

Summer 2011

# Grand Valley Magazine, vol. 11, no. 1 Summer 2011

Grand Valley State University

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SUMMER 2011

# GRAND VALLEY

## MAGAZINE



GLIAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

POOL

Admissions tour guides:  
campus storytellers



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**GRAND VALLEY**  
MAGAZINE

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through Grand Valley's official social media channels.

#### On the cover:

*photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker*  
Student tour guide Michael Williams leads a group  
of prospective students and parents through the  
Fieldhouse, noting the Directors' Cup trophies for  
best overall athletics. Read more about the tours  
on page 14.

#### On these pages:

*photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker*  
Pictured is a pincushion staff member Sally  
Viessers uses when making clothes for people in  
need. Read more on page 38.

 *The Grand Valley Magazine* is printed on paper  
manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable  
energy (wind, hydro, and biogas), and includes a minimum of 10%  
postconsumer recovered fiber. Trees used to manufacture this paper  
are certified from sustainably managed forests.



## Dear Editor:

**It is such a pleasure** to see that Grand Valley's own Frank Foster has been elected to Michigan's 107th Representative District! ("Mr. Foster goes to Lansing," Spring 2011.)

I worked with Frank in 2006 on the Battle of the Valleys. We won that year, and I do believe it was the largest BOV fundraiser that Student Senate hosted. I believed in him then and I believe in him now. Frank is and has always been a focused, fair-minded leader — no doubt in part a result of the great education we all received at GVSU. Congratulations to Jason Puscus and Frank for their victory, what a pleasure it is to see!

**Callie Melton, '06**  
Casnovia, Michigan

**I read** "Laker community takes up anti-bullying charge" in the Winter 2011 issue of *Grand Valley Magazine* with some disappointment.

As a person who attended Grand Valley from 1972-1975, I observed that women who wanted to dress or act in a traditionally feminine way were extremely uncomfortable. You did not wear skirts for fear of being laughed at. I would like to see any anti-bullying effort also support the so-called stereotypical behaviors of

men and women. If a boy wants to be fast-paced, rough and loud, he should not be made to feel he is behaving wrongly. If a girl loves dolls, toy ovens and nail polish, she should be valued for who she is. Anti-bullying needs to apply to everyone.

I also urge parents and caretakers to be clear about the goals of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which provides materials to the Allendale Campus Children's Enrichment Center, and certain that those goals match those of the child's family.

**Jan Johnson, '75**  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

### Letters to the Editor can be mailed to:

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[gvmagazine@gvsu.edu](mailto:gvmagazine@gvsu.edu).

Please include your name, class year (if applicable), hometown and phone number (not for publication). Letters are subject to editing.

## Bookmarks

News and Information Services staff members recommend these books for summer reading. If you or your office would like to share books in a future issue, send an email to [gvmagazine@gvsu.edu](mailto:gvmagazine@gvsu.edu).

**The Madonnas of Leningrad**  
(HarperCollins, 2007)  
by Debra Dean

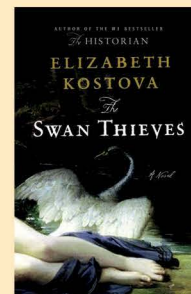
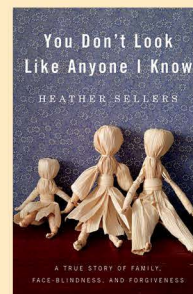
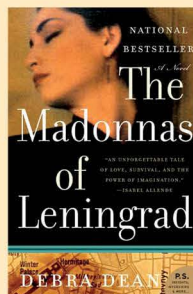
Mary Pirkola, communications specialist, recommended this intriguing book of historical fiction narrated by Marina, an 82-year-old woman who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. She worked in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, during 1941. As the German Army advanced toward Leningrad, the frantic staff stripped canvases from their frames and hid them. Dean paints a vivid portrait of the time, including the fear and challenges of her realistic characters who use the power of memory to provide momentary escape from the grim reality of their lives.

**You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know**  
(Riverhead Hardcover, 2010)  
by Heather Sellers

A Hope College professor, Heather Sellers wrote this memoir about suffering from prosopagnosia or face blindness: the inability to recognize faces — even members of her own family. Michele Coffill, associate director of publications, said Sellers engages readers as if they were alongside her for her emotional journey from initial onset to diagnosis. The book and Sellers' experiences are intertwined with flashbacks of growing up in an alcoholic, dysfunctional family. "It's very similar to *The Glass Castle*, and readers who enjoyed that book will love this one," Coffill said.

**The Swan Thieves**  
(Little Brown and Company, 2010)  
by Elizabeth Kostova

Leah Zuber, communications specialist, said Elizabeth Kostova beautifully intertwines a fictional love story with bits of history. It is a story of a renowned artist's obsession with a painting of a woman from the French Impressionist era. Kostova takes the reader on a journey of mystery and desire through describing the artist's life as a professional painter and professor and the women he loved. Zuber said specific, lively details and descriptions, especially of the paintings, really bring the story to life.



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Contact: [ubsbooks@gvsu.edu](mailto:ubsbooks@gvsu.edu) or (616) 331-3521.



# Allendale Campus will have new look in fall

Roughly six construction projects began this summer on the Allendale Campus, including the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons.

Two traffic signals were added at the intersections of North Campus and Ravine Center drives, and Calder and South Campus drives.

Bus stop relocations and a widened road on Campus Drive near the Alumni House will allow for better traffic flow, said James Moyer, assistant vice president for Facilities Services. “Both traffic signals will include crosswalk signals to allow for safer pedestrian crossings,” he said.

Another project will capture stormwater runoff in the James H. Zumberge Library pond and use it for the campus irrigation system, in support of sustainability efforts.

An expansion project for Lubbers Stadium will result in 2,000 additional seats. Athletic Director Tim Selgo said football games average nearly 11,000 fans for home games and the stadium has the capacity to hold 8,500 people.



photo by Amanda Pitts

Construction by the Zumberge Library pond will capture stormwater runoff and use it for irrigation systems.

Construction also began on the student recreation fields project, which encompasses approximately 65 acres of land development on the west side of campus. The three-phase project includes a stormwater management system, new

rugby field, lacrosse field, 300-meter track, two softball fields, track throws area, picnic shelters, and a concessions/locker rooms/scoring building.

Moyer said all projects will be finished late this summer, except the Pew

Library and Lubbers Stadium. The stadium project will be done before the first home football game September 1.

An interactive map of the construction projects can be found at [www.gvsu.edu/construction](http://www.gvsu.edu/construction).

## PIC seeks study abroad alumni

This year, more than 700 students will participate in a study abroad program. Most will find it life-changing.

To stay connected to those participants and others, the Padnos International Center is launching a Study Abroad Alumni Association. Liz Smith, coordinator of outreach and international students, said PIC has a list of more than 2,000 study abroad alumni dating back to 2004. Smith and others are working to build the database and connect with alumni who traveled before 2004.

“Some of our alumni are doing incredible things around the world,” Smith said. “They are Peace Corps volunteers, working for multinational corporations, teaching overseas.”

People interested in joining the Study Abroad Alumni Association should send an email to [studyabroad@gvsu.edu](mailto:studyabroad@gvsu.edu) with their current contact information, including when and where they traveled for study abroad. PIC will then send a bi-annual newsletter to alumni, keeping them informed of current students, programs



courtesy photo

Pictured is Peter Duran who studied in Argentina in 2008. He now works as an instructor in Germany. The Padnos International Center is seeking other alumni interested in participating in a Study Abroad Alumni Association.

and opportunities. Alumni can also send a request to join the GVSU Study Abroad Alumni

Association on Facebook, a private group for alumni networking and connection.



## Grand Valley receives silver STAR status for sustainable practices

Grand Valley received silver status after completing the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), a self-assessment system developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. STARS is designed to help gauge the progress of colleges and universities toward sustainability in all sectors.

Grand Valley is the second higher education institution and first public university in Michigan to complete STARS. In 2008, Grand Valley was selected as one of 90 universities in the U.S. to participate in the pilot phase of the STARS rating system. Campuses earn credits in four categories: operations, education, administration and innovation.

“This could quite possibly be the biggest collaborative effort we have had on campus,” said Norman Christopher, director of the Sustainable Community Development Initiative. “It was a self-assessment, so in order for the report to be a success, we had to obtain participation from all aspects of the university.”

Of the 250 schools that participated nationwide, Grand Valley’s average score was higher than the national average. Bart Bartels, project manager for SCDI, said Grand Valley scored high in diversity and affordability, coordination and planning, and human resources. In the sub-category of promotion, the university scored well in water conservation, grounds and dining services.

## Filmmaker gives 50th anniversary lecture



photo by Amanda Pitts

Ken Burns gives an address in the Eberhard Center as a Distinguished Academic Lecturer, part of the university’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Ken Burns, considered one of the most influential documentary filmmakers of all time, spoke on campus in April as the third and final 50th anniversary Distinguished Academic Lecturer. Using details gleaned from his work, Burns shared insights from the past as important reflections for the future. “Knowing where you’ve been allows you to know where you are going,” he said.

Burns has devoted more than 30 years to examining America’s past. His documentary films and series have ranged from profiles of suffragettes Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the adventurous Lewis and Clark and the innovative architect Frank Lloyd Wright, to historic insights about the Civil War. Some of his other films focused on diverse icons of America, from the Statue of Liberty and the National Parks, to baseball

and jazz. Burns visited Grand Valley during the years his late father, Robert Kyle Burns, was teaching anthropology and photography from 1973 until he retired in 1993.

During his remarks, Burns noted his recent testimony in Washington, D.C., at the Congressional hearings on public funding for the arts — his seventh testimony in the past 20 years.

“In Italy, the government spends \$39 per person on arts and heritage, while the U.S. government spends about 19 cents, or one-tenth of 1 percent of the national budget,” said Burns. “I don’t understand why funding the arts is still an issue in this country when it is the one thing that can enrich all people, regardless of age, income or political views.”

## Terrorism expert calls bin Laden death symbolic



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Jonathan White, executive director of Grand Valley’s Homeland Defense Initiative, answers questions at a news conference May 2 at the DeVos Center following the death of Osama bin Laden. White called the killing a symbolic victory and said the fight against terrorism and al-Qaida will continue.



# Building dedicated for Kelly family

Formerly known as the Laker Turf Building, the Kelly Family Sports Center was unveiled June 25 in a building dedication ceremony.

Brian Kelly, current head football coach at the University of Notre Dame, said it was fitting that the name reflected his family, rather than one name. "It reflects all the support our family has received during the time we were here," said Kelly, who served as Laker head football coach from 1991-2003.

During his tenure, Kelly guided the Lakers to a 118-35-2 record and won two NCAA DII football national championships (2002 and 2003).

President Thomas J. Haas said Kelly made a tremendous positive impact on Grand Valley and started charting the course toward athletic excellence that continues today. "Brian brought the idea of excellence to the athletic program early on; now it's in the nature of our fabric," Haas said.

The entire Kelly family made an impact at GVSU as Brian and his wife, Paqui, met while both were employed at Grand Valley. Brian was an assistant

football coach and Paqui worked in the Financial Aid Office as a financial aid counselor from 1989-1992. Paqui earned a master's degree in education from Grand Valley in 1998. Patrick, Grace and Kenzel, the three Kelly children, were born while Brian was the head Laker football coach and enjoyed participating in campus activities with their parents.

Kelly said having a building dedicated for his family was far from his mind when he first arrived at Grand Valley 25 years ago. "It's what Grand Valley State is about: striving to be the best. We wanted to be a part of this because we believe in what this university stands for," he said.

The Kelly Family Sports Center, which opened in 2008, is a 138,000 square foot building that houses a regulation football field; six-lane, 300-meter track; classrooms; and bleacher and grandstand seating for more than 1,000. In addition to Intercollegiate Athletics, the Movement Sciences department, Campus Recreation/Intramurals and club sports also use the facility.



photos by Alissa Lane

Brian Kelly addresses the audience at the dedication of the Kelly Family Sports Center June 25. Kelly coached the Lakers from 1991-2003.



Paqui Kelly and the Kelly children are pictured. More than 400 people attended the event at the former Laker Turf Building.

## Representing Grand Valley



courtesy photo

Katelyn Roskamp, a Spanish major, represents Grand Valley in the Sahara Desert by wearing a 'I Am Grand Valley' T-shirt. Roskamp participated in a study abroad program in Spain.

Do you represent Grand Valley when you travel? If so, send a photo of yourself wearing a Grand Valley T-shirt with a brief description to *Grand Valley Magazine* at [gvmagazine@gvsu.edu](mailto:gvmagazine@gvsu.edu) and it may be seen in a future publication.



# Community Reading Project will study African American migration

A book about three hopeful African Americans who migrated from the South in search of better lives is the center of the 2012 Community Reading Project at Grand Valley.

*The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson, will be the focus of classroom and small group discussions on campus. Susan Mendoza, director of Undergraduate Research and Integrative Learning, said the book was chosen, in part, because its narrative stories represent the 6 million people who moved from the South to

the North or West, searching for better futures.

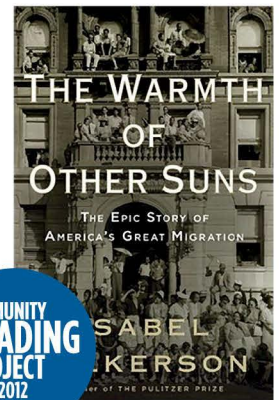
Wilkerson, who spent much of her career at the New York Times' Chicago bureau, won the Pulitzer Prize for individual reporting for her coverage of the 1993 Midwestern floods and a young boy who was responsible for his four siblings. She was the first African American woman to receive the writing award.

