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Grand Valley State University

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Forum**Monday, July 30, 2007****Vol. 32, Number 3**

Search firm holds meetings about hiring new vice president

Meeting with the executive firm that will aid the search for a vice president for Inclusion and Equity, Grand Valley staff members made it clear they have high expectations for the new person.

Greenwood and Associates conducted numerous meetings July 18 with campus organizations, students, and faculty and staff members. Jan Greenwood and Marion Frenche prompted participants to describe leadership qualities, work styles, and how the vice president would impact Grand Valley and the area. About 50 people attended a late afternoon meeting in the Kirkhof Center.

"I want this person to have a lot of visibility not only on campus, but in the community," said Dante Villarreal, regional director of the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center.



Photo by Courtney Newbauer
Janet Walls, associate director of Housing and Residence Life, makes a point during an open meeting to discuss hiring a new vice president for Inclusion and Equity.

Liz Eubanks, computer operations supervisor, said the new vice president needs a lot of heart. "You have to have a lot of heart to work with people," she said. "It's one thing to have book knowledge, but another thing to apply wisdom to that knowledge."

Kate Stoetzner, director of international students and scholar services at the Padnos International Center, said she hopes the new vice president has a background in international education.

"Too often I see diversity defined as a black-and-white issue or one centered on religion," Stoetzner said. "We need someone to guide the university ... someone who is open to what diversity is and will help Grand Valley define it."

Greenwood said it's unique for a public university of Grand Valley's size to seek an executive who specializes in diversity and interculturalism. Her firm has led searches for chief diversity officers, a relatively new profession, at institutions like the University of Michigan, University of Georgia, University of California-Berkeley and University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Jill Dooley, director of Annual Giving, said she hopes this position helps advance the university's reputation. "Within five years, I hope that Grand Valley will be looked at by peer institutions of higher education in the state and across the country as a leader for programs in equity," she said.

Candidates for the position will be brought to campus for interviews in the fall and the new vice president is expected to join Grand Valley in January. Information will be updated online at

<http://www.gvsu.edu/vpinclusion/>.

Federal funds released for Michigan study

Nearly \$350,000 from the 2005 federal transportation bill has been released to scientists at the Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon to help further work begun in earlier studies of toxic sediments.

Toxic sediments from industrial activities in the previous century are moving downstream from Muskegon County's Little Black Creek into Mona Lake, which connects directly to Lake Michigan. The \$346,800 appropriation will build upon AWRI studies that have determined that one of the major reasons for sediment movement is water run-off from the highly concentrated road network in this region.

“Although we know that stormwater run-off from the highly concentrated road network is resulting in environmental degradation in the creek basin, it is not known which areas are most responsible for these impacts and the degree to which the stormwater run-off is toxic,” said AWRI Director Al Steinman.

Water moves quickly off these impervious surfaces and enters either directly from surface run-off or collects first through storm drains and then enters Little Black Creek. The erosive force of this run-off scours the sediments from the streambed, transports them in the water column, and redeposits them further downstream.

Steinman said the new study includes eight major tasks that will determine the extent of environmental impairment caused by road-induced runoff, and the associated industrial activities in the basin, so that the appropriate restoration and remediation activities can be implemented.

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Across Campus

Meadows architect visits course

Returning to the course he designed 14 years ago, Michael Hurdzan said the Meadows and Grand Valley were ahead of their time.

Hurdzan, principal of Hurdzan/Fry Golf Course Design, visited the Meadows July 16 to talk about the relationship between universities and golf. He said the number of courses built on campuses will continue to increase. There are nearly 150 in the U.S. now.

“University life is a time of learning and an openness to trying new things,” he said. “You’re starting to form a foundation to build on, to learn new skills.”

Hurdzan said college courses must be affordable, accessible and sustainable. Like many of his other courses, Hurdzan designed the Meadows, which opened in 1994, to enhance existing wetlands. “It’s a better environment out there now than when we built the course,” he said.

The Meadows was recently listed by *TurfNet Magazine* as the No. 20 top college course in the country, based on ratings from Golfweek.

Hurdzan also received recent honors. In April, he was named recipient of the Donald Ross Award from the American Society of Golf Course Architects. He joins other ASGCA past presidents Robert Trent Jones, Pete Dye and members Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer as recipients of the organization’s highest honor.

State science and mathematics education gets a boost

More than 80 teachers will participate in an intensive conference at Grand Valley this week.

The Regional Math and Science Center has teamed with other state institutions of higher learning, local schools, and the Michigan Mathematics and Science Center Network to develop educational leadership in mathematics and science for under-achieving schools through the Michigan Mathematics and Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative.

With a current two-year Mathematics and Science Partnership Competitive Grant of \$2.3 million, funded by the Michigan Department of Education, and the potential for increased renewable grants of \$4.5 million statewide, the collaborative will address different aspects of developing educational leadership around mathematics teaching and learning in the middle school grades.

