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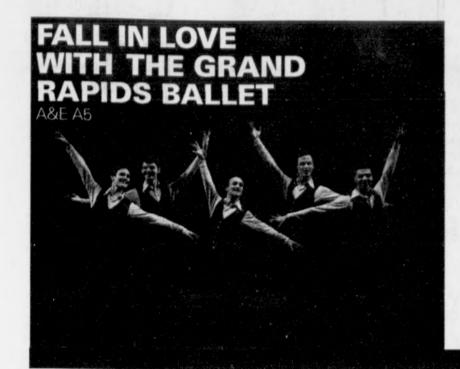


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SAFETY FIRST **GVPD MONITORS** CRIME ON CAMPUS **NEWS A3**



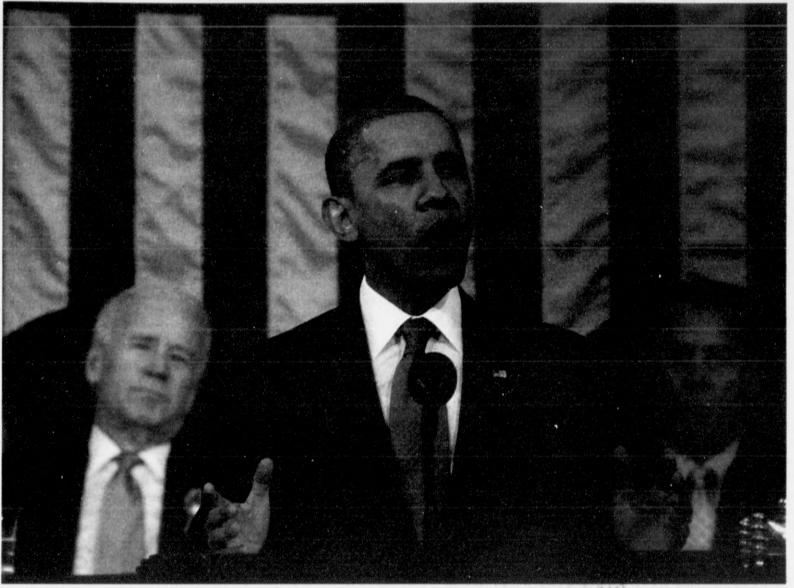
BASKETBALL READY FOR LSSU B

Lanthorn

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THRUSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013

SEARCHING FOR MIDDLE GROUND



CHARLES DHARAPAK | AP

Sparking change: President Barack Obama gestures as he gives his State of the Union address during a joint session of Congress in Washington DC. Obama shared his plans for the coming year in his one hour speech including a proposal to increase minimum wage and modest reforms in programs like Medicare.

Obama pushes for action during State of the Union address

BY BECKY SPAULDING GVL STAFF WRITER

he agenda that President Barack Obama laid out for his second term at Tuesday's State of the Union Address focused largely on the U.S. economy, including a proposal to increase minimum wage and accommodate modest reforms in programs like Medicare. Obama also explored topics such as increased gun control and the U.S. response to climate change.

Throughout the hour-long speech, the president touched on growing the middle class through

spending cuts, job creation and ment has a secondary role." tax and education reform.

Many of his proposals mirror the "traditional liberal vision," said Erika King, Grand Valley State University professor of political science.

"Obama has been very consistent in his ideas," King said, mentioning his original economic stimulus plan and its original acceptance by Republicans, who have since lost interest in it. "In the liberal point of view, the federal government is a major player, whereas Republicans have the idea that the govern-

King said the purpose of the State of the Union Address is for the president to put forth his agenda for his upcoming term.

"The problem he faces is convincing the opposition that his ideas are best," she said. "The saying goes, 'President proposes, Congress disposes. The president needs the (mostly Democratic) house and (mostly Republican) senate to agree on his proposals."

Obama pushed for a budget reduction based on a mixture of tax increases and spending cuts,

saying the "sequester" law that Congress passed in 2011-in which "about a trillion dollars' worth of budget cuts would automatically go into effect this year" should the parties be unable to agree on a plan to reach the deficit goal-was "a really bad idea."

Paul Isely, professor and chair of the department of economics in the Seidman College of Business, said the idea of using a mix of taxes and spending changes, as opposed to real entitlement

SEE STATE, A3

Proposed bill offers students tax credits

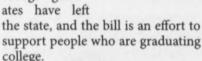
BY RYAN JARVI **GVL STAFF WRITER**

Michigan's House of Representatives introduced a bill on Feb. 5 that, if passed, would offer tax credits to individuals who have received a bachelor's degree from a qualified university for the amount paid on student loans for that tax year.

HB 4182 would offer qualified taxpayers a credit of up to 50 percent of the amount paid on student loans in a tax year, but not more than 20 percent of the average yearly tuition of Michigan's public universities. For individuals receiving a credit that exceeds the amount of taxes the individual is required to pay, the exceeding amount would be refunded.

Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) sponsored the bill and said it is modeled after a program in the state of Maine.

Over the last decade a lot of college gradu-



SINGH

support people who are graduating college. "It's a way for us to try to provide

an incentive for Michigan university graduates to stay in the state of Michigan," Singh said.

To qualify for the credit, which reduces the amount of taxes paid, taxpayers must have received a bachelor's degree from an approved educational institution of Michigan, be paying off student loans, and both reside and be employed in the state.

Graduates are not the only ones rewarded, though. In certain situations, businesses offer to pay their employees' student loans as an incentive to work for them. The proposed bill would offer those businesses a tax credit of the same percentage that an indi-

SEE HOUSE, A3

Student Senate, GSA to work out funding allocation

Senators, Student Life Fund Administrative board works on 2013-2014 base budget

BY ANYA ZENTMEYER

The Grand Valley State University Student Senate will meet with members of the Graduate Student Association on Friday to discuss changes brewing in allocation funds for the GSA next fall.

"As we would with any student or student organization that comes to us or has a concern we worked to make sure every student enrolled is represented properly," said Jack Iott, Student Senate President.

The university created a Student

Life Fund Administrative Board last month to review the allocation process to include not only undergraduate organizations, but also graduate student organizations like GSA, who in prior years budgets only received about 3 percent of the total allocations made from the Student Life Fund.

"After long deliberation of how to address student life funds for graduate students, we created this allocation board to help make a formal process in which we can satisfy our constituents," Iott said.

The Student Life Fund Admin-

We are excited that the Board has come to fruition and believe it is a great start to growing the student voice at Grand Valley.

JACK IOTT STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT istrative Board is made up of about 10 people, lott said. The board will determine which portion of Student Life reserve funds - a rollover of extra allocation money from student organizations in the previous year - will be awarded to Graduate Student Life.

The Student Senate is expected to discuss the Student Life Fund base budget this afternoon, the entirety of which includes all student organizations at GVSU.

Following this week's meetings, the Student Senate Finance Board will review any organizations requesting additional funds, but allocation requests of over \$10,000 must be brought before the general assembly before numbers can be finalized.

"We are excited that the Board has come to fruition and believe it is a great start to growing the student voice at Grand Valley," Iott

The senate will hold its general assembly meeting today at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center's Pere Marquette Room.

editorial@lanthorn.com



BRIEFS

GV CHARTER SCHOOLS RANK NO. 1

A report recently released by the Michigan State Board of Education indicates that compared to other charter schools in Michigan, Grand Valley State University's 52 neighborhood charters perform significantly higher than other authorizers using state tests.

This report was prepared by Michigan State University for the state Board of Education which found that GVSU charter schools have shown greater growth as compared to students that don't attend GVSU charter schools.

ENGINEERING MAJOR DESIGN HITS X-GAMES

Toward the end of January, Garrett Goodwin placed third in the snocross event at the Winter X Games in Aspen, Colo. Goodwin races a Ski-Doo with a special seat. As an engineering major, Goodwin has designed a sturdy seat that can be bolted to a sled. After experiencing a motorcycle accident in July of 2011, Goodwin was determined to design something safe and secure for people.

PUBLIC LECTURES HIGHLIGHT JEWISH STUDIES

Professor Jeffrey Shandler of Rutgers University, president of the Association for Jewish studies, will be delivering two public lectures at Grand Valley State University on Feb. 17-18. Shandler is a writer and editor of several books with an emphasis on Jewish studies.

The first lecture is titled "The December Dilemma: Christmas in American Jewish Popular Culture," and will be held in the Loosemore Auditorium at 3 p.m. On Feb. 18, the second the lecture, titled "The Holocaust on American Television," will be held at 3 p.m. in Lake Michigan Hall, Room 114 on GVSU's Allendale Campus.

For further information, contact Rob Franciosi at 616-331-3069 or francior@gvsu.edu.

GV HOSTS MODEL ARAB LEAGUE

Grand Valley State University will host students from nine other universities at the Model Arab League competition from Feb. 14-16 in the Kirkhof Center. Students attending will be coming from Adrian College, Aquinas College, DePaul University, Grand Rapids Community College, Hope College, Spring Arbor University, Northwestern University, Saginaw Valley State University and the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

This event will have these colleges highlight and represent different Arab countries that will be divided into committees to address specific affairs in different countries. GVSU has participated in the Model Arab League for 15 years, and it has also been a course for three years.

At the Lanthorn we strive to bring you the most accurate news possible. If we make a mistake, we want to make it right. If you find any errors in fact in the Lanthorn, let us know by

calling 616-331-2464 or by emailing editorial@lanthorn.com.

Lanthorn

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STATE

CONTINUED FROM A1

change, is more of a short-term solution.

"The longer-term debt issue (as opposed to the short-term debt problem) is all about entitlements," Isely said. "Not addressing entitlements means the president is 'kicking the can down the road' to whoever will be president next, as by 2020 this will need to be addressed and the longer we wait the more painful the fix is going to be."

Obama also proposed moderate reforms to Medicare, suggesting that government funding be based on quality of care instead of how many tests are run.

The president said the Affordable Care Act is "helping to slow the growth of health care costs," and that his reforms to Medicare will help that go further, but did not touch on the topic deeply.

"It seems that there was not a significant focus in the president's address about health care reform," said Cynthia McCurren, dean and professor of the GVSU Kirkhof College of Nursing. McCurren said more attention was given to Medicare/Medicaid.

"Evolving Medicare guidelines promote quality and reimbursement strategies that are tied to performance outcomes; (this serves as a demonstration that can be replicated in the private market)," McCurren said. "The efforts to slow the growth of health care costs

must be continued and the president stated his commitment to work in cooperation and in a bipartisan manner, hoping to achieve common ground and collective agreement on strategies moving forward."

66

Infrastructure spending helps businesses and individuals (and) it also creates a short-term bump in the economy.

"

BARACK OBAMA U.S. PRESIDENT

Obama also said job creation is just as important as spending cuts and tax reform when it comes to lowering the national deficit.

"Our first priority is making America a magnet for new jobs and manu-

facturing," he said.

He addressed education reform as well, proposing that high-quality schools be available to every child starting from preschool, Obama added the government should be making sure that colleges keep their costs as low as possible for optimum enrollment.

He also proposed raising the current federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$9 per hour.

Isely said this can be a double-edged sword.

