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Forum

A Newsletter for the
GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
Community

Monday, November 15, 1999

Volume 24, Number 16

Across Campus

Book Robot Installed In DeVos Center

The new robotic book retrieval equipment for the Steelcase Library in the Richard M. DeVos Center was hoisted into place on November 8 amid the storage system, which is designed to hold bins containing up to a quarter million volumes.



The retrieval system is only the third one of its kind in the world. The equipment, created by Rapistan Systems, is usually used in the manufacturing, cargo, postal, and automotive industries.

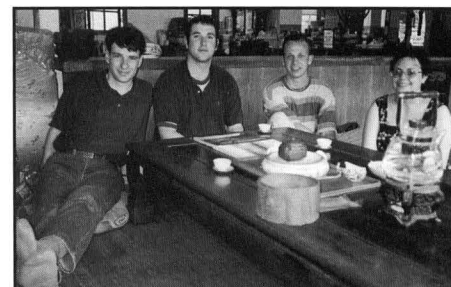
New Chinese Language Program Sees Growth

The main point Curtis Smith makes to his students is that Chinese is easy.

"I've learned German and Swedish, and I've tried to learn Italian and French, and I think Chinese is easier," says Smith, GVSU's first full-time Chinese language professor. "People have a misconception that Chinese is the most difficult language we offer on campus,

but I strongly disagree. Chinese has 6,000 characters, but it doesn't have case, gender, or conjugation of verbs."

The assistant professor of Modern Languages and Literatures has 16 first-year Chinese language students this year. Another six students are in their second year of Chinese language study,



Curtis Smith (left) travelled to Taiwan last summer with three of his students: Matthew Mansfield, Jeff Hayes, and Cathy Baisden.

and another six are taking the two courses Smith teaches in Chinese culture. Several advanced students are working on independent study projects.

The number of students studying foreign languages is increasing across the country, according to a recent report by the Modern Language Associ-

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Northview Head Administrator Chosen for Campus Equity Position

Dr. Patricia Oldt, superintendent of the Northview School District, has been hired to serve as Grand Valley's assistant to the president for campus equity and planning. Oldt will take up her new responsibilities as an executive officer of the university on February 1, 2000.

Oldt has served as Northview's superintendent for seven years. Previously, she was dean at Grand Rapids Community College and deputy superintendent of the Grand Rapids Public Schools.



Dr. Patricia Oldt

"During her career in education, she has been a relentless advocate for equity," said President

Arend D. Lubbers. "Her experience in planning will serve Grand Valley well in the years ahead."

You should know...

You'll find a link to the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion when you click on the WHY2K? icon on *GVSU Now*, at www.gvnow.gvsu.edu/

Read for yourself the view from Washington of the preparedness of our nation's computer-guided infrastructure.



FORUM

The GVSU Forum is published by the Office of University Communications every Monday when classes are in session and biweekly during the summer. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Kathleen Adams, editor, c/o the FORUM cc:Mail box. From off campus, email forum@gvsu.edu. Telephone: 616-895-2221. Fax: 616-895-2250. Visit FORUM ONLINE on the World Wide Web at: www.gvsu.edu/

Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web Site.

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ation. The report, cited in a recent issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, showed a 4.8 percent increase in enrollments in foreign languages since 1995. GVSU has also seen increased enrollment in its foreign language courses.

Smith is working with Assistant Professor of Philosophy Judy Whipps to create a Liberal Studies major with a Chinese emphasis.

"Most of the students now are international business students, but a Liberal Studies major could lead students to further academic studies or a career in the foreign service," Smith says.

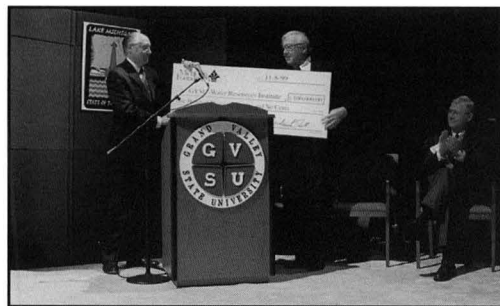
MichCon Gift Brings WRI Campaign to \$4.5 Million

The Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute took another step closer to Muskegon with a \$100,000 gift from MichCon, presented as part of WRI's "State of the Lake" conference in Muskegon on November 8.

The gift is part of a year-long celebration of the 150th birthday of MichCon (Michigan Consolidated Gas Company).

The gift brings GVSU to \$4.5 million in private and public support for building a Lake Michigan Center. The fund-raising campaign goal is \$5 million.

The Water Resources Institute plans to relocate to the center, on the shores of Muskegon Lake, in 2001. The university board appointed an architect for the project last month. Construction is expected to begin next spring.



Fred Shell, president of the MichCon Foundation, presents a \$100,000 check to GVSU President Arend D. Lubbers.

