

2019

## GVSU Press Releases, 2019

Grand Valley State University

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Embargoed until **January 11, 8 a.m.**

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A PDF of the Health Check report and photos of Callison and Linde are available to download via <http://gvsu.edu/s/OUP>*

## **GVSU, Tulane researchers report more access to health care**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Researchers from Grand Valley State and Tulane universities report more people in West Michigan and Detroit have access to health care because of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion.

Kevin Callison, assistant professor of public health and tropical medicine at Tulane, and Sebastian Linde, assistant professor of economics at GVSU, reported results from the Health Check report, which analyzes health care access, risk factors and demographic data from Kent, Ottawa, Allegan and Muskegon counties and compares data to U.S. and Michigan results.

Their report highlighted the 10th annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast, held January 11 on GVSU's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Callison said the number of adults in West Michigan and Detroit lacking health insurance decreased in 2016, the latest reporting year, from 2011 figures. In West Michigan, 7.3 percent of adults lack health insurance, compared to 12.3 percent in 2011; in Detroit, 8.6 percent of adults lack health insurance, compared to nearly 17 percent in 2011.

"As a result of increased insurance coverage, access to a routine source of care has increased," Callison said.

Callison and Linde also found medical expenditures for chronic conditions decreased in West Michigan. The average expenditures for someone diagnosed with coronary artery disease fell by 13 percent from 2016 to 2017. They noted, however, data received from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health does not allow for determining causes of the decline.

Health risk factors for Michigan residents were analyzed. Selected factors are listed below.

- More than 35 percent of adults in West Michigan and Detroit are overweight, and about 30 percent are considered obese in both locations.
- Slightly more than 7 percent of adults in West Michigan are heavy drinkers, compared to less than 6 percent of Detroit adults.
- Reports of binge drinking (more than five drinks for men at one occasion) dropped slightly from 2015 results to 19 percent for West Michigan adults, while the number for Detroit adults rose slightly to 19 percent.

The entire report will be posted online on January 11 at [gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://gvsu.edu/vphealth). Data was provided by Spectrum Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health.

For Immediate Release

January 4, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

## **Hundreds to gather for FIRST Robotics kick-off event at GVSU**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — About 350 high school students and parents will gather at Grand Valley State University January 5 to participate in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition kick-off event.

Approximately 74 FIRST Robotics teams from high schools throughout West Michigan will learn about this year's game field and challenge at the event.

Teams will have six weeks to design and build robots to compete in the West Michigan district competition, which will take place at Grand Valley from March 22-23. A teaser for this year's challenge can be found here <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season>

### **FIRST Robotics Competition Kick Off**

**January 5**

**Eberhard Center – Second floor**

**Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Doors open at 8 a.m., event begins at 9 a.m.**

At about 10:30 a.m. the game field and challenge will be revealed and then students will go to the Keller Engineering Laboratories building to see game elements and pick up their kits.

Teams will work together to build, program and test robots with the guidance of adult mentors. The 2019 FIRST Championship will take place in Houston and Detroit in April.

A special guest speaker, Prescila Ontiveras, will also take part in the kickoff event. Ontiveras, is an engineer, entrepreneur, and was part of NASA's United Space School in 2017. She is the co-founder of the FIRST Lego League Bolivia, and a TEDx speaker.

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Learn more at [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

For more information about the kick-off event, contact Ken Platteschorre, who coordinates the FIRST Robotics West Michigan Competition, at [ken.platteschorre@gmail.com](mailto:ken.platteschorre@gmail.com) or (616) 890-7094.

For Immediate Release

January 4, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

*MEDIA NOTE: The event is currently full and sold out, but media coverage is welcomed, and a link to a live stream of the event is available here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OUF>*

### **Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham to discuss contentious, divisive American politics**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The acrimonious nature of American civic life over the past several years might seem unique, but in reality, the country's staunch divisions can be traced to the founding of the republic.

Jon Meacham, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian, will discuss how the American story is filled with dramatic conflicts that have given rise to hope and fear, calling each generation of citizens to choose the best way forward.

In partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will bring Meacham to West Michigan for a presentation on his latest book, *The Soul of America: The Better Angels of our Nature*.

**Jon Meacham: The Soul of America**  
**Thursday, January 10 at noon**  
**L.V. Eberhard Center, Room 215**  
**310 Fulton St. W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

The event is at full capacity, but a live stream will be available at this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OUF>

Meacham is a noted presidential biographer and an expert on President George H.W. Bush, who died in 2018. Meacham's biography of Bush, *Destiny and Power*, was a *New York Times* Bestseller and was named one of the Ten Best Books of the Year by *The Washington Post*. He is a contributing writer to *The New York Times Book Review*, *Time Magazine*, and former editor-in-chief of *Newsweek*.

Meacham will explore some of the most contentious moments in America's past — and how we might go forward.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/hc](http://gvsu.edu/hc).

For immediate release

January 4, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available [via Dropbox](#).*

## **GVSU February 2019 arts events tip sheet**

### **Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance**

For more information about Music, Theatre, and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484, or visit [gvsu.edu/mtd](http://gvsu.edu/mtd). All performances are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

### **Arts at Noon**

Arts at Noon brings nationally and internationally known musicians to Grand Valley State University for 14 performances each academic year. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center located on the Allendale Campus. They will begin at noon and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit [gvsu.edu/artsatnoon](http://gvsu.edu/artsatnoon) or contact Henry Duitman, series coordinator, at [duitmanh@gvsu.edu](mailto:duitmanh@gvsu.edu).

### **February 20 – Folias Duo**

Husband and wife duo Andrew Bergeron (guitar) and Carmen Maret (flute) are performers, composers, educators and entrepreneurs based in Grand Rapids who are known for their exciting performances as the Folias Duo. Together, they have a unique approach to developing new compositions for flute and guitar, expertise in arrangements of Argentine tango and a passion for South American folk, jazz and world music. Folias Duo has performed on stages throughout the U.S. and around the world in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Argentina, and more. They recently performed during the Scarab Club Chamber Music Series in Detroit and the Grand Rapids Art Museum's Classical Series.

### **February 27 – GVSU Brass Quintet**

The GVSU Brass Quintet is composed of Grand Valley music faculty members, including Alex Wilson (trumpet), Richard Britsch (horn), Mark Williams (trombone), Paul Carlson (tuba) and visiting performer Paul Hardaker (trumpet). Each year, the quintet also performs multiple outreach concerts and facilitates master classes and coaching sessions at high schools throughout Michigan.

### **Grand Valley Opera Theatre presents "Wonderful Town"**

**February 8, 9, 15, 16, at 7:30 p.m.**

**February 10, 17, at 2 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$13 for GVSU faculty and staff and all seniors; \$7 for all students; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.**

Two sisters. One incredible city. Unlimited possibilities. Ruth and Eileen Sherwood leave behind their ordinary Ohio lives in pursuit of making it big in New York City. Bursting with swinging show tunes and plenty of charm, Grand Valley State University students will showcase how "Wonderful Town" captures the thrill of chasing dreams.

**Theatre at Grand Valley presents "God of Carnage"**

**February 21-23, at 7:30 p.m.**

**February 24, at 2 p.m.**

**Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

**Tickets: \$7 general admission**

**\*Note: this production may contain adult language**

"God of Carnage" is about two sets of parents who agree to meet to discuss how best to handle a previous altercation between their two kids in a public park. As the evening goes on, the parents become increasingly childish, resulting in the conversation devolving into chaos. This production is a part of Grand Valley State University's Performance Studio Series. The series gives upper-level theater students the opportunity to use the practical skills they have learned in the classroom. During P.S. Series productions, students have creative control over directing, acting, backstage production, set design and costume design.

**GVSU Guest Recital: Clara Christian**

**February 7, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

Clara Christian is currently an assistant professor of music and coordinator of the piano program at College of the Ozarks. In addition to teaching applied piano, she teaches music history, piano pedagogy, piano literature, chamber music and class piano. Christian has performed solo recitals throughout North America as well as in St. Petersburg, Russia, and has served as a rehearsal accompanist for the Chicago Master Singers. Performing frequently as a collaborative artist, she is the pianist for "Fuse Trio," with saxophonist Matthew Sintchak and clarinetist David Gould; "Fuse" has performed both nationally and internationally since the group formed in 2014.

**GVSU Concert Band Concert**

**February 18, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Concert Band is composed of talented music and non-music majors. This ensemble is dedicated to broadening the artistic level and interest of its members while performing music of artistic and historical significance. The GVSU Concert Band is under the direction of John Martin, associate professor of music and director of athletic bands.

**GVSU Choral Concert**

**February 20 and 21, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

**GVSU Symphonic Band Concert**

**February 22, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Symphonic Band will perform under the direction of Kevin Tutt during this free concert. The ensemble is widely recognized as one of the elite undergraduate wind ensembles, committed to the performance of the finest band literature. In 2016, the ensemble released its first CD, titled "Under Western Skies," which is available on iTunes and Amazon.

## **GVSU Jazz Concert**

**February 25, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

## **GVSU ART GALLERY**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

### **"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"**

**Exhibition dates: ongoing**

**George and Barbara Gordon Gallery**

**DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends**

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection in the world of Alten's work.

### **"Water: Human Right or Commodity?"**

**Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B**

**Exhibition on display January 7-June 21**

This exhibition explores human rights in a world of increasingly limited natural resources; specifically, access to clean water. A result of the research and collaborations arranged by two Grand Valley State University social work faculty members, Paola León and Steven Smith, this exhibition includes images and descriptions of the challenges faced in El Salvador and Flint, Michigan. Organized into themes dealing with civic engagement, infrastructure, ownership/legislation, public health and scarcity/contamination, these materials provide local, national and international context to water rights. The El Salvador portion of the exhibition, focusing on the lack of running water in homes, social activism and contamination by the mining industry, was organized by León. Smith organized the Flint portion of the exhibition, documenting the ongoing issues and continuing recovery of the City of Flint's tainted water supply.

## **VMA Sabbatical Showcase**

**Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts**

**Exhibition on display January 14-March 29**

This sabbatical showcase will feature works by Grand Valley faculty members Brett Colley, Dellas Henke, Hoon Lee and Anthony Thompson.

### **"Plastination — The Art of Preservation"**

**Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus**

**Exhibition on display January 14-June 21**

Plastination is the process of infusing animal, human or plant tissues with a variety of plastic or silicone products to render the tissues odor-free, dry and permanently preserved for educational and instructional purposes. The process was invented by Gunther von Hagens in 1977 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and became popular through his many "Body Worlds" exhibitions around the world. Beginning in 2007, members of Grand Valley State University began studying plastination and

investigating the opportunity to create a lab at the university. That became a reality in 2013, and since then, more than 300 specimens have been plastinated for use in a variety of teaching roles. This exhibition tells the story of plastination at Grand Valley and walks viewers through the process and uses of plastinates. It brings together more than 20 animal specimens from the lab – currently the only plastination lab in Michigan.

For immediate release

December 20, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Beckering Family Carillon are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **Christmas Eve concert to be performed on GVSU carillon tower**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Beckering Family Carillon will fill the air above Grand Rapids with the sounds of the season during a special holiday concert.

The concert will take place on Christmas Eve, December 24, from 9:30-10:15 p.m. on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and will be performed by Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur. The concert will be free and all Grand Valley parking lots will be open to the public.

The Beckering Family Carillon Tower was dedicated in fall 2000 with the support of the Beckering family of Pioneer Construction. The 151-foot bell tower completes the look of a European village square on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus and contains 48 bronze bells cast at the Paccard Bell Foundry in France. The largest bell, called the "bourdon," weighs 4,500 pounds; the smallest weighs 25 pounds.

For more information, contact the Music, Theatre, and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484. Please note that Grand Valley State University will be closed from December 24-January 1.

For Immediate Release

December 18, 2018

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221  
Zara Smith, SBDC strategic programs manager, (616) 331-7106, [smithlat@gvsu.edu](mailto:smithlat@gvsu.edu)

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Collins can be found on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0Ud>

### **Area business leader named state director of SBDC**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Local business leader J.D. Collins has been named state director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), located in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Collins began his new role December 17 leading the SBDC, a 90-person organization that serves more than 5,500 companies, offering face-to-face consulting, business training and market research reports.

Collins has served in C-suite positions for a number of Michigan-based businesses in strategic leadership roles.

"As a Michigander, it brings me a great sense of pride knowing that the SBDC's work drives statewide economic impact and furthers our reputation as a preeminent place to start and grow a business," said Collins. "I'm eager to serve the small business community and continue our innovative approach to assisting business owners and entrepreneurs."

Collins previously served as chief innovation officer at a leading heavy equipment technology startup in Grand Rapids, where he was a member of the executive team that negotiated a strategic alliance with Caterpillar. He also held global strategic leadership positions during his 10-year career at Amway Corporation.

Diana Lawson, dean of the Seidman College of Business, said: "The MI-SBDC network has significant impact on the growth and sustainability of small businesses throughout Michigan. J.D.'s leadership and vision will enhance our focus on innovation and doing what is best for small businesses."

Collins earned a bachelor's degree in economics and management from Albion College and an MBA from Notre Dame.

Ed Garner, regional director of the West Michigan SBDC, had been serving as interim state director.

### **About the Michigan SBDC**

The Michigan Small Business Development Center provides consulting, business education, information based planning and technology commercialization services to Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, growing businesses and innovators. The Michigan SBDC State Lead Center is hosted by the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest Michigan SBDC by calling (616) 331-7480 or visiting [www.SBDCMichigan.org](http://www.SBDCMichigan.org).

**About the Seidman College of Business**

Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business, located along the river in downtown Grand Rapids, offers 10 undergraduate degrees, as well as several masters degrees (MBA, EMBA, MSA). Seidman serves more than 4,000 students. It is accredited by AACSB-International and recently has been named as one of the top business schools in the nation for 2019 by Princeton Review. To learn more about the Seidman College of Business, visit [www.gvsu.edu/seidman](http://www.gvsu.edu/seidman).

For immediate release

January 8, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of musicians are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **Grand Rapids quartet to kick off GVSU Arts at Noon winter concert schedule**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 2018-19 Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University continues this winter with multiple free performances by renowned musicians from around the world.

The winter schedule includes seven performances beginning Wednesday, January 16, with Grand Rapids' own Perugino Quartet.

All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, except for the January 30 performance of "Sizwe Banzi is Dead," which will take place in the Linn Keller Maxwell Black Box Theatre in the Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus.

All performances are free and open to the public, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/artsatnoon](http://gvsu.edu/artsatnoon).

Below is a full schedule of fall Arts at Noon concerts:

#### **January 16 – Perugino Quartet**

Named after Renaissance artist Pietro Perugino of Grand Rapids' sister city Perugia, Italy, The Perugino String Quartet is comprised of Grand Rapids Symphony members including, violinists Eric Tanner and Christopher Martin, violinist Barbara Corbato and cellist Stacey Bosman Tanner. Together, the quartet performs classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as a variety of new chamber works. The Perugino String Quartet centers its appearances around Michigan, having performed at many arts-based series and events, such as the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, Art Reach of Mid Michigan and Muskegon's Feeding the Soul of the City concert series.

#### **January 23 – GVSU Faculty Recital**

This recital will feature performances by two Grand Valley music faculty members: Pablo Mahave-Veglia, professor of cello and director of the Early Music Ensemble, and Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano. Mahave-Veglia is a cellist and teacher whose repertoire ranges from early baroque performed on period instruments to his ongoing interest in researching, performing and recording the work of contemporary Latin-American composers.

Before taking her position as an assistant professor of piano at Grand Valley, Cho served on the piano faculty at New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Continuing Education in Boston. She was also adjunct faculty in theory at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and served as a Teaching Fellow in the piano minor and music theory departments at The Juilliard School. She received a bachelor's degree in music and doctorate of musical arts from The Juilliard School, and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

**January 30 – “Sizwe Banzi is Dead”**

To help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, a theater troupe from Nassau in the Bahamas will visit the university to perform “Sizwe Banzi is Dead” — one of the most critically acclaimed productions presented in the Bahamas. The production confronts the struggles faced by people of color during the apartheid era of South Africa. Questions about identity and human worth are explored through the lens of a man getting his picture taken in a photography studio. First performed at the 2014 Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival, this production will reunite the director and his original cast members for multiple performances at Grand Valley. This Arts at Noon performance will include a sample of the production. Performances of the full show will take place January 31 and February 1 at 7:30 p.m. and February 2 at 2 p.m.

**February 20 – Folias Duo**

Husband and wife duo Andrew Bergeron (guitar) and Carmen Maret (flute) are performers, composers, educators and entrepreneurs based in Grand Rapids who are known for their exciting performances as the Folias Duo. Together, they have a unique approach to developing new compositions for flute and guitar, expertise in arrangements of Argentine tango and a passion for South American folk, jazz and world music.

**February 27 – GVSU Brass Quintet**

The GVSU Brass Quintet is comprised of Grand Valley music faculty members, including Alex Wilson (trumpet), Richard Britsch (horn), Mark Williams (trombone), Paul Carlson (tuba) and visiting performer Paul Hardaker (trumpet). Each year, the quintet also performs multiple outreach concerts and facilitates master classes and coaching sessions at high schools throughout Michigan.

**March 27 – Cello Fest!**

Cello Fest! is an annual event hosted at Grand Valley by Pablo Mahave-Veglia. The event brings together professional cellists of regional, national and international acclaim in a collaborative setting that includes lectures, classes and concerts. The 2019 Cello Fest! will involve an Arts at Noon concert featuring all guest artists, which includes West Michigan Symphony principal cellist Alicia Gregorian Sawyers, Forest Hills Public Schools district string specialist Anne Thompson, Grand Rapids Symphony member Andrew Plaisier, and University of Nevada – Las Vegas professor Andrew Smith.

**April 10 – Sightlines Percussion Duo**

Greg Secor, part-time faculty at Grand Valley, will team up with alumnus Joshua Dreyer to perform an array of unique works for percussion instruments. Secor currently teaches courses in music literature and directs the percussion ensembles and steel band at Grand Valley and Hope College. He is also a member of the percussion section of the Kalamazoo Symphony, performs regularly with the Grand Rapids Symphony, and is an active steeldrum performer with the Grand Rapids-based Pangea Steeldrum Band.

Dreyer actively performs around West Michigan with ensembles including the Grand Rapids Symphony, Opera Grand Rapids, Battle Creek Symphony, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Ensemble Montage, and many other jazz and chamber groups. While at Grand Valley, Dreyer was a member of the award-winning New Music Ensemble.

For immediate release

January 14, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: photos of speakers are available to download via this link:*<http://qvsu.edu/s/OVf>

### **GVSU announces MLK commemoration week events**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two speakers, an expert on the influence of race in urban education and an alumna who speaks to the hearts of difference makers, will give presentations that highlight Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week at Grand Valley State University.

With the theme, #BreaktheSilence, Grand Valley's events will run January 21-26.

David Stovall, professor of African American studies and criminology, law and justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will give an address on January 21 in the Fieldhouse Arena beginning at 1:30 p.m. Stovall studies the influence of race in urban education, community development, and housing. His work investigates the significance of race in the quality of schools located in communities that are changing both racially and economically.

Stovall will also speak at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids at 6 p.m. on January 21, highlighting the 33rd annual King community program. The event is sponsored by GVSU, Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport University. It is free and open to the public, doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Grand Valley alumna Shannon Cohen, '99 and '11, will give a presentation on campus on January 23 in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room, at 4:30 p.m. Cohen is the founder and principal of Shannon Cohen, Inc., a boutique firm specializing in providing emotional health strategies to leaders and difference makers. She is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network Fellow, and is the co-founder of Sisters Who Lead, a talent and wellness affinity group for women of color.

Highlights are below and more information is online at [gvsu.edu/mlk](http://gvsu.edu/mlk). Most events are on January 21, which marks the seventh year classes have been canceled on the national King holiday, allowing more students, faculty and staff members to participate.

#### **Monday, January 21**

- 9:30-11:30 a.m.: Upcycling, Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Workshop: Back to Reality: Finding Our Freedom through Storytelling, Kirkhof Center, room 2215/2216
- 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Free Campus Lunch, Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room
- 1 p.m.: Silent March to Fieldhouse, assemble at Zumberge Hall
- 1:30 p.m.: Keynote Presentation by Dr. David Stovall, Fieldhouse
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Panel Discussion, #BreaktheSilence, Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216

**Wednesday, January 23**

- 4:30 p.m.: Keynote Presentation by Shannon Cohen, Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room
- 6 p.m.: Democracy 101 Series: "This is What Democracy Looks Like! #Breaking the Silence and the Living Legacy of MLK," Mary Idema Pew Library, multipurpose room; sponsored by the Community Service Learning Center.

**Thursday, January 24**

- 7 p.m.: Annette Gordon-Reed and Peter S. Onuf: Jefferson, Slavery, and the Moral Imagination, Eberhard Center, room 215

Presented by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies: Thomas Jefferson, the most revered philosopher of the early Republic's Enlightenment ideals, was deeply involved in the nation's original sin of slavery. Historians Annette Gordon-Reed and Peter S. Onuf will explore how to find common ground at the troubled crossroads of race and American memory. Visit [hauensteincenter.org](http://hauensteincenter.org) to RSVP.

**Saturday, January 26**

- 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: MLK Jr. Day of Service and Solidarity: Coordinated by the Community Service Learning Center, students will meet at the Cook-DeWitt Center and hear a keynote presentation then participate in service projects with area partners.

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

**GVSU trustees call special board meeting to select next president**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees has scheduled a special meeting on Tuesday, January 22, to name the fifth president of the university.

The meeting will be held at 11 a.m. in the Grand River room in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. The agenda is the nomination and election of the next president, who will take office July 1, following the retirement of President Thomas J. Haas.

The meeting will be streamed live on the university's website: [www.gvsu.edu/livestream](http://www.gvsu.edu/livestream)

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **FBI Collegiate Academy to be held at GVSU**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The 2019 FBI Collegiate Academy will be held at Grand Valley State University Friday, January 25.

The daylong workshop, hosted by Grand Valley's School of Criminal Justice, is open to all Grand Valley students and will be held in Loosemore Auditorium in DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

***MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: Media is invited to cover the lunch and learn portion of the workshop which will run from 12:15-1:15 p.m.***

Special agents and professional staff from the FBI Detroit division's Grand Rapids Resident Agency will talk about various topics including terrorism, counterintelligence, hate crimes, gangs, human trafficking, cyber intrusions, special weapons and tactics, and more.

Students will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the seminar.

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **Applied Medical Device Institute at GVSU awarded \$500k grant for medical device manufacturing study**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's applied Medical Device Institute (aMDI) has been awarded \$500,000 by the Grand Rapids SmartZone to complete an investigation into the viability of using specialized 3D printing technology for medical device production.

The grant will allow aMDI, along with partners MediSurge and Carbon, Inc., to create production-grade medical devices that can be safely implanted into and under the skin, which isn't currently possible due to existing materials used for prototyping.

A brand-new, state-of-the-art Carbon, Inc. 3D printer has been installed in aMDI's incubator space in Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Health Campus, making Grand Valley the only university in the Midwest, and one of only six in the nation, to give students an opportunity to work with the revolutionary technology.

"We are thrilled to be the first university in the Midwest to provide students with direct access to this type of innovative technology on campus," said Brent Nowak, executive director of aMDI. "This novel 3D additive manufacturing technology, targeting medical grade materials, will soon be the new standard, and this study will be a launch pad for course content that is used in curriculum throughout the university."

The grant also supports student learning and development, as more than a dozen graduate and undergraduate students from Grand Valley's Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, along with faculty, will have opportunities to engage with the aMDI team on research projects in a real-world laboratory and learning environment.

Nowak said he hopes the study also sheds light on ways to accelerate the process of device development as well as the manufacturing cycle.

Upon completion of the study and determining scalability for 3D printing of medical devices at production volumes, MediSurge would be the first medical device manufacturing company in the Midwest to offer this kind of service. MediSurge is also providing funding and engineering support to the study.

aMDI provides access to researchers, engineers, medical professionals, and business and entrepreneurial professionals. It uses an integrated approach that includes intellectual property, business review and mentoring. It was established in 2016.

Learn more at [gvsu.edu/amdi](http://gvsu.edu/amdi).

For Immediate Release

January 15, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 318-3673, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

## **Johnson Center experts predict 11 trends for philanthropy in 2019**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Philanthropic giving in the United States is a massive sector of the economy, topping \$400 billion, and countless community and national organizations are benefitting from a surge in public interest.

Experts at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University expect to see the entire ecosystem of philanthropy — nonprofits, foundations, donors and volunteers — rally to support the cause of civil society and cross-sector collaboration in 2019.

However, the challenges the nonprofit sector faces in 2019 are significant, and Johnson Center experts said that addressing those challenges will require data-driven strategies and a willingness to experiment, evaluate and adjust over time.

With these challenges in mind, the thought leaders and experts at the Johnson Center have examined changes in the field and identified 11 trends in philanthropy they expect to see impacting philanthropy in 2019.

The trends cover a range of topics, from significant growth in nonprofit media to a downturn in religiosity, to ongoing uncertainty about the impact of 2017's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on the nonprofit sector.

A summary of the 11 trends is found below; the full report can be found here:

[bit.ly/2019PhilanthropyTrends](https://bit.ly/2019PhilanthropyTrends)

Explore all 11 Trends:

- 1. The Boundaries are Blurring Between Philanthropy and Business - Michael Moody, Ph.D., Frey Foundation Chair for Family Philanthropy*

For as long as we have used “sectors” to define society, we’ve been particularly fixated on the boundaries between those sectors. But today, those boundaries – especially the once bright lines between business and philanthropy – are blurring at an accelerating rate. This trend is leading to great innovation, but its potential pitfalls are real, as well.
- 2. As Religiosity Changes, Donor Engagement Needs to Adapt — Tamela Spicer, M.A., program manager*

Religious organizations have taken in a significant share of America’s philanthropic dollars for generations. But as Americans become less religious, and the traditional vehicles for giving evolve, nonprofits’ understanding of how faith and spirituality impact giving needs to expand.
- 3. For Nonprofits, the Tax Landscape is Far From Settled — Kyle Caldwell, president and CEO, Council of Michigan Foundations, and Donna Murray-Brown, president and CEO, Michigan Nonprofit Association and Member*

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) included a number of provisions that affect the way nonprofits identify and calculate their tax liabilities. Many nonprofits are still working to understand, explain and account for these changes ahead of the 2018 filing deadline. However, the TCJA's true impact — and even whether the tax code will continue in its current form through 2019 — remains to be seen.

4. *Nonprofit Media is Experiencing a Growth Spurt — So is Philanthropy's Response* – Tory Martin, M.A., director of communications and engagement  
Journalism is turning to a nonprofit model in the hopes of offsetting falling ad revenue and shoring up faith in a free press. And in a moment of near-daily attacks on the media, more and more foundations and donors are exploring what it means to support independent journalism and media literacy.
5. *More Tools – and More Calls – to Align Foundation Culture with Mission and Values* - Teri Behrens, Ph.D., executive director  
Power dynamics in philanthropy are nothing new, but the sector's increased focus on racial equity, environmental sustainability, and other social justice-related issues are pushing more organizations to take a look in the mirror. Foundation leaders are increasingly paying attention to the foundation as an organization, with a culture that supports or interferes with the ability to achieve their mission.
6. *Nonprofits are Playing a Vital Role in Civic Engagement* - Tory Martin, M.A., director of communications and engagement  
Anecdotally, America seems to be experiencing a great surge in civic engagement. Countless nonprofits are benefitting from increased awareness, donations and public passion — but what really seems to be changing for nonprofits is their own awareness of the role they play in sustaining a healthy democracy.
7. *Concrete Strategies are Emerging for Implementing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Principles* - Juan Olivarez, Ph.D., Distinguished Scholar in Residence for diversity, equity, and inclusion  
As professional organizations and agents of cultural change, nonprofits have been concerned with advancing social justice for decades. But as a sector, we have often struggled to find the right levers and tactics for living out our DEI values. Fortunately, the sector's increased focus in this space is producing more practical strategies for organizations and communities alike.
8. *Powering Communities While Protecting Individuals* - Erica Czaja, Ph.D., director of the Johnson Center's Community Research Institute  
Communities working toward equitable change are increasingly turning to data to help them understand and solve their biggest challenges. Detailed data, broken down by characteristics like race and gender, are critical to uncovering stark inequities that might otherwise be hidden by total population averages. But this trend is simultaneously prompting serious questions about the entities that handle data and the security measures they take to protect individuals' information.

9. *The Wealth Gap is Becoming a Giving Gap* - Michael Moody, Ph.D., Frey Foundation Chair for Family Philanthropy

Giving in the U.S. has long correlated with the up and down pattern of the nation's economy. But what about an economy in which the most glaring "trend" is not an overall rise or fall, but a growing gap between those at the top and bottom? As wealth and income become increasingly unequal in this country, it appears that patterns in giving may follow this dramatic bifurcation.

10. *As Donors and As Causes, Women are Taking the Lead in Philanthropy* - Kate Pew Wolters, trustee, Grand Valley State University; co-chair, Johnson Center Leadership Council

Women have dominated philanthropy's professional ranks for decades, and today, the number of women who are taking on roles as institutional leaders and major donors is on the rise. Yet the international spotlight currently falling on women and girls' causes should be understood more as ablossoming of what's been happening for generations, than as a wholly new trend.

11. *Foundations are No Longer Wedded to the Long Game* - Teri Behrens, Ph.D., executive director

Patience has been a defining aspect of institutionalized philanthropy for decades; permanent endowments meant foundations could afford to invest in change over the long term. Since 2010, however, there has been a significant shift toward creating foundations that have a defined endpoint. Donors' reasons for creating these limited-life foundations vary widely.

For more information on the 11 trends, see the full report or visit [johnsoncenter.org](http://johnsoncenter.org).

For immediate release

February 4, 2018

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Author photos are available via [Dropbox](#).*

### **Acclaimed authors to discuss their craft during GVSU Writers Series winter events**

Two Grand Valley State University writing faculty members will discuss the inner workings of their creativity and craft during the annual Grand Valley Writers Series.

Chris Haven, associate professor of writing, and Gale Thompson, visiting professor, will present a faculty reading on February 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room, located on the Allendale Campus.

Haven teaches courses in intermediate and advanced fiction, beginning creative writing, style and techniques, and composition among other topics. His short fiction and flash fiction have appeared or are forthcoming in *Threepenny Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Electric Literature*, and *Kenyon Review Online*. His poems can be read in *Cincinnati Review*, *Pleiades*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and prose poems from his *Terrible Emmanuel* series have appeared in *Denver Quarterly*, *Sycamore Review*, *North America Review*, and *Seneca Review*. He has been teaching writing at Grand Valley since 2002.

Thompson is the author of *Soldier On* (2015) and two chapbooks. Throughout her career, Thompson has received fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts. Her work has appeared in or is scheduled to appear in *Gulf Coast*, *American Poetry Review*, *Guernica*, *jubilat*, *Bennington Review*, and *Colorado Review*. She is also the founding editor of *Jellyfish Magazine*.

The Grand Valley Writers Series will offer two additional events this winter season:

#### **Poetry Craft Talk and Reading with Janine Joseph and Oliver Baez Bendorf**

Thursday, March 14

Craft talk: 6:15-7:15 p.m., DeVos Center, room 121E, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Reading: 7:30-8:30 p.m., University Club, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

#### **Nonfiction Craft Talk and Reading with Sarah Einstein**

Monday, April 8

Craft talk: 3-4:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270, Allendale Campus

Reading: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-Purpose Room, Allendale Campus

For more information, contact Todd Kaneko, series coordinator, at [kanekot@gvsu.edu](mailto:kanekot@gvsu.edu), or visit [gvsu.edu/writing](http://gvsu.edu/writing).

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 446-3981

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Allendale Campus from the past week can be found on Dropbox at:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0W2>

### **GVSU staff working 24/7 to clear snow, maintain buildings**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University staff members have been working around the clock to remove snow and keep buildings warm after heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures led to the closing of campuses for five consecutive days.

The Grand Valley Police Department, Campus Dining, Housing and Residence Life, Facilities Services, Campus Recreation, and Transportation Services, are just some of the departments that remained open during the week as most students stayed on campus.

Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services, said most of his 120-member staff made it to work each day, ready to do their jobs in wind chills that reached 22 degrees below zero.

"The weather this past week caused the most challenging conditions I've experienced in my 24 years here at Grand Valley; it's been all hands on deck," said Thimmesch. "Our crews have been plowing and shoveling snow, checking pipes and vents, clearing gas meters and walking each building 24/7 to make sure everything is working properly."

Thimmesch said some frozen pipes and water lines were repaired and university boilers ran at maximum all week to keep buildings warm and at a constant temperature.

Members from Facilities Services and GVPD helped students dig out February 1, shoveling more than two-to-three feet of snow off their vehicles.

Andy Beachnau, associate vice provost for Student Affairs and director of Housing and Health Services, said 30 staff members and 115 resident assistants helped students pass the time this week with movie night, craft night, karaoke night, zumba, yoga and even igloo building.

"Students have been making the most of this time – getting to know one another," said Beachnau. "One staff member said it's been enriching to see students developing community and having fun."

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

## **Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute enters partnership with MSU to address water challenges**

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) has formalized a partnership with Michigan State University's Institute of Water Research (IWR) to work together on water-related issues.

Leaders from the two institutions have met to discuss potential collaborations, and a memorandum of understanding has been signed.

AWRI, which sits on Muskegon Lake, is a part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at GVSU and supports research, education and outreach aimed at preserving freshwater resources.

The institute is led by Alan Steinman, the Allen and Helen Hunting director of the AWRI. Its research program explores aquatic ecology, toxicology, ecosystem restoration and other water quality projects. Additionally, the Information Services Center at the AWRI uses geographic information system data analysis to inform natural resources management decisions.

Aboard two research vessels on Muskegon Lake, AWRI scientists and instructors lead an education and outreach program. They teach K-12 and college students, policymakers, educators and community groups about a variety of water-related topics.

“The AWRI and MSU have a long-standing relationship that has been based largely on collaborations between individual investigators,” Steinman said. “While these collaborations have generated many positive outcomes, the time is ripe to formalize our partnership through this MOU to facilitate broader, stronger and forward-thinking relationships to address the water challenges facing Michigan and the Great Lakes region. I am very excited about this partnership with MSU and the synergies it will bring to our respective institutions.”

MSU has researchers and outreach specialists in a variety of departments studying water, including but not limited to fisheries and wildlife, biosystems and agricultural engineering, criminal justice, entomology and geography.

Since the 1964 Water Resources Research Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson, which created 54 water institutes around the country, MSU has been home to the Institute of Water Research (IWR). The director of IWR, Darrell Donahue, who is also the chair of the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, is leading the MSU coalition working with AWRI.

