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.

“There has been a history of having an endowed lab to a state-of-the-art space. The gift will allow us 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.

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 honors 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.

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,
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.

**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—Wegner 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.

---

**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.

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) Loefller, emerita anthropology, has written her sixth book about Iran. Titled “Folksongs from the Mountains of Iran: Culture, Poetics and Everyday Philosophies,” it was published last month by J.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 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 Kalamaooz.

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.
**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 Kalamaoo, city of Portage, Oshkemo 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 at WMU. The University also offers in-person training several times each semester. To learn more, go to wmic.edu/sexualmisconduct/education.

In addition, a training module mandated by the NCAAs 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 nomi- nate 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/S2SZaA2D5glpolCt1. 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 Darrah at laura.darrah@wmiich.edu.

For continued updates on the Success@ WMU initiative, visit wmic.edu/president/transformational-initiative-fund/success-wmu.

**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 to for aaret 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, branding and communication efforts, both internally and externally.

Two campus interview 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 wmic.edu/cpmarketing.

---

**Search for marketing, communication VP**

**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 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 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, a staff retiree, died Feb. 11.

**Sinnine 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.

---

**Obituaries—wmich.edu/news/obituaries**

---

**Nominate students for Success@WMU initiative**

Faculty and staff are encouraged to nomi- nate 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/S2SZaA2D5glpolCt1. 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 Darrah at laura.darrah@wmiich.edu.

For continued updates on the Success@WMU initiative, visit wmic.edu/president/transformational-initiative-fund/success-wmu.

---

**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**—Mary L. Brokosh, geography; William G. Kantz, chemistry; Laura Bierker, Student Financial Aid; and Andrea B. Smith, teaching, learning and educational studies.

**25 years**—Mary L. Brooks, geography; William G. Kantz, 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 L. Weber, Center for Disability Services.

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

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

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

---

**SUCCESSFUL EFFORT RECOGNIZED**

Fifteen passengers of WMU meeting in 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)
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 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 Kustae and five directors: Josh Moran, programs; Andrew Paulissen, production; Amber Zundel, promotions; Antonio Mitchell, business; and Jeff Simmons, music.

Continued from Page 1

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.

Continued from Page 1

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.