

4-24-2017

## Lanthorn, vol. 51, no. 60, April 24, 2017

Grand Valley State University

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### Recommended Citation

Grand Valley State University, "Lanthorn, vol. 51, no. 60, April 24, 2017" (2017). *Volume 51, July 11, 2016 - June 5, 2017*. 60.  
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# Grand Valley Lanthorn Semester in review

Dear GVSU community,

For more than 50 years, the Lanthorn has been employing students at Grand Valley State University to provide the campus community with accurate and focused news. Since the inaugural issue in 1963, the Lanthorn has made it a priority to cover diverse issues, views and community interest, and this semester was no different. We've covered passionate protests and counter-protests, community celebrations and highlighted the amazing students, faculty and staff at this university.

This semester, we have worked hard to produce collaborative, digital content and produce work that accurately reflects GVSU. We started live streaming big events as we strove to implement more multimedia elements in our stories. We continued covering the unfolding sexual assault awareness campaigns happening on campus in response to the high number of sexual assaults this past year.

We reported on other GVSU administration happenings, too, to keep students, faculty and staff informed and to hold administration accountable. We wrote about changes to the "free speech zone" policies to update GVSU community members on their right to freely express themselves on campus, and we broke the news about several events around campus.

Student life on campus has been thriving with more and more clubs and student organizations added each year. This semester, we covered hard hitting Greek Life events such as "ATO Walks Hard" and the IFC bid day(s), which included the newly established fraternity Fiji. New student organizations such as the drag club or Fleece and Thank You hosted events on campus to show Laker pride and connect to the community.

The GVSU community is filled with creativity and artistic expression. This semester, we covered the annual Shakespeare Festival, the 2017 Grand Rapids Film Festival, GVSU's first ever drag exhibition and series of events, the large-scale theater production of Helen and several senior art exhibitions showcased in the GVSU galleries.

It was an honor to serve the university as part of the Lanthorn staff of 2017. Keep hosting events, speaking up for what you believe in and working to improve campus every year, and we promise to keep reporting on it.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ortiz, Paul Smith, Kevin [unclear], Chris [unclear], Meghan Fitzgerald, David [unclear]
   
 [unclear], Paul Smith, Amanda Sellman
   
 Ashlyn Korinek, Leah [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], Josh Getter, [unclear]
   
 J. Matthew, [unclear], Shae Slaughter, Shaqirah [unclear], [unclear], Emily [unclear]
   
 [unclear], [unclear], Shaqirah [unclear], Becky Oppman

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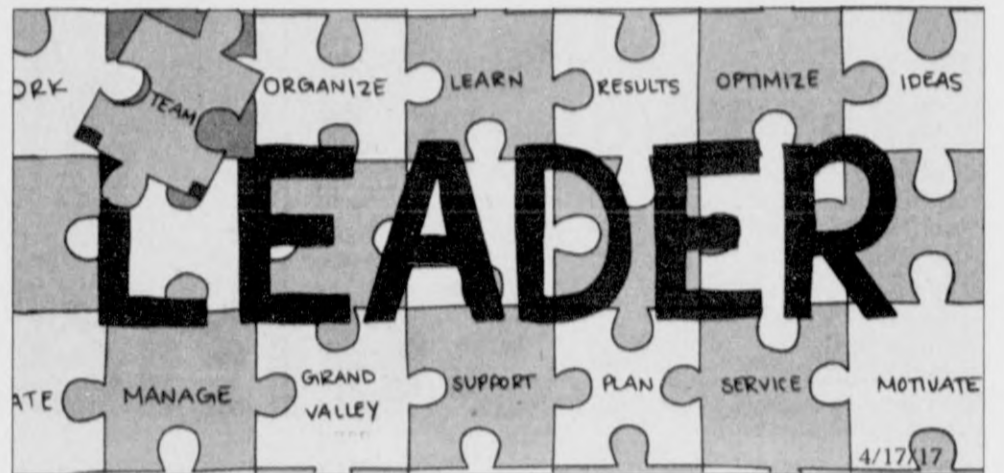
1/19/17

BY: JAYME MADISON



2/20/17

BY: TAYLOR SCHOLTENS



4/17/17

BY: TAYLOR SCHOLETNS



2/23/17

BY: JAYME MADISON



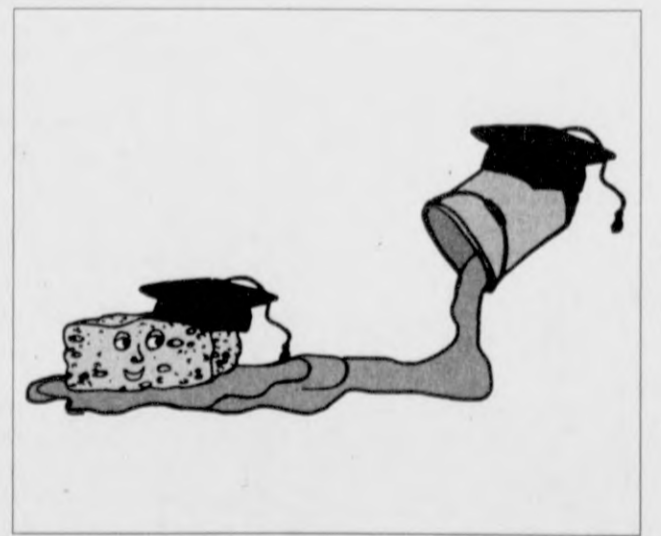
3/20/17

BY: OLIVER LOVE



3/16/17

BY: JAYME MADISON



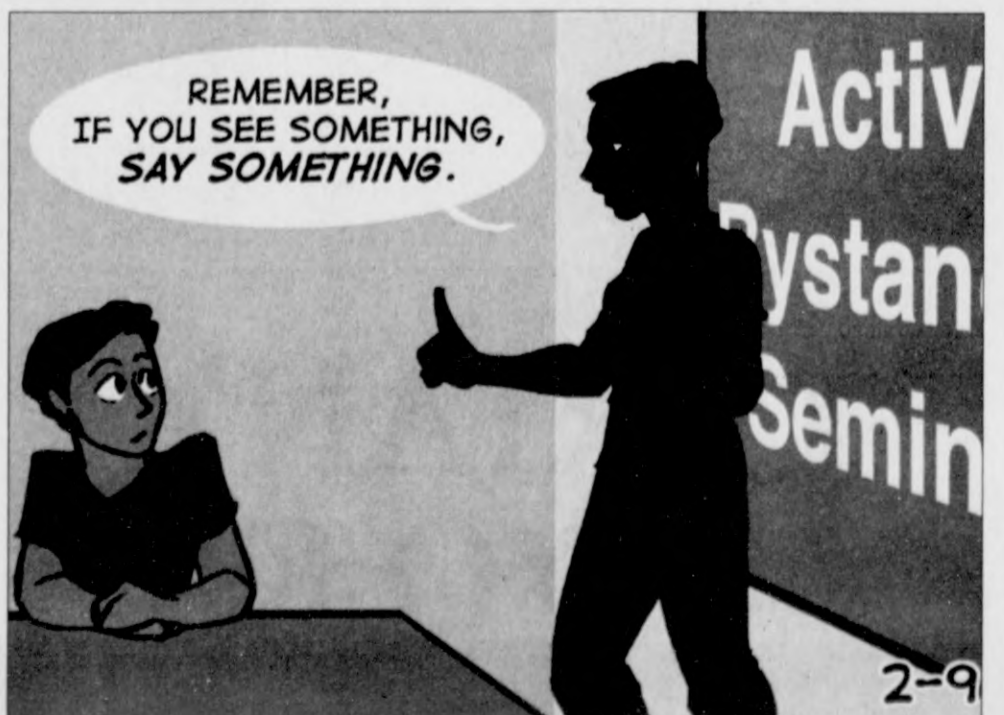
4/10/17

BY: JAYME MADISON



2/16/17

BY: OLIVER LOVE



2/9/17

BY: OLIVER LOVE

4/20/17

## From the editor's desk: A family operation

Whenever people ask me how long I have been working at the Lanthorn, I laugh, because the truth of the matter is, it's hard for me to remember when I didn't work for the paper. In fact, I wrote my first article before I had even started classes at Grand Valley State University. Four years and approximately 1,000 cups of coffee later, here I am, getting ready to say goodbye.

From news writer to news editor to associate editor to editor-in-chief, I feel like I've seen it all. I've seen cars spontaneously burst into flames in the parking lot, I've seen lights go up on 48th Avenue and I've seen the Lanthorn staff grow and change throughout the years. Even though it's always sad when a Lanthorn group leaves, it's even cooler to get to see what we do and where we end up after graduation.

People joke about having "work husbands" and "work wives," but at the Lanthorn, we're a "work family." I know that sounds cheesy and groan-worthy but I think all families are a little cheesy and groan-worthy.

We have the sports editor who is the little brother of the operation. Running on their own time and coming up with headlines that really push the limits, you can't help but love their creativity. Then we have the arts and entertainment and laker life editors who are the older sisters of the show. Though they only publish once a week, they are really what keep us sane. There's also the

layout and photo team who are definitely the fun older cousins that we all strive to be like but aren't nearly as talented as. Then the news editor. Stressed to the max and always in work mode, the news editor is the mom that makes sure everything happens when it's supposed to happen. The associate editor is the cool aunt that helps you through the hard times, buys you a beer and helps you get back up and at it. Last but not least, we have the business and advertising departments who are the ambiguous dads in the background. You're not completely sure what they do or how they do it, but it's always done in the same way with minimal mistakes. And then there's me. Who am I in this family mix? I guess it depends on who you're asking.

Though most of the Lanthorn staff is graduating this semester, I hope you remember us fondly. Whether you've seen us eating our weight in tacos at Main Street's 50 cent taco night or watched us struggle through trivia night at Peppinos, we sure did have a lot of fun. It was an honor to serve the GVSU community and we hope that you enjoyed this past semester of the Lanthorn.

As I get ready to hand the operation over to Emily Doran, our next editor-in-chief, I can't help but be excited. Sad that this amazing organization will no longer be a daily part of my life, but excited to see where things will go. I wish the next Lanthorn staff all the luck in the world and I know that they will do a great job.

2/16/17

## Frustrated by funding

### GV deserves additional funding for performance rankings

It's no secret that, for the most part, Lakers like Grand Valley State University. We brag about our location, we love our campus and we are somewhat oddly obsessed with our university president. It's only natural that we want everyone else to love us, too—including Michigan representatives.

Though GVSU continually shows growth in enrollment, impressive performance metrics and an overall high university satisfaction rating, we still receive the second lowest amount of federal funding for a public university from the state of Michigan.

For the first time, we finally see some financial promise on the horizon, but we're not there yet. Although Gov. Rick Snyder has recommended GVSU for a 3.4 percent increase in state funding, the highest increase among all the universities, the Michigan House and Senate still have to approve the request. In past years, we have seen they rarely keep what the governor recommends and more often than not lower the percentage of increase. We hope, as members of the university, that our high performance records are taken into consideration when it comes to planning the budget for 2018.

Currently, GVSU has a graduation rate of 70 percent, compared to schools such as Wayne State University with only 32 percent and Northern Michigan University with 48 percent (both of which receive significantly more funding than GVSU). Looking at just the facts, we believe that our university has shown year and year again that we are exceeding expectations, a feat that should be recognized

through state funding.

Additionally, our university has made great efforts to immerse itself not only in the Grand Rapids community but also throughout Michigan as a whole. From our partnerships with Wayne State University to the expansion of our health education in Grand Rapids, we have proven that we are here to stay and here to contribute to the professional world while enrolled at GVSU and beyond.

We know that if the state were to adopt an allocation process based on performance, there would be schools that would suffer from a large decrease in funding. We don't want this—we know the struggle of being a college student, and we don't want other schools to lose funding. However, the state needs to come up with a way to award those with performance metrics instead of awarding schools just because they've been around longer.

While we appreciate the contributions from our personal benefactors and other sources of financial support, GVSU is following all the rules and deserves to be rewarded for that. Our university is not only continuing to grow in size but is also emerging alongside University of Michigan and Michigan State University as one of the top schools in the state.

With this growth comes the need to fund the students who have chosen GVSU as their top choice. Without proper funds, it is difficult to make resources available to all students.

We consistently put up the best numbers in the state yet aren't rewarded for it. It's time GVSU Lakers—students, faculty, staff and administration—are recognized and rewarded for their hard work to make our university better.

3/20/17

## The dangers of fake news

### It's important to challenge public officials, press

Since the election, the political climate at Grand Valley State University has mirrored that of the nation: split, divisive and covered by a general cloud of uneasiness. Whether you love or hate Donald Trump, he will definitely be a president to remember. Something he has particularly emphasized recently is his war against the media, calling them the "enemy of the American people."

Fake news. We've all heard the term, and a specific news organization probably comes to mind. Maybe it's Fox News, maybe it's CNN, maybe you even think the Lanthorn is fake news. It doesn't make a difference, because the majority of news organizations out there do not report fake news.

Originally, fake news was started when former President Barack Obama was in office. There were legitimately fake news stories that circulated, detailing events that never happened. These stories derived from made-up news organizations that were created for the sole purpose of spreading fake stories. Now, it seems as though "fake news" is a term Trump uses when a news organization criticizes him or his cabinet or his administration.

Unfortunately, this rhetoric Trump uses is detrimental for his administration, the American people and the press. The press has existed for as long as presidents have been elected. Journalists are called "watchdogs" for a reason; they are there to keep those in public

offices accountable for their actions. Fake news is not when a story criticizes Trump or any other member of his administration. Fake news does not equate to news you don't agree with or news you refuse to believe. Fake news is when there are stories being published by illegitimate organizations that don't exist, about stories, events and people that aren't real or never happened.

The press is partly to blame for this as well. With sensational and attention-grabbing headlines, it may be perceived that organizations like CNN or MSNBC have a liberal agenda and hope to make Trump's four years in office highly contested. However, if you accuse organizations of leaning left, it is your civic

duty to recognize there are right-leaning organizations like Breitbart News and Fox News who have a conservative agenda.

We understand that many who support Trump are equally as frustrated with the media as Trump is. We at the Lanthorn are not saying everything that is reported by the media should be taken at its word. We challenge you to research the things that come out of Trump's mouth and the words that come out of reporter's mouths or in their stories. It is important to stay informed on views from both sides. Doing so will help us as U.S. citizens to lead more democratic lives.

Also, Russia is not fake news. Russia is a country.

3/16/17

## A story worth telling

### Look at challenges as opportunity for self-discovery

Successful athletes often talk about the hardest moments they've faced during their careers. Whether it's a rough team loss or a personal experience, the common theme that follows these stories is the recovery. If you don't hear a solution story, it's probably because they don't have one.

Each day, we're faced with hard decisions, and each day, we have a choice. A choice to find a solution to the problems we are facing or a choice to give up. Though some days it may seem as though there's no light at the end of the tunnel, it's important to dig your way out of the rut you're in and change the outcome.

You're going to come across

people in the world who look down on you, and you're going to face challenges that make you work harder than you have ever worked before, but, in a way, that's one of the most unique human experiences we can face. Without challenges, we lose progress, and without progress we miss out on acts of innovation and discovery.

On a college campus, we're surrounded by sources of inspiration. From your fellow classmate who gets a higher grade than you to the work being done by college students across the nation, there are opportunities for incentive. Instead of getting discouraged by the accomplishments of those around you, use them as your motivators. It's almost

a guarantee that those people you envy didn't get there by wallowing.

Some things might come easier to you than others. Maybe you're great at math, but writing is really your passion. Don't give up, and don't stop chasing your end goals until you've reached what you want. It's important that even if you feel like you're having the worst day of your life, you know that there are sunnier skies ahead and you just have to push through the storm.

Reflect on your accomplishments and the battles you have faced and use those skills and experiences and use them to show others what you truly are capable of doing. Embrace the qualities that separate you from other people, ones you

may never have thought of as an advantage, and gear them in a way that's productive to your future careers, relationships, etc. We all have different qualities and challenges to face, but this doesn't have to be an endpoint. It's all about how you spin it.

Think of all that you have overcome. Each person faces their own battles, scars they often don't show, and each one of us is a warrior for doing so.

So, as you face challenges in your classes, in your personal life and in your professional ambitions, remember that you have a choice. Take the time to look at situations as opportunities instead of as roadblocks and work to make your recovery story front page worthy.

4/16/17

## Fresh faces

### New student senate leaders should be ready to work, expand

Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, we've gotten used to the leadership style of the current student senate body. From resolutions passed to recommendations made for the university, this year's senate body has been busy making their time at Grand Valley State University count. Now, it's time to welcome a new cabinet and, ultimately, a new style of leadership.

We want to encourage the newly-selected senate leadership to look at the work done by those before them and think of new ways to improve the university. As those involved with senate know, being in a student leadership position such as this is no easy task. However, if the near six hour meeting to select new student representation shows anything, it's that this new group is passionate about the work to be done and knows the work that this will entail.

It can't be easy for just 50 people to represent the over 25,000 students here at GVSU. Our community and our university are all so unique. We all talk about that effect GVSU has on us, and it's important for us to maintain that and build upon it so future Lakers will have the same sense of

pride and love for this place.

In order for that to happen, it's especially important for those leadership qualities to come from students, and as the only student-governing body on campus, it starts with student senate. We hope they can build upon the transparency they have been trying to maintain throughout the year. We hope they can work with the campus climate results and keep making GVSU inclusive for everyone. We hope they take the work on sexual assault awareness and amp it up even more, letting everyone know it is on us as Lakers to prevent these situations from happening. We want to see more of the destigmatization of mental health and we hope to see the student body come together after a particularly divisive presidential election.

These, of course, are not the only problems that will plague our university. As new situations happen—good and bad ones—we hope the people in these new positions will be able to handle it with a sense of leadership that will inspire every Laker to be a leader.

As we welcome these new emerging leaders, we also prepare to welcome a new provost. Now more than ever, it's imperative that we have lead-

ers in place who will place student needs and interests on the front burner. Having new faces

is not a bad thing, but rather, a chance for a fresh approach to the way things are done.

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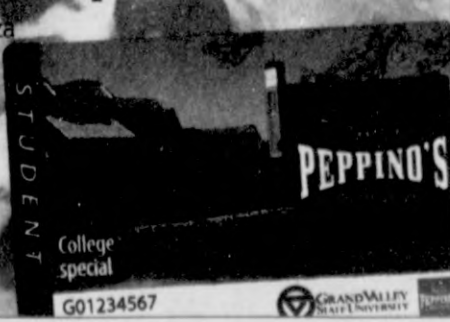
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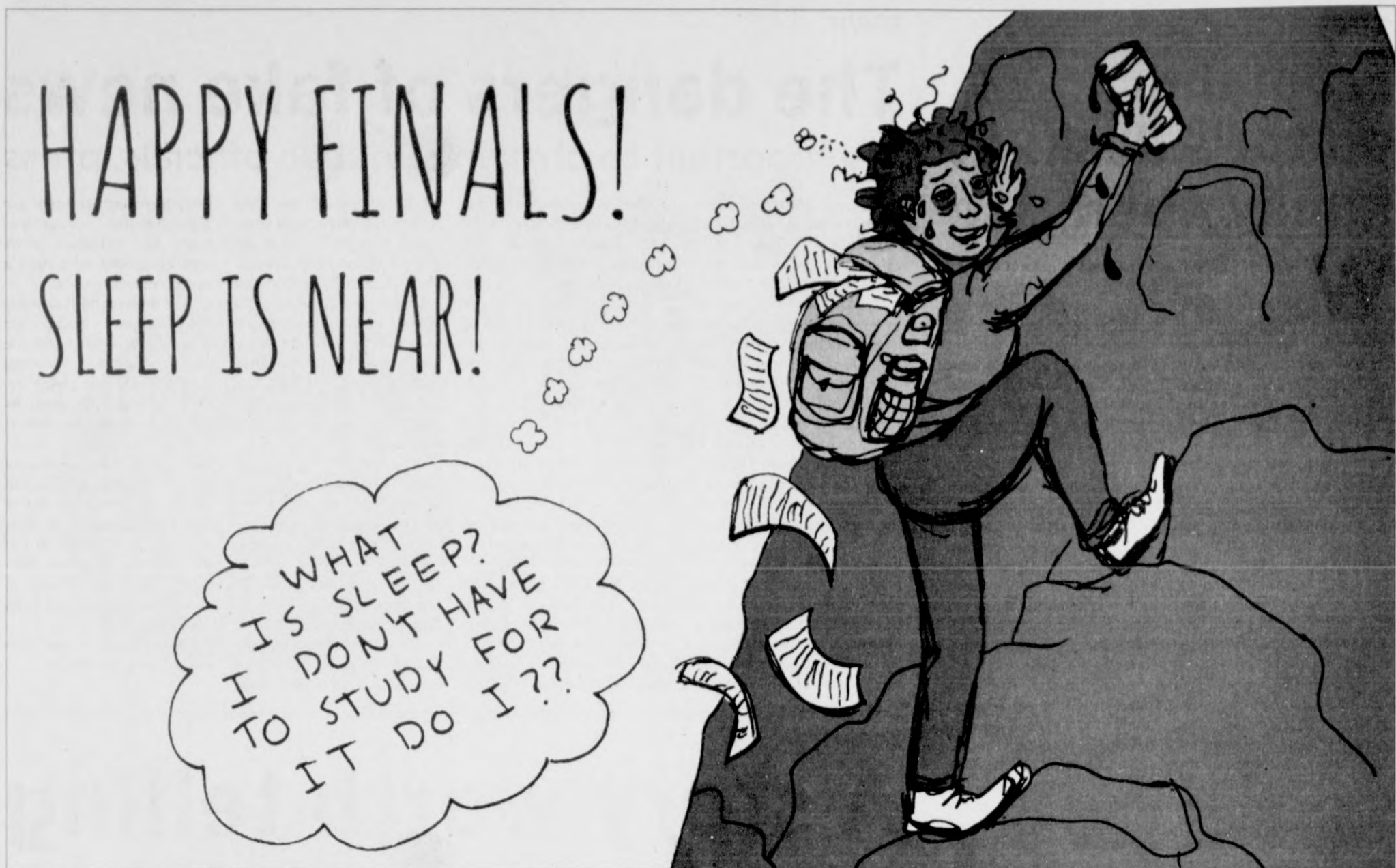
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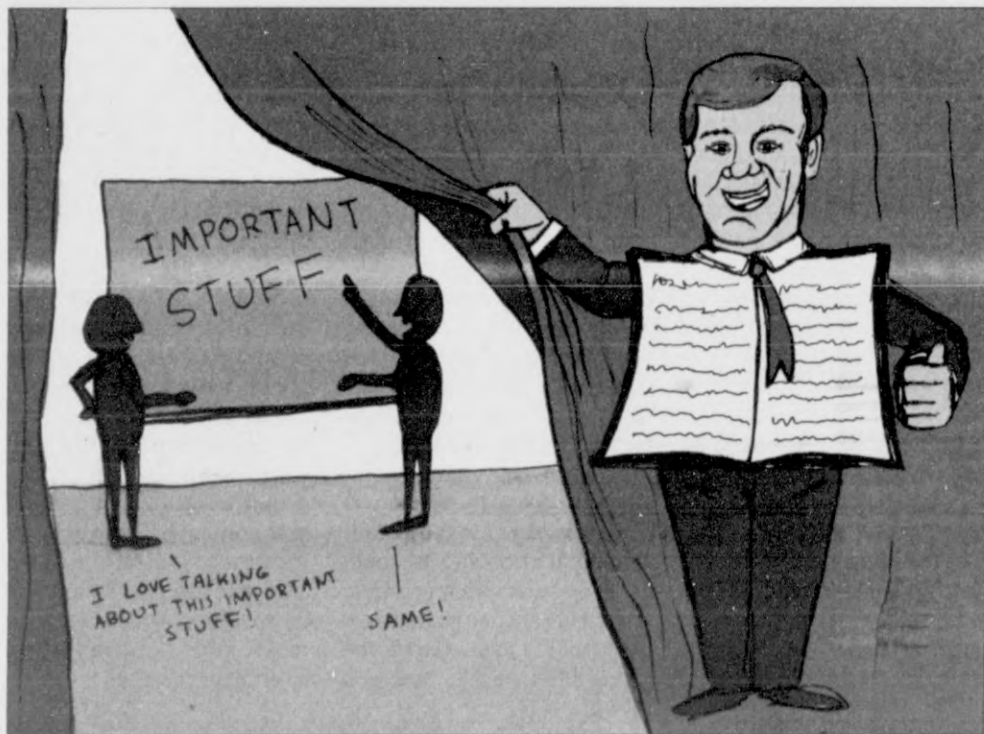


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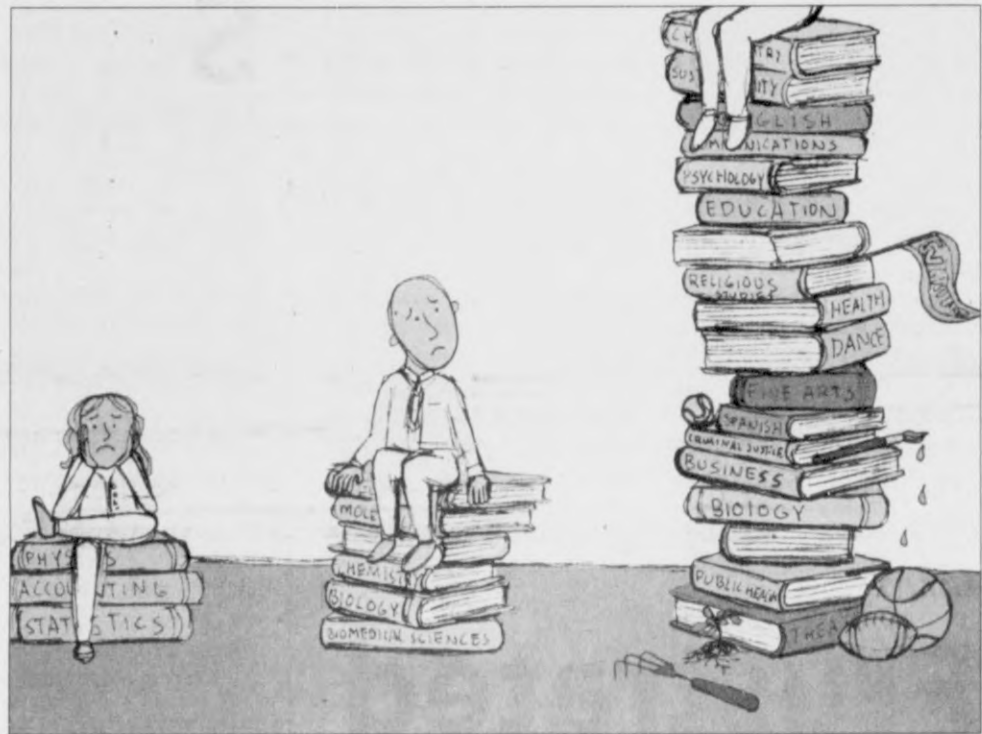
4/20/17

BY: JAYME MADISON



2/2/17

BY: JAYME MADISON



1/12/17

BY: JAYME MADISON

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GV Career Services wants to remind you to check your GVSU email for a personalized First Destination Survey. They would love to know where you land after graduation! If you have questions or want to know more about the benefits of survey participation, don't hesitate to visit their website.

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"GVSU Night at Comerica Park" on July 26 is a great opportunity for all Lakers to showcase their Laker Pride while enjoying a Tigers game! There will be co-branded Tigers and GVSU hats and bus transportation from Allendale and Grand Rapids if desired. Tickets are on sale now and include a \$5 donation to the GVSU scholarship fund. Visit [gvsu.edu/tigers](http://gvsu.edu/tigers) for more information.

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OVERSEAS

# Diversifying GV

International student enrollment increases by 60 percent

BY JENNA FRACASSI  
JFRACASSI@LANTHORN.COM

Over the past five years, the enrollment for international graduate students at Grand Valley State University has increased by 60 percent.

Jeff Potteiger, dean of The Graduate School at GVSU, said with the attendance of

international students comes a cultural and learning experience that benefits the entire GVSU community.

"It's an opportunity to meet someone who is maybe not like you, who has a different outlook than you do," Potteiger said. "I just think that can be very rich and very rewarding for both the inter-

national students who come to Grand Valley as well as us who are at Grand Valley."

In the fall of 2012, 96 international students were enrolled in the graduate program. In the fall of 2016, that number of students had increased to 162.

"I think there has been an increase in part because we are a very open and welcom-

ing educational community," Potteiger said. "I think Grand Valley does a fabulous job of making people feel welcome, and so I think it's one of those situations whereby word-of-mouth spreads."

Shinian Wu, professor and director of the graduate program for applied linguistics, said GVSU President Thomas

Haas visiting Asia, as well as other faculty members, had a big impact on recruiting international students.

"I personally go (to Asia) to deliver lectures, to talk about Grand Valley's programs, and students become interested," Wu said.

GVSU has made it a priority to increase the number of international students. At the graduate level, the majority of recruitment is done by graduate program directors.

"Our graduate program directors are always looking for international students who show an interest in coming to GVSU," Potteiger said. "We make those connections, and we make the students feel welcome. We also have really good graduate programs that we can offer the students."

One of these programs is the applied linguistics program. Though it only started last fall, the curriculum dates back to 1999. It has since been revived with an international audience in mind to prepare students to work both home and abroad.

Out of the 15 graduate students currently enrolled in the applied linguistics program, eight are international students from Nigeria, China and Saudi Arabia. Wu hopes the program will become even more diverse

this upcoming fall semester with students applying from Chile, Argentina and Vietnam.

"We have a very good program, and our curriculum is near the international standards," Wu said.

Yuan Sui is a graduate student in the applied linguistics program. Before coming to GVSU, she attended Xi'an International Studies University, a foreign language university in China.

Sui said she appreciated the professional nature of her courses, as well as the encouragement from her professors.

"I like everything here (at Grand Valley)," Sui said. "I like the environment, the buildings, the apartments, and our courses and professors."

Several years ago, the university invited international recruiting agents to campus. Since then, Potteiger said, 15 have come to visit.

"When they come here, they are just amazed at what we have to offer as a university, not only in our programs, but our physical plant, Grand Rapids as a community, West Michigan as a region," Potteiger said. "They are just amazed at all the opportunities that are available for these students."



ALL TOGETHER: A group of international students visits Xi'an International Studies University in China in 2016 with Grand Valley State University President Thomas Haas (far right). GVSU's international student enrollment has increased significantly. COURTESY | GVSU.EDU

FINANCES

## Building the budget

GV recommended for 3.4 percent increase in state funding for 2018

BY JESS HODGE  
ASSOCIATE@LANTHORN.COM

Year after year, Grand Valley State University puts out performance metrics that rank among the top three in public universities in the state of Michigan. Year after year, however, GVSU does not receive near as much funding as other institutions do.

Last week, Gov. Rick Snyder released his proposed budget for the fiscal year 2018. In it was an across-the-board increase for higher education by 2.5 percent. Each school, however, received individual percent increases; GVSU was recommended for a 3.4 percent increase in state funding, the highest increase among all the universities.

Now that the governor has proposed his budget, Michigan's House of Representatives and the Senate will make their recommendations and the finalized budget will be confirmed in the first weeks

of June. The FY 2018 budget will begin Oct. 1, 2017 and will end Sept. 30, 2018.

Although the percent is the highest this year, it is not the highest increase GVSU has been recommended for, nor does that percentage equate to a large sum of money. That 3.4 percent increase GVSU has been recommended for comes out to \$2340.20, which is still comes out to a dollar amount that is lower than four other schools.

In the 2016-17 school year, the state average for appropriation per student was \$5,345. GVSU was below average, receiving only \$3,040, the second lowest in the state.