"It may or may not get more money into the hands of the less wealthy. In general, there is a trade-off between increased wages and a decrease in jobs that can also result," Isely said. "The question is which effect is bigger...it will probably not do much to improve the economy overall."

The president also proposed more investment in sustainable energy, urging Congress to adopt a "bipartisan, market-based solution to climate change."

Isely said another important item is the infrastructure spending proposed by the president.

Obama proposed a "Fix It First" program, in which deteriorating bridges and roads would be fixed as soon as possible.

"(This proposal) has merit if there is a way to pay for it," Isely said. "Infrastructure spending helps businesses and individuals (and) it also creates a short-term bump in the economy."

bspaulding@lanthorn.com

HOUSE

CONTINUED FROM A1

vidual is entitled to.

However, if businesses receive a credit that exceeds the tax liability for that year, the exceeding amount will not be refunded. Instead, it will be carried forward to offset tax liabilities for either the next 10 tax years or until the amount is used up.

In its current state, the bill must first be reviewed by the House Committee on Tax Policy, which may happen soon, said Rep. Rob VerHeulen (R-Walker). "Typically they go to the committee and either don't come out at all, or come out in a different form," VerHeulen said of proposed bills.

From there it can be considered by the House as a whole, then evaluated by the Senate and finally by the governor.

Singh said he is hopeful that the bill will go before the House so the

sponsors can present reasons on why it would be good for residents of the state. "Our hope is that the Committee on Tax Policy will take this up, but we won't know that until later this year,"

Rep. Roger Victory (R-Hudsonville), does not currently have a stance on the bill, but is concerned with how much it will cost the state, a spokesperson for Victory said.

No other state tax credits currently exist for student loans, but deductions and other credit opportunities are available to current students, including the American Opportunity credit and the Lifetime Learning credit.

Matt McLogan, vice president of university relations for Grand Valley State University, said the bill probably would not affect GVSU, but students and their families could benefit from it.

"Tax situations vary by individual HB 4182. and we always suggest that students

"

Typically they go to the committee and either don't come out at all, or come out in a different form.

"

ROB VERHEULEN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

and parents with benefit questions consult a tax adviser," McLogan said.

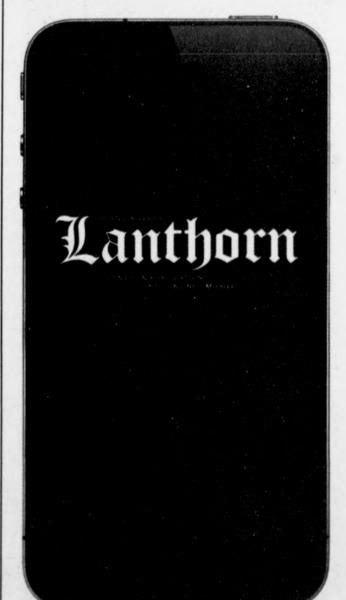
For more information on educational tax credits and deductions, visit www.irs.gov.

To view the proposed bill, visit www.legislature.mi.gov and search for HB 4182.

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Sinking ship: Two women stand in front of the list of those who survived as well as those who died during the sinking of the Titanic. GVSU student Kelley Senkowski has, heard all the stories about the sinking of the Titanic after her great-grandmother, Jessie Trout, was one of the survivors off the sunk ship. The exhibit is at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

Graduate student shares family connection to Titanic

BY STEPHANIE ALLEN **GVL A&E EDITOR**

On April 14, 1912 the Titanic struck an iceberg and did exactly what everyone said it couldn't - sink, claiming more than 1,500 lives.

More than 100 years later, the sinking remains to be one of the world's most

devastating and fascinating shipwrecks. The stories from that cold night continue to live on, depicted through Hollywood films, grim underwater footage and the latest exhibit at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition."

But for Kelley Senkowski, a Grand Valley State University graduate student, the exhibit means more than just learning about the ship's history and viewing the more than 150 preserved artifacts. She grew up learning about her great-grandmother, Jessie Trout's survival story, but

has never really shared it publically, until now.

"I figured no one really cared," Senkowski said. "Up until then, our family's never really told it, it's just kind of a story in our family."

Trout, a 26-year-old widow traveled from the U.S. to her home country of Scotland, and later London to visit relatives, after the death of her husband. With a first class ticket purchased for the Oceanic, which didn't set sail for two months, Trout was able to upgrade for a \$7 fee to a second-class ticket on the Titanic.

Trout's family had no idea

she had been on the Titanic, until she showed up to her home in Columbus, Ohio several days after the sinking. When she returned, she recounted her story to several newspapers, but then rarely discussed it after with

SEE TITANIC, A3



ROBERT MATHEWS | GVL

Slugger: Professor Danielle Leek speaks to her communications class this past semester. Beginning this semester, GVSU will be changing the general education system by adding a category called 'Issues.

GV adds general education courses

BY KARA HAIGHT GVL STAFF WRITER

With registration right around the corner, Grand Valley State University students may be seeing different classes on the roster this year. This semester, GVSU is getting ready to implement a change to the general education system with the addition of the category titled 'Issues.'

Keith Rhodes, interim chair of the University Curriculum Committee's General Education Committee, said the adjustments to the program aren't completely new, but the changes are still in progress.

"The new plan was adopted last year," Rhodes said. "But we're still in a transition period."

The development began in November 2011 when a final proposal outlined the conversation surrounding upper-level theme courses. The proposal was approved in January 2012, and a month later the design outlined a shift to "replace the Themes component of the program with a new upper-level component called Issues," according to GVSU's general education website.

'Issues' courses would cover a range of topics from globalization to human rights and identity, with the general education website listing six different categories.

The plan stated on the approved proposal was to begin offering 'Issues' courses in the fall 2013 semester for students, with the hope that more courses within 'Issues' would become available over time.

With the fall 2013 semester just a few months out, both faculty and advisers are preparing students for the new options.

"On the faculty side, the new plan includes a lot of changes in our internal assessment of general education learning goals," Rhodes said. "For students, no doubt the most interesting change is that we are phasing out 'Themes' and replacing them."

Carol Griffin, director of GV-SU's general education program, said more information about the new course will be available in the coming weeks.

"We are going to email all faculty advisers, professional advisers and students about how we will be transitioning to the new general program," Griffin said.

As the transitions begin next semester, freshmen and transfer students entering GVSU after fall 2014 will no longer have the option of 'Themes', only 'Issues"

courses to choose from.

But Rhodes said students planning to graduate in the 2013-2014 academic school year will be affected by the general education program changes.

Students who are currently enrolled and plan to graduate later will also be part of the transition plan, even if they will have more time to adjust to it," Rhodes said "We're still generating the final information on that transition plan."

Griffin said the existing general education program with students choosing two courses within a theme will retire with the April 2013 graduates, with new courses being offered under the 'Issues' title during registration in March 2013.

Griffin added that the addition of 'Issues' courses will benefit stu-

dents in the long run. "Students will be able to take any of the 'Issues' and 'Themes' courses as long as it is two different prefixes, and only one course can be at the 100/200 level," Griffin said. "(This) means that students will have far more courses to choose from to complete their upper-division general education requirement."

khaight@lanthorn.com

University works to reduce on-campus crime

BY SARAH HILLENBRAND **GVL SENIOR REPORTER**

Less than a month after the kidnapping and sexual assault of a Central Michigan University attention student, some women around the as possible country are sure to be a little more safety-conscious.

At Grand Valley State University, there are many people who work to keep campus safe from any crime that could occur and provide continued help to victims of crimes or other serious offenses. While the main idea is that the victim of a serious crime is never at fault, there are a few precautionary measures available

to increase one's own safety. "At Grand Valley State University, we understand that sexual assault is never the victim's fault," said Theresa Rowland, who is the Violence Against Women grant coor-

dinator for the Women's Center. Rowland said victim blaming is a point of view that needs to be changed. "Continually addressing sexual assault as something that could be prevented 'if only the victim had done blank' versus focusing on the realities that make perpetrators motivated to and able to commit these heinous crimes is a problem," Rowland said.

Joanne Ziembo-Vogl from the School of Criminal Justice also emphasized that the focus should be on what the offender did and not what the victim should have done.

There is a fine line when talking about crime prevention and talking like the victim should have done something different," Ziembo-Vogl said.

Capt. Brandon DeHaan, assistant director of the Department of Public Safety, said a major tip for students on campus is to be aware of their surroundings and to call 911 if they see anything unusual.

For the GVSU Police Department, DeHaan said appearance is a deterrent for crime happening on campus.

"Our officers are uniformed and armed and drive in marked vehicles," he said. "I encourage the staff to be as visible as possible because high appearance is a deterrent to criminal activities. We can't be every place at every time, so it's important to be aware of what's going on around us."

DeHaan also gave students several tips to help avoid a potentially dangerous situation, such

as make as much noise and draw as much

being attacked,

walk

with

other

DEHAAN

otes

students as there is greater safety in numbers, park in a lighted area and plan ahead.

"Bad things can happen anywhere, including a university campus," DeHaan said. "Students should be aware for themselves but also for the community, and if someone sees something, they

should contact 911." Ziembo-Vogl said college campuses are prime hunting grounds for sexual assaults for both males and females.

According to a 2009 National Crime Victimization Survey, only about 21 percent of female sexual assault victims were raped by an unknown offender. "Images of sexual assault by a stranger saturate our cultural consciousness of sexual violence, but more women know who their perpetrators are," Rowland said.

She added that according to a 2000 study by the U.S. Department of Justice, on college campuses about 90 percent of women know the person who sexually assaulted or raped them.

"In instances of sexual assault, GVSU feels strongly that the emphasis should be on the prevention of sexual assault, not just ways that women can reduce in risk," Rowland said.

Resources are available on MA campus to help prevent sexual assault and aid victims. For pre- IRA vention, resources include the Campus Violence Prevention Team, covering the topic with freshmen during Transitions, the club Eyes Wide Open, Re-ACT! anti-violence peer theatre program and the safe walk program. Students who have been victims can receive help from the counseling center, the Women's 18 Center, as well as other campus resources available to students.

"This is a very safe campus in a number of ways, however, bad ***4 things can happen," DeHaan said.

shillenbrand@lanthorn.com

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

Would the passing of bill HB 4182 entice you to work and live in state of Michigan following graduation?



"Yes, depending on how much money I would be getting back would tell me if it is worth it to move out of state or not after graduation."

MARIAH SUPIANOSKI

Sophomore Exercise science major Quincy, Mich.



"It would depend on how much tax credit I would receive.'

KELLI ROWLAND

Freshman Mathematics major Rockford, Mich.



'The passing of the bill would definitely make me think twice about moving out of state. The amount of money would definitely sway on my opinion, though."

ELIZABETH HOBAN Freshman

Biomedical major Battle Creek Mich



"No, not necessarily. I would like to experience living a different place for at least a few years."

JONATHON LEHMANN

Chemistry major Midland, Mich.



"In this economy, it is more important to find a job regardless of location and tax credit.

DAVID LO

Finance/Econ major West Bloomfield, Mich.

"GVL OPINION POLICY

The goal of the Grand Valley Lanthorn's opinion page is to act as a forum for public discussion, comment and criticism in the Grand Valley State University community. Student opinions published here do not necessarily reflect those of the paper as an entity.