For *Warmth of Other Suns*, she interviewed 1,200 people and searched archives to tell the story of the relocation of an entire people. It is Wilkerson's

first book, published in 2010. She is currently professor of journalism and director of narrative nonfiction at Boston University.

Wilkerson will visit West Michigan March 20-21 for presentations on campus and at Herrick District Library in Holland.

The Community Reading Project, now in its seventh year, is sponsored by the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Libraries and University Bookstores.



## Staff member helps preserve burial grounds

Dave Edwards, a custodial staff member at Grand Valley, doesn't descend from Native Americans, but has always had an interest in Native American culture and heritage. His admiration led him to join the West Michigan American Indian Movement (AIM), an organization dedicated to protecting the rights of Native Americans through community service and awareness.

Along with four members of AIM and other friends, Edwards helped clean the Norton Burial Grounds in Grand Rapids in May. He explained that Grand Valley loaned recycling equipment to help gather, organize and transport recyclable items found at the burial grounds. "We weren't able to finish the cleanup; it'll be an ongoing process," he said. "But with Grand Valley's help, we collected bags of recyclable materials and more than 50 tires."

Edwards said the cleanup was done in a ceremonial manner.



courtesy photo

Dave Edwards, standing third from left, helped Native Americans clean the Norton Burial Grounds.

"It's tradition," Edwards said. "Before entering the mounds there was a pipe ceremony and an offering in which we each held tobacco in our left hand and strawberries in our right. It was a neat experience."

The Grand Rapids Public Museum oversees the

preservation of the grounds, which are 13 Hopewell burial mounds near the Grand River, a few miles southwest of Grand Rapids. Hopewell is a scientific name given to an ancient civilization that flourished 2,000 years ago and the Norton Burial Grounds site is one of

the best preserved Hopewellian cemeteries in the country.

Edwards said AIM hopes to work with the Native American Student Association at Grand Valley in the future.





photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

University and community leaders break ground for the new L. William Seidman Center. The project has been supported by hundreds of people across the country, including former U.S. cabinet members.

## Seidman Center moves closer to reality

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld were just two of the more than 300 donors across the nation who supported the new L. William Seidman Center. The center is named for Bill Seidman, founding chair of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees and former FDIC chair.

Grand Valley broke ground in late May for the future site of the Seidman College of Business, 38 Front Ave. in downtown Grand Rapids.

City Mayor George Heartwell was among the community leaders in attendance. "The city commissioners and I were unanimous in our support for this project, which will mean so much to our beautiful

riverfront and to the economy of the west side," said Heartwell. "Grand Valley has made a significant impact on our city with \$200 million spent on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus facilities in the past 20 years."

More than \$680 million is pumped into West Michigan communities because of the university's activities. Grand Valley created 700 trade and construction jobs and pumped \$32 million into the economy because of construction projects in 2010. Construction of the Seidman Center will be a major investment in the downtown Grand Rapids area, totaling \$40 million in land acquisition, site preparation, construction and infrastructure improvement costs.

President Thomas J. Haas has noted that during the year of the celebration for the university's 50th anniversary, the private-public partnership that Seidman spearheaded to found Grand Valley is a cornerstone of Grand Valley's relationship with the region. "The success of this project is a reflection of the generosity of this community and the attractiveness of Bill Seidman's original vision for Grand Valley and for the business school," said Haas.

The Seidman Center is scheduled to be completed in spring 2013, with classes scheduled to begin in fall 2013. Details are below.

- The four-story center will be 110,000 square feet;
- A multi-purpose room with

capacity for more than 200 people will house lectures and other events for the college;

- A state-of-the-art trading room will accommodate 42 students and simulate an actual trading room environment for students to learn about investment and portfolio analyses;

- Student collaboration and study spaces include rooms that can be reserved utilizing web-based technology for group work;

- The college's many outreach programs will be located on the first floor of the building for easier access by local businesses.



# Haas participates in Grand Rapids LipDub

President Thomas J. Haas is featured in the record-breaking Grand Rapids LipDub. He can be seen at about six minutes into the video, riding in a convertible driven by Peter Secchia. (Visit YouTube and search “Grand Rapids LipDub.”)

The Grand Rapids LipDub Video was filmed May 22 with 5,000 people singing to Don McLean’s “America Pie.” The video, directed by Rob Bliss, included marching bands, a wedding, motorcades,

pyrotechnics and a helicopter take off. It is reportedly the largest and longest LipDub video to date.

The Grand Rapids LipDub has gone viral and has been covered by many local, national and international news organizations including ABC News, Newsweek and NPR.

Grand Valley also produced its own LipDub in October 2010 to the song “Come Sail Away” by Styx. Watch it at [www.gvsu.edu/lipdub](http://www.gvsu.edu/lipdub).



photo by Adam Bird

President Thomas J. Haas and others in his car chat with WOOD-TV meteorologist Bill Steffen prior to the taping of the Grand Rapids LipDub. With Haas in the car are, from left, Bing Goei, Doug Small and, in front, Peter Secchia. At left is a LipDub video screen shot of a wedding outside the Grand Rapids Art Museum.



# Philanthropic leaders meet for Johnson Center event

Philanthropic leaders from across the country shared their insights and expertise at the Johnson Center National Summit on Family Philanthropy May 19-20 at the J.W. Marriott in Grand Rapids.

The theme of the conference, sponsored by Grand Valley’s Johnson Center for Philanthropy, was “Charity Begins at Home: Families Rebuilding Communities.”

Panelists who discussed the Grand Rapids renaissance were Rich DeVos, co-founder of Amway Corporation; David Frey, chairman of the Frey Foundation; and Kate Pew Wolters, president of the

Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation and chair of the Grand Valley Board of Trustees. The discussion was moderated by Dorothy A. Johnson, trustee of the Johnson Family Fund and former chair of the Grand Valley board.

DeVos said Grand Rapids is a flourishing city because many people are passionate about its success. “You have to assemble a group of people who have their heart in the city,” said DeVos. “They may not necessarily have money, but they will find a way to contribute.”

Wolters stressed the importance of networking when looking for people



photo by Dianne Carroll Burdick

Pictured from left are Kate Pew Wolters, David Frey, Dorothy Johnson and Rich DeVos at the National Summit on Family Philanthropy.

to give. “You’ve got to get together with other funders. In Grand Rapids, we have a

good community of private and public people who meet on a regular basis,” she said.



# Laker runner finds motivation in family tradition, team training

— by Michele Coffill

After their youngest daughter, Monica, graduates next year, Pam and John Kinney will perhaps see a dramatic decrease in the amount of frequent flier miles they collect. But they may catch up on rest.

Take a harried weekend in March for example. The Kinneys flew to San Antonio, Texas, to watch eldest daughter Erin compete for the Lakers at the NCAA Division II swimming championships on Friday, then to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to watch Monica run in the indoor track national championships on Saturday.

They were rewarded by the airlines with mileage points and with results from their daughters. Erin broke the top 16 in the 500- and 1,650-freestyle events and Monica won individual NCAA championships in the mile and 5,000-meter run, pacing the Lakers to their first team indoor track national championship.

Kinney's contributions also helped the Lakers win the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field championship in late May and the cross country championship in December. She placed second in the outdoor 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:29.96. Grand Valley became the only university, regardless of division, to win indoor and outdoor track and cross country titles in one academic year.

Although it seems there aren't goals left to accomplish, Kinney said she continues to strive for the top. "My goals have evolved to get to U.S. nationals and have a shot at the Olympic trials," Kinney, a junior, said.

These great accomplishments

might not have happened without the keen instincts of West Catholic High School track coach Don Passenger. Kinney was running one day during soccer warm-ups when Passenger approached her and asked her to try out for his track team.

"I wouldn't have thought about track. I wanted to play soccer with my sister but when he recruited me I thought I would give it a shot," Kinney, a nursing major, said. "I really owe him a lot."

Jerry Baltes, head coach for Laker track and field and cross country, said Kinney's success could be partially attributed to being new to the sport.

As did friendly family rivalries, Kinney said. "I came here largely because of Erin and will also follow her into the medical field," she said. "Erin set the standard high and I followed." This fall, Erin will begin her first year of medical school at Michigan State University; their brother John will be in his second year at Grand Valley.

Kinney recalled her freshman year at Grand Valley and how intimidating it was to join such a seasoned team. "In high school I was a mediocre cross country runner. I don't think I broke 20 minutes," she said.

Baltes' team approach to running also helped, she said. "When we train, we run four to five in a group and it helps so much when you're not having such a good day that someone is there to pick you up," she said.



photo by Amanda Pitts

Mid-distance runner Monica Kinney takes the corner at the Lubbers Stadium track. Kinney won two individual NCAA Division II indoor titles and helped lead the Lakers to team championships in indoor and outdoor track and cross country. Erin Kinney (inset) swam freestyle events for the Lakers.





## Thank you for ‘Shaping Our Future’

With tremendous gratitude, Grand Valley extends its appreciation to the more than 17,000 donors who gave to the comprehensive *Shaping Our Future* campaign. The four-year campaign exceeded expectations because of the generosity and support from alumni, friends, faculty and staff members, retirees, students and their families. The original campaign goal of \$50 million was later stretched to a \$75 million goal. It ultimately exceeded all expectations as the total raised by June 30 was \$96.4 million.

### 10 ways your gifts are Shaping Our Future

#### 1 Library usage is expected to double.

When the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons opens in 2013, library usage is expected to double. This innovative

learning space will be a model for 21st century libraries and revolutionize how students learn. The library will help develop the next generation of leaders for Michigan by providing the tools necessary to build essential skills in collaboration, communication, analysis and technology.

#### 2 Talented business students will be increasingly drawn to the region.

Graduates from the Seidman College of Business provide an excellent return on investment for West Michigan. Because of the L. William Seidman Center, a building to fully house the Seidman College of Business by 2013, programs like the Full-Time Integrated M.B.A. (FIMBA) are possible. FIMBA will attract and retain highly qualified talent for West Michigan with its integrated curriculum, mandatory internship, and opportunities to study abroad or attend The Washington Campus Program.

#### 3 Engineers will hit the ground running for employers.

When employers said they wanted engineering students to have more hands-on training, Grand Valley responded. Thanks to the state-of-the-art John C. Kennedy Hall of Engineering, 674 engineering students are helping employers long before they graduate through their internships and design projects; 86 percent of engineering alumni are employed after graduation and 70 percent stay in West Michigan.

#### 4 Grand Valley’s impact on the arts will increase.

The largest collection of Mathias J. Alten’s artwork is now owned by Grand Valley and housed in the Gordon Gallery. Thanks to generous private gifts the university has expanded both the gallery and the collection so thousands of visitors can enjoy Alten’s work each year. This year Grand Valley partnered

with the Von Liebig Art Center in Naples, Florida, to showcase Alten’s work.

#### 5 More students will reach their leadership potential.

Thanks to donor support, the Cook Leadership Academy in the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies has tripled the number of students served thanks to the *Shaping Our Future* campaign. There will be 40 leadership fellows in the 2011-2012 class.

#### 6 Grand Valley’s outreach to the community will expand.

The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy is a leader in helping family foundations become more efficient and effective. With generous private gifts, the center was able to host the first National Summit on Family Philanthropy in May. (See page 10.) The Johnson Center is gaining national prominence as a resource for family philanthropists and communities.

Another successful community outreach program is the Kaufman Interfaith







Institute. Gifts to the institute have helped expand its outreach by promoting lively discourse with programs like the Interfaith Dialogue Conference, with participation from nine West Michigan academic institutions.

#### **7 More doors opened by scholarships.**

Thanks to donor support, 90 new private scholarships were created during the *Shaping Our Future* campaign. Because of donor generosity more of our most talented and deserving students have access to the life-changing opportunities that a Grand Valley education provides. Private scholarships play a critical role in meeting the financial needs of our students and filling the gap in educational costs.

#### **8 More students will benefit from national opportunities.**

The Frederik Meijer Honors College and the Meijer Office of Fellowships are expanding opportunities for students. The Meijer Honors College enrollment increased 31 percent in the past four years, and more than half of all honor students go on to graduate school. In March, two honors students were named finalists from among 197 nominees for the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship, a first for Grand Valley. The university was among a select few with two finalists.

#### **9 Students will have a broader world view.**

The Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies promotes innovation and encourages teaching that challenges the boundaries of disciplines. Study abroad programs, housed in the college, have grown significantly thanks to generous support from private donors. Grand Valley continually ranks among the top 10 of U.S. master's degree-granting institutions for total number of study abroad students.

#### **10 Knowledge and learning will flourish.**

Private gifts have established four endowed chairs: the James R. Sebastian Endowed Chair in Engineering Cooperative Education and Educational Development helps incorporate hands-on learning into the curriculum in new and innovative ways; the Frey Foundation Chair for Family Foundations and Philanthropy assists grant makers to be more effective; the Stuart and Barbara Padnos Chair in Art and Design re-envision art and design innovation for West Michigan; and the Frederik Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation encourages entrepreneurial thinking from a liberal arts foundation and perspective.

## Giving Matters

### Scholarship Dinner coming in October

The Annual Scholarship Dinner brings donors and recipients together and shows how gifts to scholarships make a difference. This year's dinner will be held on October 17 to celebrate donors and the 29 new private scholarships that were added this year. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/giving/scholarships](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/scholarships) to give to an existing fund or learn about establishing a new scholarship.