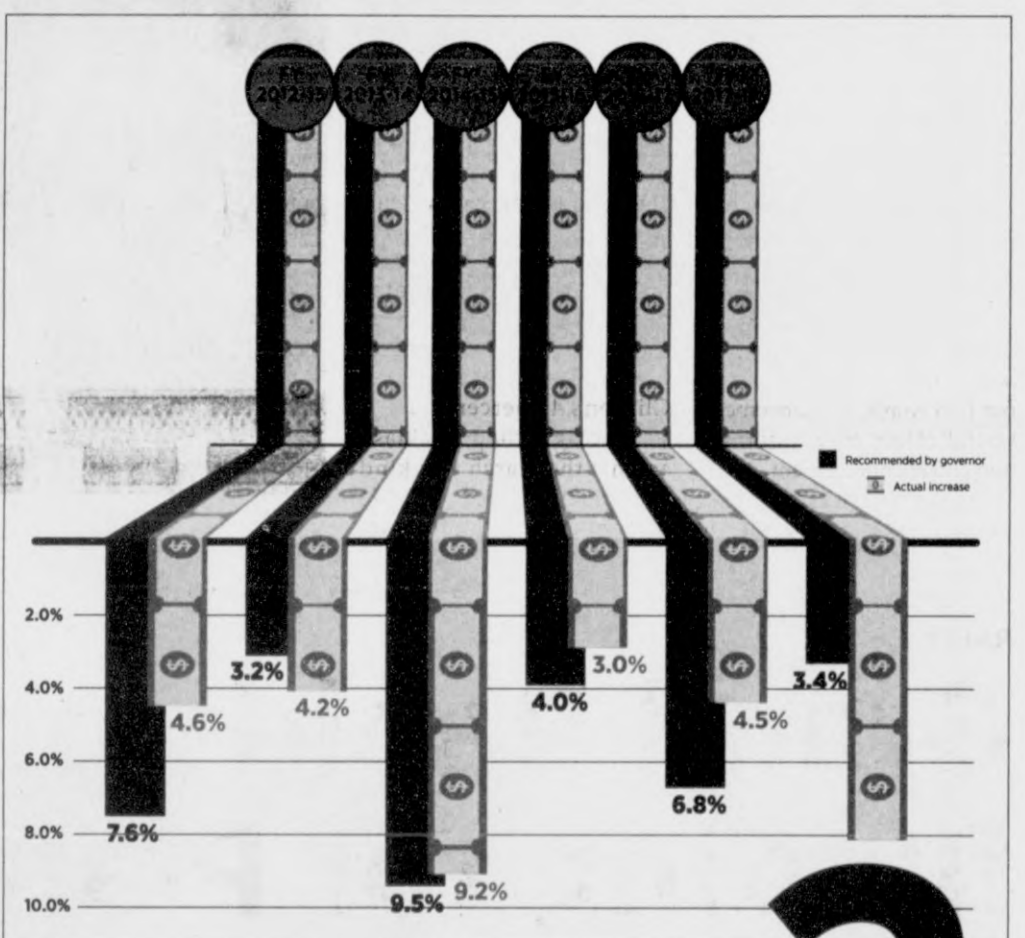
Additionally, last year GVSU was recommended to get a 6.8 percent increase, again the highest in the state. The House of Representatives and Senate knocked down that percentage to 4.5 percent.

"One of the unfortunate aspects of the way the state

handles the appropriations is that not very much of it is tested for performance," said Matt McLogan, vice president for university relations at GVSU. "Instead it's handed out the way it has been over the last 30 or 40 years. So the universities that are older and larger and have more grad programs and more research do better and the newer universities, like Grand Valley, tend to do not as well in that model."

GVSU President Thomas Haas agreed, explaining the state has yet to adopt a funding process based more around performance.

"The state did not have in place any formulaic approach to allocating its dollars and I still find that they're only allocating half of the amount of this year to performance, the other half given across the board," Haas said. "In all reality, only about 10 percent of the entire budget for the state of Michigan for higher education has been subjected to



performance review." Haas does appreciate seeing GVSU as getting the highest increase, though. "It's very rewarding to see that our performance metrics are giving us this type of

support from the state with some of their new money that they're allocating," he said.

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ENROLLMENT

## Making transferring easy

GV recognized for support of community college students



TRANSFER HONOR ROLL: Grand Valley State University students walk around the Allendale Campus Wednesday, March 22. GVSU made the Phi Theta Kappa 2017 Transfer Honor Roll. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF

BY JENNA FRACASSI  
JFRACASSI@LANTHORN.COM

Grand Valley State University has been chosen as a member of Phi Theta Kappa's 2017 Transfer Honor Roll, which recognizes the university's support of community college transfers.

GVSU is one of 63 institutions nationwide to be recognized for this honor.

Bonnie Ulmer-DeGraves, associate director of admissions for transfer and orientation, said GVSU provides pre-advising resources to ensure that students have a seamless transfer process.

"We have the transfer guides that we post on our homepage for students that are at Michigan community colleges," she said. "These would show them, based on their major, what classes they would take at the community college that would transfer into the first two years of a program here."

Students may be concerned that the classes they are taking will not transfer when they transition to a four-year college. These resources allow students to check course transferability specific to which col-

lege they are attending.

The curriculum guide can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/admissions/curriculum-guides.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/admissions/curriculum-guides.htm), and the course equivalencies website can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/studentapps/mtn/](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentapps/mtn/).

Doug Grevious transferred to GVSU from Muskegon Community College in 2015. He is currently finishing his final semester at the university as a multimedia journalism major with an emphasis in broadcasting.

"The resources I found the most helpful were the ones at Grand Valley," Grevious said. "I found it to be better to just contact GV and ask them what documents they needed along with what steps I had to take."

He described the transfer process as an easy one, saying the GVSU admissions staff was very helpful in making sure he completed all the required steps.

"While transferring, I made sure to keep in contact with GV, making sure they were receiving my papers," Grevious said. "While the transfer was happening, I came to GV for orientation, where I scheduled my classes and received my ID.

Not long after that, my transfer was approved."

In an effort to further support transfer students, GVSU holds a variety of workshops at community colleges. These provide students with an opportunity to talk directly to GVSU faculty members and ask any questions they may have.

"We really do spend a lot of time at the community colleges and make sure the students are really ready for the transfer," Ulmer-DeGraves said.

One of the main concerns students have when transferring is financial aid. For this reason, GVSU does a financial aid workshop to explain the differences between financial aid at a two-year college and financial aid at a four-year college.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Center also does a pre-professional workshop where advisors begin working with students to let them know what it's going to take for them to get accepted into professional schools.

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DEMONSTRATION

# 'This is what democracy looks like'

## Millions gather worldwide to promote equal rights

BY HANNAH LENTZ  
EDITORIAL@LANTHORN.COM

It's estimated that one in every 100 Americans marched Saturday, Jan. 21, to protest the inauguration of President Donald Trump and promote the need for equal rights as part of the "Women's March on Washington." With marches on every continent, the march may go down in history as one of the largest forms of assemblies worldwide.

Though the march was met with criticisms from several other social justice advocate groups who had concerns that minorities and other underrepresented communities were not the focus of the rally, it is estimated by the Women's March on Washington movement that more than 5 million people participated worldwide.

In an effort to be part of the change, several students from Grand Valley State University also made the trip to make their voices heard.

Senior Leah McCombs traveled to Washington, D.C. with friends from GVSU and her hometown. Since all the buses in Michigan were already sold out, they decided to drive. Along the way, they saw acts of kindness and hope that were also reflected in the march's efforts McCombs said.

"Every place we stopped along the way there were cars and buses of women, men and kids just like us driving to D.C.," McCombs said. "Everyone was high-fiving and cheering at each stop."

Though McCombs said that the whole experience of participating in the march was hard to put into words, the movement was full of love, energy, affirmation and encouragement.

At the march, social justice advocates such as Ange-

la Davis spoke to the crowd about women's rights, racial equality and the idea of a nation of understanding and political change. The speaker list also included celebrities such as America Ferrera and Scarlett Johansson.

"It's not just action for women's rights, but the rights for all," McCombs said. "Rights for the LGBTQ community, the right to clean air, education. In a society where social media rules, real action requires participation, not just sharing a picture or an opinion online."

The march also promoted the "10 Actions for the first 100 Days" campaign that focuses on a different form of protest and change that people can participate in for President Trump's first 100 days in office. This is a way to keep the movement going past the end of the marches McCombs said.

"It shows how much and how willing we are to fight for what we believe we deserve," McCombs said. "Saying 'thank you' to the women before me who did the same, who gave me the rights and privileges that were not once available."

The march was not ignored by Trump either. Following the march, Trump tweeted, "Watched protests yesterday but was under the impression that we just had an election! Why didn't these people vote? Celebs hurt cause badly." Though Trump's tweet came with backlash from a large portion of female protestors and activists, it was rooted in the fact that Trump won the vote of 53 percent of white women, compared to Clinton's 43 percent.

"Seeing the backlash against the march was kind of upsetting and a little discouraging at first," Mc-

Combs said. "The same feeling came when I found out about Trump's first executive orders on anti-abortion and the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines. I hope that people from both sides of these discussions are able to work together to find solutions."

However, Trump's tweet and the election results are not taking into consideration the results of the popular vote and what that means compared to the final election results said GVSU senior and Women's March on Washington participant Chelsea Michalec.

"We were the popular vote," Michalec said. "I think people tend to ignore that but that was a chant throughout the day, 'We. Are. The. Popular. Vote' and I think that that means something, something memorable."

Michalec was in D.C. not only for the Women's March on Washington but also for the smaller protests surrounding the Presidential Inauguration. During these protests, the tone was a little different.

During these protests, there were instances of violence, destruction and panic. However, Michalec said that there was something unique about the

assembly. "Even though it was destructive, it was amazing that so many people came together for something," Michalec said. "There was a medical team there to help people and everyone was looking out for each other."

Overall, six police officers were injured and 217 protestor arrests were made Friday, Jan. 20. Alternatively, there were no recorded arrests at the Women's March on Washington making it one of the most peaceful and largest protests throughout history.

One of the biggest forms of advocacy during the

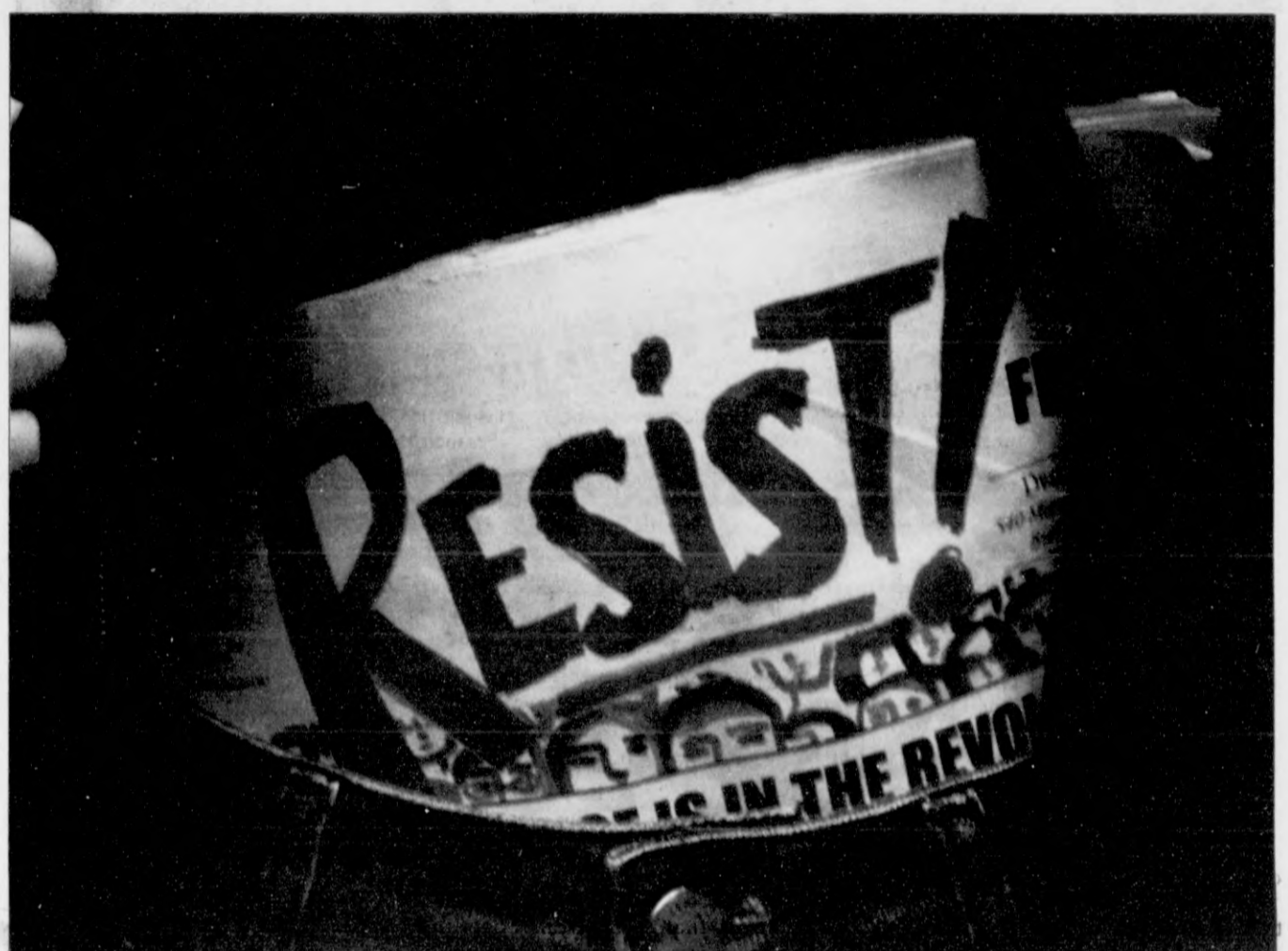
Women's March on Washington was the variety of signs that marchers created and displayed during the march.

"It was crazy and life changing to hear a crowd of hundreds, of thousands answer a call from some saying 'show me what democracy looks like' and 'this is what democracy looks like,'" McCombs said.

The march on Washington also inspired protestors across the nation including a march of over 8,000 people outside of the Lansing state capital.

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MAKING VOICES HEARD: A march participant captured during the "Women's March on Washington." It's estimated that one in every 100 Americans marched Saturday, Jan. 21, to protest the inauguration of President Donald Trump. COURTESY | CHELSEA MICHALEC

RALLY

# Grand Rapids protesters debate funding for Planned Parenthood

BY EMILY DORAN  
NEWS@LANTHORN.COM

Across the United States, anti-abortion demonstrators congregated Saturday, Feb. 11, to demand the federal defunding of Planned Parenthood, and pro-abortion rights advocates responded in kind with their own counter-protests to express their support for the organization.

Grand Rapids was no exception to the list of cities in which these demonstrations occurred. As part of the nationwide protests to defund Planned Parenthood, Grand Rapids Right to Life hosted a demonstration outside the Planned Parenthood on Cherry Street. The anti-abortion

demonstrators were vastly outnumbered by pro-abortion rights advocates, however, who showed up with signs, chants and 'pussy power hats' reminiscent of the Women's March on Washington in support of Planned Parenthood.

Hundreds of protesters and counter-protesters lined both sides of the street, sometimes mingling closely together and occasionally engaging in debate. The protests were monitored by the police and did not become violent.

Meanwhile, car drivers enthusiastically honked their support for the pro-abortion rights demonstrators, who held signs defending what they believed to be an issue of women's bodily

autonomy and right to specific forms of health care.

Some of the signs read, "Defend, not defund" and "Family planning saves lives." The pro-abortion rights demonstrators often erupted into loud chants, as well, declaring, "My body, my choice" and "Women's rights are human rights."

The anti-abortion demonstrators came with their own signs, some of which read, "Stop abortion now" and "Defund Planned Parenthood."

Kate Bleeker, a GVSU graduate holding a "Defund Planned Parenthood" sign, countered the bodily autonomy argument by defending the rights of human embryos and fetuses as unique individuals.

"I am for choices, but not for the choice to end the life that's inside of you," Bleeker said. "I do realize that you do have your body and that you are having to carry that child to term—that's our hope for you and for that child—but the child is a unique human being, 100 percent unique DNA. From the time that the egg is fertilized, it has its own bodily autonomy, in my opinion."

Bleeker said she wanted to promote a positive image of the anti-abortion movement and dispel common misconceptions about the makeup of the group.

"I want there to be awareness that the pro-life movement is a loving group," she said. "It's a group of young women, not old white

males, as the cliché goes. (They're) people that love women and love the unborn, and we want to kind of encourage that dialogue."

Mark Dykstra, an anti-abortion demonstrator, cited his religious beliefs as a reason for protesting Planned Parenthood.

"I'm here today basically to show my faith as a Christian," Dykstra said. "I'm strongly in favor of pro-life, and I believe Planned Parenthood hurts women. The majority of their business is abortion, and I'm just trying to stand against abortion. There are so many other alternatives."

"(It's) easy to just go through life and not take stands, but I felt strongly that if you believe in some-

thing, go out and show it."

Other anti-abortion demonstrators sought to promote alternatives for women experiencing unwanted pregnancies or to provide information on counseling for women who have had abortions.

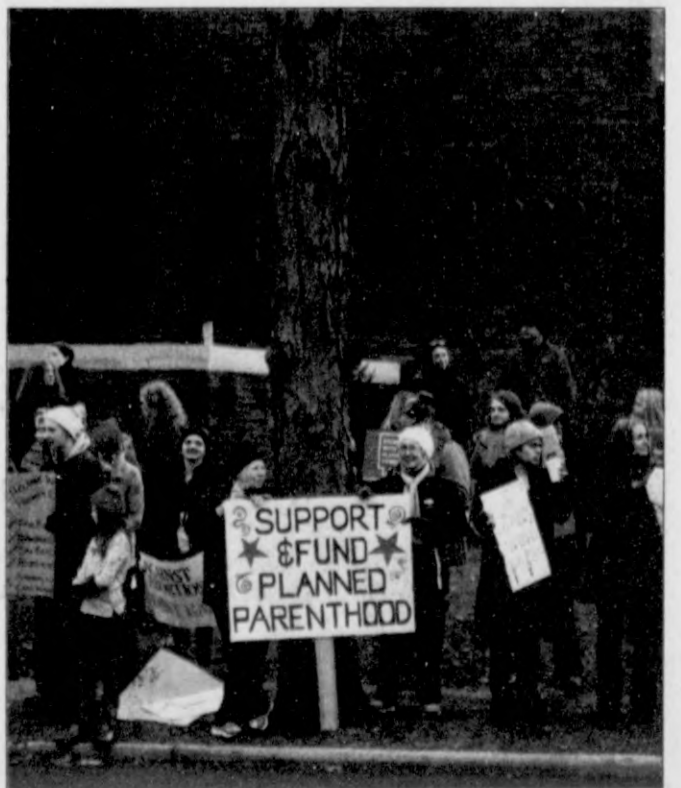
"My goal was to reach out to women, like many of my friends, who are hurting after abortion, and we wanted to make sure that women knew where to go to find help if they were hurting," said Melissa Yeomans, who held a banner with a post-abortion care website address. "The pro-lifers that I know, they are so actively engaged in providing health care solutions to women."

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OUTNUMBERED: Planned Parenthood supporters voice their opposition to the presence of members of Frontline Apologetics by the Planned Parenthood building in Grand Rapids Saturday, Feb. 11. The protests were part of nationwide demonstrations. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF



DEFEND VS. DEFUND: Demonstrators gather in front of Planned Parenthood in Grand Rapids Saturday, Feb. 11. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF



EXPANSION

# GV set to lease, buy land to build parking lots downtown

BY EMILY DORAN  
NEWS@LANTHORN.COM

At its meeting in Detroit Friday, Feb. 10, the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees voted to rent and ultimately purchase 3.5 acres of land near the Pew Campus from the Louis Padnos Iron

and Metal Company. Pending approval from the City of Grand Rapids, GVSU intends to convert the land into parking lots by August 2017.

"Assuming we receive approval through the City of Grand Rapids processes, we expect the lease period to start with the approval of the

parking lot at the city," said James Moyer, associate vice president for facilities planning at GVSU, via email.

As part of the leasing agreement, GVSU will rent the land for \$10,000 a month for a 10-year period and ultimately buy it for a total of \$3.38 million. The leasing money will be put

toward this total amount, and the project will be paid for with resources from the university's general fund.

The parcels of land that will be leased and purchased by GVSU are located at 650 Butterworth St. SW, 648 Butterworth St. SW, 633 Emperor St. SW, 219 Gelock Place SW

and 201 Tolford St. SW. Padnos is still using some of this land, hence the initial leasing period before GVSU's final purchase.

"The sites are currently used by Padnos for temporary storage of transport trucks," Moyer said. "These trucks are expected to be relocated by Padnos when the parking lot construction starts."

The decision to lease and eventually purchase land for downtown parking comes after GVSU administrators identified a shortage of available spaces for students.

Moyer said the need for more parking spaces is particularly urgent for health sciences students.

"The university continues to seek solutions to the parking needs of students who use the Grand Rapids campus," he said. "Our greatest need is near the Center for Health Sciences, where we do not have any student parking. We are engaged in several conversations concerning this matter."

D. Scott Richardson, vice president for finance and administration at GVSU, agreed that additional parking spaces are necessary for students who study at the Cook-DeVos Cen-

ter for Health Sciences (CHS) whose schedules may prevent them from efficiently using the transit system.

"We just know that we got to have parking close to the classroom building for a segment of our population," Richardson said. "We run a bus that goes through there every six minutes, and it takes care of 50, 60 percent of the folks that take classes there, but it doesn't take care of them all."

The new parking lots, which could contain roughly 300 spaces, would provide a temporary solution for students who need to commute to CHS but do not currently have closer parking options.

Richardson said many students have been parking in nearby neighborhoods, which is an issue that needs to be addressed. Until a more permanent solution is implemented for this parking problem, the impending construction project near the Pew Campus will provide a space for these students to park their cars and ride the bus to CHS.



**FIXING PROBLEMS:** Grand Valley State University purchased 3.5 acres to build on for downtown parking Wednesday, Feb. 22. GVSU's Board of Trustees voted to rent the lot during their meeting after they recognized the shortage of parking spots for students. **GVL | SARA CARTE**

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SAFETY

## Lighting the way Plans for Pierce Street sidewalks, lights in works

BY HANNAH LENTZ AND  
JESS HODGE  
EDITORIAL@LANTHORN.COM  
ASSOCIATE@LANTHORN.COM

After partnering with Allendale Township and Consumers Energy, Grand Valley State University has helped to install permanent lights along 48th Avenue. With positive feedback about the new lights and more lingering concerns about other dimly lit streets, there are plans underway for both sidewalks and lights along Pierce Street between 42nd and 48th avenues.

The new plans for Pierce Street come after concerns

for students' safety have been brought up multiple times to GVSU and Allendale Township. The stretch of Pierce Street between 42nd and 48th avenues is a popular place for students to walk down. Many students walk that way to head to campus for class, jog during the warmer months and even walk back home from parties at night from different apartment complexes.

Over the past 2 years, there have been 3 accidents near off-campus apartments on Pierce Street and 48th Avenue.

Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president of facilities services at GVSU, said the plans for Pierce Street are in

the works to begin after the semester ends.

"If everything gets in place, the project will start the first of May and be done by the end of summer," he said.

Part of getting the lighting expansion started includes planning on the part of Allendale Township regarding timing and costs.

"I am working (on timing and numbers) and will be talking to Grand Valley, the student housing owners and our township board with more details in the near future," said Adam Elenbaas, Allendale Charter Township supervisor.

Thimmesch said this project is slightly different than the lights recently installed on 48th Avenue, as the lights will not be part of the roadway but will instead be installed along the sidewalks.

Despite the off-campus apartments not being within GVSU's jurisdiction since they are not a part of campus, Thimmesch said he still felt it was important to aid in the project.

"It is our students that live on the west side of 48th Street and the apartments there, and we had security issues that were occurring in those places, (so) we felt it was very important to get involved and help promote and get lighting on 48th Street," he said.

The main role of GVSU, Thimmesch said, was putting pressure on Allendale Township to show the poor lighting was a problem they needed to prioritize and fix.

In addition to putting pres-

sure to start the project, GVSU will also pay for part of the Pierce Street renovations.

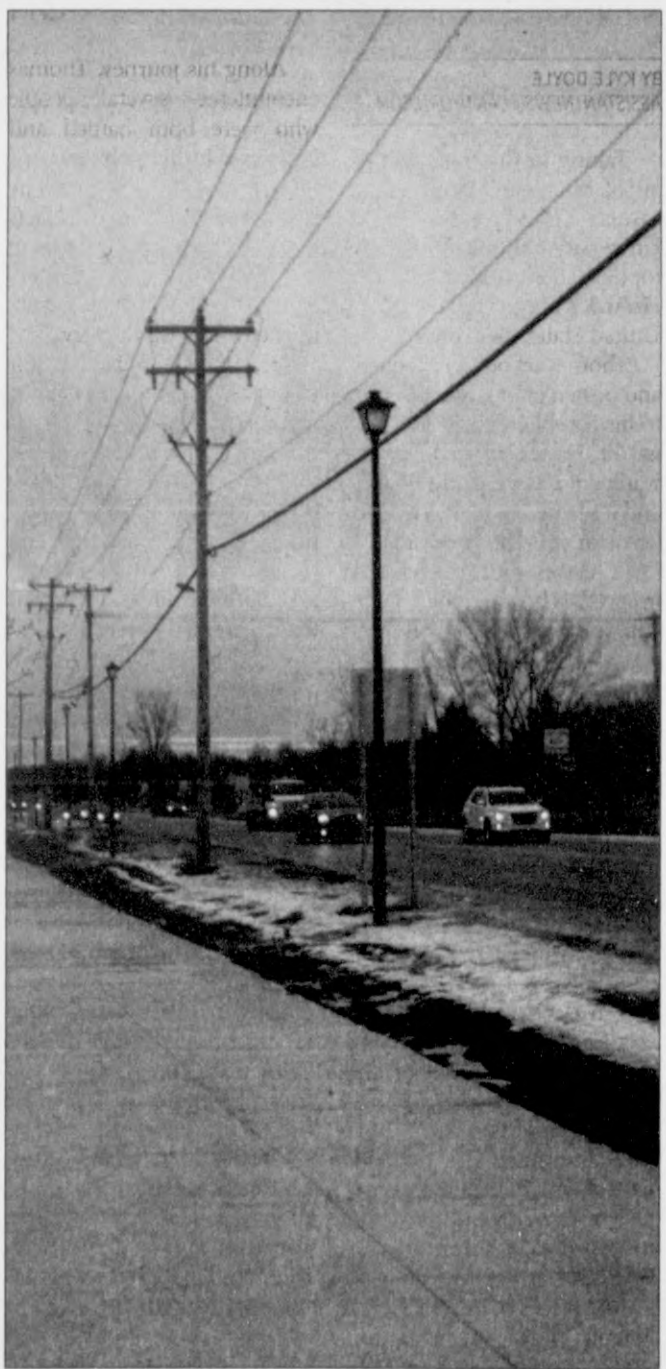
"Allendale Township is helping to go in and fund the project for the sidewalks and Grand Valley will (pay for) the lighting," Thimmesch said. "It was just (important) having a seat at the table to emphasize to get this done and get the lights installed because it is Grand Valley students being affected."

Allendale Township has also been receiving comments regarding the current light installation project along 48th Avenue from community members that use the road.

"I've heard a few positive comments, but mostly from drivers, not the pedestrians that use the walkways under the new lighting," Elenbaas said. "This is likely due to the fact that it is winter and there is a lot less pedestrian activity with the colder temperatures. The comments from drivers are that the lighting looks very nice, and they help brighten up the side of road."

Overall, student and community safety as well as traffic flow has been the overall focus of the construction done near the university and is also a major part of the plans to expand lighting down Pierce Street.

"The new lights increase visibility," Elenbaas said. "They should have been a part of the plan when the sidewalks were first installed. Thank you to GVSU and Consumers for installing the temporary lighting until the permanent lighting went up."



**IT'S LIT:** Completed lighting project on 48th Avenue. GVSU collaborated with Allendale for the lighting project. **GVL | MACKENZIE BUSH**

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INTERNATIONAL

# Connecting with her roots



**FAMILY TREE:** Jennifer Polasek poses in the Mary Idema Pew Library Saturday, March 18. Polasek won the Gilman Scholarship award and decided to go to Poland and study her heritage. **GVL | LUKE HOLMES**

GV student uses Gilman Scholarship to travel to Poland

BY KYLE DOYLE  
ASSISTANTNEWS@LANTHORN.COM

Everyone has a heritage, a rich background of culture, history and traditions that makes them who they are. Heritage is even how some people define themselves and place their identities.

One Grand Valley State University student used the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to go back to the country of her roots last fall and find out what her heritage really meant.

Jennifer Polasek, a GVSU senior, was the recent winner of the Gilman Scholarship, which is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Polasek used the scholarship to travel to Poland, where her family hails from.

"I thought it was so interesting to go back to a country where my family is from," Polasek said. "It was important to go back and see the culture and the language."

After the Polish program was cut at GVSU, Polasek started looking at options for study abroad and how to pay for it. She discovered the Gilman Scholarship with the help of advisors at the Padnos International Center. She applied and

received the full amount and began to plan where she was going to go.

Polasek stayed in the Polish city of Kraków and studied at Jagiellonian University, the same university in which Nicolaus Copernicus studied. While there, Polasek also traveled around the country and continent visiting places such as the Auschwitz concentration camp and Grand Rapids' Polish sister city, Bielsko-Biala. She also helped at the U.S. consulate with English-language clubs aimed at children and adults.

"(It) was basically an after-work/after-school program that (the consulate has) for any Polish citizens," Polasek said. "I would have a small presentation put in place just to have some talking points, and then we would kind of just have an open discussion, and it would be a good time for them to work on their English-language skills."

Being both Polish and Czech, Polasek wanted to know more about her Polish ancestry. She knew her grandmother was a first-generation U.S. immigrant, and she knew a bit of her backstory, but she didn't know it all. While in Poland, Polasek had conversations with her professors and was able to gain a great deal of knowledge about where her

Polish family hails from.

Along with this, she was able to check out her Czech side, too, seeing the work of a famous related sculptor, Albin Polasek, in Prague.

"When we stepped off the train (in Prague), there was a sculpture right away of Woodrow Wilson sculpted by him," Polasek said. "It was really amazing."

The Gilman Scholarship is a federally funded scholarship that assists U.S. students who wish to travel abroad. Those interested in applying have to write an essay stating why they want to go and then also produce a plan for a service project that advocates study abroad and the country they went to. The service project has to be completed within five months of the person's return.

For Polasek, she chose to do a multitude of different things across various platforms. While in Poland, she did a video series and a weekly blog about what she was doing. While there, she wrote articles about her trip in Grand Rapids' sister city for Awesome Mitten, a Michigan tourism site, as well as Pure Michigan.

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LAKER EFFECT

# Around the states in 50 days

GV alum travels US in van

BY KYLE DOYLE  
ASSISTANTNEWS@LANTHORN.COM

Taking in the fresh winter air of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Grand Valley State University alumnus Christopher Thomas had an idea: He was going to go to all 50 United States in 50 days.

Thomas set out on his quest and posted photos and updates to his Facebook page, 50 States in 50 Days. He had always wanted to visit all the states, and it seemed to make sense to do them all at the same time.

"I just kind of realized I'm in grad school, I got online courses, I can travel to all fifty states," Thomas said. "I can just do it all at once."

Beginning Friday, April 1, 2016 and running through Friday, May 20, 2016, Thomas traveled to all 50 states in 50 days in his van (excluding Hawaii and Alaska), visiting at

least one different and unique attraction in every state, starting in Indiana and ending in Michigan.

Traveling alone, Thomas used his van as his primary place of rest, sleeping in the back of it at truck stops where he could also get a hot shower and Wi-Fi to do homework for his online classes and living by one rule: no fast food.

Thomas said he didn't want to "cop out" and take the easy route, so he only ate at traditional restaurants and made sandwiches and had snacks in the van.

In each state, Thomas made sure to go somewhere or do something the state is either known for or something unique that exists inside its borders that doesn't anywhere else, like eating lobster and seafood in Maine, a personal favorite of Thomas, and visiting the Monument Rocks, a large sandstone structure in the middle of the Kansas plains.

