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FORUM

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Published by University Communications



ArtPrize 2015 kicks off with Grand Valley flair

The Laker Marching Band, Dance Company and WGVU Public Media will kick off ArtPrize and the PBS Arts Fall Festival Wednesday, September 23, at Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids.

Joined by President Thomas J. Haas and Louie the Laker, the newly christened Community Arts Celebration will include opening remarks by ArtPrize officials, music by the Laker Marching Band and a performance by the GVSU Dance Company. Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will also give a special proclamation. Events will run from 6-7:30 p.m.

Following their Rosa Parks Circle performances, the marching band, dancers and participants in the WGVU/PBS Nerd Walk will proceed in cadence through downtown and across the Blue Pedestrian Bridge to the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus where the

band will perform a second time. The second WGVU/PBS Nerd Walk encourages participants to embrace their own uniqueness by sporting horn-rimmed glasses, magic wands, lightsabers, mystical hammers and capes while marching the streets of Grand Rapids.

A new addition to this year's Nerd Walk is a PBS Bob Ross look-alike contest. The first 500 individuals to register at www.wgvu.org will receive a free Bob Ross wig. Participants can also register to walk at the WGVU/PBS Arts Fall Festival tent in front of the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

The Community Arts Celebration is a partnership among Grand Valley, ArtPrize, GRAM, Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids, LaughFest, PBS Arts, PBS Digital Studios, PBS Arts Fall Festival, GrandCon and Grand Rapids Comic Con.



Photo by Jess Weal

The Laker Marching Band will help kick off ArtPrize 2015 and the PBS Arts Fall Festival on September 23 at Rosa Parks Circle in Grand Rapids. They will be joined by President Thomas J. Haas and the GVSU Dance Company.

Across Campus

Grand Valley named a top Midwest university

Grand Valley was named a top university in the Midwest and a best value by *U.S. News and World Report*.



Grand Valley was named a top university and best value by 'U.S. News and World Report.'

For its annual *Best Colleges 2016* publication, Grand Valley ranked third for "Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest" and 14th for "Best Value in the Midwest."

Grand Valley also ranked 26th for "Best Regional University" in the Midwest and 46th for "Best in Undergraduate Engineering" programs.

The *U.S. News* rankings are based on several key measures of quality including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. Data was collected from each institution that included several indicators of academic excellence.

For more information on how Grand Valley continues to excel in the areas of graduation and retention rates, alumni working in Michigan and keeping down the cost of a college degree,

view the university's accountability report at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

United Way partner organization gets help from students

The Grand Rapids nonprofit Family Promise, a Heart of West Michigan United Way partner that helps families avoid homelessness, recently received assistance from a class of Grand Valley students.

Heather Carpenter, an assistant professor in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration, said her "HR in Organizations" graduate class spent time with the staff at Family Promise to help them create and revise job descriptions for several new positions, along with building a professional development program for the staff.

"Applied learning has always been part of my

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Across Campus

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teaching philosophy, so it made sense to get students in a position where they could help a nonprofit in a tangible way," Carpenter said.

Carpenter said that connecting students with nonprofits is a win-win situation. Students get practical experience in their course material, and the nonprofits gain new insight and information.

Organizations like Family Promise help provide transitional housing to families who are at risk of homelessness and would normally have to be split up if they went to traditional homeless shelters. Family Promise uses United Way funds to help those families get back on their feet so they can create stable lifestyles for their children.

According to Family Promise, the need for transitional housing is high in Kent County, where almost 50 percent of the homeless population are children. Some of the families helped by Family Promise are at risk of homelessness because of factors like: lack of affordable housing, unemployment, family break-up, educational barriers or domestic violence.

"Giving agencies like the United Way are critical in our communities," Carpenter said. "I can't imagine living in a community without the United Way. The assistance they give to nonprofits serving the community, like opportunities for training and support are not just important, but necessary.