### Kelly Family Sports Center dedicated

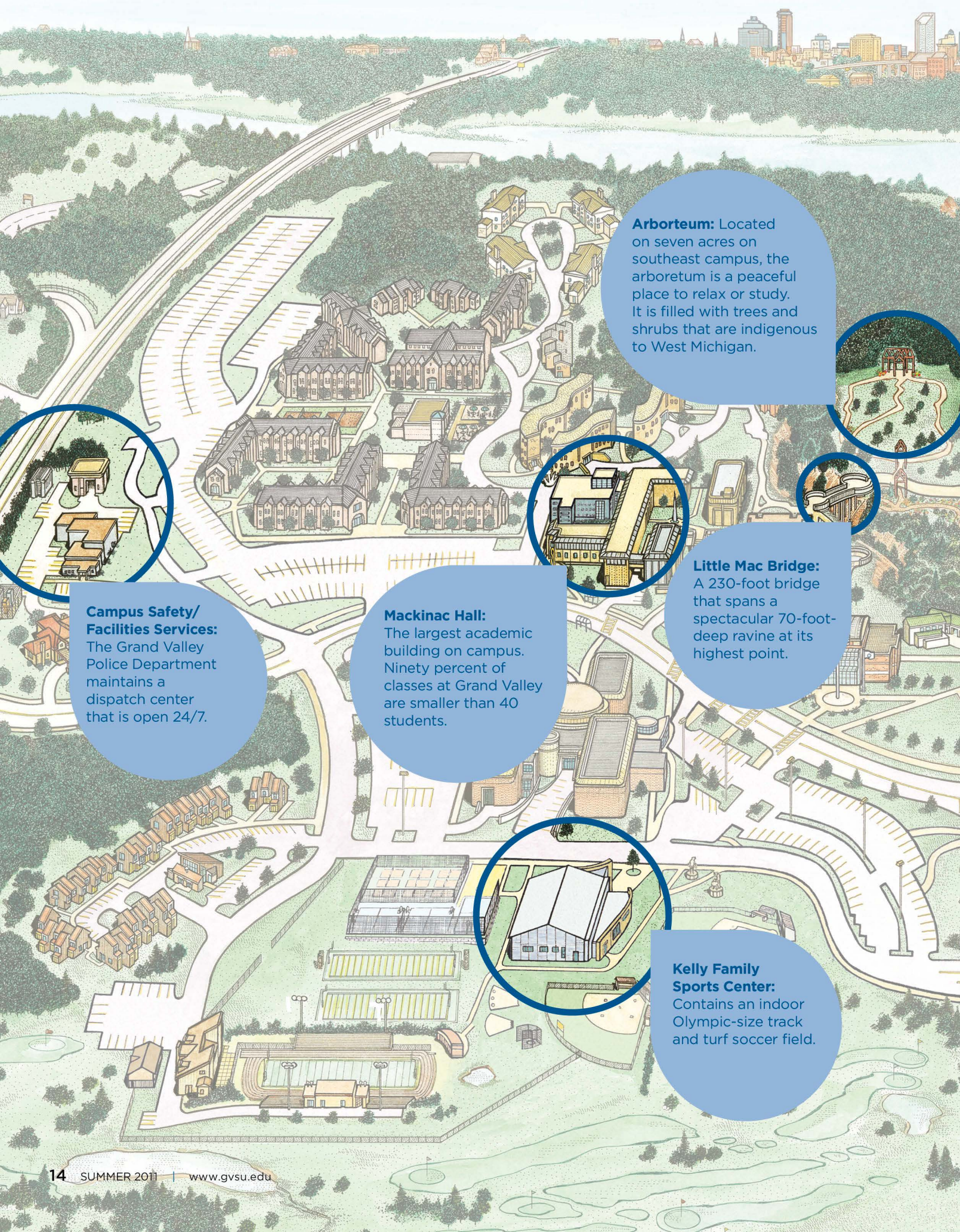
The Laker Turf Building was dedicated June 25 as the Kelly Family Sports Center to honor the legacy and support of Brian Kelly and his family. Kelly was head football coach from 1991-2003, and helped set Grand Valley's standard of excellence in athletics as the top Division II athletic program in the country for the past eight years. The Kelly Family Sports Center provides much needed space to accommodate the Movement Science department, Athletics, Campus Recreation, intramural sports and sports clubs. Read more about the dedication on page 7.

### Washington D.C. Alumni Club meets challenge

The Washington D.C. Alumni club became part of Grand Valley's history this year as the first alumni group to collectively give to the university. Club members challenged each other to meet their goal of raising \$2,500 for the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons. They will be recognized on the alumni donor wall for their collective accomplishment.

To find out how to become involved with an alumni club in your area or join forces with other alumni to make a difference, visit [www.gvsu.edu/alumni](http://www.gvsu.edu/alumni), or contact Shaun Shira at (616) 331-6520.





**Campus Safety/  
Facilities Services:**

The Grand Valley Police Department maintains a dispatch center that is open 24/7.

**Mackinac Hall:**

The largest academic building on campus. Ninety percent of classes at Grand Valley are smaller than 40 students.

**Arboretum:** Located on seven acres on southeast campus, the arboretum is a peaceful place to relax or study. It is filled with trees and shrubs that are indigenous to West Michigan.

**Little Mac Bridge:**

A 230-foot bridge that spans a spectacular 70-foot-deep ravine at its highest point.

**Kelly Family  
Sports Center:**

Contains an indoor Olympic-size track and turf soccer field.



# Student tour guides ‘wow’ visitors with stories, sightseeing

— by Leah Zuber

Kelly Hughes wasn't sure what to expect when her parents brought her to Grand Valley's campus for a tour when she was in high school. She certainly didn't expect to fall in love with the place, but after listening to students' stories and seeing the campus firsthand, that's exactly what happened. "The minute we pulled up on Lake Michigan Drive and we were facing the archway I was sold," she explained. "The campus was what I always thought a college campus should look like. And it was absolutely beautiful in the fall."

Four years later, Hughes is a student tour guide, enlightening visitors' perceptions of Grand Valley as her views were shaped during her first visit.

Jodi Chycinski, director of Admissions at Grand Valley, explained how important a campus tour is to potential students and parents. "We know that the campus visit is a key part in deciding where to enroll in a college, so it's very important that we have students who can show the campus, know facts, but more importantly, share their stories and experiences of being a Grand Valley student," she said.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Each year, hundreds of Grand Valley students give hundreds of campus tours to thousands of visitors. Nearly 8,000 visitors went on tours in

2009; tour groups can range from one person to 30 people.

For one hour, Hughes, Michael Williams, Justin Gray and their fellow student tour guides have the opportunity to "wow" visitors with facts and storytelling about Grand Valley.

Melanie Retberg, associate director of Admissions, said students aren't scripted but they are trained with knowledge about the university and encouraged to tell their personal stories.

"We want the students to talk about their relationships with faculty members, what it's like to sit in a classroom, how they use resources, and what it's like to live in this environment through their own lens," she said.

Retberg said when hiring tour guides, she looks for students who are articulate and possess strong communication

skills. "I look for storytellers from all different majors, and try to avoid 'tour bots' — ones who know hard facts, but can't pull the visitor into the story of Grand Valley," she said.

The tour guide training process teaches students how to respond to difficult questions in a professional manner. Honest, candid responses are encouraged and if a guide is unable to answer a question, he or she will follow-up when the group returns to the Admissions office.


"Our No. 1 rule is to never talk badly of another school," said Retberg. "We

can still get answers across without being degrading to another school or major."

## WALK AND TALK

A tour starts in front of the Student Services Building, where Admissions is housed. From there, the groups can go in either direction, heading to the Kirkhof Center or Henry Hall. Most of the tour is on foot, but last fall a bus was added so groups can see the Laker Turf Building, Lubbers Stadium and other areas of the university that are not within walking distance.

Gray, a nursing major from



Student tour guide Michael Williams takes a group of visitors inside the Kelly Family Sports Center.

photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker



## “I HAVE AN HOUR TO EXPLAIN EVERY REASON WHY I LOVE THIS UNIVERSITY AND IT’S NEVER ENOUGH.” — MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Frankenmuth, said if two tours are out at the same time the timing has to be just right so they don’t overlap in small spaces like the living centers.

Williams, a resident assistant and junior majoring in public administration, said the Fieldhouse and Campus Recreation Center are his favorite places to show, and are also favorites for visitors.

“A lot of times when people get excited about things, the tour group slows down,” he said. “That happens a lot in the Fieldhouse where all the athletic awards and achievements are displayed. My favorite part is being able to say, ‘For eight consecutive

years, Grand Valley has had the best Division II athletic program in the entire nation.”

Williams, Gray and Hughes were Student Ambassadors before they joined the Admissions staff. The Student Ambassador program is a group of about 100 student volunteers who assist with campus tours; the program is run like a student organization. Retberg said being a Student Ambassador is usually a prerequisite to become a paid student tour guide.

Williams said the first semester he gave tours was very nerve-racking. “I actually started walking the wrong way during my first tour. I was shaking and didn’t talk much,

but over time I loosened up and began to feel more comfortable,” he said. “Now, I try to personalize the tours. If I know there’s a swimmer in my group, we’ll go by the pool, or if there’s someone who excels academically, we’ll visit the Honors College.”

The university’s landscape and the Little Mac Bridge are Hughes’ favorites to show. “The bridge really impresses visitors. They aren’t expecting it, so when we’re walking over the bridge, I stay quiet and let them take it in,” she said.

During the tours, Gray said there is a distinct difference in the questions asked by parents and potential students.

“Students want to know what there is to do on weekends, how long friends can stay, and more of the social aspects. Parents are interested in campus safety, so many are pleased to learn that

the campus is very safe,” he said. Each guide touches on the same aspects of the university, especially sustainability initiatives because it is a common interest among visitors.

“I usually talk about how Grand Valley is one of the top-ranking sustainable schools,” said Williams. “The composting and recycling initiatives are huge to our campus, so I always point out the trash, and how we separate compost and landfill.”

### REACHING POTENTIAL STUDENTS

Introducing Grand Valley to potential students starts as early as their sophomore year of high school. Chycynski said basic information about the university is presented and then the communication becomes more focused during junior year with invitations to campus. Recruiters also make visits to high schools and college fairs to encourage campus visits.

“Email is still a preferred way to reach students, and the Web is crucial for us,” she explained. “We utilize chat software, so we’ll do virtual chats with families as a way to introduce them to the university.”

Campus tours are given year-round, during the weekdays and on Saturdays during the academic year.

“Do students like giving tours when it’s heavily snowing or 98 degrees outside?” said Retberg. “Probably not, but

Williams leads visitors to a bus, which takes them places not within walking distance.

photo by  
Bernadine Carey-Tucker





they put a smile on their face, and we appreciate that.”

Like with any job, Hughes said if she’s having a bad day, it turns off the minute she greets someone. “We walk the tour route 10 times a week, but families walk it once, so you have that one chance with them,” she said.

For those who aren’t able to visit the campus, virtual tours will be available this fall. Visit the Admissions website ([www.gvsu.edu/admissions](http://www.gvsu.edu/admissions)) to see 360-degree views of the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Kirkhof Center, Campus Recreation Center, academic buildings and more.

#### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

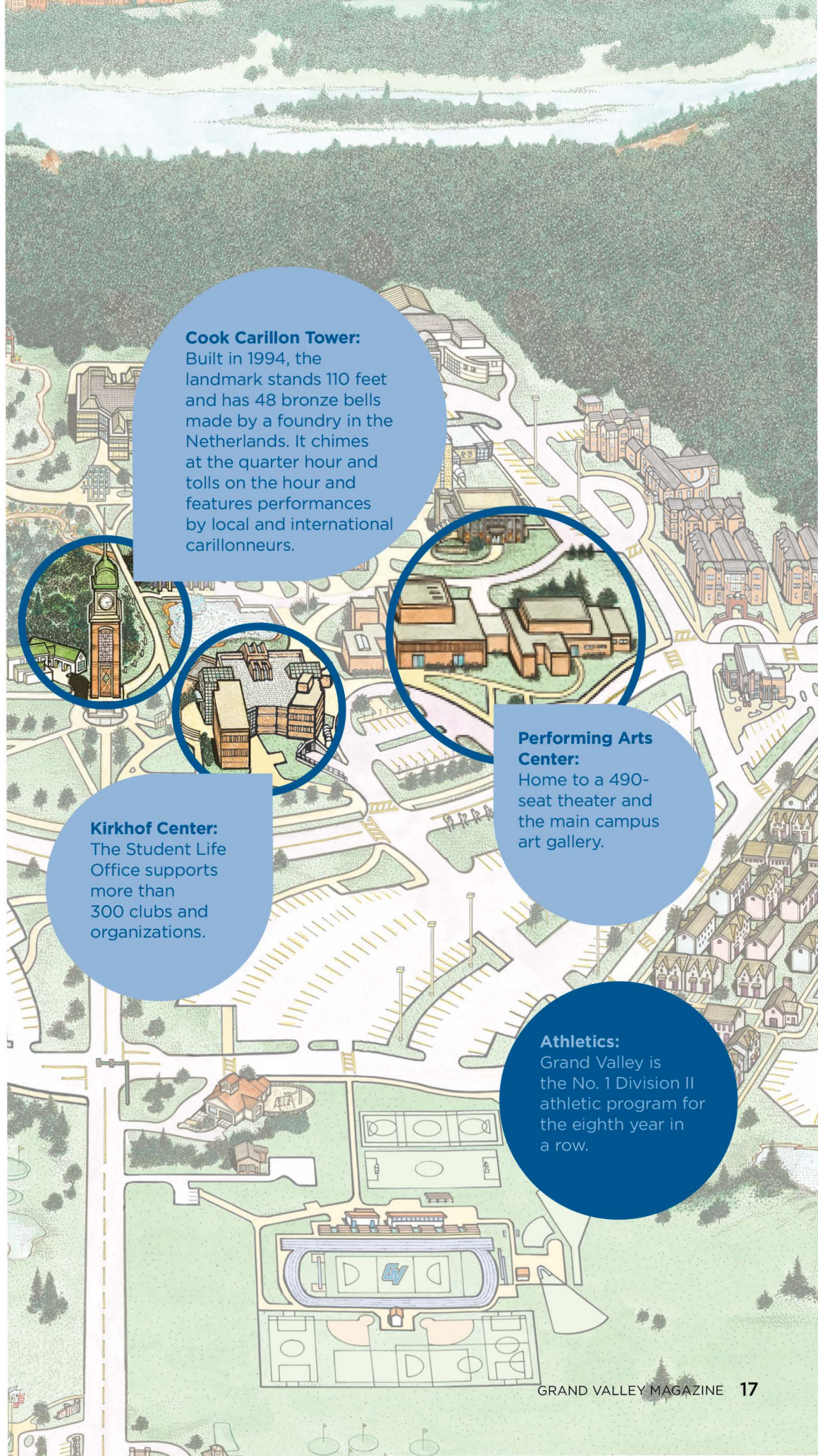
Williams, Hughes and Gray agreed that being a tour guide has helped them improve their communication skills.