"It's a seven-mile drive out on these bumpy dirt roads, and you get out there and there's this rock formation out in the middle of nowhere and the rest of the land is flat," Thomas said. "And you're like, 'How the heck is this thing even here? It shouldn't be here.' But it is."

Along his journey, Thomas encountered several people who were both baffled and impressed by his ambitious undertaking. Talking to them, he learned different historical facts about each location he was in and gained different perspectives on how the people there learned about U.S. history.

While in Louisiana, for example, he visited Oak Alley Plantation and New Orleans and talked to a native about the plantation. The topic turned to how schools taught the subject of slavery and plantations in both the North and South, and Thomas said the difference was stark.

"I talked with him for about an hour and told him about stuff I was taught in school, and he said, 'Well, we teach it differently down here,'" Thomas said. "It's cool, you know, to look at something from a different perspective."

The only leg of the journey not taken by car was Hawaii and Alaska. Thomas said he found tickets in Oakland, CA, and flew to Hawaii and Alaska and then back to Oakland where he got back on the road.

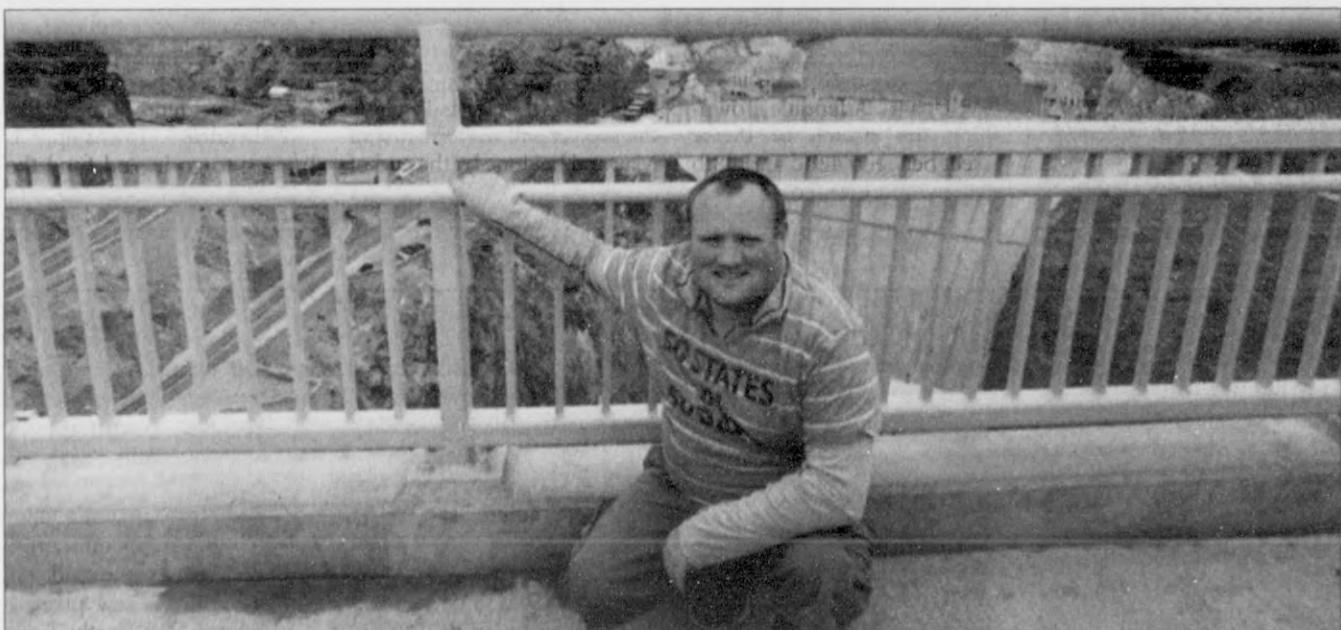
Prior to leaving on the trip, Thomas mapped out the entire journey in Google Maps, took note of each attraction he was going to be stopping at and put together a budget. He said in doing this, he would be able to reach his goal of 50 states in 50 days.

Thomas said the goal wasn't to spend one day in all 50 states, but to travel to all 50 in 50 days. For example, he spent three days in Hawaii and two in Alaska.

Overall, Thomas wouldn't trade the experience for the world and encourages others to do the same. He hopes his trip will inspire others to do their own because everyone deserves to see the beauty that the "nifty fifty" have to offer.

He encourages interested individuals to make a similar trip while they still have time.

"Once you get into the workforce, you know, you're not going to have two months off to do something like that," Thomas said.



**AMBITIOUS JOURNEY:** Grand Valley State University alumnus Christopher Thomas poses for a photo at the Hoover Dam Friday, March 3. Thomas visited all 50 states in 50 days by traveling in his van to 48 and then flying to Alaska and Hawaii. **COURTESY | CHRISTOPHER THOMAS**

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## WOMEN'S CENTER

# Taking the lead

GV receives grant to help prevent sexual assault

BY HANNAH LENTZ  
EDITORIAL@LANTHORN.COM

Within the last year, Grand Valley State University has seen an alarming increase in reports of sexual assaults near campus prompting response at an administrative, community and national level. In order to help combat the threat of sexual violence on campus, GVSU will be utilizing \$33,454 in state grant funds as part of the Michigan State Police (MSP) Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program.

More than 29 applications were received for the grant and 18 community colleges and universities in Michigan were awarded funds.

The initiatives of the grant will begin this semester. At GVSU, the grant will establish a peer education program for bystander intervention training and will provide students with the opportunity to become a peer mentor. Additionally, the grant will provide increased trainings using active bystander intervention methods, as well as through media campaigns looking toward the fall of 2017. An active bystander is someone who not only witnesses a situation, but takes steps to speak

up or step in to keep a situation from escalating or to disrupt a problematic situation, an idea that the university wants to promote at all levels.

The Women's Center worked in conjunction with the Title IX Office and the Office of Sponsored Projects to write and submit the grant said Jessica Jennrich, director of the Women's Center.

"These types of grants are important at all colleges and universities," Jennrich said. "GVSU is a particularly good location for a peer education program devoted to bystander intervention as it has become a part of Laker culture to be an active bystander—this grant teaches students how to do that with more depth."

This grant is offered by Governor Snyder's office in conjunction with their now second Sexual Assault Summit announced in September. It is hoped that by educating the community on what it means to be an active bystander, the community can work together to prevent sexual assault Jennrich said.

"This grant is focused on sexual assault prevention, and as a result, it is

always our hope that prevention will result in fewer incidences of sexual violence," Jennrich said.

In order to help the grant gain traction on campus, Krystal Diehl was hired as the graduate assistant for the Michigan State Police (MSP) Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program at GVSU. In this position she is responsible for recruiting peer educators to work with the GVSU community and promoting active bystander training within different student organizations, athletic departments and the community.

Diehl's interest in promoting active bystanders started during her undergraduate degree program. As an undergrad, she worked answering phones for a survivor of sexual assault support line where she got to talk with people and help them through whatever they were going through. After graduation, Diehl wants to become a counselor so the work with this grant will help her be a better professional in the future as well.

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AWARENESS: Jessica Jennrich (right) speaks to faculty in the Women's Center Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016. Grand Valley State University received state funds to help prevent sexual assault. GVL | LUKE HOLMES

## COLLABORATION

# Public concern

Town hall meeting touches on sexual assault, rape culture

BY SANDA VAZGEC  
DIGITAL@LANTHORN.COM

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. As part of the event schedule, Grand Valley State University student senate and the Division of Inclusion and Equity hosted a town hall meeting Tuesday, April 4, to discuss

upcoming events and update the community on recent strides made by the university and student organizations.

However, the conversation quickly steered toward the topic of rape culture and fraternity life after a social media storm surrounding former elected student senator, Patrick Borum, was brought up

as the first question during the question and answer portion of the meeting.

### Social Media Storm

Borum, a previous member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity, was elected to the 2017-18 student senate after receiving 201 votes from the GVSU student body during

the elections held from Monday, March 27 to Saturday, April 1. He has since resigned from his appointment on senate after major backlash following a Facebook status he posted Tuesday, April 4, stating, "Rape culture isn't real."

This post came after members of Greek Life were asked to take a survey regarding

sexual assault in which Borum stated the survey cast a negative light on Greek Life.

Borum said that he does not support or condone rape or sexual assault and believes his Facebook post was not interpreted correctly.

In a previous interview with the Grand Valley Lanthorn, Borum stated, "I believe that the idea that our American culture accepts, encourages, or tolerates rape/sexual assault on a widespread scale is false," he said. "I believe that most people are good and that most people are disgusted by even the thought of rape or sexual assault. There will always be exceptions, but I believe that we do not live in a society where rape is encouraged."

Borum said he chose to step down from his elected position after receiving numerous messages telling him to do so.

"I received many hateful and threatening messages from many members of the senate body which disappointed me severely. I was being told that my beliefs, although well supported, were invalid," Borum said via email. "I chose to leave the group because it's clearly not worth saving or helping in any way. The GVSU senate group can enjoy virtue signaling to each other while the

real world bases arguments on facts and statistics, not emotions and feelings."

### Student Concern

Many students took to social media to express their concern and disagreement with Borum's post.

Students posted tweets directed toward Borum linking articles about rape culture, statistics on rape and how many assaults are reported, including how these actions have historically been dealt with in a court of law.

Others took screenshots of his social media posts adding comments of his views being "unacceptable, disgusting and messy."

Various students voiced these concerns during the town hall meeting as well.

GVSU student Maya Grant brought into question the number of sexual assaults connected with fraternities and if fraternities are utilizing enough resources to educate their members about the topic.

One student also criticized student senate for not releasing a stronger statement and officially denouncing Borum via social media.

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SOLVING PROBLEMS TOGETHER: Jesse Bernal (center) speaks alongside student senate president Ella Fritzemeier (left) and victim advocate Ashley Schulte (right) in the Kirkhof Center Grand River Room Tuesday, April 5, during the town hall. COURTESY | MIKE CLARK, MLIVE

## COMMEMORATION

# Laker community mourns the death of professor

Students, faculty remember the life of Steve Hecht

BY HANNAH LENTZ  
EDITORIAL@LANTHORN.COM

The Laker community lost one of its own Wednesday, April 5, after Steve Hecht, associate professor at Grand Valley State University, collapsed walking near the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Hecht came to GVSU as an assistant professor in the biomedical sciences (BMS) department in 1999 and was promoted to associate professor in 2004. Remembered by colleagues as passionate and knowledgeable, Hecht will be missed after years at the university.

"Steve was a wonderful colleague—bright, witty, knowledgeable about a rich spectrum of things, an aficionado of Robert Frost," said Frederick Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

(CLAS). "Far more importantly, Steve was a gifted teacher-scholar. He was dedicated to his students, advising many who aspired to study nursing or the health professions."

In addition to his generosity with his students, Hecht also served several terms on the CLAS Personnel Committee and provided great service to colleagues across the college, Antczak said.

"Already, the tributes are pouring in from people who are saying different variations of 'I wouldn't be a doctor/nurse/any profes-

sional health role without Dr. Hecht,'" Antczak said.

Before his death, Hecht was working on viral ways of lessening the environmental pressure on bees, another example of his contributions to the community, Antczak said.

Through this work, Hecht was collaborating with undergraduate students and biomedical sciences professor Tony Nieuwkoop to see if they could develop phage therapy for bees. Hecht had hoped to find viruses to target bacteria and benefit bees that could help these pollinators that humans rely so heavily

upon for our agriculture.

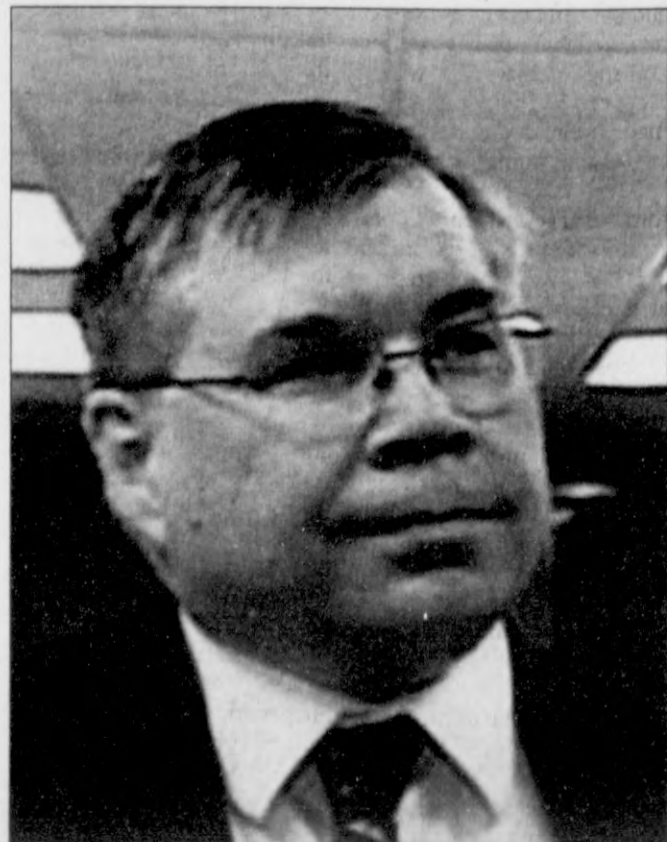
In a statement released by Antczak and David Kurjiaka, acting chair of biomedical sciences, the two talked of Hecht's scholarly expertise. At GVSU, Hecht taught 15 different courses.

In addition to his teaching, Hecht was a thoughtful and devoted faculty adviser who helped many BMS students who aspired to enter programs in microbiology and other health-related sciences, the statement read.

"I liked and admired him very much," Antczak said. "His is a personal loss for everyone whom he touched and a professional loss for the department of biomedical sciences and all of Grand Valley State University."

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BELOVED: Steve Hecht, associate professor of biomedical sciences at GVSU. Hecht passed Wednesday, April 5. COURTESY | GVSU.EDU

INCLUSION AND EQUITY

# Following up

Expanded Campus Climate Survey results show commitment to diversity, varying comfort levels

BY EMILY DORAN  
NEWS@LANTHORN.COM

The expanded findings of Grand Valley State University's 2015 Campus Climate Survey were released to the public Monday, Dec. 5 with data that confirmed and built upon the preliminary results announced in February 2016.

According to the expanded findings report, the campus climate was assessed in terms of individuals' experiences and perceptions of the campus environment, as well as their "perceptions of and recommendations for institutional actions related to inclusion, equity and campus climate."

"The idea is to get a sense of how people experience the campus, to really get a rich collection of data that lets us know where things are going well and where things could be improved," said Andrew Plague, communications and project coordinator for the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

Positive trends and results

in the expanded findings include record-high participation in the survey with a 42 percent response rate and a significant percentage of respondents reporting they felt comfortable at GVSU.

"Eighty-seven percent of respondents indicated that they were comfortable or very comfortable at Grand Valley," Plague said. "That's a lot better than national averages with similar surveys done at other colleges, but of course, even one person who doesn't feel comfortable here is a problem."

According to the report, 77.6 percent of respondents believed GVSU is more "committed to diversity," whereas only 62 percent of respondents reported the same in the 2005 survey, indicating another positive trend.

Despite these results, the extended findings also revealed areas of discomfort among certain minority groups at GVSU.

"On the less positive side, we do continue to see disparities with certain identity groups

on our campus, in particular transgender and gender non-conforming—or gender non-binary—community members, (people) of color, those with disabilities, as well as others that exist within underrepresented communities on our campus," said Jesse Bernal, vice president of the Division of Inclusion and Equity.

In fact, according to the report, "59 percent of those identifying as transgender and 'other' gender reported feeling 'very comfortable' or 'comfortable' at GVSU, while "75 percent of people of color reported feeling 'very comfortable' or 'comfortable.'"

"Those disparities (are) something that continue to be a concern for us and are something that call us to really just enhance the efforts we have on-going to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all of our community members," Bernal said.

Another negative trend is the increase in the percentage of respondents who reported



OUTCOME: Jesse Bernal introduces a keynote speaker Monday, Sept. 26, 2016. The Division of Inclusion and Equity released extended results for the Campus Climate Survey taken in 2015. GVL | LUKE HOLMES

experiencing occurrences of hostile, intimidating or offensive behavior. Fourteen percent of respondents indicated experiencing such an instance in the 2015 survey, whereas only 11 percent reported the same in 2011.

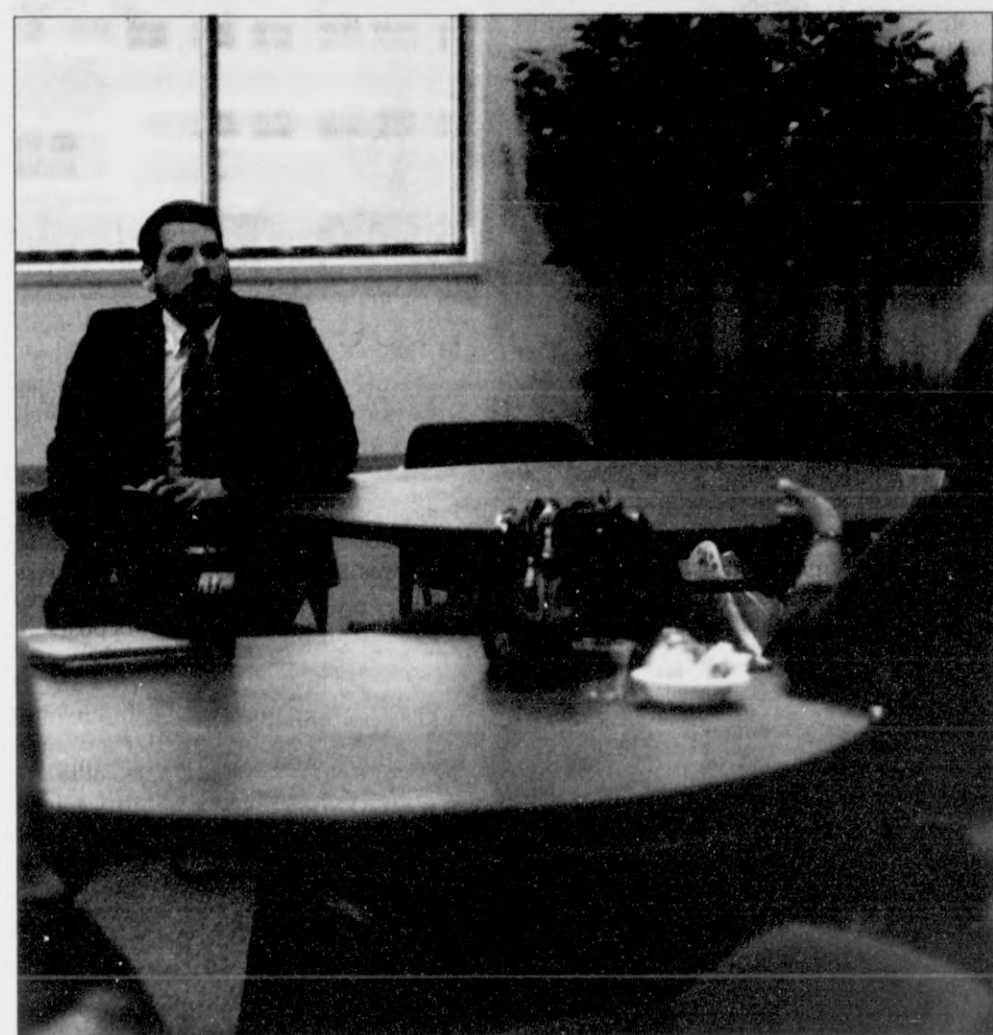
"It's a slight uptick, and

that's cause for concern, but not alarm," Plague said. "It's not totally unexpected. Part of what happens is we had such a larger response rate in 2015 than we did in 2011 that you're just hearing from more people, and that could be part of the increase."

In addition, 29 percent of faculty and staff reported observing "unjust or unfair hiring practices," Plague said, compared to 20 percent in 2011.

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ENVIRONMENT



MAKING GVSU COMFORTABLE: Jesse Bernal reviews the results of the Campus Climate Survey Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Follow-up recommendations were discussed Thursday, March 30. GVL | ARCHIVE

## Ready for action

Recommendations for improving campus climate released, reviewed

BY MEGHAN MCBRADY  
MCMCBRADY@LANTHORN.COM

Recommendations for improving the campus climate were discussed in an open forum in the Kirkhof Center Thursday, March 30, in response to the expanded findings of Grand Valley State University's 2015 Campus Climate Survey.

The recommendations were provided by faculty, staff and student action teams who reviewed the survey results and suggested ways in which the campus climate could be made more comfortable for GVSU community members.

Despite 87 percent of the total survey respondents saying they felt "comfortable" or "very comfortable" at GVSU, that number was lower for certain individual groups, including people of color, people with disabilities and the transgender population, among others.

During his PowerPoint presentation, Jesse Bernal, the vice president for inclusion and equity, discussed the recommendations of the three action teams to clarify and summarize the data and changes needing to be made.

Some of the faculty recommendations included expanding and standardizing family leave policies for full-time faculty and restoring parking near buildings for persons with disabilities.

Staff recommendations included conducting mandatory supervisor diversity training, creating an employee ombudsman position and creating strategic plans for each department to address the campus climate.

Student recommendations included upgrading Banner to let GVSU students, faculty and staff control what name is displayed in interfaces across campus. Other recommendations included ensuring that syllabi reflect GVSU's policy on diversity and inclusion and creating opportunities for qualitative feedback from students.

Members of the action teams expressed gratitude for their roles and the hard work of those who participated in the evaluation and writing processes.

Kathleen VanderVeen, the director of Disability and Support Resources and a member of the staff action team, said she appreciated the hard work of everyone involved in writing the recommendations and the report and analyzing the data.

During the Q&A portion of the event, Brandon Fitzgerald, a GVSU nursing student and co-chair of the student action team, said he was grateful for being pushed into his role and that he was happy he could do something for the whole community.

"There was a lot (of) information that I expected that did actually come out in the full results," he said. "Just moving forward with the group, I know that it was a learning experience for myself to work with such a large group of people and to try to get people to sustain their work and keep going till the end."

Bernal said the feedback from the 2015 survey and future surveys would ultimately allow the university to create a safe and positive living and learning environment.

"We are going to continue to conduct special analysis reports at the request of individuals," he said. "This will be on identity, specific groups. For example, we have a disability taskforce who will have more information on just the disability community."

"We are going to continue to promise to update the campuses, as annoying as that might be, on the progress of the action teams, the recommendations, as well as how we continue to use the data. That will be done through our website."

Further data about the campus climate, hiring and promotion practices, and institutional actions can be found in the PowerPoint presentation.

To download the expanded findings report or view the action team recommendations, visit [www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu](http://www.gvsu.edu/mygvsu).

MLK JR.

## 'Peace, love and non-violence'

Keynote speaker Kevin Powell encourages people to live as King did

BY JESS HODGE  
ASSOCIATE@LANTHORN.COM

Martin Luther King Jr. preached many ideas, but none quite as strong or as prevalent as peace, love and non-violence. Kevin Powell, activist and writer, emphasized these points throughout his keynote presentation Monday, Jan. 16.

Powell kicked off the first day of Grand Valley State University's MLK Jr. Commemoration Week by leading a silent march from James H. Zumberge Hall to the Fieldhouse where he then delivered his speech.

Tying in the rights King fought for during the Civil Rights Movement, Powell talked about inclusion in America, especially when facing the impending inauguration of a controversial president.

"There is no place in our country for disrespect for people, sisters and brothers who are disabled, folks who might be poor, folks who might be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, folks who are women, people of all different racial and cultural backgrounds," he said. "Whether you're a Democrat or a Republican or independent, whatever you call yourself a liberal or conservative, (I) don't know how you can sit in our country over the last 12, 18, 24 months and hear the kinds of things we've heard."

Powell went on to say the things that have been said about immigrants, about Muslims and about women are not only wrong, but terrible things. He offered an example of why the rhetoric against Muslims was wrong, saying people used to have the same mentality against Jewish people, and

even against Catholics.

"Real inclusion and real diversity means that everyone in this room is an equal," Powell said. "Our voices matter equally and our stories matter equally and we should share power equally which means that my contributions to this thing we call America should be equally taught to me everywhere I go."

He dug into King's background, going back to his childhood to offer an explanation as to why King thought the way he did. King was born in 1929 into an upper-middle class family in Atlanta Georgia. Although his family was well off in terms of money, the neighborhood they lived in had a mix of upper class, middle class and lower class families living amongst each other.

Powell suggested since King grew up around others who were different than he was, he had a sense of what was right and wrong and, perhaps, he knew to share things with those who were less fortunate than he.

"There's nothing wrong with having privilege, there's nothing wrong with being middle class or upper class," Powell said. "There's something wrong with having privilege that's not tied to a sense of humanity or concern for other people."

Powell focused in on the idea of living the way King would have wanted people to live: free of hatred, division and fear.

Then, Powell presented a challenge to the audience. He urged everyone to know and live by King's 'I have a dream' speech, but to not stop there.

"One of my challenges now to people, more than ever, (is) that you cannot celebrate

Dr. King or the Civil Rights Movement or call yourself an American if you don't have a working knowledge of all of the above," he said. "We cannot continue to be historically and culturally illiterate—this has got to be as important to us as the Super Bowl."

Brandon Shamoun, a graduate student attending the speech, loved the interaction Powell had with the audience, saying it added an extra punch to the words he was speaking.

GVSU President Thomas Haas encouraged those in attendance to remember and reflect on what King accomplished in life, calling his work "remarkable."

"Dr. King wasn't concerned if it was easy or not—he was concerned if it was right," Haas said.

Powell has traveled around the United States and around the world to speak about King's words. He has written 12 books and continually speaks at institutions like GVSU about the Civil Rights Movement.

Brandon Fitzgerald, vice president of student senate's diversity affairs committee, welcomed Powell to the stage before his speech. Fitzgerald thanked people for attending, noting it was important for the GVSU community to be committed to equality. He also noticed the Fieldhouse wasn't completely filled, and that there was still work to be done in terms of equal opportunities for all.

"We have to remind our neighbors, our friends, our co-workers, the people that are around us everyday that there is still work to be done," Fitzgerald said. "Because injustice for one person is injustice for all of us."



LIVING LIKE KING: Kevin Powell speaks in the Fieldhouse Monday, Jan. 16. He is a writer and a public speaker who travels the nation and the world to speak about issues like inclusion. GVL | LUKE HOLMES

## RETIREMENT

# Moving on

Honors College Director 'Dr. J' says goodbye to program he helped build

BY KYLE DOYLE  
ASSISTANTNEWS@LANTHORN.COM

On the windows outside the Frederik Meijer Honors College Office at Grand Valley State University, first-year students within the program write down on a cloud-shaped piece of paper what their dreams for the future are. These clouds are given to those students when they graduate as a memento of what they thought as optimistic, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed freshmen they would be doing in four years.

While the students may be the only ones explicitly writing down their aspirations like this, the faculty and staff at the Honors College have their own visions for the program, too.

Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Honors College, said his dream was to see the program become a world-class honors college that was beneficial for students.

"I would say I've managed about 85 to 90 percent of it," Chamberlain said. "It's never 100 percent. Your dreams have to be bigger than you're able to do. My goals, my

dreams, are probably a little bit bigger than I could have accomplished. I don't have any regrets in that regard."

After the winter 2017 semester, Chamberlain will be leaving for Florida as he becomes the dean of the growing Hicks Honors College at the University of North Florida after 10 years of working and creating lifelong connections and friendships at GVSU.

Moving from a private college with a student body of roughly 1,400 students to a public institution with more than 23,000 students would be a huge jump for anybody. And taking over an honors college with an enrollment almost the same size of the previous college's entire student body would be an especially daunting task.

But that didn't stop Chamberlain as he began to build up the honors program when he came to GVSU in 2007.

And now, after 10 years with GVSU, the Honors College director affectionately known by students, faculty and staff as "Dr. J," will be leaving for another honors college down in Florida, a decision that did not come easily.

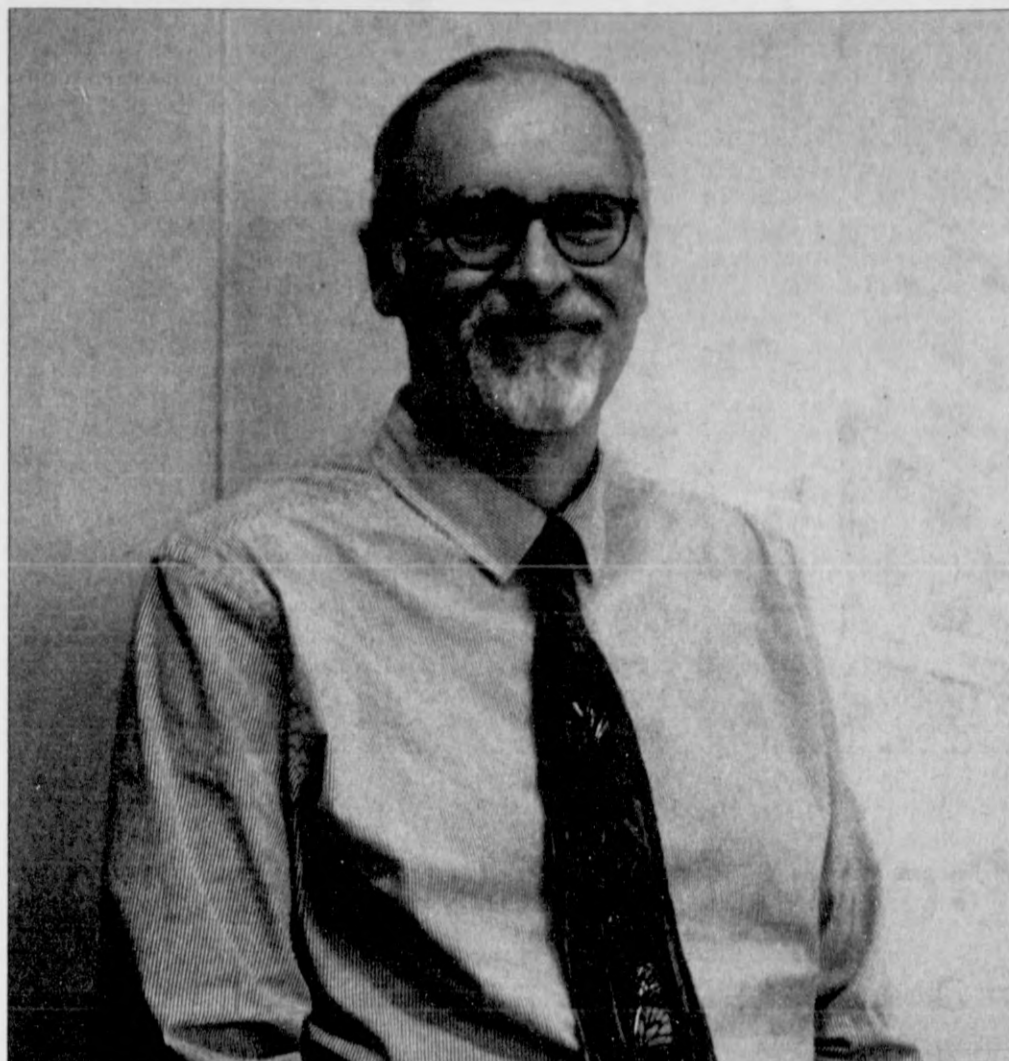
"There's absolutely nothing about the students or the opportunities at Grand Valley that I would want to leave for," Chamberlain said. "My connections with the students, being able to see these students have every opportunity in the world and be able to do such amazing things, that's hard to leave. That's really hard to leave."

His decision comes after he found himself plateaued, in a sense, at GVSU. Since coming here, Chamberlain has been able to build up the Honors College to what it is today, and that's something he's enjoyed doing.

The self-proclaimed builder doesn't see himself being able to do much more at GVSU but believes the next person to come in can build off his momentum and the momentum that is at GVSU both now and when he originally came to the university. This same momentum is what attracted him to UNF's Honors College.