"The United Way helps organizations like Family Promise by serving as a community support mechanism, and we have an opportunity through the United Way campaign to support those organizations and enhance our students' learning at the same time."

Traverse City Center to celebrate 20 years of partnership

Grand Valley representatives will join colleagues from seven other institutions to help Northwestern Michigan College, in Traverse City, celebrate the 20th anniversary of its University Center.

For two decades, the NMC University Center has offered classes and degree programs from eight universities for northern Michigan residents. The eight partners are Central Michigan, Davenport, Eastern Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley, Michigan State, Spring Arbor and Western Michigan universities.

A celebration is planned for September 17.

Two Traverse City area residents, Bridget Bailey and Jennifer Strange, are among the 1,250 students who began taking classes at NMC and matriculated to Grand Valley with assistance from the University Center.

Bridget Bailey, of Williamsburg, said the University Center helped make her dream of becoming a teacher a reality.

"I was 40 and going back to school," Bailey said. "The nice thing about the University Center is that they are ready and able to assist working people, and they offer a lot of evening and weekend classes."

Bailey earned a bachelor's degree in English education with a minor in Spanish from Grand Valley. While her education classes were held at the University Center or NMC's campus, she traveled to Allendale for Spanish classes.

She now teaches Spanish at Elk Rapids Cherryland Middle School. In 2013, Bailey was among nine educators from the U.S. who received Fulbright-Hays scholarships to travel and study in Costa Rica.

Jennifer Strange, of Traverse City, earned a master's of social work degree from Grand Valley. She was a patrol officer for the Traverse City Police Department but the birth of her son prompted her to seek out another career.

Strange now works as a clinical social worker at Pugsley Correctional Facility in Kingsley, where she sees inmates who are referred for mental health reasons. Strange said her role is the perfect marriage of her two degrees; she earned a bachelor's degree in social and criminal justice from Central Michigan University.

In April, Gov. Rick Snyder appointed Strange to the Criminal Justice Policy Commission, a new commission charged with reviewing sentencing and release policies for Michigan's prisons and jails.

"This degree has opened up a whole new chapter for me: macro social work issues, dealing with policies and practices," she said.



Bridget Bailey



Jennifer Strange

Faculty, alumni involved in fossil discovery

An international team of scientists, including a Grand Valley professor and alumni, recently discovered a species of monkey fossil the team has dated to be more than 1 million years old.

The discovery was made after the team recovered a fossil tibia belonging to the species of extinct monkey *Antillothrix bernensis* from an underwater cave in Altigracia Province, Dominican Republic. The species was roughly the size of a small cat, dwelled in trees, and lived largely on a diet of fruits and leaves.

"We know that there is a diverse extinct fauna on the Caribbean Islands, but dating the material has been difficult," said Melissa Tallman, assistant professor of biomedical sciences. "*Antillothrix bernensis* is one of two species of extinct primate on Hispaniola. Previously discovered primate material has all been dated to within the last 10,000 years. This new material is morphologically consistent with the previously collected material, but is dated to 1.3 million years ago."

The fossil was embedded in a limestone rock that was dated using the Uranium-series technique. Tallman was involved in the discovery and analysis of the fossil.

"When the limestone rocks are formed, uranium gets trapped in them and decays by natural radioactive processes to form thorium and lead," Tallman said. "Scientists know the rate at which uranium decays and by measuring the amount of uranium, thorium and lead present in the rocks today, one can calculate the age of the rocks."

Tallman, along with Andrea Morrow, '14, used three-dimensional geometric morphometrics to confirm that the fossil tibia did belong to *Antillothrix bernensis*. This process helped them reconstruct how the small primate might have moved about in its environment and allowed the comparison of relatively young examples of *Antillothrix* bones to the newly discovered 1-million-year-old specimens.

Tallman said since the days of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, scientists have long been puzzled over the age of primate fossils from this region.

The full study can be read via the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

What's Ahead

Campus celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

For the 10th year in a row, Grand Valley will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of events on campus.