The Grand Valley Lanthorn aims to be a safe vehicle for community discussion. The Lanthorn will not publish or entertain any forms of hate speech, but will not discriminate against any other views, opinions or beliefs. The content, information and views expressed are not approved by nor necessarily represent those of the university, its Board of Trustees, officers, faculty or staff.

Reader submissions on the opinion page appear as space permits, and are reserved for letters to the editor only, all other readergenerated content can be submitted to the Grand Valley Lanthorn's YourSpace page by emailing community@lanthorn.com.

Letters to the editor should include the author's full name and relevant title along with a valid email and phone number for confirming the identity of the author. Letters should be approximately 500-650 words in length, and are not edited by the staff of the Grand Valley Lanthorn outside of technical errors for clarity.

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Got something to say? We'll listen.

editorial@lanthorn.com

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Global Perspectives by Garrick See



PREAD MORE OPINION ONLINE ONLY

VALLEY VOTE

Do you think GVSU's campus is becoming too overcrowded?

YES: 64%

NO: 36%

THIS ISSUE'S QUESTION:

Do you think tax credits on student loans will keep graduates in MI?

LOG ON & VOTE

LANTHORN.COM

EDITORIAL

GOOD CREDIT

With record amounts of loan debt, record unemployment rate, the proposed House Bill might be just the right incentive to keep grads close to home

ichigan college students might finally be able to rack up some credits that won't also rack up expenses with the introduction of a new bill by the Michigan House of Representatives on Feb. 5. to encourage college-educated young adults to stay and work in the state after graduation.

House Bill 4182, which would offer taxpayers with a bachelor's degree from an approved educational institution a tax credit of up to 50 percent of the amount paid on student loans on a tax year, is good news for Michigan, a state that in 2007 suffered a net loss of 18,000 adults with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2007 alone, as reported by an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau and Internal Revenue Service data analysis done by the Detroit News.

Though the tax credit would award no more than 20 percent of the average yearly tuition of Michigan's public

universities, at a statewide average yearly tuition, according to Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas' most recent accountability report, is \$10,508.

The idea behind House Bill 4182, co-sponsor Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) told a Lanthorn reporter, is to act as an incentive for young people to stay in Michigan and help boost the economy. It also offers a tax credit to businesses that offer to help pay employee's student loans, reducing their payout by the same percentage of the individual employed.

"In simplest terms, those with the skills to leave Michigan are doing so; high-skilled people from other states who once might have moved to Michigan are choosing to go elsewhere," Detroit News reporters wrote.

Though opponents of the bill have voice concerns over the cost of such a

sweeping program, The Bureau of Labor Statistics for the U.S. reported that in the past six months, Michigan's unemployment rate has fluctuated around nine percent with the rate getting as high as 9.4 percent (August) and as low as 8.9 percent (November and December). Coupled with debt that's around 75,257,550,500 currently has and you have a state full of students facing prospects that only sweeping incentives can afford to fight.

The bill still has yet to be reviewed by the House Committee on Tax Policy, which supporters are optimistic will happen soon. From there, it has to make it before the House, which will vote on the legislation.

So from us Michigan college students to you, House Bill 4182 - may the odds be ever in your favor.

READ MORE ONLINE



To carry or not to carry" by Stephanie Schoch

GVL EDITORIAL CARTOON I BY ANDREW SMITH



asmith@lanthorn.com

es of a date, or any kind of

pseudo-romantic encoun-

ter, is appearance. Girls

spend hours looking in

front of a mirror to achieve

the perfect look. Guys con-

stantly badger their friends

that are girls for advice on

the perfect look. Imagine

going on a date where the

other person isn't thinking

about any of that. Imagine

going on a date with a per-

son that's solely interested

in what you know instead of how you look. A date

"Give us nerds a chance!"



BY NATE SMITH **GVL COLUMNIST**

Valentine's Day (like most holidays) is a day that brings forth mixed emotions for everyone. Every year there's the group that doesn't feel the need to "yield to the man" and pony up for a gift for their part-ner. While that is generally frowned upon in the dating realm, this is America and it's well within one's right to be a poor sport and seen as a cheapskate by their partner. However, there's one demographic that's looked over every year: the nerds.

While I'm fortunate enough to have a date today (check your totem, you may be dreaming), there are many of my nerdy brothers and sisters that are going without as we speak. This is a tragedy. This is the one day a year when being a recluse hurts. It's the day where being alone is actively shunned. It's not their fault either, nerds are gener-

ally very loving people that get a bad rap from (somewhat) baseless stereotypes and shows like The Big Bang Theory.

In fact there are several reasons why you should be hitting up your local Lan center instead of a nightclub for you dream valentine.

1. Nerds are passionate

Seriously, if you want to see a perfect example of someone being genuinely excited about something, catch a nerd engaging in their hobby of choice. You can't force them away from said activity! Now imagine that energy and attention being put toward you and your hobbies. It may seem like a stretch to come between a nerd and their video games but trust me, if there was ever a time it would be now. Today society is telling us that we get bonus points for being around other humans. You will have their undivided attention.

2. Lack of ego

For the most part, nerds are very humble people. We are constantly humbled by life itself so there isn't much of an ego to speak of. Ever have a date that can only talk about him/herself? With a real nerd this is non existent. Conversations may have to be led a bit to prevent the eventual spiral into sci-fi fan fiction and RPG stats, but I assure you that "how good I look" conversations will be kept to a minimum if they happen at all.

3. Splurge factor

You may not be able to tell by their faded t-shirt and identical parental address, but nerds like to spend money. I'm not saying you should start gold digging someone who virtually mines gold for a living, but know that they probably won't lame out when it comes to dropping cash on a cool present. Nerds are notorious for spending obscene amounts of cash on memorabilia, costumes and anything that has the words "special edition" somewhere on the packaging. One lesser known fact is that nerds give the best gifts. I'm not talking about your run of the mill candies and flower gifts either. I'm talking monument to whatever you're interested

in gift. 4. No judgement One of the biggest stress-

that looks at you like a person instead of a place filler or a piece of meat. Nerds are generally used to being looked down upon, and that's IF they're looked at in the first place. This automatically makes your date a judgement free zone. I guess what I'm trying to say is there's an untapped market when it comes to dating material. In the end people are people, and nobody wants to be alone, especially on a day like this. If you do? I mean have a ba-

treat ya self!

nsmith@lanthorn.com

dass day saving money and

Pearson speaks on diversity for **Asian Pacific Heritage Month**

BY AUDREY SOCHOR **GVL COPY EDITOR**

Exotic foods, art, dance and music are all integral parts for honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Month at Grand Valley State University. But event planners also want to bring greater understanding of these diverse cultures by diving beneath the surface.

On Feb. 11, Christen Pearson, associate professor of English linguistics and TES-OL at GVSU, spoke about the struggles foreign adoptive children and international students can face with language barriers and cultural differences during "Internationalizing Families, Internationalizing Communities, and the Children Navigating These Uncharted Waters."

During her presentation, Pearson said there were more than 5 million English language learners (ELLs) enrolled in U.S. school systems in 2004. Of those, 76 percent had Spanish as their native language, followed by Vietnamese at 2.4 percent, Hmong at 1.8 percent, and Korean and Arabic at 1.2 percent.

"My interest (in ELLs) started because I was a parent. First of a boy, then another boy and another boy, but I wanted a girl so I adopted," Pearson said.

Pearson spoke about her study of internationally adopted children as they learned English as well as internationalizing families and university communities.

"When designing topics for the Asian Heritage Celebration Month, I always want to be comprehensive in the context as well as the different ethnics groups in the Asian community," said Connie Dang, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Newcomers have joined our community, including Vietnamese, Hmong and Laotians, Dang added.

"I wanted to be mindful of the language barrier that, you know, this population encounters," Dang said, adding she wanted to bring awareness to the struggles bilingual students may encounter at GVSU or other campuses when coming come to our institution.

Foreign speaking students can have a hard time articulating themselves to professors, or struggle with English writing courses they have to take, Dang said.

Besides struggling with

language barriers, Pearson said foreign speaking students are expected to assimilate to U.S. culture and can be misunderstood because of cultural differences.

People often celebrate culture on a surface level with cooking, music, art and dress, but deeper levels are not addressed. Because people often don't dig beyond surface levels, differences in facial expressions or eye contact can make it harder for students.

Some cultures have a "blank face" that we think means they don't care, but they do, Pearson said. They just come from a culture that doesn't show emotion a lot.

Another time Pearson said an instructor got upset when a student wouldn't make eye contact. What he didn't know was the student was showing respect because

Teachers might be able to adapt their learning approach if they understand cultural differences on a deeper level.

CHRISTEN PEARSON ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

in the culture, not maintaining eye contact and giving them space was courtesy.

"Teachers might be able to adapt their learning approach if they understand cultural differences on a deeper level," Pearson said.

To internationalize communities and families, she said people need to have an open discussion on acculturation vs. assimilation.

In the past, Pearson said we pushed for others to be like us, but are now realizing it's not always a good thing. Even so, she added adoptive families and others not always try to understand the culture.

On average, Pearson said 18,185 children were adopted per year from countries such as China, Ethiopia, Russia and South Korea in 2000-2011.

Adoption did decrease in 2011 because "lots of things going on globally," including countries getting back on their feet, single mothers becom-

acceptable and economic problems here, she added.

"Fewer and fewer families can afford

PEARSON this, or afford more children

in the family," Pearson said. As an adoptive parent of two special needs children from Korea, experience with ELLs is something Pearson has.

But what she wanted to know is how did internationally adopted children between ages 3 and 15, who already had a first language in place, fare when learning English?

In her study, Pearson looked at 207 adopted children from non-English speaking countries that had been in their new home for 12 months.

She found many appeared to be doing well (75 percent with age or near age appropriate comprehension) with functional English after one year, but variables including health, personality and neglect could have an effect.

But there was a concern with children's first language proficiency before basic English was in place. "In as little as six months a child can lose their first language," Pearson said. This could make it harder for them to learn English.

When it came to academic English, many children didn't fare as well: 37 percent had age appropriate comprehension. The same factors plus time in orphanage, age of arrival in U.S., and physical and sexual abuse, influenced their ability to learn academic English.

"For every 3 to 4 months spent in an orphanage, the child is a month behind (in language proficiency)," Pearson said.