Donahue has been seeking collaborations with organizations that have complementary research to MSU. He believes this could open the door to applying for funding for long-term, large-scale projects. Scientists from Grand Valley and MSU are meeting on an ongoing basis to discuss partnership opportunities.

“Working with the AWRI is an honor,” Donahue said. “Alan (Steinman) has done a great job building the program. They have a world-class facility on Muskegon Lake near Lake Michigan and renowned faculty doing amazing work. Combining our resources and expertise, we can tackle a broader range of water issues and seek greater funding opportunities, which benefits both institutions.”

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/wri](https://gvsu.edu/wri)

**EMBARGOED until 4 a.m. January 31, 2019**

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Video of Paul Isely along with his full report, which is **embargoed until 4 a.m. January 31**, can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OVU>*

**GVSU economist predicts slower growth for 2019; shallow recession in late 2019, early 2020**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Despite slower growth for the local economy in 2019, West Michigan business owners expect a profitable year with increased sales and hiring, according to a Grand Valley State University economics professor.

Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business, unveiled his benchmark survey of the regional economy and predictions for 2019 during the 2019 Colliers Annual West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast event at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids on January 31.

The economic survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December of 2018.

Isely said the 2018 local economy was as strong as he predicted; he said the local economy will experience growth in 2019, but at a slower rate. "We are looking for a slowdown for those supporting the automotive sector, but for the overall economy, the expectation for hiring and sales is positive, and wages will accelerate faster this year," said Isely. "We just have a much smaller group of fast-running companies right now."

Isely said trade will be a big issue for 2019. "While trade actions politically have had a small direct effect on our local growth, the fact that business owners are pulling back their investment will have a much larger drag on our growth."

**Overall findings for 2019:**

- The Current Business Confidence Index for 2018 was 80.8 percent, a small improvement from 2017;
- The Forecast Business Confidence Index for 2019 is 78.6 percent, a drop from the expectations seen in the last few years;
- Employment is expected to grow by 1.1-1.5 percent in 2019, a rate consistent with the growth seen in 2018;
- Overall nominal sales are expected to increase by 2.7-3.1 percent for 2019, a slowdown from the last few years;
- Exports are expected to grow by 1.0-2.0 percent in 2019, reversing the increase expectations from 2018;
- All indicators signal the West Michigan economy will grow at a slower pace in 2019 compared to 2018.

The West Michigan economic survey was conducted by Isely, along with graduate assistant Riley Hall and assistance from staff members from the West Michigan Regional Small Business Development Center, housed in the Seidman College of Business.

For more information, contact Paul Isely at (616) 331-7418 or [iselyp@gvsu.edu](mailto:iselyp@gvsu.edu).

For immediate release

January 25, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Promotional materials for "Wonderful Town" are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **GVSU Opera Theatre follows two sisters chasing their dreams in "Wonderful Town"**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Sisters Ruth and Eileen Sherwood leave behind their ordinary lives in a rural Ohio town in pursuit of fulfilling their dreams in New York City.

Filled with swinging show tunes, Grand Valley State University students will showcase how "Wonderful Town" captures the thrill of two sisters chasing their dreams.

**GVSU Opera Theatre will present "Wonderful Town" February 8, 9, 15, and 16, at 7:30 p.m. and February 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. All shows will take place in Louis Armstrong Theatre, located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus.**

Ruth is an aspiring writer played by Mikayla Berghorst, a junior majoring in vocal performance. Berghorst said her favorite part of adopting the character of Ruth has been portraying a different kind of personality than she is used to on stage.

"My favorite part about playing Ruth is being able to portray an older, strong-minded, sarcastic character because I have often played younger, weaker characters," said Berghorst. "The most challenging part has been stepping out of my comfort zone on stage. Ruth is a wacky character, and I often find myself mentally and emotionally exhausted after rehearsals."

Elise Endres, a freshman majoring in music, will portray Eileen in "Wonderful Town" — a dancer who wants to pursue a life on stage. Endres said her approach to the character is one of balance.

"Eileen is a very sweet people-person, but also a bit of a ditsy flirt and that element of this character has been fun to bring to the table and stage," said Endres. "Having said that, the most challenging part of this character is really making her ditsy nature come to life while not making it too unbelievable!"

Dale Schriemer, GVSU Opera Theatre artistic director said "Wonderful Town" was an easy choice to bring to the Grand Valley stage.

"It's such a fun show and written by the genius team of Leonard Bernstein (music) and Comden and Green (book and lyrics)," he said. "It's a delightful comedy with sing-along music, comic situations that are inventive and clever, and the whole cast gets to do a lot of different things."

"Wonderful Town" will be directed by alumnus, Christopher Carter, '09.

**Tickets for "Wonderful Town" are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and Grand Valley faculty and staff, \$7 for students, and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. They are available at the Louis Theatre Armstrong Box Office, located in the Haas Center, or via [startickets.com](http://startickets.com). For more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300 or visit [gvsu.edu/theater](http://gvsu.edu/theater).**

For Immediate Release

January 24, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU economist to unveil local findings**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University economics expert Paul Isely will release the results of his annual survey of the regional economy during the 2019 Colliers Annual West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast.

**The event will be held January 31 at DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW in Grand Rapids; continental breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. and the program begins at 8 a.m.**

The survey for the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December of 2018. A survey was mailed to CEOs and business leaders from more than 900 organizations based on a representative sample.

Isely, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business, will talk about employment, sales, trade and consumer confidence.

The event is co-sponsored by Colliers International. An overview will be given of the real estate forecast for the West Michigan market.

Media is welcome to cover the event. It is free and open to the public; seating is limited and registration is required. Register at [www.collierswestmiforecast.com/rsvp.html](http://www.collierswestmiforecast.com/rsvp.html)

For immediate release

January 23, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Actors and the director for "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" will be available for media interviews January 27-February 1.*

### **Bahamian actors to perform during 25<sup>th</sup> season of GVSU Shakespeare Festival**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 25th anniversary season of the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival will continue when actors from Nassau in the Bahamas visit the Allendale Campus to perform one of the most critically acclaimed productions ever presented in the Bahamas.

The festival's "Bard Beyond Borders" series will present performances of "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" January 31 and February 1 at 7:30 p.m. and February 2 at 2 p.m. in the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, located in the Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts. A condensed version of the production will be performed during Grand Valley's Arts at Noon series on January 30 from 12-1 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

Written by Athol Fugard, "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" is set in the landscape of South Africa's apartheid era, a time of institutionalized racial segregation that spanned from 1948 until the early 1990s.

The story confronts the struggles faced by people of color during that time and addresses broader questions of human worth and identity. This is done through the lens of a man getting his picture taken in a photography studio.

"Sizwe Bansi is Dead" was originally featured during the 2014 Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival, and these performances will reunite the director and the original two cast members.

"This is a special offering to celebrate something which acknowledges that theater is a global communicator and that we can all connect through it," said Karen Libman, professor of theater. "We are excited to offer our students and the community the chance to see high-quality theater that they might not necessarily see otherwise."

Grand Valley's history with the Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival dates back to 2011 when Bard to Go, the university's traveling student Shakespeare troupe, was first invited to perform at the festival. Bard to Go also performed at the festival in 2017.

While at Grand Valley, the Shakespeare in Paradise Theatre Festival actors will also facilitate theater workshops and classroom visits for students.

The Bard Beyond Borders series will continue in April with performances by a Shakespeare company from Egypt.

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU receives \$600,000 grant to fund scholarships for nursing**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing received a \$600,000 grant to fund scholarships for students who are pursuing nursing as a career and have earned a bachelor's degree in another field.

The grant is from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, the nation's largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education.

Cynthia McCurren, KCON dean and professor, said the scholarships will go to students who enroll in the Accelerated Second Degree Baccalaureate Nursing Program, a highly competitive 15-month program for students who have earned a bachelor's degree or higher in another major and are pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing.

"We are incredibly grateful for this gift from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, and we will sustain the excellence in our nursing education program that led to this award," McCurren said. "The scholarships will provide much-needed support for promising students working toward a career in nursing."

This gift is a part of the Laker Effect campaign, which is transforming the lives of students and enhancing the West Michigan community. Learn more about the campaign at [www.gvsu.edu/giving](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving).

For immediate release

February 8, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: The Fall in Love with STEM event, originally scheduled for Saturday, February 9, has been **rescheduled for Saturday, February 23**. Please reference the updated news release below.*

*Photos from the 2018 Fall in Love with STEM event are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **Rescheduled: Interactive GVSU event to encourage young students to fall in love with STEM**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Extracting DNA from a banana, exploring magnetism and using green chemistry are just a few of the activities that local middle school students will participate in during an upcoming interactive STEM event at Grand Valley State University.

**"Fall in Love with STEM," presented by the Association of Women in Science (AWIS) - West Michigan, will take place February 23, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the Padnos Hall of Science, located on the Allendale Campus.**

Students will participate in various workshops and activities focusing on cell and molecular biology, engineering, math, physics and chemistry.

Additional events focusing on geology, math, biology, astronomy and chemistry will take place from 1-4 p.m. in the Calkins Science Center (first floor) at Grand Rapids Community College.

A portion of the event will also take place on February 16, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Hope College.

For more information and a full list of activities, contact Karen Gipson, professor of physics at Grand Valley and current AWIS-WM president, at [gipsonk@gvsu.edu](mailto:gipsonk@gvsu.edu), or visit Grand Valley's [Regional Math and Science Center website](#).

The Association of Women in Science is the largest multi-disciplinary organization that promotes women in STEM fields through advocacy, research and professional development. AWIS reaches more than 20,000 professionals worldwide. The West Michigan chapter of AWIS was established in 2016 by Gipson and a team of students, deans, faculty and staff members from Van Andel Institute and Hope College. GRCC joined the organization in 2017.

For Immediate Release

February 8, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A photo of David Hooker can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0Wx>*

### **David Hooker honored by GVSU Board of Trustees**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — David Hooker, president and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and former member of Grand Valley State University's Board of Trustees, was honored by the board at its February 8 meeting held at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Hooker was honored for his eight years of service on the board, which included serving as chair of the board and chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

"David was steadfast in his commitment to the governance of Grand Valley," said Mary Kramer, chair of the Board of Trustees. "His insistence upon academic quality, founded in the liberal arts, reflects his belief in providing students with the best possible educational experience."

Hooker said he will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board.

"It was an honor and privilege to serve this institution for eight years," said Hooker. "The board members and others in this room are truly exceptional people dedicated to student success, and I'll always treasure the opportunity to be a part of it."

Kramer said Hooker's leadership role at Frederik Meijer Gardens and involvement with ArtPrize, United Way and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital are beneficial to the greater good of the Grand Rapids area.

Kramer also said Hooker continued the legacy of service to Grand Valley started by his parents, Robert and Judith Hooker, who also served as members of the board. The Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center on the Allendale Campus was named in honor of them, as well as Earl and Donnalee Holton, to recognize their service to the university.

In other board action:

- The board approved a B.A. and B.S. program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. The program emphasizes a practical approach to environmental issues through collaborative problem solving, involvement in faculty-led research projects, internships, practicums and community engagement projects. Students will organize their coursework around at least one of four emphasis areas: sustainable food systems, energy, water resources, or the cultural and built environment.
- The board approved a name change for the existing M.S. in Medical and Bioinformatics program to an M.S. in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics.
- Students will see a modest increase in room and board rates beginning with the fall 2019 semester; the board voted to increase the rate by 1.5 percent. The average cost for housing on campus per semester will increase by \$17.

- The board approved the reauthorization of seven existing charter schools, including: Hanley International Academy, Hamtramck; Walker Charter Academy, Walker; Knapp Charter Academy, Grand Rapids; Legacy Charter Academy, Detroit; Madison-Carver Academy, Detroit; Cornerstone Health and Technology School, Detroit; and Timberland Charter Academy, Muskegon. The board also approved the addition of grades for Old Mission Peninsula School, Traverse City, and the appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU-authorized public school academy boards.

For immediate release

February 7, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the 2018 Fall in Love with STEM event are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **Interactive GVSU event to encourage young students to fall in love with STEM**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Extracting DNA from a banana, exploring magnetism and using green chemistry are just a few of the activities that local middle school students will participate in during an upcoming interactive STEM event at Grand Valley State University.

**"Fall in Love with STEM," presented by the Association of Women in Science (AWIS) - West Michigan, will take place February 9, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the Padnos Hall of Science, located on the Allendale Campus.**

Students will participate in various workshops and activities focusing on cell and molecular biology, engineering, math, physics and chemistry.

Additional events focusing on geology, math, biology, astronomy and chemistry will take place from 1-4 p.m. in the Calkins Science Center (first floor) at Grand Rapids Community College.

The event will continue on February 16, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Hope College.

For more information, contact Karen Gipson, professor of physics at Grand Valley and current AWIS-WM president, at [gipsonk@gvsu.edu](mailto:gipsonk@gvsu.edu), or visit Grand Valley's [Regional Math and Science Center website](#).

The Association of Women in Science is the largest multi-disciplinary organization that promotes women in STEM fields through advocacy, research and professional development. AWIS reaches more than 20,000 professionals worldwide. The West Michigan chapter of AWIS was established in 2016 by Gipson and a team of students, deans, faculty and staff members from Van Andel Institute and Hope College. GRCC joined the organization in 2017.

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/OWr>

### **GVSU economist: Slow start to 2019**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy flattened in January, signaling a slow start to 2019, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of January.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) edged down to -4. The production index, which had been as high as +33 in November, softened to +4. The index of purchases flattened to +3, and the employment index came in at +14.

"The overall business outlook is much more cautious than it was just a few months ago," said Long. "Several survey participants continue to voice concern over the price impact of the still unresolved tariff war with China. Others are cautious about the potential decline in auto sales. In contrast, firms associated with the office furniture industry remain watchfully optimistic."

Long said the national economy turned out stronger than expected to start 2019.

"It is possible that the 2017 tax cuts may have a little more room to run than we expected," he said. "However, the softening of the world economy will pull us in the opposite direction. The economy still has plenty of momentum to carry through the first two quarters of 2019 and quite likely beyond."

Long said more than 58 percent of the *Wall Street Journal's* panel of 60 economists expect the next recession to start in 2020, and 2019 could turn out to be just another year of slow growth.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,  
[hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **Comedy in American politics: GVSU to host H.W. Brands for discussion**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Politicians are easy targets as the butt of jokes, from everyday people to late-night talk show hosts and comedians, but there's a good chance the public is on the receiving end of ribbing from politicians as well.

Humor goes both ways, but it often feels in short supply amid the polarization, loneliness and resentment of modern-day American politics.

Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host H.W. Brands, a noted author and presidential historian, to learn what he has discovered about the joke-telling chops of American presidents, the funny bone of the American people, and the serious role of humor in American democracy.

**H.W. Brands: Comedian-in-Chief: What Presidents' Humor Says About Them, and About Us**

**Thursday, February 7, at 7 p.m.**

**Eberhard Center, Grand Valley State University Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Room 215**

**The event is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are requested at [gvsu.edu/hc/events](http://gvsu.edu/hc/events).**

The event is presented in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/hc](http://gvsu.edu/hc).

For immediate release

February 19, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **Events at GVSU focus on ethical issues in health care**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Office of the Vice Provost for Health will host two public events on March 25 that focus on the ethical issues surrounding conscientious objection in health care.

- An afternoon conference, "'You Want Me to Do What?' When Values Collide in Health Care," will run from 1-5 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St., on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Presenters are Bryan Pilkington, associate professor, Seton Hall School of Health and Medical Sciences; Caroline Ring, chief nursing officer for Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City hospitals; Michael Robinson, assistant professor of philosophy, Chapman University; and Megan VerMerris, senior counsel for Spectrum Health.

Cost to attend the afternoon conference is \$45; register online at [gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://gvsu.edu/colloquy).

Poster presentations from area students and faculty will be displayed during the conference. Students are encouraged to submit abstracts on any health related topic, faculty posters should be about a health care ethics topic. Deadline to submit an abstract is March 1, visit [gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://gvsu.edu/colloquy) for details.

The conference is presented in collaboration with Spectrum Health.

- The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy, with the focus "The Ethics of Conscientious Objection in Health Care," follows a 5 p.m. hors d'oeuvres reception and will run from 6-8 p.m. in the Eberhard Center.

Presenters are Nancy Berlinger, research scholar at the Hastings Center, and Lauris Kaldjian, director of bioethics and humanities at the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine.

A special meet-and-greet with colloquy speakers is scheduled for students from 5-5:30 p.m. Students should register for this meeting on the colloquy website; faculty members who wish to bring a class can contact Diane Dykstra at [dykstrdi@gvsu.edu](mailto:dykstrdi@gvsu.edu) or (616) 331-5876.

The colloquy, underwritten by the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, is free and open to the public. It will be live-streamed, participants who register online at [gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://gvsu.edu/colloquy) and indicate "live stream" will receive a link prior to the event.

Continuing education credits are available for both events for social work, nursing and medical professionals. Questions about the events can be directed to Dykstra at [dykstrdi@gvsu.edu](mailto:dykstrdi@gvsu.edu) or (616) 331-5876.

For immediate release

February 18, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU faculty, staff will fix students' belongings during free Repair Clinics**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — To upcoming events will offer Grand Valley State University students free opportunities to have ripped clothes, missing buttons, broken zippers, torn backpack straps and more fixed and mended by university faculty and staff members.

Repair Clinics will take place February 19, from 6:15-8 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 121E, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and February 27, from 6-8 p.m., in the Holton Hooker Learning and Living Center multipurpose room on the Allendale Campus.

Academic advisors will also be available during both clinics to help students schedule classes and review studying skills and best practices. And, students can learn how to knit during free tutorials with knitting needles and yarn provided.

The clinics are a collaborative effort among several Grand Valley departments including the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Housing and Residence Life, as well as volunteers from around the university.

"GVSU faculty and staff know that students can do their best when they are free of pesky distractions like a hole in a backpack," said Monica Johnstone, director of communications and advancement in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Many others on campus, from librarians to faculty and staff, joined CLAS and Housing to make a difference for our students after our first Repair Clinic in 2017."

For more information, contact Johnstone at [johnstmo@gvsu.edu](mailto:johnstmo@gvsu.edu).

For Immediate Release

February 14, 2019

Contact: Meagan Beck, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU offers new environmental and sustainability studies major in fall 2019**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A new major at Grand Valley State University will help students learn to develop a solutions-oriented understanding of environmental and sustainability challenges.

The environmental and sustainability studies major, which will be offered through the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies beginning fall 2019, was approved by Grand Valley's Board of Trustees during its February meeting.

Coursework for the ENS major builds upon the framework of the preexisting minor, which was established in 2008. The ENS major will encompass a variety of disciplines, including arts and humanities, physical and life sciences, and economic and policy studies.

Students will also be able to choose a focus area within the major, such as energy, sustainable food systems, cultural and the built environment, or water resources.

Kelly Parker, director of the environmental and sustainability studies program at Grand Valley, said an increase in student interest and demand for professionals with education in the field helped drive the creation of the new major.

The ENS major will emphasize a practical approach to environmental issues through collaborative problem-solving, involvement in faculty-led research projects, internships and community engagement projects.

"Grand Valley already has a well-established reputation as a green college," Parker said. "We have an enormous number of faculty, students and staff who are already doing the work of sustainability and environmental studies. This program gives students a place to plug into all of that."

Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College at Grand Valley, said student will gain the education needed to create positive change as leaders, thinkers and citizens through the major's triple bottom line structure: social and cultural, physical and life science, and political.

"The major is cutting edge in terms of its triple bottom line structure across the entire program," Hiskes said. "It connects theory and practice with the scope of interdisciplinary studies."

For more information about the environmental and sustainability studies program, visit [www.gvsu.edu/ens](http://www.gvsu.edu/ens).

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 90 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

February 13, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the speakers are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **College interfaith leaders to promote importance of religious understanding during GVSU event**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Encouraging the next generation of interfaith leaders around the world, and especially on college campuses, will be the focus of Grand Valley State University's upcoming Abrahamic Dinner.

**The event, sponsored by Grand Valley's Kaufman Interfaith Institute, will take place February 20, from 6-8:30 p.m., at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (2250 East Paris Southeast) in Grand Rapids.**

Three local college students will share the perspectives of their individual traditions regarding transcending religious intolerance in order to foster greater interfaith understanding. This year's Jewish representative will be Allison Egrin, a senior majoring in dance and marketing who serves as the president of Hillel at GVSU, a Jewish student organization on campus.

Egrin said it is an honor to represent the Jewish community as an interfaith leader.

"I think that promoting interfaith on college campuses is so crucial because I truly believe education is the best tool in reducing biases and hate," she said. "There are so many different religions and cultures in the world, which is part of what makes humankind so beautiful, so it is imperative to gain insight into beliefs that are different from ours in order to create a more inclusive and understanding society."

Other speakers include Allison LoPrete (Christian representative) from Hope College, and Tuba Jaherun (Muslim representative) from Calvin College.

Kyle Kooyers, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager, said the event will offer a profound opportunity to hear the perspectives of the next generation of interfaith leaders.

"Young adult leaders offer us much by way of tremendous energy, inspiring vision and prophetic voice," said Kooyers. "If we, as members of the West Michigan community, listen and do likewise, our world would be deeply enriched."

The advance registration deadline for the Abrahamic Dinner is February 15 and the cost is \$10 per person, \$5 for students. Attendees can also register on-site before the event. To register, visit [www.gvsu.edu/interfaith](http://www.gvsu.edu/interfaith).

For immediate release

February 22, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU design thinking workshops to focus on active listening and collaboration**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Active listening and collaboration are two essential elements to comprehend in order to fully utilize the design thinking process. Two upcoming workshops presented by Grand Valley State University's Design Thinking Academy will aim to teach these skills to faculty, students, and the community.

**Pop-up Classes will take place February 28 (collaboration), from 6-8 p.m., and March 14 (listening), from noon-2 p.m. Both workshops will be held in AuSable Hall, room 1112, on the Allendale Campus, and facilitated by Steve Seward of Seward Consulting.**

"The workforce requires individuals to work both independently and interdependently to resolve problems in various workplaces," said Seward. "These sessions are designed to provide strategies and ideas to help people navigate the complex work of collaborative teams focused on common outcomes."

David Coffey, Design Thinking Academy director and professor of mathematics, said that participants will learn essential skills for working effectively in teams to creatively solve problems by paying active attention to what people say they need and want.

"Collaboration across boundaries is a fundamental mindset associated with design thinking, but, unfortunately, it is not something we do effectively, which is why employers consistently talk about wanting folks who have skills associated with collaboration," said Coffey. "Listening is a key component of the empathy phase of design thinking and it is also a learned skill that we don't often pay enough attention to in our teaching."

Both Pop-up Classes are open to Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members, as well as the community. To register, visit [gvsu.edu/designthinking](https://gvsu.edu/designthinking).

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Fuentes can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/0Xq>*

### **Survivor of Florida school shooting to speak at GVSU**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Samantha Fuentes, a survivor of the 2018 school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, will participate in an event sponsored by the Educational Foundations Department in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University.

Fuentes was a senior in high school when the shooting took place in February 2018. Seventeen people were killed; Fuentes still has shrapnel in her legs and behind her right eye. She has since traveled the country speaking about gun violence and also works closely with Angel Faces, an organization that serves girls who have endured trauma.

**The event, "Safe Learning Environments for our Students," will take place February 27 from 6-8:30 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.**

**Fuentes will be available for media interviews before the event begins and after the event concludes.**

The program will begin with a short documentary ("G is for Gun") followed by a presentation from Fuentes and a panel discussion with four GVSU faculty members. Panelists include Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, assistant professor of educational foundations; Scott Berlin, associate professor and director of the School of Social Work; Gwenden Dueker, associate professor of psychology; and Susan Harrington, associate professor of nursing.

For more information, contact the College of Education at (616) 331-6650.

For Immediate Release

February 21, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU hosting free tax assistance program**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Free tax help is available for people who make \$54,000 or less, have a disability or consider English as a second language.

Grand Valley State University is a host site for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through United Way that offers free tax return preparation and filing for qualifying individuals.

IRS-certified volunteers will be on hand, with assistance from GVSU faculty members and students, at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus during several Saturdays from February-April.

This free service is by appointment only; appointments can be made by calling 211.

For a list of items to bring, visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/checklist-for-free-tax-return-preparation>

For questions, email [VITA@gvsu.edu](mailto:VITA@gvsu.edu).

For immediate release

February 21, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Pictures from the 2018 Unplugged event are [available via Dropbox](#).*

### **GVSU campaign encouraging students to unplug from technology and participate in healthy events**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — It's a fact: people spend a lot of time looking at and using their various devices, especially on college campuses while completing school assignments, browsing social media, communicating or completing projects at work.

The Campus Recreation team at Grand Valley State University is encouraging students, faculty and staff to take a break from technology for one week in an effort to improve their overall health and wellness.

**Unplugged will run from February 24-March 2** in conjunction with National Day of Unplugging, which is March 1-2.

Kayla Cupples, assistant director of marketing for Campus Recreation, said the goal of Unplugged is to help the campus community not only become more aware of time and energy spent on technology, but also help people become more connected to each other and the world around them.

"We recognize that technology is extremely beneficial because it helps us connect in ways we never have before while making our lives much simpler. But we want to help the campus community understand the negative impacts that overuse can have on our health, relationships and overall wellbeing," said Cupples. "Whether it's putting away the phone, avoiding email during dinner or simply spending less time on social media, the campaign can uniquely meet people where they are."

Given how ingrained the use of technology is in daily life, Cupples said the expectation is not necessarily that people will completely ignore their devices during Unplugged.

"Campus Recreation wants others to balance their time away from technology with exercising, having meaningful conversations, spending time outdoors, playing sports or anything else that would enhance overall health and wellbeing," she said. "Research indicates that exercise can improve sleep, decrease feelings of depression, help protect against feelings of anxiety, boost self-confidence and improve focus and productivity."

During Unplugged, Campus Recreation will highlight programs and events including Club Sports games and tournaments, Intramural Sports registration, snowshoeing, rock climbing, group exercise classes and more.

Other university departments, such as the Art Gallery, Counseling Center and Campus Dining, will offer activities, such as eating disorder screenings and "looking with intent" art explorations.

For a full list of activities, visit [gvsu.edu/rec/unplug](http://gvsu.edu/rec/unplug).

For immediate release

March 1, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are [available via Dropbox](#).*

## **GVSU April 2019 arts events tip sheet**

### **Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance**

For more information about Music, Theatre, and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484, or visit [gvsu.edu/mtd](http://gvsu.edu/mtd). All performances are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

### **GVSU William Baum Recital featuring Jonathan Bass**

**April 7, at 3 p.m.**

**Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

Pianist Jonathan Bass appears frequently throughout the U.S. as a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall and the North Carolina Symphony at the Appalachian Summer Music Festival. He has also been featured on many radio shows throughout the country, including NPR's "Performance Today." Bass received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The Julliard School and a doctorate from the Indiana University School of Music. He currently serves as a professor of piano at Boston Conservatory at Berklee where he has been a faculty member since 1993.

### **GVSU Varsity Men's Glee Club Spring Concert**

**April 9, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

### **GVSU Choral Concert**

**April 10 and 11, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

### **Dr. Marlais' Piano Studio Recital**

**April 13, at 2 p.m.**

**Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

### **Dr. Cho's Piano Studio Recital**

**April 13, at 5 p.m.**

**Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

### **GVSU Spring Dance Concert**

**April 13, at 7 p.m.**

**April 14, at 2 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marica J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

The GVSU Dance Company and Freshman Dance Company will both perform a diverse collection of dance works during this spring concert.

**GVSU Jazz Concert**

**April 14, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marica J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

**GVSU Symphonic Band and Concert Band Combined Concert**

**April 15, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marica J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

**GVSU University Band Concert**

**April 16, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marica J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

**GVSU Orchestra Concert**

**April 17, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marica J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

**Grand Valley Winds and Sookkyung Cho perform works by Eduard Dyizga**

**April 19, at 3 p.m.**

**Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

**Piano Ensemble Festival**

**April 20, from 8:40 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

This year, Grand Valley State University's Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Chapter will be hosting a Piano Ensemble Festival. This event is open to elementary through high school piano students and will be an exciting chance for students to learn and perform ensemble repertoire, which may consist of piano duets, trios, quartets, and two piano works.

**Arts at Noon**

Arts at Noon brings nationally and internationally known musicians to Grand Valley State University for 14 performances each academic year. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center located on the Allendale Campus. They will begin at noon and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit [gvsu.edu/artsatnoon](http://gvsu.edu/artsatnoon) or contact Henry Duitman, series coordinator, at [duitmanh@gvsu.edu](mailto:duitmanh@gvsu.edu).

**April 10 – Sightlines Percussion Duo**

Greg Secor, part-time faculty at Grand Valley, will team up with alumnus Joshua Dreyer to perform an array of unique works for percussion instruments. Secor currently teaches courses in music literature and directs the percussion ensembles and steel band at Grand Valley and Hope College. He is also a member of the percussion section of the Kalamazoo Symphony, performs regularly with the Grand Rapids Symphony, and is an active steeldrum performer with the Grand Rapids-based Pangea Steeldrum Band.

Dreyer actively performs around West Michigan with ensembles including the Grand Rapids Symphony, Opera Grand Rapids, Battle Creek Symphony, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Ensemble Montage, and many

other jazz and chamber groups. While at Grand Valley, Dreyer was a member of the award-winning New Music Ensemble.

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### **Grand Valley Writers Series**

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University as part of the 2017-18 Grand Valley Writers Series. The series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students. For more information about the Writers Series, visit the [Writing Department website](#) or contact Todd Kaneko at [kanekot@gvsu.edu](mailto:kanekot@gvsu.edu).

### **Nonfiction Craft Talk & Reading with Sarah Einstein**

**April 8**

**Craft Talk: 3-4:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2270, Allendale Campus**

**Reading: 6-7:30 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multi-purpose Room, Allendale Campus**

Sarah Einstein is the author of *Mot: A Memoir* (2015), *Remnants of Passion* (2014), and *The Tripart Heart* (forthcoming in 2019). Her essays and short stories have appeared in *The Sun*, *Ninth Letter*, *PANK* and other journals. Her work has been awarded a Pushcart Prize, a Best of the Net, and the AWP Prize in Creative Nonfiction. She is currently working on a travel memoir set in the constructed West Virginia seen in Bethesda Game Studio's "Fallout 76," and teaching creative writing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

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### **Department of Visual and Media Arts**

For more information about Visual and Media Arts events, call (616) 331-3486, or visit [gvsu.edu/vma](http://www.gvsu.edu/vma). <http://www.gvsu.edu/vma>. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

### **Storytellers/Storymakers**

**Exhibition dates: April 1-5**

**Reception: April 4, from 5-7 p.m.**

**Padnos Gallery, Calder Fine Arts Center, Allendale Campus**

This collaborative exhibition was created by students in the intermediate creative nonfiction course and intermediate jewelry and metalsmithing course at Grand Valley State University.

### **Offerings: A Grade School Art Exhibit**

**Exhibition dates: April 8-12**

**Reception: April 11, at 10 a.m.**

**Padnos Gallery, Calder Fine Arts Center, Allendale Campus**

This exhibit will feature cast forms and text made collaboratively between local children and Grand Valley State University students.

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### **GVSU Art Gallery**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

## **"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"**

**Exhibition dates: ongoing**

**George and Barbara Gordon Gallery**

**DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends**

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection in the world of Alten's work.

## **Export**

**Senior Graphic Design Exhibition**

**Exhibition dates: April 8-11**

**GVSU Art Gallery, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

This exhibition will include a compilation of works by senior graphic design students at Grand Valley State University.

## **"Selections from Mars: Astronomy and Culture"**

**Exhibition on display March 8-June 21**

**West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

The planet Mars has fascinated humanity since early in human history. Throughout the years, Mars has been depicted in multiple forms, such as astronomical drawings, ground-based and spacecraft photography, science fiction film and literature, and even images directly from the Curiosity rover on the surface of the planet. Grand Valley State University's 2018 Fall Arts Celebration art exhibit, "Mars: Astronomy and Culture," brought together photographs, drawings, movie posters, book covers and video projections spotlighting the Red Planet. Portions of the exhibit were also on display in the Center Art Gallery at Calvin College and The Holland Museum. From March 8 – June 21, a selection of images drawn from each of the three exhibition venues will be showcased at the West Wall Gallery in the Eberhard Center, located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The exhibition was curated by Pasadena Arts Council for the Williamson Gallery, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California. It is a project of the Pasadena Arts Council's EMERGE Fiscal Sponsorship Program.

## **2019 Selections from *fishladder***

**Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus**

**Exhibit on display March 8-June 21**

Now in its 16th year of production, *fishladder* is a student-run journal at Grand Valley State University that publishes fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, drama, photography and art created by Grand Valley students. Individuals from across all disciplines within the university are encouraged to submit work in all styles, genres and forms. This exhibition presents a selection of these works.

## **"Water: Human Right or Commodity?"**

**Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Exhibition on display January 7-June 21**

This exhibition explores human rights in a world of increasingly limited natural resources; specifically, access to clean water. A result of the research and collaborations arranged by two Grand Valley State University social work faculty members, Paola León and Steven Smith, this exhibition includes images

and descriptions of the challenges faced in El Salvador and Flint, Michigan. Organized into themes dealing with civic engagement, infrastructure, ownership/legislation, public health and scarcity/contamination, these materials provide local, national and international context to water rights. The El Salvador portion of the exhibition, focusing on the lack of running water in homes, social activism and contamination by the mining industry, was organized by León. Smith organized the Flint portion of the exhibition, documenting the ongoing issues and continuing recovery of the City of Flint's tainted water supply.

**“Plastination — The Art of Preservation”**

**Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus**

**Exhibition on display January 14-June 21**

Plastination is the process of infusing animal, human or plant tissues with a variety of plastic or silicone products to render the tissues odor-free, dry and permanently preserved for educational and instructional purposes. The process was invented by Gunther von Hagens in 1977 at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and became popular through his many “Body Worlds” exhibitions around the world. Beginning in 2007, members of Grand Valley State University began studying plastination and investigating the opportunity to create a lab at the university. That became a reality in 2013, and since then, more than 300 specimens have been plastinated for use in a variety of teaching roles. This exhibition tells the story of plastination at Grand Valley and walks viewers through the process and uses of plastinates. It brings together more than 20 animal specimens from the lab – currently the only plastination lab in Michigan.