The events, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will feature prominent members of the Hispanic community. All the events are free to the public.

This year's events are listed below. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

• **Café Con Leche Networking Reception:** Tuesday, September 15, 3-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

• **Photographing Latino Life: Jose Galvez:** Monday, September 28, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Renowned photographer Jose Galvez will discuss his work using black and white film to capture the Hispanic experience in America. His work will also be featured at the Red Wall Gallery in Lake Ontario Hall until October 1.

• **A Story of Latina Excellence: Marylou Olivarez Mason:** Thursday, October 8, noon-1:30 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center.

As a Latina, single mother and former child migrant worker, Mason has struggled with poverty and discrimination. She founded Michigan Hispanic Heritage Month, served with two Michigan governors and helped pass a \$350,000 increase in funding for migrant housing in Michigan. A light reception will follow the lecture.

Sustainability Spotlight gives overview of campus efforts

Students, faculty and staff members will have an opportunity to collaborate and learn about new sustainability activities on campus at the Sustainability Spotlight, set for Tuesday, September 15.

The event, sponsored by the Office of Sustainability Practices, will take place at the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons multipurpose room from 6-9 p.m.

Yumi Jakobcic, campus sustainability coordinator, said the event's goal is to provide an opportunity for the campus community to learn about sustainability projects and efforts happening on campus.

The event will feature the following presenters and their topics: Chelsea Brehm, new "Sustainability in Sport" course; Youssef Darwich, Sustainable Agriculture Project; Jim Penn, research in the Amazon; Hannah Mico, "Sustainable You" health fair; Anna Hill, Green Team student organization; Sandy Parker, mindfulness exercise; Erik Nordman, green infrastructure; Alex Melton, internship with City of Grand Rapids; Anne Marie Fauvel and Kali Smolen, Beekeeping Club; Tyler Miller, upcoming sustainability programing in housing.

For more information, contact Yumi Jakobcic at jakobciy@gvsu.edu.

Perugino String Quartet kicks off Arts at Noon concert series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley begins Wednesday, September 16, with a performance by the Perugino String Quartet.



The Perugino String Quartet kicks off the Arts at Noon concert season on September 16.

Named after Renaissance artist Pietro Perugino of Grand Rapids' sister city Perugia, Italy, the quartet has performed across Michigan and at the world-renowned Julliard String Quartet Seminar at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The group is composed of Grand Rapids Symphony members: violinists Eric Tanner and Christopher Martin, violist Barbara Corbato and cellist Stacey Bosman Tanner.

This fall there will be seven Arts at Noon concerts. All concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon and last approximately one hour. Each concert is free and open to the public. Other fall concerts are September 23: Bass clarinetist Michael Lowenstern; October 7: Dale Cockrell; October 14: Chamber Orchestra Kremlin; October 28: Cello Fest!; November 11: Alhaji Papa Susso; December 2: Holiday Music for Brass Quintet.

For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at x13484.

Cancer Warriors to hold first meeting

Cancer Warriors will hold its first meeting of the academic year on Thursday, September 17, from noon-1 p.m. in Zumberge Hall, room 1012.

The group supports students, faculty and staff members who are diagnosed with cancer or who serve as caregivers to others. A new topic will be discussed each month.

Register for the event online at www.gvsu.edu/sprout. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness.

MIPERC conference focuses on interprofessional practice

The Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center (MIPERC) will hold its eighth annual conference September 17-18 at the DeVos Center.

The conference provides students, faculty and staff members, and community members with access to national, regional and local leaders in interprofessional practice, education, and research.

Keynote speakers are Lesley Bainbridge, director of interprofessional education and associate principal, College of Health Disciplines, Vancouver, British Columbia; Amy Blue, clinical professor and associate vice president for Interprofessional Education, University of Florida; Michael Faas, CEO of Metro Health Corporation and president of Pennant Health Alliance; and Darrell G. Kirch, president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

MIPERC was established in 2007 under the leadership of Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for

Health. The founding partners are Grand Valley, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners and Michigan State University - College of Human Medicine.