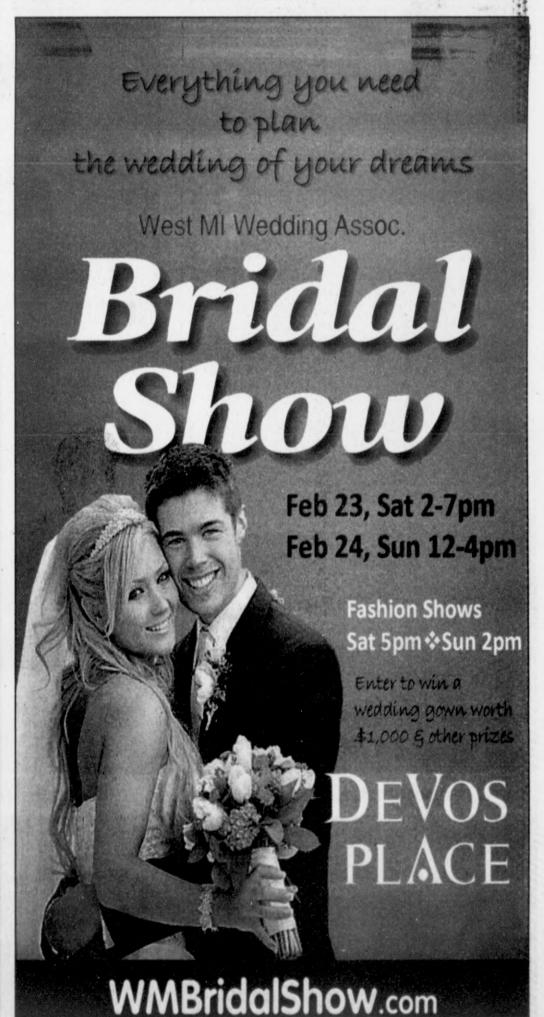
Pearson said to help ELLs "we need services in place" instead of the "wait and see approach."

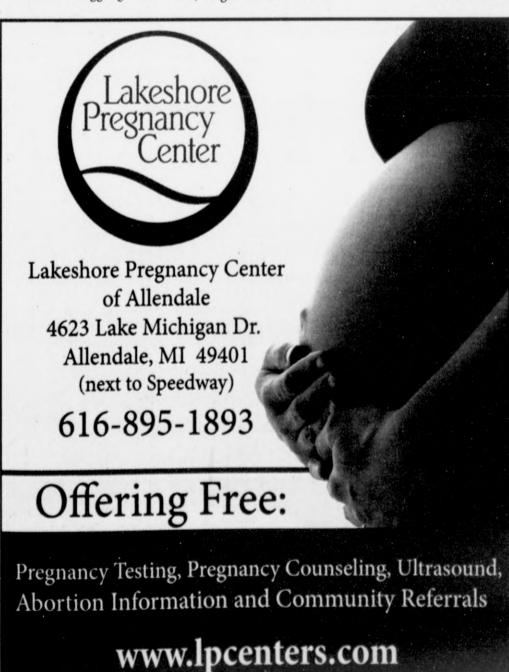
"Some changes that I would like to see is for the academic advising office to think about employing some of the bilingual staff to work in their offices to make sure we meet the needs of different student populations," Dang said.

For more information on Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration Month visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

asochor@ lanthorn.com







TITANIC

CONTINUED FROM A3

her family.

"It was 15 minutes to 12 o'clock Sunday night when we struck the iceberg," Trout said to a Columbus Citizen reporter for the April 22, 1912 issue. "I was awakened and looked out and saw the iceberg passing. You have seen the roots of a big double tooth that has been pulled. Well, that's about the best description I can give of the iceberg which

I think they're excited to put her back as a part of it so people know her story.

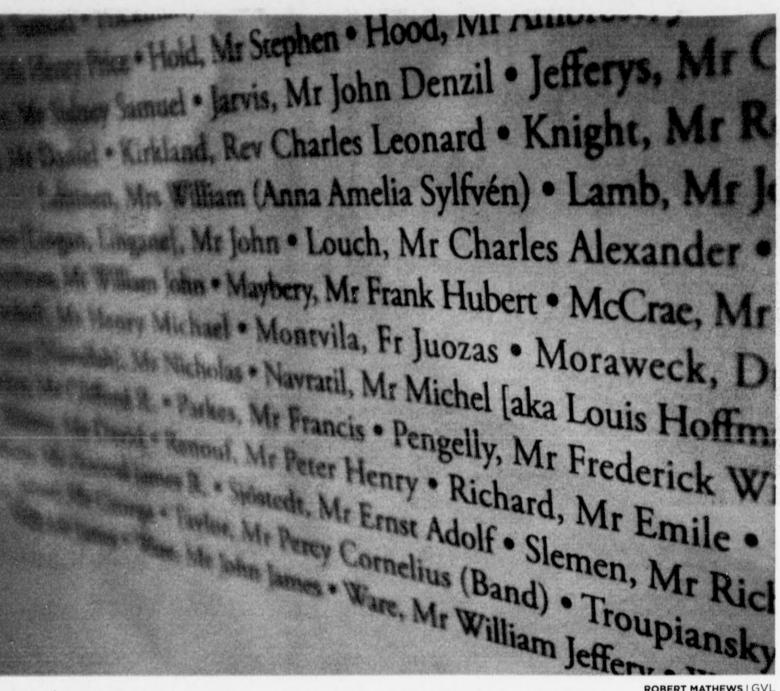
KELLIE SENKOWSKI GVSU STUDENT

was right near the Titanic."

Shortly after the collision, Trout was told to return to her cabin and remain calm. Much like depicted in the Hollywood film, passengers were unaware of how serious the situation was, until it was too late.

"I did not realize we were in any danger until about 12:30 when the purser of the second cabin told us to put on life preservers and go to the boat deck," Trout said to the Columbus Citizen. "After I went up to the boat deck I went back down to my berth to get my bracelet and my backcomb. I only had my night clothes and top coat on. When I came back up on the boat deck I was grabbed by a seaman and placed in lifeboat No. 9. It was next to the last boat put out. There were about 40 women and children and two young men passengers and six seamen on that lifeboat."

Although Trout's lifeboat saw the Carpathia shortly after 3 a.m., it took several hours until they were rescued.



ROBERT MATHEWS | GVL

Ship to shore: A list of names of those who survived and those who were unable to escape is on display at the "Titanic, the Artifact Exhibition" at the Public Museum in Grand Rapids. The exhibit will be running now until July 7 and tickets are on sale now.

"We were probably half a mile from the Titanic when she went down," Trout said. "It was a terrible sight. Not until 7 o'clock in the morning were we picked up by the Carpathia. It was terribly cold but the women, although lightly dressed, seemed to stand it better than the men. The women also seemed more composed on the Titanic than the men."

Senkowski shared her great-grandmother's story at the member-only preview on Feb. 8, before the exhibit opened to the public Feb. 9, and will speak again at the Feb. 21 at the museum's fundraising event.

"I just want to honor her story," Senkows-

ki said. "I've written to an author to give him her name and the picture and I just want to honor her life and her story so that can be told as part of the whole Titanic story."

She was excited for her five children to see the exhibit for the first time in more than seven years, which has new artifacts, a simulated iceberg to touch and an interactive element. "It always bothered them that her infor-

mation was never included in anything - any books, any stories told about it - so I think they're excited to put her back as a part of it so people know her story," Senkowski said.

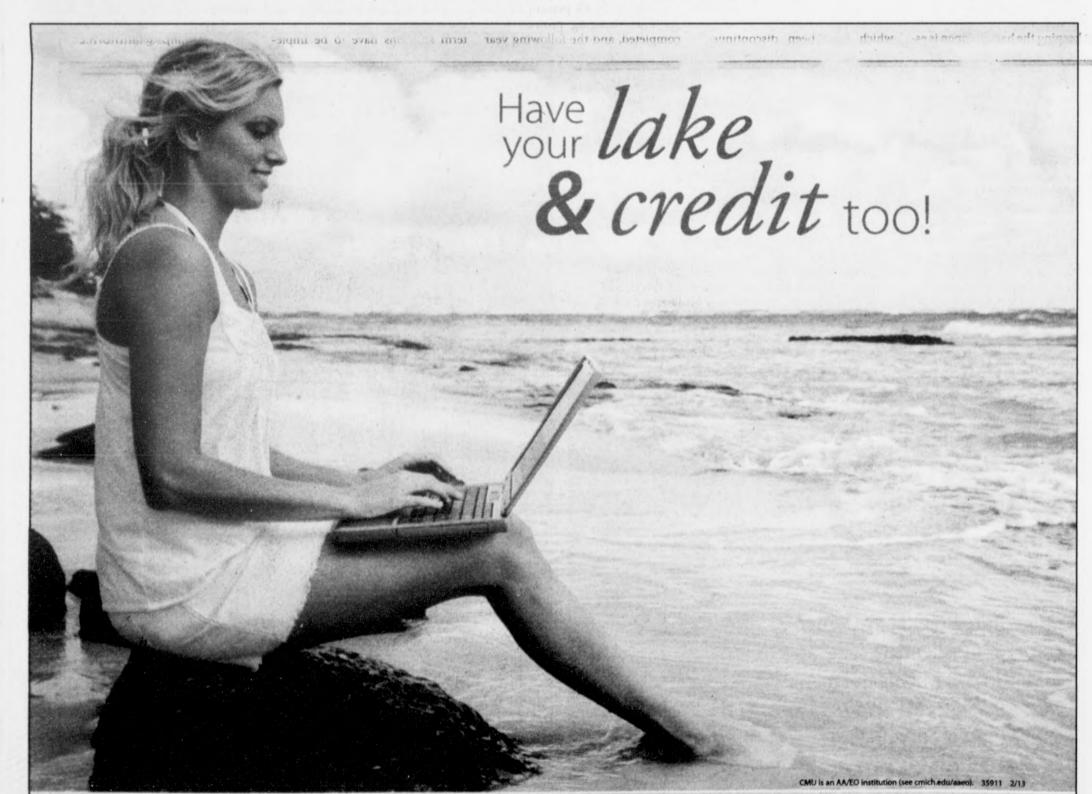
When entering the exhibit, which runs

until July 7, viewers are handed a gendercoded "boarding pass," which includes the name and information of a real passenger. At the end, a commemorative wall lists all of the Titanic's passengers and viewers can find out if they would have survived.

"It's kinda those kind of feelings where you know people experienced this," she said. "Like 911, you know actual people went through it, it's not just a story, it's not just a movie, they lived it. That's very powerful in an exhibit."

For museum hours and special tours, or to purchase tickets, go to www.grmuseum.org.

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Great Lakes dredging to affect West Michigan

\$21 million project will set out to aid the Great Lakes with falling water levels

BY ELLIE PHILLIPS GVL STAFF WRITER

As he announced earlier in the year, Gov. Snyder plans to spend \$21 million on a dredging project in Lake Michigan, which will focus on harbors that are becoming too shallow due to falling Great Lakes water levels.

The budget Snyder has proposed will appropriate \$11.5 million from the state's general fund and will transfer \$9 million from the state waterway fund.

Federal funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund used to keep the harbors open has declined in recent years, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has declined as well. This has left many harbor communities in a difficult situation, as the problem affects most of the harbors and marinas in the state. State officials have said that keeping the harbors open is essential to the Michigan economy.

"A lot of Michiganders don't realize that lake levels are extremely low," Snyder said at the Michigan Press Association conference last month. "It is critically important to tourism and other things in Michigan, in terms of normal business and commerce."

Four major factors have led to the need for dredging in the lake: mild weather in the region, which results in more evaporation due to lack of ice; drought conditions due to the hot summer, causing more evaporation which resulted in record low lake levels; erosion caused by rivers flowing into the harbors, bringing soil from various human activities; and changes in the political climate.

"Before 2010, more than half of funding for Great Lakes dredging came from federal earmarks, which have been discontinued,"

said Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute and professor of water resources

It is critically important to tourism and other things in Michigan, in terms of normal business and commerce.