For Immediate Release

February 26, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, 616-331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **Finalists named for Lakeshore Innovator of the Year award**

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Five groups or individuals have been selected as finalists for the first-ever Lakeshore Innovator of the Year award, presented by Grand Valley State University's Muskegon Innovation Hub.

The award is intended to celebrate and recognize the most innovative ideas on the Lakeshore.

Finalists for the award, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Hub on March 14, include:

#### **Matt Pinter, Smart Vision Lights**

Pinter was one of the original tenants of the Muskegon Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, which was the predecessor to the Hub. Pinter launched his company, Smart Vision Lights, from the early start at MAREC and has continued to grow over nearly two decades. Smart Vision is currently undergoing an expansion in Muskegon. The company produces a wide variety of specialty LED lighting for use in innovative ways.

#### **John Bilsky, Certified Master Water Specialist**

Bilsky is the creator of an innovative process that saves money and helps preserve fresh water. He works for a major West Michigan automotive supplier and pioneered a process that helps recycle water used in the manufacturing process to be used a second time. His innovation helps save money on water costs and reduces water waste.

#### **Kristin Chmela and Julie Raynor, Co-Founders of Camp Shout Out**

Chmela and Raynor led the development of a project that impacts two critical needs in West Michigan. Camp Shout Out is a residential training and therapy program that assists children and teens, ages 8-18, who stutter. The camp also serves as a critical training ground for speech and language pathologists and graduate students. The camp is unique in the U.S., and the innovative training and treatment portion of the camp is recognized by international experts and helps more than 100 children during each week-long session.

#### **Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Machine/Engineering class; Instructors Kathy Van Til and Brent Nummendor; Students Jackson Huizenga, Liam Johnson, Jacob Loudermilk, Everett Emory, Michael Dixon, Ethan McKenzie and Kyle Morris.**

This group of students and instructors from the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center worked collaboratively with consultants from the Muskegon Area ISD to create a specialized desk designed specifically for a student at Oehrli Elementary in Montague who uses a camera and an iPad to assist with visual and mobility issues. The process of collaboration to create a final project brought together staff and students across a variety of disciplines in an innovative manner.

**Rick Smith, President/CEO of HyVIDA Brands, Inc.**

HyVIDA's innovation is the application for two patents for a groundbreaking process to infuse hydrogen into carbonated beverages. This process infuses hydrogen into carbonated beverages, making HyVIDA Brands the only company in the market capable of doing so. Smith said this is significant because hydrogen is an antioxidant that reduces inflammation, improves workout recovery and cognitive function. This innovation allows HyVIDA to reduce operating costs and prepare for rapid growth in a burgeoning domestic market.

**About the Muskegon Innovation Hub**

"We were overwhelmed with the response to our call for applicants for our Innovator of the Year award, and these nominations were truly the best of the best," said Kevin Ricco, director of the Muskegon Innovation Hub. "We're looking forward to picking one of these finalists to represent the innovative work being done all along the Lakeshore."

The Muskegon Innovation Hub is a business innovation center that provides business incubation, coworking space, funding assistance, events and programming. It is a key partner in the regional innovation ecosystem, and supports startup businesses, entrepreneurs and corporate innovation teams. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/mihub](https://gvsu.edu/mihub).

For Immediate Release

February 26, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU Auto Suppliers Symposium to focus on tariffs, talent, technology**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The effects of tariffs on the auto industry, and how suppliers can prepare for the latest technology are among the topics that will be discussed at the 20th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium, hosted by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center.

The March 7 event will bring together business owners, senior management and decision makers from all tiers of the industry, providing the most up-to-date automotive forecasts and trends.

The theme for this year's symposium is "Planning for the Future - Managing Today for Tomorrow."

Keynote speakers are Dave Jerovsek, president of GHSP North America, and Marc Smeyers, chief technology officer at GHSP.

### **20th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium**

**Thursday, March 7**

**8 a.m.-noon**

**Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center building D, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids**

Event speakers include:

- Dave Jerovsek, president of GHSP North America, has more than 30 years of electronics industry knowledge spanning across the automotive, industrial trucking, appliance and marine markets in Europe, North America and Asia.
- Marc Smeyers, chief technology officer at GHSP, oversees product development and technology integration. He has 20 years of experience leading automotive and aerospace product design and development in the North American, Asian and European markets.
- Mike Wall, executive director of automotive analysis at IHS Markit, has more than 20 years of experience in consulting, forecasting and evaluating trends and vehicle markets.
- Lisa Reisman, co-founder and executive director of MetalMiner, North America's largest metals market intelligence site. Reisman and her team have developed innovative resources in metal price forecasting and benchmarking.
- Phoebe O'Berski, human resource manager at Gentex Corporation, has overseen the implementation of cutting-edge recruiting and benefits software, and worked to adapt, grow and manage many areas of the team as Gentex has grown to more than 6,000 employees.

Plante Moran is the title sponsor of the event. Other sponsors include Warner, Norcross & Judd; IHS Markit; Chase Bank; Morrison Industrial Equipment; Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC); The Right Place; and BEHCO-MRM.

To register or for more information, visit [www.vagtc.org](http://www.vagtc.org) or call (616) 331-6811.

For immediate release

February 26, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU will host fifth annual Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 500 people are expected at Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus for the fifth annual Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, March 2.

The summit will run from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the DeVos Center, 401 Fulton St. W. The event is free and open to the public, free child care will be provided; register through February 27 online at [grandrapidsmi.gov/summit](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/summit).

The summit's theme is "Connecting Our Stories — Connecting Our Power" and Stacy Stout, assistant to the city manager, said that's exactly what attendees can expect.

"The summit is intentionally designed to provide attendees opportunities to learn, be heard, share stories, meet new people and connect to resources in the community," Stout said.

Jesse Bernal, Grand Valley's vice president for Inclusion and Equity, will give remarks at a community reception that follows the summit at 4 p.m. He said supporting the summit is a good example of the close partnership between the university and the City of Grand Rapids.

"The Neighborhood Summit is an opportunity for residents to strengthen their neighborhoods and advance equity," Bernal said. "We hope people look to Grand Valley as a good partner in that journey."

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **Former presidential candidate Wesley Clark to speak at GVSU event**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Former Democratic candidate for president and four-star Gen. Wesley Clark (ret.) will speak at an event hosted by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies on March 14.

Clark, who served for nearly 40 years in the United States Army, including assignments as Commander of U.S. Southern Command and Commander of U.S. European Command/Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, will speak about the challenges of overcoming polarization in America.

Following his remarks, Clark will receive the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship Medal, the university's most prestigious external award.

The Hauenstein Fellowship Medal recognizes the extraordinary life of the center's namesake, Ralph Hauenstein, and honors distinguished individuals who exemplify his spirit of leadership and service, which Grand Valley State University seeks to inspire in its students and graduates.

### **General Wesley K. Clark: COL Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship Presentation**

**Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.**

**L.V. Eberhard Center, Room 215**

**301 Fulton St. W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

Clark was a candidate for president in 2004, and also helped write and negotiate large portions of the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement. In his final assignment as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe he led NATO forces to victory in Operation Allied Force, a 78-day air campaign, backed by ground invasion planning and a diplomatic process, saving 1.5 million Albanians from ethnic cleansing.

He was valedictorian at West Point and later a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

Previous recipients of the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship Medal include: President Gerald R. Ford (posthumously), Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State James A. Baker, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Ambassador John Beyrle, President of Palau Tommy Remengesau, Admiral James M. Loy, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Carla Hills, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/hc](http://www.gvsu.edu/hc).

For immediate release

March 5, 2019

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU event to examine importance of interfaith leadership in the 21st century**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — An upcoming presentation at Grand Valley State University will explore the importance of encouraging young people to grow in their interfaith understanding in order to become positive religious leaders of the 21st century.

**Kinza Khan, a domestic violence attorney, will be the featured speaker during the 2019 Rabbi Phillip Sigal Memorial Lecture. The event will take place March 11 from 4-5:30 p.m. in Kirkhof Center's Pere Marquette Room, located on the Allendale Campus. The event is free and open to the public.**

"When I look at the news, I see examples of both really good and really bad interfaith leadership, so learning how to talk about and understand different religious, secular and spiritual traditions will be important for our students as they continue to shape their lives, professions and societies," said Kevin McIntosh, Campus Interfaith Resources coordinator.

Khan is currently an attorney at Life Span, an organization committed to helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She also serves as an educator and trainer for HEART Women & Girls, an organization that provides education about and advocacy for issues of sexual health and violence in Muslim-American communities.

Kahn earned a bachelor's degree in international studies from University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and a law degree at DePaul University's College of Law. She has worked in issues of child welfare, women's rights and domestic violence throughout her career while also engaging in interfaith work and various community development projects.

"I think hearing what made Kinza get into interfaith during college, what made her apply to join the Interfaith Youth Core, and why she has continued to focus on making the community better through her work will show students that you don't need to work in an interfaith office or a religious institution to be an interfaith leader," said McIntosh.

This year's Sigal Lecture is co-sponsored by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute and Campus Interfaith Resources.

The annual lecture is named for Rabbi Phillip J. Sigal, a pioneer of the interfaith movement in West Michigan until his death in 1985. Aside from his duties at Ahavas Israel Synagogue, Sigal was instrumental in opening the lines of communication among several religions in the area. After his death, a group of local academic and interfaith enthusiasts established the Sigal memorial lecture in his honor. Since that time, the event has brought some of the most important voices in religion and social movements to churches, schools and other venues in West Michigan.

For more information, call the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at (616) 331-5702 or visit [the institute's website](#).

For immediate release

March 13, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Media check-in is at Kindschi Hall of Science, room 1173, for media packets and passes.*

**GVSU Science Olympiad celebrates 35 years**

*Hundreds of students to compete in STEM activities*

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 1,000 local middle and high school students will become disease detectives and meteorologists, analyze potions and poisons, and dissect the concepts of thermodynamics, during the 35th annual Region 12 Michigan Science Olympiad tournament.

**The competition, presented by Grand Valley State University's Regional Math and Science Center, will take place March 23 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in various buildings on the Allendale Campus. The awards ceremony is from 4:30-6 p.m. in the Kelly Family Sports Center.**

Students from 40 middle schools and 28 high schools from across West Michigan will showcase their knowledge in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology during the competition. Winners will advance to the state tournament April 27 at Michigan State University.

Region 12 covers Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties. The tournament is sponsored by Verizon, GE Aviation, Miller Johnson, Haviland Products Company, BizStream, and National Defense Industrial Association - Michigan Chapter.

For more information about the Science Olympiad Tournament, contact Kris Pachla at (616) 331-2273.

For immediate release

March 25, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU earns continued accreditation after HLC visit**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Higher Learning Commission, following a comprehensive visit to Grand Valley State University in November, notified university leaders that GVSU was granted continued accreditation.

Chris Plouff, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, said it was the equivalent of receiving a "clean bill of health," and it was rewarding to hear that the visiting team found all standards and core components were clearly met, with no recommendations for interim monitoring in any area.

"Certainly, we can continue to improve in several areas, but we are meeting, and often exceeding, the expectations in each of the areas outlined in the core components for accreditation," Plouff said.

He said the HLC visiting team remarked the assurance argument was well-written and was supported by substantial evidence. Plouff said a writing team of campus leaders began drafting the argument in 2014, documenting how Grand Valley meets the criteria for accreditation and demonstrating "the collective good work of the university."

When the team visited Grand Valley, November 5-6, they met more than 200 students, faculty and staff members.

Plouff said preparation for a planned assurance review in 2022 will begin in the 2020 fall semester. The next comprehensive site visit will be during the 2028-2029 academic year.

### **About Grand Valley State University**

[Grand Valley State University](#), one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, established in 1960, is a four-year public university. It attracts nearly 25,000 students with its high quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley provides a fully accredited liberal undergraduate and graduate education and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 90 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships. Grand Valley employs more than 3,600 people and is committed to providing a fair and equitable environment for the continued success of all.

For Immediate Release

March 21, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Broussard can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0Z2>*

### **GVSU Big Data event to focus on artificial unintelligence**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The speaker for The Big Data Initiative at Grand Valley State University will talk about how computers misunderstand the world.

Meredith Broussard, assistant professor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute of New York University, will give a speech March 26 at 1 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 2204 on the Allendale Campus.

Broussard is a 2018 Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellow and the author of "Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World."

Her research focuses on artificial intelligence in investigative reporting, with a particular interest in using data analysis for social good. A former features editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, she has also worked as a software developer at AT&T Bell Labs and the MIT Media Lab. Her features and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *Slate* and other outlets.

"Big Data" refers to the sharp increase in the size and complexity of data generated and collected by business, government, non-profits and other organizations. The Big Data Initiative at GVSU presents speakers and other events open to the Grand Valley community and the public.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/bigdata](http://gvsu.edu/bigdata)

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **40 teams to compete at GVSU in FIRST Robotics event**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Teams from 40 West Michigan high schools will compete for robotic supremacy at the annual FIRST Robotics event hosted by Grand Valley State University.

The teams will compete on March 22-23 at Grand Valley's Fieldhouse Arena in a challenge where they will use the robot that they have designed and built to fill a cargo ship and rocket with elements from space. Teams will race the clock, as well as their opponents, to pick up as much cargo as they can.

Grand Valley students and alumni will volunteer at the event to encourage students to pursue careers in STEM fields.

FIRST Robotics is a unique competition model where students gain real-world experience designing, programming, creating and marketing a robot to win the competition. Many teams work hand-in-hand with industry mentors and gain experience and skills not available in a traditional classroom setting.

The competition will be live-streamed on Twitch: <https://www.twitch.tv/firstinmi03>

For more information, visit <http://firstinmichigan.us/FRC/>

For immediate release

March 20, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: a dress rehearsal photo is available to download at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0YV>*

### **GVSU production of Molière play brought to 1950s setting**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's theater program will breathe new life into the 17th century Molière play “The Imaginary Invalid” by moving the setting of the play to the 1950s.

Performances of “The Imaginary Invalid” will take place March 28-30 and April 3-6 at 7:30 p.m., and March 31 and April 7 at 2 p.m. in the Linn Maxwell Keller Black Box Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, on the Allendale Campus. Tickets (\$7 for students, \$13 for faculty/staff/alumni, and \$15 for adults) can be purchased by visiting the Louis Armstrong Box Office or calling (616) 331-2300.

In “The Imaginary Invalid,” the main character, Argan, is a hypochondriac facing depleting wealth from his excessive medical bills. His condition causes him to create a plan to arrange a marriage of his daughter, Angelique, to a doctor so he can have access to medical services. However, Angelique has other plans, and she enlists the family servant, Toinette, in a scheme to foil Argan’s plans, in a comedic performance with musical interludes.

While the play was written and originally performed in the 1600s, director Dennis Henry, visiting professor of theater, said the 1950s setting makes it more relatable.

"The '50s were a time when the patriarchy was starting to be challenged and when doctors were doing advertisements for cigarettes," Henry said. "So the more modern setting really speaks to important themes in the play: challenging patriarchal authority and not treating doctors as all-knowing gods."

For more information on “The Imaginary Invalid,” visit [gvsu.edu/theater](http://gvsu.edu/theater) or contact Henry at [henryden@gvsu.edu](mailto:henryden@gvsu.edu).

For immediate release

March 19, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: headshots of presenters are available to download: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OYK>*

### **GVSU event aims to build healthy community via polarity thinking**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Kirkhof College of Nursing's Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation at Grand Valley State University will host three experts on polarity thinking for an evening presentation focused on addressing conflicts that affect the health of communities and residents.

Evelyn Clingerman, executive director of the Wesorick Center, said it could be the initial step into further community dialogue related to issues of bias and how social determinates affect the health of residents.

"Building Healthy Community: Inequities and Polarized Tensions" will be Tuesday, April 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at [gvsu.edu/wesorick](http://gvsu.edu/wesorick). Continuing education credits are available for registered nurses.

Presenters are Barry Johnson, founding partner of Polarity Partnerships; Lindsey Burr, partner with the Yarbrough Group; and Peter Whitt, founder of Enlightenment Consultant Group.

Clingerman said these three are polarity masters and have each worked with multiple organizations, municipalities and businesses to help employees, government leaders and business owners navigate cultural changes and workplace challenges. Events like "Building Healthy Community" reflect how cities like Charleston, S.C., have started to recover after the 2015 mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"Police and residents came together around that horrific event for a year to leverage tensions and avoid win-lose conversations," she said.

Clingerman said while West Michigan has not endured such a tragedy, polarity thinking helps people consider the root causes that affect a person's health, or how people are impacted by social determinates like housing, socioeconomic status, transportation and education.

"We hope area students and residents recognize how much Grand Valley wants to support future conversations that help address issues people cope with daily," she said.

For more information about the event, visit [gvsu.edu/wesorick](http://gvsu.edu/wesorick) or call (616) 331-5767.

### **About the Wesorick Center**

The [Wesorick Center](#) is an endowed center within GVSU's Kirkhof College of Nursing dedicated to leading the transformation of health care through scholarly research, projects and collaborative opportunities that focus on creating the best places to give and receive care.

## **Air quality in Pew Campus buildings found to be in safe range**

**Posted on March 29, 2019**

Grand Valley experts told the audience at a March 29 meeting that results from indoor air quality tests at select buildings on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus were found to be safe.

The meeting was held in the L. William Seidman Center to share the test results and information regarding an MDEQ study of emissions of ethylene oxide from Viant Medical, Inc. in Grand Rapids.

Grand Valley hired an independent company, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., to test the indoor air quality in the L. William Seidman Center, The Bicycle Factory, the DeVos Center, and Winter Hall, which are all located near the Viant facility.

Officials said measured results from testing on February 16 were low and considered to be in the safe range. Grand Valley scheduled additional testing March 16 which verified the initial results.

Panelists at the meeting included Grand Valley experts Dave Huizen, occupational health and safety program director; George McBane, professor of chemistry; and Rick Rediske, professor and researcher at the Annis Water Resources Institute.

They said the results were "very low, either below or just above the detection limit."

They said based on all of the sampling information, as well as the results of two sets of modeling, all the risk levels for Grand Valley employees and students using the most conservative model for estimating total cancer risk are less than the risk threshold for public health intervention.

Grand Valley experts said they agree with the MDEQ that the measured and modeled concentrations do not pose a short-term health concern to faculty and students at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and the additional lifetime cancer risk, while not zero, is too small to warrant concern.

They said it is highly unlikely that even one GVSU person will contract cancer because of ethylene oxide from Viant.

Other panelists included Deb Alderink, occupational safety and health manager with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., and Tammi VanTil, air dispersion consultant and president of Madison Consulting. Ed Aboufadel, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at Grand Valley, served as moderator.

For More Information Contact: [Dottie Barnes](#) in [University Communications](#) - [616-331-2221](#)

For Immediate Release

April 4, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/106>

### **GVSU economist: Slow growth continues, optimism retreats**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — West Michigan's recovery from the Great Recession began 10 years ago this month and it continues at the same slow pace since 2009, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of March.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) remained virtually unchanged at +17, up from +16. The production index retreated to +5 from +16. The index of purchases waned to +4 from +16, and the employment index declined slightly to +15 from +17.

Business confidence rebounded in February after posting near-record lows in January, Long said, but March saw that optimism fade.

"Short-term confidence for March slipped for a number of reasons — no resolution to the Chinese trade war, Brexit, the softening world economy and retreating monthly auto sales," said Long.

The long-term business outlook (perception for the next three-to-five years), remained steady at +28, up marginally from February's +27.

Long added that auto sales are continuing to fall as predicted, but West Michigan auto parts producers are not feeling pinched. "Just as it has been for many months, the decline in auto sales has been very orderly, so far," he said.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

April 4, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616)331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **Panel to explore how the humanities might help Americans cross deep political, cultural divides**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Politics and culture are contentious factors in modern American life that are driving a major divide between significant segments of the population, but a group of experts will discuss how learning from the past can be significant when facing today's challenges.

The event, "Searching for Deeper Common Ground," will be hosted by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies as part of the center's Common Ground Initiative, which seeks to address increasing political and cultural polarization in American life.

Following the event, attendees can participate in an interactive town hall session where speakers will field audience questions and comments on pursuing common ground in an age of hyperpolarization.

Speakers will include Gleaves Whitney, presidential historian, author and director of the Hauenstein Center; Bradley Birzer, a history professor and the Russell Amos Kirk Chair in American Studies at Hillsdale College; and Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn, an award-winning author and historian who serves on the faculty at Syracuse University.

**Searching for Deeper Common Ground: Gleaves Whitney, Bradley Birzer and Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn  
Friday April 12, from noon - 1:45 p.m.**

**Loosemore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center  
401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**The event is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is requested at [gvsu.edu/hc/events](https://gvsu.edu/hc/events).**

This event is presented in partnership with the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan, and the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/hc](https://gvsu.edu/hc)

For Immediate Release

April 3, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **GVSU student selected as finalist for prestigious Truman Scholar Award**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University student Cameron Jones has been selected as a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Award, the nation's most prestigious domestic award for undergraduate students.

Jones, Grand Valley's second-ever Truman finalist, was selected from among 840 applications from 346 colleges and universities. Truman finalists are selected based on their records of leadership, public service and academic achievement. Truman finalists from 143 colleges and universities are now being interviewed by the Foundation's Regional Review Panels and scholars will be announced in late April.

The Truman Scholarship Foundation recognizes students with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to affecting change through public service by providing them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training and fellowship with other students. Truman Scholars receive up to \$30,000 to pursue graduate study in preparation for careers in government or public service.

Jones, of Trenton, Michigan, is a third-year member and Presidential Scholar in the Frederik Meijer Honors College at Grand Valley. He is pursuing a double major in political science and international relations.

He is also a fellow in the Cook Leadership Academy, a cohort of students who actively study leadership through the university's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. He currently serves as vice president of external relations for the university's Student Senate and as an executive board member for Model UN. In his first year at Grand Valley, he co-founded Issues Forum, a bi-monthly discussion group that brings students together to talk through the anxiety and the hostility of the current political climate.

Jones has also worked as a legislative aide to state Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstown) and served as a campaign field director for state Sen. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids). This field experience and constituent services work inspired his Truman policy proposal, focused on restorative justice. His work centers on eliminating barriers to convicted felons' economic integration.

As a Truman Scholar, Jones intends to pursue a master's in public administration at the Gerald R. Ford School at the University of Michigan, in hopes of deepening his understanding of Michigan's historical and political environment, and to engage in public service at local and national levels.

Elizabeth Harrington Lambert, director of the Meijer Office of Fellowships, said Jones has demonstrated leadership and community engagement, both on campus at Grand Valley, and in state and local politics.

"Cameron has shown himself to be an outstanding leader with a passion for public service, and he's incredibly deserving of recognition from the Truman Foundation," Lambert said.

The [Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships](#) supports interested undergraduate and graduate students and alumni in pursuing major national and international award opportunities, providing information and direct support throughout the competitive application processes.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fellowships](https://gvsu.edu/fellowships).

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from past Pow Wows are available at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OH6>

### **GVSU to host 21st annual Pow Wow**

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Events to celebrate and learn about Native American traditions and culture through dance and song will take place April 6 at Grand Valley State University.

The 21st annual Celebrating All Walks of Life Traditional Pow Wow will take place in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. Doors open at 11 a.m. with Grand Entry performances at noon and 5 p.m.

The event will feature handmade Native American crafts, food vendors, information booths and a silent auction to raise funds for the Native American Student Association.

The event, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Native American Student Association, is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact OMA at (616) 331-2177 or visit [gvsu.edu/oma/powwow](http://gvsu.edu/oma/powwow)

For immediate release

April 16, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **Regional Title IX conference at GVSU includes free pre-session open to public**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host a regional Title IX Investigation Conference for K-12 and college/university employees that includes a free, pre-conference session open to the public.

The two-day conference is May 1-2 at the DeVos Center, on GVSU's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

Workshop sessions and roundtable discussions will focus on investigator content, interviewing skill enhancement, case preparation and policy implementation. Cost to attend the conference is \$175 and includes meals and snacks; to register or view details, visit [gvsu.edu/titleix/conference](http://gvsu.edu/titleix/conference).

The free, pre-conference session on April 30, from 5-6 p.m., features Lilia Cortina, professor of psychology and women's studies, and management and organizations at the University of Michigan. Cortina is the principal investigator for Research in the Gender and Respect in Organizations (GRO) lab, which addresses gender, sex-based harassment and incivility in the workplace.

Cortina's presentation, "#MeToo: From a Moment to a Movement," will be in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. No registration is necessary.

Cortina will discuss how the term "sexual harassment" is misleading, as she contends the harassment has little to do with sexuality but rather gender. Cortina will highlight her research on gender harassment, where it occurs and the type of employees who engage in it.

Cortina is the author of more than 50 articles published in academic journals and a contributor to a report, "Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering and Medicine."

For immediate release

April 22, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

**Media opportunity: GVSU will host Peace Corps sendoff for new volunteers**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host a sendoff for nearly 20 invited Peace Corps volunteers, who are new area college graduates and community members.

Media members are welcome to attend the reception: Tuesday, April 23, 4-5:30 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Sharon Ceron-Espinosa is the Peace Corps campus recruiter. While housed at Grand Valley, Ceron-Espinosa works with students at Grand Valley, Calvin College, Hope College, Ferris State University and Aquinas College to determine if serving in the Peace Corps is an option for them.

Emma Powers will graduate from Grand Valley this weekend and will depart for Eswatini, in southern Africa, in September. Powers will serve as an HIV/AIDS mitigation officer and provide education about prevention of the virus and treatment.

"The Peace Corps offers an unprecedented opportunity to work with a community to make a difference that benefits them," Powers said. "I come from a privileged background so it is my duty to use the education and experience I have to benefit others."

Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, more than 250 Grand Valley alumni have served as volunteers.

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Registration for this event is closed/full. Media are welcome to attend and cover the event.*

**DTE chairman to discuss "soft side" of business at GVSU event**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Gerry Anderson, chairman and CEO of DTE Energy, will talk about the "soft side" of business during a presentation April 17 at Grand Valley State University.

Anderson will give an address, "Leading with Purpose - How I Discovered that the Soft Side of Business is the Hard Side," as the keynote speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast lecture.

**The event will take place April 17 from 8-9 a.m. at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.**

Anderson has served as DTE Energy president and chief operating officer since 2005. He first came to the company in 1993 as vice president of non-utility businesses. He became executive vice president of DTE Energy in 1997, directing the company's power generation, power marketing, fuel supply and marketing activities.

DTE Energy's operating units include an electric utility serving 2.2 million customers in southeast Michigan and a natural gas utility serving 1.3 million customers throughout Michigan. DTE Energy also includes non-utility energy businesses focused on power and industrial projects, natural gas pipelines, gathering and storage, and energy marketing and trading.

For more information about the event, contact the Seidman College of Business Alumni Association at (616) 331-7100.

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221  
Katherine Dreyer, Van Andel Global Trade Center at GVSU, (616) 331-6811

### **GVSU World Trade conference focuses on design thinking**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Global business expansion, design thinking and protecting global brand are a few of the topics being offered at a Grand Valley State University business conference during West Michigan World Trade Week. The conference is in partnership with the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

GVSU's Van Andel Global Trade Center will host the conference May 15 featuring keynote speaker Kim Dabbs, global director of Corporate Social Innovation at Steelcase in Grand Rapids.

Dabbs will explain how design thinking can transform a company's quest to develop global products, services, processes and strategy.

#### **West Michigan World Trade Week Business Conference - May 15**

**11:30-1:30 p.m. Luncheon w/ Kim Dabbs, Steelcase keynote speech**

**1:30-4:30 p.m. Breakout sessions**

**L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave., Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Register at [www.gvsu.edu/wtw](http://www.gvsu.edu/wtw)**

Several breakout sessions are planned on a variety of topics including:

- Protecting Your Brand Globally
- The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement (USMCA)
- Risk Management Strategies and Threats
- The Trouble with Tariffs
- Testing Your Business Model Abroad

#### **Student Global Awareness Day held May 1 at Grand Valley**

A group of sixth grade students from Harrison Park Elementary School in Grand Rapids will participate in Student Global Awareness Day May 1 at the L. William Seidman Center.

The students have been learning about global careers and world cultures for the past six weeks in their classrooms and will come to campus to learn about global supply chain and participate in a Global Quizbowl session. The event is made possible through a partnership with World Trade Week and Junior Achievement.

For a full schedule of West Michigan World Trade Week events, visit [www.gvsu.edu/wtw](http://www.gvsu.edu/wtw) or call (616) 331-6811.

For immediate release

April 27, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

**Haas participates in last GVSU commencement before retiring**

*Video of emotional exit from Van Andel Arena*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — After 13 years as president of Grand Valley State University, Thomas J. Haas participated in his last commencement ceremony April 27 at Van Andel Arena.

Haas will retire in June. He and his wife, Marcia Haas, and their family walked out of the arena to shouts of "T-Haas" from graduates and audience members, and Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World."

Video embedded in this [Dropbox link](#).

More than 3,200 graduates participated in commencement ceremonies April 26-27

For Immediate Release

April 26, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **President Haas honored by Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — President Thomas J. Haas was honored by members of the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees at its April 26 meeting at the L. William Seidman Center in Grand Rapids in recognition of his 13 years of service to the university.

Haas, who retires June 30, was given president emeritus status effective July 1.

Board chair Mary Kramer said that Haas' unwavering insistence on student success has brought continued recognition to Grand Valley as Michigan's best regional public university, noting that more than half of Grand Valley's 120,000 alumni have earned their diplomas during Haas' tenure.

The board also recognized the commitment that both President Haas and his wife, Marcia, have made to the arts, evidenced by the scholarships they have endowed as well as the presence of their names on the university's Center for Performing Arts.

Haas addressed the Board of Trustees to express his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the university. Haas said dedication to student success has driven the overall success of the institution over the years.

"It has been an honor to collaborate with our Foundation members, community and state leaders, and so many others who work diligently for one of the highest purposes on earth – education," Haas said. "It is a noble calling to teach and offer to others a pathway to change and transform their lives."

John C. Kennedy was also honored at the board meeting and named an honorary life member of the board of trustees in recognition of his 11 years of service to the board. He served as a trustee, chair of the board and chair of the presidential search advisory committee.

The board also recognized retiring Vice President for Administrative Services D. Scott Richardson for his 41 years of service to the university, giving him the title of vice president for administration emeritus.

The final board recognition of the meeting was presented to Teri Losey, executive associate to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees. She has served the university for 28 years in a variety of roles, and will retire June 30. She was given the title of executive associate emeritus.

In other board action:

- The board approved a renovation project for Lake Huron Hall, one of the first academic buildings constructed on the Allendale Campus. The \$9.1 million project includes several improvements: eight renovated classrooms, restrooms, study space, windows, a new roof, a new elevator and new departmental suites. This is the first major renovation to Lake Huron Hall since it was built in 1963.

- The board approved the reauthorization of seven schools: Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies (Detroit, 10 years); Detroit Enterprise Academy (Detroit, seven years); Metro Charter Academy (Romulus, seven years); Vanguard Charter Academy (Wyoming, seven years); Evergreen Academy (Kalamazoo, three years); Global Heights Academy (Dearborn Heights, three years); William C. Abney Academy (Grand Rapids, three years).
- The board also approved a name change for Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies to University Preparatory Art & Design, approved new Charter Contract Terms and Conditions for 6a, 6e and 6c schools, and approved the appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU-authorized public school academy boards.
- The board selected Vice President for University Relations Matt McLogan to serve as interim secretary to the Board of Trustees until a permanent secretary can be selected.
- The board approved the endowment fund spending rate for 2019-2020 at 4.5 percent. Total expenditures for the year 2019-2020 will be approximately \$4.9 million. In fiscal year 2018, more than 1,600 scholarships were awarded from the endowment spending distribution.

For immediate release

April 23, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: note: headshots of commencement speakers are available to download via <http://gvsu.edu/s/11t> Skybox 101B is reserved for media. The skybox offers a mult box and an elevated, unobstructed view of the podium and platform.*

•• **Note:** special surprise planned for retiring president Thomas J. Haas detailed below.

### **Brian Kelly, DeVoses among GVSU commencement speakers**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Prominent community philanthropists, a football coach and a lifelong educator will give commencement addresses at Grand Valley State University's three ceremonies April 26-27 at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

- Daniel and Pamella DeVos will speak at the April 26 ceremony, which will begin at 7 p.m. and include the Seidman College of Business, College of Community and Public Service, and Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

As lead donors for the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, under construction on Grand Valley's Health Campus, they are continuing the DeVos family's legacy of providing transformative support for health and education in West Michigan. Dan is chair and CEO of DP Fox Ventures LLC. Pamella is founder and president of pamella roland, a prominent women's fashion house.

- Brian Kelly, head football coach for the University of Notre Dame, will be the speaker for the 10 a.m. ceremony on April 27 for graduates of the College of Health Professions, Kirkhof College of Nursing and half of the majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Kelly has an overall record of 231-91-2 (.716) in 29 seasons as a head coach. He won two NCAA Division II titles at Grand Valley in 2002 and 2003 and also coached at Central Michigan University and the University of Cincinnati. Kelly and his wife, Paqui, founded the Kelly Cares Foundation, which has contributed more than \$5 million to various organizations.

- Lupe Ramos-Montigny, member of the Michigan State Board of Education, is the speaker at the 3 p.m. ceremony on April 27 for graduates of the College of Education, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and half of the majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Ramos-Montigny worked for more than 35 years in education, including many years as a Grand Rapids Public Schools building principal. She was elected to the state Board of Education in 2012. Ramos-Montigny serves as the chair for the Committee to Honor César E. Chávez; in 2015, Grand Valley renamed a scholarship to honor her.

All commencement ceremonies will be live streamed, visit [gvsu.edu/commencement](http://gvsu.edu/commencement) for details.

**MEDIA NOTES:**

• **Presidential exit:** GVSU President Thomas J. Haas will be surprised at the April 27, 3 p.m. ceremony when Marcia Haas walks on stage to escort him from Van Andel Arena (this would be roughly 5 p.m.). Haas will retire in June after 13 years. People planted in the audience will begin a "T-Haas" chant as the Haases walk down the center aisle. **NOTE: This is a surprise for Haas, please DO NOT announce exit plan publicly.**

• **Notable student story:** Melissa Wagner will receive a doctor of nursing practice degree from the Kirkhof College of Nursing at the April 27, 10 a.m. ceremony. Wagner, from Jackson, served in the U.S. Air Force as a medic following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, worked as an emergency department nurse, and co-parents a household of six children ranging in age from 4-16. Wagner can be reached at [wagnerme@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:wagnerme@mail.gvsu.edu) or (517) 879-6631.

