Petropoulos, who retired in 2010.

BTR Park partner focuses on health care

A start-up company that is already attracting national attention for cloud-based applications that help ambulance providers and hospital facility managers streamline their operations has become the newest corporate partner in WMU's Business Technology and Research Park.

Traumasoft has opened an office in the Granite Park 1 Building, which is located at 4664 Campus Drive in the BTR Park.

The thriving park focuses on the life sciences, advanced engineering and information technology. It shares the University's 265-acre Parkview Campus with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and now is home to some 30 companies that are directly employing nearly 700 people.

Operating in a 4,000-square-foot space, the fast-growing Traumasoft is already in hiring mode. It has added four new positions in recent weeks, bringing its employee base to 12. Officials expect to at least double the size of the company within two years and they are particularly interested in WMU graduates with IT software development and business skills.

The company was founded in 2006 by President Brian Bawol. Bawol has spent more than 25 years in the emergency medical services industry in southwest Michigan. Frustrated by the lack of automation in EMS operations, he started building EMS applications on a small scale in his spare time in 1998.

His goal was to develop applications that would allow ambulance companies to streamline their operations, improve their service and drive improved customer satisfaction.

New Center for Gerontology to serve aging population

To better meet the needs of the rapidly growing population of older adults, WMU has established a Center for Gerontology, re-creating the University's gerontology program.

A reception for the center is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, in 4010 Health and Human Services Building. The event will include remarks by President John M. Dunn and Provost Timothy Greene and introduction of the center's founding faculty fellows.

The reception is open to the public, but those planning to attend are asked to reserve a place by emailing gerontology-info@wmich.edu or calling (269) 387-9620.

The center is part of an effort to rekindle research aimed at the aging population and the training of both graduate and undergraduate students seeking to serve older adults. Part of its mission is to provide an undergraduate minor in gerontology and a gerontology graduate certificate.

The demand for health care workers with training in gerontology is growing. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates 874,000 additional workers in the field will be needed to meet the increased demand during the next 10 years.

The center revives WMU’s gerontology program, which had been spearheaded by Ellen Page-Robin, emerita in community health services. That program was eliminated in 2004 due to budget cuts. Dean Earlie Washington, College of Health and Human Services, has been instrumental in bringing back the gerontology program.

The new center was approved in July 2010 and Janet Hahn was hired as its coordinator in December. Hahn says the center will focus on three areas—education, research and community service.

Kalamazoo one of top-25 best cities for college grads

WMU’s hometown of Kalamazoo is No. 24 among the best cities in the United States for recent college graduates.

That’s according to a list of the top 25 cities compiled by the Daily Beast for its second annual ranking. Quality of life factors such as relative affordability, housing and employment opportunities, and size of the age 22-24 population were used to compile the list.

Topping the 2011 list is Fayetteville, N.C., home of Fayetteville State University. Not surprisingly, all the cities on the list have at least one university and several, like Kalamazoo, are home to major universities. Among them are Austin, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; and Durham, N.C.

Kalamazoo is the only city in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana or Wisconsin to make the top 25.

Chosen by the Daily Beast to represent Kalamazoo was a Kalamazoo Gazette photo of WMU music professor Lin Fouk and her husband, Bernie Fouk, working in the large vegetable garden they’ve created in the backyard of their Stuart neighborhood home.
Kohrman Hall's south wing renovation earns architectural award

Recent work on Kohrman Hall has been honored for design excellence by the American Institute of Architects Michigan.

The building’s south wing was one of the 11 projects out of 65 submissions to be given awards in May during the American Institute of Architects Michigan’s annual Celebration of Architecture.

The two-phase renovation of Kohrman Hall began in 2006 and was completed in 2008. It was based on plans by SmithGroup, the Detroit architectural firm that also designed the Richmond Center.

The first phase included a complete reconfiguration of the south wing from an engineering-based space to one suited for the visual arts. The overhaul created dedicated studios that are shared by students and faculty.

The second phase included a complete classroom, critique space and collaborative physical education lab staffed by two graduate assistants.
WMU expands technological offerings to assist, engage students

The University is expanding its technological connections with current and prospective students, recently offering several new apps as well as a virtual tour. The new offerings were largely created by WMU students.