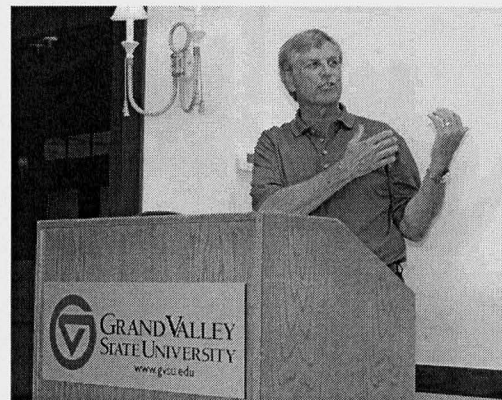


Photo by Courtney Newbauer
Michael Hurdzan, Meadows architect, gives a presentation on universities and golf courses on July 16 at the Meadows.

Partners in the collaborative include Grand Valley, University of Michigan, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan Mathematics and Science Center Network, targeted high-needs schools, and math and science experts.

The collaborative's resources and activities will include strategic planning, professional development, mathematics and science modules to support teacher learning and practice, as well as local implementation and evaluation.

New doctoral students present research

Students, faculty members and area health professionals heard presentations from Grand Valley's first doctoral graduates July 12 in Loosemore Auditorium of the DeVos Center.

The physical therapy graduates gave short lectures on topics ranging from the role of physical therapy for patients with Crohn's Disease and other muscular disorders, to stress fractures in runners, to exercise for shoulder pain.

Grand Valley graduated its first doctoral class in April when 34 physical therapy students received terminal degrees.



Photo by Courtney Newbauer
Travis Jager, physical therapy graduate,
discusses research July 12 in Loosemore
Auditorium.

MPP students celebrate success



Graduates from the Muskegon Partnership Program celebrated their successes at a luncheon in late June at the Muskegon Regional Center.

MPP, a partnership between Grand Valley and Muskegon Community College, helps students who transfer from MCC to GVSU through academic or tuition assistance.

Shawn Watson, Muskegon student services coordinator, said 40 people from the MPP program completed either an associate's or bachelor's degree last year.

Photo courtesy of Shawn Watson
MPP participants celebrate their graduations during a June reception in Muskegon.

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What's Ahead

FTLC conference to focus on 'Teaching Well'

The 13th annual Fall Conference on Teaching and Learning, sponsored by the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, is set for August 22 in the Loutit Lecture Halls, Padnos Hall. The theme is "Teaching Well at Grand Valley."



L. Dee Fink, author of *Creating Significant Learning Experiences* and director of the Instructional Development Program at the University of Oklahoma, is the keynote speaker. He will also be presenting a course design workshop that afternoon.

The day will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. To register for the conference, call Maria Codega at x13498 by Friday, August 3, or send an e-mail to ftlc@gvsu.edu. The deadline to RSVP is Friday, August 3.

L. Dee Fink

Volunteer fair planned

The campus community and area organizations and agencies are invited to the Volunteer Fair, set for August 29 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Henry Hall Atrium.

Jodi Griffin, coordinator of the Community Service Learning Center, said the event is geared toward area agencies, giving them an opportunity to recruit students interested in volunteer opportunities and internships. Faculty and staff members are also encouraged to participate.

"If faculty are incorporating a service or service-learning component in their course for the semester, this would be a great opportunity to network and get information," Griffin said.

The CSLC is responsible for helping students, faculty and staff create and/or find volunteer opportunities, network with local community agencies, and advertise service opportunities available in the community. For more information, contact Griffin at x12468 or at griffjo@gvsu.edu.

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Faculty and Staff Sketches

Sketches

Nael Barakat, assistant professor of engineering, has been named to a four-year term on the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Committee on Ethical Standards and Review.

WGVU Productions received three Millennium Awards: "High Gear 2007" received a gold award; "Fall in Love with Michigan" received a silver award; and "Hope College Christmas Vespers 2006" received a silver award.

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, served on the EPA's Science Advisory Board to review the 2007 Report on the Environment.

Chemistry faculty members **Deborah Herrington** and **Ellen Yeziarski** gave a presentation, "Target Inquiry: Innovative Professional Development for High School Chemistry Teachers," at the Gordon Research Conference on Chemical Education Research and Practice at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Annis Water Resources Institute staff members **Matt Cooper**, **Carl Ruetz** and **Don Uzarski** wrote an article, "Distribution of Round Gobies in Coastal Areas of Lake Michigan: Are Wetlands Resistant to Invasion?" published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

Joel Stillerman, associate professor of sociology, gave a presentation, "Cultural and Technological Pioneers: The United States in the Heart of Chile," at the Cultural Center of La Moneda Presidential Palace, Santiago, Chile, and another, "Retail and Public Space in Santiago, Chile," at the University of Talca, Chile. Stillerman also co-wrote a chapter, "Embeddedness and Business Strategies among Santiago, Chile's Street and Flea Market Vendors," in a book *Street Entrepreneurs: People, Place and Politics in Local and Global Perspective*.

Jim Goode, professor of history, wrote a book, *Negotiating for the Past: Archaeology, Nationalism and Diplomacy in the Middle East, 1919-1941*, published by University of Texas Press.