For Immediate Release

May 15, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, (616) 331-2221, [hoekstna@gvsu.edu](mailto:hoekstna@gvsu.edu)

### **Ambassador Nikki Haley to receive Hauenstein Fellowship Award**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Former ambassador and governor of South Carolina Nikki Haley will receive the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship Medal from the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

Haley will receive the award at an event hosted by the Grand Rapids Economic Club on May 29.

Haley served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 2017-2018, and served as the Republican governor of South Carolina from 2011-2017. She was the first female governor of the state of South Carolina and the second Indian-American to serve as a governor in the United States.

The Hauenstein Fellowship Medal is Grand Valley State University's most prestigious external award, and recognizes the extraordinary life of the center's namesake, Ralph Hauenstein. The award honors distinguished individuals who exemplify his spirit of leadership and service, which Grand Valley seeks to inspire in its students and graduates.

### **Ambassador Nikki Haley: Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship Presentation**

**Wednesday, May 29, 5:45 p.m.**

**DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Previous recipients of the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship Medal include: President Gerald R. Ford (posthumously), Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State James A. Baker, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, Ambassador John Beyrle, President of Palau Tommy Remengesau, Admiral James M. Loy, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Carla Hills, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Gen. Wesley Clark.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/hc](http://www.gvsu.edu/hc).

For immediate release

May 10, 2019

Contacts: Robyn Rosenthal, W.K. Kellogg Foundation (810) 444-0285, [robyn.rosenthal@wkkf.org](mailto:robyn.rosenthal@wkkf.org)

Mary Eilleen Lyon, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-2221, [lyonme@gvsu.edu](mailto:lyonme@gvsu.edu)

Nathan Hunt, Battle Creek Public Schools (269) 965-9478, [nhunt@battle-creek.k12.mi.us](mailto:nhunt@battle-creek.k12.mi.us)

**MEDIA ADVISORY: WKKF, GVSU and BCPS announce partnership to strengthen the economic vitality of Battle Creek**

**WHO:**

La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Thomas Haas, president, Grand Valley State University

Kim Carter, superintendent, Battle Creek Public Schools

**WHAT:**

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Grand Valley State University and Battle Creek Public Schools will announce a new partnership to strengthen the economic vitality of the city, ensuring every child thrives and Battle Creek becomes a community where people want to work, live and play.

**WHEN/WHERE:**

9 a.m. Monday, May 13, 2019

Mill Race Park (across from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation at One Michigan Avenue East, Battle Creek, MI 49017. Parking is available behind Mill Race Park). In case of inclement weather we will gather at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**WHY:**

A vibrant Battle Creek expands pathways to opportunity for our children, young people and families. Collaboration and cross-sector partnerships open our region to new possibilities for developing talent.

**About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation:** The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti.

**About Grand Valley State University:** Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 91 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs, and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student

achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

**About Battle Creek Public Schools:** Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) is a school district located in Calhoun County, Mich., serving the City of Battle Creek as well as parts of Emmett, Pennfield and Bedford townships, and the City of Springfield. With a bold goal of achieving 100% success for every Bearcat, the district offers a broad range of educational experiences to meet the individual needs of students at all levels, including experiential learning, individualized instruction, advanced and accelerated curricula, and outdoor education. In 2017, BCPS received a historic investment from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The district is now in the second year of a five-year transformation plan, advancing bold, top-to-bottom changes to provide a world-class career-, college- and culture-ready education for every student, in every grade, at every school.

For immediate release

May 9, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Headshots of the scholars are available to download: <http://gvsu.edu/s/12k>

### **Two GVSU students selected as Goldwater Scholars**

*-- Nationally competitive program saw 500 students selected out of 5,000 nominees*

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two Grand Valley State University students received scholarship money from the nationally competitive Goldwater Scholars program.

Erin Fish and Shea Siwik, both juniors who are majoring in biochemistry, each earned \$7,500 from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

Goldwater Scholars (496 chosen nationally this year from a pool of 5,000 students) are nominated by faculty members, have strong academic and research backgrounds and will likely enroll in graduate schools. The last time Grand Valley students were selected as Goldwater Scholars was in 2012.

Fish, from Allen Park, was also selected in 2018 for the Beckman Scholars Program. A national program operated by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, Grand Valley's Beckman Scholars received stipends to conduct research projects with faculty mentors. Through this summer, Fish will conclude her Beckman research with Brad Wallar, professor of chemistry, of characterizing enzyme structures and looking for antibacterial inhibitors.

Fish is a student ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and gives classroom presentations on what it means to be a student researcher at Grand Valley. She plans to pursue a M.D./Ph.D program, and Wallar said he has confidence in her future success.

"This challenging pathway is not suitable for everyone but Erin has all the motivation, abilities and stamina to thrive in such a program," he said.

Siwik, from Portage, works in the research lab of Paul Cook, associate professor of chemistry, characterizing enzymes involved in the production of a compound called bacillithiol, which several disease-causing bacteria use to destroy certain antibiotics. Siwik will spend the summer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as part of the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program.

Cook said he has confidence that Siwik will achieve her plan to earn a doctoral degree in biochemistry and then teach at a research university.

"Shea stood out to me as a great candidate for the Goldwater Scholarship," Cook said. "She has done great work in my lab, and she is another example of the extraordinary research students we have at Grand Valley."

Named in honor of former Sen. Barry Goldwater, Goldwater Scholars often earn prestigious post-graduate fellowship programs. Goldwater Scholars have been awarded 92 Rhodes Scholarships, 137

Marshall Awards, 159 Churchill Scholarships, 104 Hertz Fellowships, and numerous other distinguished awards like the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships.

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/12h>

### **GVSU economist: Hints of slower growth**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is chugging along like it has been for the past 10 years, but evidence is mounting that the pace may be slowing, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of April.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) remained positive but backtracked to +13 from +17. The production index rose to +11 from +5, and the index of purchases also increased to +16 from +4. The employment index slid from +15 to a 27-month low of +4.

"Although one month can never be construed as a trend, it was disappointing to see our local employment index take such a deep slide," said Long. "Unemployment is always an economic laggard, resulting in most of our West Michigan counties continuing to post very good unemployment numbers."

Long said although there are some significant signs that growth is slowing, there is still no sign that the economy is about to slide into a recession.

"We know the world economy is slowing and that will ultimately have at least some impact on our domestic economy," said Long. "Various industries are starting to grow 'bubbles' which we hope will not all break at once."

The ongoing trade dispute with China could generate a significant slowdown or even a recession if the war drags on, Long said. Most major capital projects are planned and executed over a long-term cycle, such as five years. He said these projects tend to have long and productive supply chains which stimulate growth. He also said some of the benefits of the 2017 tax legislation could be felt for years to come, making the U.S. the cheapest place in the world to do business.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU to host Michigan Student Voter Engagement Summit**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Student voter engagement, education and turnout efforts are just a few of the topics on the agenda for more than 100 representatives from colleges and universities across the state when they come together May 10 at Grand Valley State University.

Grand Valley, in partnership with Campus Vote Project and the University of Michigan Ginsberg Center, will host the Michigan Student Voter Engagement Summit at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Representatives from more than 25 institutions are expected to attend, including Michigan Department of State, Ottawa County Clerk's Office, Campus Vote Project, Young Invincibles, All in Democracy Challenge, and Campus Election Engagement Project.

Keynote speakers are Shannon Garrett from SMG Strategies who will discuss "Elevating Student Voices," and Kristi Dougan from the Michigan Department of State who will discuss "Updates for Students from the MI Secretary of State."

"We will engage in a full day of shared learning, networking and strategizing around how to cultivate educated and active student leaders, who are poised and ready to engage in the democratic process in the voting booth and beyond," said Melissa Baker-Boosamra, associate director of Student Life for Civic Engagement and Assessment at Grand Valley.

#### **Michigan Student Voter Engagement Summit**

**May 10 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

**Register at [gvsu.edu/service](https://gvsu.edu/service)**

Educational sessions will focus on voter engagement, education and turnout efforts; building coalitions; advocacy, student government; bridging the partisan gap on campuses; and student activism and organizing.

The event is being hosted by Grand Valley's Division of Student Services and Office of Student Life.

Sponsors include Delta College, Ferris State University, Macomb Community College, Michigan State University, Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan, Washtenaw Community College, and Western Michigan University.

For more information contact Melissa Baker-Boosamra at [bakerbme@gvsu.edu](mailto:bakerbme@gvsu.edu) or visit [gvsu.edu/service](https://gvsu.edu/service).

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU Police Academy sees record number of recruits**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Police Academy's 2019 class is the largest to date, with 48 recruits.

The 45th GVSU Police Academy, which began April 29, includes 37 men and 11 women.

Williamson Wallace, director of Criminal Justice Training at Grand Valley, said there are 31 pre-service recruits (who will be seeking employment upon graduation) and 17 in-service recruits (who have been hired and are sponsored by a law enforcement agency).

The 17 students being sponsored by agencies are coming from the Grand Rapids Police Department, Grand Haven Department of Public Safety, Muskegon City Police Department, Kent County Sheriff's Office, and Ingham County Sheriff's Office.

The academy is conducted annually during the spring/summer semester, May–August. The 2019 class will graduate August 15 at 2 p.m. in the Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus.

Grand Valley's academy goes beyond the mandatory minimum training requirement of 594 hours set by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and provides 670.5 hours of instruction in 16 weeks.

Wallace said the academy is a leader in the state, introducing innovative training methods and techniques that are setting the bar for law enforcement education.

For more information, contact Wallace at (616) 331-8515 or visit [gvsu.edu/cj/policeacademy](http://gvsu.edu/cj/policeacademy)

For immediate release

May 13, 2019

Contacts: Robyn Rosenthal, W.K. Kellogg Foundation (810) 444-0285, [robyn.rosenthal@wkkf.org](mailto:robyn.rosenthal@wkkf.org)  
Mary Eilleen Lyon, GVSU University Communications (616) 331-2221, [lyonme@gvsu.edu](mailto:lyonme@gvsu.edu)  
Nathan Hunt, Battle Creek Public Schools (269) 965-9478, [nhunt@battle-creek.k12.mi.us](mailto:nhunt@battle-creek.k12.mi.us)

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos, and later a video will be posted in the same link, from today's announcement are available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/12n>*

## **GVSU receives W.K. Kellogg grant to widen Battle Creek region's access to college, career programming**

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) today announced a partnership to increase regional access to higher education programming, strengthening the economic vigor of the community and ensuring children and families thrive. The partnership aims to expand the path to higher education options in Battle Creek, underscoring the commitment by area leaders to increase jobs, talent and create a culture of vitality in the city.

A five-year \$15.5 million grant from WKKF to GVSU will enable the university to partner with BCPS to provide middle and high school students a pathway to high-demand jobs in the health care and education sectors; offer teachers enhanced professional development and mentorship opportunities; and continue to build a pipeline of talented educators here in Battle Creek.

Additionally, GVSU will open an outreach center in downtown Battle Creek this summer to coordinate student services, also enabling the entire community to inquire and access the university's resources.

"We've had a long-standing relationship with the Kellogg Foundation and we are honored they looked to us to provide targeted educational programs in Battle Creek," said Thomas J. Haas, president of Grand Valley State University. "We know how education positively affects the entire climate of a region, and we look forward to a fruitful relationship and successful outcomes for the students, teachers and members of the community."

The grant to GVSU marks the beginning of a strong partnership and vision to increase access to higher education options and build a powerful talent pool locally. It builds on a series of long-term investments to support the economic growth of the region.

"This new partnership reflects the commitment to collaboration that is guiding our shared efforts for children and families in Battle Creek," said La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "It is creating a new pathway in our community — one that ultimately can increase access to jobs and talent in our region."

### **BETTER JOBS AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Jobs in science, technology and health care are not only among the most high-paying jobs, but they are industries that continue to grow and need more skilled workers. Middle and high school students enrolled at BCPS will be able to attend STEM-focused summer camps where they will get hands-on experience in the health care, engineering and science fields. They will receive valuable and highly-

coveted exposure to a range of jobs available, and these programs will help encourage and position them to pursue these careers. High school students can enroll in university classes in education and health sciences to get a head start in their pathway to college and career. Additionally, special camps will encourage young girls to explore math and sciences to promote greater gender equity in these fields.

### **HELPING TEACHERS HELP OUR KIDS**

Recognizing the need to invest in and retain public school teachers in Battle Creek, GVSU's College of Education will offer professional development opportunities to Battle Creek Public School teachers through new teacher mentoring, leadership development and various programs to support curriculum design and instructional practices. Additionally, classroom assistants will receive support to become certified public school teachers, and pipeline programs will be established to bring more educators to Battle Creek.

"The GVSU partnership will open up new, creative ways for BCPS to attract and retain talented teachers, create a student teacher pipeline to develop the next generation of local teachers right here in Battle Creek and help further develop our current teaching staff through university-led mentorships and professional development," said Kimberly Carter, Battle Creek Public Schools superintendent. "We are thrilled that this partnership will help us continue to scale up excellence for our BCPS educators and students."

Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs at Grand Valley State University, said the university looks forward to building a strong partnership with the district and community.

"We are pleased at the opportunity to work with Battle Creek Public Schools to offer their talented teachers professional development and teach students about the vital careers in health care and education," Cimitile said. "Our faculty and staff are dedicated to excellence in learning and community engagement. We are excited to contribute our faculty's expertise to help in the growth and economic health of the community."

**About W.K. Kellogg Foundation:** The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti.

**About Grand Valley State University:** Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 91 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs, and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming

and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

**About Battle Creek Public Schools:** Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) is a school district located in Calhoun County, Mich., serving the City of Battle Creek as well as parts of Emmett, Pennfield and Bedford townships, and the City of Springfield. With a bold goal of achieving 100% success for every Bearcat, the district offers a broad range of educational experiences to meet the individual needs of students at all levels, including experiential learning, individualized instruction, advanced and accelerated curricula, and outdoor education. In 2017, BCPS received a historic investment from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The district is now in the second year of a five-year transformation plan, advancing bold, top-to-bottom changes to provide a world-class college-, career- and culture-ready education for every student, in every grade, at every school.

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Lorie Tuma, assistant professor of HTM, [tumal@gvsu.edu](mailto:tumal@gvsu.edu), (989) 506-3805

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the students in Cannes can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/12l>*

### **GVSU students coordinating events at Cannes Film Festival**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Seventeen students in the hospitality and tourism management (HTM) program at Grand Valley State University are spending two weeks working at the Cannes International Film Festival in France.

Lorie Tuma, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, said students are among the select few who have full access for the duration of the festival, coordinating events at The American Pavilion. They will hold official positions in international pavilions, host press panels, assist A-List celebrities and coordinate exclusive events.

The invitation-only festival previews new films of all genres and is considered one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world. This year's festival runs from May 14-25.

"We know students benefit from international industry-related experience," said Tuma. "The GVSU program is the only sanctioned faculty-led program in the world at Cannes, and I am proud to share this experience with these 17 talented students."

For more information, contact Lorie Tuma at (989) 506-3805 or [tumal@gvsu.edu](mailto:tumal@gvsu.edu).

#### **Students attending, their assignment in Cannes, and their hometown:**

- Amanda Witsaman, VIP terrace, red carpet - Homer Glen, Illinois
- Anne Marie Lane, VIP terrace, red carpet - Howell, Michigan
- Ashley Sierminski, sponsorship liaison - Jackson, Michigan
- Benjamin DiPiazza, VIP terrace, red carpet - Highland, Michigan
- Dallas Johnston, membership services & health/emergency services liaison
- Emma Hankey, videography & photography - Portage, Michigan
- Emma Zentera, membership services - Troy, Michigan
- Kendra Lippincott, membership services - Sagamore Hills, Ohio
- Kyle Bos, press panels & conference operations - Muskegon, Michigan
- Madison Harter, publicity/public relations - Comstock Park, Michigan
- Madison Morris, membership services - Zeeland, Michigan
- Maisie Ciullo, restaurant services - Gwinn, Michigan
- Megan Ysais, publicity/public relations - Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Neal Kelly, membership services & security - Holland, Michigan
- Olivia Thompson, conference operations (photography/videography) - Oxford, Michigan
- Olivia Witsaman - bartending & beverage services - Homer Glen, Illinois
- Na'Stochia McDaniel, pavilion programming - Grand Rapids, Michigan

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221 or (616) 318-3673

*MEDIA NOTE: A Photo of Johnson and Bleckley receiving the award can be found at this link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/12Z>

### **VAGTC receives presidential award for export service**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center has received the President's "E" Award, the highest recognition any U.S. entity can receive for making a significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross presented the award to Sonja Johnson, executive director of VAGTC, and Mark Bleckley, associate director of VAGTC, during a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. May 23.

Ross said the Van Andel Global Trade Center has demonstrated a sustained commitment to export expansion.

"The awards committee was very impressed with the organization's number and variety of seminars and workshops to educate exporters," said Ross. "The organization's collaboration with partners in the community was also particularly notable. The Van Andel Global Trade Center's achievements have undoubtedly contributed to national export expansion efforts that support the U.S. economy and create American jobs."

The Van Andel Global Trade Center was founded in 1999 as an outreach unit of Grand Valley State University to provide the community with international consulting, training and resources. The center seeks to strengthen the community by helping companies increase their international business and become more competitive in the global marketplace.

Located on GVSU's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, VAGTC has helped thousands of businesses achieve their goals of going global. The center is also the grantee-administrator for the Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign Trade Zone.

"Receiving the 'E' Award is an extremely proud moment for our entire staff," said Johnson. "We are here today to celebrate the recognition of our impact on the community and the companies that use our services and our talented staff. The award also celebrates our commitment to providing students with hands-on applied international experience before graduation."

Johnson thanked Grand Valley State University, the Seidman College of Business and the VAGTC global advisory board for their continued support.

"Most important is our extensive partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce's U.S. Commercial Service network that leverages each organization's resources to best assist businesses across the state,"

said Johnson. "We look forward to continuing to help Michigan businesses grow their exports, creating jobs for our community and future GVSU graduates."

In 2018, U.S. exports were the highest on record with U.S. services at \$821.1 billion and U.S. exports of goods reaching \$1.7 trillion, demonstrating how American private enterprise can not only survive, but thrive, in the international market.

"Exporting can be a significant challenge for small and mid-sized businesses, but there are great resources in our community that can help companies tap into foreign markets," said Kendra Kuo, director, U.S. Commercial Service – Grand Rapids. "The Van Andel Global Trade Center is one of our region's leaders in promoting international trade through their trade education events and services. They have a wealth of knowledge on their staff and have consistently succeeded in their efforts to grow West Michigan's visibility in international markets, which exemplifies the spirit of the Department of Commerce 'E' Award."

American companies are nominated for "E" Awards through the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service office network, located within the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. Record years of successive export growth and an applicant's demonstration of an innovative international marketing plan that led to an increase in exports is a significant factor in selecting the overall winners.

For more information about the "E" Awards and the benefits of exporting, visit [www.export.gov](http://www.export.gov).

To learn more about the VAGTC, visit [gvsu.edu/vagtc](http://gvsu.edu/vagtc).

### ***About Grand Valley State University***

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 91 undergraduate and 41 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

May 22, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

**MEDIA ADVISORY: Leaders from GVSU, NMC nursing programs to sign concurrent agreement**

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Students at Northwestern Michigan College who are interested in pursuing nursing careers will have a seamless transition to earning a bachelor's degree at Grand Valley State University.

Leaders from both institutions will sign a concurrent enrollment agreement on Friday, May 24.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY** •• Media members are welcome to attend the signing ceremony: Friday, May 24, at 11 a.m., Health and Science Building, second floor, on NMC's campus. (Parking available in [Cedar Lot from College Drive](#).)

The concurrent enrollment agreement is between NMC's Associate Degree in Nursing program and Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing's RN to BSN program.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said this type of collaborative model benefits students, institutions and health care providers.

"We are so pleased to work with NMC to support student nurses as they advance their education," McCurren said. "This model has emerged across the nation as a strategy to avoid duplication and steward resources efficiently. It certainly builds on the strengths of NMC and Grand Valley."

Stephen Siciliano, vice president for educational services at NMC, said the agreement will help students achieve their goal of earning a bachelor's degree in nursing while taking classes in Traverse City.

"Our students will be able to complete their bachelor's degree approximately one year after they graduate from NMC," Siciliano said. "This partnership supports our mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities to our communities."

The agreement will provide NMC nursing students with resources and coordinated advising services. KCON's RN to BSN program is offered in a hybrid format that blends online learning with in-seat meetings.

For immediate release

May 30, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **Agreement puts GVSU undergraduates on speedy path to master's degree at WMU**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A unique partnership between Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University will allow GVSU undergraduate students to transfer credits toward a master's degree in comparative religion at WMU.

The agreement, "WMU 4+1 and GVSU," allows Grand Valley undergraduates to transfer credits from upper-division coursework in religion toward the master's degree program.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, chair and associate professor of liberal studies at Grand Valley, said the agreement puts students on a fast-track to a master's degree.

"This is one more way that Grand Valley's Religious Studies Program provides attractive, relevant opportunities for students of all fields and backgrounds while helping them maximize their tuition investment," Shell-Weiss said.

Stephen Covell, chair and professor of comparative religion at WMU, called the program a wonderful opportunity for Grand Valley students and added that students enrolled through the 4+1 program could bring up to 12 credit hours, putting them two semesters ahead of a student working toward a master's degree the traditional way.

"The 4+1 program saves students time and money on their way to a master's degree," Covell said.

"Graduates of our master's program go on to Ph.D. programs in the humanities and social sciences, law school, education and nonprofit work. For students looking to go into these the fields the MA gives them a strong foundation to succeed."

For more information about the program, visit [gvsu.edu/rel](http://gvsu.edu/rel) and [wmich.edu/religion](http://wmich.edu/religion).

For immediate release

May 29, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU earns national recognition for helping Latino students achieve goals**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University was recognized nationally for demonstrating its commitment to serving Latino/Hispanic students and providing tools to help them earn degrees.

Excelencia in Education, a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve education outcomes for Latino/a college students, awarded Grand Valley and 19 other higher education institutions the Seal of Excelencia. The finalists will be formally recognized June 20 at an event in Washington, D.C.

In 2016, Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas was the first university president in Michigan to join Excelencia's Presidents for Latino Student Success. He said joining Excelencia fit within the university's strategic plan to provide students with the tools they need to succeed.

"We recognize the changing demographics of the nation, particularly the growing Latino population and what an important role they will play in the future of our region and state," Haas said. "We will continue our forward momentum to capture the talents of students of color and engage them while they are part of our campus community."

The number of Latino/Hispanic students at Grand Valley has increased by 14 percent since 2015-2016, from 1,079 students in 2015 to 1,237 in 2018.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said a number of initiatives and programs have contributed to recruiting and retaining Latino/Hispanic students. These initiatives and programs include Laker Familia, a cohort-based mentorship program; partnership with Hispanic Center of West Michigan to host a summer internship program; and endowed private scholarships awarded to students, with emphasis given to undocumented students.

"Grand Valley is the only university in Michigan and only one of two in the Midwest to earn this recognition," Bernal said. "We set up integrated elements throughout the institution that set a strong national model for what institutions can do to intentionally serve Latino students while serving all students."

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/13l>

### **GVSU economist: Slower growth, sagging confidence**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is slowing with evidence of a flat growth pattern, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of May.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) flattened to +3, down from +13. The production index held steady at +11, while the index of purchases dropped sharply to -2 from +16. The employment index rose to +15 from +4.

"The sharp drop in our index of purchases indicates many firms are putting expansion plans on hold and beginning to sandbag operations in the event that the economy continues to flatten," said Long.

He said the local economic slowdown is related to the trade war with China and the possibility of tariffs on Mexican imports.

"The economic impact and direction of the ongoing multi-national tariff wars virtually defies prediction," said Long. "What we do know is that the tariffs are starting to raise prices for a wide variety of commodities and pinch profitably for an increasing number of firms. Business planners hate uncertainty, and not knowing what new commodities might be impacted and what the resulting delivered prices might be causes future hiring or expansion plans to be put on hold."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at **(269) 870-0428**. **NOTE: This is a new phone number for Brian Long.**

For immediate release

June 5, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: a selection of campus photos to accompany this story are available via this link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/13t>

### **GVSU announces Laker Effect Campaign goal extended**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University leaders announced that the original Laker Effect campaign goal of \$85 million has been exceeded, and the university will continue toward a new goal of \$100 million or more by the end of the campaign.

The announcement was made by university President Thomas J. Haas and Grand Valley University Foundation chairs Jim and Donna Brooks at the foundation's Enrichment Dinner on June 4.

"Thank you to our donors for having the confidence and belief that Grand Valley delivers on its promises, and for expanding the Laker Effect for our students and our community," Haas said.

In the past year donors have raised more than \$22 million, helping to achieve the original goal one year before the end of the campaign. The Laker Effect campaign is the university's second multi-year comprehensive campaign. The first comprehensive campaign, Shaping Our Future, was very successful and also exceeded its original goal.

"This success would not be possible without the incredible and continued generosity of our donors and community members who understand the university's role in providing talent to our region and state," said Jim Brooks.

Brooks said although the GVSU Foundation is incredibly grateful to have achieved this goal, the Laker Effect campaign has always been about students and ensuring they have knowledge and skills that deliver high value to employers and the people they serve. There is more work to yet be done to help them start, stay, and succeed at Grand Valley, he said.

He said the biggest priorities for the coming year are reaching the individual campaign goals for the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, the Innovation Design Center for Engineering, scholarships, and student success programs.

The Laker Effect campaign is transforming the lives of students and enhancing the West Michigan community. Learn more about the campaign at [gvsu.edu/giving](http://gvsu.edu/giving).

For immediate release

June 18, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the first day of camp are available to download: <http://gvsu.edu/s/149>*

**Middle school girls will explore flight, engineering concepts at GVSU camp**

*-- Highlight of STEPS Camp is fly night*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Middle school girls from West Michigan and Battle Creek will delve into engineering and science concepts and gain hands-on experience at the annual STEPS Camp offered at Grand Valley State University in June.

This is the 18th year Grand Valley has hosted the Science Technology and Engineering Preview Summer (STEPS) day camp for girls who will be entering the seventh grade in the fall.

Nearly 100 participants are expected during two camp sessions: June 17-20 and June 24-27. For the first time, 24 girls from Battle Creek Public Schools will attend the first session of STEPS Camp.

Grand Valley received a \$15.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, enabling the university to partner with BCPS to help provide middle and high school students a pathway to careers in health care and education. Under the grant, BCPS middle and high school students can attend science- and technology-focused summer camps at Grand Valley.

STEPS campers work throughout the week to learn the concepts of flight and build a radio-controlled airplane. Campers fly their airplanes on Fly Night, the last day of their session.

**Media note: Fly Night will be June 20 and 27, 5:15-8:30 p.m., at Warped Wings Fly Field, located at the corner of Alger and 56th Avenue in Allendale.**

Other key events include field trips to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and the Amway/Alticor hanger; presentations from Tim Evans, Grand Valley associate professor of biology, who spent 45 days in a NASA simulated space mission; and Grand Valley engineering students who built and tested a device for astronauts at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, as part of the Micro-g NExT Design Challenge.

Other STEPS Camp sponsors are Amway, Bosch Community Fund, Gentex, GE Aviation, SME Education Foundation, West Michigan Aviation Academy, NDIA, Arconic Foundation, ITC Holdings, and the NASA Michigan Space Grant Consortium.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit [www.gvsu.edu/steps](http://www.gvsu.edu/steps) or contact Sara Maas at (616) 331-6025.

For Immediate Release

June 17, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

**GVSU teen entrepreneur camp focuses on poverty, reducing inequities**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 45 students from 24 area high schools will work alongside Grand Valley State University faculty members and students to brainstorm ways to create economic growth opportunities that can lead to a reduction in poverty rates and increase access to services.

**The students are part of the Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy (TESA), a week-long camp taking place June 24-28 at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.**

TESA is a hands-on, interactive camp where students immerse themselves in the entrepreneurial experience by learning about problem solving, opportunity recognition, creativity, teamwork and conceptualizing an idea for a business.

Grand Valley faculty, staff members, current college students and local entrepreneurs will provide training in business idea development and marketing processes.

Students will be presented with a challenge or theme and then will work on a new product concept or service. Students will present their ideas to a panel of judges for a chance to win prizes totaling \$5,000.

**The pitch competition will take place June 28, from 3-5 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center.**

The camp is hosted by Grand Valley's DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Seidman College of Business, and is sponsored by Amway.

Shorouq Almallah, director of CEI, said entrepreneurs, innovators and problem solvers are in high demand.

"The TESA camp not only inspires students to learn about starting a business, it helps them foster and develop the entrepreneurial mindset and skill set," said Almallah. "The camp also facilitates experiential learning opportunities in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship."

For more information about TESA and the 2019 camp schedule, visit [www.gvsu.edu/cei](http://www.gvsu.edu/cei) or contact Shorouq Almallah at (616) 331-7256.

For immediate release

June 17, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **Media advisory: GVSU to dedicate Jamie Hosford Football Center**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 400 people, including Notre Dame head football coach Brian Kelly and Baltimore Ravens cornerback and Laker alumnus Brandon Carr, will celebrate the dedication of Grand Valley State University's renovated and expanded football center.

#### **Media Details:**

The Jamie Hosford Football Center will be formally dedicated on Wednesday, June 19, on the Allendale Campus. The program will begin at 5 p.m. and include remarks and building tours. **Please note: The event is invitation only and not open to the public.**

Brian Kelly, who coached the Lakers from 1991-2003, and Brandon Carr, player from 2004-2007, will be available to media from 4:30-4:45 p.m. in the football center's Champions Lobby.

Media members can tour the facility from 4-5 p.m. Program remarks will begin at 5:15 p.m. under a tent in the end zone. Platforms and a mult box will be available.

Other scheduled speakers are Director of Athletics Keri Becker, President Thomas J. Haas, Laker head football coach Matt Mitchell, President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers, Kelly and Carr.

#### **Background:**

Keri Becker, director of athletics, said the expanded two-story, 22,000-square-foot building will help recruit prospective student athletes while offering current student athletes access to an updated athletic and rehabilitation training room. More than 700 donors supported the project as part of the Laker Effect campaign.

Hosford died in 2014 after a battle with cancer. While at Grand Valley, he earned 12 varsity letters and All-American honors in football and wrestling. He was inducted into the GVSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. After graduating in 1977, Hosford worked for Rockford Public Schools for 25 years.

Several Hosford Football Center highlights are detailed below:

- Champions Lobby: Visitors at the building's entrance will see team and individual trophies, jerseys of Laker football players who played professionally, video display board and names of building donors.
- Athletic Training and Rehabilitation Room: All 575 Laker student athletes will have access to team doctors and athletic trainers in this space.
- All-Team Meeting Room: Enough room to house 120 football student athletes for meetings and film review; can be divided into two meeting spaces and can host small groups throughout the year.
- Five position meeting rooms: These spaces will be used by position groups like wide receivers or defensive linemen, and position coaches will have dedicated spaces to meet with individual recruits.

GVSU, with the winningest NCAA Division II football program, finished the 2018 season with a 10-2 record and an appearance in the playoffs for the 19th time in program history.

For immediate release

June 13, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU carillon concert series features carillonneurs from around the world, marks milestone**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Carillonneurs from around the world will come to the Allendale and Grand Rapids campuses of Grand Valley State University this summer for the annual concert series that this year marks 25 years of performances at the Cook Carillon Tower.

All concerts are free – including free nearby parking -- and open to the public. The concerts last approximately one hour and take place rain or shine.

The Cook Carillon International Concert Series on the Allendale Campus features a reunion recital along with the concert lineup. The performances will take place at 8 p.m. Sundays beginning June 23.

#### **Cook Carillon Concerts**

June 23 – Reunion recital

June 30 – Open tower tours

July 7 – Bernard Winsemius, (The Netherlands)

July 14 – Gijsbert Kok, (The Netherlands)

July 21 – Tim Sleep, (Naperville, Illinois)

July 28 – Laura Ellis (University of Florida)

Aug. 4 – Sue Bergren (Naperville, Illinois)

Aug. 11 – Lisa Lonie (Philadelphia)

Aug. 18 – Julianne Vanden Wyngaard (GVSU carillonneur)

The Cook Carillon Tower is named for major donors and longtime Grand Valley supporters Peter and Pat Cook, who died in 2010 and 2008 respectively. The tower's 48 bells were cast in 1994 in the Netherlands. The bells for the Beckering Family Carillon, named for the Beckering family of Pioneer Construction, were cast in 2000 in France.

On the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Beckering Family Carillon International Concert Series will present five concerts at the Lacks International Plaza located at the DeVos Center. The performances are at noon Wednesdays beginning July 3.

#### **Beckering Family Carillon Concerts**

July 3 – Helen Hofmeister (Grand Rapids)

July 10 – Bernard Winsemius (The Netherlands)

July 17 – Gijsbert Kok (The Netherlands)

July 24 – Tim Sleep (Naperville, Illinois)

July 31 – Alex Johnson (Rochester, New York)

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/mtd](http://www.gvsu.edu/mtd), or call Grand Valley's Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos and a video interview with state climatologist Jeffrey Andresen is available for use at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/13V>*

### **State climate expert says warmer, wetter conditions for the future**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Michigan and the Great Lakes region will continue to see warmer and wetter climate patterns for the foreseeable future, said Jeffrey Andresen, state climatologist for Michigan. He said much of the additional precipitation will come during colder months.

Andresen was a keynote speaker at Grand Valley State University's Climate Change Education Solutions Summit that took place June 12 in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

"Arguably the biggest challenges ahead for Michigan and the Midwest will be the frequency and magnitude of heavy rain events and flooding," said Andresen.

He said Great Lakes levels have risen from record or near-record lows in 2013 to record-high levels. "Continued record-high water levels on the Great Lakes are expected for June, July and August," he said. "Over time, we will also see a huge increase in water temperatures on the Great Lakes, especially Lake Superior."

Andresen predicts Michigan will experience erratic precipitation in the future, and he said that isn't good.

"History suggests society may be able to adapt or cope with steady climate changes, but possibly not with changes in variability like storminess or extremes," he said.

The summit, sponsored by Grand Valley's Department of Geography and Sustainable Planning, drew more than 100 area K-12 educators and university faculty and scientists who shared information about climate change education and perspectives on curriculum.

Other keynote speakers included Sarah Duffer, Earth and environmental science teacher in North Carolina, and Jessica Thompson, associate professor of communications at Northern Michigan University.

Duffer developed curriculum based on Paul Hawken's Project Drawdown, which offers solutions to stop global warming. Thompson's research focus is team communication on complex ecological issues.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/cces](http://gvsu.edu/cces) or contact Elena Lioubimtseva, professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Sustainable Planning at Grand Valley, at [lioubime@gvsu.edu](mailto:lioubime@gvsu.edu).