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HARD DECISION TO LEAVE: Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Honors Program, poses for a photo. Chamberlain will retire after the 2016-17 school year after 10 years at GVSU. GVL | MACKENZIE BUSH

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# A step ahead

GV, Wayne State School of Medicine sign partnership to provide early admission opportunities for students

BY HANNAH LENTZ  
EDITORIAL@LANTHORN.COM

It was no accident that Roy Wilson, president of Wayne State University, picked out a Laker Blue tie the morning of Friday, Feb. 10. Gathered in the Grand Valley State University Detroit Center for the Board

of Trustees meeting, leaders from GVSU and Wayne State's School of Medicine signed documentation Friday to put the "Early Assurance" partnership program into action.

With the new partnership, up to five medical spots for qualified GVSU students will be reserved

in the Wayne State School of Medicine following the completion of an undergraduate degree. Students will know if they have been accepted by their junior academic year. The idea behind this initiative is to allow students to explore other educational disci-

plines senior year to become well-rounded professionals Wilson said.

This program is more than just a partnership to Wilson who personally took advantage of a similar early admission process his junior year in college.

"I was able to know that I was in medical school at the end of my junior year in college and I can't tell you how that influenced me throughout the rest of my life," Wilson said. "My senior year I was able to take courses that I wanted to take rather than those courses that I thought I need to take."

Wilson said that the early acceptance program allowed him to gain a greater appreciation for disciplines outside of the school of medicine which helped to make him a better physician.

"I don't know that I would have developed a kind of appreciation for the arts, music and philosophy had I continued to take physics, organic chemistry and qualitative chemistry," Wilson said. "That is one of the major benefits of this program to the students themselves."

The partnership plays off the strong undergraduate programs provided at GVSU and the numerous advanced graduate programs available at Wayne State University (WSU) Wilson said.

"I think the state of Michigan is blessed to have very fine systems of public education with universities that are different from each other and serve different purposes," Wilson said.

Under the new partnership, students will also be able to forgo the additional application process to other medical schools presenting an opportunity to focus on a broad and complete undergraduate liberal arts education.

"To be able to focus your energies on things that can further develop you outside of medicine and to do it freely understanding that you're not competing any-

more for a spot will ultimately make them all better physicians and that's what we really want," Wilson said.

GVSU President Thomas Haas also touched on how this partnership will be providing opportunity for students interested in practicing medicine in both rural and urban environments.

**"(The partnership) will support students in underrepresented medicine and students from underserved high schools..."**

THOMAS HAAS  
GVSU PRESIDENT

"It (the partnership) will support students in underrepresented medicine and students from underserved high schools as well as those who are first generation college students," Haas said. "This

agreement further enhances Grand Valley's role as a partner in the Detroit healthcare community and making a substantial contribution to the physician workforce of the future."

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PARTNER: President Thomas Haas (left) and Wayne State University President M. Roy Wilson (right). GVSU and WSU have created a partnership for their medical schools. COURTESY | ELIZABETH LIENAU

## STAFF

# New dean of university libraries named

Annie Bélanger set to begin in June

BY DYLAN GROSSER  
DGROSSER@LANTHORN.COM

The search for a new dean of university libraries, following the retirement of Lee Van Orsdel, has concluded with the selection of Annie Bélanger, current associate university librarian at the University of Waterloo.

The Grand Valley State University Office of the Provost selected Bélanger from a pool of other qualified candidates. Bélanger said this was the only dean position she applied for, and she also said GVSU is a well-renowned, even famous, university because of its student-focused library programming.

"It certainly feels (like) an exciting honor and a challenge that I look forward to take on," Bélanger said.

Bélanger has worked for libraries in governmental, academic and public settings and in the corporate field as well. She has

worked for Deloitte Touche, OpenText, the House of Commerce in Canada, the government of New Brunswick and the University of Waterloo.

Jeffrey Daniels, who is currently serving as interim co-dean of university libraries at GVSU, said the library staff is excited for the energy and expertise Bélanger will bring to her new position.

"While we've been so successful over the past five to 10 years, we really think she's the candidate who will come in and challenge us to extend that success," Daniels said.

Bélanger will assume the full position of dean Monday, June 5, after she finishes her semester at the University of Waterloo in her current position. Daniels, who also served on the search committee for the new dean, said there is little preparatory work to do before Bélanger arrives at GVSU because of her "polished" resume with

regard to her work in library settings. Daniels said Bélanger will "hit the ground running."

"Bélanger is the type of librarian (like Van Orsdel)," Daniels said. "She's got it. Her experience, the way she likes to do things, resonated with the culture that we have in place here."

Bélanger is from Canada but did attend Rochester High School in Michigan in her junior and senior years. She said this is her first time living in West Michigan, and she is currently looking for houses and schools around GVSU. She said it's different but a "bit like coming home."

"There are some differences (between Canada and the U.S.), but I think that the culture and the friendliness of the people will make that a fairly easy transition," Bélanger said.

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FRESH FACE: Annie Bélanger poses for a photo. Following the announcement of Lee Van Orsdel's retirement, the university selected Bélanger as the new dean of libraries. COURTESY | ANNIE BÉLANGER

ORGANIZATION CLOSURE



**HARD DECISION TO MAKE:** The Cook Carillon Tower and one of the central intersections on Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus are pictured from above Sunday, Jan. 15. After the GVSU chapter of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity was shut down for violations against its drug and alcohol policies, members of the Greek community were instructed to speak thoughtfully about the situation. **GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF**

# Delta Upsilon Fraternity shut down at GV

## Following drug, alcohol violations, university chapter closed

BY HANNAH LENTZ  
EDITORIAL@LANTHORN.COM

An email was sent out to various members of the Greek community Thursday, March 16, warning students to be thoughtful about how they talked about the closing of the Delta Upsilon chapter at Grand Valley State University. Since the official announcement, the decision to close down a GVSU fraternity has spread to local

and state-wide media stations. After a hearing between board of directors and chapter delegates Friday, Feb. 17, the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity Board of Directors officially announced Thursday, March 16, that they had decided to revoke the charter of the Grand Valley State Chapter.

According to a press release from the Delta Upsilon International Fraternity, the Delta Upsilon fraternity violated a number of Frater-

ity Loss Prevention Policies regarding alcohol and drugs during the fall 2016 semester. The Board of Directors also identified multiple reports of violations of university policies over the course of the past 18 months.

"The decision to close a chapter is the most difficult decision the International Fraternity makes," said executive director Justin Kirk in an official press release. "Delta Upsilon is committed to be-

ing the premiere men's fraternity on college campuses today. As such, we hold our members and chapters to a set of standards that, unfortunately, the Grand Valley State Chapter could not sustain."

Due to the elimination of the GVSU chapter, all fraternity operations have been immediately shut down. Members of the chapter were given alumni status and associate members have been released from the fraternity. Fraternity

members living in the chapter housing have individual leases with the third-party owner and will be able to fulfill their leases for the remainder of the school year according to the official press release.

The International Fraternity will consider reinstatement of the chapter once all current undergraduate students are placed on alumni status, have graduated or left GVSU.

Various members of the previously Delta Upsilon

chapter at GVSU were contacted via email following the announcement but did not respond with comments.

"The national board of Delta Upsilon voted to revoke the charter at Grand Valley for violations of the fraternity's national policies," said Eileen Sullivan, vice provost for student affairs and Dean of Students. "We respect the board's decision to regulate their member organization."

SPOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS

# Lights out

## Spring concert for 2017 canceled

BY ASHLYN KORIENEK  
LAKERLIFE@LANTHORN.COM

Due to unexpected circumstances, Grand Valley State University's Spotlight Productions will not be holding the annual spring concert for 2017.

Spotlight Productions president Kyle Cronin said the original plan was to eliminate the annual homecoming show and refocus the budget to allow for a larger spring concert. However, the team tweeted Monday, March 27, a statement disclosing the concert Spotlight was working for will not be attainable this year.

The statement said: "While Spotlight accomplished all the planning necessary to make this show happen, due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to bring you the spring concert we were all expecting."

When asked for further de-

tails, Cronin said an artist was selected but problems arose with the contract later on, and as a result, a backup artist was not an option. Currently, both student senate and the Office of Student Life are working to decide the fate of the left over funds that would have supported the concert.

"We did all planning necessary to bring an artist to campus, and were in contact with the performer we selected," he said. "Despite our preparation, we ran into problems with the contract late in the planning process, and so were unable to secure our second option in time."

Kathryn Mulcahy, vice president for Spotlight, said the team worked to their fullest ability and worked the best they could to avoid this outcome. In agreement, Cronin said there was no way Spotlight members could have predicted the concert's cancellation.

"We didn't think this would happen, there was no way we could see this happening," he said.

For 2016-17, Cronin said Spotlight's overall budget allocated by student senate was decreased by \$10,000. Eliminating the homecoming concert was intended to divide these costs and increase funds for the spring concert.

In the future, Cronin said the team still plans to increase programming on campus. For 2017-18, Spotlight recently received a \$20,000 increase from student senate.

"We are very pleased with our budget increase and know that the incoming Spotlight executive board will do great things with programming, of both small and large scale in the upcoming year," he said.

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**LIVE PERFORMANCE:** Hoodie Allen performs at GVSU in the spring of 2015. Following contract issues with the selected artist, Spotlight Productions canceled its spring 2017 concert. **GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF**

STUDENT RIGHTS

# Breaking down the 'free speech zones'



**OPINION SHARING:** A Grand Valley State University student writes on Nathan Williamson's free speech board Wednesday, March 22, outside of Zumberge Hall on the Allendale Campus. **GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF**

## GV amends 'expressive activities' policy after federal lawsuit

BY EMILY DORAN  
NEWS@LANTHORN.COM

As part of a settlement reached with the Grand Valley State University chapter of Turning Point USA, GVSU has amended its policies on "expressive activities," practically eliminating its designated "free speech zones."

The policy changes were made after Turning Point filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 against members of GVSU's administration, claiming that the university had violated students' free speech rights. The listed defendants include President Thomas Haas, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Gayle Davis and members of the Board of Trustees.

GVSU students Tim McKeeby and Joe Tucker are listed as plaintiffs on the Verified

Complaint filed in the Southern Division of the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

McKeeby, a junior at GVSU majoring in group social studies and secondary education, is an adamant proponent of free speech. According to the Complaint, he founded the GVSU chapter of Turning Point, which is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting various conservative principles, in the fall 2016 semester.

McKeeby said the GVSU chapter of Turning Point is not technically a registered student organization because it still needs a faculty advisor, although he said its status in the approval process is "approved pending."

According to the Complaint, the lawsuit was sparked by an incident that occurred Monday, Oct. 17, 2016 on the Allendale Cam-

pus. The plaintiffs, as well as "two other individuals," were rolling around an oversized beach ball—dubbed the "free speech ball"—and encouraging GVSU students to write messages on it.

According to the Complaint, the plaintiffs had acquired permission to use the free speech zone by the Cook Carillon Tower.

McKeeby said certain members in the group rolled the beach ball out of the designated free speech zone and went near the Student Services building to promote free speech.

Per the Complaint, they "were not blocking any entrance or exit to any buildings, impeding access to the buildings or parking lots, or blocking the free flow of traffic on the sidewalks."

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CONCERNS

# Creating a safe place

More than 30 GV students gather to advocate for the right of refugees, need for a sanctuary campus



**PROTESTING:** Students gather around the clock tower Tuesday, Jan. 31, in protest of President Trump's immigration ban. There were more than 30 GVSU students who came together and advocated for refugee rights and need for a sanctuary campus. **COURTESY | JASON BLANKS**

BY HANNAH LENTZ AND  
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With protests against President Donald Trump occurring across the U.S. and worldwide after his controversial election, students, community members and U.S. residents in general have had a lot to say about Trump's recent executive orders.

One of the issues gaining the most attention is Trump's decision to put in place an order turning back refugees and other visitors from predominantly Muslim countries.

In congruence with the national and international protests with the executive order considering refugees, members from the Grand Valley State University community hosted the "Grand Valley Student Sit-in Against Trump" Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. Though the protest looked to show

vocal and physical support of refugees in general, the protest also hit closer to home as it was also a commentary in response to an email sent out to students, faculty and staff of GVSU from university president, Thomas Haas.

In the email, Haas touched on the stance of the university in reference to Trump's executive order on immigration and how that will impact international travel and student's privacy. Haas mentions that "the university does not release any private student information or records" due to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The university also prioritizes and focuses on welcoming students of all backgrounds without thought of immigration status, religion or race Haas said.

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PASSION

## Finding his 'drive' GV public relations student attends Detroit auto show to sharpen journalistic skills

BY KYLE DOYLE  
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The cars are the stars every January in Metro Detroit. The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) attracts people from every race, ethnicity, socioeconomic standing and walk of life to unite over one thing: automobiles. People pour into Detroit to see what new cars and technologies the world's biggest automakers have put out.

Journalists and public relations representatives are no exception.

Grand Valley State University sophomore and public relations major Aaron Robert was one of 13 journalism and communications students from across the country selected to participate in General Motors' "Discover Your Drive" diversity journalism program from Saturday, Jan. 7, to Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Cobo Center and other Detroit locations during the 2017 NAIAS.

The 13 participants were tasked with making videos, tweeting, conducting interviews and creating content about the show using the hashtag #DiscoverYourDrive on Twitter. The participants used this hashtag from the moment they arrived at the Renaissance Center to the day they spent on the floor to the day they spent driving around the city in Chevrolet Volts.

"A+," Robert said about his

experience with the program. "We did so much and I learned a lot. Not just about the cars but also how to develop as a student journalist."

Robert learned about the competition at the beginning of a Public Relations Student Society of America meeting and jumped on the opportunity. He saw it as a good way to gain some experience and, being a public relations major, see things from a journalistic perspective.

"(Journalism and public relations are) more similar than different," Robert said. "We're both telling stories, albeit my reasons are different than their reasons. But at the end of the day, we're both writing, sharing information with others through creative means."

As someone who helped Robert find out about the event, Adrienne Wallace, assistant professor of advertising and public relations at GVSU, knew Robert would be a perfect fit.

"Aaron is a gifted writer," Wallace said. "He understands how public relations and journalism work together. He's not afraid to approach people. He's friendly, yet not cocky. He's got all these attributes that would make him successful."

The participants filled their days with all sorts of activities and workshops, all sponsored by GM. The workshops included sitting down in groups with professional journalists from

such publications as The Detroit News and Inc. to learning tips and tricks and sharpening their journalistic skills through participation in small groups and work in the field.

The teams took time Monday, Jan. 9, to walk around the floor of the auto show and talk to members of several different car companies. Robert himself was able to talk to several engineers from some of the German manufacturers, as well as GM employees.

"It may sound like a trinket that GM sponsored this, and it is true, but we were able to do a lot on our own, too," Robert said. "We were able to interview people on our own from different brands. We had mentors from across the country and working for various publications."

While walking around the floor, some participants of the program were able to talk with high-ranking executives of the GM brand, but Robert missed his chance with U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

As Robert put it, he was in the backseat of the new Chevrolet Traverse and somebody was in the passenger seat. He said she was talking to somebody outside the car about emissions and the environment. When he got out of the vehicle, he turned back and realized it was Sen. Stabenow.

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**IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT:** Aaron Robert poses in the parking lot outside of the library. Robert was one of 13 journalism and communication students to be invited to the Detroit auto show. **GVL | LUKE HOLMES**

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GREEK LIFE



**WALK FOR AWARENESS:** Marching silently across campus for sexual assault awareness, the IFC at GVSU hosted the annual "Steps Against Sexual Assault" event that saw more than 300 GVSU students rallying in support of the cause. Later on, participants gathered in the Pere Marquette Room in Kirkhof to engage in an interactive speech by Mara Furlich and Danielle Lucksted about prevention. **GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF**

# Taking steps against sexual assault

BY ASHLYN KORIENEK  
LAKERLIFE@LANTHORN.COM

In solidarity to victims and survivors of sexual assault, more than 300 Grand Valley State University students marched around campus Tuesday, April 11, to support the GVSU Interfraternity Council's (IFC) semiannual "Steps Against Sexual Assault" event.

The walk acts as part of April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, an annual campaign designed to raise public awareness about sexual violence and how to act as an active bystander.

Participants battled the chilly temperatures and lined up by the Cook Carillon Tower at 7:30 p.m., where students walked silently around Mackinac Hall and back to the Kirkhof Center. Originally, the walk was called "Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes," but was changed nearly two years ago to support all gender identities who face sexual violence.

"Over the past two years, we realized that we didn't like that title as sexual assault can affect anyone," said Joshua Woolard, IFC president. "Steps Against Sexual Assault is one of those events that should be important to everyone not just IFC."

After the walk was complete, participants gathered in the Pere Marquette Room where keynote speakers Danielle Lucksted, Safe Haven Ministries prevention and education coordinator,

and Mara Furlich, YWCA program coordinator, spoke about prevention and bystander intervention.

During the presentation, Lucksted and Furlich identified a 2012 GVSU survey that found 1 out of 4 women and 1 out of 10 men at GVSU were victims of rape or sexual assault. Addressing alcohol on college campuses, they further spoke with the audience about the role of alcohol, incapacitation and consent.

"When it comes to sexual assault we often talk about alcohol because it is typically present on college campuses," Lucksted said. "Fifty percent of sexual assaults on college campuses involve alcohol. That's massive."

In addition, students asked questions on how to support victims and participated in a "fact or myth" portion of the talk, which covered the topics of victim blaming and rape culture.

During the past few weeks, members of the IFC tabled

in Kirkhof to sell \$1 buttons and collect donations, where proceeds will aid the Women's Center to allocate a sexual assault survivor fund.

The fund was coordinated by Ashley Schulte, victim advocate at GVSU, alongside Nicholas Kapusta, the IFC's programming chair, to support the financial needs of victims or survivors of sexual assault.

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MEMORIAL

# Honoring Andy Lubbers

Former GV president launches fund in son's memory to support mental health



BY ASHLYN KORIENEK  
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Nearly six months ago, tragedy struck former President of Grand Valley State University Emeritus Arend "Don" Lubbers and his wife, Nancy, when their son Andy Lubbers, 43, committed suicide after battling mental illness and depression for decades.

Transforming grief into community outreach, the Lubbers recently started the "Andy Lubbers be nice. Memorial Fund" in support of Kent County school districts that adopt the "be nice" program.

After their son's death Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, Don Lubbers said Andy's former classmates from around the country expressed their condolences and were impacted by his profound kindness toward others.

"We have taken action to assuage our grief and honor the good qualities of our son," Don Lubbers said. "With all his troubles, there was an aspect of his character that relates to an objective of the be nice. program."

In a letter, he said Andy asked others to remember him for his positive qualities. The be nice. program embodies these traits, which Lubbers announced Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the GVSU Seidman Center on the Pew Campus.

"Being nice was his hallmark. His mother and I want to remember that," he said. "Giving to the be nice. program in Kent County is our way of doing it."

As a way to reduce depression and suicide, the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan started be nice. for k-12 students, parents and faculty to identify mental illness and take the necessary steps toward preventive action. The Grand Rapids Community Foundation accepted a gift from the Lubbers' to establish the memorial fund.

Christy Buck, executive director of the Mental Health Foundation, said the program is operated around the core principles "Notice, Invite, Challenge and Empower" enacted to change lives.

Acting as motivation be-

hind the program, Buck said 50 percent of mental health disorders are present before the age of 14, while 75 percent are found by the age of 24. The program focuses on anti-bullying and creates a safe environment for all community members through awareness.

"That's a very vulnerable population. We have a lot of evidence this is creating an impact," Buck said. "We have great reviews about be nice., the model and the sustainability, especially if you create an entire district using the same language. 'Notice, Invite, Challenge and Empower' is continuing that conversation."

Currently the program is established at 100 schools, said Ron Caniff, superintendent of the Kent County Intermediate School District. The Andy Lubbers fund will expand that reach into Kent County. In addition, Buck said the program has stretched beyond West Michigan, as well.

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MENTORSHIP

# GV 'Out List' promotes solidarity to LGBT youth

BY TY KONELL  
TKONELL@LANTHORN.COM

Whether it is finding community among peers or cultivating a mentorship, connections based on common ground and lived experiences play a significant role in gaining comfort in one's personal identity.

For this reason, Grand Valley State University has created an "Out List," a collection of faculty and staff who openly identify as part of the LGBT community.

Officials in the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center said the list can be used as a source of empowerment for GVSU students who identify within the community looking forward into professional life.

"It's important for LGBTQIA college students to see themselves in the professional world," said Marla Wick, assistant director in the center. "The Out List is comprised of people who are actively modeling what it means to be out about their identities in the workplace."

The list may operate as a means of forming a sense of comradery and personal safety for LGBT students entering the post-collegiate working world.

"The LGBTQIA faculty and staff listed in the Out List model for students the possibility and reality of being an openly out professional," said Jen Hsu-Bishop, director of the LGBT Center.

Both Wick and Hsu-Bishop related its importance to a lack of state-mandated protections for people in the workplace who identify within the community.

"LGBTQIA college students have to think about how and whether to be out in the workplace, depending on a number of factors and beginning with considerations of personal safety," Wick said. "The Out List provides these students, as well as other faculty and staff, with a visible community of people, many of whom will have navigated similar experiences."

A collaboration between the GVSU Division of Inclusion and Equity and the

LGBT Faculty and Staff Association, the Out List may strengthen the message of inclusion on GVSU's campus.

"The list reflects and aligns with GVSU's commitment to identifying and eliminating barriers to recruit and retain diverse students, faculty and staff," Hsu-Bishop said. "The Out List highlights and makes visible the many LGBTQIA professionals who are part of the diverse fabric of our university's community."

Although the GVSU Out List is not the first to be created on a college campus, it is said to offer the potential to become a source of community and perceptibility on other campuses state-wide and across the country.

"Such lists have existed at other campuses across the nation for some time. But, again, one of the challenges our community faces is visibility," Wick said.

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**COMMUNITY:** GVSU students spend time in the LGBT Resource Center Tuesday, January 18. An "Out List" was recently established in order to support others in the campus community. **GVL | SARA CARTE**



EXPRESSION

# GV art faculty, students submit to annual exhibition

BY SIDNEY SELVIG  
SSELVIG@LANTHORN.COM

Expression through artwork, representation and interpretation are significant aspects of our human experience. At Grand Valley State University, expression through artwork is valued and encouraged, as it can connect people more deeply to the world and open them to new perspectives.

GVSU art department faculty members, Beverly Seley and Renee Zettle-Sterling, along with four of their students will have their best work showcased in this year's Metals 2017 exhibition, sponsored by the Michigan Silversmiths Guild Exhibition and curated by Gretchen Otto, professor of art and Brianna Wickoff. They are joining 10 other schools in celebrating the excellent creative student production with the some of the best works in the area.

The exhibition will be on display until Tuesday, April 11, at the University Gallery in the Eastern Michigan University

Student Center. The venue's location is 900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti, Michigan, and is free to the public. Gallery hours are Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Metals 2017 exhibition is dedicated to facilitating the connection between faculty and students, encouraging them to get acquainted with each other and fostering relationships that can be cultivated in the future. To reiterate the importance of collaboration, faculty and student work will be showcased together.

The exhibition displays over 60 pieces from 11 regional schools from Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Instructors were invited to choose their own work as well as several pieces of their students' work. The event allows students and instructors to see what is happening at other institutions.

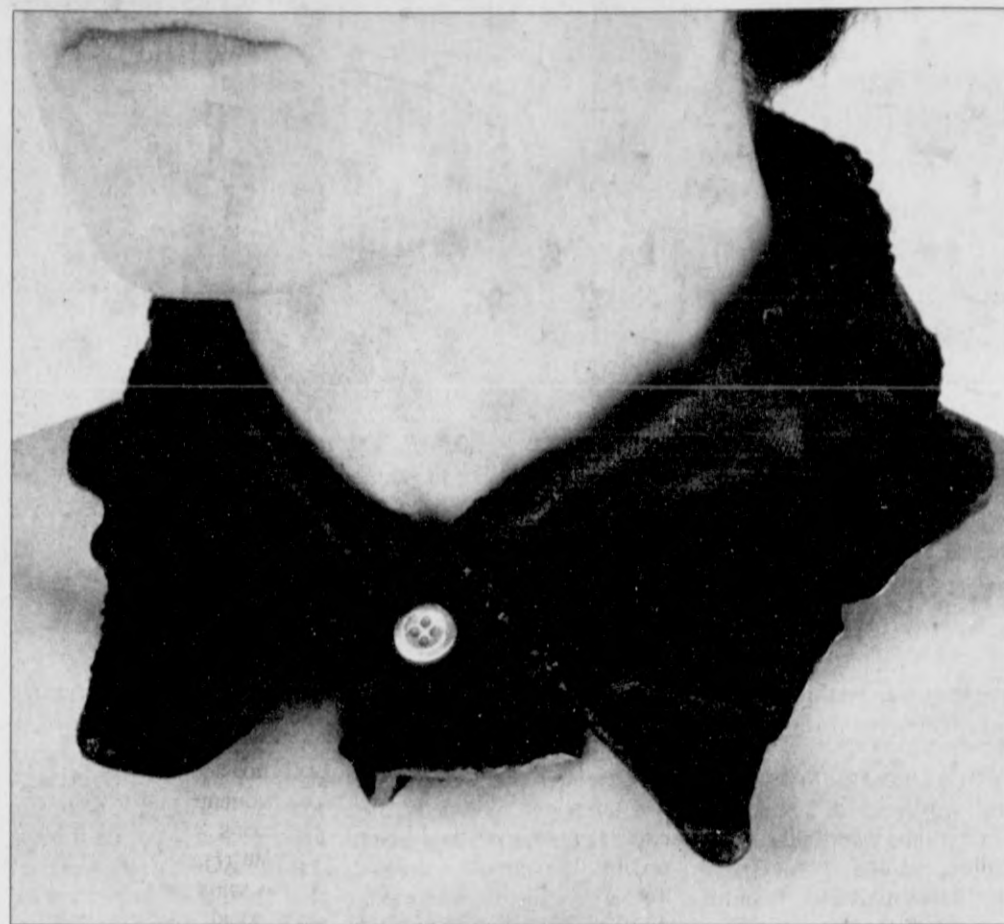
"This exhibition is really about the students and what they are accomplishing," Zettle-Sterling said. "This exhibit can

spark curiosity and excitement and an opportunity to make connections and exchanges."

An invitation to participate was extended to institutions that have jewelry and metal-smithing programs. At GVSU, Zettle-Sterling and Seley chose work from Tabatha Gulino, Jillian Thompson, Betsy Vollmar and Audrey King.

Seley's piece is a container designed to hold things that bother individuals.

"We all get frustrated and stymied by things we cannot control. This reliquary has a small sterling net to capture those things and put them safely away in the container so one can move on to the positive," Seley said. "I think the space a person occupies offers a context for the work that is personal as well as universal. It allows the piece to come alive within a daily life. The wearer brings another layer to the piece giving it additional interpretations."



DESIGN: GVSU associate professor of 3D foundations, sculpture and metalsmithing Renee Zettle-Sterling created "Object of Mourning Impermanence" for the exhibition. COURTESY | RENEE ZETTEL-STERLING

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RECOGNITION

# American Advertising Awards host annual gala



SHOWCASE: Professional and student-level nominees gathered Thursday, Feb. 16 at the New Vintage Place in Grand Rapids to network and celebrate their advertising achievements. COURTESY | ADFED

BY CARMEN SMITH  
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In recognition of outstanding advertising work completed by professional and student-level nominees, the American Advertising Awards (ADDY), facilitated a gala, hosted by the American Advertising Federation of West Michigan, Thursday, Feb. 16 at the New Vintage Place in downtown Grand Rapids.

Award-winning participants and supportive guests gathered to network and celebrate with live music and an abundance of food and drinks. Contestants from each category were eligible to win a bronze, silver or gold along with a Judge's Choice and a Best in Show ADDY. The gala also included an audience participation aspect with a live-voting opportunity. The piece that received the most votes won a People's Choice ADDY award.

"To become a successful advertiser post graduation, you have to get out in the commu-

nity, networking as much as possible," said Dan Doubert, AdFed Intern and GVSU student, "just to get a feel of what it's like, even if it's just talking to professionals, learning from them or visiting their agencies."

Two advertising students from Grand Valley State University took home three ADDY awards. Goubert and Joey Parks won a bronze ADDY for their three-poster campaign piece on Krispy Kreme donuts. Parks also won an individual bronze ADDY for one of his original illustrations, and Goubert collected a gold ADDY for copywriting work.

"Going there and seeing people doing the work that I want to do, it keeps a career goal in mind. It makes my dreams feel a little bit more realistic," Goubert said. "Let it be a testament that entering does pay off for Grand Valley students."

With more than 100 categories in both the student and professional areas, contestants were able to submit any piece

produced in 2016.

"If you enter, then you can get recognition from these high class profiles," said Alex Rabideau, AdFed intern and GVSU student. "If you go (to the gala) and volunteer, then you get to interact with these judges, and that's a really cool experience."

It's really important because one of the big things that the ADDY's provide is kind of a chance to view what other students in the area can produce."

The ADDYs offer a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to network themselves and get their work recognized in the community.

"It's a chance to get people to look at your work. Second of all, if you have a great idea and you can communicate it well, then you're going to have a great shot at getting an award," Rabideau said. "Also, creativity isn't always an art. The actual strategy behind something has been proven to be enough to win at the ADDY's."

GALLERY

# GV Artist-in-Residence creates exhibition

BY KATE BARNUM  
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As technology advances and media outlets continue to expand, people in all corners of the world are bombarded daily with new information, creating a large community bound by rapid-fire consumption.

Artist Nayda Collazo-Llorens, Grand Valley State University's Stuart and Barbara Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence, has recently created "Comfortably Numb," an exhibition located in the GVSU Art Gallery in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus. The exhibition explores the relationship between perceptual engagement and the incessant media overload many individuals seem to seek and experience.

Comfortably Numb will be open to the public until Friday, March 31.

Collazo-Llorens worked on this project for five years, steadily building an arsenal of magazine clippings and other print samples. Comfortably Numb contains over 2,000 framed images, all representing samples of visual information.

"(Comfortably Numb) invites the viewer to reflect on the complexities of the mind and the fragmented

manner in which we perceive our complex world in an age that is as much about data overload and hyper-connectivity as it is about distancing and dissociation," Collazo-Llorens said.

Through her disciplinary practice, Collazo-Llorens aims to examine the way in which individuals perceive and process information—often dealing with navigation, hyperconnectivity, memory, language and noise.

Collazo-Llorens was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She knew right away she wanted to become an artist and decided to pursue an art degree after she graduated high school. She received a bachelor of fine arts degree at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, followed by a masters of fine arts degree at New York University. Throughout the years, her work has been reviewed by several well-known publications, including The New York Times, Artnet, Art Nexus, Art News, BOMBlog and Newcity.

Collazo-Llorens has been GVSU's Distinguished Artist-in-Residence for the past three academic years. She has taught both intermediate and advanced drawing at GVSU and participated in student reviews, critiques and mentoring.

Comfortably Numb serves as the third and final culminating event of her residency.