GOV. RICK SNYDER MICHIGAN GOVERNOR

at Grand Valley State University. "In 2010, only 65 percent of recreational dredging projects were completed, and the following year the Corps announced that it would cease funding for recreational harbor dredging completely."

Dredging doesn't increase the water levels, though. It simply removes the excess sediment from the harbor, making boating and other recreational activities easier and safer.

"The dredging removes accumulated sediment in a small area like a marina or navigation channel," said Richard Rediske, professor of water resources at the Annis Water Resources Institute. "There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the dredging."

West Michigan itself will be affected by Snyder's dredging plan, especially the Harbor Island Marina near Grand Haven. This dredging is scheduled due to boater access that needs improvement.

Dredging, however, won't solve the problem permanently. Longterm solutions have to be implemented, as well. These solutions include determining durable sources of long-term funding, an issue that is addressed as part of the governor's transportation proposal. Reducing the need for future dredging is also important; this can be done by solving the problem of the sedimentation and erosion that dumps excess sediment in the harbors, which accumulates over time.

Currently, the biggest issues are the low water levels and sediment, but the long-term issue is how the sediment gets into the harbors and how fast it accumulates in them. In short, the ultimate long-term solution to these problems is an improvement in land management practices, which would reduce dredging needs and create a more holistic, sustainable form of human interaction with the Great Lakes and the surrounding watersheds.

ephillips@lanthorn.com

Deciding between two great helping careers? Information Session Thursday, Feb. 28

Western Michigan University in Grand Rapids invites you to attend an Information Session for those in the fields of social work, human service and education to learn about two of our nationally accredited programs.

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5 to 5:30 p.m.

MSW registration/refreshments

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. MSW presentation

6 to 6:30 p.m.

CECP registration/refreshments

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. CECP presentation

All are welcome to attend one or both sessions.

RSVP online by Thursday, Feb. 28 at www.wmich.edu/grandrapids/infosession

Visit www.wmich.edu/grandrapids/academics for more information about the programs.

Questions?

Please contact Christine Dingman at (616) 771-9470 or christine.dingman@wmich.edu.

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Grand Rapids

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY





Workshops help students prepare

GV offers workshops on preparing for graduate, professional school exams

BY RACHEL CROSS **GVL ASSISTANT NEWS**

As many students start to register for exams for both graduate and pre-professional schools, Grand Valley State University offers a few resources that can assist in preparation.

JoAnn Litton, senior academic adviser for pre-professional programs at GVSU, said there is currently a workshop that meets every Thursday and ends Feb. 21 to help students prepare for taking exams for different pre-professional schools. These workshops cost \$40 in total and focus on students looking to attend dental, medical, optometry or pharmacy school post-graduation.

Litton said each week at the workshop, the course focuses on one part of the entrance exam, such as physics, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology and verbal reasoning. She added that students don't necessarily have to attend all the courses, especially if one of the subjects isn't required in their examination, but students are highly encouraged to attend all relevant courses to their exams.

"In this Thursday's workshop, we will go over the Prometrics system that the students will be using when taking their real examination," Litton said. "We talk about the fingerprints and federal ID required, as well as the checking-in process."

She said within the workshops, they not only go over practice questions, but also do hands-on type activities as well. For the dental students, their examination requires students to have perceptual ability. Stacking up cubes in 3D and seeing which items fit in a keyhole are a few sessions that help students getting ready to take a dental exam.

While attending these workshops can be a good review and refresher, Litton said students must also have taken the appropriate course work within the curriculum before attending them and signing up for examinations

Register at RossU.edu or scan the QR code.

"Do not take an exam before you've had a prep course, because the scores go with you," Litton said. "Take your courses in the appropriate sequence; that is the best prep to take any exam. Also keep in mind that getting into professional schools isn't just about test scores-schools also look at applicants holistically."

She added students can sign up for the free Kaplan's question of the day sessions online for additional practice with possible exam questions.

Do not take an exam before you've had a prep course, because the scores go with you.

"

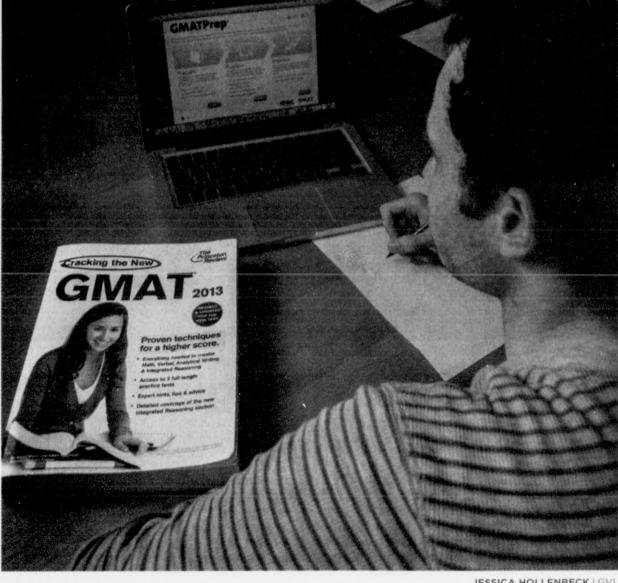
JOANN LITTON SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Claudia Bajema, director of the graduate business program at GVSU, said her office offers a free preparatory course three times a year for students seeking to take the Graduate Management Admission Test. These courses are offered in June, February and October.

Bajema said the courses are for two Saturdays, where on one day the instructor goes over verbal review and the next Saturday is more quantitative based.

"The workshops for the GMAT are largely focused on test strategies and techniques, as well as some review of the GMAT content," she said. "It's a very informal presentation with Q-and-A."

Mark Luttenton, biology professor and chairperson of the graduate council, said in the past the graduate council has used



Getting ready: Senior Andrew Wellman prepares for the GMAT, Wellman is a double major in Accounting and Management and will be seeking help for his tests by signing up for the \$40 workshops offered through the university.

standardized tests that are available through test services, and they use the Graduate Record Examination to measure whether the curriculum is doing a good job preparing nationally. He added there are other factors, however, in determining whether an individual is ready for graduate school.

"There are so many subtitles to the GRE and preparing for it," Luttenton said. "As far as I can tell, there's an individual aspect, where some students do well on standardized tests, and others don't do so well. There are some undergraduates that don't perform well on the GRE, but we know from previous academic work that they have the tenacity and determination to be successful in grad school and professional in the school."

When preparing for the GRE, Luttenton suggested that students should simply read questions on sample exams and use any strategies that the GRE or Kaplan programs recommend to improve scores. In addition, he said it's important to know the content well

from taking previous courses. "For biology, the GRE largely consists of verbal reasoning and analytical skills," Luttenton said. "That's stuff that hopefully a student going on to grad school has developed over the course of their academic careers."

For further information on the workshops offered for pre-professional schools and the GMAT, call 616-331-8585 . For information on the GMAT, email go2gvmba@ gvsu.edu.

assistantnews@lanthorn.com THE PRINT

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SPORTS **SHORTS**

FRANKLIN NAMED ATHLETE OF WEEK

Junior Kalena Franklin on the Grand Valley State University women's indoor track team, has been named the GLIAC Women's Track Athlete of the Week for the second time this season. On the opening day of the GVSU Big Meet, Franklin's first-place time of 8.39 seconds in the 60 meter dash was good enough for a provisional mark and the fourth fastest time in DII so far this year. She helped her team another provisional mark in the 4x400 meter relay, where she and teammates sophomore Brittney Banister, freshman Brittany Terry and junior Andrea Kober finished fourth with an automatic qualifying time of 3:45.58. Franklin earned another provisional mark on Saturday when she placed second in the 200 meter dash with a time of 24.79 seconds. The team will host the GVSUTune-Up on Friday

GVSU SOCCER INKS EIGHT RECRUITS

at 3 p.m.

The Grand Valley State University women's soccer announced the addition of eight new student athletes for the upcoming season on Tuesday, all of whom played high school soccer in the state of Michigan. The recruits will play under GVSU head coach David Dilanni, who is the winningest active Division II coach with a career record of 197-18-17 (.885). The team reached the NCAA Semifinals last season, and finished the season as the No. 3 team in the nation. The 2013 class includes Erika Bradfield (Rockford), Jessie Bultsma (Grand Rapids), Emily Bush (Northville), Clare Carlson (Ada), Marti Corby (Ada), Michelle Foote (Lowell), Gabbie Guibord (Novi) and Alexis Mencotti

DEVINE EARNS SPOT ON IRISH LACROSSE TEAM

Victoria Devine, a sophomore on the Grand Valley State University women's lacrosse team, has earned a spot on the Irish Women's National team. Devine will join the team this summer for the 2013 Women's World Lacrosse Championship in Oshawa, Ontario. She traveled all the way to Dublin sometime in October to try out, and is one of two Americans on the squad. She was eligible to try out for the team because her grandmother was born in Ireland, giving her access to dual-citizenship. In GVSU's first season as a varsity sport, Devine led the Lakers in scoring with 43 points (37 goals, 6 assists).

GLIAC **SCHEDULE**

M. BASKETBALL

Thursday vs. Lake Superior State 6 p.m.

Saturday @ Northwood 4 p.m

W. BASKETBALL

Thursday vs. Lake Superior State 8 p.m.

Saturday @ Northwood 6 p.m

INDOOR TRACK

Friday- GVSUTune-Up 3 p.m

M. TENNIS

Friday- GR City Tournament 3 p.m.

Saturday- GR City Tournament 12 p.m.

LEE-DERSHIP

Tyrone Lee sparks GVSU basketball

BY BRYCE DEROUIN **GVL SPORTS EDITOR**

It hasn't taken long for senior Tyrone Lee to make an impact on the Grand Valley State University men's bas-

ketball program. After Lee spent two years at Oakland Community College, where he was named all-conference, he transferred to GVSU.

In just his first year at GVSU, Lee was named to the GLIAC All-Defensive team in his innagural season as a Laker last year.

"His wingspan and his mobility really help him on defense to disrupt, get steals, block shots, and rebound," said head coach Ric Wesley. "He's a bit of an intimidating presence when he's in your area."

Lee averaged 5.4 points and 4.6 rebounds per game and was 14th in the GLIAC in blocked shots, tallying 23 on the year. Wesley saw the potential for Lee as a lockdown defender, and transformed Lee into a one of the perennial defenders in the conference.

"It's something that he's really bought into when he first got here," Wesley said. "I don't think he recognized how effective he could be as a defender, and I think he's really bought into that and been a mainstay for us on that end of the floor. I think his length, his wingspan, the length of his body make him unique on our team and one of the more unique players in the conference."

For Lee, the transformation began once he stepped on campus at GVSU. Lee had to get acquainted to an entirely new team, coaches, and system on the fly in his first season. Now, Lee is one of the team's captains and helps set the tone for the Lakers.

"Last year, I was just trying to get used to everything," Lee said. "I followed guys lead that have been here for years. They took me under their wing and taught me the system at Grand Valley. I just picked up the ways and I always been a leader, so me being a leader, I have to come in and work hard everyday and show a good attitude everyday at practice. It's win or go home."

This year, Lee has improved both his points and rebounds per game from the previous year. He is currently the Lakers third leading scorer, at 8.8 points per game and increased his rebound total to 4.89 boards per game. Lee's growth has been noticeable by everyone at GVSU, including his teammates.