For Immediate Release

June 11, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Registration is full, however media is welcome to cover. Photos from the 2018 Energizing Our World camp are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/13T>*

### **GVSU camp teaches renewable energy, design thinking**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Nearly 50 students from 20 local middle schools will learn about the benefits of renewable energy and best sustainable practices during Grand Valley State University's third annual Energizing Our World summer camp.

**The four-day, interactive outreach camp will take place June 17-20, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.**

Students will engage in hands-on STEM activities to learn about solar, wind and hydro power. Students will adjust variables that impact the efficiency of a turbine. The goal is for students to gather information to develop and modify their group's prototype. Each group will be working to design a self-sustaining community with limited resources.

**Campers will showcase their prototypes on June 20 from 1-3:30 p.m. in the Henry Hall Atrium.**

The camp is presented by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC) and faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"A core driving focus for this camp is problem solving," said Chelsea Ridge, RMSC program manager.

"The environment faces a variety of challenges that will continue to change throughout their lifetime. We have partnerships with the chemistry, geology and physics departments to offer content sessions, as well as a partnership with the Design Thinking Academy to help students develop their problem-solving skills."

Sponsors for the camp are the Michigan Space Grant Consortium and Consumers Energy.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/rmsc/energy](http://gvsu.edu/rmsc/energy), or contact Chelsea Ridge at (616) 331-3172 or [ridgec@gvsu.edu](mailto:ridgec@gvsu.edu).

For immediate release

June 20, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: a photo of President Thomas Haas accepting the Excelencia award, plus other student photos are available to download at this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/14o>*

### **GVSU one of nine institutions recognized nationally for Latino student success**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University was among nine institutions in the country to receive the Seal of Excelencia from the Washington, D.C.-based organization, Excelencia in Education.

The Seal recognizes an institution's very high level of commitment and effort to serve Latino students successfully. President Thomas J. Haas attended the Excelencia event June 20 in Washington, D.C.

"To receive the Seal of Excelencia means that we are enhancing the upward mobility of the Latino community, and fulfilling our promise to the students and families who have chosen us to help guide their success," Haas said. "That is a tremendous challenge and obligation for us as leaders: to do right by that goal and pursue substantive strategies that enable us to meet our mission for all students."

The other eight institutions to receive the Seal of Excelencia are listed below.

- Arizona State University
- Austin Community College (Texas)
- California State University Channel Islands
- El Paso Community College (Texas)
- Florida International University
- South Texas College
- University of Arizona
- University of Texas El Paso

2019 is the inaugural year for the Seal of Excelencia. Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education, said the Seal is part of Excelencia in Education's strategy to close the education equity gap, accelerate the number of Latino students who attain college degrees by 2030 and ensure America's future by prompting more high quality educational opportunities.

At Grand Valley, Latino student enrollment has increased 16.2 percent since 2015-2016, and Latino graduation rates have increased more than 16 percent in the same time period. In Michigan, Grand Valley ranks third among schools for the number of Latino students earning bachelor's degrees.

Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity, said Grand Valley's success is largely due to the intentional efforts of establishing a Latino Student Initiative (LSI) on campus in 2012.

"It's very unique to Grand Valley," Bernal said. "This platform was motivated by campus-wide partners and has grown to include collaborative community partnerships in West Michigan and beyond. LSI truly positioned the university to institutionalize our commitment to elevate Latino student success, and provided GVSU with a framework to serve more communities."

For immediate release

June 19, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the dedication are available to download at <http://gvsu.edu/s/14j>*

### **Expanded Hosford Football Center at GVSU called 'home win'**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 400 people celebrated the dedication of Grand Valley State University's renovated and expanded football center on June 19.

Named for a Laker football alumnus, enhancements to the Jamie Hosford Football Center will help recruit prospective student athletes while providing the university's current 575 student athletes access to an updated athletic and rehabilitation training room.

Head football coach Matt Mitchell called the facility "a big home win" and a championship-level experience for student athletes and coaches.

"We talk a lot about doing things at a championship level," Mitchell said. "Our student athletes are champions on and off the field. They deserve the best facilities to support their hard work. Jamie's spirit will live in this building. He had an infectious energy."

Hosford, who died in 2014 after a battle with cancer, earned 12 varsity letters and All-American honors in football and wrestling. He was inducted into the GVSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. After graduating in 1977, Hosford worked for Rockford Public Schools for 25 years.

Renovations to the two-story, 22,000-square-foot building include an expanded locker room, larger athletic training/rehabilitation room, all-team meeting room, and spaces for equipment maintenance, storage and laundry. Highlights are listed below.

Keri Becker, director of Athletics, said the facility honors the tradition of past football champions while setting the atmosphere for more achievements.

"It will serve as a daily challenge to coaches and student athletes on how to live like a champion," she said. "Relationships will be cultivated inside this building. This facility will help make the players a team and a family."

The donor-funded expansion campaign was led by honorary chairs President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers and Notre Dame head football coach Brian Kelly. Kelly, who coached the Lakers from 1991-2003, thanked the more than 700 people who contributed to the campaign, as part of the Laker Effect campaign.

"This facility supports students athletes," Kelly said. "Grand Valley has always been about finding the best resources for students, and student athletes."

Gloria Hosford, Jamie's wife, said her family was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for this project. "Words cannot express how proud we are and what an honor this is for Jamie," she said. "Laker pride is definitely deep, deep, deep in our family."

GVSU, with the winningest NCAA Division II football program, finished the 2018 season with a 10-2 record and an appearance in the playoffs for the 19th time in program history.

More information about the Hosford Football Center is [online](#).

**Hosford Football Center highlights:**

- Champions Lobby: Visitors at the building's entrance will see team and individual trophies, jerseys of Laker football players who played professionally, and names of building donors.
- Athletic Training and Rehabilitation Room: All 575 Laker student athletes will have access to team doctors and athletic trainers in this space.
- All-Team Meeting Room: Enough room to house 120 football student athletes for meetings and film review; can be divided into two meeting spaces and can host small groups throughout the year.
- Five position meeting rooms: These spaces will be used by position groups like wide receivers or defensive linemen, and position coaches will have dedicated spaces to meet with individual recruits.

For immediate release

June 18, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: a photo of Becker is available to download: <http://gvsu.edu/s/14b>*

### **GVSU athletics director named to state task force**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Keri Becker, director of Athletics for Grand Valley State University, was appointed to a state task force charged with developing strategies to support girls and women in sports.

The 14-member Task Force on Women in Sports was established by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. It will be housed in the Department of State and chaired by Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

Becker said she views the task force as an opportunity to give back.

"I have stood on the shoulders of the women before me who paved the way for the opportunities I have had throughout my career," Becker said. "It is time that I do the same to ensure young girls have the opportunity to participate in sports, which will enhance important skills such as teamwork, leadership, drive, competitiveness and confidence."

Becker was named director of Athletics at Grand Valley in 2016; she had served as associate director of Athletics since 2011.

For Immediate Release

July 8, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Media are asked to check in at room 123 in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences or call Kathy Agee at (616) 690-0695 or Ranelle Brew at (616) 331-5947.*

### **GVSU health professions camp offers real-life simulations**

*sHaPe Camp celebrates 10th anniversary*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area teenagers will explore careers in physical therapy, sonography, nursing, athletic training and more during a summer camp at Grand Valley State University.

**Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration or sHaPe Camp will be held July 15-18 at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences and Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall on the Health Campus.**

**For the first time, a second week of camp will be added and 40 students from Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) will attend SHaPe Camp July 22-25.**

Earlier this year, Grand Valley received a \$15.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, enabling the university to partner with BCPS to help provide middle and high school students a pathway to careers in health care and education. Under the grant, BCPS middle and high school students can attend science- and technology-focused summer camps at Grand Valley.

The students will experience sessions at the Battle Creek Veterans Facility for one day and parents will visit the Health Campus during the week.

sHaPe camp, now in its 10th year, is designed for students entering eighth or ninth grade. Sessions are taught by Grand Valley faculty and staff members and the camp has served more than 400 middle schoolers over the years.

Program activities include collecting data in a laboratory setting, using modern medical equipment, understanding different types of therapies for various injuries and disabilities, and experiencing a field trip to Mercy Health Saint Mary's Campus.

The teens will also explore the professions of dosimetry, occupational and physical therapy, physician assistant studies, speech language pathology, sonography, medical lab science, therapeutic recreation, public health, nursing and athletic training.

"We are so proud that over the past 10 years sHaPe camp has become a valuable pipeline in our community for students considering a career in health professions," said Ranelle Brew, chair of Grand Valley's Department of Public Health. "Our research has shown this model is replicable, and the partnership with Battle Creek Public Schools will allow us to impact more students."

sHaPe Camp is supported by Grand Valley's College of Health Professions, Kirkhof College of Nursing, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the first week is funded by Mercy Health and Meijer.

sHaPe Camp won the 2018 Hometown Health Heroes award from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information about sHaPe Camp, visit [www.gvsu.edu/shape](http://www.gvsu.edu/shape)

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 560-2548

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of President Mantella can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/15F>*

*President Mantell's full report to the board can be seen here:*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pyzz3GacxkU&feature=youtu.be>*

## **GVSU's President Mantella sets a bold agenda**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University President Philomena V. Mantella used the opportunity of her first Board of Trustees meeting to share her vision for the future of the university and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Mantella took over as the university's fifth president and first woman in the office on July 1. She said she is speaking with as many people as she can, as fast as she can, with the goal of understanding how best to connect Grand Valley with tremendous opportunities in the fast-changing world of education.

"Grand Valley is uniquely positioned with its student-centered education, rooted in liberal education and blended with professional studies. But that said, Grand Valley must respond to the dramatic change in the market, the demographics that are rising, the costs that are rising and the student loan levels that are rising," Mantella said.

Mantella is a first-generation college student who believes in the power of education to transform lives both professionally and personally. She said there is a national need to increase access and completion in post-secondary education, and acknowledged that the dynamic changes in education are challenging the institution's capacity and readiness to adapt.

The trustees chose Mantella to lead the university because of her experience in strategic planning, global market expansion and in the evolving ways successful institutions are delivering education. She has had broad experience with more than 30 years in higher education, serving as an officer at public and private universities in New York, New Jersey, Michigan and Massachusetts. She comes to Grand Valley after serving nearly two decades at Northeastern University, a private research university in Boston. She has a Ph.D. in college and university administration from Michigan State University and master's and bachelor's degrees in social work from Syracuse University.

In her first President's Report to the board at Grand Valley, Mantella outlined four bold steps Grand Valley should take to face the challenges and be a leader.

"We need to continue to drive learner outcomes, relevance and lifetime value," Mantella said, while noting the board's action to approve new curriculum in microbiology and degrees in cyber security were examples of how Grand Valley is staying relevant for students and the larger community. "We must be distinct and visible to our populist so they recognize what we are doing. We must build a growth mindset. We cannot rely on government funds and student tuition alone for the actions that are consistent with our mission, that are consistent with our long view of stewardship and the urgency of today's conditions. We must activate our full community."

Mantella said it will take everyone for Grand Valley to meet its quest for greatness. "We cannot preside over our current position, but we must, as GVSU has done so many times in its history, continue to flex, adapt and lead the change."

She ended her report saying that she made the life-altering move to West Michigan and Grand Valley because she believes in the university's ability to lead, grow and be an example of how to serve students, employers and their changing needs.

"I have every confidence that we, not me, but we together, have the potential to set the path, set the pace and the conditions to excel."

Mantella's investiture ceremony will be held November 15 on the Allendale Campus.

For Immediate Release

July 9, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Soundbites of Brian Long and his full report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/153>

### **GVSU economist: Local economy plateauing at a slower growth rate**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — "Although the pace of the West Michigan economy is slowing, there is no evidence that we are about to fall off a cliff," said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long said currently there are no factors to indicate an economic downturn in 2019 or 2020.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of June.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose to +10, up from +3. The production index remained steady at +11, while the index of purchases rebounded sharply to +12 from -2, indicating that the outlook for the next few months may be improving. The employment index dropped to +5 from +15.

Long said the ongoing trade war with China continues to weigh on the U.S. economy, primarily impacting farm exports to China and the rising cost of goods coming from China. "Fortunately, in a brief meeting at the recent G20 summit, presidents Trump and Xi agreed to at least resume Talks," said Long. "Unfortunately, this implies that a full trade agreement may still be a long way off."

Long said a continued decline in auto sales has been orderly and modest. He said West Michigan counties continue to have the lowest unemployment rates in the state with numbers below the state and national average.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 870-0428. **NOTE:** *This is a new phone number for Brian Long.*

For immediate release

July 9, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Ingersoll and Micunek are available to download via this link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/152>

### **GVSU physician assistant graduates stay in northern Michigan to work**

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Four years after Grand Valley State University expanded its Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) program in Traverse City, many of the program's graduates are staying in northern Michigan to work.

Nicholus Kopacki, assistant department chair and affiliate professor of PAS, said 75 percent of the program's graduates are working in rural underserved areas or in northern Michigan.

"Some of our first graduates from the Traverse City satellite program are now giving back by taking current students for their clinical rotations," Kopacki said.

PAS courses are held at the University Center at Northwestern Michigan College. The master's level program admits 12 students annually to the Traverse City satellite campus; visit [gvsu.edu/pas](http://gvsu.edu/pas) to learn more.

Marissa Ingersoll graduated in 2018 and now works for Traverse City Orthopedics and Sports Medicine. Ingersoll lives in the region and said she it was important to her to stay in the area.

"I've always lived in northern Michigan and could think of no better place to attend school and build a career," she said. "I also did my clinical rotations in the area, which allowed me to network where I wanted to practice."

Students in Grand Valley's PAS program have a proven track record of attaining 100 percent pass rate on the state licensure exam; the national average is 97 percent.

Savannah Micunek, who earned a PAS degree in 2018, said the program's licensure pass rate was a selling point for her.

"I made my decision to attend Grand Valley based largely on the licensure exam pass rate and the university's commitment to serving the health care needs of northern Michigan residents," said Micunek, who works at Munson Medical Center in the cardiothoracic unit.

For more information, contact Nicholus Kopacki at [kopackni@gvsu.edu](mailto:kopackni@gvsu.edu) or (616) 331-5576.

For immediate release

July 15, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: a headshot of Katherine Moran is available to download via this link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/15B>

## **GVSU receives federal grant to collaborate with health care systems to prepare more nurse practitioners**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) received a \$2.8 million federal grant to work collaboratively with two Michigan health care systems to graduate more students who will work as nurse practitioners in rural or underserved areas.

The four-year Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Grant, supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, totals \$2,799,987 with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources.

Through a collaboration with McLaren Health Care and Mercy Health Muskegon, the grant will support 15 qualified students who will enroll in KCON's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON and professor of nursing, said: "The intention is to support registered nurses who are committed to serving the communities where they live with the opportunity to advance their education. A portion of the grant funds will support the students financially, removing a significant barrier to their education."

McCurren added the students will be equipped with experiences and skills needed to address the unique challenges to delivering health care in rural areas.

Katherine Moran, KCON associate dean for graduate programs, is the primary investigator for the grant. Moran said other key components of the grant are the co-design of clinical education with practice partners, an emphasis on the use of technology to enhance care delivery, and the integration of mental health into primary care.

"Patients in some rural areas of Michigan lack access to care for mental or behavioral health disorders," Moran said. "Our DNP program intentionally focuses on integrating mental and behavioral health care into the primary care setting."

Recruitment of qualified students will begin in July with the first cohort enrolling in the fall semester.

A one-year, \$332,600 grant from HRSA in 2016 provided the initial foundation for KCON's expertise in this area, as it supported the preparation of nurse practitioners to serve in rural communities.

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, [lyonme@gvsu.edu](mailto:lyonme@gvsu.edu)

## **Board of Trustees welcomes President Mantella**

*--GVSU creates new cybersecurity degrees*

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University President Philomena Mantella took part in her first Board of Trustees meeting as president on July 12 in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

During the meeting, the board approved two new fields of study in high-demand engineering and computing fields.

The board approved both a bachelor's and master's degree in cybersecurity, and a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. Both fields are growing quickly and there is great demand for experts in those fields.

The curriculum in both new cybersecurity programs will include network and software security, security policy, cyber-ethics, cryptography and cyber-forensics. The undergraduate major will also include reverse engineering and malware analysis, while the graduate program will contain advanced coverage of data analysis for cybersecurity. Both new programs will be offered starting in fall 2019.

"The demand for computing experts with abilities in this demanding and exciting field has greatly increased in the past decade, and we're pleased to be able to offer this as a dedicated major," said Paul Leidig, director of Grand Valley's School of Computing and Information Systems. "This program contains broad coverage of the discipline and will prepare students to address a wide variety of issues across an organization."

Students majoring in cybersecurity will have access to state-of-the-art dedicated computer labs and have opportunities for research with faculty members.

The master's level program is designed for working professionals, with courses offered on evenings or online.

The biomedical engineering degree will train students in three different tracks, focusing on either a mechanical emphasis, an electrical emphasis, or an emphasis on product design and manufacturing. The addition of the program makes Grand Valley the only university in West Michigan to offer the program at the undergraduate level.

"Throughout the past decade, the state of Michigan and private institutions have invested more than \$1 billion in biomedical research. This new program will educate a workforce to leverage that investment, Michigan's existing manufacturing base and West Michigan's tradition of entrepreneurship to strengthen Michigan's economy," said Samhita Rhodes, assistant director of the School of Engineering. "Our graduates will be able to take basic research from the lab and translate it into products that solve critical problems in the health care industry."

In other board action:

- The trustees adopted the university's FY 2020 budget and set tuition rates for the academic year. Trustees approved a 14 percent increase in financial aid for students, bringing total financial aid available to students through grants and scholarships to \$59.9 million. That represents an increase of \$7.5 million. Trustees also approved a tuition increase of \$192 per semester (3 percent), bringing the annual tuition to \$12,860 for a full-time undergraduate Michigan resident. Only twice in the past 15 years has the increase been this low.
- Trustees approved two academic program title changes: Liberal Studies will now be Integrative Studies to more clearly convey the program's structure to undergraduate students looking for an interdisciplinary program that can be customized to their interests and goals; Therapeutic Recreation will now be Recreational Therapy which will better reflect the clinical nature of the program's focus and help prospective students find the program.
- Trustees approved converting the existing microbiology emphasis area within Biomedical Sciences to be a stand-alone major. Students who earn a bachelor's degree in microbiology have career opportunities in public health, clinical microbiology, agriculture and education, among other fields.
- Trustees approved a resolution for appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU-authorized public school academy boards.
- Board of Trustees Chair Mary Kramer and Vice Chair Megan Sall were re-elected to their respective positions.

For immediate release

July 18, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

**GVSU professor offers insights on religion and space exploration, including for Buzz Aldrin**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Deana Weibel, professor of anthropology at Grand Valley State University, has conducted extensive research on space exploration and religion. On this 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, she is available to talk about the role religion has played for many astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin taking communion after landing on the moon.

She has insights about how these voyages resemble sacred pilgrimages and how several astronauts felt closer to a higher power once in space.

Weibel is also the organizer for the Roger That! conference honoring Grand Rapids native Roger B. Chaffee, who along with two other Apollo 1 astronauts died in a fire during pre-flight testing.

**Weibel can be reached at (616) 856-0200.**

For immediate release

July 17, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the event are available for download at <http://gvsu.edu/s/150>*

### **GVSU leaders first to enjoy new 'Haas Boss' sandwich**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — GVSU President Philomena V. Mantella joined President Emeritus Thomas J. Haas July 17 at the Downtown Market in Grand Rapids to taste test a new sandwich named for Haas.

The "Haas Boss" was unveiled by Slows Bar BQ to honor Haas for his 13 years of service to Grand Valley State; Haas retired in June.

The winning sandwich, the Haas Brisket, has brisket, bacon aioli, coleslaw and pickled onions. A pork sandwich and hamburger were also taste-tested.

Mantella's 91-year-old mother, Lucille, also toured the Downtown Market.

For every sandwich ordered, Slows will donate 10 percent of the proceeds to the [Tom and Marcia Power of Ten Endowed Scholarship Fund](#).

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2019

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU launches project to help develop nonprofit boards**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — While leaders of nonprofit organizations know that their board members can have a significant impact on the work an organization does, few resources exist to help leaders build their own abilities to work with board members and select board members who can effectively foster success.

The Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University is working to help the nonprofit sector develop more diverse and inclusive boardrooms while ensuring effective board experiences that will help organizations thrive.

The Johnson Center is launching a new initiative, The Ecosystem for Nonprofit Leadership, in partnership with Ferris State University and other area nonprofit organizations. Co-chaired by Tamela Spicer, program manager at the Johnson Center, and Carlos Sanchez, director of the Latino Business and Economic Development Center at FSU, the initiative seeks to prepare community members for board service and develop greater nonprofit capacity to support effective boards.

"We know that nonprofits are vital to healthy communities and are instrumental in the success of local governments and businesses," said Spicer. "However, governing boards can be the deciding factor in the success or struggles of a nonprofit organization despite competent leadership and staffing. We want to ensure that community members are equipped for board service and can easily connect to organizations that will foster that service."

The initiative is driven by leaders from local organizations and aims to develop a curriculum that can be integrated into existing leadership programs, making board service training more accessible to the community.

The program is being supported by leaders from many area organizations, including Mercy Health, Kids' Food Basket, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, Urban League, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Amway and more.

For more information, visit [johnsoncenter.org](http://johnsoncenter.org).

For immediate release

July 16, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A headshot of Caitlin Horrocks is available to download via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/15/>*

### **Oprah Magazine lists GVSU faculty member's first novel as a must-read**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The first novel by Caitlin Horrocks, associate professor of writing at Grand Valley State University, has been recommended by O, The Oprah Magazine.

The novel, "The Vexations," was second on the list of books recommended by the magazine in the article, "10 July Books You Won't Be Able To Put Down." The article calls the book, a historical fiction piece centered on eccentric French composer Erik Satie, a "melodic tale."

"It's a fragmented media landscape and a lot of books go out to other writers," Horrocks said. "To have my book featured in a space where you are potentially reaching a whole other population is really thrilling."

As a child, Horrocks became fascinated with Satie after playing one of his early pieces on the piano. Her research led her to write a novel that not only brings the notoriously difficult Satie to life but also imagines several other characters in his circle, notably his siblings and some close associates. The setting is the avant-garde art scene of Paris.

The book is published by Little, Brown and is scheduled for a July 30 release date.



For immediate release

August 5, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Hanna-Attisha and her book are available to download at <http://gvsu.edu/s/16t>*

**GVSU will participate as partner in Great Michigan Read**

*-- Author is pediatrician who exposed Flint water crisis*

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University is participating as a partner in the Great Michigan Read and will welcome author Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha to campus in the winter 2020 semester.

Hanna-Attisha is the author of "What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City," which recounts her discovery of how children and residents of Flint were exposed to lead in their drinking water. Michigan Humanities selected the book as the Great Michigan Read for 2019-2020 and is coordinating an author book tour around the state; dates are yet to be determined.

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said partnering with the Great Michigan Read is a good fit for the office and for the university. Last year, the office received a Michigan Humanities grant to explore how water impacts local communities, the project culminates with a campus exhibition in October. Grand Valley begins a two-year initiative, "Making Waves," focusing on the university's unique relationship to nearby waterways and lakes.

"This year's Great Michigan Read selection underscores the importance of discussing questions of environmental justice and environmental racism in the context of local history," McKee said. McKee worked on the application for Michigan Humanities in partnership with staff members at the Grand Rapids Public Library to include both campus and West Michigan communities in the Great Michigan Read.

Hanna-Attisha is the founder and director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children's Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative in Flint. Currently an associate professor of pediatrics and human development at the MSU College of Human Medicine, she has been named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World. She was among the first to question if lead was leaching from the city's water pipes after its water supply was switched to the Flint River in 2014.

Learn more about the Kutsche Office of Local History online at [gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://gvsu.edu/kutsche).

The 2019-2020 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Meijer Foundation.

For immediate release

August 2, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU students will detail experiences in immersive city program**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students who spent a semester engaging with city leaders and working at internships with community organizations will share their experiences at a showcase August 6.

- Media members are invited to attend the Semester in Grand Rapids (SIGR) Student Showcase: Tuesday, August 6; 3-5 p.m. at the L. William Seidman Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 50 Front Ave. SW

Semester in Grand Rapids (SIGR) wraps up its pilot year in early August. The cohort of students lived in the Grand Rapids area, studied the city's history, learned from city and business leaders and completed internships at organizations such as The Other Way Ministries, YMCA, Home Repair Services and the Cook Arts Center.

The program is coordinated by Grand Valley's Office for Community Partnerships and Student Professional Development, housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, and based on the Semester in Detroit model at the University of Michigan.

Kristin Moretto, director of the Office for Community Partnerships, said students have actively applied classroom theories to their internships.

"The program allows students to understand how community history is shaped and how it impacts the lives of residents," Moretto said. "They can see how classroom learning applies in the community and through their experiences at internship sites."

Bethany Joseph supervised a student intern at The Other Way Ministries and said the experience was very worthwhile.

"I'm passionate about college students engaging in the life of the community where they live and study," Joseph said. "I wanted The Other Way to be a part of a college student's life, to adopt them into our vision and show them the ropes of community development work. It is my hope that interns who spend time at The Other Way will be impacted the way I have been by working closely with neighbors." More information about the program is online at [gvsu.edu/sigr](http://gvsu.edu/sigr).

For immediate release

Aug. 1, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/16s>*

## **GVSU September 2019 arts events tip sheet**

### **FALL ARTS CELEBRATION**

From dance that combines movement and technology to music that captures the power and mystery of the sea, the 17th annual Fall Arts Celebration events at Grand Valley State University are set to bring out "all the feels."

Each year, Fall Arts Celebration shines a spotlight on some of the world's foremost poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. For the past 17 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

#### **ART**

Art of Today: Contemporary Collections from Chicago

Aug. 23-Nov. 1

Reception: Sept. 12 from 5-7 p.m., Art Gallery, Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus.

Working with Chicago-based artists, gallery owners and collectors, Grand Valley has developed a collection of contemporary art over the last 15 years.

Drawn from Grand Valley's collection, enhanced with additional loans from Chicago, Art of Today brings together more than 40 paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, sculptures and mixed media. This curation includes both bold and minimalistic works exploring simplicity in design, society's relationship to the environment, and the intersection of pop culture and art by artists Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, David Nash and Takahashi Murakami.

Other artists, such as Tony Fitzpatrick, Jane Hammond, Erika Rothenberg and Kara Walker, provide challenging imagery that examines the meaning of identity, race, culture and sexuality.

#### **MUSIC**

Water on the Mind: A Baroque Musical Journey

Performance: Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus

Baroque-era composers were inspired by the power and mystery of the sea. That inspiration will come to life through works including the "Storm Scene" from Marin Marais' opera, "Alcyone," which delivers the terror and dread from a powerful ocean tempest, and Georg Philipp Telemann's hauntingly beautiful orchestral suite, "Hamburger Ebb and Fluth."

The performance also will showcase Handel's "Water Music" and Antonio Vivaldi's fiery violin concerto, "La Tempesta di mare" (The Sea Storm). Famed virtuoso Ingrid Matthews, one of the most-recorded

baroque violinists of her generation and solo violinist with Toronto's Tafelmusik Ensemble, will conclude the concert.

### **GVSU ART GALLERY**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection of Alten's work in the world.

"Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad"

Blue Wall Gallery

DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-Dec. 13

In 2018, a dozen GVSU students and three faculty members traveled to Haiti as part of a study abroad program. The course, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, was designed to provide students from various backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service-learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to contribute their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. Included in this exhibition are narratives and reflections by both the faculty and students who participated in the trip. Additionally, a number of photographs document their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian works of art attest to the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

"José Guadalupe Posada: Calavera Prints from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet"

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-Oct. 25

José Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913) was a printmaker and engraver who lived and worked in a period of Mexican history characterized by social and political upheaval. In 1888, he moved to Mexico City where he quickly established himself and created some of his most important work. Posada illustrated historic scenes, board games and commercial items, religious images, various books and newspapers. He is most famous for his use of Calaveras (depictions of skulls and skeletons) to satirize and mock the corruption of the wealthy and political elite. "La Calavera Catrina," his most iconic image, was created in 1910 at the start of the Mexican Revolution. The image shows a grinning skeleton wearing a women's feathered hat, pointing out that death comes to everyone, even those in the upper class. This exhibition includes

20 reproductions of his prints, from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet. The prints were purchased in 2002 from the family of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, who printed them using the original plates and press.

"Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling: Works of Art from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Si cle Prints"

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-Dec. 13

During the period spanning the turn of the century, Paris, one of the most vibrant cities in the world, experienced an explosion in print media. Now-familiar artists – Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre Bonnard, and others – made names for themselves producing items such as posters, journal illustrations, theater programs and advertisements. Drawn from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Si cle Prints in the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet, "Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling" provides a view into the visual culture of late 19th century France. In 2019, 14 GVSU students conducted research for this exhibition for the course Modern Art and Modernity. Each student focused on one work of art for in-depth study, produced original research and presented findings to classmates and now to a wider audience.

Mark W. Wilkens, 1955-2017, "A Life in Paint"

West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center

Exhibition dates: July 12-Oct. 25

Born in America's heartland, Mark Wilkens' passion for nature and the environment blossomed in the sun-drenched countryside of the Iowan farmlands. Wilkens traveled often after his schooling in Iowa, Arizona and South Dakota, using the opportunity to visit museums and learn about different cultures. In 1990, after a number of years painting independently and working in graphics and illustration, Wilkens moved to Michigan, which would serve as his creative home for nearly 27 years until his death on March 17, 2017. This exhibition includes 25 works of art from the last three decades of his career, including a variety of watercolors and oils. It honors a passionate artist, whose commitment to paint was evident throughout his life.

### **GRAND VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is the oldest and largest festival celebrating the Bard's life and works in Michigan. Now in its 26th season, the festival has attracted thousands of people of all ages to the campuses of Grand Valley State University and to West Michigan to enjoy the legacy of Shakespeare. For more information about the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit [gvsu.edu/shakes](http://gvsu.edu/shakes).

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Sept. 27, 28 and Oct. 3, 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 and 6 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Tickets: \$16 for general admission; \$7 for students; \$14 for seniors and faculty, staff and alumni.

For tickets and more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office at (616) 331-2300.

Shakespeare's most magical comedy transports us to a moonlit forest where four young lovers flee to escape the cruel law of Athens that would make a daughter choose between marrying the wrong man or being put to death. In the chaos of the night, the lovers find themselves at the mercy of fairies whose dreamlike power operates just below the level of conscious thought, weaving spells around the lovers

and making sport with a troupe of bumbling, would-be actors who come to the woods to rehearse their wedding play about star-crossed lovers. The production will be directed by Roger Ellis, professor of theater at Grand Valley.

#### **GVSU DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS FACULTY EXHIBITION**

"Endless Possibilities"

Exhibition dates: Sept. 7-Oct. 12

Nomad Gallery, 74 Monroe Center St. NW, Grand Rapids

Hours: Noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays

This unified show will showcase the media in which faculty members work.

#### **GRAND VALLEY WRITERS SERIES**

The Grand Valley Writers Series brings in distinguished and emerging writers to read from their work, visit classes and interact with students. For more information visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/writing/grand-valley-writers-series-12.htm>.

Brian Oliu and Tasha Coryell

Reading and book signing

Sept. 16, 6-7 p.m.

Mary Idema Pew Library multipurpose room, Allendale Campus

Brian Oliu is the author of two chapbooks and four full-length collections, most recently the lyric-memoir "i/o" and "Enter Your Initials for Record Keeping," a collection of essays on the video game NBA Jam. Recent essays on topics ranging from long-distance running to professional wrestling to doughnuts appear in publications including The Collagist, Catapult, The Rumpus, Runner's World, and Gay Mag. Tasha Coryell's first collection of stories, "Hungry People," was published by Split Lip Press in 2018. Other stories, poems, and essays appear in publications including The Rumpus, Diagram, The Collagist and PANK.

For immediate release

July 31, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: The best day to attend the sessions is on Friday. Arrangements can be made to talk to organizers.*

### **MiSTEM Advisory Council grant helping teachers prepare students for jobs of the future**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Nearly 200 middle school and high school teachers from across Michigan are building their understanding this week about computer science and coding so they can train their students for a workforce increasingly needing these skills.

The event, named TeacherCon, is being held through Aug. 2 at the JW Marriott in downtown Grand Rapids.

Grand Valley State University was tapped to handle the logistics of the conference, which is hosted by the MiSTEM Network. Kris Pachla, director of GVSU's Regional Math and Science Center, said it makes sense for Grand Valley to become more deeply involved with the effort given the university's strong history in computer science education and commitment to staying at the forefront of supporting schools as they strive to round out students' training in the discipline.

"We're excited to help envision the next phase of the computer science partnership across Michigan," Pachla said. "We are thinking about how we are pipelining students, getting them skills beyond courses and preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow that don't exist today."

A grant from the MiSTEM Advisory Council is funding the conference. The advisory council, created by the state Legislature in 2015, provides guidance for a statewide STEM strategy in Michigan and makes recommendations for program funding.

The cost-free event for teachers includes learning through a curriculum provided by the nonprofit Code.org. After the conference, teachers will continue with follow-up sessions throughout the school year and will have online access to the curriculum and associated materials. Part of teachers' acceptance into the program is an agreement that their respective schools will offer a computer science course.

West Shore Educational Service District and West Michigan Tech Talent also collaborated on the event.

For immediate release

July 30, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events are available via this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/16e>*

### **GVSU Fall Arts Celebration to offer variety of events for the community**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The lineup for Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration will invite audiences to behold the power and mystery of water, see history differently and more.

Each year, Grand Valley offers an engaging mix of arts events to enlighten visitors and to recognize the local community's role in the university's success, said President Philomena V. Mantella.

"We're looking forward to gathering together to experience the inspiration and entertainment this dynamic lineup offers," Mantella said.

Below is a full list of Fall Arts Celebration events. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

#### **Art of Today: Contemporary Collections from Chicago**

**Exhibition Dates: Aug. 23-Nov. 1**

**Exhibition reception: Sept. 12 from 5-7 p.m.**

#### **Art Gallery, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

Since the late 1960s, contemporary art has sought to challenge boundaries and engage a world that is rapidly becoming culturally diverse, technologically developed and globalized. In the United States, Chicago serves as an important center for this kind of art. By working with Chicago-based artists, gallery owners and collectors, Grand Valley has purposefully developed a collection of contemporary art over the last 15 years. Drawn from GVSU's collection and enhanced with additional loans from Chicago, "Art of Today" celebrates Grand Valley's desire to share compelling imagery with the community. The exhibition brings together more than 40 paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, sculptures and mixed media.