“I was extremely shy when I began college, but this job has helped me to open up and become more outgoing,” Hughes said.

As Grand Valley expands and grows, Chycinski said the sense of what Admissions is trying to do will not change, but the office continually re-evaluates what they show visitors. “We can’t show them everything, so we think about how to give them enough of campus so they go away with a good sense of what our institution is all about.

“Families are excited to see the growth and we’re very proud to be able to show them how we are continuing to expand, and more importantly, what that’s going to mean for them if they choose to attend Grand Valley and how they’ll benefit.”

Williams is usually the last person to return to the office after a day of tours. “I’m known for going over the normal time, but I have an hour to explain every reason why I love this university and it’s never enough,” he said.



#### Cook Carillon Tower:

Built in 1994, the landmark stands 110 feet and has 48 bronze bells made by a foundry in the Netherlands. It chimes at the quarter hour and tolls on the hour and features performances by local and international carillonneurs.

#### Performing Arts Center:

Home to a 490-seat theater and the main campus art gallery.

#### Kirkhof Center:

The Student Life Office supports more than 300 clubs and organizations.

#### Athletics:

Grand Valley is the No. 1 Division II athletic program for the eighth year in a row.



honesty accountability

# HONOR CODE SETS STANDARDS FOR INTEGRITY, HONESTY

— by Dottie Barnes

**C**onsidering stock market scandals, the banking crisis and Great Recession, not many people would link strong ethics with big business. Grand Valley students who are about to enter the financial world want to remedy that.

The Seidman College of Business has established an honor code for its students — the first department at Grand Valley to do so. It was drafted by students and supported by faculty. The entire university operates under a Student Code, which establishes standards of conduct, but Seidman students said an honor code provides an additional expectation of striving for honesty, integrity and ethical behavior in their field.

The idea for an honor code came from Stan Lindquist, chair of the Seidman Faculty Senate and professor of accounting. “We had an

honor code when I was an undergraduate at Luther College,” said Lindquist. “An honor code provides an environment of integrity and sets a tone from the top down, creating an atmosphere that a certain type of behavior is expected from Seidman students.”

H. James Williams, dean of the Seidman College of Business, fully supported the idea, getting faculty members and students involved. “I thought establishing an honor code was a great thing,” said Williams. “The business community has taken a lot of heat over the past few decades about the lack of ethics and social responsibility. Our students are listening to that. They understand it’s demeaning to a profession and wanted to create the honor code themselves.”

Williams said a three-semester course was offered so undergraduate and

graduate students could work together to explore codes of honor and ethics in business.

Melissa Vegter, a business systems analyst for BDO Seidman, received a master’s of business administration from Grand Valley in April and worked on the honor code all three semesters. “We started by researching academic honesty and the effectiveness of honor codes,” explained Vegter. “We decided that we wanted our code of honor to be in the affirmative, something to strive for and not something that is punitive.

“We wanted it to be more than just a statement saying we won’t cheat. We felt it was important that the code be aspirational, including a statement of who we believe we are as students and who we want to be.”

Vegter said students recognize that in West Michigan there is a strong emphasis on living ethically

and Grand Valley is part of that community. “Grand Valley represents the community and we hope the honor code shows that we are in alignment with the ethical values of the community,” she said. “We’re not saying there is a problem with Seidman students, rather we want to make sure we generate a culture that embraces ethical behavior.”

Bruce Bettinghaus, assistant professor of accounting, and Michael DeWilde, director of the Business Ethics Center in the Seidman College of Business, facilitated the courses and offered guidance to the students.

“Research shows there is a big divide between what faculty believes cheating is and what students believe cheating is,” said Bettinghaus. “The honor code helps define that. Research also shows that while the instances of cheating in business schools is increasing, there are lower



“THE HONOR CODE  
SETS THE STAGE FOR  
HOW STUDENTS WANT  
TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES  
WHEN THEY GET INTO  
THE PROFESSION...”

H. JAMES WILLIAMS,  
DEAN OF THE SEIDMAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

SEIDMAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
STUDENT CODE OF HONOR

As a member of  
the Seidman College  
of Business,  
I shall:

Conduct myself with the  
highest level of integrity.

Maintain accountability for  
my actions and encourage  
the same of others.

Be open, fair, trustworthy  
and honest.

Strive for continuous  
self-improvement,  
intellectual engagement,  
global perspective,  
and advancement of  
sustainable business  
practices.

I shall not lie, cheat,  
steal, or plagiarize.

incidences of cheating in schools with honor codes. So, this is a good step toward encouraging students to act ethically and attracting more ethical students.”

Bettinghaus, who teaches courses on business and accounting ethics, said his students have said faculty could help deter cheating by using different tests each semester and reporting cheating when they see it. Bettinghaus said he would support a faculty honor code.

DeWilde said the honor code sets Grand Valley apart from other universities because of its aspirational language. “The students had access to Harvard’s MBA oath, which is taken at graduation when students are done with school. Our students wanted to build that culture of accountability and awareness into the Seidman program,” he said. “Faculty came to realize that not all

aspects of the Seidman honor code are something that can necessarily be enforced; still students wanted their endorsement.”

DeWilde said the process took longer than anyone thought. Students did a thorough job of researching and writing the honor code and then made sure every Seidman student had the opportunity to see it and vote on it. It then went before the faculty for a vote.

The honor code was passed overwhelmingly by Seidman students and faculty.

“The honor code sets the stage for how students want to conduct themselves when they get into the profession and are the leaders of business,” said Williams. “It also sets the stage for the students who will follow them. The fact that students created an honor code sends a powerful message to the business community. They

are recruiting students who are holding themselves accountable for being ethical business people, even as students.”

Williams said the honor code will be available to every business student. “It will be displayed throughout the new L. William Seidman Center (scheduled to be completed in spring 2013). It will be in classrooms, in syllabi, on our website and handed out to each new student,” he said.

DeWilde said students realize business activity, education and personal life aren’t separate tracks. “The code reminds us that business is part of community and social practice. It’s not a separate thing where you suspend ethical thinking,” he said.





courtesy photos

Students show off their decorated tubes used to whisper poetry to passersby during a unique event to celebrate National Poetry Month.

## Poetry ‘whispering’ fosters awareness, appreciation — by Mary Isca Pirkola

Paint, pom-poms and a piñata all played roles in several unusual local events that celebrated National Poetry Month in April and fostered awareness and appreciation of Latin American culture.

Zulema Moret, director of Latin American Studies, wanted to share a social poetry strategy that she learned in her native Argentina and presented at a seminar in Barcelona. “Poetry whispering” is based on a tradition in France known as the “souffleurs du poeme.” She said, “I wanted to share this wonderful and easy way to communicate poetry with my students and colleagues.”

At Grand Valley, Moret organized a whispering poetry workshop early in April with assistance from Patricia Clark, Grand Valley’s poet-in-residence, and

Ellen Sprouls, Art Gallery curator of education. A group of creative writing and Spanish students painted and decorated six-foot cardboard tubes that were donated by Field’s Fabric, then went to the center of campus and whispered poems through the tubes and into the ears of unsuspecting passersby.

“I saw students get very excited about sharing poems by ‘whispering’ to strangers,” said Clark. “And then to watch, it was beautiful: the whisperer and the listener both seemed transformed by the experience.”

Moret said it was so successful, she involved students from her Chilean literature course to also celebrate Poetry Month by whispering Chilean poems to other students.

At the end of April, Moret expanded the idea into a local community event

co-sponsored by Cook Arts Center, on Grandville Avenue in Grand Rapids. It was an opportunity to be immersed in a day of poetry written in Spanish and English. Interactive events included a poetry-writing workshop, whispering poetry, piñata poetry (breaking a poetry-filled piñata) and poetry reading marathons by the audience and noted local and international Latin American poets. Among the participating poets were Moret and Grand Valley colleagues Médar Serrata, assistant professor of Spanish, and Rebeca Castellanos, a visiting professor. All have widely published their poetry.

Moret has read her poetry at global conferences and poetry fairs. Her poems have been translated into English, Italian, French and German. Among her




photo by Bernadine Carey-

Zulema Moret

published collections are, forthcoming this month, *Una rata en la mesa del poeta*, and in December, the bilingual edition of *Poemas del Desastre*.

Moret has taught Spanish language and Latin American culture classes at Grand Valley since 2004. She also





## Steve Snell, university arborist

Steve Snell can be found most often observing and inspecting trees on campus at Grand Valley, especially in the spring and summer. For 12 years, he has been keeping Grand Valley's 4,800 trees healthy and robust as the university arborist.

With a forestry degree in hand, Snell's main responsibility is to advise tree care at Grand Valley satellite campuses and to look after all the trees on the Allendale Campus, including Grand Valley's arboretum, which holds 700 trees and 200 different plant species.

Snell said he enjoys how diverse his job can be. "Whether it is working on new projects to save trees, inspecting trees for bugs and diseases or planting news ones, I enjoy it all," he said. "Even better, I get paid to walk in the woods and be outside."

*photography by Adam Bird*



# Fall Arts Celebration: classical compositions, contemporary issues, global arts

**F**all Arts Celebration 2011 is set to go at venues in three locations, including downtown Grand Rapids. Grand Valley's gift to the community includes six enriching events, all planned with a focus on the future. FAC spokesperson Fred Antczak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said it is time to move forward to a more interconnected global scene, forward to a more vibrant realm of creative arts, and forward in a very Grand Valley way, showing how each form of art reaches people. All events are free and open to the public.

"This year will be a fun and instructive celebration of the arts," said Antczak. "The schedule as a whole will also have a distinct momentum forward into a future where the

arts thrive not by being elite, but by touching wide circles of people. That will be mirrored in the variety of audiences attracted by the coming year's richly varied events."

**GVSU Music Department Presents**  
**"A Night in Hapsburg Vienna: From the Marriage of Figaro to Fidelio as arranged for Wind Harmonie"**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 8 P.M.  
LOUIS ARMSTRONG THEATRE  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

This opening night event is a rare opportunity to hear opera compositions of Mozart, Beethoven and Rosini as they were originally heard in the many great noble houses of 18th-century Vienna — in

woodwind arrangements.

"You will be able to hear these great and familiar operas with all the original melodies, the duets and trios and finales performed by a wind octet — known then as a 'harmonie' — with two each of oboes, clarinets, horns and bassoons," said Danny Phipps, professor and chair of music. "This performance will include rich and wonderful arrangements from 'Marriage of Figaro,' 'Magic Flute,' 'Don Giovanni,' 'Barber of Seville' and 'Fidelio,' all very upbeat music, but rarely heard this way today. It is going to be really amazing."

The nearly one-hour performance by Grand Valley's Music Department faculty will include narration and vocal soloists taking audiences through the story line of each piece. Phipps said that all of these great operas were arranged either by the composer or the musicians.

"If you were an emperor and you commissioned an opera for the Imperial Theatre, it would only play for about a week, maybe 10 days, then it was done," said Phipps. "But the operas got a second life as outdoor entertainment by harmonie musicians wandering the streets of Vienna or even setting the ambiance in the local taverns."

**Distinguished Academic Lecturer**  
**Michael Sandel, "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?"**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7 P.M.  
EBERHARD CENTER  
2ND FLOOR

A professor of political philosophy at Harvard since 1980, Michael Sandel's wildly popular course, "Justice," has enrolled more than 15,000 students. The introduction to moral and political philosophy has engaged students through active discussion, based on the great philosophers of the past and their relevance to contemporary issues ranging from affirmative action and bioethics, to government bailouts and immigration reform.

Sandel graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brandeis University in 1975 and received a doctorate from Balliol College, Oxford, as a Rhodes scholar.

Antczak called Sandel one of the leading public philosophers of our time. "His recent *New York Times* best-seller, *Justice*, is that rare accomplishment — an excellent work of professional philosophy that is accessible to the public," he said. "And it has had far-reaching impact."

In fact, Sandel's is the first Harvard course to be made



Fall Arts Celebration opens with woodwind arrangements of Mozart, Beethoven and Rosini operas.





2011

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
PRESENTS

# FALL ARTS CELEBRATION

ENRICHING THE ARTS AND  
HUMANITIES IN WEST MICHIGAN



Michael Sandel will bring 'Justice' to campus.

15 foreign languages. Sandel's book, *Justice*, will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture.