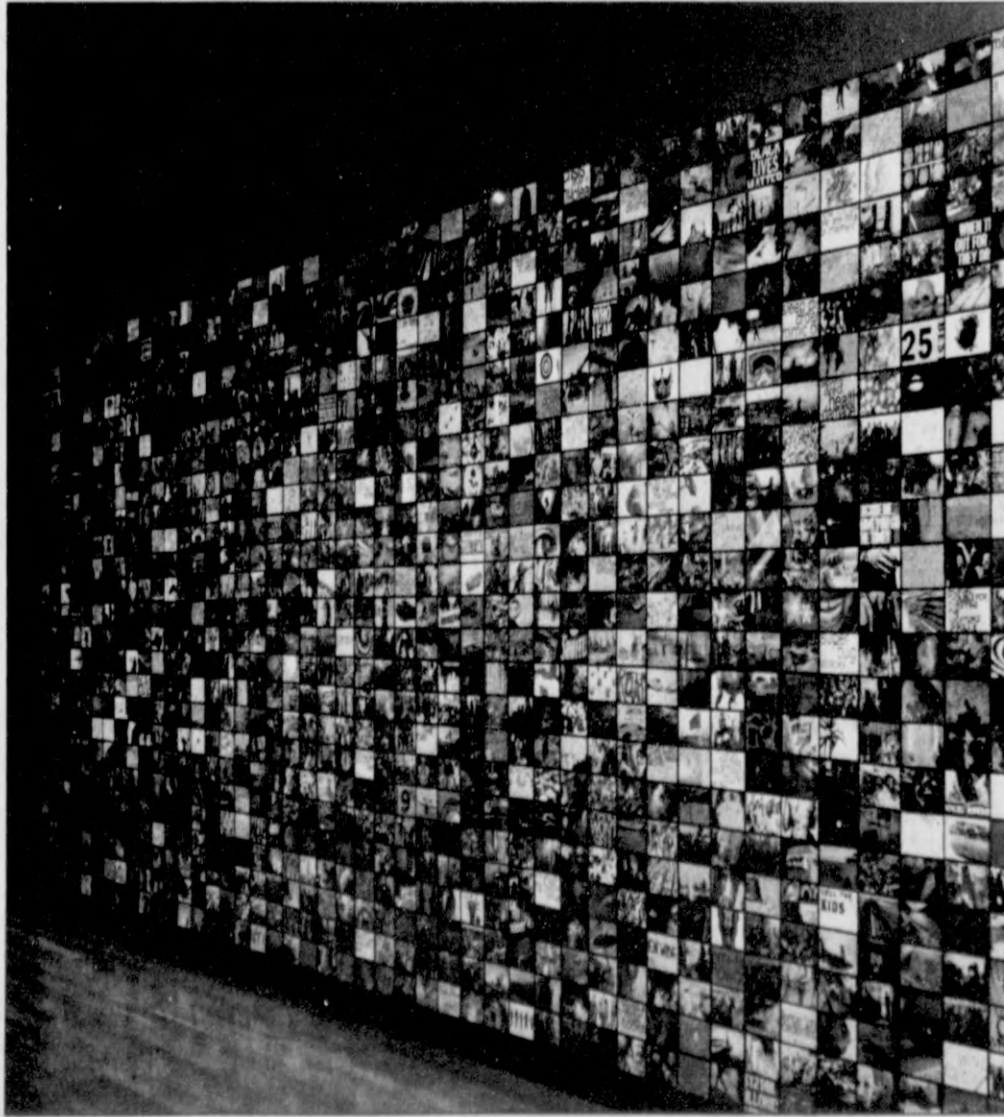
"Another aspect of the residency is engaging in projects and research that involve the GVSU community, beyond the art department" Collazo-Llorens said. "I have been visiting or meeting with classes in (different departments, including) art and design, geology, music, photography, sociology and many others."

Now in her last semester, Collazo-Llorens reflected back on her time at GVSU.

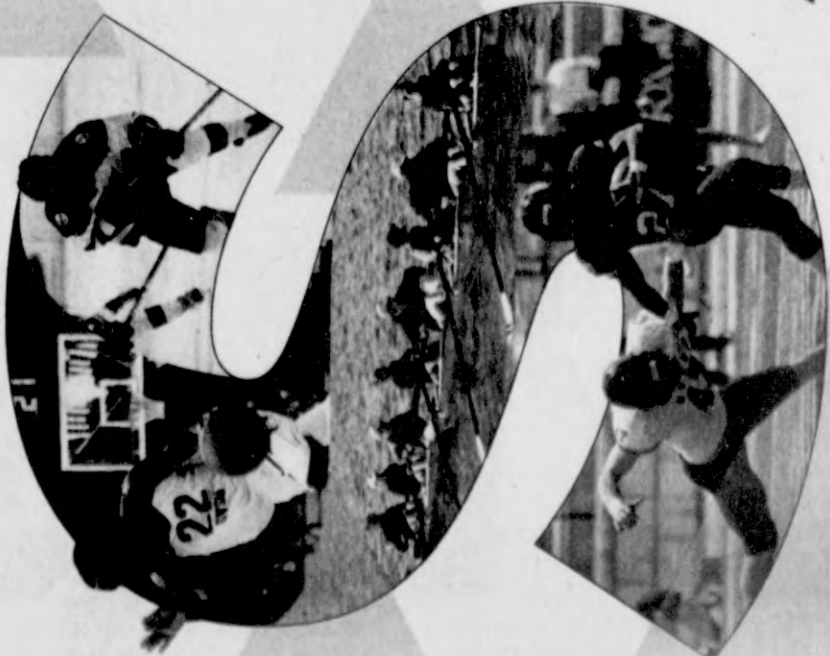
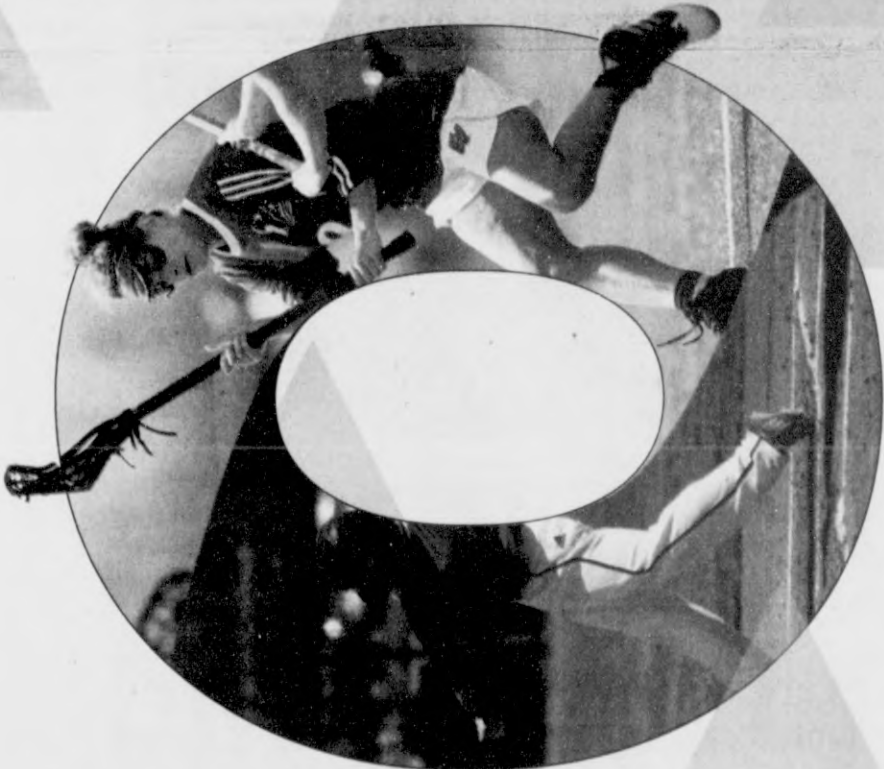
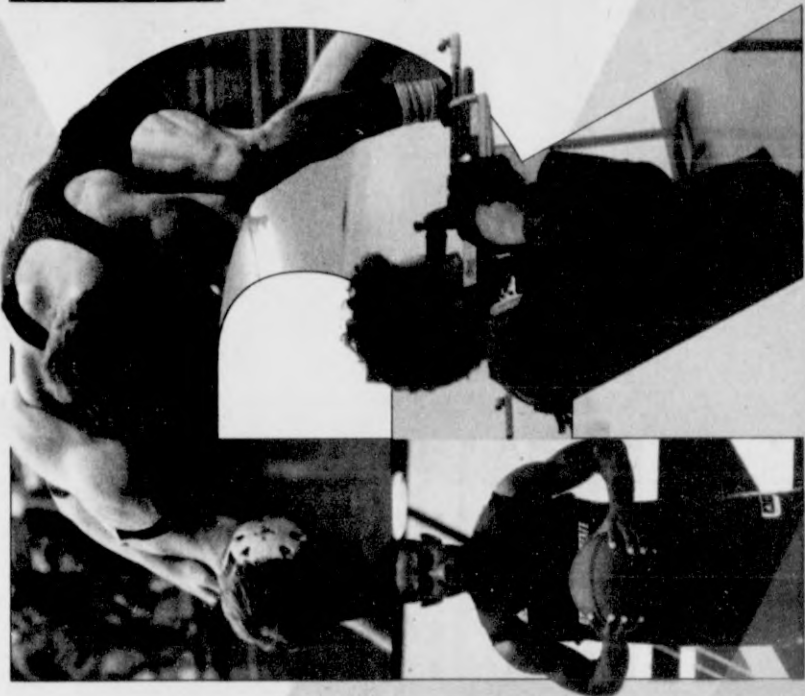
"It's been an enriching experience," she said. "It's been a pleasure to work and collaborate with the (GVSU) staff, faculty and students."

Currently, Collazo-Llorens is working with Grand Rapids theater department on the upcoming March production of Helen by producing a series of video projections for the performance.

She is also working on several mapping projects. One of them will be part of the exhibition Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago, set to launch at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California later this year.



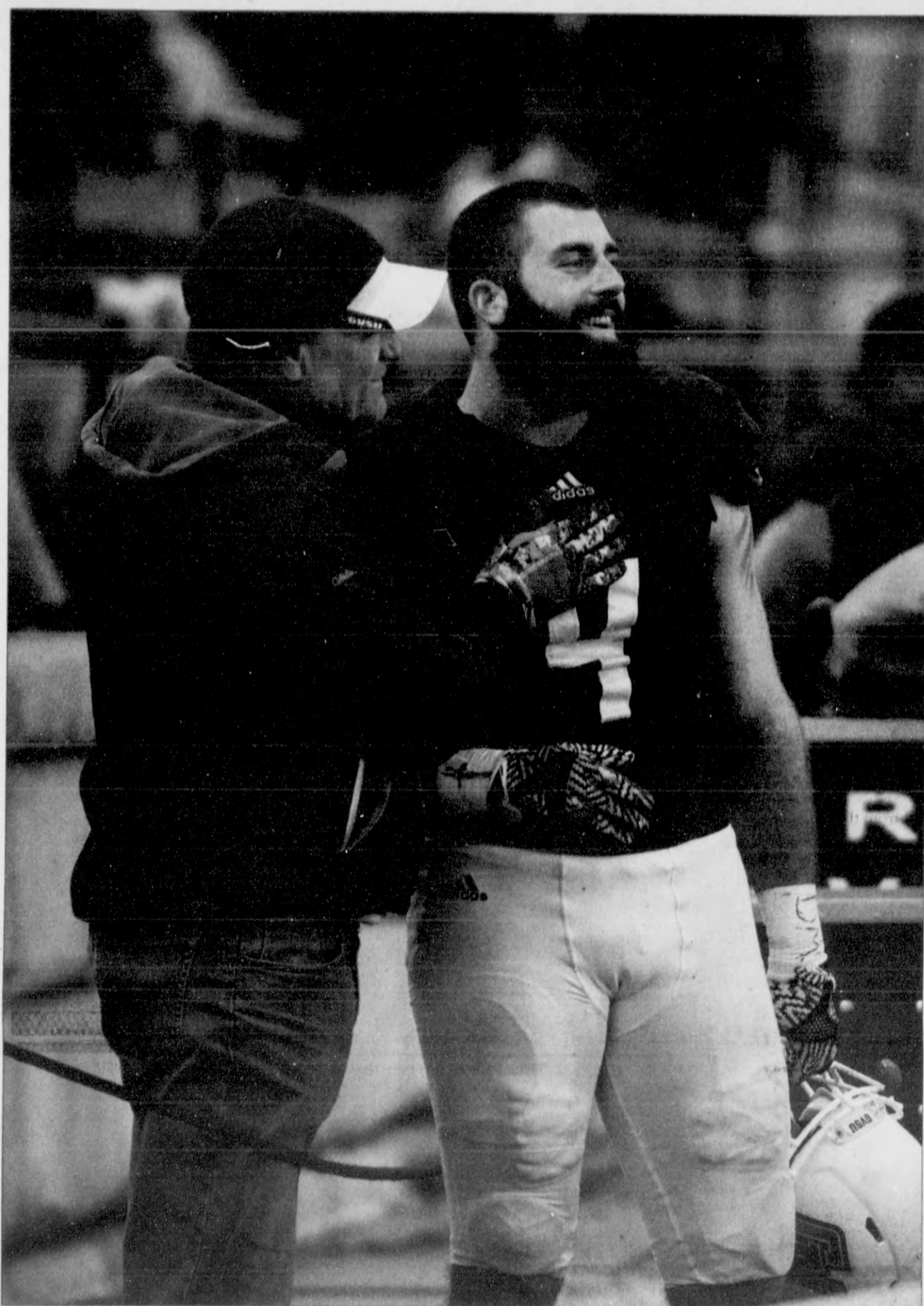
COLLAGE: GVSU Artist-in-Residence Nayda Collazo-Llorens uses "Comfortably Numb" to prompt viewers to realize the relationship between perceptual engagement and media overload. GVL | SARA CARTE



FOOTBALL

# The Alton Voss story

GV football alumnus Alton Voss garnering national interest in pursuit of NFL dream



JOURNEY: As the clock winds down, Alton Voss (4) looks on toward the play from the bench during Grand Valley State's playoff loss to the Ferris State Bulldogs in Lubbers Stadium Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016. Voss is hoping to get a shot at making an NFL roster. GVL | LUKE HOLMES

BY BEAU TROUTMAN  
SPORTS@LANTHORN.COM

At the end of his interview on the nationally syndicated Jim Rome sports radio show, Grand Valley State football standout Alton Voss wanted America to get one thing straight.

"I want to clarify one thing," Voss said on the show Thursday, Feb. 16. "I'm 6'3", 260 lbs. I just wanted to get that out there."

"You got it!" Rome replied. "Six-three, 260. And don't you cheat him on any of this stuff."

Listeners across the entire country heard not only Voss's correct height and weight, but a story that's been told time and time again in Allendale and West Michigan: the Alton Voss story.

The 28-year old Voss, who graduated this past December, is pursuing his dream of making it into the NFL after wrapping up his senior season with GVSU football. Voss was named to the All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) First Team after recording 52 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks and two forced fumbles in his most productive season wearing Laker blue last fall.

Voss was also named the 2016 Jack H. McAvoy Award recipient, which annually honors the GLIAC athlete who best combines outstanding character and leadership on the field.

Voss's graduation marked the culmination of a collegiate career in which he went from one of the top quarterbacks in the country, to drug addict, to recovered addict and then to a four-year player on the GVSU football squad—not to mention one of the top leaders on the team.

Voss became the first person in his family to earn a college degree.

"It was definitely surreal that morning just being in

(Van Andel Arena) with my cap and gown," Voss said. "I was toward the back and I got a look ahead to see all of these people, and I just realized, 'I did it.' My family was there, it was great for them to see that."

"It's a huge achievement and something I'll always be grateful for."

Now, he's trying to become the first person in his family to make it to the NFL.

#### National exposure

Voss was sitting in a movie theater one afternoon after training when he got a Twitter message from Sports Illustrated writer Emily Kaplan—luckily he didn't turn his phone off at the start of the movie.

Kaplan told Voss she wanted to do a story on him as part of a series, "The Longshots," chronicling college football players who have had improbable or unusual paths to becoming NFL Draft prospects. Voss' story was featured on the home page of MMQB.com, an affiliate of SI.com, Tuesday, Feb. 14.

"She told me it'd be like a 10 minute conversation," Voss said. "We set up the time and when it was all said and done, it ended up being like 35 minutes. She asked one simple question, 'How did you end up at GV?' and there's no short way of explaining that story."

"I shared everything and she was amazed that it really happened."

A day after Kaplan's story went online, Voss woke up late on that Wednesday to a text from his trainer, Jim Kielbaso.

"He said check your voicemail," Voss said. "I listened, and (Kielbaso's message) says 'Hey listen, the Jim Rome show contacted me this morning and they want you on their show.' Then he goes, 'By the way, that is fricking awesome.'"

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

## Welcome to the squad GV inks 31 signees to 2017 recruiting class

BY BEAU TROUTMAN  
SPORTS@LANTHORN.COM

Grand Valley State football took over the Midwest this National Signing Day.

The Lakers officially announced their 2017 recruiting class Wednesday, Feb. 1. The class features 31 total signees, 17 of which are from out of state. The class was highlighted by 16 offensive players, 13 defensive and two specialists.

It was the first major step toward the 2017 football season.

"We have a tank of gas recruiting philosophy," said GVSU coach Matt Mitchell. "We're going to recruit in areas that you can get to on a tank of gas, and that's Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. I think we went out to those spots and found guys that fit our program."

Mitchell and his recruiting staff set out to fill spots that weren't as much of a priority in the 2016 recruiting class, which had 23 members, and they believe they did that well. On the offensive side, skill positions were the biggest priority. The Lakers got National Letters of Intent from three running backs, six wide receivers and four tight ends.

"When you take a look at our wide receivers and our running backs and you look at the statistical performance and production that they have, it's pretty eye-popping," Mitchell said.

The three running backs are Jack Provencher (Shelby Twp., Mich.), Aryuan Cain-Veasey (Michigan City, Ind.) and Jaden Walker (Lima, Ohio). Though all three were standouts at their respective schools, Provencher's accolades stack up. As a senior, he broke the Utica Eisenhower High School record for rushing yard in a season (1,579), had 25 rushing touchdowns and was named to the Detroit Free Press Dream Team.

In the group of receivers, another name sticks out from the rest: Andy Foley of Perry High School in Ohio. The 6'2", 195 lb. Foley caught 70 passes his senior year for 1,346 yards and 15 touchdowns. Not only did he excel on offense, but Foley intercepted 10 passes on defense and was named the Ohio Defensive Player of the Year.

Though his name won't jump out at you on paper, tight end Jack Driscoll of South Bend Adams high school in South Bend, Ind. impressed Mitchell for his raw athleticism and versatility. He had 254 receiving yards his senior year, but recorded eight sacks on the defensive side of the ball, earning All-State honors as a defensive lineman.

"When you get to some of those other guys that aren't stat related, that's when you see them play basketball, workout, that's when it's eye-popping to me," Mitchell said. "Jack Driscoll, I'm not sure you would find at 6'4", 245 lbs.

a better athlete at that size that we've had here for a while."

Defensively, GVSU welcomed six new linemen to the program, tied for the most of any position group. The Lakers are losing senior linemen Mark Rosenquist (4 tackles for loss, 1 interception), Alton Voss (4.5 sacks) and Sydney

Omameh (10.5 sacks), and knew they would need to reload at this position.

One player to watch for in the D-line group is Josh Jones out of Bloomfield Hills High School in Michigan. Jones had a Matt Judon-like 17 sacks as a senior, earning him a Detroit Free Press All-

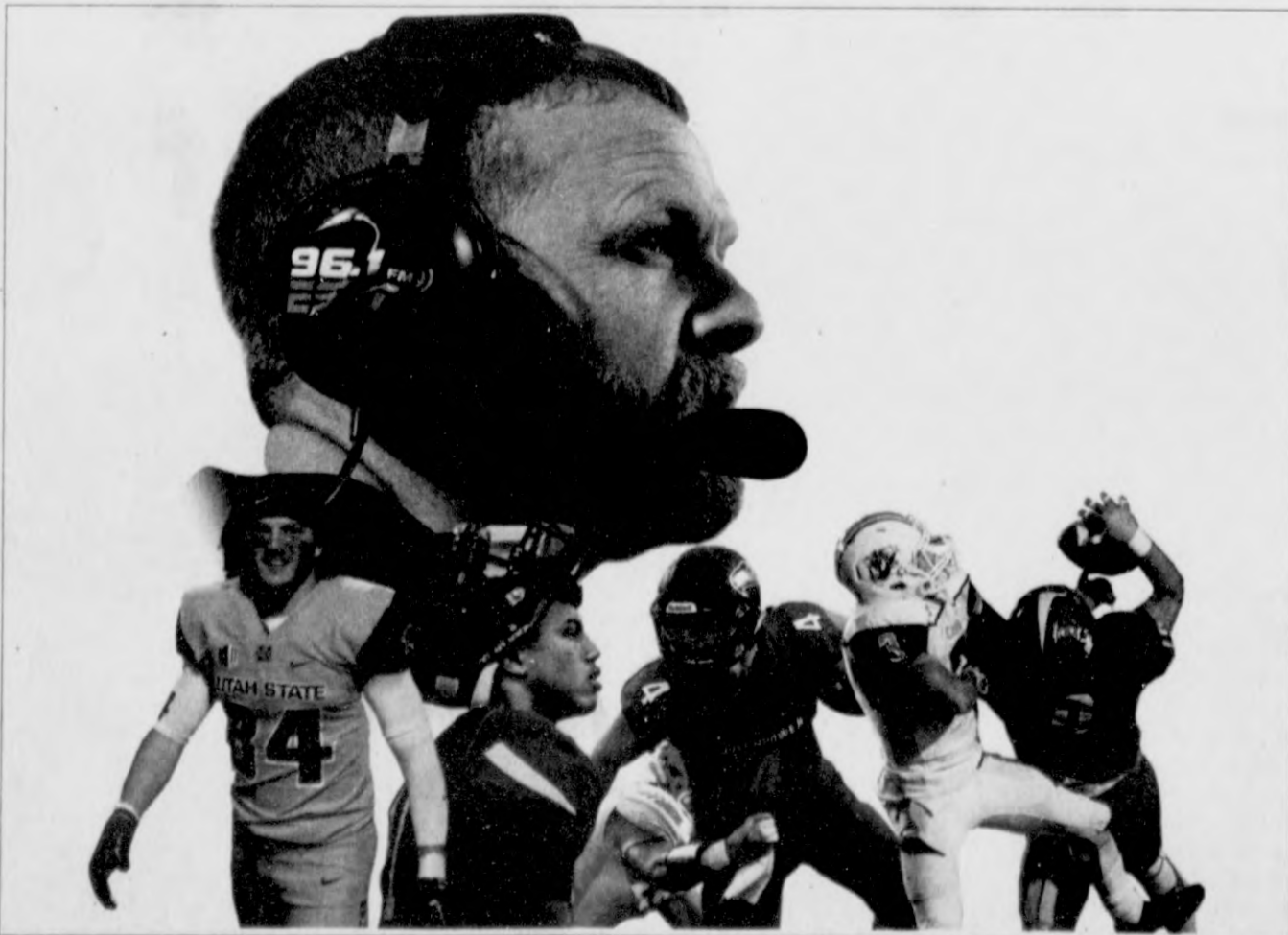
North Honoree plaudit.

A player not found on the list of 31 recruits is incoming graduate transfer Ethan Cortazzo from Utah State. Cortazzo, though a Division I player, recognized he had two seasons of eligibility left at the Division II level. He followed

several DII coaches on Twitter, including Mitchell, who followed him back and was impressed by Cortazzo's highlights. GVSU offered, and Cortazzo committed.

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NEXT GENERATION: Pictured above: Grand Valley State coach Matt Mitchell, Ethan Cortazzo (far left), Josh Jones, Jack Provencher (4) and Andy Foley (far right). The Lakers signed 31 high school players in their 2017 recruiting class on National Signing Day. GVL | RACHEL SPRING

W. BASKETBALL

# Blessing in disguise

GV's Taylor Parmley providing force off the bench after rare injury freshman season

BY JOSH PEICK  
JPEICK@LANTHORN.COM

As an athlete, there is nothing more frustrating than sustaining an injury and not being able to contribute on the court or field. An injury is never considered a blessing, but in a strange way, Taylor Parmley of the Grand Valley State women's basketball team may have received a blessing when she sustained a season-ending injury her freshman year.

Parmley, now a redshirt sophomore, is averaging 7.8 points per game as the team's 'sixth man' or first player off the bench. Last season, she also played an integral role in the Lakers' Final Four run, posting a double-double in the Elite Eight against Pittsburgh State.

But before she showed off her scoring prowess at the collegiate level, Parmley sat out her entire freshman season due to a shoulder injury. She injured her shoulder two weeks before the season began and was cleared to play the day after the season ended. Unfortunate timing, but at the same time it helped Parmley learn the college-level game before ever stepping on the court.

"It's funny," said GVSU assistant coach Phil Sayers. "I think we had thought that she would play (her freshman year), and I told numerous people that was the best thing to happen to Taylor Parmley."

Parmley, a scoring force when she is on the court, learned how to be an asset to the team with her voice and mentality rather than her physical contributions.

"I think it made me a lot better of a communicator on the floor and I was able to lead with my voice that year rather than my actions," Parmley said. "I think I'm a better person for it."

The only thing stranger than her injury being considered a blessing is the circumstances which led to Parmley's injury.

Parmley sustained an injury called Honey-moon Palsy, which refers to a compression neuropathy in the arm. This symptom is the result of applying pressure on the arm in an awkward position for an extended period of time, eventually cutting a nerve in the arm. In Parmley's case, which is the most common occurrence, it happened while she was sleeping.

"I woke up and I had a lot of pain in my shoulder," Parmley said. "I gave it a couple of days and went back to practice. I went to do a pushup, and my arm just gave out."

After an entire season of rehab, Parmley returned the next season to play in all 36 games and lead the team with a .526 shooting percentage from the field. This season, she is shooting .549 from the field in 12 games played.

"She gives us that confidence because when she's on that floor, she believes

that she's going to make a play," said senior Kayla Dawson. "She definitely brings the presence in the paint that our starting five does not have as much."

The Lakers have a versatile starting five. Each player can drive to the basket and shoot from the perimeter, but none of them are a true low-block, post player. That is where Parmley fits that role off the bench.

"We do her a disservice by listing her at 5'10" when really she is 5'8," Sayers said. "She's flat out tough, and she's a kid that she's either going to score or get fouled."

When Parmley touches the ball on the low block, 68 percent of the time she scores or draws a foul. She provides the Lakers with instant offense when they can get the ball to her near the basket.

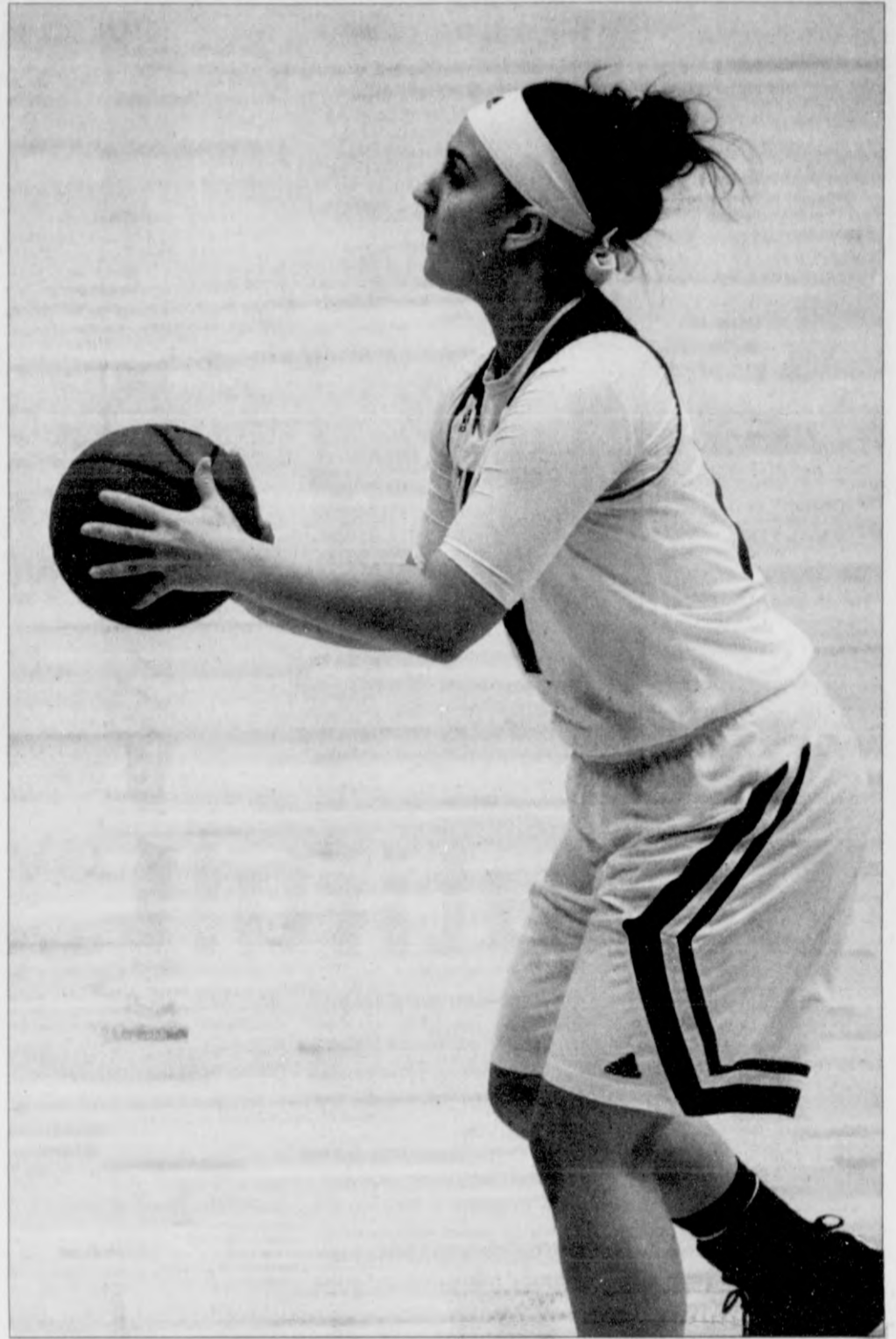
Her scoring ability is no secret, and it never was. As a sophomore at Mishawaka High School in Indiana, Parmley dropped 51 points in a single game, while still missing nine free throws.

Free throws have always been a minor weakness in Parmley's game, but she drastically improved her free throw shooting in the offseason and now shoots 80 percent from the line this season.

"Free throws are all a mental game and it's just a confidence thing," Parmley said. "Last year, I always joked around a lot and I was like 'I'm not the best free throw shooter,' but this year I decided that I am going to be one of the best."

**"She definitely brings the presence in the paint that our starting five does not have as much."**

KAYLA DAWSON  
SENIOR BASKETBALL  
PLAYER



BACK ON THE COURT: Taylor Parmley (14) steps back and tries a three pointer against SVSU. Parmley came back after a season-ending injury and is a shooting force for the GVSU team. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF

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M. BASKETBALL



LAST OPPORTUNITY: Juwan Starks (22) looks to pass during the game versus Findlay at the University of Findlay Tuesday, Feb. 28. Starks, who is in his senior season of eligibility and his second year at Grand Valley State University after transferring from Kishwaukee College in Malta, Illinois, is averaging 9.9 points-per-game this season playing wing and has earned a spot in the starting lineup. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF

# For the love of the game

Juwan Starks taking nothing for granted in senior season

BY BEAU TROUTMAN  
SPORTS@LANTHORN.COM

Juwan Starks broke up with one of the loves of his life. It wasn't a girlfriend—it was basketball.

Luckily for Grand Valley State, Starks and the game he's been playing since he was a kid were able to make amends, and just ask his teammates. It was for the better.

Starks in his senior season of eligibility and his second year at GVSU after transferring from Kishwaukee College in Malta, Illinois. He is averaging 9.9 points-per-game this season playing wing, and with his play as of late, he has earned a spot in the starting lineup after beginning the

season as a role player. His journey to a starting role at GVSU is one that happened by chance.

Starks attended West Aurora High School in Illinois. He began a power forward/center because he said he was "always the biggest guy." He converted to playing wing full-time by his junior season, and the position change paid huge dividends.

In all four seasons of his high school career, Starks was named to the First-Team All-DuPage Valley Conference team, team MVP and team captain. He was also named the Aurora Beacon News Player of the Year in 2012 for his senior season.

Starks ended his career at West Aurora as the school's

all-time scoring leader with 1,627 points, breaking a 21-year mark (1,613 points) set by West Aurora graduate Billy Taylor. Starks broke the record in his final high school game, a loss to Proviso East in the Central Super-sectional round.

"It was a bittersweet moment, had we won that game we would've went to state," Starks said. "After the game, after a couple days, you look back and you're like, wow, a lot of great players have come through here. It was a surreal moment for me."