#### **Water on the Mind: A Baroque Musical Journey**

**Monday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.**

#### **Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

Water has transfixed the imagination and creative artistry of the human race since the earliest days on Earth. See that inspiration come to life through works such as the "Storm Scene" from Marin Marais's opera, "Alcyone," and Georg Philipp Telemann's orchestral suite, "Hamburger Ebb und Fluth." This piece musically depicts the rise and fall of the ocean while invoking the story of Neptune and his son, Triton. Rounding out the performance is Handel's "Water Music," composed in 1717 for a barge party given by George I on the River Thames, and Antonio Vivaldi's fiery violin concerto, "La Tempesta di mare" (The Sea Storm). Famed Baroque violin virtuoso Ingrid Matthews, a solo violinist with Toronto Tafelmusik Ensemble, will perform the composition that concludes the concert.

### **An Evening with Ellen Bass and Kevin Young**

**Oct. 3 with poetry readings at 6 p.m.**

**L.V. Eberhard Center, second floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

Acclaimed poets Ellen Bass and Kevin Young will read their works. Bass is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Her most recent book, "Like a Beggar" (Copper Canyon Press, 2014), was a finalist for several notable literary awards. Previous books include "The Human Line" and "Mules of Love," which won The Lambda Literary Award. She co-edited (with Florence Howe) the first major anthology of women's poetry, "No More Masks!" (Doubleday, 1973).

Young is the director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and is poetry editor at The New Yorker. His newest book of poetry is "Brown" (2018). Also an essayist, and curator, Young's "Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels," was the winner of an American Book Award. His work "Jelly Roll: A Blues" (2003), was a finalist for the National Book Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize and winner of the Paterson Poetry Prize.

### **Water: A Vision in Dance**

**Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.**

**Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus**

In this performance, Bedřich Smetana's "The Moldau" traces the path of this mighty river from its origins deep in the Bohemian Highlands to its final journey bringing life and sustenance to the Czech people. Debussy's "La Mer" presents a musically evocative, suggestive image of the sea in all of its beauty. Bringing these works to life in a new choreographic vision is BODYART, a New Orleans-based dance theater company founded and directed by Leslie Scott. Focusing on the intersection of movement and technology, Scott and the artists of BODYART will unite dance, video and the music of Smetana and Debussy performed by a full orchestra in an absorbing multimedia experience.

### **American History from Beginning to End**

**Lecture presented by Jill Lepore**

**Nov. 5, at 6 p.m.**

**Eberhard Center, second floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

What do you see when you look at the last 500 years, instead of the last five minutes? What can a long view of the past teach? Lepore wants you to see history differently. The preeminent narrative historian of her generation has picked up a neglected historical genre and breathed new life into it by addressing the "asymmetries" of historical evidence. Lepore is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University. She is also a staff writer at The New Yorker. One of her latest books is "These Truths: A History of the United States" (2018), which is on The New York Times' Best Seller list. Her most recent book, "This America: The Case for the Nation," was published in May.

### **Holiday Celebration: Beloved Songs of the Season**

**Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.**

**Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids**

David Willcocks' brass choir settings of the most beloved Christmas carols capture the essence of the holiday, while John Rutter's magnificent "Gloria" is one of the holiday masterpieces of the classical repertoire. The performances of the works from these British composers will be accompanied by a cappella selections sung by the GVSU University Arts Chorale.

For Immediate Release

August 7, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU economist: West Michigan growth rate softens**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The pace of the West Michigan industrial economy turned negative for the first time in several months, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of July.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) dropped substantially to -13, down from +10. The production index fell to -15 from June's +11, while the index of purchases fared a little better but still declined to -6 from +12. The employment index dropped to -1 from +5.

"The trade war with China is catching up with the West Michigan economy," said Long. "It's been 18 months now with no apparent end in sight."

Long said Brexit, a move by Britain to withdraw from the European Union, is also affecting the local economy. He said business owners and suppliers fear other countries in the European Union might also choose to opt out.

"Trade wars, Brexit fears and unstable politics in the Middle East continue to weigh on business confidence around the world, and West Michigan is not immune," Long said.

The economy worldwide is experiencing a slowdown, but Long noted one negative report doesn't constitute a trend.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 870-0428.

For Immediate Release

August 19, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU named a 2019 top college by Forbes**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named one of America's Top Colleges by Forbes for the second straight year.

Forbes conducts an annual review of undergraduate institutions that deliver top academics along with the best experiences, career success and lowest debt.

According to Forbes, only 15 percent of the 4,300 degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S. are included, so making the list means a school meets a high standard.

Rankings focused on the direct benefits schools provide their graduates. Forbes considered debt after graduation, retention and graduation rates, alumni salaries, and signs of individual success including academic and career accolades.

In June 2019, Forbes named Grand Valley as the second best place to work in Michigan.

For more information, visit [forbes.com/top-colleges](https://forbes.com/top-colleges).

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Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 94 undergraduate and 42 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2019

Contact: Meagan Saxton, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, [saxtonme@gvsu.edu](mailto:saxtonme@gvsu.edu)

**Thousands of GVSU students will move to campus beginning August 19**

***President Mantella to participate in her first Convocation***

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 6,000 new and returning Grand Valley State University students will move to the Allendale Campus August 19-21.

Hundreds of faculty, staff members and alumni will help students carry boxes, bedding and other personal items to their rooms.

President Philomena V. Mantella will visit various living centers across campus to welcome students and their families.

Faculty and staff members will distribute ice cream throughout the week; Board of Trustees members Sue Jandernoa and Beth Emmitt will hand out ice cream on August 19 at Niemeyer Living Center from 10 a.m.-noon.

Move-in week will conclude with Convocation on Friday, August 23, when Mantella, along with other speakers, will address first-year students.

Convocation is a campuswide celebration that marks the beginning of the academic year; the ceremony will be held in the Fieldhouse Arena at 11:30 a.m.

Faculty, staff, administration, and members of the Board of Trustees will process into the Fieldhouse in full academic regalia.

Other Convocation speakers include Provost Maria Cimitile, University Academic Senate Chair Felix Ngassa, Student Senate President Eric-John Szczepaniak and alumni speaker state Rep. Kyra Harris Bolden.

For more information about fall move-in, visit [gvsu.edu/housing](http://gvsu.edu/housing). For more information about Convocation, visit [gvsu.edu/convocation](http://gvsu.edu/convocation).

For Immediate Release

August 22, 2019

Contact: Meagan Saxton, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, [saxtonme@gvsu.edu](mailto:saxtonme@gvsu.edu)

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of students moving in are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/17A>, including a video of students and parents giving each other advice.*

### **First convocation for GVSU president concludes move-in week 2019**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — New and returning Grand Valley State University students received a helping hand from more than 700 volunteers – and a personal greeting from new Grand Valley President Philomena V. Mantella — as they moved into living centers August 19-21.

Hundreds of alumni, students, faculty and staff members helped more than 6,000 students move onto the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses. Mantella visited several different living centers to welcome Lakers and their families.

Move-in week began August 18 with two orientation programs. Black Excellence Orientation welcomed new Black/African American students to campus and Laker Familia Orientation welcomed new Latino/a students.

Transitions, Grand Valley's orientation program for all new students, kicked off August 21. For the full Transitions schedule, visit [www.gvsu.edu/transitions](http://www.gvsu.edu/transitions).

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For more information about Convocation, visit [gvsu.edu/convocation](http://gvsu.edu/convocation).

For immediate release

August 20, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU digital marketing program geared toward professionals**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will begin its second cohort of a unique digital marketing professional development program that offers industry-recognized certification in platforms like Google Analytics and HubSpot.

The program will begin September 3. Offered by GVSU's Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, it's operated in partnership with GreenFig, an Oregon company that offers professional development in applied business science. The four-month-long curriculum consists of virtual live and online content, as well as in-person small group work, networking and collaboration opportunities.

Amanda Welsh is an account manager for Reagan Marketing + Design in Grand Rapids, and consults with clients and creates strategic communications and marketing plans. She completed the digital marketing program in January and said its curriculum was well-rounded and offered exposure to digital concepts, trends, applications and programs.

"I gained experience and certifications in programs such as HubSpot email marketing, Google Analytics and Google Adwords," Welsh said. "It was more valuable to me that I gained additional digital awareness to be able to better articulate my thoughts and ask the right questions, and have more confidence in the digital landscape and solutions I can bring to the table for my clients and projects."

Certifications in the program are offered in Google Analytics, Google Ads and HubSpot Email, and participants receive exposure to platforms like Marketo and TradeDesk. Details and a link to register for the program are online at [gvsu.greenfig.net](http://gvsu.greenfig.net).

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2019

Contact: Meagan Saxton, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, [saxtonme@gvsu.edu](mailto:saxtonme@gvsu.edu)

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For more information about fall move-in, visit [gvsu.edu/housing](http://gvsu.edu/housing). For more information about Convocation, visit [gvsu.edu/convocation](http://gvsu.edu/convocation).

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU ranked a "Best Bang for the Buck" and "Best for Student Voting"**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Washington Monthly ranked Grand Valley State University a "Best Bang for the Buck" in the Midwest category for its 2019 College Guide Magazine.

The ranking was based on several factors including tuition rates, loan repayment, graduation rates and number of first-generation students.

Grand Valley was also listed among the "Best National Universities," in which universities offering master's and doctoral degrees were ranked based on their contribution to the public good in three categories: social mobility, research and providing opportunities for public service.

This year, the College Guide also honored institutions that do the most to encourage students to vote.

Grand Valley was ranked one of "America's Best Colleges for Student Voting."

For a full list of rankings, visit [washingtonmonthly.com/2019college-guide](http://washingtonmonthly.com/2019college-guide)

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 94 undergraduate and 42 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU named a top public university by U.S. News**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named a top public school among national universities by U.S. News and World Report.

Top public schools are the highest-ranked public colleges and universities in the "2020 Best Colleges" rankings.

After several years of being ranked in the regional Midwest category, Grand Valley was moved to and ranked in the National Universities category: colleges that offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs, and are committed to producing groundbreaking research.

Grand Valley was also ranked as a 2020 Top Performer for Social Mobility for enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students who were awarded Pell Grants.

For a full list of rankings, visit [usnews.com/best-colleges](https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges).

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts nearly 25,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 94 undergraduate and 42 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit; Grand Valley's Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute and the Muskegon Innovation Hub are located in Muskegon. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

September 9, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: photos of classes conducting research in inland lakes and Lake Michigan are available for download at <http://gvsu.edu/s/18x>*

## **GVSU kicks off two-year initiative focused on water**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — From environmental science to classical archaeology, more than 30 courses are offered in the fall semester at Grand Valley State University that have a tie to water.

Highlighting Grand Valley's special relationship with water is at the heart of the campus-wide Making Waves About Water initiative. The two-year initiative has goals of exploring how water impacts daily living, its challenges and how it also defines the university in relation to the Grand River and Lake Michigan.

Making Waves kicks off with a "Big Splash Week" September 15-21, with speakers, showcases, a beach clean-up, hikes, kayaking and other events.

Kim Nowack, chief engineer for the Mackinac Bridge, will give a presentation, "Mackinac Bridge: Then and Now," on September 16, 6 p.m., at the DeVos Center, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 Fulton St. W. Nowack has worked as chief engineer for 17 years and is the first woman to hold that position.

Details about Big Splash Week are online at [gvsu.edu/makingwaves](http://gvsu.edu/makingwaves). All events are free and open to the public.

Maria Cimitile, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, said when she envisioned a campus-wide initiative, she wanted to show "what interdisciplinary studies looks like in the 21st century." During her Convocation remarks on August 23, Cimitile introduced Making Waves About Water and said the initiative will help the campus community learn about the necessity of water and the challenges it brings in Michigan and globally.

"What makes this initiative special is that to help the campus community understand the significance of water, students, faculty and staff will work together across all different disciplines," she said.

Highlights of Big Splash Week are below. Events are free and open to the public.

- September 15, 3-8 p.m.: Friends and Family Day: water activities, music, showing "Moana" by Zumberge Pond on the Allendale Campus
- September 16, 6-9 p.m.: Kim Nowack, chief engineer for the Mackinac Bridge, will give a presentation in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium
- September 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Confluence, guided kayak tours on the Grand River (RSVP online), hikes, refreshments. *MEDIA NOTE: President Philomena V. Mantella and Provost Maria Cimitile are expected at the event from 12:30-1:30 p.m.*
- September 19, 6 p.m.: Peter Annin, author of "The Great Lakes Water Wars," will give a presentation in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room

Peter Wampler, professor of geology, is a member of the Making Waves leadership team. Wampler said he took on a leadership role because the initiative melds his academic and professional career.

"When the provost announced the initiative, I knew that I wanted to be involved and support it in any way I could," Wampler said. "I have a great appreciation for the power of collaboration and the power of working across traditional disciplinary boundaries. I look forward to working with campus and community partners to learn and grow in unique and compelling ways around the central theme of water."

For Immediate Release

September 6, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites with Long and a full copy of his report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/18D>

### **GVSU economist: Marginal growth returns in West Michigan**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — After last month's dip, the pace of the West Michigan industrial economy returned to a very modest growth rate, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of August.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) recovered to +3, up from -13. The production index bounced up to +9, from -15. The index of purchases flipped back to +2 from -6 and the employment index edged to +1 from -1.

Long called the trade war with China a two-edged sword. "The news media has highlighted the impact on farmers, which has resulted in falling prices for corn, soybeans, pork and other agricultural exports," he said. "Many West Michigan industrial firms have come to rely on a wide range of industrial commodities subject to new tariffs that are driving up prices."

Long said initially, many Chinese exporters were willing to accept lower prices in orders to retain the business relationship. "Both buyers and sellers believed the governments of both countries would soon reach an agreement, but that was 18 months ago, and now the rhetoric has turned pessimistic," he said.

The world economy continues to slow, and the U.S. will eventually be drawn into the slowdown, Long said.

"The world political situation is a mess. The impending U.K. 'hard' Brexit could destabilize both the British and the European economies. Italy, France and Germany are dealing with populist uprisings. And, the U.S. is starting to focus on a major election that is still 14 months away, ignoring other problems," he said.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 870-0428.

For immediate release

September 5, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: An image for the event is available via Dropbox: <http://qvsu.edu/s/18y>*

### **Pieces examining the issues of the day featured in Fall Arts Celebration art exhibition**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The art event for the 2019 Fall Arts Celebration is showcasing contemporary pieces, many of which originate from Grand Valley's carefully developed collection of art in that genre.

"Art of Today: Contemporary Collections from Chicago" features more than 40 pieces, from paintings to photographs to sculptures, that offer compelling imagery examining the issues of the day.

A public reception is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. September 12 at the Art Gallery in the Haas Center for Performing Arts on the Allendale Campus. The exhibition runs through November 1.

All Fall Arts events are free and open to the public as a way to thank the community for its support of the university.

The exhibition also pays tribute to the important role that Chicago plays in the contemporary art world and Grand Valley's alliance with the city's art experts. Grand Valley art experts for the past 15 years have assembled a contemporary art collection by working closely with Chicago-based artists, gallery owners and collectors. This exhibition draws from Grand Valley's collection and is augmented by loans from Chicago.

"Contemporary art takes courage and challenges us," said Nathan Kemler, interim director of Grand Valley's Galleries and Collections. "This exhibition provides perspectives on today's society and allows our community to explore complex global themes that widen our awareness and build empathy about the human condition."

Visitors can expect to see both bold and minimalistic work that explore and examine contemporary issues.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

For immediate release

September 3, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/18r>*

## **Grand Valley arts events scheduled for October 2019**

### **FALL ARTS CELEBRATION**

From dance that combines movement and technology to music that captures the power and mystery of the sea, the 17th annual Fall Arts Celebration events at Grand Valley State University are set to bring out "all the feels."

Each year, Fall Arts Celebration shines a spotlight on some of the world's foremost poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. For the past 17 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

### **ART**

"Art of Today: Contemporary Collections from Chicago"

August 23-November 1

Art Gallery

Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Working with Chicago-based artists, gallery owners and collectors, Grand Valley has developed a collection of contemporary art over the last 15 years.

Drawn from Grand Valley's collection and enhanced with additional loans from Chicago, Art of Today brings together more than 40 paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, sculptures and mixed media. This curation includes both bold and minimalistic works exploring simplicity in design, society's relationship to the environment, and the intersection of pop culture and art by artists Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, David Nash and Takahashi Murakami.

Other artists, such as Tony Fitzpatrick, Jane Hammond, Erika Rothenberg and Kara Walker, provide challenging imagery that examines the meaning of identity, race, culture and sexuality.

### **POETRY**

An Evening with Ellen Bass and Kevin Young

October 3 with poetry readings at 6 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, second floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Acclaimed poets Ellen Bass and Kevin Young will read their works. Bass is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Her most recent book, "Like a Beggar" (Copper Canyon Press, 2014), was a finalist for several notable literary awards. Previous books include "The Human Line" and "Mules of Love," which won The Lambda Literary Award. She co-edited (with Florence Howe) the first major anthology of women's poetry, "No More Masks!" (Doubleday, 1973).

Young is the director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and is poetry editor at The New Yorker. His newest book of poetry is "Brown" (2018). Also an essayist and curator, Young's "Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels" was the winner of an American Book Award. His work "Jelly Roll: A Blues" (2003) was a finalist for the National Book Award and Los Angeles Times Book Prize and winner of the Paterson Poetry Prize.

## **DANCE**

Water: A Vision in Dance

October 28, 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

In this performance, Bedřich Smetana's "The Moldau" traces the path of this mighty river from its origins deep in the Bohemian Highlands to its final journey bringing life and sustenance to the Czech people. Debussy's "La Mer" presents a musically evocative, suggestive image of the sea in all of its beauty. Bringing these works to life in a brilliant new choreographic vision is BODYART, a New Orleans-based dance theater company founded and directed by Leslie Scott. Focusing on the intersection of movement and technology, Scott and the artists of BODYART will unite dance, video, and the music of Smetana and Debussy performed by a full orchestra in an absorbing multimedia experience.

## **GVSU ART GALLERY**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

### **"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"**

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection of Alten's work in the world.

### **"Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad"**

Blue Wall Gallery

DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-December 13

In 2018, a dozen GVSU students and three faculty members traveled to Haiti as part of a study abroad program. The course, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, was designed to provide students from various backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service-learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to contribute their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. Included in this exhibition are narratives and reflections by both the faculty and students who participated in the trip. Additionally, a number of photographs document their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian works of art attest to the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

### **"José Guadalupe Posada: Calavera Prints from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet"**

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-October 25

José Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913) was a printmaker and engraver, who lived and worked in a period of Mexican history characterized by social and political upheaval. In 1888, he moved to Mexico City, where he quickly established himself and created some of his most important work. Posada illustrated historic scenes, board games and commercial items, religious images, various books and newspapers. He is most famous for his use of Calaveras (depictions of skulls and skeletons) to satirize and mock the corruption of the wealthy and political elite. "La Calavera Catrina," his most iconic image, was created in 1910 at the start of the Mexican Revolution. The image shows a grinning skeleton wearing a women's feathered hat, pointing out that death comes to everyone, even those in the upper class. This exhibition includes 20 reproductions of his prints, from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet. The prints were purchased in 2002 from the family of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, who printed them using the original plates and press.

### **"Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling: Works of Art from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Siècle Prints"**

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-December 13

During the period spanning the turn of the century, Paris, one of the most vibrant cities in the world, experienced an explosion in print media. Now-familiar artists – Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre Bonnard, and others – made names for themselves producing items such as posters, journal illustrations, theater programs and advertisements. Drawn from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Siècle Prints in the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet, "Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling" provides a view into the visual culture of late 19th century France. In 2019, 14 GVSU students conducted research for this exhibition for the course Modern Art and Modernity. Each student focused on one work of art for in-depth study, produced original research and presented findings to classmates and now to a wider audience.

### **Mark W. Wilkens, 1955-2017**

"A Life in Paint"

West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center

Exhibition dates: July 12-October 25

Born in America's heartland, Mark Wilkens' passion for nature and the environment blossomed in the sun-drenched countryside of the lowan farmlands. Wilkens traveled often after his schooling in Iowa, Arizona and South Dakota, using the opportunity to visit museums and learn about different cultures. In 1990, after a number of years painting independently and working in graphics and illustration, Wilkens moved to Michigan, which would serve as his creative home for nearly 27 years before his death on March 17, 2017. This exhibition includes 25 works of art from the last three decades of his career, including a variety of watercolors and oils. It honors a passionate artist, whose commitment to paint was evident throughout his life.

### **GRAND VALLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is the oldest and largest festival celebrating the Bard's life and works in Michigan. Now in its 26th season, the festival has attracted thousands of people of all ages to the campuses of Grand Valley State University and to West Michigan to enjoy the legacy of Shakespeare. For more information about the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit [gvsu.edu/shakes](http://gvsu.edu/shakes)

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

September 27, 28 and October 3, 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m.

October 5 and 6 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Thomas J. and Marcia J. Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus  
Tickets: \$16 for general admission; \$7 for students; \$14 for seniors and faculty, staff and alumni.  
For tickets and more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office at (616) 331-2300.  
Shakespeare's most magical comedy transports us to a moonlit forest where four young lovers flee to escape the cruel law of Athens that would make a daughter choose between marrying the wrong man or being put to death. In the chaos of the night, the lovers find themselves at the mercy of fairies whose dreamlike power operates just below the level of conscious thought, weaving spells around the lovers and making sport with a troupe of bumbling, would-be actors who come to the woods to rehearse their wedding play about star-crossed lovers. The production will be directed by Roger Ellis, professor of theater at Grand Valley.

#### **GVSU DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS FACULTY EXHIBITION**

"Endless Possibilities"

Exhibition dates: September 14-October 27

NOMAD Gallery by Richard App, 74 Monroe Center St. NW, Grand Rapids

Hours: Noon-7 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays

This unified show will showcase the media in which faculty members work. The exhibition will showcase works across animation, ceramics, digital art, film, graphic design, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, textiles, video art and more. Special performances, artist talks and workshops will also be offered in conjunction with the exhibition. Visit [gvsu.edu/vma](http://gvsu.edu/vma) for more information.

#### **PERFORMANCES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE**

For more information about performances from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, visit [gvsu.edu/mtd](http://gvsu.edu/mtd).

GVSU OPERA THEATRE

"Mother Goose" (a ballet) and "The Naughty Boy" (an opera)

October 4 at 7:30 p.m.

October 5 at 2 p.m.

Peter Martin Wege Theatre, Grand Rapids Ballet Company, 341 Ellsworth Ave. SW, Grand Rapids

Tickets: Grand Rapids Ballet ticket office at 454-4771, ext. 10

This family-friendly pairing of the stories from "Mother Goose" and "The Naughty Boy" (who wouldn't do his homework) comes from French composer Maurice Ravel. GVSU students and the Junior Company of the Grand Rapids Ballet School will bring this piece to life.

#### **MUSIC**

Guest artist piano recital: Margarita Denenburg

October 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Margarita Denenburg is widely recognized for her teaching effectiveness. She is associate professor of keyboard studies at Heidelberg University and has written a number of articles about teaching music; she also has presented at several conferences on the same topic.

GVSU Symphony Orchestra side-by-side concert

October 24 at 8 p.m.

Grandville High School, 4700 Canal Ave. SW, Grandville

Admission: Free and open to the public

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will combine with the Grandville High School Orchestra for a joint concert.

20th/21st Century Piano Festival

October 26, all day

Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Admission: Free and open to the public

This celebration of 20th/21st-century piano music will include student recitals throughout the day. The performances include the premier of a commissioned piece by composer Sun-Young Park, who will also be in residence.

### **THEATER**

ReACT! presents: "My Costume is Not My Consent"

October 30, 8-10 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, Room 0072, Allendale Campus

Grand Valley's anti-violence theater troupe will use peer theater education methods to work with audience members on how to develop safety strategies for Halloween celebrations. The performance will include discussion and dialogue on how the GVSU community can help prevent sexual assault.

For Immediate Release

September 16, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU conference: Doing business in Mexico and Canada**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Mexico and Canada account for 62 percent of all Michigan exports. The two countries are Michigan's largest trade partners, recording \$37.4 billion of trade in 2017.

The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University is holding a workshop, "Doing Business in Mexico and Canada," September 25 from 8 a.m.-noon at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

"There are enormous export opportunities for Michigan companies to grow and develop in these markets," said Sonja Johnson, VAGTC executive director. "With an ever-evolving trade landscape, it is important to keep up to date on the best practices for doing business in Mexico and Canada."

The conference includes information on the current business climate in Mexico and Canada, free trade agreements and best practices for making successful business deals.

The conference is underwritten by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and sponsored by Supply Chain Solutions and Plante Moran.

For more information, contact VAGTC at (616) 331-6811 or visit [gvsu.edu/vagtc](http://gvsu.edu/vagtc)

For immediate release

Sept. 16, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: An image for the event is available via Dropbox: <http://qvsu.edu/s/18T>*

### **Power of water highlighted in Fall Arts Celebration musical performance**

Musicians, including a renowned violin virtuoso, will give listeners an opportunity to feel the power and mystery of water during the next Fall Arts Celebration event.

"Water on the Mind: A Baroque Musical Journey" will feature pieces that reflect how deeply water inspired Baroque composers. The concert will be held September 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus.

"The 17th Century saw the relationship between ourselves and the world in which we live undergo intense change, with new and profound influences shaping the creative minds of the Baroque composer," said Danny Phipps, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. "Our performance will highlight this new attitude of awe and wonder toward the power of nature and water's dominance over life by composers striving to create musically descriptive renderings of the often-emotional relationship with elements that were far beyond their control."

Performances will include works such as the "Storm Scene" from the opera "Alcyone," which evokes the terror and dread of an ocean tempest. In addition, the rise and fall of the ocean is musically depicted in the orchestral suite, "Hamburger Ebb and Fluth."

Handel's "Water Music," composed for a barge party given by George I on the River Thames, will help round out the performance. The conclusion comes with the violin concerto, "La Tempesta di mare (The Sea Storm)." Ingrid Matthews, a Baroque violin virtuoso and solo violinist with Toronto Tafelmusik Ensemble, will perform the composition.

All Fall Arts events are free and open to the public as a way to thank the community for its support of the university. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

For immediate release

September 10, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: a photo of all scholarship recipients is available to download: <http://gvsu.edu/s/18N>*

### **New scholarship paves way for first-year GVSU students to study abroad**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University first-year student Matthew D'Anna has traveled to Europe with his family. The biology major said he now looks forward to going to Great Britain by himself.

D'Anna was among 40 students who celebrated receiving the Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship during an open house September 6 at the Padnos International Center in Lake Ontario Hall.

About 80 students received the scholarship, providing them with \$2,000 to use on a study abroad program within four years of their start at Grand Valley. The unique scholarship program was a collaboration between the Padnos International Center and Admissions Office, aimed at attracting students who might select a college based on its study abroad opportunities.

Students from the incoming class of 2023 were the first cohort to receive scholarships; the program was established in 2018.

Brina Crown, from DeWitt, said she attended the event to learn more about study abroad programs that would fit with her behavioral neuroscience major.

"I have been to St. Thomas with my family but I would like to go to London," Crown said.

Alissa Lane, PIC coordinator of marketing and outreach, said she hoped the open house served to orient students to PIC resources, staff members and services.

More information about the Lakers Go Abroad Scholarship is online at [gvsu.edu/myscholarships](http://gvsu.edu/myscholarships).

For immediate release

September 19, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: An image is available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/19k>*

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream headlines GVSU Shakespeare Festival**

The 2019 Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is performing a perennial favorite with its main stage production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

It's the third time the classic comedy is returning to the Shakespeare Festival stage, said Jim Bell, festival managing director. The festival's first production was "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and it was repeated for the 15th year we well.

"Shakespeare is a wonderful storyteller and we find things in our life related to things he does and says," Bell said. "First and foremost, we want people to come and enjoy a good production. If it makes them think about how life can be, that's great, but most of all, we hope they just come and enjoy it."

The Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival is the state's largest and oldest Shakespeare Festival; it celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2018. The cast each year includes students as well as guest actors.

The festival also includes the Bard to Go program, which travels to schools to perform a special 50-minute production containing scenes from several Shakespeare plays. Bard to Go members also will perform for the public on the Allendale Campus.

Details on the main stage performance, as well as other events connected to the festival, are below. For more information visit [gvsu.edu/shakes](http://gvsu.edu/shakes).

#### **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Sept. 27, 28 and Oct. 3, 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 and 6 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Tickets: \$16 for general admission; \$7 for students; \$14 for seniors and faculty, staff and alumni.

For tickets and more information, contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office at (616) 331-2300.

#### **Presentation by Shakespeare Festival Scholar-in-Residence, John Cox**

September 27, 4-5 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette room, Allendale Campus

Free and open to the public

Cox will discuss how Shakespeare's writing is both Christian and secular, both English and universal, both historical and timeless.

**Bard to Go public performances, "Tossing on the Ocean"**

October 11, 2-3 p.m.

November 2, 1-3 p.m.

Keller Black Box Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Bard to Go is a 50-minute program of scenes which gives students an introduction to Shakespeare in performance. The events are free and open to the public.

Feature story for immediate release

September 19, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for this story are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/19h>*

### **Key discovery about wombat scat leads to Ig Nobel prize for GVSU alumna, research team**

The recent announcement of the Ig Nobel prize winners – awarded to those whose work upholds the spirit of the imaginative and unusual in scientific discovery – has highlighted findings such as why the wombat, an Australian marsupial, produces cube-shaped scat.

Answers to that peculiarity started by happenstance when a research team, which included a Grand Valley State University alumna, noted cubic waste in the wombat cadaver they were examining as part of a study on disease. That discovery set in motion the unraveling of an enduring mystery that had baffled scientists and the public alike.

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*Below is a feature story about that alumna and the discovery that is available for use on your platforms.*

A Grand Valley alumna was part of a research team that helped unlock at least some of the long-held mystery about the droppings of the wombat: Why are they shaped like cubes?

It turns out the Australian marsupial actually forms the unusual shape in its digestive system, a discovery that led to the research team, including alumna Alynn Martin, '14, being recognized with an Ig Nobel Prize.

The annual awards are presented each September at Harvard University to honor "achievements that make people laugh and then think," according to the organizers' website.

Other winners this year studied how much saliva a 5-year-old produces and whether pizza consumption protects against illness (apparently only if it's made in Italy). The stated goal of the awards is to honor the unusual and imaginative in scientific discovery, and Martin embraced that spirit.

"It's not going to change anybody's life but it's a great little piece of information that we didn't know before," said Martin, who earned a master's degree in biology at Grand Valley.

Martin's part in the wombat waste discovery came during her time working on a doctorate in ecology at the University of Tasmania in Australia. She was working with researcher Scott Carver on wombats and disease when they examined a wombat cadaver. That's when they discovered the cubic waste in the intestine.

The team sent cadavers to colleagues at the Georgia Institute of Technology for further analysis, such as the dimensions and elasticity of the intestine. All of the researchers were part of the award.

Aside from this interesting discovery about wombats, Martin has developed an affinity for the creatures that survive on grasses and roots (a dry diet that she said may also play a role in their waste formation).

First of all, they're inarguably cute. Martin described them as burrowing marsupials with pouches specially configured to protect their young from the kicked-up dirt from digging. She also noted that wombats seem to play an unwarranted second fiddle to their fellow Australian marsupial and close relation, the koala.

She was fascinated by these animals whom she described as charismatic and surprisingly regimented. "Working in the field, you could see they were creatures of habit. It's incredible that for wild animals that can go anywhere and do anything they pretty much stick to a routine," she said.

Since receiving her doctorate, Martin has gone on to work in Montana with the U.S. Geological Survey to assess the impacts of disease on wild big horn sheep.

Studying disease in wild animals is Martin's life passion and part of what brought her to Grand Valley, where she studied under Amy Russell, associate professor of biology. Martin, who researched tricolored bats while at Grand Valley, credits Russell with providing the foundation for understanding population genetics as well as research training that is useful every day.

Russell said Martin, her first graduate student, is smart and passionate.

"I remember her being tremendously curious and just always wanting to be out in nature and to learn new things," Russell said.

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Photos of GVSU students receiving training instruction can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/19b>

### **GVSU Sim Center conducts assailant training exercise**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's health care Simulation Center, in collaboration with several local agencies, conducted an active assailant simulation training exercise September 18 as part of national Healthcare Simulation Week.

The exercise was coordinated by the GVSU Simulation Center, located in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS) on Grand Valley's Health Campus and sponsored by Priority Health.

A group of Grand Valley nursing, health sciences and athletic training students, along with faculty and staff members received training from members of area law enforcement agencies, including the Grand Valley Police and Grand Rapids Police departments and Grand Rapids Fire Department. They practiced various procedures, including run-hide-fight, close-lock-barricade, and "stop the bleed." They also took part in rescue task force exercises.

Students had the opportunity to portray mock patients being treated at Mercy Health St. Mary's; students from Grand Valley's Early College program portrayed patients at Spectrum Health.

"Simulation-based training is an effective teaching strategy for skill development in complex situations," said Katie Branch, director of Simulation. "The training exercise was a success due to the collaborative spirit of Grand Valley within the university and the Grand Rapids community."

Other departments involved in the exercise included the GVSU Counseling Center, FBI, Life EMS, American Medical Response, Kent County Sheriff's Department, Kent County Emergency Management, Michigan State Police and Grand Rapids Community College.

Branch said these types of exercises help raise awareness of how health care simulation can improve the safety, effectiveness and efficiency of health care delivery.

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Soman can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/19c>*

### **Longtime administrator named dean of GVSU College of Education**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University Provost Maria Cimitile has named Sherril Soman dean of the College of Education at Grand Valley. Soman had been serving as interim dean since July 2018.

"Dr. Soman has built solid relationships with, and garnered the support and trust of faculty and staff within the College of Education in the time she has served as interim dean," said Cimitile. "Dr. Soman continues to move the college forward at a challenging time for postsecondary education and embraces new opportunities in the ever-changing field of teacher preparation."

Soman has served in a number of leadership roles at Grand Valley, including associate vice president for Enrollment Development and university registrar, director of Financial Aid, interim assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

She has extensive expertise in curriculum development, assessment and strategic planning and served on the university Assurance Argument Leadership Committee in preparation for the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation visit that took place in fall 2018.