Salary Information Available

The Faculty and Staff Salary Information book is now on reserve in the Library. The information includes employee names, titles,

departments, 1999-2000 and 1998-99 salaries, gross salaries paid in 1998 and 1997, and other demographic information.

Interested persons may also review the information in the Human Resources Office or purchase their own copy for \$6.10 from Human Resources.

Professor Honored for Bright Idea

Catherine Frerichs, director of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, was recently awarded the Bright Idea Award from the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education.

Frerichs accepted the award during a national conference for faculty developers at Lake Harmony, Pennsylvania, for Grand Valley's Faculty Associates Program. She was chosen from a group of 75 entries. Guidelines for the award included ideas in

teaching, consulting, workshops, seminars, conferences and organizational development.

Grand Valley's Faculty Associates Program, now in its

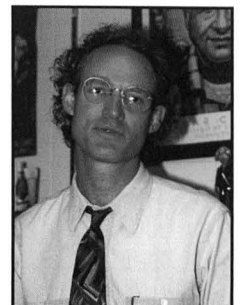


second year, enlists the help of faculty mentors to offer ongoing support for new faculty.

GVSU Prof Wins Award For Book About Brazil

Choice Magazine has named a book by Cliff Welch, associate professor of History, as one of its "Outstanding Academic Titles for 1999."

The Seed Was Planted: The Sao Paulo Roots of Brazil's Rural Labor Movement, 1888-1988 was published earlier this year by Pennsylvania State University Press. The book asserts that rural labor has been



Across Campus

fundamental to the development of modern Brazil.

Welch specializes in Brazilian history and coordinates GVSU's Latin American Studies Program.

GVSU Prof to Direct Research Operations In Antarctica

When the Raytheon Company was awarded a National Science Foundation contract valued at \$1.12 billion last month, it led to a change for Richard Boehne, assistant professor of Occupational Safety and Health.



Boehne will be director of ship and station operations as part of Raytheon's contract work for the United States Antarctic Program,

which conducts all U.S. scientific research on and around Antarctica.

Raytheon Company, based in Lexington, Massachusetts, is a global technology leader that provides products and services for commercial and defense electronics, engineering and

construction, and business and special mission aircraft.

While much of his management duties will be conducted from Raytheon's home office in Denver, Boehne will spend one or two months per year on Antarctica.

Boehne has previous experience with Raytheon and Antarctica. He traveled to the continent twice a year for four consecutive years when he worked as an employee of Antarctic Support Associates (ASA) from 1992-96, prior to joining the faculty at GVSU. ASA is the prime contractor of the U.S. National Science Foundation, which operates the U.S. Antarctic Program. Boehne's task was to resolve health and safety issues in Antarctica.

Boehne hopes to retain his association with Grand Valley, likely as a visiting professor. GVSU will retain a seat on the Raytheon Science Support Advisory Board, which is charged with making the Antarctic program more of a learning environment for university students.

GVSU Participates In Supplier Diversity

By Ester Burns, Purchasing Services

Bringing together minority suppliers and the procurement decision-makers at GVSU opens doors for establishing new relationships. These networking opportunities facilitated by Purchasing

Services often result in successful business contracts.

That is the case for Komputer Touch Plus (KTP) of Grandville, a minority supplier recently introduced to the staff in the Information Technology department. Through competitive bidding opportunities, KTP has received nearly \$10,000 in contracts to provide computer hardware and components for Grand Valley student computer labs.

The Minority Affairs Office found KTP listed in the Supplier Diversity Program brochure and also gave them a recent quote opportunity. GVSU made a significant savings by accepting KTP's lowest quote.

These are examples of "win-win" situations where working with minority companies has a positive impact on the local economy. The campus community is encouraged to include minority companies in the procurement process.

Contact Burns at x2282 with questions regarding the Supplier Diversity Program or for assistance in locating minority-owned companies.

Coming Events

Noon Concert Features Mezzo-Soprano, Pianist

Mezzo-soprano Katherine Kelton and pianist Catherine Bringerud will present music by Charles Ives, Amy Beach, and

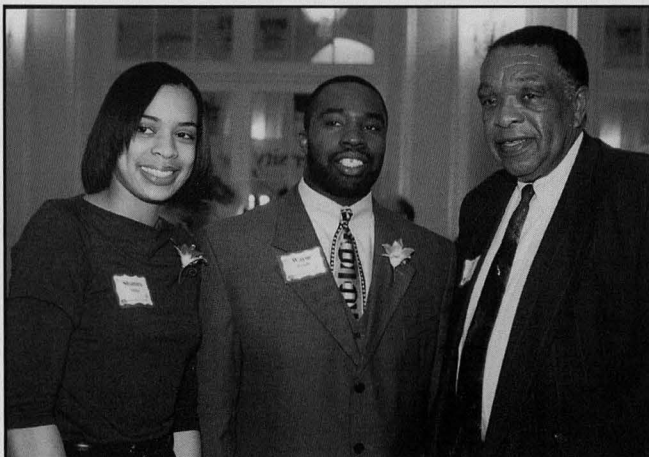
Samuel Barber at the next Arts at Noon Series concert on Thursday, November 18, at 12 noon in the Cook-DeWitt Center.