### Art Gallery Exhibition "Arte Argentino Actual/Contemporary Argentine Art"

OPENING RECEPTION,  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 5-7 P.M.  
ART GALLERY  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
EXHIBITED OCTOBER 6-  
NOVEMBER 4

The rich and diverse trends in contemporary South American art will be reflected in this eclectic exhibition featuring paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures by Argentine artists Juan Batalla, Daniel Barreto, Pedro Cugnasco, Gretchen Minnhaar and others.

Grand Valley has an established relationship with Batalla, a sculptor who works with wood, rubber, plastics and paint, and his colleague Barreto, a mixed-media artist. Several pieces of their work are in Grand Valley's galleries and collections. Among them is Batalla's "Aeromante," pictured here, which is located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Both artists will travel from Argentina and bring new works to the exhibition.

They have also been invited to participate in ArtPrize 2011 and will be part of this year's DeVos Art Lecture in September.

Cugnasco works in a variety of media, including digital photography, with very intricate detail. Minnhaar, who lives and works in Grand Rapids, has melded her architectural training with her artwork, noted for its vibrant colors and subjective perspectives. Her work has been exhibited throughout the world and is held in many corporate and private collections in West Michigan, New York, Argentina and Spain.

The exhibition will also include a wall of 57 photographs, "Imagine Buenos Aires," curated by Zulema

Moret, Grand Valley's director of Latin American Studies. They depict the city as interpreted by a group of 12 talented, emerging photographers. Exhibition coordinator Henry Matthews, director of galleries and collections, said the images provide an insider's view of Buenos Aires not usually seen by the casual tourist.

This Fall Arts Celebration exhibition will be enhanced and supported with a series of music, dance, film, video and visiting artists programs throughout October. For details, visit [www.gvsu.edu/artgallery](http://www.gvsu.edu/artgallery).

freely available online ([www.JusticeHarvard.org](http://www.JusticeHarvard.org)). Segments of his lectures have aired on PBS, BBC and in Japan on NHK. His book, essays and lectures have captured audiences, in part, because of his engaging style and wealth of knowledge that brings historic context to bear on contemporary issues.

His other books include *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*, *Democracy's Discontent*, *Public Philosophy: Essays on Morality in Politics* and *The Case Against Perfection: Ethics in the Age of Genetic Engineering*. His work has been translated into



'Aeromante,'  
2006, by Juan Batalla





Ted Kooser



Terrance Hayes

### Poetry Night

## “An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Ted Kooser and Terrance Hayes”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7 P.M.  
EBERHARD CENTER  
2ND FLOOR

One of the pillars of contemporary American poetry is being paired with a younger writer who has quickly become one of poetry’s most compelling voices in America, providing some surprising similarities and differences during Poetry Night 2011.

Ted Kooser, born in 1939, was U.S. Poet Laureate for two terms (2004-2006) and was the first poet from the Great Plains to hold the position. An English professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he is the author of 11 collections of poetry, including *Weather Central* and *Delights and Shadows*, which won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize.

Kooser’s writing is known for its clarity, precision and accessibility, and his poems are included in textbooks and anthologies used in both

secondary schools and college classrooms across the country. In addition to poetry, Kooser has written a variety of plays, fiction, personal essays, literary criticism and children’s books.

The Poetry Foundation describes his work as “accessible verse that celebrates the quotidian and captures a vanishing way of life ... populated by farmers, family ancestors and heirlooms ... but escape nostalgia in part because of their clear-eyed appraisal of its hardships.”

Of special interest to local audiences may be the collection of poems Kooser wrote in correspondence with Michigan native Jim Harrison, fellow writer and friend, whose lifetime papers are held in Grand Valley’s Special Collections. In *Winter Morning Walks: 100 Postcards to Jim Harrison* (2001) Kooser writes in metaphor about his battle with cancer and the possibility of his dying from it. The book won the 2001 Nebraska Book Award for poetry. *Braided Creek: A Conversation in Poetry* (2003) is comprised of short poems

Kooser and Harrison wrote to each other while Kooser was recovering.

Terrance Hayes, born in 1971, is the accomplished author of four award-winning books of poetry: *Lighthead* (2010), winner of the 2010 National Book Award in poetry; *Wind in a Box*, winner of a Pushcart Prize; *Hip Logic*, winner of the National Poetry Series; and *Muscular Music*, winner of both the Whiting Writers Award and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

A native of South Carolina, Hayes excelled in basketball and painting prior to turning his focus to writing and the graduate program at Carnegie Mellon University, where he now teaches creative writing. In fact some of his book covers feature his artwork.

In a PBS interview Hayes spoke of taking his first poetry classes in Pittsburgh and how the area was the focus for many of his poems. His work also confronts racism, sexism, religion, family structure and stereotypes with overwhelming imagery and what has been deemed “brilliant turns of phrase” with “grace, tenderness and disarming humor” by critics. Using a range of forms and voices, Hayes explores the many factors that shape identity and the struggle for freedom within containment.

“Surprise is the engine that drives me to keep writing,” Hayes said. “A discovery or two is usually buried beneath the first thoughts and assumptions ... to be excavated by both the writer and the reader.”

Kooser and Hayes both provide insights of identity by exploring their cultures and environments, though vastly different in their experiences and approaches. Together at Fall Arts Celebration, they will provide much to contemplate

and enjoy. A reception and book signing will follow the event.

### Music and Dance Faculty and Students Present

## “The Spanish Tradition: Manuel de Falla, *El corregidor y la molinera*”

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 8 P.M.  
LOUIS ARMSTRONG THEATRE  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The cultural identity of Spain was heavily influenced by the convergence of various Christian and Islamic rulers throughout history and the traditions they left behind. Manuel de Falla captured these influences, as found in the folk music and dance of his native Andalusia, and incorporated them into his ballets. The haunting music and exuberant dance of flamenco has since become known worldwide.

After many years of formal study of music composition in Paris, De Falla composed the ballet, “*El corregidor y la molinera*,” translated as “The Magistrate and the Miller’s Wife,” first performed in Madrid in 1917. The ballet was later expanded, scored for a large orchestra and renamed “*El sombrero de tres picos*,” or “The Three-Cornered Hat,” first performed in London in 1919, with sets and costumes done by Pablo Picasso.

The original ballet was more pantomime than dance, as was popular at the time. It portrays a brief story of two couples of different class standing and how their lives become intertwined throughout a rambunctious and comedic evening of seduction. Scenes are interspersed with dances by townspeople and capture the Spanish culture of music and dance as part of their daily lives.

Fall Arts Celebration presents this historic ballet in



a brilliant new choreographic interpretation by dance faculty member Shawn T Bible. While a small orchestra of Grand Valley music faculty and students will perform the historical music, the dance will have a modern twist, while including many traditional flamenco elements.

“Flamenco was traditionally done as a solo dancer responding in a spontaneous way to a local musician, usually playing on a guitar. It was all very improvisational,” said Bible. “Though this performance is staged, we’ve kept the feeling of spontaneity in both the music and dance. The staging will incorporate a semi-circle shape of performers, giving the audience a sense of peering into the town square, which is where much early flamenco happened.”

The costumes are also a modern interpretation. Bible says they have maintained traditional elements, including sexy bodices and full-ruffled skirts for playful movement, but he selected bright modern colors to add even more visual excitement to this unique performance.

**A Fall Arts Celebration  
Holiday Gift**

**“Gloria: Music of the  
Holiday Season from  
Grand Valley”**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 8 P.M.  
FOUNTAIN STREET CHURCH  
GRAND RAPIDS

The University Arts  
Chorale and soloists will join  
Music Department faculty

and students for a special performance of two Baroque holiday music masterpieces: Antonio Vivaldi’s “Gloria” and Arcangelo Corelli’s “Christmas Concerto.” Fountain Street Church was selected for its superb acoustics and central location for Grand Valley’s holiday gift performance to the West Michigan community.

Though one of the most famous composers from the Baroque Era, the great bulk of Vivaldi’s music lay virtually unknown until after the end of World War I. In 1926, through a chance discovery of nearly 400 unknown manuscripts found among crates of old documents up for sale, the music of this great Italian Master was unleashed upon the modern world. “Gloria” was among those manuscripts that had lain in near obscurity for two centuries after the composer’s death.

Written in about 1715 for the choir of a girls’ orphanage in Venice, where Vivaldi spent most of his career composing sacred works, “Gloria” has come to symbolize the very best of all of the music of the holiday season. This monumental piece, with the sunny nature of its distinctive melodies coupled with the brilliant harmony and the rhythms, is characteristic of all of Vivaldi’s music.

Corelli was a seminal figure of Baroque music a generation earlier and is recognized as setting the foundations of the genre later adapted by Vivaldi, Handel and Bach. Born



photo by Amanda Pitts

Spanish dance traditions will be featured October 24.

to a wealthy family, Corelli enjoyed a successful career during the time the music publishing industry in Italy was flourishing. His fame and wealth allowed nearly all of his works to be printed and circulated internationally during his lifetime (1653-1713), though ironically his most famous “Christmas Concerto,” or “Fatto per la notte di Natale,” first appeared in print a year after his death. Later known as “Concerto Grosso in G-, Op.6, No. 8.” isolated movements from this work were adapted by other composers, providing them their own fame.

“This is a rare opportunity to hear this iconic and upbeat performance with professional performers in the Fountain Street Church venue,” said



Vivaldi’s ‘Gloria’ will be featured December 5 at Fountain Street Church.

Phipps. “That the public is invited to attend, without cost, is a true gift to the community.”

ALL FALL ARTS CELEBRATION PERFORMANCES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.GVSU.EDU/FALLARTS](http://WWW.GVSU.EDU/FALLARTS), CALL (616) 331-2180, OR SCAN THE CODE TO THE RIGHT WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.





## Q&amp;A

## Damon Arnold

photo by Elizabeth Lienau

Damon Arnold is director of the Laker Academic Center, which provides advising and academic support services to 500 student-athletes. Arnold is a former college athlete and knows the rigors of keeping up with practices, games and classes. He earned a doctorate in educational administration from Washington State University and a master's degree in sports psychology at the University of Idaho. Also a motivational speaker, Arnold talked about his job, the move from California and his involvement in Toastmasters with *Grand Valley Magazine's* Michele Coffill.

**GVM:** You used to live on the West Coast. How did you end up at Grand Valley?

**DA:** It's a pretty indicative story of how things in my life seem to have a way of working out. I used to work in the Multicultural Affairs office at Washington State University, and I did my doctoral thesis on African American student-athletes and their experiences

in predominately white institutions. During that work I realized how much I missed being around athletics.

I saw this posting for Grand Valley State and knew it would get me closer to my grandmother who lives in Cleveland. So I applied and about a week later, was asked to come for the interview. My interview went really well and I was excited about the position. When I got back to Washington I still was unsure of what to do — whether I would leave a Division I university and move my family across the country.

A few days later, on a Saturday, I turned on ESPN and there's Grand Valley playing football in the 2003 national championship against North Dakota State. I called my friends to tell them to watch; they didn't believe me. I told my wife, Sharalle, the game was on and she said, "Maybe it's a sign."

So after they won the game I called (athletic director) Tim Selgo, thinking he would be at home watching. He answered

his phone and said he was very happy I would take the job, but that they were loading the plane and asked that I call back on Monday. I thought, wow, he's in Alabama for the game; he really goes the extra mile to be there for the students — this is going to be a great fit.

**GVM:** Why do student-athletes need the Laker Academic Center?

**DA:** With all of the things that our student-athletes do, not only on the court or field but also in the classroom, the Laker Academic Center offers them resources and an office that supports them. All students at Grand Valley have resources to help them succeed in the classroom, and student-athletes have a counselor or advisor to help them navigate their way and find those support systems.

What's unique about my position is that I don't report to the Athletic Department. I work for the Student Academic Success Center. Establishing these centers is the direction

that Grand Valley has taken. Every college has its own advising center: Seidman College of Business, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Health Professions and others.

I was very fortunate that when they were remodeling the Fieldhouse, I asked for, and received, space for a computer lab. Now our student-athletes are able to have quick access to a lab and support services right where they train and practice.

**GVM:** What's your relationship with faculty members like?

**DA:** The relationship is great. When I first got here, one of my goals was to establish relationships with everyone on campus. The more support we have for student-athletes, the more chances they have to succeed.

Professors have great working relationships with student-athletes; they truly want to see what is in the best interest for the student. What I like about faculty members is that



they take the athlete out of student-athlete and treat them no different than others in their classes. I am always clear with a professor that they need to give a student the grade he or she deserves. If a student isn't doing well, I give that information back to the coaches and we work with the student on what happens next, like if more tutoring is needed.

**GVM:** What's a typical day like for you?

**DA:** I work primarily with the football and basketball teams and anyone who falls under a certain GPA. Mornings are usually full of meetings until it's time for practices to start.

I also oversee our Student Athletic Advisory Committee, which is responsible for a lot of community service projects, and Athletes Who Care, which puts our student-athletes in Grand Valley's charter schools for mentoring, reading or watching the playground — whatever the schools need. Then we bus those charter school kids in for games.

**GVM:** What sports did you play in high school?

**DA:** Football. I was a running back and pretty good, too. I had an opportunity to play in the Arena Football League but also had a chance to get my master's degree, so I went the academic route.

**GVM:** You don't hide the fact that you were kicked out of school. What happened?

**DA:** When I was a freshman in high school, I sort of disappeared from classes for a while, was kicked out and ended up going to a continuation school. I did get my diploma and went to junior college in California to play football. I think because the college was located so close to my high school, I ran into the same old habits and hung with the same old people. So I was kicked off the team. Later I smartened up

and called another junior college 30 minutes from my hometown and enrolled there. Actually, I ended up playing football there for my old high school coach.