Broncoland, is thought to be the first fully interactive, 3-D campus tour created using video game technology. It was developed by a team of eight student employees and interns and led by Kevin Abbott, information technology.

“The Broncoland Tour is designed to help students learn about WMU by interacting with the campus, rather than just reading about it,” Abbott says. “By making it available on the Web, the tour provides a convenient way for students to get a sense of what WMU is about without having to travel here first.”

The tour features mascot Buster Bronco driving visitors around in a smart golf cart named Goldie. Visitors have the option of taking an automated tour with Buster and Goldie providing commentary or a self-guided tour where they control the golf cart and explore the entire campus at their own pace.

Both versions allow visitors to click on the buildings they see to call up descriptions of them as well as feature Golden Horseshoes that present information about other aspects of the University. The automated version focuses on WMU’s main buildings. More information is built into the free-exploration version, which allows visitors to navigate campus by using standard keyboard controls and to collect Golden Blocks that provide even more information about the University.

Droid, iPhone apps offered for free

A senior engineering project by six computer science students led to development of recently released smartphone apps for Android and for iPhone and other Apple mobile platforms.

WMU Mobile is available free of charge through the Android Market at www.market.android.com for Android smartphones; and through the iTunes Store and App Store for iPhone, iPod Touch and other Apple mobile devices.

Key new features of the WMU Mobile app are real-time Bronco Transit GPS bus tracking and online schedules for all routes, a calendar of WMU public events, maps and locator for key buildings and offices on the main campuses, and live streaming of WMUK Public Radio for HD1 and HD2.

WMU commissioned the project instead of paying a vendor to create the apps. Keith Hearst, enrollment management, was the project’s lead sponsor. The students worked under the supervision of John Kapenga, computer science.

The University plans to add new features and enhance existing ones by working with new student teams each year.

Service

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

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 40, 35, 30, 25, 15 and 10 and five years of service during June.

40 Years—David H. McKee, University Libraries; and Joseph P. Stoltman, geography.

35 Years—Mary A. Warren, Facilities Management-building custodial and support services.

30 Years—Randolph Bottolussi, Facilities Management-power plant.

15 Years—Gordon F. Evans, WMUK; Joan F. Herrington, theatre; Susan Longjohn, Center for Disability Services; David R. Morin, intercollegiate athletics; and Lester W. Wright Jr., psychology.

10 Years—Margaret H. Dupuis, English; Marion W. Gray, history; Norman Lee Johncock, Facilities Management-landscape services; Melissa A. Logan, public safety; and Edmund Tsang, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Five Years—Chris L. Coryn, Evaluation Center; Donald Desmett, art; Gene Freundenburg, Graduate College; Jason M. Glatz, University Libraries; Afsheen Kayani, physics; and Benjamin Choro-Amoah, geography.
Four more WMU faculty members receive prestigious Fulbright grants

Three faculty members received Fulbright Program grants to work overseas during the 2010-11 academic year and a fourth will use his newly announced grant to work overseas during the 2011-12 academic year. The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 and is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the federal government. The most recent awardees from WMU are:

• Susan M. Hoffmann, political science and director of the Institute of Government and Politics. Hoffmann took part in the 2010 summer German Studies Seminar held over nine days in Berlin, Schwerin, and Hamburg, Germany.
• Albert LaVergne, art and sculpture-area coordinator. LaVergne received a Fulbright Lec-turing/Research award to spend 10 months at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria beginning in January 2012.
• F. William McCarty, emeritus in finance and commercial law. McCarty received a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach business ethics at Moldova State University from September through December 2010. He retired in 2006.
• Carl Ratner, music and director of the opera program. Ratner received a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, 2010.

Broncos earn top place in MAC women’s sports, second in men’s

WMU has earned its sixth Jacoby Trophy, which is awarded annually to the top women’s athletic program in the Mid-American Conference.

The Broncos also captured second place in the Reece Trophy standings for supremacy in men’s athletics. WMU is the only school to win the MAC West Division title in basketball, won the MAC regular season championship in tennis, and finished second in soccer in both the regular season and the MAC tournament.

New BTR Park partner released its first major application in September. The product is already in use by ambulance companies in eight states. Traumasoft’s cloud computing service means its proprietary software is housed on company servers, where clients’ data is separated, secured and accessible via the Internet.

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