Katherine Kelton

Kelton, an assistant professor of voice at Butler University in Indianapolis, performs frequently as a soloist and recitalist. She received a master of music and a doctor of musical arts in applied voice from the University of Texas at Austin. Bringerud has been on the Butler University faculty since 1982. She performs an average of fifty recital programs a year.

Students Meet Scholarship Donors



More than 100 donors attended a lunch with Grand Valley scholarship recipients on November 1 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. The students in attendance represented more than 400 students who benefit from scholarship endowment funds each year.

Calendar of Events

General Events

All activities on the Allendale Campus unless otherwise noted.

Arts Hotline: (616) 895-ARTS

Calder Gallery Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thurs.

Tues., Oct. 26-Thurs., Dec. 2

Gallery hours: Art exhibit. "The Meaningful Object: A Visual Dialogue on Cultural Transformation, Urban Decay and Renewal." Calder Gallery, PAC. Call x3196 for more information.

Mon., Nov. 15

12 noon: Campus Wellness Health Management Series, "Diabetes Management." Muskegon River Room, KC. E-mail Brenda Reeves to register.

Tues., Nov. 16

9 p.m.: Campus Wellness instructional clinics, "Walleyball." The Racquetball Courts, FH. Call x3659 to register.

4 p.m.: Music Department Concert. A Concert of Electro-Acoustic Music by GVSU students. The Recital Hall, PAC.

8 p.m.: Music Department Concert. Composers Forum, acoustic and electro-acoustic music by GVSU student composers. The Recital Hall, PAC.

Wed., Nov. 17

12-1 p.m.: GVSU Women Scholars Forum. "Female by Default, True Sex, and other Curious Notions: Medical Sex Assignment for Children Born Intersexed," presented by Sharon Preves. CDC.

Thurs., Nov. 18

12 noon: Arts at Noon Series. Mezzo-soprano Kathie Kelton and pianist Cathy Bringerud. CDC.

12-2 p.m.: Faculty Teaching & Learning Center, "Teaching Talk." The Oak Room, KC.

3 p.m.: Career Planning & Counseling Center seminar, "Saying No." 204 STU. RSVP by calling x3266.

4 p.m.: Career Planning & Counseling Center seminar, "Study Skills." 204 STU. RSVP by calling x3266.

Fri., Nov. 19

7:30 p.m.: Theatre production. Sung Rno's *Cleveland Raining*. Playwright reception following performance. Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$6 groups and special populations, \$5 college students, \$2 K-12 students. Call x2300 for reservations. LAT, PAC.

Sat., Nov. 20

7:30 p.m.: Theatre production. Sung Rno's *Cleveland Raining*. See above for costs and reservation information. LAT, PAC.

Sun., Nov. 21

2 p.m.: Theatre production. Sung Rno's *Cleveland Raining*. See above for costs and reservation information. LAT, PAC.

Sports

Sports Hotline: (616) 895-3800. Game times subject to change.

Sat., Nov. 20

11 a.m.: Cross Country at NCAA National Championships. Joplin, MO.

1 p.m.: Women's Basketball at Hillsdale College. Hillsdale.

3 p.m.: Men's Basketball at Hillsdale College. Hillsdale.

Faculty and Staff Sketches

Professor Emeritus **David Huisman** and **Benjamin Lockerd**, professor of English, recently attended the annual meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Both are members of the board of directors of the society. Huisman was the conference director and Lockerd assisted him in planning the conference. Lockerd gave a series of lectures on Eliot for the Emeritus Program at Aquinas College. He also gave a lecture, titled "T. S. Eliot's Sacramental Physics," at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia.

Roy Cole, assistant professor of Anthropology and Sociology, presented a paper, titled "Transformations of Land Use in Mali: Drought, the State, the Market, and the Bamana Village of Ngara, Mali, West Africa, 1952-1985," at the annual meeting of the Third World Studies Association, in Omaha.

Paul Isely and **Gerald Simons**, assistant professors of Economics, presented a paper, "Information Flows and Innovation Rates: A Study of the U.S. Auto Industry," at the

International Atlantic Economic Society conference in Montreal, Canada. Isely was the chair of a session on "Topics in Applied Microeconomics," and Simons was a member of the conference program committee.

Benefits Bulletin

Classes for Parents Offered

Parenting classes are now available for Grand Valley faculty and staff members through Life Guidance Services. Classes focusing on single parenting, grandparents raising grandchildren, children and drugs, and learning more about parenting are available.

Call Life Guidance Services, 1-800-926-3785, for class times and locations.