**GVM:** Student-athletes juggle practices, travel time and games while keeping up with homework. What time management advice do you give?

**DA:** I get to them early, during their first year here, and tell them they need to take ownership of their education in order to be successful. I tell them to have conversations with their professors early in the semester, get their assignments ahead of time for when they'll be gone and make sure those assignments are done. It's not up to their professors to remember when they'll be gone.

We also have life skills presentations in which someone from the Counseling Center will lead sessions like "Study Smarter, Not Harder."

**GVM:** Which do you get more excited about: a national championship or a team that has the highest GPA among all conference teams?

**DA:** What excites me more is the academic side of it, and I'm not just saying that. I know when the student-athletes leave here, they will need their academics to transform their communities.

What's most exciting is going to Van Andel Arena for commencement. When I see someone walk across that stage, knowing they had struggles and doubts along the way, and then they hug their dad and the dad is crying ... when I see that, that's what it's all about.

**GVM:** What keeps you busy away from work?

**DA:** We've got two great kids and I am really just a dad who loves being at home with them. I also like working out and, over the past five years or so, I've really gotten into motivational

speaking. I love doing it. Most of my speeches are centered around my motto: encouraging education to empower a generation.

**GVM:** Where have you given presentations? What do you talk about?

**DA:** I talk mostly about my life experiences. I go to schools, high school graduations; sometimes organizations will have me come in.

**GVM:** How did you hone your public speaking skills?

**DA:** I learned a lot through my involvement with the Toastmasters chapter here on campus. It helps you recognize what we call "fillers," the ums

and ahs that people use when they're speaking. During every meeting, there is a grammarian who checks your sentence structure, and someone else keeps the time — it really helps a lot.

In fact, I was fortunate enough to advance to the division level in a Toastmasters competition called Tall Tales. You make up a story and speak for five to seven minutes.

**GVM:** What was your story about?

**DA:** I made up a story about a superhero, Toast Man. In my story I saved three people: Bill Gates, Beyoncé and Oprah. It was a good story.



photo by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Damon Arnold, director of the Laker Academic Center, gives a presentation during the annual Administrative/Professional luncheon.





## Preserving the ravines — by Dottie Barnes

Part of the beauty of Grand Valley's Allendale Campus is the wooded ravines that run along the Grand River. They are filled with popular, beautiful hiking trails and wildlife. But the growth of campus has brought challenges. The ravines have been deeply eroded by stormwater runoff.

Different student and faculty groups have worked to protect the ravines over the years, and in 2006, a faculty stormwater advisory group was formed. Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, is part of that group and has conducted research in the ravines.

In 2006, he and student Patrick Womble received funding from the Student Summer Scholar program to install stream gauges and study runoff in what Wampler calls Grand Valley's "secret garden."

"We knew there was a lot of water getting into the ravines, we just didn't know how much," said Wampler. "We determined that fast, high-volume flows of water were coming into the ravines in a very short period of time, causing erosion. A lot of time and money has been spent over the years to

fix the erosion, but our goal now is to find ways to prevent the water from arriving."

Wampler said data have been collected from several different sites and the results have been shared with Grand Valley's Facilities Services to find ways to redirect the water and make more informed decisions about future development. James Moyer, assistant vice president for Facilities Services, has been instrumental in implementing changes to improve stormwater. The new Mary Idema Pew Library Commons will result in what Wampler calls the single biggest stormwater change to date.

"As the library is being built, a stormwater pipe will take water from the parking lots that was once directed to the Little Mac ravines and redirect it to a wetland complex on Pierce Street," said Wampler. "This is a huge amount of water being redirected; it is a very exciting change. A student and I are collecting data to document the change."

Wampler said an effort is being made for all new construction to be runoff

neutral, noting the Pew Library will actually reduce water runoff. He said he is also monitoring the rain gardens that were put in during recent building projects.

"The rain gardens by the Kelly Family Sports Center are making a huge difference in absorbing water and the small gardens put in around the Honors housing are each doing their part to allow water to infiltrate into the ground," he said.

The use of permeable asphalt in Parking Lot C and some sidewalk areas around campus has helped keep stormwater from reaching outlet drains.

The goal of the advisory group is to return Grand Valley to runoff levels that were present in 1960. In the meantime, Wampler said the ravines make the perfect classroom; each semester his environmental geology students find problems and solutions for the ravines. The constructed wetlands serve as a living laboratory for studying ecosystems, hydrology, wildlife and water chemistry, he added.

Learn more about what is happening with stormwater sustainability at [www.gvsu.edu/stormwater](http://www.gvsu.edu/stormwater).

### Construction of the Pew Library will actually reduce water runoff.

— Peter Wampler,  
associate professor of geology



photos by Amanda Pitts

Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, has conducted research in the ravines on stormwater runoff and erosion.



## Going for the 'green'

### Brain power will outdo electrical power in new library

— by Leah Zuber

When the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons opens fall 2013, the energy used to operate the 140,000 square foot building will be half of what is normally associated with a building of its size.

As part of Grand Valley's recognized sustainability efforts, the Pew Library, named for board member Kate Pew Wolters' mother, will join 16 LEED-certified buildings on campus, including the L. William Seidman Center. It will become the first Platinum-level building on campus, which is the highest attainable LEED status. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council that certifies environmentally sustainable construction projects.

James Moyer, assistant vice president for Facilities Services, said the university has been working with the Michigan Department of Energy to ensure energy needed to operate the library will be cut in half through energy-saving initiatives.

"We're seeking energy conservation solutions that work today as well as 20 years from now," said Moyer. "That includes building exterior facilities that retain heat better and prevent heat from being lost."

The Pew Library will include sensor-based lighting systems that dim artificial lighting when natural lighting reaches a certain level, and paints, carpets and wood products with low emissions that will reduce air pollutants.

Moyer said the library will

be constructed using as many local products and services as possible. Some parts of the building will be finished with recycled wood scrap from local furniture factories.

"If something will need repairs, we're not going to call someone from California, we're going to call someone from Michigan," he said.

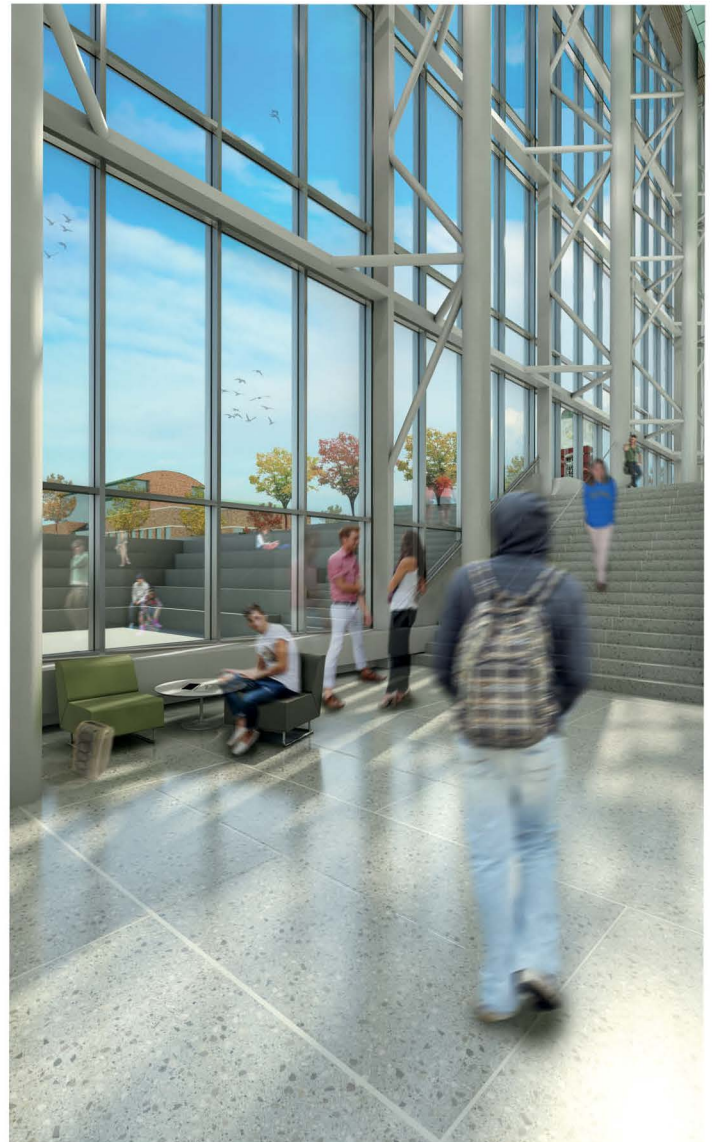
In addition, two automated storage and retrieval systems will be installed. Similar to the retrieval system in the Steelcase Library on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, the systems will house 600,000 books, while 150,000 books will be on open shelves throughout the library.

"We'd like to place the books in the smallest footprint as possible," said Lynell De Wind, director of planning and organizational resources for University Libraries. "That will save energy and costs because we won't have to light, heat and cool as much space."

De Wind said most students prefer to use electronic books. "When there's a choice between purchasing a paper book versus an electronic book, we buy the electronic version when appropriate," she said.

Moyer explained that creating a sustainable environment at the Pew Library will not only be about using the latest sustainable materials and technology. "A big component of our success will be changing human behaviors as well," he said.

A Library Sustainable Steering Committee was recently established to find ways to educate students, staff and faculty about applying best energy-conscious practices.



The Pew Library will contain a variety of sustainable features, such as sensor-based lighting systems.

"It's important that we change our thinking process on some things in order to make sure some of these sustainable efforts don't go to waste," said De Wind.

De Wind noted that nothing is gained when someone plugs in a space heater, so it's important to explain to people how energy can be saved if they bring a sweater to work instead of running a heater.

"We've added about a million square feet to Grand Valley since 2008, but we've reduced our energy consumption by 10

percent," said Moyer. "We're continually looking for ways to be a more sustainable university socially, environmentally and economically."

The Pew Library will provide approximately 1,500 seats for student study, 20 group study rooms, and offices and support areas for faculty and staff members. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/library/newbuilding](http://www.gvsu.edu/library/newbuilding) to see design renderings, floor plans and to take a virtual tour of the library.





photos by Dianne Carroll Burdick

Ray Bennett, '92, moderates a student/alumni roundtable at the Alumni House in November.

## On the way to the top, hotelier remembers the climb

Ray Bennett, '92, sees his life with uncommon clarity. He knows exactly where his turning points were, he understands the choices he's made and he's stayed true to his foremost guiding principle: humility.

His focus and clear vision are reasons why he rose from modest beginnings to success at two Fortune 500 companies. But perhaps his most distinguishing mark — a commitment to giving back — was plainly visible last fall. That's when Bennett returned to Grand Valley some 20 years after graduating, sharing his time and talent while also bearing a gift that will keep on giving to future Lakers: a scholarship named for his mentor.

Bennett is currently the area vice president for Midwest states at Marriott International. He is in charge of ensuring the day-to-day operations of all

Marriott hotels in the Midwest are successful, conforming to corporate standards and meeting corporate goals. His territory includes the Detroit Renaissance Center and other full-service hotels in five states.

Bennett previously held two successive vice president positions for lodging development of five Marriott hotel brands, including Courtyard, in several eastern states. Additionally, he oversaw Marriott's Diversity Ownership Program to help increase hotel ownership among women and minorities. Prior to those roles, he held management positions at a number of hotels in northern Virginia.

In 2001, Bennett joined Marriott International from Pepsi Bottling Group as vice president of a division. Bennett spent 11 years working for Pepsi in various capacities,

beginning as a summer intern while still at Grand Valley.

With that kind of success at multinational corporations, Bennett stands out as a business leader by any measure, including serving as a role model to students of color, as diversity in corporate leadership is increasing. Bennett stands out as a leader for Grand Valley, as well. While pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration, he was among the first students to participate in the university's new Multicultural Business Education Center, established in 1988 and now known as MBEC (Multicultural Business Education Cohort). The center provided support, mentoring and networking for students of color, many who were the first in their families to attend college, like Bennett.

"I grew up in Detroit and

went to one of the city's public high schools," Bennett said. "My family didn't have a lot of money; my mom was on welfare from the day I was born to the time I went to Grand Valley. Without MBEC, I may not have gone to college."

Dean Emeritus Don Williams Sr., director of MBEC and the first dean of the Office of Minority (now Multicultural) Affairs, recruited Bennett to Grand Valley. Williams went to Detroit and told Bennett and others about the new program and the scholarships that were available. That visit made the difference, and Bennett was on his way to Allendale.

"In Detroit, you were always told the city's public schools were inferior, so when I first got to Grand Valley I didn't know how it was going to turn out," said Bennett. "When my first semester was done and I got a



**“I know that without the generosity of those early MBEC donors who helped me, my life would’ve been markedly different.”**

**— Ray Bennett, '92**

3.2 or 3.4 grade-point average, I knew then that I could finish college. That was huge.”

Bennett credited his Grand Valley experience as a foundation for his accomplishments and also said that developing character has been important. “What’s made me successful has been a willingness and deep desire to learn. Honesty is also fundamental, and I’ve learned to communicate effectively with a broad range of people,” he said.

“Perhaps most important to me is being humble. That means that no matter how far I go and how high up I get, it is the people around me that got me here. So I have significant respect for everyone I meet, whether it’s Bill Marriott or the doorman.”

