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.

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 wムuk.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 wμcich.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 excite- ment 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.

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 Kresge 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,
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 F. 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 researcher 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/2016/02/45418.

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 E. Chávez Saturday, March 24, during an annual scholarship fundraising dinner that includes the presentation of regional awards and the 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 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 Thaise 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 WMU’s Business Mercantile by calling (269) 387-4659 or (269) 387-4280.

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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, Ohtemo Township, Kalamaoo County and several environmental nonprofit organizations has been convened to provide input into the plan.

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 marketing, brand and communication efforts, respectively with all University entities to fully integrate and advance institutional marketing, brand 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/cpmarketing.

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 by the Sunday, March 18, application deadline. To make a nomination, visit goo.gl/forms/S2ZaA2D5gpl0Lct1.

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 two groups of 22 students who are part of the same academic program or college.

Faculty and staff members also may help hire peer mentors by volunteering to conduct interviews or evaluate applications. Interviews are being planned for Friday through Sunday, March 23-25. Interested individuals should email Laura Darragh at laura.darragh@wmich.edu.

For continued updates on the Success@WMU initiative, visit wmich.edu/presi- dent/transformational-initiative-fund/success-wmu.

Service anniversaries—March

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

20 years—Mary L. Brooks, geography; Mary L. Brooks, emerita

15 years—Christine L. Gaines, building teaching, learning and educational studies.

10 years—Chad Kenneth Haven, West Hills Athletic Club; Melissa A. McCutcheon, Center for Disability Services.

5 years—Diann J. Miller, sustainable development and alumni relations; Laura G. Manis, emerita.

2 years—Jan Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance; 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 1968 and retired in 1982.

1 year—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.

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 1968 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 1965 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 is 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.
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:

- Earlene McMichael, Merit (second place) Public Radio News Special for Public Affairs Program for “WestSouthwest Broadcast: Live @Chenery Auditorium with (Trayvon Martin’s mother) Sybrina Fulton.”

Meanwhile, WIDR 89.1 FM, the University’s student-run non-commercial 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 Kustae and five directors: Josh Moran, programs; Andrew Paulissen, production; Amber Zundel, promotions; Antonio Mitchell, business; and Jeff Simmons, music.

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On Campus

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 aspects 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.

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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.

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

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