"I feel like he's learned a lot," said junior Rob Woodson. "He's learned the system, and how to pick his spots. At first, he pretty much relied on his athleticism. He's such a smart player and now he can slow the game down and read the defenses. If they double-team him, he can kick it out. He's a great passer out of the post and if he's one-on-one, he knows to stay aggressive and attack. He grew this year and he learned a lot."

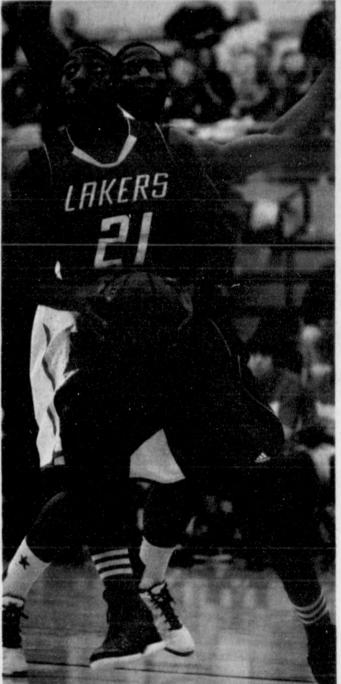
Lee's leadership is not only limited to on the court, but extends to off the court as well. Coach Wesley is impressed by the changes that Lee has undergone throughout his time at GVSU.

"He really made a huge improvement from year to year," Wesley said. "Like a lot of junior college players, he didn't quite have the focus and discipline needed to play at this level. This year he came back a much more focused player. Much more of a leader this year and has been really a joy to have around this year. It helps our team not only on the floor, but off the floor as far as his personality and his leadership."

For Lee, he wants to finish his career at GVSU on top. He carries this mentality out in practices and games.

"I want to have something to look back on," Lee said. "I don't want to leave Grand Valley with a sour taste in my mouth. Like, man I wish I could've done this or I wish I could've done that. I just want to leave with no regrets and leave everything on the floor - every minute and every possession."

sports@lanthorn.com



ROBERT MATHEWS | GVL

Defensive: After two years of community college basketball, Tyrone Lee is leading the Lakers on the defensive end.

W. BASKETBALL

For the love of the game

GVSU's Watson fights to stay on the court

BY TATE BAKER **GVL STAFF WRITER**

The common fan may not be able to fathom the sacrifices an athlete makes throughout his or her career. As spectators, we may not know what it's like to have our careers suddenly jeopardized with one awkward fall, or one collision.

For many athletes, it's how you respond after the injury. Going through the physical battles is one thing, but taking on the mental aspect of

recovering and getting back to full strength is a completely different fight. For Grand Valley State University women's basketball senior forward Kelly Watson, her battle to get back on the court began nearly four years ago.

"It has not been an easy road," Watson. "It's just one of those things where you

know you can't give up."

Before countless shoulder surgeries to repair her bat-

tered shoulders, and another

surgery to mend a torn knee, Watson was named Miss Basketball in 2007-2008 while she played at Ionia High School, and was a key piece for perennial Division I power University of Notre Dame.

She appeared in all 31 games as a freshman, averaging 3.8 points and 2.5 rebounds per game. Watson finished second on the team with 28 threepointers and was named Big East Freshman of the Week on two occasions.

ROBERT MATHEWS | GVL

After her injuries, she had to make the tough decision of transferring to a smaller school and leaving the life she once started in South Bend. Watson would sit out the 2009-2010 season due to transfer rules and would be redshirted for the 2010-2011 season.

Fast-forward four years later and Watson is now a key piece for the Lakers, and in comparison, the Notre Dame women's basketball team is currently ranked No. 2 in the nation.

"I used to battle with thinking the 'what if' in my head all the time," Watson said. "It's been tough, especially with all the success that Notre Dame has had. Overall, I don't regret my decision at all and I'm truly happy that I ended up at Grand Valley."

Amidst all of her injuries, Watson has continued to fight to keep playing the game that she loves. She sets a example of not giving up on something that's worth fighting for.

"Kellie has had every challenge you could have thrown at her since her sophomore year in high school," said head coach Janel Burgess. "When injury after injury mounts, it's kind of easy to say, 'Hey, it's just not worth it, and I think Kelly has done a good job of battling through that to get to where she is today."

For Watson, her determination to get back onto the court was met with the realization that she may have to make some sacrifices in or-

der to get back to basketball. "I couldn't let my body

win," Watson said. "I had a lot of goals, dreams and ambitions that I didn't make, but I've never once been ready to give up completely."

Now, Watson spends a great deal of time in the training room rehabbing and conditioning her body in order to still be effective for the Lakers. Watson is currently averaging 6.7

It has not been an easy road. It's just one of those things where you know you can't give up.

KELLY WATSON SENIOR FORWARD

points and 2.6 rebounds per game for GVSU this season.

"She's in the training room every day doing rehab for her shoulders, ankle, heel, whatever is bothering her," said senior Breanna Kellogg. "She's in there trying to get better for herself because she

knows we need her to win." As Watson will soon finish up her college career at GVSU, she will always be an example of not giving up when the odds are against you and to keep persevering. After all, it's all for the love of the game.

tbaker@lanthorn.com

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Fighting through pain: Kelly Watson has battled shoulder issues, ankle issues, and heel

issues throughout her college career which began at Notre Dame and will conclude at GVSU.



Presented by The Lanthorn

The fastest four

GVSU's 4x400 relay team continues to break records

BY PETE BARROWS SVL STAFF WRITER

Breaking four school records in a season is impressive. Breaking the same school record three times in a season is showing off. The Grand Valley State University men's 4x400 team has decimated every fraction of a second they've come across this season and they don't plan on slowing up any time soon.

The current mark to beat is 3 minutes, 13.86 seconds, the sixth-fastest time run in the Division II ranks this year, which the relay team paced in last week's Big Meet. They did so without junior anchor Logan Hoffman, who is currently tending to a hamstring injury.

"I don't know (what our ideal 4x400 team is), we'll have to keep progressing," said GVSU head track and field coach Jerry Baltes. "I



TEITSMA

think the positive thing is it really shows the depth of that group and it's great to have options. Like this season, kids get hurt or tired or banged up."

Juniors Nate Hammersmith, Chris Teitsma, Mohamed Mohamed and redshirt freshman Dan Pung comprised the most recent record breaking rendition. The absent Hoffman was pleased with their performance.

"I'm happy to see it go, definitely," Hoffman said. "They broke the record, secured the spot - pretty good shape for nationals."

Mohamed, who anchored in Hoffman's stead, acknowledged the record as a sign of progress, but is also optimistic about what might be accomplished in his return.



PUNG

"As a team, that was a big step forward," Mohamed said. "We didn't have Logan, who's our best 400-runner time wise. It just goes to show that we can do it. We ran a time that honestly, if you asked us before the season, 'what would you guys want to run?' we'd probably say 3:13 and we'd be happy. But now with four guys and without Logan we ran that time. It sets us up to do great things in the future."

With the stakes high and the competition heavy, it would be easy to envision that internal strife might become problematic at some point. Spending any amount of time around this laid-back team reassures that hubris will be kept to a minimum.

"We're all pretty good



HOFFMAN

friends," Pung said. "We like to have fun here."

The understanding that it's the competition that enables the relayers to perform at their best has also helped to provide cohesion.

"It stays competitive and that's how we stay fast, but no one's going to hate someone else for taking their spot," Teitsma said.

Who does the running is of little consequence. It's the team that will take priority.

"We always tell our kids it doesn't matter what four people it is for relays," said sprints, hurdles and relay coach Keith Roberts. "It's a team. You get out there and lay it on the line."

With an outdoor season and another year of eligibility left for the core group of



MOHAMED

the team, the record breaking GVSU's men's 4x400 has their sights set on the record board that hangs below the operations booth at the Kelly Family Sports Center.

"I feel like everything happening is leading up to big things in the future," Mohamed said. "It's like a struggle, we have to go through what we're going through. We never made it to nationals or any of that stuff, but we all ran well .I feel like we'll get to nationals and set ourselves up for something better. I would rather not make it to nationals and win a national title than to make it every year and be short. The struggle pushes us to the future."

pbarrows@lanthorn.com

GVSU rowing preps for spring campaign



Proving ground: The GVSU rowing team will be traveling to Tennessee in March to help coaches figure out the teams roster.

BY JAY BUSHEN GVL ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The "Laker Navy" is preparing to

compete against an unlikely opponent in their upcoming spring break training trip: each other.

As crew members of the Grand Valley State University rowing club prepare for the upcoming season, their coach prepares to learn who his top athletes are.

GVSU head coach John Bancheri said the trip to Oak Ridge, Tenn. from March 1-10 is important because it gives him an opportunity see what his crew is capable of doing in the water.

"It's every man for himself," Bancheri said. "Everyone is working to earn a seat in each boat. It's physically and mentally demanding."

Since the start of the winter semester, his crew has been put to the test physically.

Crew members have been building up muscle memory on indoor rowing machines, which help measure their level of fitness. This type of training, along with a variety of weightlifting and calisthenics, is crucial in a sport where strength and endurance define

"Their job is to get in great physical condition," Bancheri said. "We'll

I'm excited to get back out there and compete. The crew looks even faster than it did when I left.

ROBBIE DEWEERD SENIOR

find out more when we get in the water during the spring break trip, which helps us establish a pecking order on the team."

The crew is currently participating in two-a-days, which start every day at

GVSU senior Carey Mankins of the women's crew said the preparation only helps the team get better.

"It's pretty tiring," Mankins said. "It's a lot of doing the same thing over and over again, but this type of training allows us to get to the finals at big races."

The men's crew received a big boost on Dec. 14 when they welcomed the return one of their top members, senior Robbie DeWeerd.DeWeerd was deployed in Afghanistan by the U.S. Navy from January-December of 2012.

"I'm excited to get back out there and compete," he said. "The crew looks even faster than it did when I left."

The crew was originally scheduled to take part in "C.R.A.S.H. B," the World Indoor Championships in Boston, Mass. on Feb. 17, but cancelled the trip as part of a budget-cutting measure.

It's kind of upsetting," Mankins said. "Our budget is a bit small so we decided to cut it, but we're really excited for the Occoquan Sprints."

The team will make its first-ever trip to Washington D.C. April 6-7 to compete in the event, which features various teams from around the country.

After the 18th Annual Lubbers Cup Regatta (Spring Lake, Mich.) on April 13, the Lakers will travel to Indianapolis for the 49th Annual MACRA Championship on April 27, followed by the 75th Annual Dad Vail National Championship Regatta in Philadelphia.

"We have some kids who have made some major improvements," Bancheri said. "(The spring season) is the fun the reward for all the hard work they've put in over the winter."