A frequent speaker to students, Bennett often shares a time when humility helped him turn failure into success. After failing to make the high school basketball team his sophomore year, he swallowed hard and asked the coach if he could be the team’s ball-boy, a job he did for the next three years. “It was humiliating,” he said, “but I wanted to learn everything the other boys were learning.”

The experience paid off as a junior at Grand Valley, when he made the university team as a walk-on. “One of the parts I remember most is traveling with the team to Europe for exhibition games. I got off the plane at Heathrow Airport in London and it struck me that not many of the high school

players who laughed at me were going to see London, Paris, the Netherlands and Brussels like I was,” he said.

Bennett had the best opportunity to reflect on his success when graduates of MBEC and other Multicultural Cohort Programs returned to campus on November 12, as part of the university’s 50th anniversary. More than 120 guests gathered at the Eberhard Center to celebrate the achievements of program graduates; Bennett was the keynote speaker, and Williams spoke, as well.

Bennett announced he was personally creating an endowed scholarship in honor of Williams. The scholarship, which will be first awarded this fall, will assist MBEC students with the cost of their Grand Valley education.

He said: “Back in 1992, when I walked across that stage at graduation as one of the first 12 students who started in the MBEC program, it was the proudest moment of my life. Don Williams drilled into us early on that if you do well, there will be many opportunities for those who come after you. That’s why it was so exciting for me to go back to Grand Valley 25 years after I enrolled to see the number of kids who did come after us. They validated Don Williams’ vision.”

Bennett gave this gift for personal reasons as well, citing a favorite Bible verse: Luke 12:48, “To whom much is given, much is required.”



At top, Bennett is pictured with Dean Emeritus Don Williams Sr. after the announcement that Bennett established a scholarship to honor his mentor. At bottom, Bennett talks with Mike Remo, '93, director of Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth, at the Multicultural Cohort reunion in November.

“Creating the Don Williams scholarship is a testament to that scripture,” said Bennett. “I know that without the generosity of those early MBEC donors who helped me, my life would’ve been markedly different. Of my two brothers and two sisters, I am the only

one who finished college and it’s made a real economic difference in our lives,” he said.

Bennett lives in Germantown, Maryland, with his wife, Vivian; they have three daughters and a son.





Mark Alderink and Barb Alderink, '73, don aprons before serving lunch to residents at Covenant Village Retirement Community in Grand Rapids.



Victoria Robertson, '01, and Ed Crisman, '69, cook dinner at Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids.

## One week, 64 projects, 1,236 volunteer hands reach out across the globe

The journey to Ewarton, St. Catherine, Jamaica, is nearly 2,000 miles from Allendale, but the distance did not stop Mark Bryson, '09, from participating in Grand Valley's Community Outreach Week 2011.

Bryson was one of 618 volunteers who took part in the weeklong event that promoted volunteerism and alumni unity across the globe. Bryson, currently serving in the Peace Corps, encouraged hundreds of local citizens to sign a petition asking the island's National Works Agency to construct sidewalks in much-needed areas.

From March 21-26, alumni from New York to California and many states in between recorded nearly 2,000 hours of

service. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, the Alumni Association — with help from the Community Service Learning Center — surpassed its goal of 50 projects for the 50th anniversary. From cleaning parks, painting, food banking and reading to children, alumni and student volunteers made a difference and let their communities know what it means to be a Laker, committed to "shaping their societies" as the university's mission promises.

"When crowds of people walk on makeshift paths it creates a major safety hazard," said Bryson. "This project is just one way I can do my part and join other Lakers in making a positive impact."



*courtesy photo*

Mark Bryson, '09, collects signatures for a petition to build better sidewalks in a small Jamaican town during Community Outreach Week 2011.

### COW impact by the numbers

6  
Days

64  
Projects

24  
Cities

3  
Countries

618  
Volunteers

1,965.5  
Hours



## Military nurse, researcher joins Distinguished Alumni

Grand Valley's Alumni Association honored an alumna stationed with the U.S. Army in Germany and a longtime faculty member during April commencement ceremonies at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Lt. Col. Nancy Steele, '85 and '94, is an active-duty registered nurse in the Army and stationed in Landstuhl, Germany. Steele, named Distinguished Alumna, established the first nursing research center

outside of the U.S. and has been recognized for her research on the effects of combat on soldiers in the war zone.

James Sanford, professor of management, was recognized as Outstanding Educator. The students who nominated Sanford said he inspires them to further their careers in the field of business. Both Sanford and Steele were honored at a dinner the night before commencement.



Nancy Steele, '85 and '94, accepts the Distinguished Alumni Award from President Thomas J. Haas.



photos by Amanda Pitts

At center is James Sanford, professor of management, who was named Outstanding Educator; he is with Kevin Schafer, '98, Alumni Association first vice president, and President Thomas J. Haas.



photo by Dianne Carroll Burdick

Distinguished Alumni Award recipients from previous years traveled from all over the country for a special reception and reunion before joining President Thomas J. Haas to celebrate the accomplishments of Nancy Steele, '85 and '94, front row, second from right.



# Chapters, Clubs, and Events

## 1) 2011 grads get warm welcome at Kentucky Derby party

Fresh from the gate (graduation), new graduates mingled with other Young Alumni at the Kentucky Derby Party and New Graduate Welcome on May 7. Nearly 70 attendees donned big hats, feasted on Derby fare, and sipped mint juleps during the event at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Young Alumni Council members Jessica Scudder, '01, and Megan Koops-Fisher, '07 and '08, offered Grand Valley updates and shared ideas of how to stay connected with the university. Young Alumni were presented with prizes for biggest hat, best outfits and best derby interpretation.

Susan Kieda, '10, and Thomas Pikes, '10, are dressed in their derby best before the race.

## 2) Splash from the past: alumnus brings artwork back to Grand Valley

Chicago-based artist Richard Kooyman, '79, came back to his roots for a day in May to celebrate alumni art, and Grand Valley's 50th anniversary at the Art Gallery on the Allendale Campus. With a saxophone quartet playing in the background, alumni, faculty, and guests browsed pieces by more than a dozen students and new alumni artists. Kooyman lives in Chicago but splits his time between his two studios in Michigan and Illinois.

Richard Kooyman, BFA, '79, discusses his latest art pieces with event attendees, and the impact Grand Valley has made on his career.

## 3) Alumni volunteers honored for service to GVSU

A record number of volunteers, 112, turned out for the annual Volunteer

Celebration held at the Alumni House on April 12. Alumni Association Board Member Julie Bulson, '99 and '07, made remarks and recognized the work of volunteers who dedicated time to the university throughout the year. President Thomas J. Haas gave an inspirational talk to participants as they enjoyed beverages and appetizers.

While Community Outreach Week's "50 for 50" campaign was the centerpiece of this year's volunteer program, both speakers recognized the efforts of more than 28 different events involving Laker volunteers throughout the year. The volunteer initiatives ranged from Freshman Move-In and GradFest to fundraisers like Relay for Life, WGVU pledge drive and the All-Alumni Golf Outing.

Pictured are alumni volunteers, from left, Linda Masselink, '68, Rita Kohrman, '02, with JoAnn Baron, '70, and Len Baron at the Alumni House.

## 4-6) Tri-state tour catches alumni where they live

The Alumni Relations team went on the road this spring to meet alumni where they live. Indianapolis Club Leader Jennifer Poad-Baker, '92, hosted an event in Indianapolis at Seasons 52 restaurant. Alumni Association Executive Board member April Robles, '98, hosted alumni in Cincinnati at the iconic eatery Montgomery Inn Boathouse in May. New York City Club leader Darryl Nicholson, '08, hosted an evening of networking and connecting with Laker alumni at Butterfield 8 in Manhattan. Attendees at each of the events watched the 50th anniversary video and learned about the latest campus news.

4) Pictured from left are Bridget Working, '98, Chuck Lepper, '98,



and Chanda Jordan, '07, at Seasons 52 in Indianapolis.

5) Lakers celebrate Grand Valley's 50th anniversary at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse in Cincinnati. Pictured from left are

Littish Bates, '04, Juan Bates, '01, Darian Richardson, '98, and Camille McCray.

6) Alumni gather for a group photo during a reception at Butterfield 8 in Manhattan.



## CAREERS

### 1970s

**Barbara J. (Aleszka) Konwinski, B.A., 1970**, retired after 40 years of teaching for Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic Schools.

**James F. Dunn, B.Phil., 1974**, published his fifth book, *The Apprentice*.

**James R. Spaanstra, B.S., 1974**, was elected chair of the Board of Trustees of the Colorado School of Mines.

**Joseph R. Szmazinski, B.S., 1975**, is chief strategy officer for Secure-27 Inc.

**Margaret M. Willey, B.A., 1975**, received the 2011 Gwen Frostic Award from the Michigan Reading Association. A Distinguished Alumnae, Willey has authored children's books for the past 30 years.

**Jeffrey W. Kik, B.S., 1976**, is a board certified hearing instrument specialist for H.E.A.R.

**William L. Stage, Jr., B.Phil., 1976**, has published his eighth book, *The Painted Ad: A Postcard Book of Vintage Brick Wall Signs*.

**Cathleen A. Luck, B.B.A., 1977**, accepted a controller position at Aquinas College.

**William M. Kaluske Sr., B.S., 1978**, is director of client development for Amicus Management Inc.

**Richard J. Truskoski, Jr., B.S., 1978**, has retired as a science teacher after 31 years at Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School.

**Stuart D. Peet, B.S., 1979**, graduated from Nutrition and Pain College V.A. in Battle Creek.

### 1980s

**David G. Britten, B.S., 1980**, is superintendent of schools for Godfrey-Lee Public Schools.

**Thomas P. Lomonaco, B.B.A., 1981, M.B.A., 1988**, was promoted to market executive at

Bank of America, where he has worked for 10 years.

**W. Dean La Douceur, B.S., 1983**, is executive director for the Southfield Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

**Daniel L. Carter, M.S.T, 1984**, is a CPA for Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter.

**Kimberly J. (Chulski) Sapkowski, B.S., 1986**, is administrative assistant to the dean of Kendall College.

**Carol B. (Kissel) Mills, B.B.A., 1988, M.B.A., 1993**, was appointed to the Board of Education for the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.

**Eric J. Gillman, B.S., 1989**, is chief of police for Redford Township.

**Donald W. Schrupf, M.P.A., 1989**, has retired as chief of police for Muskegon Township Police Department after 27 years of service.

**Laurie E. Westphal, B.A., 1989**, published six books this year.

### 1990s

**Kristine H. Brailey, B.A., 1990**, is a judge for the 18th annual Juried Art Exhibition in Chicago.

**Darrel E. King, B.S., 1990**, is senior associate director for Multicultural Business Programs at Michigan State University and has worked there for 13 years.

**Michael R. DeVries, M.B.A., 1991**, is general partner for EDF Ventures.

**Jaime L. Jewell, B.S., 1991**, is vice president of sales and marketing for The Homestead.

**William J. Smith, B.S., 1991**, is assistant superintendent for Kent Intermediate School District.

**Steven F. Stapleton, B.A., 1991**, is a shareholder and director of law for Law Weathers. He serves as chair of the public

sector practice group for Law Weather's Executive Committee.

**Steven P. Rand, B.S., 1992**, is the sheriff for Jackson County.

**Frank M. Buscemi, B.S., 1993**, is the director of marketing and communications for TI Automotive.

**Tina M. Zawacki, B.S., 1993**, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She was awarded two NIH grants to support her research program.

**Leroy Hernandez, B.S., 1994**, is director for Hispanic American Council of Kalamazoo.

**Carol (Ballard) Jones, B.N., 1994**, received the 2011 Nurse Exemplar award from Metro Health.

**John H. Bultema III, B.B.A., 1995**, is president of Fifth Third Bank of West Michigan and leads the entire business banking division.

**James P. Monterusso, M.B.A., 1995**, is general manager for Veolia Energy.

**Heath T. Kaplan, B.A., 1996, M.P.A., 2004**, is director of finance and management services for Muskegon County.

**Mark A. Howe, B.S., 1997**, is the city manager for Ionia County.

**Stacey J. Bierling, B.F.A., 1999**, is owner and designer for Stacey Bierling Design.

**Ryan M. Henige, B.S., 1999**, is vice president for the Analytics Attribution Team of BlackRock.

**Christine A. (Grohowski) Nicometo, B.A., 1999**, is associate faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### 2000s

**Domingo C. Quintanilla, B.A., 2000**, is a Movie Phone voice-over artist for NCG Cinemas.

**Jessica H. (Vandermeer) Scudder, B.B.A., 2001**, is the district manager-independent agencies operations for

Foremost Insurance. She had worked as senior sales representative for Principal Financial Group for seven years.

**Wendy E. Withrow, B.F.A., 2001**, opened Windy Weather Bindery in Grand Rapids.

**Amanda M. (Weis) Beaver, B.A., 2002**, works for Barnes & Noble at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and Ivy Tech Community College.

**Patrick M. Bailey, M.S., 2003**, has worked as assistant professor of computer science and information systems for Calvin College since 2006.

**Benjamin J. Jewell, B.S., 2003**, received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. He teaches at Bauer Elementary School in Hudsonville.

**Joy A. Milano, M.Ed., 2003**, is registrar and director of assessment for Kuyper College. She had been assistant professor of writing and communications.

**Phillip B. Slot, B.B.A., 2003**, is associate for Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos PC in the firm's Battle Creek office.

**Nicole J. Gorton, B.S., 2004**, is a finalist for the 2011 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Award. She is a teacher at Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez in Chicago, Illinois.