Cost to attend the conference is \$100 for both days, \$50 for one day. Visit www.gvsu.edu/miperc or call x15876 to register.

Film festival showcases Latin American talent

The sixth annual Latin American Film Festival will run September 17-20 at the Wealthy Theatre in Grand Rapids.

Grand Valley joins sponsors Aquinas College, Calvin College and Davenport University to bring 17 acclaimed Latin American films to West Michigan. Admission to the films is free; Wealthy Theatre is at 1130 Wealthy St. SE.

Some directors will be available during the screenings of their films, including Manuel del Alba, Florence Jaugue and Roberto Flores Prieto. For a schedule of films, dates and times, visit www.grlaff.org.

YPHE kicks off second year

Young Professionals in Higher Education is kicking off its second year with a free and casual networking event on Thursday, September 17, in Grand Rapids.

YPHE Kick-off Social will take place at J. Gardella's Tavern from 5:30-7 p.m.

The group organizes monthly programs to encourage professional development and networking for a new generation of leaders who will emerge in higher education. All events are free; RSVP is required. For Grand Valley employees, RSVP at www.gvsu.edu/sprout. For non-Grand Valley employees, RSVP by sending an email to yphighered@gmail.com.

Dates and seminar topics are highlighted below.

• October 8, Allendale Campus: "What You Need to Know and How to be Recognized as a Leader"

• November 5, Pew Grand Rapids Campus: "I'm in - Just Kidding ..."

• January 14, Pew Grand Rapids Campus: "Fortune Favors the Bold"

• February 4, Allendale Campus: "Moving Beyond 'Us' vs. 'Them' for Millennials"

• March 3, Pew Grand Rapids Campus: Young Professionals Leadership and Networking Event

Visit www.gvsu.edu/yphe for more information.

Documentary targets partisan news programming

In an era of cable news where productive discussion is often abandoned for impromptu shouting matches, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host a screening of a documentary that looks at the history of debate on television, and how it can get better.

A discussion will follow the free screening of "Best of Enemies," a documentary that focuses on the behind-the-scenes angle of the explosive televised 1968 debate between liberal Gore Vidal and conservative William F. Buckley.

The screening is Thursday, September 17, at 7 p.m. at Celebration! Cinema Woodland, in Grand Rapids.

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at www.gvsu.edu/forum.

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Grand Valley Magazine, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine.

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, GVNOW, at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow, for daily news updates and video features.

Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

Sketches

Al Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute, wrote an article, "Stormwater Runoff to an Impaired Lake: Impacts and Solutions", published in *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*; and was a co-author on "Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Microcystin Variants and Relationships with Environmental Parameters in Lake Taihu, China," published in *Toxins*.

Bopi Biddanda, professor of water resources at the Annis Water Resources Institute, wrote an article, "Seeking Sunlight: Rapid Phototactic Motility of Filamentous Mat-forming Cyanobacteria Optimize Photosynthesis and Enhance Carbon Burial in Lake Huron's Submerged Sinkholes," published in *Frontiers*.

Steve Chappell, grant writer for WGVU Public Media, received a grant from Public Broadcasting Service for a project, "2015 PBS Arts Fall Festival."

Jodi Petersen, interim director of the Community Research Institute at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was a finalist for the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Athena Award.

Stephen Rowe, professor of philosophy, served as co-chair for the higher education section of the "Seizing an Alternative" Conference at Pomona College, and also gave a presentation, "The Other Conversation."

Melissa Tallman, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, wrote an article, "Uranium-series Age of Underwater Remains and the

Longevity of the Dominican Primate *Antillothrix bernensis*," published in the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

Rick Iadonisi, affiliate faculty of writing, wrote an article, "Fu Manchu Meets Maklu-IV: The Mandarin and Racial Stereotypes," published in *The Ages of Iron Man*.