After his storied high school career, Starks committed to play basketball at Casper College, which competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) in Casper, Wyoming. He committed without taking a visit. It was far from his home in Illinois, but Starks wanted to be away from home and try something new.

It was also where he lost his love for the sport. "I was contemplating quitting basketball because I wasn't having fun out there," Starks said. "It was different. I wasn't really used to the culture."

Starks said Casper was a culture shock, as the only sports to follow were basketball, volleyball and rodeo. He didn't plan on trying his hand riding a bull anytime soon, and he was disappointed to find the social aspect wasn't what he envisioned. Not only that, but the head

coach who recruited him left the school, causing other players he had come to know to leave as well.

What was supposed to be the start of career as a collegiate basketball player ended up being a turbulent nightmare. With Aurora 1,057 miles away from Casper, Starks didn't really have anyone to turn to.

Starks left Casper after his first semester there to return home, and quit competitive basketball all together.

Eventually, Starks began following his high school team, going to games and reliving his days as an All-State caliber basketball player. It didn't take long for his passion for the sport to return.

"I actually fell back in love with it when I start-

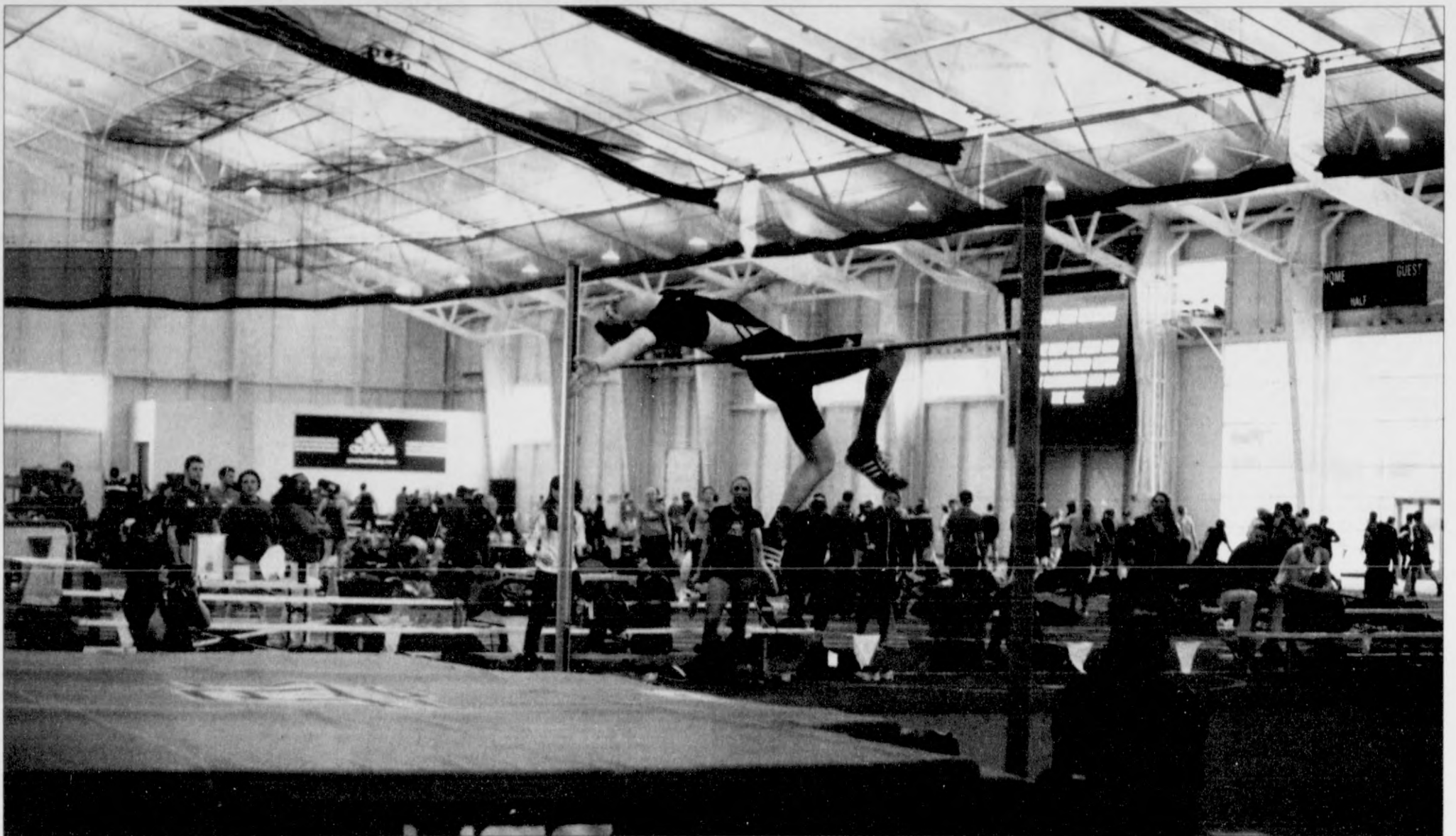
ed going back to my high school games," Starks said. "I saw how everyone was enjoying it, but I really wasn't too sure about playing competitively still."

A former teammate at West Aurora who played at nearby Kishwaukee College, another NJCAA school, convinced Starks to attend an open gym workout at the college. Starks agreed, and the workout went well—Kishwaukee coach Rob Buss offered him a scholarship on the spot.

Just like that, Starks was back as a college basketball player, and this time, he was only 30 minutes away from home.

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TRACK AND FIELD



ARTIST: Grand Valley State sophomore Hunter Weeks takes on the high jump at a meet this past season inside the Kelly Family Sports Center. Weeks jumped seven feet for the first time in his GVSU career at the Mike Lints Alumni Meet Saturday, Jan. 28, and he was the only one of three Division II athletes to do so at the time. The jump earned Weeks an automatic qualifying mark for the nationals meet. GVL | EMILY FRYE

# 'Beautiful' GV high jumper Hunter Weeks eyeing national championship

BY JACOB ARVIDSON  
 JARVIDSON@LANTHORN.COM

High jumping is an art. Some are naturally gifted and others work hard at perfecting their craft to turn raw talent into greatness.

Grand Valley State's Hunter Weeks is the perfect combination of both.

"The word I would use is beautiful," said fellow GVSU high jumper Brandon Bean. "Everything from the walk-in to the actual attempt is so beautiful and flawless. It's to

the point now where you can count way more bars that he has made effortlessly than he has missed. You know you're special when you miss a bar and everyone's shocked."

The sophomore has reached the brink of greatness, jumping 7 feet for the first time in his career Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Mike Lints Alumni Meet, joining what GVSU jumps coach Steve Jones calls "an exclusive club."

"Since the first person hit 7 feet, that's always the number you want to hit," said Jones,

who joined the 7-foot club during his collegiate days at the University of Wisconsin in 2003. "Six-eleven and three quarters doesn't cut it. You have to jump 7 feet to be a part of that club. Whether you jumped it in the 70s, the 80s or the 90s, it doesn't matter; it's still 7 feet."

Weeks is one of three Division II athletes to clear 7 feet this indoor season, and though the mark isn't an automatic qualifier to the national meet, it would take a career performance from

15 other jumpers in order to knock him out, something that will not happen.

Although clearing the 7-foot bar is not a feat to be overlooked, Weeks has bigger and better things in mind.

First on the chopping block is the GVSU indoor record. The mark to beat is 2.15 meters (7 feet 1/2 inches), set by Jeremy Pearson in 2000. Pearson also holds the outdoor record at 2.18 meters.

Weeks has had multiple opportunities to cement his name in the indoor record

books, most recently at the GVSU Big Meet when he just missed clearing the bar at 2.16 meters (7 feet-1 inch).

"It has been frustrating," Weeks said. "I've been so close on all of the attempts I've taken at those bars, so it's kind of getting to me, but I don't need it now, I need it at the nationals meet."

"I'd love to have my name on those record boards. I have my name on my high school boards, so it would be cool to see that up there."

If anything is holding him

back, it would be the frustration of not clearing bars when he knows he can, Jones said.

"Physically, he has all the tools to be successful," Jones said. "I just try to help him remember our cues. We usually use one or two words that help him to remember what he's supposed to focus on for that day. Before he jumps I'll shout it out to him and put him in a good attitude moving forward."

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SOCCER

# Homegrown talent GV's Marti Corby and Clare Carlson sign with GVSU ever GRFC women's team



LEGENDS: Marti Corby (13) and Clare Carlson (7) celebrate a GVSU goal. The Lakers defeated the Ohio Dominican Panthers with a final score of 4-0 Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016 in Allendale. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF

BY JOSH PEICK  
 JPEICK@LANTHORN.COM

The Grand Rapids community is known for its surplus of soccer talent that advances to play at some of the top-collegiate programs in the nation. In 2015, the city formed the Grand Rapids Football Club to bring a professional men's team to the rich-soccer community.

This year, GRFC expanded to create a women's team that will compete in the United Women's Soccer league in the summer of 2017. Two familiar faces from the Grand Valley State women's soccer team will be suiting up.

Former GVSU-standouts Marti Corby and Clare Carlson both signed with GRFC to be part of the inaugural season. Both Corby and Carlson were vital pieces of the 2016 GVSU senior class that reached four NCAA National Championships and won three of them.

An emphasis for GRFC on the men's and women's side has been to provide the community with top-level soccer but doing so by developing the team with local players.

"When we first started to recruit and putting the roster together for GRFC, we built around West Michigan's best players," said GRFC women's coach Lewis Robinson. "Our first step was really putting together who are the best players in West Michigan, and (Corby and Carlson) are right up there at the top of the list and always have been."

Corby and Carlson grew up in Ada, Michigan and played together at Forest Hills Central High School. After four years at GVSU and eight years of playing together, both were hungry for more competition.

"It's more about just getting to play more," Carlson said. "I was really eager for that and sad

about possibly everything being done after last year."

Corby committed to the team after Carlson due to injuries and options to play elsewhere. Corby entered the National Women's Soccer League 2017 Draft and after going undrafted, she received a few invitations to tryout with teams.

"I did not pursue those (tryouts) because of my injury, and I knew that if I made a team or even as a reserve, I would have to uproot my life and live there," Corby said. "I wanted to graduate and finish college and I would have had to put that on hold."

Carlson committed to the team in December alongside her sister Mary Carlson who is a sophomore at Central Michigan. Both sisters played together on the same team in high school for one year alongside Corby, and the idea of reuniting on the field sparked the idea of joining GRFC.

"When we found out about the team being made, we talked about it right away," Mary Carlson said. "We both wanted to have the opportunity to play together again."

Outside of practicing together in the offseason, the sisters have played only one season on the same field, but the chemistry between the two could come naturally.

"We definitely know how each other plays really well," Mary Carlson said. "The chemistry is really good considering how close we are as sisters so hopefully we will be able to bring that on the field."

The last time they played together they played in positions spread out on the field, but now in the improbable reunion, they will play right next to each other on the back line of the defense.

"I had never expected it to happen ever again," Clare Carlson said. "The fact that

she'll be playing center-back right next to me will be interesting to see how that works. I am hoping that we have some innate chemistry that just falls into place."

A number of factors brought Clare Carlson and Corby back onto the field, the two prominent factors being convenience and familiarity.

Before the creation of GRFC, both players traveled more than two hours to compete against top competition in the region. Now, both players will be playing right in their backyard.

"I would never have expected to have this level (of competition) this close to home," Clare Carlson said.

The familiarity of the coaches on staff also drew both of them to the team. Robinson, the GRFC coach, coached both Clare Carlson and Corby during their time playing club soccer outside of high school and collegiate soccer.

"It definitely made my decision easier because I know his coaching style," Clare Carlson said. "I know he really enjoys the game and likes to make practices light-hearted but still competitive. It definitely made me more comfortable in pursuing."

"They're coaches that just know how to make you find that love for the game."

With so many local players on the team, the two former GVSU players are familiar with the rest of roster through playing with or against them, or simply just recognizing the name.

"All of the people that they have playing, it's such an incredible opportunity to play with all of them," Corby said. "You can't really pass it up."

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W. BASKETBALL

# 'Grit'

Langs' late-game heroics complete two-game home sweep



PHOTOGENIC: Grand Valley State senior Janae Langs and associate head coach Phil Sayers celebrate after a play. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF

BY JOSH PEICK  
JPEICK@LANTHORN.COM

With the game tied and the clock ticking to the final seconds, the Grand Valley State women's basketball team put the ball in the hands of the player who scored three game-winning shots in last season's Final Four run, Janae Langs.

From the left wing, Langs brushed past a screening Piper Tucker and pulled up to take a jump shot from just outside the free throw line. The shot sailed over a Northern Michigan defender's hand and into the basket with 3.8 seconds left on the clock, sending the crowd and the Lakers into a frenzy.

The Lakers closed out the final seconds by not allowing the Wildcats to get a shot off before time expired. Langs' shot capped off the Lakers' two game sweep of Michigan Tech and Northern Michigan in the final two home games of the regular season.

GVSU beat Michigan Tech 64-52 Thursday, Feb. 16 and Northern Michigan 46-44 Saturday, Feb. 18. The Lakers (20-6, 15-5 GLIAC) moved ahead of Michigan Tech in the standings and one game behind Saginaw Valley State for second place in the GLIAC North Division.

In the first game of the weekend, the Lakers enacted revenge against Michigan Tech after losing to the Huskies on a buzzer-beater earlier in the season. After a slow start, the Huskies grabbed the lead early in the game.

In the second quarter,

GVSU retook the lead behind a strong showing from Bailey Cairnduff. On her way to a double-double, Cairnduff finished the first half with nine points and eight rebounds.

"Our guards were really attacking downhill which opened things up for me outside," Cairnduff said. "Our post players also made really good passes from the inside out."

After halftime, the Lakers pulled away in the third quarter, grabbing a 14 point lead. Freshman Jenn DeBoer gave the Lakers a lift in the third quarter and finished the game with 10 points. The defense held the Huskies to only 13 points in the third quarter.

**"Defensively, it might have been one of the best games (Cairnduff) played...she was lockdown."**

MIKE WILLIAMS  
HEAD COACH

"I thought offensively we did a better job keeping our eyes up and making decisions," said GVSU coach Mike Williams. "(Defensively), we took away the shooters early, which we wanted to do."

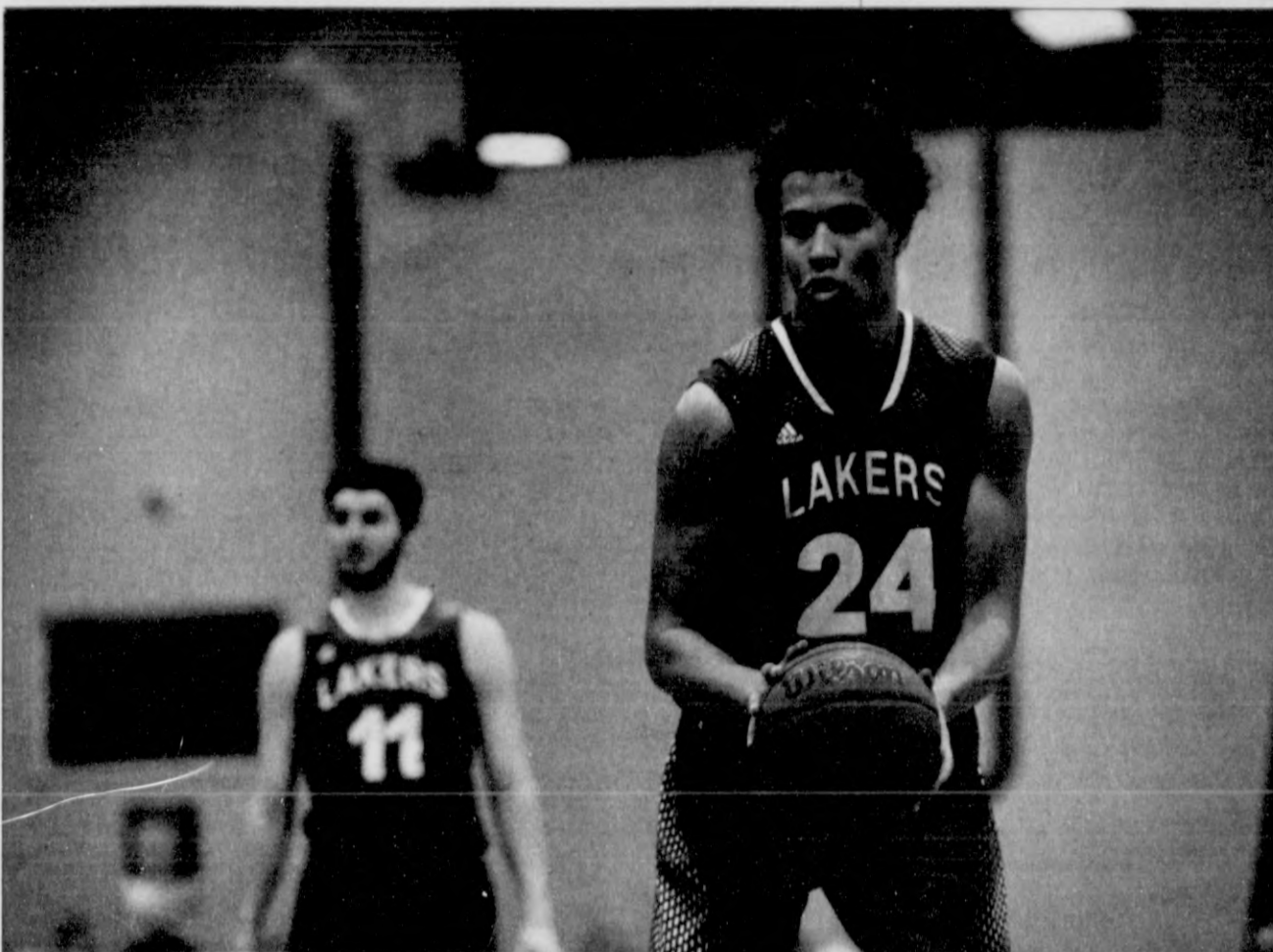
Cairnduff completed her double-double in the third quarter and finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds. While she was scoring on the offensive side of the court, Cairnduff shut down whoever she guarded on defense.

"Defensively it might have been one of the best games she played because whoever she guarded didn't score," Williams said. "She was lockdown."

The Lakers cruised to a 12-point win in the fourth quarter, a rare feat in a game against the Huskies.

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M. BASKETBALL



GAME OVER: Grand Valley State sophomore center Justin Greason prepares to shoot a free throw during GVSU's 67-59, season-ending loss to the Findlay Oilers in the first round of the GLIAC Tournament Tuesday, Feb. 28 at Findlay's Croy Gymnasium. GVL | KEVIN SIELAFF

## Fighting until the end

GV men's basketball ends season with 67-59 loss to Findlay

BY BEAU TROUTMAN  
SPORTS@LANTHORN.COM

FINDLAY, Ohio—Outside of the locker room after the game, Grand Valley State senior guard Luke Ryskamp gave a big hug to senior forward Trevin Alexander.

The two players, who were named to the All-GLIAC Second Team this year, have played countless games together since they joined the program in 2012 and their names have been synonymous with GVSU hoops the last four seasons.

That entire era, from the day they walked on the practice court as spry freshmen to the last time they posed for pictures at Fieldhouse Arena, came to an end Tuesday night.

"I've been battling with Trevin since day one," Rys-

kamp said. "Trev is my day one. That's how we're going to go out, and that's probably how it will be for the rest of our lives."

GVSU men's basketball was a few missed shots and a game-changing rebound away from keeping its season alive, but the No. 7-seeded Lakers ultimately fell 67-59 to No. 2 seed and No. 18 team in the country Findlay (23-5, 16-4) in the first round of the GLIAC Tournament Tuesday, Feb. 28.

"It's disappointing," said GVSU coach Ric Wesley. "It's always tough to see it come

to an end, especially for our seniors, I hate to see it come to an end for those guys. It makes this loss even harder to take. I thought our team competed pretty hard, I thought we did a lot of good things.

"I thought we had a chance."

The Lakers finished the year at 16-13 (12-10 GLIAC). They were ranked as high as second overall in the

GLIAC at times this season, but finished the regular season in seventh place overall in what was a very strong year for the conference.

**"I thought our team competed pretty hard, I thought we did a lot of good things. I thought we had a chance."**

RIC WESLEY  
HEAD COACH

GVSU graduates Ryskamp, Alexander and senior forward Juwan Starks, who transferred to GVSU from Kishwaukee College and performed admirably in his final collegiate season.

Ryskamp finished the season as the team's leading scorer at 13.6 points per game. Alexander, who's all-around skill set made him one of the most versatile forwards in the conference, finished with 11.1 points per game, 8.4 rebounds per game and was third on the team in assists with 59. Starks was the third leading scorer at 8.8 points per game after coming on strong in the second half of the season.

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DII HOCKEY

## 'Nothing to be ashamed of'

GV falls in semifinals of ACHA National Championship



LEADING THE CHARGE: Tom Lusynski takes the puck down the ice during the game against Michigan State Friday, Jan. 27. The Grand Valley State Division II club hockey team fell 4-3 to Liberty in the ACHA Semifinals in Columbus, Ohio Saturday, March 18. GVL | EMILY FRYE

BY ROBBIE TRIANO  
RTRIANO@LANTHORN.COM

After a month-long hiatus awaiting the ACHA Division II National Championship tournament, the Grand Valley State men's club hockey team (DII) finally stepped onto the ice willing to prove itself as the nation's top team starting Wednesday, March 15, in Columbus, Ohio.

The Lakers ended their regular season (23-4-3) and carried that success into the tournament winning their first three pool-play games. Wins included an 8-5 victory over University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 3-0 win over Ohio University, and a back-and-forth 4-3 victory over Wil-

liam Paterson University.

But GVSU's title hopes came to a close after losing a 4-3 dogfight against Liberty University in the semifinals Saturday, March 18. Although the outcome didn't sway in their direction, head coach Mike Forbes told his team they had nothing to hang their heads about.

"There wasn't just one thing you could point or a finger at any one person on why we lost that game," Forbes said. "We ended the season with around 20 games without a loss before Liberty. To put together that type of string and be one game away from a national final, all I could tell the team after the game was there's nothing to be ashamed of and it was a plea-

sure to coach them."

GVSU found themselves dug in a 2-0 hole against Liberty until freshman Ryan Hein scored with 25 seconds remaining in the first period. Alex Ostrowski brought the score even after scoring with nine minutes into the second period.

From that point on, both teams exchanged back-and-forth goals including one by GVSU's Ryker Barber to make it 3-3 with 12 minutes left in regulation.

With one minute remaining, Liberty's top scorer Devon Docksteader controlled the puck after a faceoff in the Liberty zone. Docksteader then proceeded to skate toward the GVSU zone and tacked on the

game's deciding goal with 45 seconds remaining to give his team the 4-3 victory.

"Their leading scorer was the wrong guy who ended up with the puck and he made a very nice play and that's just the way it went," Forbes said. "We had a couple of good looks in the last 30 seconds, but Liberty had some blocked shots and made a couple of great saves. I thought we dominated for two periods of hockey, but sometimes it's just not meant to be."

Although a bitter ending to his team's season, the freshman standout Hein couldn't be disappointed with their performance.

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INDOOR TRACK

# Race for the podium

GV women finish national runner-up, men take eighth at NCAA Indoor Championships

BY JACOB ARVIDSON  
JARVIDSON@LANTHORN.COM

It took the final seconds, of the final heat, of the final event to determine Grand Valley State's chance at the NCAA Division II women's indoor national championship podium.

Rachael Walters carried the baton for the 4x400-meter relay—and the hopes of the entire GVSU team—across the finish line in the meet's last event to vault the Laker women from fifth place into second, earning them the national runners-up trophy.

"With three events to go, I was just hoping we'd muster up enough points to get on the podium," said GVSU coach Jerry Baltes. "Things came together there at the end and we were able to climb up to that runner-up finish."

The women finished with 39 points overall, overtaking Chadron State by just one point after their performance in the 4x400 relay. The Laker men finished in eighth place overall, scoring 23 points over the course of the three-day meet in Birmingham, Alabama.

"On the men's side, we had a lot of individuals score and get on the podium, but we just had a lot of sixth, seventh and eighth place finishes," Baltes said. "It's certainly a positive, but to get on the trophy you have to have a couple big hitters. Those points just don't add up as fast as runner-up or third place."

GVSU combined to produce 19 All-Americans and break four school records.

The first record came in none other than the 4x400 relay, where Chanté Roberts, Angela Ritter, Jessica O'Connell and Walters carried the entire Laker team to victory in 3:42.50, while breaking their own record of 3:43.09 from exactly one month earlier.

Roberts fell behind by less than a step out of the blocks, but handed the baton to Ritter with a lead. Ritter and O'Connell extended that lead and watched Walters bring home the win in the heat, earning them the second place in the event. Finishing in third in the 4x400 would have knocked the Lakers down to third place as a team.

Ritter helped the relay team to a record performance even

having already set two other records earlier in the meet.

"I still can't fathom that we're the second fastest 4x4 team in the nation and that we're the second best ladies' track squad

in the nation," Ritter said. "It was by far one of my proudest teammate moments."

She finished in fifth place in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.51 seconds, but her

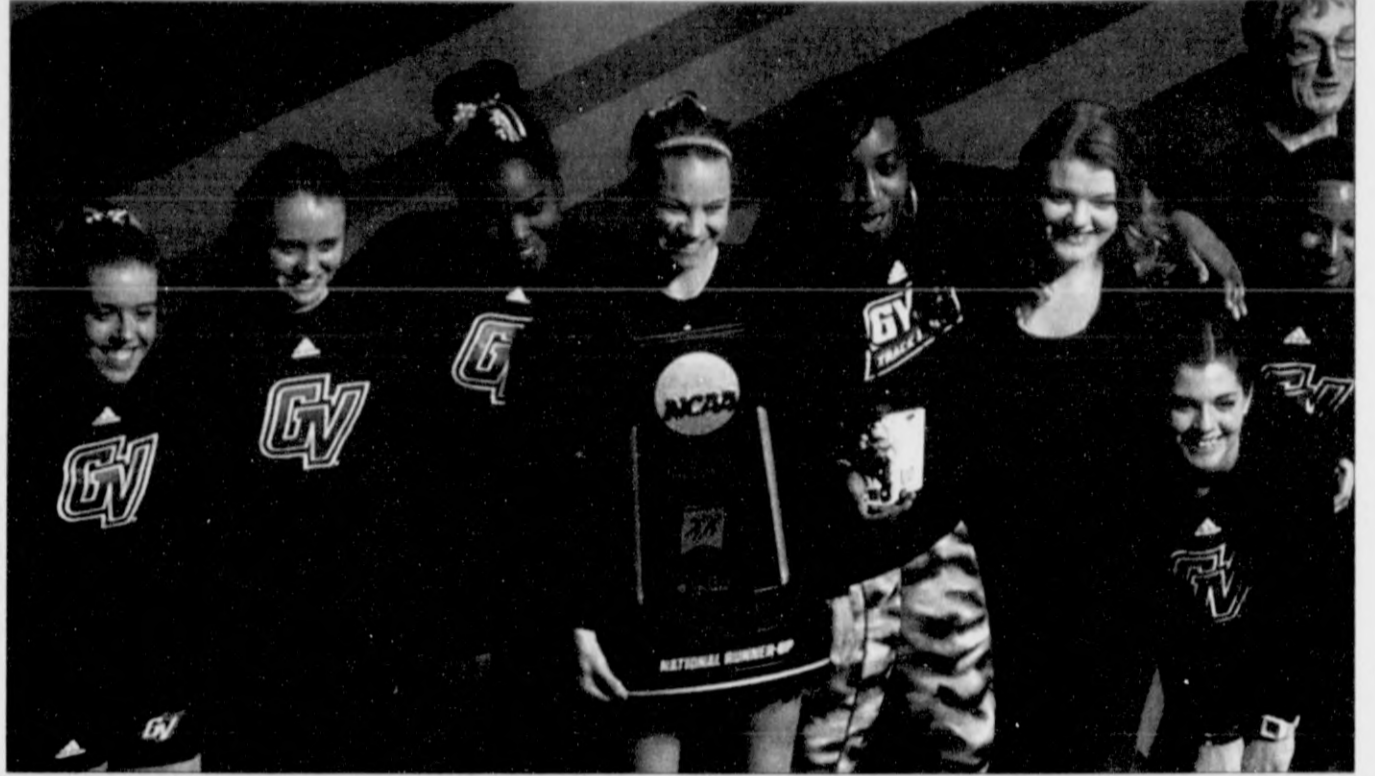
7.43-second performance in the prelims of the event broke Icis Charles' GVSU record time of 7.50 seconds set in 2002.

Ritter then went on to take eighth in the 400-meter dash

with a time of 55.01. The mark breaks her own record of 55.08 seconds set earlier this year.

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ALL SMILES: Left to right: Rachael Walters, Gina Patterson, Dajsha Avery, Kendra Foley, Kyra Hull, Kaylyn Hill, Angela Ritter, Alexis Duncan. The women's team finished as the national runner-up at the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships Thursday, March 9-Saturday, March 11. COURTESY | GLIAC

CLUB WOMEN'S HOCKEY

## 'Indescribable experience'

Allen, Myers help 2017 US Women's National Team to bronze medal in Kazakhstan



BRONZE: The U.S. Women's National Team celebrates after a win during the World University Games in Kazakhstan. GVSU forward Kendra Myers and goaltender Lauren Allen both competed. COURTESY | TEAM USA HOCKEY

BY JACOB ARVIDSON  
JARVIDSON@LANTHORN.COM

Most championship medals weigh about one pound, but to the two Grand Valley State women who won bronze medals Monday, Feb. 6, it felt a lot heavier than that.

"To be able to lean over and have a five pound medal put on your neck was an indescribable experience for me," said GVSU goaltender Lauren Allen, as tears welled up in her eyes.

Laker hockey stars Allen and forward Kendra Myers helped the 2017 U.S. Women's National University team win the bronze medal at the World University Games in Kazakhstan.

Myers netted the game-winner a minute and a half into the third period of the third-place game against China to secure the bronze medal for the red, white and blue.

"I remember the play exactly because I had just come off the bench, and I was coming across the center of the ice for a breakout and my defenseman hit me with a perfect pass up the center," she said. "Once I knew it went in the net, I just remember putting my hands in the air and remembered that this was it and we had a great chance at winning bronze."

Myers' score ignited a three-goal outburst, which saw the Americans take a thrilling 3-0 victory over China.

"It was head-to-head for pretty much the entire game," Allen said. "But as soon as Kendra hit that first goal, it was like a floodgate after that. Our team just started getting so pumped. The entire bench just lit up and we were all cheering each other on."

The team lost 7-1 to Russia in the opener, but responded by beating Japan 3-2 to advance to the semifinal against Canada.

After falling 8-1 to Canada, a faceoff against China determined the bronze medal.

Starring as a premier attacker, Myers scored three of the seven total goals for the U.S.

Allen started in net only once due to sickness. The combination of smog and altitude in Kazakhstan took a heavy toll on her.

"I was pretty sick for our first week there because the smog was so bad," she said. "Our entire team was kind of sick. The whole altitude change was hard for my body."

But the positives of the experience far outweighed the negatives, Allen said.

Allen, Myers and their teammates were treated like celebrities by the Kazakhstan locals. Pictures and autographs became commonplace for the Americans.

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SWIM AND DIVE

## Alone on the podium

GV swim and dive teams place first at GLIAC Championships

BY JAKE CARROLL  
JCARROLL@LANTHORN.COM

For those who didn't qualify for nationals, the GLIAC Championship meet was the last meet of the season for the Grand Valley State swim and dive team. For those who did qualify, however, it's time for them to focus and bring a national championship back to Allendale.

The meet lasted four days starting Wednesday, Feb. 8 and ended Saturday, Feb. 11 in Saginaw, Michigan. Over those four

days, the Lakers had their eyes dead set on winning the title.

All season, the women's squad has been striving to win the conference title. For the past two seasons they have been runner-up, and this was the year that was going to end.