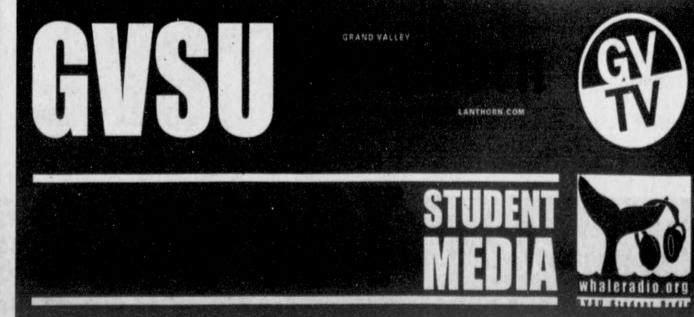
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W. HOCKEY

Women's hockey team gear up for playoffs

BY BRYCE DEROUIN **GVL SPORTS EDITOR**

It's now or never for the Grand Valley State University women's club hockey team.

GVSU will put their season on the line when they travel to Flint to take part in the Central Collegiate Women's Hockey Association league playoffs. The Lakers enter the playoffs with a 12-11-2 record. GVSU is 0-4-1 in their last five games, but remain optimistic as they enter postseason play.

"I think right now we're playing some of our best hockey," said co-head coach Sean McKernan. "We haven't seen the results that we wanted, but we're definitely playing the caliber of hockey that is needed for us to be successful and win games."

GVSU will take on the University of Michigan, Miami (OH) University, and Ohio State University in pool play on Saturday. The Lakers have already had success against these three opponents in the regular season, defeating each team at least once, and compiling a cumulative record of 4-2 against those opponents.

"It does make us confident," said senior captain Meghan Jahn about the prospect of playing teams they have previously defeated. "I think we're excited knowing how they play and having film on them. We're going to try not to come in too overconfident, but I think we're ready to play."

Depending upon the Lakers performance this weekend, they may be able to extend their season past this weekend. The GVSU women have their eyes set on the national tournament.

"Our performance this weekend

determines if we're going to nationals or not," said senior Shelby Kucharski. "I think we have a lot of pressure on us more than excitement at this point. We need to put together a full 60 minutes instead of just playing well two periods or one."

Kucharski, along with junior Alisha Day and freshman Katie Danto, led the Lakers in scoring with 20 points each in the regular season.

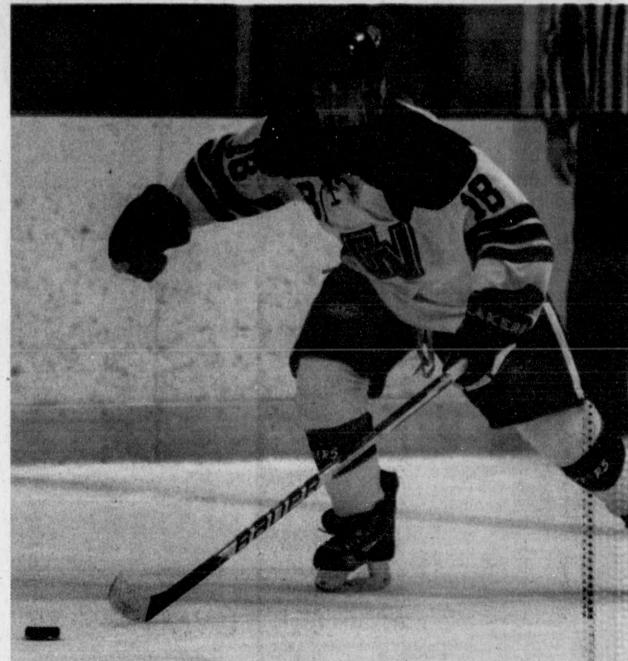
The top two teams from each pool will move onto the semifinals. Endurance could play a key role in the outcome of games since pool play consists of three games over two days, and if GVSU makes it to the championship, it would be five games in three days.

"Going in, knowing that we had success, we know what we need to do as far as our system to be successful against them," McKernan said. "As long as we can continue to work hard, and work as a five-man system, and not take any shifts off, we should be right in every game. It'll give us a good opportunity to win every game to get us in the championship game."

The Lakers will look to have everyone on the same page this weekend. Coach McKernan believes his team can't afford to focus on the things that go wrong.

"We need to block out all the negatives, focus on the positives and what works," McKernan said. "If something goes wrong, forget about it and move on and not dwell on anything negative towards the game that affects us in any way. It's a quick game out there, so we have to stay as mentally sharp as we can. We're a much better team when we have all five skaters out there working together."

sports@lanthorn.com



BO ANDERSON | GVL

Leading the Lakers: Katie Danto brings the puck down the wing during a previous matchup at Georgetown Ice Arena. Danto is tied for the team lead with 12 goals on the season to go along with her eight assists.

EQUESTRIAN -

Equestrian club makes great strides, top in region

BY PETE BARROWS

There are 34 club teams that currently maintain membership at Grand Valley State University. The equestrian club is the only of which that allows members with four legs to participate.

Currently 30 members strong, the eques-trian club is compartmentalized between

to create one of GVSU's more successful, yet

the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, one of the largest regions in the country that the same in 2013.

two distinct teams – stock (western style) Michigan, Michigan State University, Hills-and hunt (English style). Together they meld dale University and Saginaw Valley State



relatively unknown programs.

Both teams compete in zone 6, region 4 of

is comprised of 13 teams, mostly in state.

The stock team already has a first place region must in hand after a close mish over team. Michigan University of Michigan State in last weekend's regionals.

University and close to 300 riders. Last year the stock team came in second in the region by a one-point margin, while the hunt team took the region outright. Much has remained

Now they have their eyes set on New York for this year's semifinals.

Sophomores Stephen Erdman, Skylar Welti and senior Maria Kirch all qualified individually, as did the team, and if they place top four or better in competition, they'll advance to nationals.

For stock team captain junior Kayla McKay, who was selected as the Team Open Horsemanship rider representative in New York, it's an opportunity unlike any the club has seen before.

'The main goal left to accomplish is to have a great showing at semifinals," McKay said. "GVSU has never made it to nationals and with the strong team we are sending, this could definitely be the year."

The hunt team will compete in regionals next weekend at the University of Michigan's Willowbrooke Farm in Ann Arbor and will look to place a few qualifiers of their own. Twelve girls have already qualified for competition and if they finish in the top two

in each of their divisions at regionals, will proceed to zone finals.

Among the 12 qualified is senior team captain of the hunt team, Merdith Welsh, who is currently tied as the high point rider in the region.

Twould definitely say in Merediths case, to be the top rider in the region is a big deal," said head hunt seat coach Kris McAfee. "That's four years of hard work and I think that's a great accomplishment. It's hard to be the top rider, especially being a senior."

Throughout the coming weeks, preparation will involve spending lots of time in the saddle, both keeping in top riding shape as well as practicing patterns. As in any other sport, the more time invested, the more natural the process becomes.

As strong and completive of a program as the club is, it is worth noting that it is also one of the most equitable on campus. Both male and female participants compete on equal plains and no willing prospective rider is turned away.

"A lot of people don't realize that you don't have to be an experienced rider to join the team," McAfee said. "They have divisions that are for beginner riders. We have people that have never ridden before that join the team. We teach them how to ride and then they get to show."

pbarrows@lanthorn.com



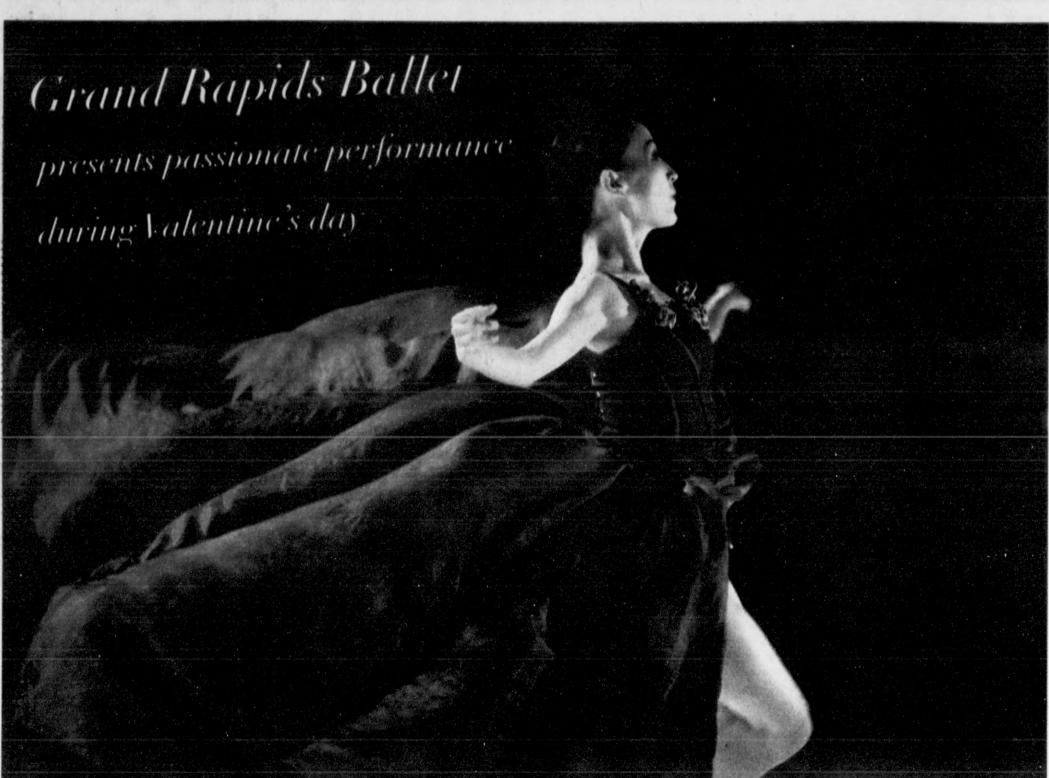
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GRAND RAPIDS BALLET | COURTESY

Grand Rapids Ballet 3-part performance pays homage to passion

BY SHELBY PENDOWSKI GVL STAFF WRITER

A lthough the Grand Rapids Ballet Company didn't choose Program 3 to revolve around Valentine's Day, the performances include a lot of elements related to the holiday.

Consisting of three different productions, "Amazed in Burning Dreams," "Who Cares?" and "The Sofa," Program 3 is a great performance for Valentine's Day, said dancer Darrell Haggard.

"There is a lot of passion," Haggard said. "All three pieces have a couple themes and a theme around a relationship."

Misty Hendricks, Grand Rapids Ballet Company's marketing and box office director, said because it isn't a typical performance, all dance lovers can enjoy it.

"It is not just what you think of with ballets with tutus and tights, it is more action, it is more excitement," Hendricks said. "There are three different pieces of the program so there is something for everybody, both the guys and girls can enjoy it together. There are some humorous romantic moments, some more exciting energetic moments and then to top it all off, we have great jazz music performed live by the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra."

The company has performed with a live orchestra before, but it's still different than with a recording, Haggard said.

"Usually with the normal orchestra it is more consistent, we tell them what tempo we want and they will keep to it every time," Haggard said. "With the jazz orchestra, they hit every tempo - it should be exciting to see and to feel the performance with them."

66

There is a lot of passion. All three peices have a couple themes and a theme around a relationship.

MISTY HENDRICKS BOX OFFICE DIRECTOR

The company started working on

the performance before their De-

cember performances of the Nutcracker. And during the past few months, the dancers and production crew have worked with choreographers to get through long, hard rehearsals, Hendricks said.