Soman joined Grand Valley's Chemistry Department in 2000. She earned a doctorate in chemistry from Purdue University and is a chemistry educator by training, co-leading recertification of the chemistry major by the Michigan Department of Education.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all across Michigan and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 94 undergraduate and 42 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit; the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute and the Muskegon Innovation Hub are located in Muskegon. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU welcomes one of its largest first-year classes**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University enrolled one of the largest first-year classes in its history this fall. It's the eighth year in a row the university has welcomed more than 4,000 freshmen to campus, and they're coming into college with impressive academic records from high school. Grand Valley has one of the strongest first-year enrollments in the state, which has seen a population decline and a decrease in high school graduates.

First-year enrollment at the university is 4,301, with total enrollment topping more than 24,000 (24,033). The freshman class has the strongest entering GPA in Grand Valley's history, with 75 percent coming in with a GPA of 3.39 or higher. There is an increase in first-year students of color, from 719 in 2018 to 727 this fall, along with an increase in non-Michigan students at the university, from 2,179 to 2,237.

"We welcomed an amazing class this fall," said first-year President Philomena V. Mantella. "Bright students have a lot of choices when it comes to pursuing a college degree, and they know Grand Valley delivers on its promise of a great education, while being a tremendous value. We're committed to providing access for qualified students to attend Grand Valley, and we're dedicated to their success. Success means not only a degree and a job, it also means a path forward to lifelong learning, advancement and service. We all benefit when motivated, educated people work in and for our communities."

Grand Valley is among the top three Michigan public universities for retaining students. University data shows an 84.5 percent retention rate for first-year students. To ease financial pressures for students, the Board of Trustees in July increased financial aid by 14 percent, bringing the total aid available to students to \$59.9 million.

"The university has a mission to serve students and works to provide scholarships and grants to remove barriers," said Vice President for Enrollment Lynn Blue. "Students are attracted to Grand Valley because of its diversity of programs and opportunities, and we need to offer financial assistance to the promising students who need it."

Students from all across Michigan (21,796 residents) have enrolled at Grand Valley, joined by 1,863 from other states, and 374 from other countries.

Of recent graduates, 95 percent are employed or pursuing advanced degrees, and of those working, 86 percent stayed in Michigan. The university was named a "Top Public School" by *U.S. News and World Report*, and one of "America's 100 Best College Buys" by Institutional Research and Evaluation.

For more details about Grand Valley's performance, visit [www.gvsu.edu/accountability](http://www.gvsu.edu/accountability)

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all across Michigan

and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 94 undergraduate and 42 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit; the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute and the Muskegon Innovation Hub are located in Muskegon. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

October 1, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A copy of the full IR&E report can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1ak>*

### **GVSU named 'Best College Buy' for 24 consecutive years**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the 24th year in a row, Grand Valley State University has been named one of America's 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. (IR&E) in Georgia.

Grand Valley is the only Michigan public school that has made the list every year since the designation began in 1995.

Each year, IR&E identifies the 100 colleges and universities across the country that provide students the highest quality education at the lowest cost.

To be considered for the designation, an institution must:

- Be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor's degrees;
- Offer full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services;
- Have an entering freshman class in fall 2018 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen;
- Have out-of-state tuition in 2019-2020 below the national average or not exceeding the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

The average GPA for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2018 was 3.60, compared to the national average of 3.46, according to IR&E. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2018 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.

IR&E calculates cost of attendance by using out-of-state tuition at public institutions and regular cost of tuition at private institutions. Room and board is also included using the cost of a double occupancy room and the most common meal plan. Under these guidelines, the 2019-20 cost of out-of-state attendance is \$26,977, compared to the national out-of-state average of \$45,406, according to IR&E.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,000 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all across Michigan and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 94 undergraduate and 42 graduate degree programs and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland. The university offers programming and classes from centers in Traverse City and Detroit; the Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute and the Muskegon Innovation Hub are located in Muskegon. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

Sept. 25, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1a3>*

### **Acclaimed poets to present readings at GVSU Fall Arts Celebration event**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Two acclaimed poets who delve into the wide range of the human condition will share their work through readings during a Grand Valley State University Fall Arts Celebration event.

"An Evening with Ellen Bass and Kevin Young" will give audiences the chance to fully experience the poetry through hearing the language and imagery, said Patricia Clark, professor of writing and poet-in-residence at Grand Valley.

"Poetry benefits from a live performance, and that's just what it is," Clark said. "The audience will also get a glimpse of the energy in the current poetry scene and how it plumbs emotional highs and lows — and perhaps we'll convert a few people into trying their hands at poetry."

The event is October 3 with a 5 p.m. public reception and readings at 6 p.m. at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Bass is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Her most recent book, "Like a Beggar," was a finalist for a host of awards including the Paterson Poetry Prize and the Lambda Literary Award.

Young is the director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and is poetry editor at The New Yorker. His book, "Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels" won an American Book Award. His newest book of poetry is "Brown."

All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

For immediate release

September 23, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU faculty art exhibition to also feature workshops, talks and performances**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A unified faculty art exhibition by Grand Valley State University's Department of Visual and Media Arts will also feature a full slate of workshops, talks and performances.

The show, "Endless Possibilities," displays work from nearly 30 artists at the NOMAD Gallery in downtown Grand Rapids. The show runs through Oct. 31 at the gallery, 74 Monroe Center NW.

Kim Roberts, department chair and professor of film and video production, said organizers wanted to use the opportunity to hold art-related events to engage the community and showcase performers from the Grand Valley Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Events include a panel discussion featuring Karen Trentelman, a senior scientist at the Getty Conservation Institute, who will discuss scientific analysis of works of art, as well as workshops to stoke imaginations and musical, theatrical and dance performances.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information visit [gvsu.edu/vma](https://gvsu.edu/vma).

- Dance and Film performance, September 27 at 7 p.m.
- Walkshop, mapping spaces, September 28, 4-5 p.m.
- Performance, percussion and unaccompanied clarinet, October 4, at 7 p.m.
- Zine workshop, October 5 at 2 p.m.
- Comics workshop, October 5 at 4 p.m.
- Panel discussion featuring Karen Trentelman, October 11, 6-7 p.m.
- Choral performance, October 11 at 7 p.m.
- Performance, cello with electronics piece, October 18 at 7 p.m.
- Grand Valley New Music Ensemble performance, October 25 at 7 p.m.
- Talk titled "My Mourning Process," October 26, 1-1:45 p.m.
- Visual journaling with an art therapist, October 26, 2-4 p.m.
- Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Bard to Go: "Tossing on the Ocean," October 26 at 7 p.m.

For immediate release

October 4, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **DeVos Medical Colloquy at GVSU will focus on bioethics, big data**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The fields of bioethics and big data will be the focus at the biannual DeVos Medical Colloquy at Grand Valley State University.

"The Power of Data and the Dilemma of Privacy" is set for Monday, October 14, from 6-8 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, with a reception at 5:30 p.m. Registration online at [gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://gvsu.edu/colloquy) before October 9; the event is free and open to the public.

Presenters are I. Glenn Cohen, professor of law at Harvard Law School and faculty director of the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology and Bioethics; and Bonnie Kaplan, from the Yale Center for Medical Informatics, Yale Interdisciplinary Bioethics Center scholar and a faculty affiliate fellow of the Yale Law School's Information Society Project.

Cohen is a leading expert on the intersection of medical ethics and the law; his research relates to big data, research ethics and health information technologies. Kaplan's research and consulting concerns informatics, ethical and legal issues, user perspectives and experiences with health information technology, and ethnographic sociotechnical evaluation.

The colloquy will be webcast live and continuing education credits are offered for medical education, nursing and social work. Details are online at [gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://gvsu.edu/colloquy).

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy is held twice per year. Grand Valley began hosting this series in 2015 after receiving a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

For immediate release

October 2, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1au>*

## **Grand Valley State University arts events scheduled for November**

### **FALL ARTS CELEBRATION**

From dance that combines movement and technology to music that captures the power and mystery of the sea, the 17th annual Fall Arts Celebration events at Grand Valley State University are set to bring out "all the feels."

Each year, Fall Arts Celebration shines a spotlight on some of the world's foremost poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. For the past 17 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

### **ART**

"Art of Today: Contemporary Collections from Chicago"

August 23-November 1

Art Gallery, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Working with Chicago-based artists, gallery owners and collectors, Grand Valley has developed a collection of contemporary art over the last 15 years.

Drawn from Grand Valley's collection and enhanced with additional loans from Chicago, Art of Today brings together more than 40 paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, sculptures and mixed media.

This curation includes both bold and minimalistic works exploring simplicity in design, society's relationship to the environment, and the intersection of pop culture and art by artists Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, David Nash and Takahashi Murakami.

Other artists, such as Tony Fitzpatrick, Jane Hammond, Erika Rothenberg and Kara Walker, provide challenging imagery that examines the meaning of identity, race, culture and sexuality.

### **LECTURE**

Jill Lepore: "American History from Beginning to End"

November 5

Public reception at 5 p.m. and lecture at 6 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, second floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Jill Lepore wants you to see history differently. What do you see when you look at 500 years instead of the last five minutes? Lepore, the preeminent narrative historian of her generation, asserts that the United States is an experiment founded on three "truths": political equality, natural rights and the sovereignty of the people. She will stoke your imagination to put yourself in a place in history to help give context to the present.

Lepore is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University. She is also a staff writer at The New Yorker. One of her latest books is "These Truths: A History of the United States" (2018), on The New York Times Best Seller list. Her most recent book, "This America: The Case for the Nation," was published in May 2019.

## **GVSU ART GALLERY**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State University holds the largest public collection of Alten's work in the world.

"Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad"

Blue Wall Gallery

DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-December 13

In 2018, a dozen GVSU students and three faculty members traveled to Haiti as part of a study abroad program. The course, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, was designed to provide students from various backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service-learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to contribute their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. Included in this exhibition are narratives and reflections by both faculty members and students who participated in the trip. Additionally, a number of photographs document their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian works of art attest to the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

"Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling: Works of Art from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Si cle Prints"

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-December 13

During the period spanning the turn of the century, Paris, one of the most vibrant cities in the world, experienced an explosion in print media. Now-familiar artists – Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre Bonnard, and others – made names for themselves producing items such as posters, journal illustrations, theater programs and advertisements. Drawn from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Si cle Prints in the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet, "Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling" provides a view into the visual culture of late 19th century France. In 2019, 14 GVSU students conducted research for this exhibition for the course Modern Art and Modernity. Each student focused on one work of art for in-depth study, produced original research and presented findings to classmates and now to a wider audience.

"Jos  Guadalupe Posada: Calavera Prints from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet"

West Wall Gallery

Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition dates: November 1, 2019-February 28, 2020

Jos  Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913) was a printmaker and engraver who illustrated historic scenes, board games and commercial items, religious images, various books and newspapers. He is most famous

for his use of calaveras (depictions of skulls and skeletons) to satirize and mock the corruption of the wealthy and political elite. "La Calavera Catrina," his most iconic image, was created in 1910 at the start of the Mexican Revolution. The image shows a grinning skeleton wearing a women's feathered hat, pointing out that death comes to everyone, even those in the upper class. This exhibition includes 20 reproductions of his prints, from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet. The prints were purchased in 2002 from the family of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, who printed them using the original plates and press.

### "Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes"

An Installation by Elina Chauvet

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: November 1, 2019 – February 28, 2020

"Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes" is an itinerant installation originally organized in 2009 by artist and architect Elina Chauvet in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. It was composed of 33 pairs of red shoes, each representing a woman who had disappeared in that community, and designed to draw attention to the fact that women were being killed without any consequences. In 2017, Zulema Moret, Grand Valley professor of modern languages, arranged for Chauvet to direct an installation of "Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes" in Grand Rapids. This exhibition documents many of the community groups that participated in painting the shoes, as well as the installation at the Richard M. DeVos Center courtyard on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

## **PERFORMANCES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE**

For more information about performances from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, visit [gvsu.edu/mtd](http://gvsu.edu/mtd).

Faculty recital

Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, artist performer

November 4, 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Pianist Sookkyung Cho uses a thoughtful expressionist style in her performances. A founding member of the New York-based Almava Trio, Cho has appeared at venues that include Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and Château de Fontainebleau in France.

Additional recital by Sookkyung Cho:

November 23, 4-5 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Hall, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

A variety of piano solo and ensemble music will be performed.

ReACT! presents: "Difficult Dialogues"

November 17, 8-10 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, Room 2263, Allendale Campus

Grand Valley's anti-violence peer theater troupe will use low-risk interactive performance and discussion methods to help participants prepare to better engage someone on difficult dialogues about sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Bard to Go: "Tossing on the Ocean" public performance

November 2, 1-3 p.m.

Keller Black Box Theatre, Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

Bard to Go is a 50-minute program introducing audience members to Shakespeare. This performance takes the audience on a sea-faring journey with Prospero, a powerful magician, and his

assistant Ariel, a magical spirit with strange powers. When Prospero and Ariel conjure a storm to shipwreck Prospero's enemies, their magic spills over from their own play, "The Tempest," and causes havoc for many of Shakespeare's characters. This production includes scenes from "The Tempest," "Twelfth Night," "Pericles," "The Comedy of Errors" and "The Merchant of Venice."

### **GRAND VALLEY WRITERS SERIES**

The Grand Valley Writers Series brings in distinguished and emerging writers to read from their work, visit classes and interact with students. For more information, visit [here](#).

Craft talk and reading with Stephen Mack Jones

November 5

Craft talk 1-2 p.m. Reading and book signing 6-7:30 p.m.

Kirkhof Center Room 2270, Allendale Campus

The first adult fiction novel by Stephen Mack Jones, "August Snow," has received wide acclaim. The Nero Wolfe Society awarded the book with the 2018 Nero Award. In addition, the novel was named a 2018 Michigan Notable Book by the Library of Michigan. Jones also received the Hammett Prize for literary excellence in the field of crime writing from the International Association of Crime Writers. Jones is a poet, an award-winning playwright and winner of the Kresge Arts in Detroit Literary Fellowship. He lives in the metro Detroit area.

October 11, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

**Media advisory: 200 GVSU students will meet couple who funded their scholarships**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — About 200 Grand Valley State University students will meet and thank the Detroit couple who helped to fund their education during an event Monday, October 14, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Bob and Ellen Thompson established the Thompson Working Family Scholarship at Grand Valley in 2011, offering 15 students scholarships of \$3,000 per year, and increasing to 30 students per year in 2015.

In 2017, the Thompsons greatly expanded the reach by offering \$5,000 scholarships to 125 students, including 25 transfers from Michigan community colleges. More than 450 students have received a TWFS since the program's inception. Cohorts of students who receive scholarships must reach an 80 percent graduation rate within six years.

The Thompsons and the Thompson Foundation have another scholarship program at Grand Valley that began in 2008 and focuses on assisting students from Detroit's University Preparatory Academy.

The Thompsons sold their asphalt company, Thompson-McCully, in 1999. Their focus on opening access to education for working families comes largely from their relationships with employees who used to work at their asphalt company.

**Details:**

**Monday, October 14, 4-5 p.m.**

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front St. SW., Grand Rapids

- Remarks from GVSU President Philomena V. Mantella, Vice President for Enrollment Development Lynn "Chick" Blue, students, Bob Thompson
- Large group photo, 4:30 p.m., followed by time for media interviews with students and others

For immediate release

Oct. 11, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Michelle DeWitt is available for interviews before and at the event. Images from the event, including photos of a trial run from this summer, and a PDF of those participating will be available via Dropbox: <http://qvsu.edu/s/1aV>*

### **GVSU hosts an attempt to create world record periodic table**

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University is organizing an attempt to create the world's largest periodic table to celebrate National Chemistry Week.

The attempt is an effort involving more than 100 businesses, high schools and colleges and organizations throughout West Michigan, the state, across the country and as far away as India.

Volunteers from these groups created 118 blocks, each one consisting of six fastened tablecloths containing the atomic number, element name, element symbol and atomic weight of each element in the periodic table. When completed, the piece will stretch about 108 yards in width.

**The event will be open to the public October 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Kelly Family Sports Center on the Allendale Campus.**

**FOR MEDIA ONLY: Assembling of the table runs from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.**

Organizers will be placing the blocks, each done with individual creative flourishes, during the event. The Grand Valley Physics Department will lend its lasers for precise measuring to document the attempt at creating the largest periodic table for submission to Guinness World Records.

The attempt at the world record is being done in conjunction with the American Chemistry Society - Western Michigan Local Section.

Michelle DeWitt, event organizer and lead lab supervisor for the Grand Valley Chemistry Department, said the attempt coincides with the 150th anniversary of the periodic table. The United Nations declared 2019 as the international year of the periodic table; its Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization has included Grand Valley's plan on a world map showing events to coincide with that designation.

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites with Long and a full copy of his report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/1aO>

### **GVSU economist: Marginal growth continues**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The growth rate of the West Michigan industrial economy improved again for September, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of September.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) edged up to +6, from +3. The production index moved down to +6, from +9. The index of purchases dropped to -6 from +2 and the employment index rose to +8 from +1.

Long said after three months of pessimism, there is a note of encouragement in September's local index of employment.

"Numerous headlines proclaimed the national unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent in September, a 50-year low," he said. "However, the UAW strike and the apparent softening auto market has brought Michigan's August (latest month available) unemployment rate up to 4.2 percent from 3.9 percent in August 2018."

Long said cities where General Motors plants are located are feeling most of the heat from the UAW strike, but a few local firms who sell to GM could begin to see layoffs if the strike continues into November.

Looking ahead, Long said despite economic trouble spots all over the world, he doesn't see an obvious event that would trigger a recession; an exception is the U.S. trade war with China.

"Although the industrial markets are squirming because of falling exports and tariff-related price increases, the current signs still point more toward stagnation rather than a recession," he said. "A sudden announcement that the U.S. and China have reached a long-term trade deal could spark a new round of growth, but the Chinese government may be holding out until after the 2020 election for a better deal."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 870-0428.

For Immediate Release

October 8, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Thompson can be found at this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1aL>*

### **Crime survivor, judicial reform advocate to visit GVSU**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Jennifer Thompson's story of falsely identifying the man who sexually assaulted her in 1984, sending him to prison for 11 years, continues to be highlighted by national media outlets.

Thompson, founder of Healing Justice, will visit Grand Valley State University to discuss criminal justice reform.

### **The event will be held October 16 at 6 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium in DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.**

Thompson, who was a college student in North Carolina in 1984, said she made a conscious effort to memorize everything about the man who was attacking her in hopes that she could help bring him to justice.

When Ronald Cotton was arrested shortly after the attack and charged with rape, Thompson picked him out of a lineup and Cotton was eventually sentenced to life in prison. Eleven years into his sentence, the availability of DNA testing proved his innocence and set him free.

Thompson is the co-author of "Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption." Her nonprofit, Healing Justice, provides opportunities for healing in cases involving wrongful convictions and exonerations.

This event is sponsored by Grand Valley's College of Community and Public Service and the School of Criminal Justice.

For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/cj](http://gvsu.edu/cj)

For immediate release

October 7, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU, NMC team to present summit on opioid epidemic**

TRAVERSE CITY — Grand Valley State University and Northwestern Michigan College have partnered to present a summit on the opioid epidemic.

The Health Forum of Northern Michigan event, "Opioid Epidemic Update," is set for Tuesday, October 29, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Hagerty Center on NMC's campus, 715 E. Front St. A light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public; register online at [gvsu.edu/hfnorthernmich/reg](https://gvsu.edu/hfnorthernmich/reg).

Panelists are Christopher Hindbaugh, CEO of Addiction Treatment Services; Christine Nefcy, chief medical officer for Munson Health Care; Jennilyn Oster, officer for the Traverse City Police Department; and James Whelan, medical director-population health for Munson Health Care. The moderator is David Mengebier, president and CEO of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

Questions about the event can be directed to [dykstrdi@gvsu.edu](mailto:dykstrdi@gvsu.edu). The Health Forum is sponsored in part by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For immediate release

October 23, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU partners with Bridge Magazine to host town hall about water priorities**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and the Center for Michigan/Bridge Magazine will co-host a town hall discussion about the state's water priorities and the economic activity generated from the natural resource.

"Great Waters, Great Economy" will be held November 4, 7:30-9 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP online at <http://gvsu.edu/s/1bs>; parking on the Allendale Campus is free after 6:30 p.m.

The Center for Michigan, which publishes Bridge Magazine, is a nonpartisan "think and do" tank based in Ann Arbor. This town hall is one of several events held around the state as part of the center's "Your Water, Your Voice" campaign. Priorities and perspectives garnered from town hall participants will be shared with state leaders.

Travus Burton, Grand Valley's director for civic learning and community engagement, said the town hall links closely with Grand Valley's Making Waves About Water initiative, a two-year endeavor that creates opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, resources and activities surrounding the natural resource.

"We are all stakeholders in the conversation around economic activity associated with our natural waters," Burton said. "It is very important that diverse perspectives on this topic are heard and a major goal for the Making Waves Initiative is to create new avenues for engaging communities around important topics related to water."

More information is online at [BridgeMI.com](http://BridgeMI.com).

For immediate release

Oct. 22, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: An image for this event is available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1bp>*

### **Inspiration of water featured in GVSU Fall Arts Celebration dance performance**

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- The beauty of nature and how water, especially, inspired artists of the Romantic Era is at the heart of the dance performance featured in Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration.

"Water: A Vision in Dance" is a multimedia experience that will evoke the power of water through musical selections and the choreography of BODYART, a New Orleans-based dance theater company. The performance is Monday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Haas Center for Performing Arts, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

The musical part of the performance features Bedřich Smetana's "The Moldau" and Debussy's "La Mer," both of which are inspired by significant bodies of water.

"When Smetana wrote his monumental tone poem, 'Má Vlast,' which was the story of his native land, the principal movement was the 'Moldau' because that mighty river gave life and sustenance to his friends, family and compatriots," said Danny Phipps, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. "Debussy's 'La Mer' is a brilliant evocation of the power and mystery of the oceans."

BODYART will unite dance, video and the music of the Grand Valley orchestra to bring these pieces to life, said Carrie Brueck Morris, associate professor of dance.

"This timely focus on water explores its aesthetic qualities and our local water landscape as the dance weaves together live performance with video projection that constantly evolves with the action on stage," Morris said.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public.

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU named a 'Green College' for 10 consecutive years**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the 10th year in a row, Grand Valley State University has been named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review.

The university is included in the 2019 edition of "The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges."

The guide profiles higher education institutions in the U.S. that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students, as well as campus practices, initiatives and activities.

Grand Valley has been included in the guidebook every year since the first issue was published in 2010.

This latest recognition reflects Grand Valley's commitment to sustainability. In August, Grand Valley was again named a top performer by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, receiving gold status.

Visit [princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide](https://princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide) for full rankings.

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainability Practices at [gvsu.edu/sustainability](https://gvsu.edu/sustainability) or (616) 331-7366.

For immediate release

October 22, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **Panelists will discuss legalized marijuana, health care industry at GVSU event**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The implications of legalized marijuana for the health care industry will be discussed at the next Health Forum of West Michigan event hosted by Grand Valley State University's Office of the Vice Provost for Health.

Panelists will discuss the topic on Friday, November 1, from 8-9:30 a.m. in the DeVos Center, 401 Fulton St. W., on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A light breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at [gvsu.edu/vphealth](https://gvsu.edu/vphealth).

Panelists are Dr. Mandeep Bath, addiction psychiatrist for Pine Rest; Andrew Brisbo, executive director of the Marijuana Regulatory Agency for the State of Michigan; Scott Rifenberg, deputy chief, Grand Rapids Police Department; and John Titley, partner and corporate attorney for Varnum LLP. The moderator is Susan DeVuyst-Miller, associate professor of pharmacy practice at Ferris State University and clinical pharmacist for Cherry Health Services.

The Health Forum of West Michigan is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; community partners, in addition to the Office of the Vice Provost for Health, are Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and the Michigan Center for Clinical Systems Improvement. Visit [gvsu.edu/vphealth](https://gvsu.edu/vphealth) for more information.

For immediate release

October 21, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Here is a YouTube link to a drone video of the assembled periodic table:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/1bl>

### **Periodic table built at Grand Valley State University an attempt at world record**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Volunteers attempted to set a world record October 19 at Grand Valley State University by assembling a periodic table that stretched 108 yards in width.

The attempt, done in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the periodic table, involved more than 100 businesses, high schools and colleges and organizations throughout West Michigan, the state, the country and as far away as India. Volunteers created blocks representing elements to be included in the massive table.

The next step is to submit measurements to Guinness World Records for recognition as the world's largest periodic table. Organizer Michelle DeWitt said she expects a decision in a few months.

Each of the 118 blocks consisted of six fastened tablecloths containing the atomic number, element name, element symbol and atomic weight of each element in the periodic table. The blocks, measuring 18 feet by 13.5 feet, filled most of the field at Kelly Family Sports Center on the Allendale Campus.

The day also included scientific demonstrations and other activities to celebrate chemistry as part of National Chemistry Week.

"Chemistry touches you every day. You're breathing it in with every breath you take," said DeWitt, lead lab supervisor for the Grand Valley Chemistry Department.

For the past few months, DeWitt has been coordinating the creation of the blocks, which were all handmade and contained individual creative touches. For example, the creators of the block for sodium (Na, No. 11) included a salt shaker, while those creating a block for platinum (Pt, No. 78) wrapped wire around the name.

The attempt at the world record was done in conjunction with the American Chemistry Society - Western Michigan Local Section.

The United Nations declared 2019 as the international year of the periodic table; its Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization included Grand Valley's plan on a world map showing events to coincide with that designation.

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **President Mantella introduces strategy for the future of GVSU**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University President Philomena V. Mantella identified an engagement strategy designed to set the course for the future of Grand Valley.

Mantella outlined the Reach Higher Together plan during the November 1 Board of Trustees meeting held at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS) on the Health Campus in downtown Grand Rapids.

Mantella reported hundreds of people took part in "Grand Huddles" held across campus since September to share their ideas for the future. She said more than 1,200 comments were received from an online survey and another 1,000 comments came from notes and text comments. The Huddles are currently scheduled through the beginning of next year.

"It has been incredibly gratifying to see the engagement of our campus community and the willingness to work together in new ways to create our Grand Future," Mantella said.

The Reach Higher Together imperatives Mantella shared with the board are:

- Expand high-impact learning opportunities;
- Increase the ability to meet the needs of diverse learners;
- Provide quality, flexibility and efficient ways to serve students throughout their lifetime;
- Experiment and create new partnerships and funding avenues that shape the best educational experience for a diverse group of learners;
- Build upon Grand Valley's history and reputation for offering a high-touch approach with high-tech opportunities to widen access to programs and faculty.

Mantella invited faculty and staff members to give updates on activities currently underway.

Jonathan Engelsma, professor of computer and information systems, said five new micro-credentials in computer-related fields are being developed and joint degree programs are being explored.

Aaron Lowen, professor of economics, Finance Department chair and director of the School of Accounting, facilitated five Grand Huddles. Lowen said discussion centered on the need to build a more diverse faculty and student body, connecting students to resources and mentors, and making curriculum relevant and flexible.

Felix Ngassa, professor of chemistry and chair of the University Academic Senate, said the expansion of the president's cabinet to include faculty leaders is building trust, empowering faculty and bolstering shared governance at the university.

In other board action:

- The board approved the expansion and remodeling of the Simulation Center in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The \$5.5 million renovation project will accommodate increased pressure on programs requiring simulation for skill development. The project will be completed in August 2021.
- The board also approved a resolution for appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU-authorized public school academy boards.
- The board approved a policy change for public comments to the board. Requests to address the board can be made up to 48 hours before a meeting and can be submitted online or by contacting the secretary to the board.
- Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations, was voted secretary to the Board of Trustees.

After the meeting, members of the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team took a hard-hat tour of the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health that is currently under construction next to CHS.

The new center will be the third and flagship building on Grand Valley's Health Campus with 15 classrooms and 14 interactive laboratories. The five-story, 160,000-square-foot center will allow Grand Valley to significantly expand and update its simulation center and the space available for collaborative work; it will also house the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

For immediate release

November 1, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1c9>*

## **Grand Valley State University arts events for December 2019**

### **FALL ARTS CELEBRATION**

From dance that combines movement and technology to music that captures the power and mystery of the sea, the 17th annual Fall Arts Celebration events at Grand Valley State University are set to bring out "all the feels."

Each year, Fall Arts Celebration shines a spotlight on some of the world's foremost poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars. For the past 17 years, West Michigan audiences have enjoyed a series of six free events every fall that celebrate the positive impact of the arts. For more information, visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

Holiday Celebration: "Beloved songs of the Season"

Fountain Street Church

24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids

December 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Yuletide selections from British composers David Willcocks and John Rutter will help ring in the holiday. Willcocks' brass choir settings of beloved Christmas carols capture the true essence of the holiday, while Rutter's magnificent "Gloria" is one of the holiday masterpieces of the classical repertoire. The performances will be accompanied by a cappella selections sung by the GVSU University Arts Chorale.

### **GVSU ART GALLERY**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State holds the largest public collection of Alten's work in the world.

"Wandering Seeds: Experiencing and Engaging Haiti Through Study Abroad"

Blue Wall Gallery

DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-December 13

In 2018, a dozen GVSU students and three faculty members traveled to Haiti as part of a study abroad program. The course, led by Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, was designed to provide students from various backgrounds the opportunity to experience Haitian culture and gain an

understanding of daily life in rural Haiti. In addition, students participated in a variety of service-learning and community-based teaching experiences, allowing them to contribute their energy toward real-world problems in Haiti. Included in this exhibition are narratives and reflections by both faculty members and students who participated in the trip. Additionally, a number of photographs document their encounters, and a variety of original Haitian works of art attest to the vibrant and diverse artistic culture in the country.

"Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling: Works of Art from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Si cle Prints"

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibition dates: July 12-December 13

During the period spanning the turn of the century, Paris, one of the most vibrant cities in the world, experienced an explosion in print media. Now-familiar artists – Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Pierre Bonnard, and others – made names for themselves producing items such as posters, journal illustrations, theater programs and advertisements. Drawn from the Robert L. Haskins and Erwin A. Raible Collection of Fin-de-Si cle Prints in the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet, "Carnivals, Cognac and Cycling" provides a view into the visual culture of late 19th century France. In 2019, 14 GVSU students conducted research for this exhibition for the course Modern Art and Modernity. Each student focused on one work of art for in-depth study, produced original research and presented findings to classmates and now to a wider audience.

"Jos  Guadalupe Posada: Calavera Prints from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet"

West Wall Gallery

Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibition dates: November 1-February 28, 2020

Jos  Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913) was a printmaker and engraver who illustrated historic scenes, board games and commercial items, religious images, various books and newspapers. He is most famous for his use of calaveras (depictions of skulls and skeletons) to satirize and mock the corruption of the wealthy and political elite. "La Calavera Catrina," his most iconic image, was created in 1910 at the start of the Mexican Revolution. The image shows a grinning skeleton wearing a women's feathered hat, pointing out that death comes to everyone, even those in the upper class. This exhibition includes 20 reproductions of his prints, from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet. The prints were purchased in 2002 from the family of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, who printed them using the original plates and press.

"Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes"

An Installation by Elina Chauvet

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

November 1, 2019 – February 28, 2020

"Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes" is an itinerant installation originally organized in 2009 by artist and architect Elina Chauvet in Ciudad Ju rez, Mexico. It was composed of 33 pairs of red shoes, each representing a woman who had disappeared in that community, and designed to draw attention to the fact that women were being killed without any consequences. In 2017, Zulema Moret, Grand Valley professor of modern languages, arranged for Chauvet to direct an installation of "Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes" in Grand Rapids. This exhibition documents many of the community groups that participated in painting the shoes, as well as the installation at the Richard M. DeVos Center courtyard on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

## **DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE**

For more information about performances from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, visit [gvsu.edu/mtd](http://gvsu.edu/mtd).

ReACT! Presents: Difficult Dialogues

Keller Black Box Theatre

Haas Center for Performing Arts, Allendale Campus

December 6 from 2-4 p.m.

ReACT!, Grand Valley's anti-violence peer theatre troupe out of the Center for Women and Gender Equity, will use low-risk interactive performance and discussion methods to get participants thinking about possible difficult discussions about sexual assault and sexual harassment. ReACT! student actor-facilitators will present scenes and pose questions to help prepare someone to better engage with a difficult dialogue.

Clarinet and Piano Studio Recital

St. Cecilia Music Center

24 Ransom Ave. NE, Grand Rapids

December 1 at 2 p.m.

This clarinet and piano music comes from the studios of several GVSU faculty members.

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **Van Andel Global Trade Center celebrates 20 years of supporting Michigan businesses**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University is celebrating 20 years of helping Michigan businesses succeed in the global marketplace.

Coordinating with local companies, topic experts and professional practitioners, VAGTC provides educational opportunities to equip business professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to grow business on a global scale.

The center has provided services to a variety of industries and companies in 60 percent of Michigan's 83 counties who are doing business in 195 different countries across the world.

"The Van Andel Global Trade Center plays an increasing role in helping Michigan businesses maneuver through an ever-changing global marketplace," said Sonja Johnson, VAGTC executive director. "Finding the right path to lead to success can be daunting. Businesses receive support from international market research to determine where products and services have the best chance of being sold across the globe, to help in determining how a good should be classified for export or import."

Highlights of accomplishments over 20 years:

- Trained 9,693 businesses across Michigan;
- Worked with 27,300 business professionals through consulting and on-site training;
- Engaged with 2,437 GVSU students, faculty and staff through its services;
- Provided student employees with hands-on learning contributing to 425 global business projects;
- VAGTC is the grantee administrator of the Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign-Trade Zone to promote the federal zone benefits and usage for local companies. Over the past four years, KOMFTZ clients have exported \$67.7 million and supported 253 jobs.

In 2019, VAGTC received the President's "E" Award, the highest recognition any U.S. entity can receive for its significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports. In 2005, VAGTC received the World Trader of the Year award from the West Michigan World Trade Association.

For more information, contact VAGTC at (616) 331-6811 or visit [gvsu.edu/vagtc](http://gvsu.edu/vagtc)

For immediate release

October 29, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A photo of the speaker is available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1bY>*

### **GVSU Fall Arts Celebration lecture features acclaimed American history scholar**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- A Harvard University scholar and narrative historian, who presents accounts from a time in American history and gives context to today, will give the lecture for the Grand Valley State University Fall Arts Celebration.

Jill Lepore, described as the preeminent narrative historian of her generation, will deliver her talk, "American History from Beginning to End," November 5 at 6 p.m. at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A 5 p.m. public reception will precede the lecture.

Lepore is the David Woods Kemper '41 Professor of American History at Harvard University and also a staff writer at The New Yorker. Her most recent book is "This America: The Case for the Nation."