For the first time since 2009, they did it.

"I have gotten to see how everyone's hard work has paid off," said team captain Emily Gallagher. "The seniors have been working three years for this and it's nice to have our dream come true."

For the men, they are returning back to back champions of the GLIAC title. They were looking to pull off the three-peat.

They did it.

"It's one thing winning, but winning from a captain's role is hard to describe," said swimmer Danny Abbott. "All we talk about is winning the conference title. It was special tonight."

It was history last year when they won the title back to back for the first time in program history. This year, they set history

again by winning the title for a third time in a row.

The first race of the four-day meet on Wednesday was indicative of how the women would finish Saturday. GVSU's returning national champion Leonie Van Noort took first in the 1000-yard freestyle with a time of 9:55.35, Melina Goebel finished second in that event with a time of 10:07.31 and Meghan Shaughnessy finished third with a time of 10:08.11.

It's very rare in a meet this size to take first, second, and third place in one

event. This being the first meet of the week, it gave the women huge momentum.

For the women, Van Noort was unstoppable. She logged seven first place finishes and one second place. This was good enough to win Van Noort GLIAC Swimmer of the Year for the second year in a row.

"Everyone played such a big role," Van Noort said. "Every single person pushes me. This is not something you do alone."

GVSU divers Brad Dalrymple, Jared Gregory, and Joe Gucwa dominated the

boards this week. They won first, second, and third in both the 3-meter and the 1-meter.

Dalrymple finished first on the 3-meter with a score of 544.55, Gregory finished second on the 3-meter with a score of 488.20 and Gucwa finished third with a score of 479.20.

On the 1-meter, Dalrymple took first with a score of 513.25, Gregory took second with a score of 458.20 and Gucwa took third with a score of 456.75.

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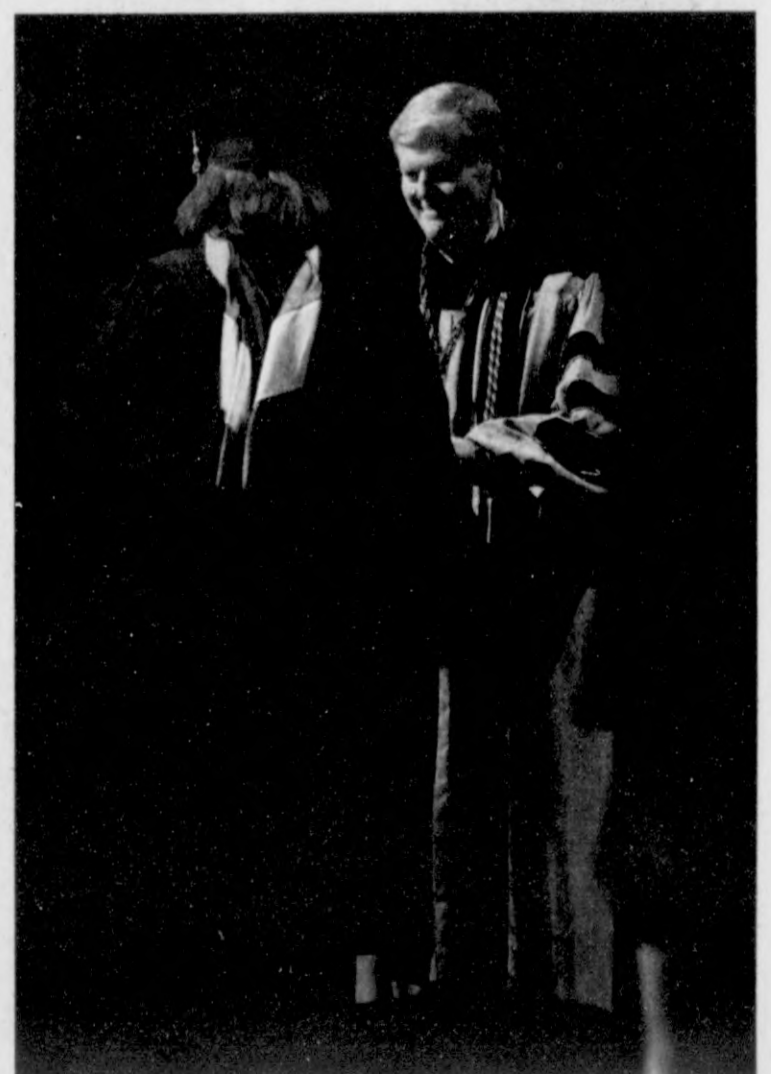
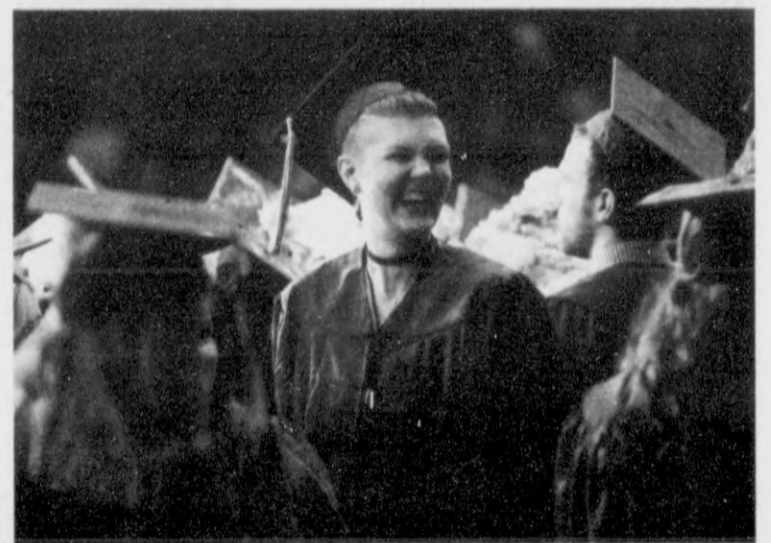
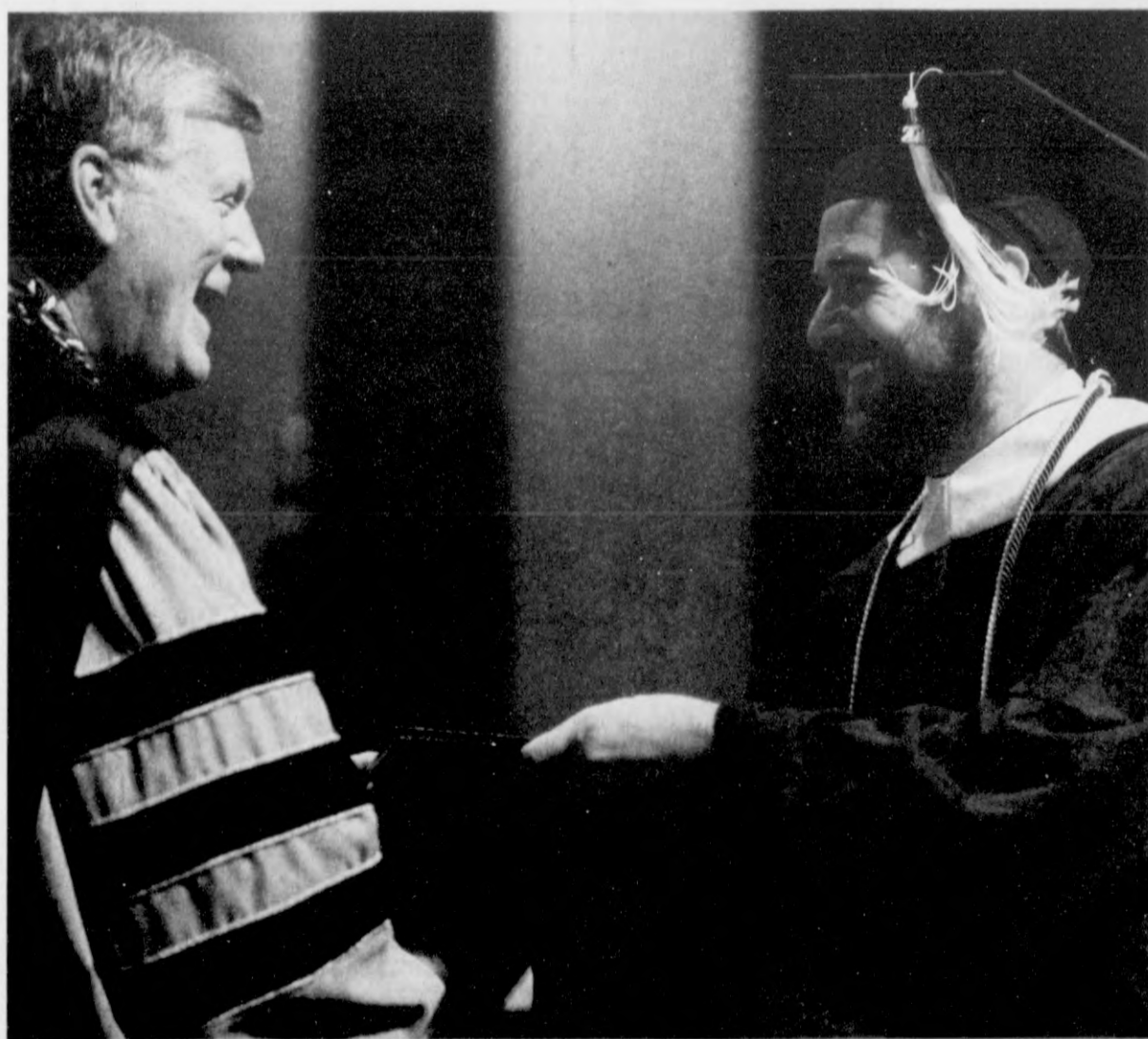
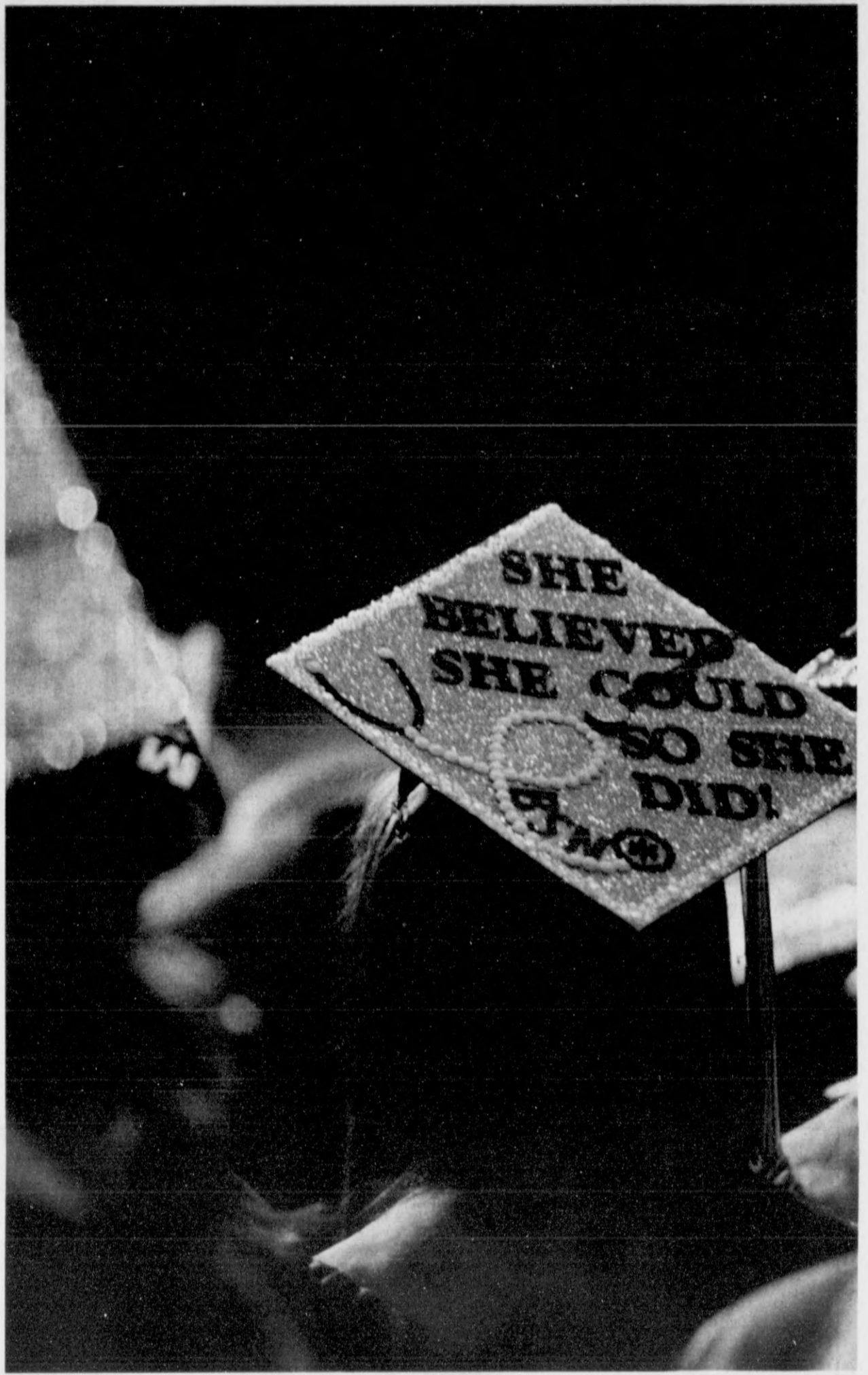
CHAMPS: The Grand Valley State men's swim and dive team poses for a photo at the 2017 GLIAC Championships Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 8-11 held at Saginaw Valley State. COURTESY | JOSEBA HIDALGO



WINNING: The Grand Valley State women's swim and dive team poses for a photo at the 2017 GLIAC Championships Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 8-11 at Saginaw Valley State. COURTESY | JOSEBA HIDALGO

# GRADUATION

FOR  
S







*Elise Verleye*

Elise,  
 As parents we are proud of your accomplishments, more importantly the beautiful kind hearted girl has grown to be a beautiful kind hearted woman.  
 Looking forward to what's next!



*Mitchell Wesley*

Congratulations Mitchell,  
 We are so proud of your dedication and perseverance. Always believe in yourself, you are so unique with no limit to what you can do. We love you.

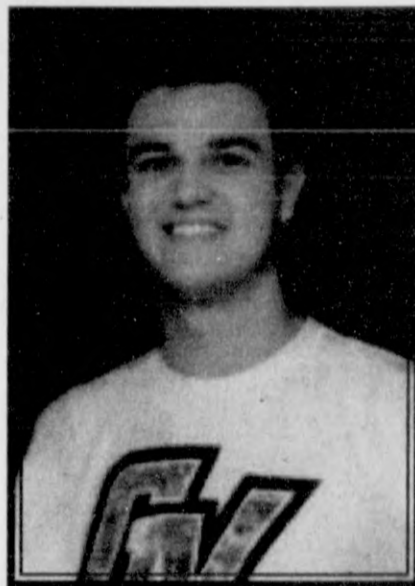
*We love you*



*Chad Formberg*

Chad, congratulations on completing two majors, marching with LMB, and a great GVSU experience. We can't wait to see what is in store.

*Blessings*  
 Mom, Dad and Christa



*Ryan Christopher Kirkpatrick*

Congratulations, Ryan. You reached for the stars and achieved your goals. We are so proud of you! Your new job and bright future await you.

*Love,*  
 Mom, Courtney, Rob, and Grandma and Grandpa Button



*Courtney DeSana*

Congratulations Courtney!!  
 You did it!!  
 We are so proud of all that you have accomplished and we look forward to what lies ahead. We have no doubt that you will find success in whatever you do. Remember to take time to enjoy the blessings that are coming your way.

*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad, Nicole, Kyle & Alex



*Shauna Elliott*

What a journey this has been, your family is so proud of you on this special day and everyday. So excited for the journey that awaits.

*Love,*  
 Mom and Dad



*Maggie Puder*

Congratulations Maggie

We couldn't be prouder of your hard work and dedication. You have bravely overcome every obstacle thrown your way to become an unqualified success.

*We love you,*  
 Mom and Dad



*Haley Gaede*

Dear Haley,  
 We are so proud of you and what you have accomplished so far in your life. We know that you have wanted to be a Vet since you were a little girl. We look forward to watching you blossom as you continue to pursue your dreams!

*Love you very much!*  
 Mom & Hubert



*Andrew Rolls*

Yay! Graduation!!  
 Congratulations, you finally made it! I am so proud of you and all that you have accomplished and will always be proud of you!



*Ashley Avery*

There is going to be an empty seat in the library at GVSU! Words cannot express how proud we are of your dedication, perseverance and hard work!

Congratulations Ashley!

*Love,*  
 Your Family



### Jaelyn Ermoyan

From that shy little girl to the caring and thoughtful woman you are now. Congratulations. Look out world !!

*Love,*

G/ma and G/pa, Mom and Cindy

We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better. - JK Rowling

*Love,*

Mom, Dad, Nicole, Kyle & Alex

### Kailey Dettmann



Congratulations, Kailey, precious daughter and sister, whom we adore!  
 We love you and are so happy for you!

Mom and Kinsey

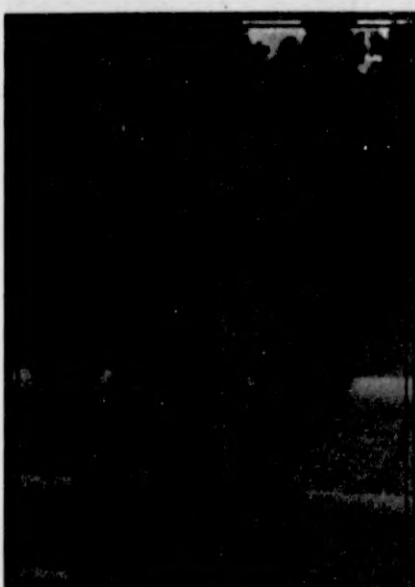


### Carolyn Andre

We are so proud and can't wait to see what you do next!  
 Always stay true to yourself!

*We love you lots!*

Mom, Dad and Charlie



### Carmen May

Carmen,  
 Don't stop, keep pursuing what you want to do.  
 Believe in yourself. Be proud of yourself and follow your dreams. Keep shining bright.

*Love,*

Mom, Dad, Alex, Kurt



### Ashley Newton

Nam aut ullestempus aperferunt et ex estio. Debitatatus eario. We can think of know words significant enough to describe the overwhelming pride and joy that you once again have filled our hearts with. By setting this goal 4 years ago and never filtering from the inevitable outcome of nailing it in spades. You should be equally as proud of yourself for this awesome character trait that will always take you wherever you desire to go. So to the future Greatest Anthropology. We say go.

*Love to you always,*

Papa, Mom, and Ariel



### Jonathan Vanpelt

Jonathan,  
 You have made a phenomenal achievement. We are very proud of you. Nothing can stop you now! I love you to the moon and back.

Laker Mom for Life!



### Kellee Hicks

"There are two great days in a person's life - the day we are born and the day we discover why."

Serving others, you find the why.

*Love,*

your family!



### Lynsey Raschke

Congratulations Lynsey!  
 We are so proud of you. We know how hard you worked and knew you could do it. We know you will do great things.

*Love,*

Mom and Dad



*Sarah Groenheide*

Congratulations Sarah! We are very proud of you and all your hard work over the last 4 years.

*We love you,*  
 Dad, Teresia, Joe, Clarabelle and Tazz too.



*Penni Kimble*

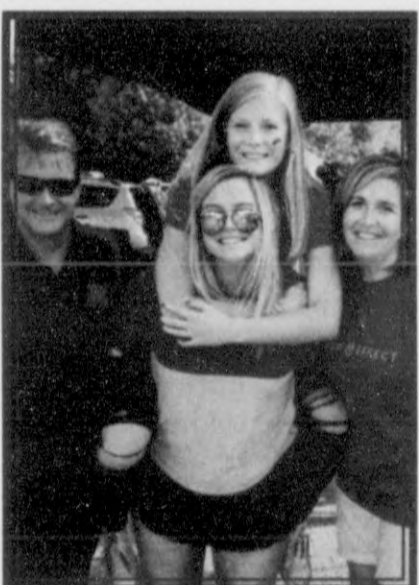
Congratulations. Something Beautiful, Something Good. Princess you have developed into someone truly Wonderful, Gracious, Classy and Kind. May the good Lord continue 2 Bless U! Is my prayer.

NANA



*Ashlyn Korienek*

Congratulations Ashlyn, this is a success you truly deserve! You have worked so hard towards this achievement and we are very proud of you!



*Emily Satterfield*

Emily, We are so proud!!! Congratulations on four great years at GVSU!

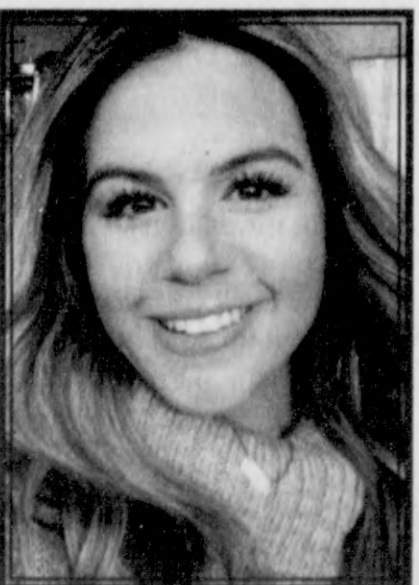
*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad and Kate



*Erika Bradfield*

Congratulations on your graduation! We are very proud of you and all your accomplishments. Much love and success in your future.

*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad, and Tyler



*Carley Sika*

YOU did it! With spirit and determination you achieved what is well deserved. We are so proud of you!

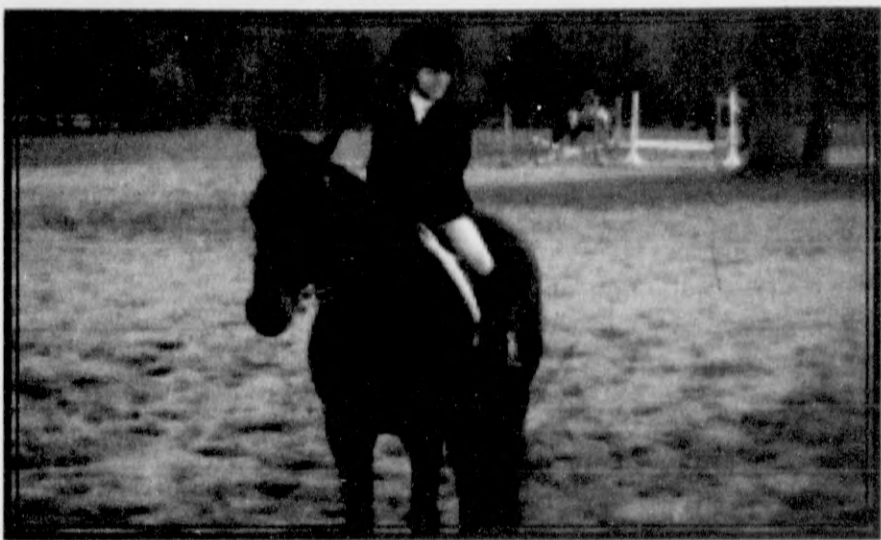
*Love,*  
 Dad, Mom and Griffin



*Emma Hartman*

Congratulations on this wonderful achievement!! Your intelligence, grace, and desire to make this world a better place will take you far. Being your Godparents is such an honor and a treat.

*Love,*  
 Auntie Colleen and Uncle Bill



*Brianna Kristan Gay*

Congratulations Breezy! We have dreamed of this moment since you were a little girl. We are PROUD you have accomplished all the goals set before you. As you continue on Life's journey, Keep God First....Stay True to Yourself... and All Your Life's Dreams will come True! In our hearts, you're FOREVER Our PRINCESS!

*Love,*  
 Ma' and Daddy



*Megan Elaine McQuiston*

To my baby girl who has fought hard for these degrees, we love and adore you. Because you are so smart, strong willed and full of life, many great things will be in your future.

*Love,*  
 Mom & Gus and your family



*Briana Elledge*

Congratulations Briana on your Achievement! You have accomplished so much and we are very Proud of You!

*Love,*

Mom, Jason, Granny, Grandma Gloria, Grandpa Johnnye, Dawn, Ricky Sr, Jason Sr, Ricky Jr, Rodrica, Tony, Jamal, Chris, Jeff, Bridgette, Traci, Simpsons, Tia, Nsombi.



*Ashley Goodsmith*

Ashley, All the late nights, tears, and proof-read papers were worth it. We are extremely proud of you!

Love the Fam....

"SHE BELIEVED SHE COULD SO SHE DID" -R.S. GREY



*Emilee Jung*

CONGRATULATIONS Emilee!!!...You're a GOAL DIGGER!!!! No words can express how proud we are of you! One degree down kiddo! Keep shining like the superstar you are!

*We love you,*

Mom, Dad, Robin, & Heidi



*Megan Clay*

We are so proud of you and never forget how strong, smart, and beautiful you are. Listen to your heart and take risks carefully.

*Love you,*  
 Mom & Dad

*Andrew Behm*



Wow! Where did the time go?! CONGRATS to the best "big" brother ever! We are beyond proud of you.

*Love,*

Anna, Peter, Mom and Dad

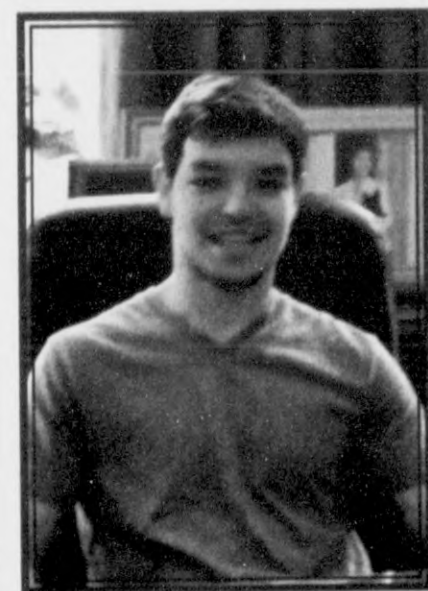


*Arin Thacker*

Arin - Way to go, snek queen! You've worked hard and I'm so proud of you! The best is yet to come, boo.

*Love,*

Mom, Dave, Grandma, Grandpa, Gwen, Paul & Lainey



*Andrew Wolgemuth*

You made it. We are extremely proud of you and your accomplishments at Grand Valley. Good luck in all of your future adventures..

*Love,*

Mom, Dad, Alena and Rolfe



*Anastasia Montroy-Dubyak*

Congratulations! Today is your day, You're off to Great Places, Your Mountain is waiting! You'll be the best of the best! We're so proud of you.

*Love always,*  
 Mama & Daddy



*Brianne Stephens*

How blessed we are to have a daughter as amazing as you and how blessed the kids in your classroom will be to have such a talented & caring teacher!



*Shannon Jenn Everly*

Our 2017 GVSU Laker Graduate!

We are very proud to be celebrating you, your graduation, your dedication and your hard work reaching this milestone in your life.

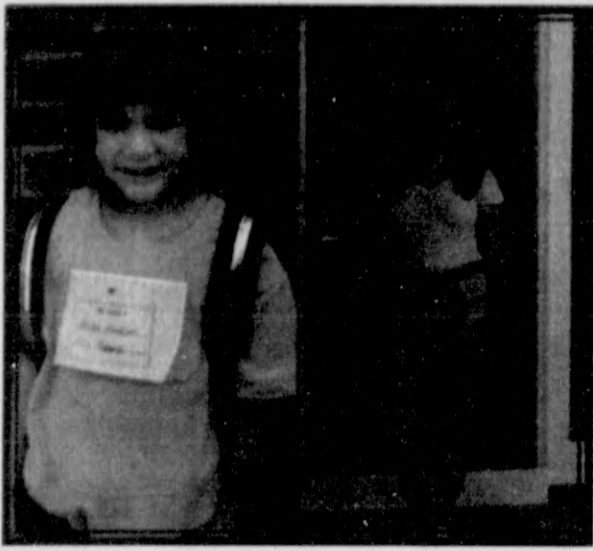
Your future is incredibly bright sweetheart and we look forward to you reaching your next heights in this journey. May your love of Disney always keep you young, and may you always remember to "Dance".

*With all our love,*  
 Mom, Dad, and Molly

*Erika Stetler*

We are so proud of you. Your dedication and hard work have paid off.

*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad, Nik and Moose

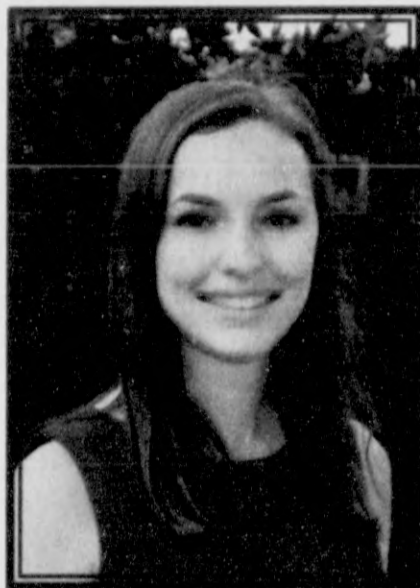


*Claire Fisher*

Brilliant, Beautiful, Extraordinary  
 You're a star! Congratulations

"We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better."

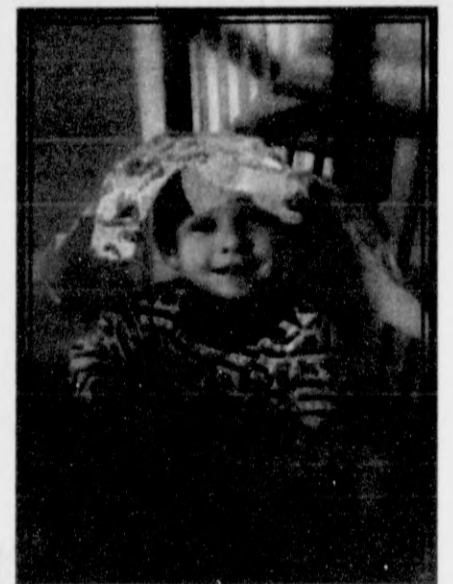
J.K. Rowling



*Hailey Katherine Ferguson*

Congratulations, Hailey on earning your BBA! We are so very proud of you!

*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad, and William



*Hannah Marie Wilgus*

Congratulations Hannah Marie! We are so proud of you! The journey is just beginning... :) We love you so much!!

*Love,*  
 Dad, Mom, Amanda, Jacob, and Nick

*Derek Staelgraeve*

You did it Derek!  
 It's hard to believe how quickly the last four years have gone by. Words cannot express how proud we are of you and how much we love you.  
 Your hard work and dedication have paid off and we know, with God's help, you'll be successful in life.

*Love,*  
 Mom and Dad



*Heather Ducharme*

Congratulations, Heather! All of your hard work has paid off. You are an amazing young lady, and we are so proud of you!

*Love,*  
 Mom and Dad



*Abby Torossian*

Abby, We are so proud of you and love you very much. Congratulations on your BSRN. You will be the best Nurse ever!

*Love,*  
 Dad, Mom, Patrick, Gabrielle, Scott, Isabelle



*Jessica Lennon*

We are SO very proud of all you have accomplished at GVSU and can't wait to see what your future holds at Wayne and beyond.

*We love you,*  
 Mom & Ashley  
 XO XO XO XO



*Shabria L. Hathorn*

My beautiful, brilliant granddaughter. You have overcome so many obstacles in your life. Your overwhelming strength and determination has made so many people proud. Especially your Mom watching you from Heaven.



*Emma Hartman*

From one strong woman to another - 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' Eleanor Roosevelt

*We love you Emma!*  
 Mom and Dad



*Mitchell  
 Christian  
 Oleski*

We are proud of you! This is a wonderful step in your bright future. Carpe Diem! God Bless.

*Love,*  
 Dad & Mom, Zac, Max and Nolan



*Marquerite  
 Perino*

Maggie, you have always made us so proud! You have grown up to be a beautiful, smart, caring young lady. Congratulations!