With three different productions coming into one, the audience gets to see a variety of costumes. They're all handmade for this production, which Claire Gardeski, Grand Rapids Ballet Company's costume shop employee, said took six months to finish.

Haggard said the cast is not only working hard at rehearsals, but also spending a lot of time at the gym and incorporating a healthy diet to look their best in the costumes.

"There is a lot of time at the gym because one of the costumes is very unforgiving," he said.

The Grand Rapids Ballet Company offers a special \$12 student price for all of their professional productions, which can be purchased up until an hour before the show time at the Ballet Box Office or at Ticketmaster.com. Hendricks said the promotion is to encourage students to attend more productions.

"Young audiences and student audiences, I think, can really appreciate what they will see onstage," Hendricks said. "Our dancers are young as well, you got some of your peers out there. Some of our dancers are as young as 17, 18 on up to their 30s, but there is a lot of youth on the stage, so it is really a great chance for a student to be able to see a peer and say, 'Cool, look what they have done with their training and their passion.' It can inspire you to continue on with yours."

spendowski@lanthorn.com

Students help record jazz combo

dazz musicians record demos with help from audio production students

MARY MATTINGLY

While developing the jazz combo program at Grand Valley State University, Mike Drost, associate professor of jazz guitar, set out to make sure his students had the same epportunities he had as an undergrad at Western Michigan University.

Now, student musicians have the opportunity to experience a professional recording session, ending with a product that is free and usable in their professional careers.

"When I was doing my undergrad, I spent days in the recording studio," Drost said. "We learned the technology, how to record tunes and make them sound good."

When Drost realized recording wasn't happening at GVSU, last summer he decided to seek out Joseph McCarger, a School of Communications affiliate professor, for help.

McCargar had previously attempted to get musicians into the studio so his Audio Production I class had "guinea pigs" to work with. He was looking for a more systematic collaboration between the School of Com-

munications and the music department.

"While most of my current students will not ever record music for a living, it is very challenging," McCargar said. "The workflow of a music recording session is similar to many recording environments, from production field recording in film and video, and broadcasting to film post-production. In addition, recording and critiquing music requires listening skills that serve students in all the creative audio-visual disciplines."

The collaboration recording sessions are

now taking place during class time in the studio inside the Kirkhof Center. Their first session was Jan. 26, and the group recording was small, consisting of students Bill Scanlon on saxophone, Steve Rothstein on guitar and Wade Selkirk on drum set. They were without a bassist, so Drost ended up playing

The group chose to record three jazz standards they were already familiar with, "Autumn Leaves", "Blue Bossa" and "Sonny Moon For Two."

"(Drost) emailed us about two weeks before so that we knew we had the opportunity," Rothstein said. "I practiced all the tunes. I knew them before going in."

McCargar's students ran the session, a lengthy process that requires a lot of detailed knowledge about the inner workings of a recording studio.

"The greatest benefit to the students is their exposure to...an appreciation of how complex and precise the process of making art can be," McCargar said.

It fell on his students to know how many players there would be, how to physically arrange them and to understand the technology used during the recording process.

Microphones were placed on the instruments and players were fitted with headphones so they could monitor their performance. The players underwent a sound check, testing the recording levels of the instruments to make sure everything was working properly. They rehearsed and finally recorded a few takes until the players were satisfied with the end result.

While Scanlon plays in the group, he also is enrolled in McCargar's class.

"While they were recording the drums and bass, I got a chance to see how they were communicating with the musicians,"



AMANDA GREENWOOD | GVI

For the record: Music students Ryan Rakowski and Noel Stojkov have been able to learn first hand about recording in Grand Valley's School of Communication's sound studio.

Scanlon said. "Down the road, when I want to produce my own music, as well as other people's music, I know what to do."

Although the first session was a live recording of the group, the second session was a multi-track recording. Each musician played his part alone to ensure a better isolation between instruments.

tion between instruments.

"Students all have documentation of what they sound like," Drost said. "They can use the recordings for demos, self-promotion

and to analyze their playing."

And after the session, students received the files of their playing in an email.

"Listening to yourself after the session is over at such a professional quality is kind of a mind blowing experience," Rothstein said. "You record for yourself, and it's a way to distribute your music to market yourself."

The sessions are free to students, and are not limited to jazz musicians, but anyone who has something recordable to offer and is interested in recording.

"It's making something out of nothing, and is a documentation of what you're doing in that moment," Drost said.

mmattingly@lanthorn.com

Women honored for community service work

Alpha Phi Alpha holds annual dinner to recognize four women's achievements

BY STACY SABAITIS GVL STAFF WRITER

Sometimes the volunteer effort that many Grand Valley State University community members put in can go unnoticed. But the GVSU Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity chapter is trying to change that with their annual Women's Appreciation Dinner.

Four women were recognized for their community service at the second annual dinner Feb. 12, held at the Alumni House.

Michael Bruce, president of the fraternity, said the women chosen deserve to be publicly recognized for their prominence on campus.

"These women have all displayed some significant sort of service that impacts others while they have been at Grand Valley," Bruce said. "We chose to recognize these women based on their activeness in the GVSU community."

Bruce announced the honorees' achievements and awarded them with plaques to show their service.

"It makes me feel good just to be able to personally show them my gratitude for all of their hard work and effort," Bruce said.

Kayla Jones, president of the GVSU National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Asia Horne, president of Nu Theta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., were two of the honorees.

Horne is also the public re-

lations chair for the National Pan-Hellenic Council and was recognized for the work she does through her sorority.

"Pretty much it's an award to honor the females on campus to recognize their contributions to the on-campus community," Horne said. "Pretty much people who are heavily involved in their organization and have been making an impact as far as that goes. It means a lot to be recognized for the things you do, even though you don't necessarily need recognition in order to do the work, but it's always nice to be recognized, you know, every so often."

Before the awards were presented, a slideshow honored "50 of the Most Influential Women in History," which included Maya Angelou, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosa Parks, Oprah Winfrey and Sojourner Truth.

Jones is involved in five student organizations and Bruce recognized that she has put in more than 360 hours of volunteer work in her own community and in other cities across the country.

"I think it's just my involvement in the organization and how it's impacted the Grand Valley community," Jones said. "We do a lot of, like education based events or performances, so we had a rally for Trevon Martin last year. We do a lot of community service."

"Every time we have an event, we collect donations for the American Heart As-



Sparking change: Kayla Jones and Asia Horne were two of the women honored by the Alpha Phi Alpha for service work

MICHAEL BRUCE | COURT

sociation in honor of a fellow GV student who passed away at the rec, so we do that," Jones said.

Horne and Jones both work to raise money for the American Heart Association, and have a passion for helping communities.

"You really do it because you love it and you have a passion for it, but it's also nice for someone to be like, "Oh, I see that you're doing great things so here's a little acknowledgment for it," Jones said.

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Lanthorn

Positive Black Women event brings laughs, support for Valentine's Day

BY MATT OBERSKI GVL STAFF WRITER

Henry Sapp, a Grand Rapids native nicknamed "the Doctor of Comedy," has been doing standup across the country for almost nine years.

"I used to host a lot of shows, and a young lady...

close to her wedding day asked me to do comedy show," Sapp said. "We went back and forth, back and forth, and I told her, 'Well, I'll

try it, but if I bomb, it's your fault."

Since then Sapp has performed at events around the country, including Grand Rapids' LaughFest. On Feb. 14, he will be at Grand Valley State University to emcee the Positive Black Women's annual Valentine's Day Luncheon.

"I just enjoy making people laugh," Sapp said. "My philosophy is we go through so much hell during the week, we should at least try to find

one thing to laugh at."

Three years ago, the PBW program changed from strictly presentation and speakers to lift the spirits of women at GVSU.

> "We opened it up to the wider GVSU community, and made it into more of a specific event that featured poets that aren't for spoken word," said Michelle Mc-Cloud, PBW president.

For the past three years the luncheon has featured guest emcees who speak or perform poetry, and then open the floor to pre-registered readers.

However, this year the program has changed again to include Sapp's comedy.

"This year we added comedy to the program because our emcee is going to be Henry Sapp, and so we're trying to open it up so it's not only poetry, but also comedy as well," McCloud said.

Past Valentine's Day poetry readings have drawn crowds of 100-200 people, along with five or six registered poets.

"This year, we're expecting - or our goal, is to have 10 to 15 poets, as well as the emcee," McCloud said. "We're hoping that we get some

more people involved."

Although interested student poets were encouraged to register before Feb. 1, they can still sign up at the door.

"We've definitely had interest, and we expect a bunch of people to sign up on the day of the event as they walk in," McCloud said.

The Valentine's Day Comedy and Poetry Jam is an opportunity to display the variety of talent and "creative minds" GVSU has, McCloud said, along with providing a caring environment for attendees.

"There're a lot of people who don't have anyone to celebrate Valentine's Day with," McCloud said. "So this is a good time to come in and feel the festivities of the holiday."

The luncheon begins at noon in the Pere Marquette Room inside the Kirkhof Center and is free and open to the GVSU community. Light food and refreshments will be provided for guests, while supplies last.

For more information or to register as a poet, contact PBW at pbw@gvsu.edu.

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Announcements

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Salary: Paid Search Job ID: 15569257 Apply By: February 15, 2013 For More information visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerjobs

YMCA of Greater Grand Rap-Aquatics Intern

Location: Grand Rapids, MI Salary: Unpaid Search Job ID: 15569381 Apply By: April 25, 2013 For More information visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerjobs

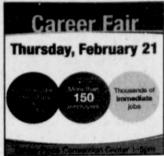
YMCA of Greater Grand Rap-Aquatics Intern

Location: Grand Rapids, MI Salary: Unpaid Search Job ID: 15569381 Apply By: April 25, 2013 For More information visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerjobs

CMF Marketing CMF Marketing Internship Location: Various Cities in West Michigan Salary: Stipend Search Job ID: 15569399 Apply By: February 14, 2013 For More information visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerjobs

Wolverine Worldwide, Inc. Internal Audit Intern Location: Rockford, MI Search Job ID: 15569370 Apply By: March 1, 2013 For More information visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerjobs

Van Andel Institute Bioinformatics Support Internship Location: Grand Rapids, MI Salary: Paid Search Job ID: 15569257 Apply By: February 15, 2013 For More information visit www.gvsu.edu/lakerjobs





SGT Button 616-405:0767









BRAIN BUSTERS

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CryptoQuip

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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T.	8			3			Willia.	1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: * *

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging * * * HOO BOY!

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Long book		V	Peace Prize giver	B _	_
2. Seem to be		R	Attraction		_ L
3. Valentine shape		T	Listened		D
4. Cannes location	F		Hypnotic state	T	
5. Food treat,rings	_ N		Night sky hunter	_ R	
6. Bring to anger		R	Coop up	c_	
7. Keep		N	Not wholesale		_ L
8. More brave		L	Boundary	R	
9. Kangaroo feature		U	Veranda	R _	_
10. Spring harbinger		B	It gets rubbed on violins	s_	
11 1 1		© 2013 Kin	g Features Synd., Inc.		

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: C equals Y

KW H OHRJ BHGETO KQ

UGSYKRU DSRQ SW YTTJQ, K

QVBBSQT CSV ESVOJ QHC' "DNT

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OSD DNKEATRQ."