John Weber, professor of geology, and **William Neal**, professor emeritus of geology, co-wrote an article, "A Tale of Two Beaches: Tompore Bay, NE Trinidad," published as *Coastal Care's* September Beach-of-the-Month feature.

Robert Smart, vice provost for research administration and executive director of CSCE, received a \$252,608 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, for year four of the McNair Scholars Program.

Carolyn Shapiro-Shapin, professor of history, wrote an article, "'In the Course of Routine Analysis': Re-envisioning Research in State Departments of Health, 1920-1940," published in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*.

Karen Meyers, director of the Regional Math and Science Center, received a grant from the Michigan Department of Education for a project, "Regional Math and Science Center-Fiscal Year 2016."

Kyle Barnes, assistant professor of movement science, wrote an article, "Running Economy: Measurement, Norms, and Determining Factors," which was one of the five most downloaded articles in *Sports Medicine — Open* last year.

FOBI Scholar in Residence visits Grand Rapids

Josip Kotlar, Family Owned Business Institute Scholar in Residence at Grand Valley, is visiting West Michigan through September 18.



Josip Kotlar

Kotlar is an assistant professor of family business at Lancaster University Management School in England and is considered one of the top up-and-coming family business researchers, with award-winning research spanning a wide range of topics involving strategy, entrepreneurship and innovation.

He is visiting family-owned businesses in the area, discussing how firms that build long-lasting links with their traditions can still be innovative. Kotlar gave a presentation September 11 at the Bicycle Factory called, "Innovating Through Tradition: A New Innovation Strategy for Family Firms."

What's Ahead

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Joe Hogan, program director for the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative, said the discussion following the screening will focus on whether Buckley and Vidal's on-air battle marked the intellectual high-water mark for televised debate, or lead to its downfall, along with the issue of why scathing attacks and party-line stance commentary generate ratings for pundits that original thoughts never could.

Faculty members Toni Perrine, Benjamin Lockerd and Paul Murphy will join Hauenstein Center staff for a discussion following the screening. Space is limited, so an RSVP is requested online at hauensteincenter.org/rsvp.

Paleo-Olympic Games offers medieval demonstrations

From medieval rugby to sword fighting, the seventh annual Paleo-Olympic Games will take place Friday, September 18, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the Kirkhof Center lawn near the Cook Carillon Tower.

The student-run Paleo-Olympic Games are an annual compilation of events that bring together the Grand Valley community for a day of activities revolving around learning about the past. The Archaeology Club, Classics Society, History Club, Fencing Club and Anthropology Club sponsor the games.

Those in attendance will experience

ancient Greek relay races, Roman volleyball, medieval rugby, craft activities and pottery reconstruction. Faculty members will perform demonstrations, such as archery, weaponry tactics, weaving and more.

Fall Arts Celebration to spotlight music faculty

While Grand Valley students have historically been featured during the Fall Arts Celebration music event, faculty members will receive the spotlight this year.

"People see our faculty in performances on campus and in the community, but they don't really understand the scope of how nationally known some of these educators are," said Danny Phipps, chair of the Music and Dance Department.

"Faculty Artistry Gems! Recognizing GVSU Music Faculty Performances in the Community" is set for Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre. The concert will be preceded by a carillon concert by Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur, from 7-7:20 p.m.

The evening begins with a celebration of the university's long-standing artistic and community relationship with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Christopher Kantner,

affiliate professor of flute and GRSO principal flutist; Richard Britsch, affiliate professor of horn and GRSO principal horn; and Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, will portray "Souvenir du Rigi, Op. 34" by Franz Doppler.

Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble, will be honored through a rendition of his composition, "Simple Lines," performed by Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello.

This celebration of faculty artistry concludes with the award-winning Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call x12185.



Music faculty will be featured at the next Fall Arts Celebration event on September 21.