*We love you,*  
 Dad, Mom & Jimmy



*Josh Ware*

We are unbelievably proud of you. Continue to amaze us with you accomplishments and perseverance. Congratulations Jware.

We Love You ~Joshua 1:7-8~

Mom, Granny, Uncle Frazier, Jeremiah, Candice & Carrie



*Léon Sarfoh*

Léon, You have come such a long way and we are so proud of you. The sky is the limit!

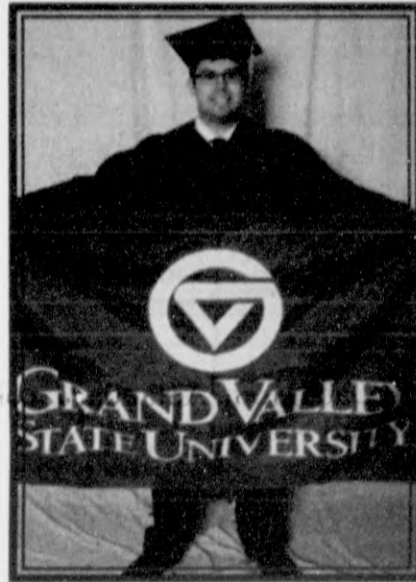
*We love you,*  
 Mom, Dad, André, Oma, Grandma & Michelle



*Jessica Ferdinand*

The journey of life brings both challenges and chances. May you carry your spirit to snatch the chances and beat the challenges. You can achieve whatever you want in life. All you have to do is believe that you can. We believe in you, Happy Graduation Day. Congratulations!

*Love,*  
 Mom, Ken, Douglas & Lyrik.



*Jeremy Myers*

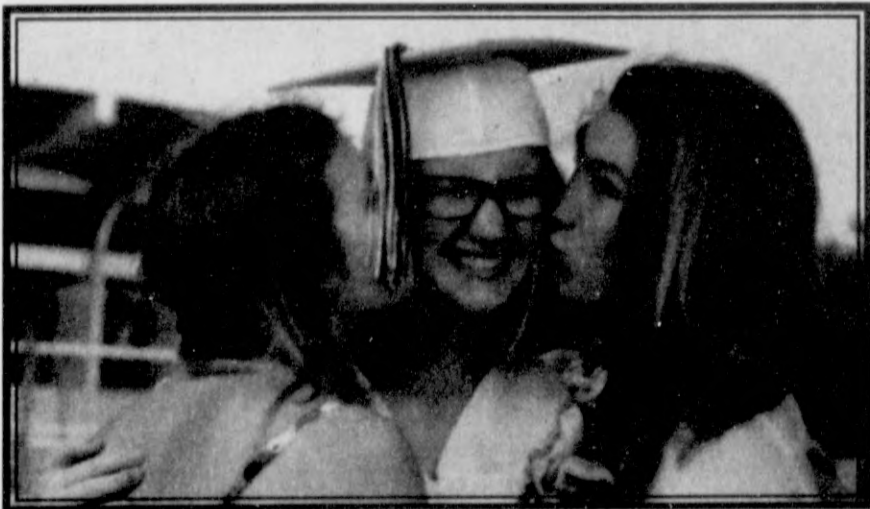
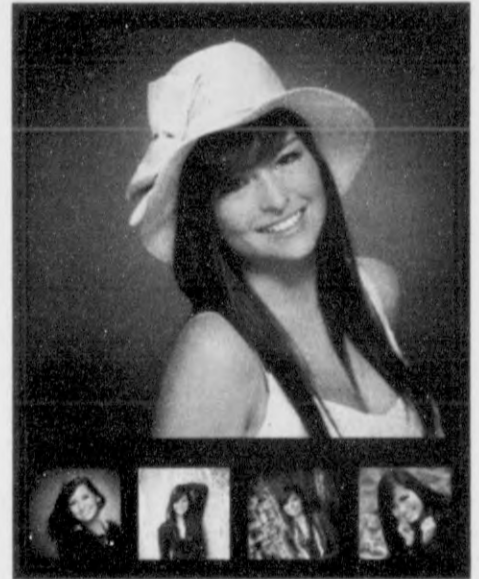
Jeremy, we are so very proud of you. You have worked so hard to achieve your dream. As your journey continues, always keep Jesus in the center of your life.

Congratulations!

*Demetria  
 Rake*

Congratulations, Demi! You did it! So very proud of you! You worked hard & stayed focused! Follow your dreams, sweetie & anything's possible!

*We love you,*  
 Mom, Johnny, & Maddi



*Jessica Hodge*

We are super proud of you and so happy of everything you have accomplished. We look forward to seeing you rock the capital! And everywhere else you may go.

*We love you,*  
 Mom, Dad, Master, Doodlydoo and Razzie  
 Xoxoxox



*Erin Gorelick*

We're so very proud of you and all that you have done and all that you have become. We are excited for the life you are off to create in China after graduation.

We can't wait to see what you make in this world!

*Love from,*  
 Dad, Mom, Maya, Grama, Grampa, Aunt Talitha, & Uncle Todd





*Megan Counterman*

Congratulations! We are so proud of you, your dedication, and determination even through the difficult times. Good luck at your new awesome job it has all paid off.

*Love you!*



*Nicole Goward*

Nicole, Congratulations on receiving your Bachelors of Science Degrees in Biomedical Sciences and Biopsychology. We are so proud of all your accomplishments. We love you.

*Love,*  
 Mom, Tessa and Johnny



*Penni Kimble*

Congratulations. On this magnificent accomplishment. Continue to have faith in the Lord God, and your blessed abilities. Magnificent wonders will continually open up unto your life.

*Love you completely,*  
 Poppie



*Rachel Cichecki*

Words can't describe the emotions your family are going through today, Always strive to stay true to who you are and you will be successful.

*We love you!*  
 The Cichecki's



*Rebecca Catherine Thompson*

Congratulations, Becky! Your hard work and dedication has paid off. You have a great future ahead of you. We are all very proud of you.

*Love always,*  
 Mom



*Katie Uhl*

Congratulations! We are so proud of you. God has blessed you with a compassionate heart and a brilliant mind. He has a wonderful future planned for you.

Mom and Dad

*Nick Weatherholt*



From the 1st day of kindergarten to the final day of college, you have made us very proud. Congratulations on a job well done.

May your life journey take you beyond your biggest dreams. We love you.



*Holly Miller*

Holly, Helen Keller wrote these words long ago and for Graduation we give them to you. "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

Holly, Congrats on your "success achieved" for we couldn't be more proud of you.

*We love you so much,*  
 Dad and Mom



*Marie Wallich*

Marie, we are so very proud of the fine young woman you have become! You are so hard-working and creative. We cannot wait to see what wonderful things the future holds for you. Follow your dreams!

*We love you*  
 Dad, Mom, Kayla and Mike





*Robbie Lee*

Congratulations to my Robbie!  
 I am so proud of you and your  
 accomplishments!!!  
 Your hard work, dedication and  
 commitment will give you many  
 opportunities in life.

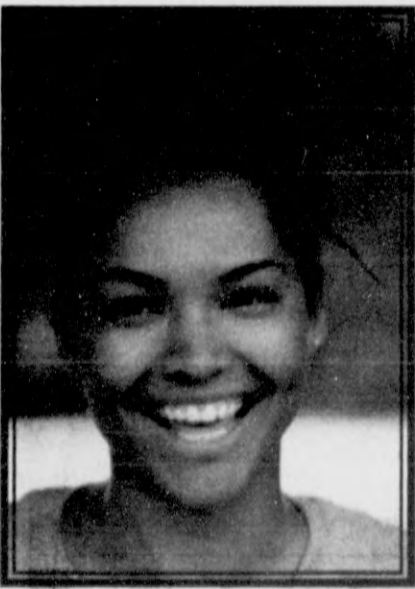
*I love you so much!!!*  
 Mom



*Tiffany Wood*

Tiffany,  
 Congratulations on graduating  
 with your doctorate of physical  
 therapy.

*Love,*  
 Mom & dad, Terre & Rick &  
 Charlie, Tamee & Chris & CJ,  
 DJ



*Tiara Stagg*

Congratulations Babygirl!!  
 We are so VERY proud of the  
 woman you've become! Your  
 future holds so many AMAZING  
 adventures and we couldn't be  
 happier for you!!  
 Love always,  
 Your family

*Love always,*  
 Your family



*Thomas Fisher*

Congratulations Thomas!  
 We're so proud of your  
 achievement. You did it and did  
 it well! Work hard but take time  
 to enjoy those things you love!

*Love,*  
 Mom and Dad



*Taylor Hubbard*

You are an inspiration. You  
 overcame every obstacle in  
 your way with strength and  
 determination. I am so proud of  
 you!

*We love you!*  
 Mom, Seth & Curtis



*Emma Aurelia  
 Hartman*

Darling Emma,  
 We have watched you grow into  
 the beautiful young lady you  
 are. It's been a delight being  
 part of your life. Follow your  
 dreams.

*Love,*  
 Grandma and Grandpa



*Rachel German*

Rachel,  
 We are all so proud of your hard work these past four  
 years. Not only have you kept up your grades, but you  
 also found time to work and volunteer in the Grand  
 Rapids community. We are excited to see what happens  
 in the next chapter of your life! We support you in all  
 that you do :)

*With great love,*  
 Mom, Bart, Nick, Dad, Carrie, Steele, and Aunt Rita.



*Samantha Jane  
 Tonks*

We are so proud of you! We  
 wish you all God's best as you  
 prepare for the next season of  
 your amazing life!

*Love,*  
 Mom & Dad, Jonathan &  
 Michael



*Sarah Lelli*

Congratulations Sarah!  
 We are so proud of you! Your  
 fabulous experiences at GVSU  
 and AB have set the course for  
 your future and all you will  
 accomplish!  
 Love You!



*Micah  
 Brown*

Hello Micah.  
 When its said, "I'm  
 proud of you" it  
 means satisfied. You  
 are the reason we  
 smile. Proud we are.  
 We love you today.  
 Onboard for success.  
 Amen.





**Taylor Bishop**

Congratulations Taylor Bishop!  
 We are so proud of you! You are a wonderful son. God bless you as you begin the next chapter of your life.

*Love,*  
 Mom and Dad



**Shayla Allen**

Congratulations Shayla!  
 We are proud of you, Thanking God all the way!  
 Always remember, Jeremiah 29:11 " For I know the thoughts that I think ..."

Dad, Mom, and Joshua



**Kellee Hicks**

Congratulations Kellee!!  
 We're all very proud of what you've accomplished in your life.

*Love,*  
 Your family



**Beau Troutman**

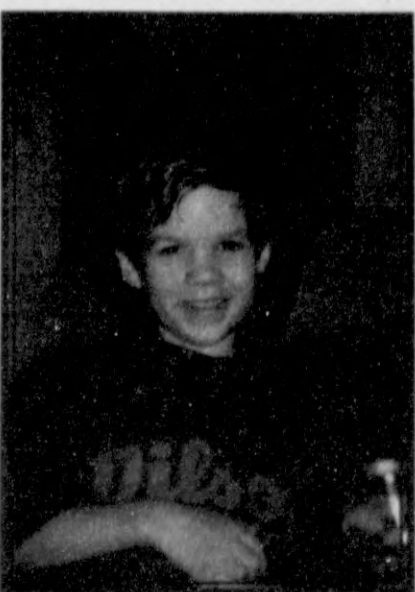
Breaking News: Beau Troutman, Journalism Major & Lanthorn Sports Editor, is Graduating! Beau won the 2017 MLive Griffin Award and is a recipient of the Corky Meinecke Scholarship. Congratulations Beau!



**Derek Carpenter**

Derek, A dream has become reality. You are determined, driven and committed! Blood, sweat & tears is what you gave! We are so very proud of you and all you have achieved! It's your time to shine!!  
 #FaceOfPublicHealth #OurSuperman

*Love,*  
 Michelle, Karley, Brookelyn & Seth,  
 Mom and Chris, Robert & Sandy,  
 Sandy & Scott



**Walker Russel Rohn Wilson**

You have been developing the wonderful talents God gave you -- ballet, worship, acquiring skills for physical therapy, and especially your thoughtful, empathetic, and kind heart!

*We love you Walker!*  
 Mom, Dad, Ben, Krista, Rosy,  
 Derek, Jess, Zoe, and Reuben.



**Taylor Fields**

Congratulations Taylor Denise Fields!  
 Your family is extremely proud of you and this accomplishment. You have blossomed in four years to become the beautiful, intelligent, hard working young lady you are today. So as you begin this next journey remember the sky is limit and greater things await you!  
 I love you along with your entire family!  
 Mom



**Ali R. Salman Saheb**

We are proud of you!  
 Best of Luck always.

Mom, Grandma, Brothers and Sisters, Aunts and Uncles, and the town of Grand Marais, Michigan



**Sezay Youssein**

Congratulations, Sezay! We are so proud of you. Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have paid off. Follow all of your dreams!

*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad, and Al



**Zakary Ty O'Brien**

Congratulations Happy!  
 You make us so proud!  
 Your next great adventure starts now. Success is yours -- grab it!

*Love,*  
 Dad, Mom, and Micheal



**Nicholas James Turinsky**

Congratulations Nick!  
 We are so proud of your hard work, determination, and commitment in achieving your goals. Your perseverance has paid off. All the best!

*Love,*  
 Mom, Dad, and Eric

## Hannah Lentz

Dear Hannah,

Wow oh wow. You have been here for the longest time and it is impossible to think of what the Lanthorn would be without your writing, leadership and wit. You brought us all together and made us more than a staff, we are a family now and you're the head of it. We had our bad nights, and we had our really good ones; but no matter what, you would always encourage us and push us to do better. Your leadership helped bring the paper to a new level and we reached a ton of people with some killer content. You cared about the paper and the people who worked here and you made sure to always show your appreciation, even in those late, past deadline nights. Whether it was you cracking everyone's backs in the office or cracking savage jokes about everyone, it was just a happier atmosphere with you in the office.

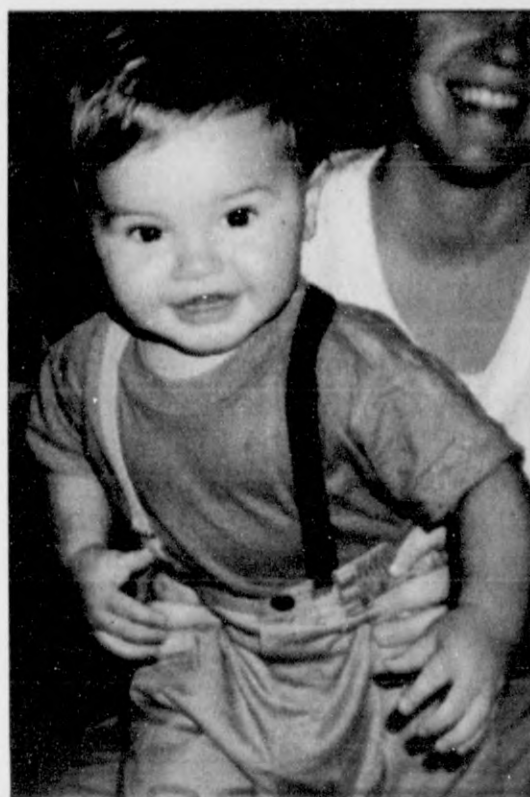
It didn't matter if we were in the office or out of it, you were the driving force during trivia at Pepp's and you were the biggest motivator during the dreaded production nights. Now, after four-plus years at the Lanthorn, you're on to bigger and better things. You will no doubt be successful in anything you pursue in your life. Whether it's being an amazing journalist, making mojitos or exploring your love for vegetables, you are going to make an impact on the world. We love you so much and we wish you the utmost luck in your future. Lots of love from your Lanthorn family.



## Nicholaas Zomer

Dear Nick,

What would we do without you? You and your mean HR lady tendencies help keep us in line and let's be honest, we editorial people need that. Your hard work and dedication to the Lanthorn is much appreciated and we are thankful for all that you do. We know that you are going to go far and be successful in all that you do. Have fun, be yourself and go boating until you can't boat anymore.



## Chase Hasper



Chase, you are the happiest person in all things that you do. We are lucky to have you on our team. Not only do you have a great enthusiasm for all that you do,

but you have the talent and ambition to back it up. We know you are going to do amazing things (probably involving white space) after graduation and we can't wait to follow along.



## Jess Hodge

Dear Jess,

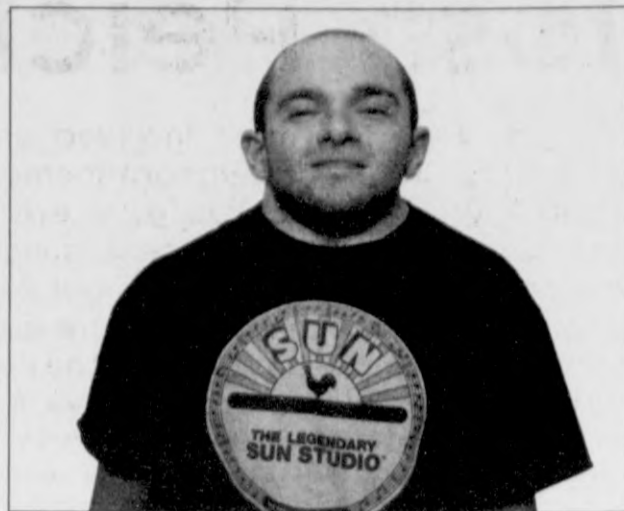
You started as a columnist but we can't imagine you at the paper not in a leadership role. Your natural leadership and passion for what you do reflects into your work at the Lanthorn and we are forever grateful for that. We also want to thank you for always being the life of the party. You make us more fun as a staff and know how to balance professionalism and fun. From long islands at Peppinos to times out on the town, you really have made things a lot of fun. We know you are going to be successful after graduation and we can't wait to see where you continue your writing career. Wherever you go, we know you're going to do so with alphabet aerobics playing in the background and a smile on your face.



# Beau Troutman



Beau. Oh, Beau. Where do we even start with you? You tested our patience and our willpower, but in the end we couldn't have been happier with you as our sports editor. You never failed to write amazing articles about football, basketball softball and practically every other sport at GVSU. The sports section always brought it close to deadline, but that's what journalism is about, right? We wish you luck in whatever you do after graduation, we know you will do amazing things!



# Kevin Sielaff

Dear Kevin,  
You've been at the Lanthorn since the beginning (or at least that's how it feels). Your creative photos and dedication to the Lanthorn is much appreciated. We expect you to take that hiking trip after graduation with a Cliff bar in hand. We can't wait to see where you end up.



# Ashlyn Korienek



Dear Ashlyn,  
You are the sunshine in the office and the smiling face that greets everyone. You are easily one of the most committed staff members that the Lanthorn has seen. You faced a lot of problems, and always had solutions. You grew as a writer and an editor and you have turned into a phenomenal leader and journalist. Good luck in your future endeavors--any news room would be lucky to have you working for them!



# Kate Branum

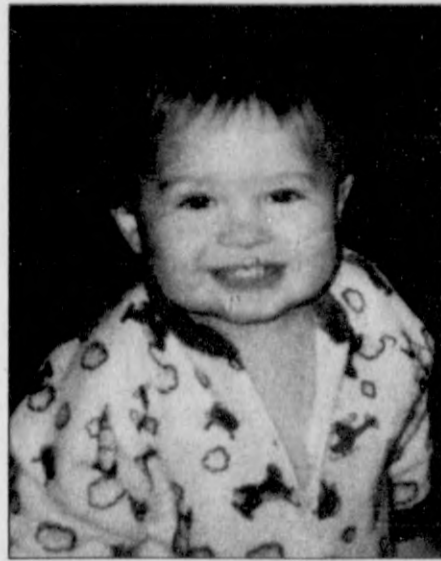


Dear Kate,  
We're happy to have you on the Lanthorn team as an editor. You are great with your staff and at finding interesting stories to tell the campus community. As a talented and passionate writer, we can't wait to see where you go. We wish you well!



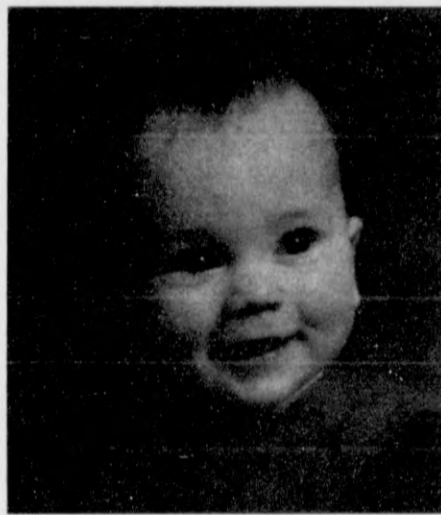
## Josh Peick

Josh, you were the most involved assistant sports editor in recent Lanthorn memory, and we thank you for that. You gave every beat your best. Our soccer coverage was incredible because of you. The quotes you got from the women's basketball team were pure gold. You were an innovator as the cohost of the Lanthorn Sports Podcast. It's hard to believe it's over, but it's been a hell of a ride. The sports section could not have thrived without your willingness to write multiple stories per week, your drive and your ability to fill water bottles. We're sure you'll do big things wherever life take you next!



## Jacob Arvidson

Jacob, we sometimes forgot whether or not you were a staff writer for us or an actual member of the track and field team. Kidding aside, your dedication to the track and field was a game-changer for the Lanthorn. Your passion for your job was evident in every recap and feature you wrote. It was a relief to have someone as reliable and driven as yourself on staff. You are a talented writer, and whoever replaces you on the track and field beat next year will have big shoes to fill. Good luck with your career and thanks again for your service!



## Sanda Vazgec

Dear Sanda,  
You're our favorite below the fold writer. Though you're the most extra person in the office, we're lucky to have you. We can't wait to see what you do after graduation. We wish you the best of luck studying abroad.



## Meghan McBrady

Dear Meghan,  
Having you on the news team has been nothing short of fantastic. We could always rely on you for last-minute story changes or those down-to-the-wire event coverage stories. You connect with your sources well and you made a huge impact on campus. We are so excited to see what you do in your future!

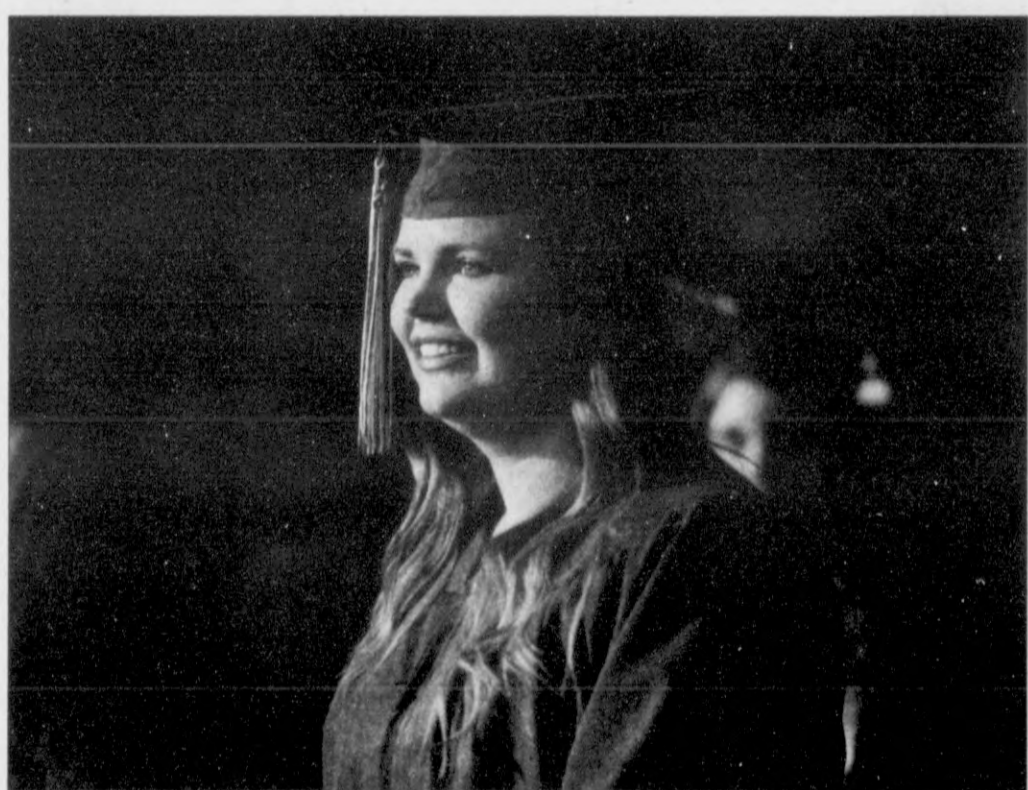
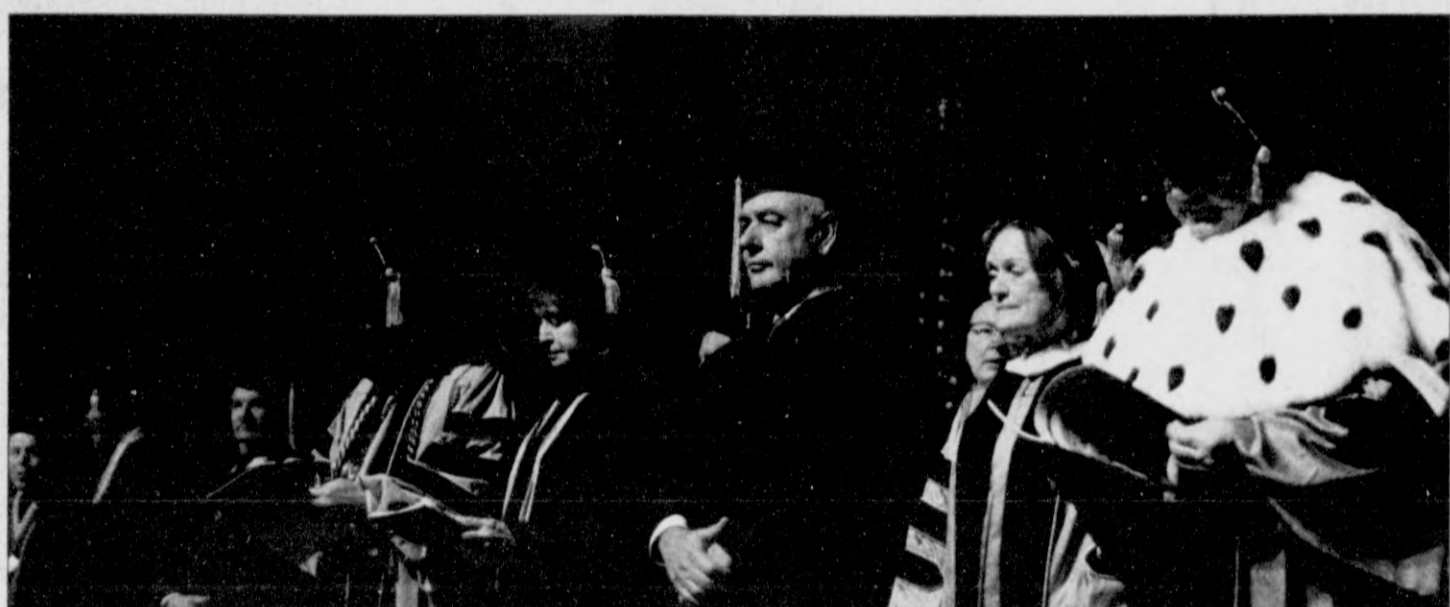
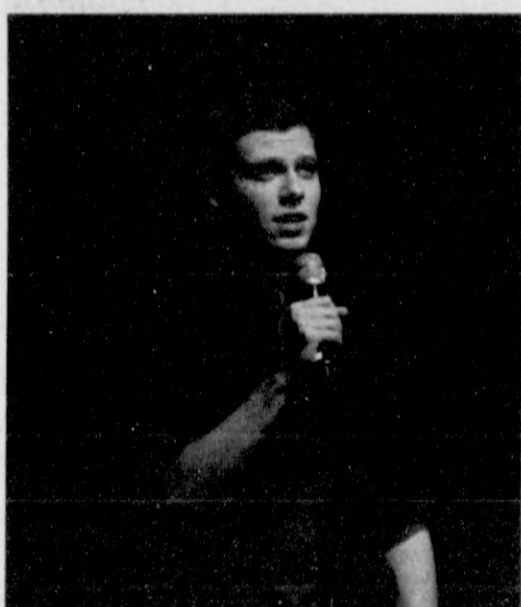
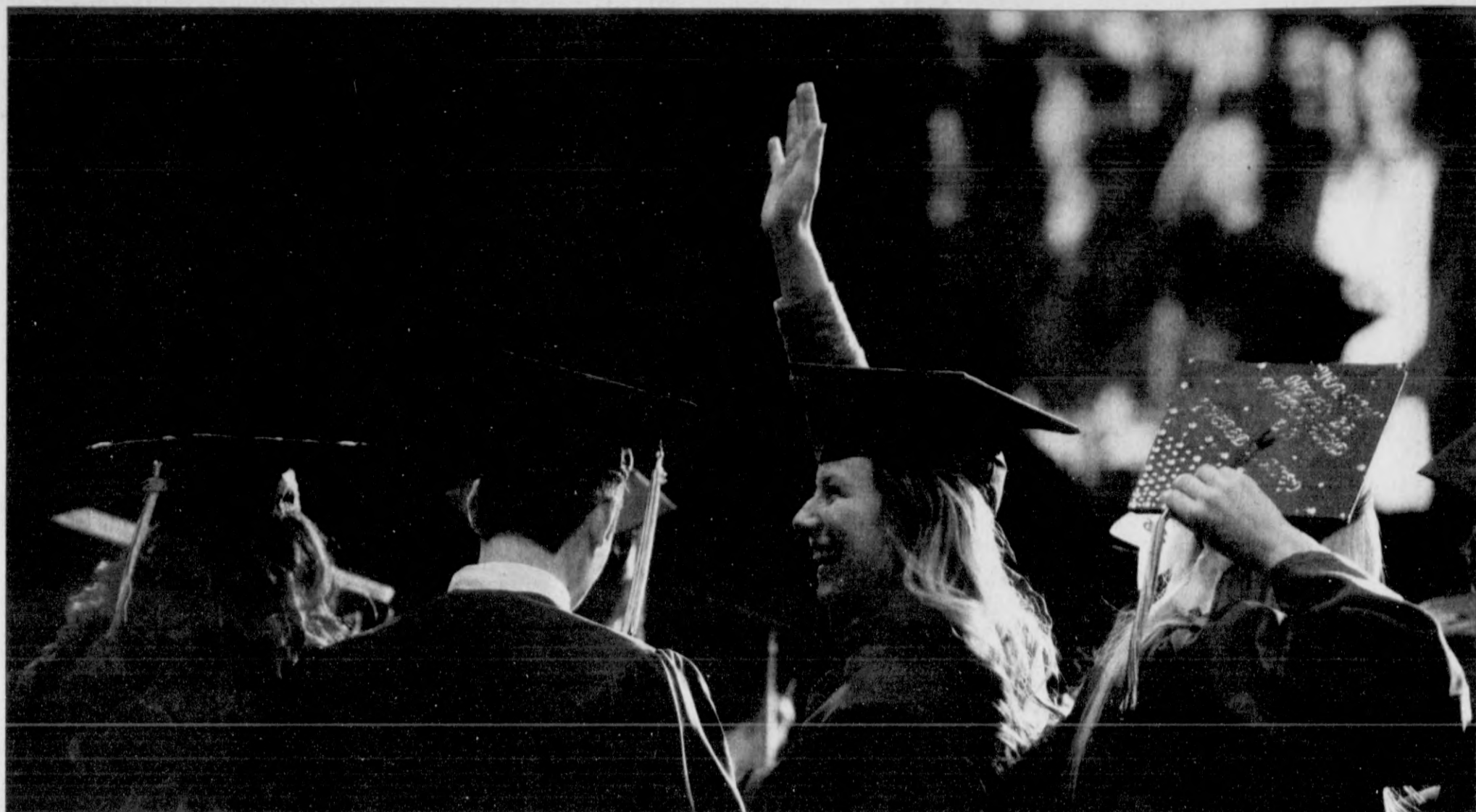


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