She asserts that the United States is an experiment founded on three "truths": political equality, natural rights and the sovereignty of the people. Nora Salas, assistant professor of history, said Lepore compels audiences to question if America's mission has succeeded or failed in the past and what the resulting effect on the present day has been.

"Lepore's work speaks to the significance of history for the health of our democracy and political institutions," Salas said. "We hope the audience will gain an appreciation for the complexity of American history. As Lepore writes, "A good history should raise questions."

All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public. For more information visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

For Immediate Release

November 7, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites with Long and a full copy of his report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/1cw>

### **GVSU economist: Marginal growth continues**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan industrial economy continues to see marginal growth despite effects from the GM strike, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of October.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) dropped significantly to -21 from +6. The production index fared worse, plunging to -34, from +6. The index of purchases dropped to -21 from -6 and the employment index fell to -14 from +8.

Long said GM-related layoffs accounted for most of the drop in the West Michigan employment index for October; he said he expects the local economy will return to steady slow growth in November.

"Of the 83 counties in Michigan, Ottawa County still posted the lowest unemployment rate at 2.7 percent. At 2.8 percent, Kent and Allegan counties tied for third place." Long said. "It is good to see many firms are still looking for people at all levels."

Long said it looks as though China and the U.S. may have come to an agreement and, if so, there could be a modest bounce in the economy if an agreement is signed. "We've been here before, only to have China pull the rug out from under us at the last minute," Long said.

He added current signs still point toward a stagnation rather than a recession for the world economy.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 870-0428.

For immediate release

November 7, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU symposium will focus on building skills for civil discussions**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The fifth annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium at Grand Valley State University will focus on building the skills needed for civil conversations.

"Civil Discourse Café: Complicated Conversations" will be November 19, 6-8 p.m., at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St., on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at [gvsu.edu/civildiscourse](https://gvsu.edu/civildiscourse).

Elizabeth Arnold is an associate professor of anthropology and holds the Padnos/Sarosik endowed professorship for civil discourse. Arnold said guest speakers will share stories about civil discourse around environmental issues like water equity and climate change.

"Story telling can be an effective means of civil discourse because it helps establish both rapport and empathy," Arnold said. "Storytelling is the fundamental communication skill that we have learned is missing from climate change communication."

Speakers include Peter Sinclair, videographer who specializes in climate change and renewable energy issues, and Lin Bardwell, Grand Rapids Community Relations commissioner and project coordinator for GVSU's Division of Inclusion and Equity.

The event ties with Grand Valley's two-year initiative, Making Waves About Water, which creates opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, resources and activities surrounding the natural resource.

The Padnos/Sarosik endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was a gift to Grand Valley from longtime supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

Learn more information about the symposium online at [gvsu.edu/civildiscourse](https://gvsu.edu/civildiscourse) or by calling (616) 331-8655.

For immediate release

November 6, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **Community forum at GVSU focuses on Alzheimer's disease**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Panelists at an upcoming Your Health Series forum will discuss the links between Alzheimer's disease research and care interventions and the impact of the disease on communities.

“Exploring the Latest in Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care” is set for Monday, November 11, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave. SW, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at [gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://gvsu.edu/vphealth).

Representatives from area health care organizations will be available from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to share resources.

Sponsors of the annual Your Health Series are Grand Valley, Spectrum Health and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Panelists are Rebecca Davis, associate dean of research and scholarship for the Kirkhof College of Nursing; Mary McPhail-Ciufo, section chief for neurology and clinical neuropsychology for Spectrum Health; and Nicholas Kanaan, professor of translational neuroscience, MSU CHM.

More information about the event is online at [gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://gvsu.edu/vphealth).

For immediate release

November 5, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

**ADVISORY: November 5 GVSU Fall Arts Celebration lecture cancelled**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Jill Lepore, the narrative historian who was set to deliver the Grand Valley State University Fall Arts Celebration lecture November 5, has cancelled due to illness, according to the Office of the President.

No further details are available at this time.

For immediate release

November 15, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: photos and videos are available to download via: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1cz>*

### **GVSU president announces lifetime resource for alumni, talent epicenter for community**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Philomena V. Mantella announced two initiatives that will strategically position Grand Valley State University into what she called a "breakout university" during her investiture address November 15 as the institution's fifth president.

Mantella detailed the Laker Lifetime Learning Account, money available to alumni to use for continuing education, and establishment of a talent epicenter, a physical space where companies, nonprofits, students and entrepreneurs will collaborate on ideas. She called both initiatives investments in the future during a time when the landscape of higher education is changing.

"The Laker Lifetime Learning Account will be available for Lakers to reduce costs and improve access to badges, certificates and advanced degrees at Grand Valley," she said, adding this program will begin in the spring. "The promise of our future demands these changes, investments and our collective fortitude. The commitments I've outlined today will ready Grand Valley, and those who partner with us, to create and shape our future as a 21st century education leader."

Hundreds of people attended the investiture ceremony in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus, including representatives from colleges and universities around the country. Mantella was joined by her family, including her husband, Robert H. Avery, and her mother, Lucille.

Mantella assumed the presidency at Grand Valley July 1; she spent the last 18 years at Northeastern University as senior vice president of Enrollment and Student Life and the chief executive officer of the Lifelong Learning Network.

Mantella said Grand Valley must meet the changing, and challenging demands higher education faces. These include a declining Michigan high school population, higher education access and affordability, and a workforce talent gap. She said the time to act is now and sent a call to the campus community to "Reach Higher Together," an initiative to lead change in higher education.

"Our state and our nation need Grand Valley to seize the new reality that allows a university in Michigan to be a 'breakout university' by asserting its entrepreneurial spirit, its history of being agile, fearlessly growing and changing to meet new demands, and being hungry to shape education to learning styles that are as numerous as individuals are different," she said.

To meet these demands, Mantella gave five commitments to the university community: evolving Grand Valley's liberal education foundation, creating an unparalleled educational model, expanding experiential learning, supporting more students at different stages of life, and investing in alumni through the lifetime learning account program.

"We commit to supporting more students at different stages of life, acknowledging their multiple roles and delivering when they want to learn, where they want to learn, and how they want to learn," she said. "This will require us to build a sophisticated infrastructure that leverages the power of place and the digital medium."

During the investiture ceremony, segments of the campus community offered greetings to Mantella. Kelly Dowker, executive vice president of the Student Senate, said she has had several opportunities to work with Mantella and appreciates her forward-thinking vision.

"President Mantella is adamant about including student voices," Dowker said. "She is of enormous importance in higher education, not only in Michigan, but throughout the United States."

President Emeritus Thomas J. Haas, Grand Valley's fourth president, handed Mantella a baton that had been passed to him by former President Mark A. Murray.

"Leading a public university is a noble calling and representing my colleagues, we look forward to this next chapter," Haas said. "We have confidence that you are the right individual to lead our grand university. The seed planted in 1960 is adapting to its ever-changing environment and is now growing and shaping people for the next 100 years and beyond."

Four campus community members offered video greetings during the "Reach Higher Together" portion of the ceremony. They were Lavar Green-Jackson, representing current students; Sarah Daniels, '09, representing alumni; Shawn Bultsma, representing faculty members; and Eric Payne, '86, alumnus and Grand Rapids Police Dept. police chief, representing community.

Mantella was emotional when speaking about her family. She said she learned about bold moves from her father, whom she called "the original experiential learner in the family." He left work as a laborer to start his own business.

"Through sheer grit, and many failures, he made the most of everything and everyone he encountered," Mantella said. "My dad showed me how to work hard, follow my passions and turn my lessons into leadership gold."

### **Reach Higher Together**

Mantella's Reach Higher Together initiative aims to activate the entire community to lead change in higher education.

Find out more about Reach Higher Together at [gvsu.edu/president](https://gvsu.edu/president).

For immediate release

November 13, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Caroline Brooks, University Communications, Michigan State University, (517) 432-0920

## **Disruptive behaviors may lead to poorer romantic relationships, study of nearly 800 couples finds**

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Disruptive behaviors, such as substance use and aggression, in one member of a relationship are associated with relationship distress for both partners in that relationship, a study of nearly 800 couples has found.

The findings – reported by researchers from Grand Valley State University and Michigan State University and published in the *Journal of Personality Disorders* – revealed an association between relationship satisfaction and certain disruptive behaviors, as well as positive and negative personality traits.

“The results of the study help bolster research in both academic and clinical settings about the connections between an individual’s traits and behaviors to relationship satisfaction,” said Mikhila Wildey, assistant professor of psychology for Grand Valley State University and lead author on the study.

Researchers found that disruptive personality traits and behaviors, such as rule-breaking and aggression, were associated with lower relationship satisfaction for both the affected individuals and, interestingly, for their partners.

The researchers gathered data for eight years from nearly 800 couples. Participants were recruited from the MSU Twin Registry, the university’s ongoing, large-scale study of twins and their families.

One of the hallmarks of the MSU Twin registry – which is co-directed by study co-authors Alex Burt and Kelly Klump – is the multi-method assessment of twins and their family members. In this case, researchers focused on the romantic relationships of twins’ parents, which shows the value of twin family designs for understanding many different kinds of family relationships.

Each partner completed surveys that rated their own satisfaction with their relationship. Each couple was also recorded for 10 minutes discussing issues in their romantic relationship to allow researchers to analyze the interactions.

The researchers explained that the findings are consistent with prior work, which along with the scope of the study provides important depth to the research in this area.

Wildey, who is also a couples’ therapist, noted that the findings give insight for approaches in a clinical setting.

“These findings suggest that disruptive behaviors are not something to overlook when considering romantic partners,” Wildey said. “In addition, without any intervention, these behaviors can persist across adulthood and are, therefore, something that should be addressed for couples who want to have a healthier relationship with one another.”

MSU Psychology professor Brent Donnellan was a co-author on the paper. Donnellan, who researches personality, hopes these findings encourage people to consider patterns of behaviors and personality traits when thinking about long-term relationship partners.

“People might overlook these attributes in the initial stages of attraction but this study highlights their relevance for happy and mutually satisfying partnerships,” Donnellan said.

For Immediate Release

November 12, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes or Michele Coffill, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: A mult box will be available in the balcony of the Fieldhouse. A photo of President Mantella can be found at this Dropbox link. <http://qvsu.edu/s/1cz>  
Photos and video of the investiture ceremony will be added to this link November 15.*

### **Inauguration events: GVSU president's investiture set for November 15**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The investiture of President Philomena V. Mantella as the fifth president of Grand Valley State University will be held Friday, November 15, with a series of events leading up to the ceremony.

**The investiture ceremony will be held in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus beginning at 11 a.m. Media welcome to cover.**

More than 200 faculty and staff members will process from the Mary Idema Pew Library to the Fieldhouse.

Three former Grand Valley presidents will be in attendance: President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers, President Mark Murray and President Emeritus Thomas J. Haas, who will offer remarks.

Representatives from colleges and universities around the country are expected, including Richard Pappas, president of Davenport University; Patricia Harris, president of Kuyper College; Matthew Scogin, president of Hope College; Kevin Quinn, president of Aquinas College; Tara McCrackin, interim president of Kendall College of Art and Design; Joseph Stowell, president of Cornerstone University; and Bill Pink, president of Grand Rapids Community College.

Richard Freeland, professor emeritus and former president of Northeastern University, and Joseph Aoun, president of Northeastern University, will also be in attendance.

During inauguration week, President Mantella will engage with students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members on topics surrounding the past, present and future of Grand Valley and innovations in higher education.

Students celebrations will be held at the Health Campus November 13 and on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses on November 14.

Philomena V. Mantella is Grand Valley's fifth president and the first woman to hold the position. She is a recognized leader in strategy, market expansion and educational innovation. Her drive and expertise come from more than 30 years in higher education administration, serving as an officer at public and private universities in New York, New Jersey, Michigan and Massachusetts. She has a strong student-centered philosophy and a comprehensive understanding of both sides of the educational market – learners and employers.

For a complete list of inauguration events, visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/inauguration/schedule-of-events-6.htm>

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU literacy project supplies books for 18 K-12 libraries**

CALEDONIA, Mich. — More than a dozen new teachers working in underserved public school districts in Michigan will have the opportunity to shop for \$1,000 worth of books to establish a library in their classroom.

Eighteen recent Grand Valley State University graduates are receiving grant money through the GVSU College of Education Michigan Literacy Project (MLP).

MLP provides libraries to recent Grand Valley graduates who have been teaching three or fewer years in K-5 general education classrooms in underserved public school districts and GVSU charter schools statewide.

**Recipients received a \$500 voucher to be used to shop for books at a buy-one-get-one sale December 2, from 5-7 p.m. at the Scholastic Warehouse, 8280 Broadmoor Ave. SE in Caledonia, Michigan. Members of the media are welcome to cover the private event.**

MLP was co-founded in 2014 by College of Education faculty members Megan Freudigmann and Sheryl Vlietstra.

"We recognize the importance of the availability of quality, children's literature in each classroom, yet it often takes new teachers several years of personal spending to develop a functional classroom library," Freudigmann said.

Vlietstra said Grand Valley College of Education alumni know what research says about connecting literacy to success, and how reading helps children develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

"Students may not have access to books in their homes or have a way to get to the local library, so their classroom should be equipped with books that can take them around the world and back," Vlietstra said.

Recipients are from Grand Rapids Public Schools, Kenowa Hills Public Schools, Shelby Public Schools, Kent City Community Schools, Orchard View Public Schools, Wayland Union Public Schools, Coopersville Area Public Schools, West Ottawa Public Schools, Holland Public Schools, Roscommon Area Public Schools, Flint Cultural Center Academy and Detroit University Prep Academy.

Teachers from Flint, Detroit and Roscommon will have alternative options for obtaining books.

MLP is funded through private donors, faculty contributions and ongoing support from GVSU's College of Education and Charter Schools Office.

For more information visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/coe/michigan-literacy-project-214.htm> or contact Sheryl Vlietstra at (616) 331-6271.

For immediate release

Nov. 20, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

## **Grand Valley to lead K-12 computer science curriculum coordination**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will lead coordination of K-12 computer science education in the state under an agreement reached with a key curriculum provider.

The partnership with Code.org, a nonprofit computer science organization that provides K-12 curriculum and training resources, will allow Grand Valley experts to coordinate annual professional development for up to 1,000 teachers in that discipline, said Kris Pachla, director of the Regional Math and Science Center. Code.org curriculum is prominently used in Michigan schools.

Grand Valley will partner with West Shore Educational Service District, which originally developed the statewide program in 2016, during the transition period until becoming the sole partner with Code.org in May, Pachla said. Grand Valley's greater capacity and history of running large-scale professional development led to West Shore's decision to pass the mantle, he said, allowing the Code.org program to develop to the next level.

The new role for Grand Valley continues an effort to help carry out the mission of the MiSTEM Network, the state initiative to strengthen STEM education. This past summer, Grand Valley collaborated with the MiSTEM Network on a conference that trained nearly 200 middle school and high school teachers on computer science and coding. In total, more than 900 educators have gone through the professional development since 2017.

According to Code.org data, 60 percent of K-12 districts in the state do not have a computer science curriculum. Pachla said outreach and growth are crucial to prepare students for digital literacy needs.

"This partnership showcases the expertise that Grand Valley has in computer science education and really showcases the dedication that our K-12 partners across the state have the access and tools our students need for 21st century learning," Pachla said.

Pachla noted that Code.org is focused on providing access to computer science education for underserved populations demographically and geographically; for instance, a teacher on Beaver Island has received training.

The MiSTEM network is an integral partner in this work, Pachla said. In addition to his role at the Regional Math and Science Center, Pachla is a regional director for the network. Larry Wyn, who is based with the Regional Math and Science Center and is the statewide program manager for the Code.org work, also works as a MiSTEM program manager.

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2019

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

**GVSU president unites national, regional educators to activate change**

*President announces lifetime resource for GVSU alumni*

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Grand Valley State University President Philomena V. Mantella brought together education leaders from across the country and region to discuss how to transform education models to better serve students.

The first-of-its-kind education summit in Michigan was held November 13 on the Allendale Campus as part of inaugural events leading up to the November 15 investiture ceremony for Mantella as Grand Valley's fifth president. She assumed the presidency July 1.

The summit included representatives from Google, Coca-Cola and Sony Music Entertainment, as well as more than 100 area K-12 superintendents, faculty members, deans and education leaders from public schools, charter schools, education technology, funders of education innovation and capital investment.

Mantella said changing education is like turning a battleship.

"The biggest issue we have as educators is the structures we live in and that we embrace and that we've known for years," Mantella said. "We need to think unbounded about our future and question traditional education models in order to serve agile learners in the 21st century workforce."

Jaime Casap, who works in global education for Google, said digitization is impacting everything, including education at all levels.

"Generation Z is a problem-solving generation and really the first digital generation," Casap said. "What you want to be when you grow up is the old world, what problem you want to solve is the new world."

Corey Mohn, executive director of the Blue Valley Center for Advanced Professional Studies in Kansas, said it's important to know the difference between a job, a career and a calling, saying educators must help students find their passion and calling.

Jane Hopkins, president of Coca-Cola Scholars, said students who receive their scholarships have a desire to see a better world and go after it. "We are intentionally building a community to keep our scholars passionate about being lifelong learners. Most scholarships are a reward for the past, we like to think of ours as an investment in their future," Hopkins said.

Eva Amesse, manager of Learning and Development at Sony Music Entertainment, said their younger employees are inspired by playfulness and find emotional intelligence to be important.

During the November 15 investiture ceremony on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus, Mantella announced the Laker Lifetime Learning Account, money available to GVSU alumni to use for continuing education.

Mantella called the initiative an investment in the future during a time when the landscape of higher education is changing.

"The Laker Lifetime Learning Account will be available for Lakers to reduce costs and improve access to badges, certificates and advanced degrees at Grand Valley," she said, adding this program will begin in the spring. "The promise of our future demands these changes, investments and our collective fortitude."

### **Reach Higher Together**

The education summit and Laker Lifetime Learning Account are a part of Mantella's Reach Higher Together initiative, which aims to activate the entire community to lead change in higher education.

Philomena V. Mantella is Grand Valley's fifth president and the first woman to hold the position. She is a recognized leader in strategy, market expansion and educational innovation. Her drive and expertise come from more than 30 years in higher education administration, serving as an officer at public and private universities in New York, New Jersey, Michigan and Massachusetts. She has a strong student-centered philosophy and a comprehensive understanding of both sides of the educational market – learners and employers.

Mantella has set a bold vision for the future of Grand Valley State University with her Reach Higher Together initiatives. Find out more at [gvsu.edu/president](https://gvsu.edu/president).

For immediate release

December 2, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Images are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1du>*

## **Grand Valley arts events for January 2020**

### **GVSU ART GALLERY**

For more information about Grand Valley State University art exhibits, call (616) 331-2563 or visit [gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://gvsu.edu/artgallery).

"Mathias J. Alten: An Evolving Legacy"

Exhibition dates: ongoing

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery

DeVos Center, Building E, Room 103 and 202, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Gordon Gallery hours: Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed on holiday weekends

The German-born American artist Mathias Joseph Alten (1871-1938) is often referred to as the dean of Michigan painters. Working in a traditional representational style, Alten incorporated the aesthetics and techniques of the Impressionist Movement in paintings infused with light and punctuated with deft brushwork. Based in Grand Rapids, Alten created more than 3,800 works over a more than 40-year career, including landscapes, seascapes, portraits and florals. Grand Valley State holds the largest public collection of Alten's work in the world.

"José Guadalupe Posada: Calavera Prints from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet"

West Wall Gallery

Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Through February 28

José Guadalupe Posada (1852-1913) was a printmaker and engraver who illustrated historic scenes, board games and commercial items, religious images, various books and newspapers. He is most famous for his use of calaveras (depictions of skulls and skeletons) to satirize and mock the corruption of the wealthy and political elite. "La Calavera Catrina," his most iconic image, was created in 1910 at the start of the Mexican Revolution. The image shows a grinning skeleton wearing a women's feathered hat, pointing out that death comes to everyone, even those in the upper class. This exhibition includes 20 reproductions of his prints, from the GVSU Print and Drawing Cabinet. The prints were purchased in 2002 from the family of Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, who printed them using the original plates and press.

"Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes"

An Installation by Elina Chauvet

Kirkhof Center Gallery, Allendale Campus

Through February 28

Through February 28

"Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes" is an itinerant installation originally organized in 2009 by artist and architect Elina Chauvet in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. It was composed of 33 pairs of red shoes, each representing a woman who had disappeared in that community, and designed to draw attention to the fact that women were being killed without any consequences. In 2017, Zulema Moret, Grand Valley professor of modern languages, arranged for Chauvet to direct an installation of "Zapatos Rojos | Red Shoes" in Grand Rapids. This exhibition documents many of the community groups that participated in

painting the shoes, as well as the installation at the Richard M. DeVos Center courtyard on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

"50 Years of Global GVSU"

Red Wall Gallery

Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

January 6 — June 19

This exhibition is being presented in collaboration with the Padnos International Center and the 50 Years of Global GVSU committee in celebration of the 50th anniversary of international programs at Grand Valley in 2020. The exhibition includes photographs and text documenting the history of international programs at Grand Valley as well as objects, many of which were gifts from the university's partner institutions around the world. This includes objects such as President Emeritus Thomas J. Haas' traditional black and white collar, which is a gift from Cracow University of Economics in Poland Grand Valley's longest continuous international partnership).

"Shadow and Light – Selections from the Douglas Gilbert Photography Collection"

Blue Wall Gallery, DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

January 6 – June 19

This exhibition of Douglas Gilbert's work will include 28 black and white prints from his work in Italy. Over a period of eight years, Gilbert photographed the light of Italy in landscape and town. This selection focuses on the dynamic play of shadow and light on the architecture of Italian communities.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE**

For more information about performances from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, visit [gvsu.edu/mtd](http://gvsu.edu/mtd).

ReACT! Presents: Stalking Education

Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

January 29 from 8-10 p.m.

Grand Valley's anti-violence theater troupe will hold an interactive performance to demystify what stalking looks like in campus communities. For instance, when do actions officially become stalking? And what can you do to help someone who may be experiencing stalking?

For immediate release

Nov. 26, 2019

Contact: Peg West, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: An image for this event can be found via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/1dl>*

### **GVSU Fall Arts Celebration concludes with holiday concert**

A festive performance of songs of the holiday season concludes the 2019 Grand Valley State University Fall Arts Celebration.

The holiday celebration, "Beloved Songs of the Season," is December 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE in Grand Rapids. Performers from local school districts will join those from the university for the event.

The concert includes yuletide selections from British composers David Willcocks and John Rutter. Audiences will hear Willcocks' brass choir settings of beloved carols as well as Rutter's classical holiday masterpiece, "Gloria."

The celebration is the perfect way to start the holiday season, said Danny Phipps, chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. The evening will also include a sing-along.

"Fountain Street Church, decorated for the holidays and coupled with both the visual and aural effect of massed choirs and instrumentalists, will be a feast for the eyes and ears to everyone who attends," Phipps said. "This year the University Arts Chorale and Cantate will be joined in performance by the Hudsonville High School Varsity Voices, West Ottawa High School Vocalaires, and our special guests, the Jenison Elementary Honors Choir."

All Fall Arts Celebration events are free and open to the public. For more information visit [gvsu.edu/fallarts](http://gvsu.edu/fallarts).

For immediate release

December 9, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Study abroad photos are available to download via <http://gvsu.edu/s/1dL>*

### **GVSU ranks seventh nationally for study abroad**

ALLENDALE, Mich. — On the cusp of celebrating 50 years of global education, Grand Valley State University is ranked seventh nationally for number of study abroad participants.

During the 2017-2018 reporting year, 720 GVSU students participated in a study abroad program. The Institute of International Education's Open Doors Report ranked Grand Valley seventh among master's degree-granting institutions.

During the previous reporting year, Grand Valley was ranked No. 11. Mark Schaub, interim dean of Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, credited the increase in study abroad participation to faculty members who lead programs.

"We have fantastic faculty colleagues who spend so much of their time and energy to develop great study abroad opportunities for students and then generously dedicate countless hours to leading them," Schaub said.

Junior Angela Harris traveled to Namibia, in southern Africa, in May on a faculty-led trip. Students in the program toured historic cities and townships, a national game park, a cheetah conservation center and an area dedicated to desert elephants.

Harris, a native of Detroit, said it was a perfect fit for her career aspirations to work for a non-governmental organization devoted to animal rights. She earned a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to help fund the trip.

"The fact that I was willing to step outside of my comfort zone and take on something nobody in my family has ever done before, shows me how courageous I can be," Harris said.

Grand Valley will celebrate 50 years of global education during 2020. Art exhibitions, an alumni trip to Bilbao, Spain, and other events are planned throughout the year, visit [gvsu.edu/global50](http://gvsu.edu/global50) to learn more.

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2019

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites with Long and a full copy of his report can be found at this Dropbox link:*

<http://gvsu.edu/s/1dK>

### **GVSU economist: Local economy remains soft**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — There are no signs of an impending recession, but the local economy will continue to slow in 2020, said Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings below are based on data collected during the last two weeks of November.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) came in at -10, up significantly from -21 in October. The production index is negative, but recovered to -9 from -34. The index of purchases recuperated to -18 from -21, and the employment index came in at -9 from -14.

Looking to 2020, Long said there is no evidence of the overall economy sliding into a recession, but there's plenty of evidence to indicate a slowing for the industrial economy.

"Part of it has to do with the ongoing trade war with China and the soft business conditions around the world," Long said.

All three local cyclical industries — office furniture, aerospace and automotive — have more than topped out, Long said, while some segments of the West Michigan agricultural industry, namely corn, soybeans and cherries, have had a marginal year.

Local employment numbers continue to set records. "Ottawa County posted the lowest unemployment rate of 2.3 percent," Long said. "Of the major cities in Michigan, the Grand Rapids report of 3.3 percent unemployment is the envy of most other major cities in the state."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down."

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 870-0428.

For immediate release

December 4, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

**Media advisory: event will celebrate Comprehensive Health Initiative at HQ**

*-- GVSU, other nonprofits teaming to provide on-site services to support homeless youth*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Five nonprofit organizations have collaborated to provide wrap-around services for homeless youth in an effort that could interrupt the cycle of homelessness for this population.

Shandra Steininger, co-founder and executive director of HQ, said the Comprehensive Health Initiative will provide hundreds of youth with primary health care access, health system navigation, substance use intervention, targeted trauma-informed and healing-centered therapy, and holistic, mindfulness-based activities. HQ is a drop-in center for teens and young adults who are experiencing unsafe or unstable housing or literal homelessness.

The Comprehensive Health Initiative has received grant funding in excess of \$400,000 over three years from the Steelcase Foundation, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Herman Miller Cares, Frey Foundation and Mars Hills Bible Church.

The core partners with HQ include 3:11 Youth Housing, which provides housing to youth experiencing homelessness; Grand Valley State University's Family Health Center, operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing; the Wisdom Center, which provides counseling services; and Health Net of West Michigan, which provides health system navigation services and coordination with primary care providers.

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**Comprehensive Health Initiative Launch Event**

Media members are invited to cover the event; all partners will be available.

- Thursday, December 12: 8:30-10 a.m.  
HQ, 320 State St. SE, Grand Rapids

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Steininger said the Comprehensive Health Initiative will be offered to 400 youth, giving them connections to health care insurance, primary care providers, wellness coping strategies and crisis support therapy in an effort to significantly interrupt a cycle of homelessness by intervening early and establishing trust in a safe and affirming environment.

"This collaboration is founded on relationship-based engagement through progressive and culturally sensitive exposure to resources, in a low-barrier setting where youth are more likely to access appropriate care," Steininger said.

Mark Contreras, nurse practitioner, GVSU Family Health Center: "This effort is bringing holistic services on-site to youth who need it. It's a one-stop shop where youth can obtain these services at a place where they feel comfortable going. We want it to be different from their previous experiences with health care, which likely has only been in an emergency room."

Quotes from other partners:

Jonathan Vankeulen, co-founder and co-executive director of 3:11 Youth Housing: "Over the past eight years, we have seen firsthand the impact of trauma and homelessness on the overall well-being of youth. We have been desperate for a youth-centered and flexible wellness solution that meets the needs of all our youth. We think the Comprehensive Health Initiative is just that solution."

Maureen Kirkwood, executive director of Health Net of West Michigan: "We are proud to be part of a partnership that supports improving health outcomes for youth in our community. As an organization, we are committed to assisting everyone to access the resources and services they need to live healthier lives."

Samuel Jones, lead therapist, Wisdom Center Counseling Services: "The Wisdom Center Counseling Services is glad to serve youth through the Comprehensive Health Initiative as a part of our long-standing agenda to impact lives through assessing, educating and strengthening youth's mental health and reducing access barriers often limiting marginalized individuals in our community."

For immediate release

December 12, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: photos from today's event are available to download via <http://gvsu.edu/s/1dX>*

### **GVSU, nonprofits launch initiative to aid homeless youth**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University teamed with area nonprofits to officially launch a health initiative December 12 in an effort to interrupt the cycle of youth homelessness.

Shandra Steininger, co-founder and executive director of HQ called the Comprehensive Health Initiative (CHI) a hub of resources housed at HQ, a drop-in center for teens and young adults who are experiencing unstable housing or homelessness. She said CHI will provide hundreds of youth with access to primary health care, health system navigation, holistic therapy and substance abuse intervention.

The core partners with HQ are 3:11 Youth Housing, which provides housing to youth experiencing homelessness; GVSU Family Health Center, operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing; the Wisdom Center, which provides counseling services; and Health Net of West Michigan, which provides health system navigation services.

CHI received grant funding in excess of \$400,000 over three years from the Steelcase Foundation, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Herman Miller Cares, Frey Foundation and Mars Hills Bible Church.

During the launch event at HQ, 320 State St. SE, Steininger said as state and federal funding for nonprofits has decreased over the years, it became clear a one-stop shop of providers for homeless youth was needed. She drew in partners who would dedicate time at HQ to build relationships with teens and young adults and provide assistance.

"We still have youth who think sleeping outside at night is their best option, so we used a model of building a resource hub with providers who would build intentional relationships with our members," Steininger said.

Mark Contreras, nurse practitioner at the GVSU Family Health Center, is one of two providers who have regular hours at HQ. The Family Health Center, 72 Sheldon Blvd. SE, serves the GVSU community and many adults who live in the city's Heartside district.

"We've learned from caring for this marginalized population that navigating the health care system for them is complex," Contreras said. "They can't purchase a prescription that's \$200 or go across town for a referral if they don't have a car."

The FHC nurse practitioners employ the same relationship-building techniques at HQ that they use with patients at the Sheldon Street center.

"I'm a big advocate that if we're asking a patient questions, we better be able to do something about it," he said. "If I ask an HQ member if they have insurance and they don't know, I can say, 'Let me introduce you to my friend at Health Net who can help.'"

Steininger is confident assisting HQ members with mental and physical health care needs plays a key role in helping them find stable housing. She said 40 percent of adults who are homeless first experienced homelessness as a teen or youth.

More information about [CHI is online.](#)

For immediate release

December 11, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

### **GVSU's Kaufman Interfaith Institute begins multi-year project with Fetzer Institute**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An ongoing partnership between Grand Valley State University's Sylvia and Richard Kaufman Interfaith Institute and the Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo has sparked a multi-year project to examine local interfaith models.

Douglas Kindschi, founding director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, said the three-year project is funded by a grant from the Fetzer Institute, adding the project will bring a better understanding of how the interfaith model that has been developed and implemented successfully in Grand Rapids by the Kaufman Institute and its partners might be transferrable to other communities, including Kalamazoo.

"We're excited to partner with the Fetzer Institute, as our organizations are both striving to build bridges of understanding across religious, civic, social, and community divides," he said. "We hope that this collaboration will reveal new learnings and ideas related to building loving and inclusive communities that are based on understanding and open-mindedness, rather than division and fear."

**About the Kaufman Interfaith Institute:** The Sylvia and Richard Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University promotes interfaith understanding and mutual respect in West Michigan. Through interfaith dialogue and service, the Kaufman Interfaith Institute promotes a vibrant and diverse community for all generations. Beyond tolerance, the institute values hospitality, understanding, respect, and acceptance. Visit [gvsu.edu/interfaith](http://gvsu.edu/interfaith) to learn more.

**About the Fetzer Institute:** With a mission to help build the spiritual foundation for a loving world, the Fetzer Institute works with partners to catalyze a global movement that encourages personal spiritual exploration and new ways of knowing our sacred world. Fetzer's collaborations support work in a variety of disciplines and issue areas, such as the health of democracy and the landscape of spirituality in society, as the institute works toward transformed communities and societies in which all people can flourish. Fetzer believes we must go beyond political, social, and economic strategies to address the psychological and spiritual roots of the world's most critical issues. Learn more at [fetzer.org](http://fetzer.org).

For immediate release

December 10, 2019

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Headshots of Salaam and Taylor are available to download at <http://gvsu.edu/s/1dS>*

**Central Park Five member to give keynote at GVSU during MLK week**

*-- CMU faculty member who produced Flint water crisis documentary will also give presentation*

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A member of the exonerated Central Park Five and a faculty member who directed and produced a documentary about the Flint water crisis will be keynote speakers during a week of events at Grand Valley State University that commemorate the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Yusef Salaam will participate in a silent march on campus then give a presentation in the Fieldhouse Arena at 2 p.m. on January 20. Salaam was 15 years old when he and four other teenagers were wrongly accused and convicted of raping a woman in New York City's Central Park.

The sentences for the Central Park Five were overturned in 2002 after DNA testing and a confession from a convicted murderer. Salaam had spent nearly seven years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

Two documentaries, including 2019's "When They See Us" by Ava DuVernay, detailed the case, convictions and life after prison for Salaam and the others. He now spends his time as an activist and lecturer, discussing the failings of the criminal justice system and human rights.

- Cedric Taylor, associate professor of sociology at Central Michigan University, will give a presentation January 22 at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Taylor is the writer, director and producer of "Nor Any Drop to Drink: The Flint Water Crisis." The 2018 documentary has been screened nationally and internationally. Born in Jamaica, Taylor is a public sociologist who employs film, visual media and storytelling to engage the wider community in conversations around racism and social justice.

- The Community Service Learning Center will host MLK Jr. Day of Service and Solidarity on January 25 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Students are encouraged to register for the service day online at [gvsu.edu/service](http://gvsu.edu/service). Participants will hear from a speaker then participate in service projects with area partners. Transportation to and from campus is included.

The keynote presentations are free and open to the public. More details about Grand Valley's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week are online at [gvsu.edu/mlk](http://gvsu.edu/mlk).