the life and work of civil rights leader César E. Chávez Saturday, March 24, during an annual scholarship fundraising dinner that includes the presentation of regional awards and scholarships.

The event will be held in the Fetzer Center on WMU’s Main Campus starting at 5 p.m. and will feature a keynote address by Juan

R. Olivarez, former president of Aquinas College. Proceeds from the fundraising dinner support seven \$2,000 need-based César E. Chávez Committee of Southwest Michigan Scholarships.

Reservations are being encouraged by Tuesday, March 20, although attendees also may pay at the door. To make a reservation for the “Celebrating the Legacy” dinner, call (269) 387-4420. For more information, visit swmchavez.org or contact Miguel Ramirez at miguel.ramirez@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4420.

Retirement receptions

Carol Morris-Mier, College of Education and Human Development, will be honored for 41 years of service to WMU from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the second floor lobby—Wegenke Plaza—of Sangren Hall.

Mary Palmer, admissions, will be honored for 28 years of service to WMU from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the President’s Dining Room of the Bernhard Center. RSVPs are requested at wmich.edu/admissions/retirement-staff.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/jobs. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

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DEADLINE: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of University Relations by 5 p.m. Friday the week preceding publication. Publication dates for the spring are **Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22, March 15 and 29, and April 12.** Items may be submitted to Jeanne Baron via: email, jeanne.baron@wmich.edu; mail, Campus Mail Stop 5433; phone, (269) 387-8433; or fax, (269) 387-8422.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WMU, community groups developing plan for local waterways

The University is working with community organizations to develop a plan for reducing pollution and protecting and improving water quality for two local waterways.

A steering committee made up of community stakeholders from the city of Kalamazoo, city of Portage, Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo County and several environmental nonprofit organizations has been convened to provide input into the plan.

New training modules, student survey focus on Title IX issues

A new online training module and a new campus climate survey—both focused on sexual misconduct—were on tap for the campus community when students and faculty returned from spring recess.

Some 6,000 randomly selected students are being asked this month to take an anonymous online survey designed to gauge the campus climate and assess student experiences, perceptions, attitudes and behaviors when it comes to addressing sexual violence or sexual misconduct on campus. The survey also asks students about their awareness of related reporting resources.

This is the second time WMU will conduct the survey to assess the campus climate.

Also in March, a new training module called “Harassment and Discrimination Prevention” will go live in GoWMU, replacing a module that has been in place for several years. The University also offers in-person training several times each semester. To learn more, go to wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct/education.

In addition, a training module mandated by the NCAA will become available this month to WMU student-athletes and intercollegiate athletics staff.

Nominate students for Success@WMU initiative

Faculty and staff are encouraged to nominate motivated, supportive students they feel would be positive guides for new students through the Success@WMU initiative.

All nominees will receive an email invitation to apply prior to the Sunday, March 18, application deadline. To make a nomination, visit goo.gl/forms/S2SZaA2D5gJpoLct1.

The Success@WMU initiative will provide a peer mentor to all new first-year, transfer and international students during their first year at WMU. Peer mentors will work five to 12 hours per week with one or

WMU, local municipalities, conservation organizations, academic institutions and watershed residents will update the watershed management plan for Arcadia and Portage creeks originally developed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in 2006. The planning team anticipates the new watershed management plan will receive state and federal approval later this year.

Kieser and Associates LLC is serving as the technical consultant for the project.

WMU has been a long-time partner and leader on watershed management. For more than a decade, the University has been implementing green infrastructure and stormwater control projects on the Main Campus, which is located in the Arcadia Creek Watershed. In total, community partners together with WMU have built 30 stormwater control projects.

SUCCESSFUL EFFORT RECOGNIZED—

In recognition of WMU meeting its 2017-18 United Way pledge goal, Chris Sargent, right, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, presented the University with a framed photo of a young person helped by a United Way organization. WMU President Edward Montgomery, left, accepted the photo March 6 on behalf of the University, which exceeded its \$200,000 campus goal during a time when the need for charitable giving was strained with the occurrence of several natural disasters. Almost 35 percent of employees as well as close to 12 percent of retirees donated \$206,768.08 by the beginning of February. (Photo by Mike Lanka)



Search launched for marketing, communication VP

WMU has launched a national search for a newly created position—vice president for marketing and strategic communication.

A 14-member search committee has been formed and is being led by Edward Martini, Extended University Programs. The group met for the first time March 2 for a retreat and to hear its charge from WMU President Edward Montgomery.

The new position will lead the Office of University Relations and work collaboratively with all University entities to fully integrate and advance institutional market-

ing, branding and communication efforts, both internally and externally

Two campus input sessions are taking place from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m. today in 204 Bernhard Center. But input also can be submitted through the search website. To provide input or obtain more search information, visit wmich.edu/vpmarketing.

Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries



Corbin

Dennis R. Corbin, senior associate athletic director for medical services in intercollegiate athletics, died March 7. He was 63. Corbin had joined the staff in 1982. Services have already taken place.



Gabier

Russell L. Gabier, a former assistant vice president for development and alumni relations and president and CEO of the WMU Foundation, died Feb. 18. He was 90. Gabier joined the staff in 1958 and retired in 1986.

Laura G. Manis, emerita in what had been the University Counseling and Testing Center, died Jan. 18. She was 93. Manis joined the staff in 1966 and retired in 1982.

Diann J. Miller, emerita in what had been the University Counseling and Testing Center, died March 2. She was 76. Miller joined the staff in 1968 and retired in 2002. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in Wisconsin at a future date.

Doris A. Rey's last name was misspelled in the previous issue of *Western News*. Rey, a staff retiree, died Feb. 11.

Sinnie Yzenbaard, a former independent study coordinator in what is now Extended University Programs, died Sept. 12, 2017. She was 101. Yzenbaard joined the staff in 1964 and retired in 1979.

Service anniversaries-March

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 35, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during March.

35 years—Jan Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance.

25 years—Mary L. Brooks, geography; William G. Rantz, chemistry; Laura Rietkerk, Student Financial Aid; and Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning and educational studies.

20 years—Cristine L. Gaines, information technology; Jeffrey L. Johnson, building custodial and support services; Sally J. Vliem, nursing; and Stacy I. Weber, Center for Disability Services.

15 years—Christiane Christoph, Valley Dining Center; Terrie L. Lewnfield, Valley Dining Center; Juanita L. Page, building custodial and support services; and Susan B. Reeves, family and consumer sciences.

10 years—David L. Gehrman, accounts receivable; Chad Kenneth Haven, West Hills Athletic Club; Jessica Overley, accounts receivable; and Barbara C. VanFulpen, landscape services.

Five years—Gina Ann Anderson, development and alumni relations; Ashley Lauren Braatz, Student Financial Aid; Ned Stuart Clysdale, maintenance services; and Aaron R. Corona, College of Aviation.

On Campus with Debra Gambino



DISPENSING GOOD ADVICE
(Photo by Deanne Puca)

Helping students register for classes, coordinating dance auditions and seeing many fine arts students perform is incredibly rewarding for academic advisor Debra Gambino.

Gambino has spent a total of nine years at WMU, including the past four years advising students in the theatre and dance departments. Part of her job involves helping students in these departments navigate the requirements of seven different major programs.

"We have such wonderful students, so considerate and talented," Gambino says. "It's one thing to see them in my office but then, wow, to see them on stage is awesome! The theatre and dance students are incredibly talented."

She is frequently in the audience for the students' shows, and says working with fine arts students has given her a better appreciation for what goes into their performances.

"It's interesting because the students are not all actors and musical theatre performers. Our theatre students receive extensive training in stage management and design and technical production areas such as costume design and construction, as well as the business aspect of theatre in our arts management program. Dance majors are also exposed to choreography, lighting and staging, and stage management," Gambino explains. "Not only are these students working to put on professional shows, but they have their academic classes, as well. Prior to my job, I never realized all that must happen to create a show, everything that goes on behind the scenes."

Her first job at WMU was as an advising assistant in the School of Music. It was there that Gambino met her mentor, Margaret Hamilton, who retired in 2012 as director of academic advising for the College of Fine Arts. Hamilton taught Gambino about the University, advising and how to work with students—skills that helped her become successful in her subsequent jobs with WMU.

Her attachment to the Department of Dance has been personal as well as professional over the years. Two of her three daughters are graduates of WMU's dance program. A third daughter earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from the Haworth College of Business.

A native of Royal Oak, Michigan, Gambino has lived in the Kalamazoo area for more than 34 years. She lives with Charlie DeVries on Crooked Lake with their golden retriever, Lucy. When not at the theatre, she enjoys spending time with her two granddaughters, as well as boating, fishing, golfing, sewing and traveling.

Broadcasting organizations give radio awards to WMUK, WIDR

WMU's two radio stations were honored earlier this month by separate organizations.

WMUK 102.1 FM, the University's public radio station, earned three broadcasting excellence awards March 7 during a Michigan Association of Broadcasters event in Lansing.

WMUK staffers and their awards are:

- Jack Perlstein, Best Public Radio Marketing Materials and Promos for an All Ears Theatre Promotion of "The Legend of Rip Van Winkle" and "Chase Marlow, U.S. Marshall."
- Earlene McMichael, Merit (second place) Public Radio News Special or Public Affairs Program for "WestSouthwest Broadcast: Live @Chenery Auditorium with (Trayvon Martin's mother) Sybrina Fulton."
- Craig Freeman, Cara Lieurance and Martin Klemm, Merit Public Radio Musical Programming for "Weekend Let's Hear It:



From left, WMUK General Manager Stephen Williams, McMichael and Perlstein (Photo Courtesy of WMUK)

The Last Gasp Collective."

Meanwhile, WIDR 89.1 FM, the University's student-run noncommercial radio station, was honored at the national Intercollegiate Broadcasting System conference March 1-4 in New York City.

At its gathering, WIDR won an award

for best underwriting spot. In addition, Glen Dillon, assistant director for Student Media, presented a session at the event titled, "Show Prep: What? Why? How?" that discussed how students can be more prepared for on-air shifts.

WIDR conference attendees also included General Manager Annie Kustasz and five directors: Josh Moran, programs; Andrew Paulissen, production; Amber Zundel, promotions; Antonio Mitchell, business; and Jeff Simmonds, music.

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WMU unit named No. 3 in safety

ter pages to disseminate vital information concerning off-campus incidents to students, parents and the campus community.

Additionally, the department contracted with a threat assessment company to monitor numerous social media sites for harmful or threatening information concerning the campus, students or the University community.

Department responses to mental health issues and a focus on community outreach in student neighborhoods also were noted in the award citation.

The complete list of the Top 25 University Public Safety Departments as designated by Safe Campus can be found online at bit.ly/2Hw5exC.

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Criminologist tapped for expertise on video games, violence

southwest Michigan arts and culture magazine *Encore* included a feature in its March issue detailing DeCamp's past and current research on the topic.

That story can be found at bit.ly/2FChDDF on the encorekalamazoo.com website.

DeCamp's past research has focused on students in the eighth-to-11th grades. The sociologist has a current study underway that

looks at parental influences on whether a child plays violent video games. The parent-child relationship is critical, he says, to predicting violent behavior.

"People who have close positive relationships with their parents are a lot less likely to engage in violence—regardless of whether they play video games or not," he told *Encore*.