**Chad N. Mockerman, B.S., 2005**, is director of operational excellence and climate solutions for Ingersoll Rand.

**Ben L. O'Connor, B.S., 2005**, established O'Connor's Home Brew Supply.

**Christine L. Brown, B.B.A., 2006**, is social media manager for Infor.

**Jason M. DeBoer, B.B.A., 2006**, is marketing manager for Daymon Worldwide.

**Douglas W. La Fave, M.P.A., 2006**, received the City/Village Manager of the Year award from Michigan Rural Water Association.



## ALUMNAE HONORED FOR 2011 TOP WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

The *Grand Rapids Business Journal* announced its Top Women Owned Businesses in West Michigan for 2011, eight alumnae entrepreneurs were recognized.

**Janis E. (Smith) Kemper, B.S., 1988**, co-owner of Northern Physical Therapy;

**Catherine E. (Gorton) Lazarock, B.A., 1996**, president of Simplicity Communications Inc.;

**Gina P. Otterbein, B.S., 1990**, co-owner of Northern Physical Therapy;

**Karen A. (Workinger) Scarpino, B.S., 1989**, president/owner of Promotional Impact & Green Giftz;

**Virginia M. Seyferth, B.A., 1983**, owner and president of SeyferthPR;

**Michelle R. (Barney) Troseth, B.S., 1983, M.N., 1997**, chief professional practice officer for CPM Resource Center;

**Beverly S. (Fishell) Wall, B.B.A., 1987**, CEO of Languages International;

**Christine F. (Frederick) Willis, B.S., 1983**, CEO of Media 1.

**Amanda M. Lechenet, B.B.A., 2006**, is value based procurement diverter for DelHaize America.

**Christianne C. Sainz, B.S., 2006**, is a member of the Stand Up 8 circus troupe.

**Huynh Tran, B.S., 2006**, is a resident physician for Bassett-Columbia Medical Center.

**Tina L. Chartier, B.A., 2007**, is varying exceptionalities teacher for Cleveland Elementary.

**Bennie S. Covington, B.S., 2007**, is certified stress strategist for Rope Training Inc.

**Nicole L. (Morris) Dahl, B.N., 2007**, is RN circulator for MidMichigan Medical Center.

**Jennifer L. Geerlings, B.A., 2008**, will serve in the Peace Corps as a secondary English education volunteer.

**Bradley J. Gibbons, B.S., 2008**, is coordinator of franchise communications for Victory Lane Quick Oil Change.

**Joshua D. Lewis, B.S., 2008**, is co-host for Spike TV's reality show "Repo Games."

**Jeffrey A. Novosad, M.S.A., 2008**, is senior financial and operational auditor for Meijer, where he has worked since 2008.

**Brittany J. Rademaker, B.B.A., 2008**, is a sales agent for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

**Douglas A. Fischer, M.B.A., 2009**, is a new project manager for Egemin Automation Inc.

**Maxine Y. Gray, M.S., 2009**, is a talent recruiter associate for Herman Miller.

**Brent A. Wallenburg, B.S., 2009**, and his wife opened 1 Plus 1 Pediatric Physical Therapy, a pediatric physical therapy clinic in Zeeland.

**Kimberly A. Hughes, B.S., 2010**, is patient access representative for Saint Mary's Health Care.

**Chelsey L. (Strumberger) Koster, B.A., 2010**, is employee benefits specialist for Advantage Benefits Group.

**Ivy R. Kowalski, B.S., 2010**, is volunteer and reverse job shadow coordinator for Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes.

**Amanda C. Mendez, B.A., 2010**, is a special education teacher for Muskegon Public Schools.

**Olivia Wofford, B.A., 2010**, joined Tata Technologies in Novi as a marketing specialist.

## MARRIAGES

### 1990s

**Tia M. Moore, B.A., 1990**, and Asa Young on October 10, 2009.

### 2000s

**Amanda M. Weis, B.A., 2002**, and Jeremiah Bever in August, 2010.

**Sarah J. Dowdy, B.S., 2002, M.S., 2005**, and **Aaron Bansen, B.S., 2003, M.S., 2005**, on March 19, 2011.

**Douglas B. Tubman, B.S., 2003**, and Nicole Fisher on June 26, 2010.

**Julie A. Miner, B.S., 2007**, and Michael L. Grabowski on August 21, 2010.

**Nicole L. Morris, B.N., 2007**, and Andy Dahl on September 10, 2010.

**Patrick M. Reinke, B.S., 2007**, and **Georgina M. Luoma, B.S., 2007**, on April 15, 2011.

**Josh T. Breimayer, B.S., 2009**, and **Annika R. Cunningham, B.A., 2009**, on October 8, 2010.

**Aaron K. Haller, B.S., 2009**, and **Meisha L. Raven, B.S., 2010**, on August 29, 2010.

**Andrew S. Kiste, B.A., 2010**, and Andrea Scheffers on June 26, 2010.

**Chelsey L. Strumberger, B.A., 2010**, and Zachary Koster on October 9, 2009.

## BIRTHS

### 1970s

**William L. Stage, B.P., 1976**, and wife Mary welcome a daughter, Thalia Grace, born February 9, 2011. Thalia was welcomed by sisters Maia, Olivia, Sophia,

Margaret and brother William. The family resides in St. Louis.

### 1980s

**Jamie J. Jelinek-Starr, B.A., 1989, M.P.A., 1995**, and husband William welcome a daughter, Josephine Grace, born February 12, 2011. Josephine was welcomed by brothers Brady, James and Austin. The family resides in Linton, Indiana.

### 1990s

**Michael W. Arney, B.S., 1994**, and wife Jennifer welcome a daughter, Kennedy Elizabeth, born February 25. The family resides in Westfield, Indiana.

**Susan M. (Ghareeb) Tuthill, B.S., 1994**, and **Timothy T. Tuthill, B.S., 1993**, announce a son, David Archie, born February 2, 2011. David was welcomed by brothers Benjamin and Jacob. The family resides in Mason.

**Michael K. Aenis, B.S., 1997, M.P.T., 1999**, and wife Jennifer welcome a son, Trevor Kenneth, born June 21, 2010. The family resides in East Jordan.

**Kristen S. (Morin) Scanlon, B.S.W., 1997**, and husband John announce a son, Jack Robert, born February 4, 2011. Jack was welcomed by sister Katherine. The family resides in Ada.

**Wendy L. (Schafer) Cammet, B.B.A., 1998**, and **Kevin C. Cammet, B.S., 1998**, welcome a son, Reid Charles, born March 17, 2011. Reid was welcomed by brother Connor. The family resides in Caledonia.

**Elizabeth J. (Woodliff) Garbe, B.S.W., 1998, M.S.W., 2000**, and husband Jay announce a daughter, Lacey Jae, born July 21, 2010. Lacey was welcomed by sister Faith. The family resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Faith C. (Chichester) Opiela, B.S., 1998, M.Ed., 2002, 2006**, and husband Mark, announce a daughter, Annalise Genevieve, born November 18, 2010. The family resides in Grand Haven.



**2000s**

**Renee K. (Munson) Tracey, B.S., 2000, M.Ed., 2004, and Todd A. Tracey B.B.A., 1991,** welcome a son, Caelan Anthony, born April 13. Caelan was welcomed by brother Max.

**Carin A. (Carney) Bishop, B.B.A., 2000,** and husband William welcome a son, Kyle Michael, born November 20, 2010. The family resides in Auburn Hills.

**Dawn M. (Schneider) Fedewa, B.S., 2000,** and husband Jeff announce a son, Simon Jeffrey, born January 21, 2011. Simon was welcomed by siblings Alex, Kenzie and Sean. The family resides in Sunfield.

**Domingo Quintanilla, B.A., 2000,** and wife Layne welcome a son, Zane Carlisle, born March 5, 2011. The family resides in Grand Ledge.

**Jenny E. Aykroyd, B.A., 2001,** and husband Daniel welcome a son, Brendan Todd, born February 17, 2011. Brendan was welcomed by sibling Alex. The family resides in Westfield, Indiana.

**Levi A. Haight, B.S., 2001,** and **Kristin M. (Anderson) Haight, B.A., 2002,** announce a son, Ezekiel Adam, born January 1, 2011. Ezekiel was welcomed by siblings Kaitlin and Malachi. The family resides in Grand Haven.

**Jessica N. (Garrett) Harsch, B.S., 2001,** and **Eric R. Harsch, B.S., 2003,** announce a son, Jeffrey Robert, born July 9, 2010. The family resides in Severn, Maryland.

**Jeremy I. Payne, B.S., 2001,** and **Danielle S. (Woodliff) Payne, B.S., 2004,** announce a son, Bennett Robert, born December 17, 2010. Bennett was welcomed by brother Braddock. The family resides in Shepherd.

**Meagan A. (Luttenton) Knoll, B.A., 2002,** and husband Matthew announce a daughter, Lillian Grace, born April 28,

2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

**Lisa A. (Boessenkool) Makinen, B.S., 2002,** and **Karl J. Makinen, B.S., 2004,** announce a daughter, Anja Elizabeth, on December 2, 2010. The family resides in Rochelle, Illinois.

**Todd Noorman, B.A., 2002,** and wife Lisa announce a son, Landon John, born February 3, 2011. The family resides in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

**Amanda (Van Dop) VanPopering, B.A., 2002,** and husband John announce a daughter, Allison Mae, born February 15, 2011. Allison was welcomed by sister Charlotte. The family resides in Grant.

**Holly A. Frisk-Johnson, B.S., 2003,** and husband Jacob welcome a son, Cohl Richard, born September 10, 2010. The family resides in Shwano, Wisconsin.

**Jason A. Labaumbard, B.S., 2003,** and wife Jennifer announce a daughter, Taylor Ava, born March 16, 2011. The family resides in Wyoming.

**Sarah J. Mainville, B.A., 2003,** and **James R. Voges, B.A., 2005,** announce a daughter, Henrietta Louise Voges, born February 21, 2011. The family resides in Tainan, Taiwan.

**Scott F. Kosten, B.S., 2003,** and **Lyndsey B. (Vitek) Kosten, B.S., 2004, M.Ed., 2008,** announce a daughter, Alivia Mari, born January 19, 2011. The family resides in Allendale.

**Leenette K. Walls, B.A., 2003,** and husband Robert announce a daughter, Arabella Guinevere, born April 1. Arabella was welcomed by siblings Aurora and Ciaran. The family resides in Holland.

**Emily R. (Castillo) Caudell, B.S., 2005,** and **Scott J. Caudell, B.S., 2005,** announce a daughter, Hannah Joy, born November 22, 2010. The family resides in Saint Joseph.

**Katherine R. (Bradford) Herrick, B.B.A., 2005,** and **Isaac J. Herrick, B.A., 2006,** announce a daughter, Lillian Rose, born February 23, 2011. The family resides in Wyoming.

**Sarah M. (Lathers) Mathews, B.A., 2005,** and husband Kyle announce a son, Drew Thomas, born February 24, 2011. Drew was welcomed by brother William. The family resides in Ludington.

**Tamara A. McPherson, B.S., 2005,** and her husband Branden Hairston welcome a son, Branden Allen, born August 25, 2010. The family resides in Northville.

**Heather N. (Bolhuis) Stob, B.S., 2006,** and husband Arron announce a daughter, Alice Jean, born September 15, 2010. Alice was welcomed by siblings Grace, Mara and Jack. The family resides in Jenison.

**Brittany A. (Barton) Heaton, B.A., 2008,** and husband Trent welcome a son, Jackson Trent, born April 14, 2010. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

**Amy L. (Snooks) Hinman, B.N., 2008,** and **Adam J. Hinman, B.B.A., 2007,** announce a son,

Wesley Adam James, born March 28, 2011. The family resides in Grand Rapids.

**Kristen (Plaunt) Schoenborn, B.S., 2005, D.P.T., 2008,** and **Ryan Schoenborn B.S., 2008,** welcome a daughter Olivia Jean, born March 15, 2011. The family resides in Gobles.

**IN MEMORIAM****1970s**

**Marybelle H. Schipper,** of Holland, Michigan, B.S., 1978, on March 3, 2011.

**1980s**

**Ausma O. Linde,** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, M.Ed., 1984, on March 9, 2011.

**1990s**

**Jennifer M. Kline,** of Wyoming, Michigan, B.B.A., 1996, on August 6, 2010.

**Jason J. Kinzler,** of Wyoming, Michigan, B.B.A., 1997, on May 14, 2011.

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# Night owl turns lack of sleep into time to help others

— by Dottie Barnes



**I**t takes about 10 minutes for Sally Vissers to transform a pillowcase into a dress for a little girl in Haiti or the Dominican Republic. The dresses are colorful, each with a unique design, and decorated with bright flowers and trim.

Vissers, department coordinator for Liberal Studies and Women and Gender Studies, got the idea after reading a newspaper article about another local woman who was making the dresses.

“I’m not very artistic,” said Vissers. “I learned how that woman was making them; it’s easy enough to do. People have come to know what I’m doing and I have received a lot of donated pillowcases.”

Some of the pillowcases come with patterns; Vissers decorates the plain ones. During the past year, she has made 300 dresses to be shipped to needy girls overseas.

“A 4-H group from Coopersville wanted to help,” said Vissers. “The girls used glitter paint on the pillowcases to make flowers and other beautiful decorations. I made dresses out of each one of them. Now, a local church group wants to do the same.”

Vissers finds the time to make dresses when most people are sleeping. She stays awake many nights, only getting three or four hours of sleep.





photos by Bernadine Carey-Tucker

Sally Vissers sits on her porch to crochet a sleeping mat made from plastic grocery bags that will be sent to Africa. On page 38, Vissers holds one of the pillowcase dresses she has made for needy girls overseas. Below, two girls from the Dominican Republic wear dresses made by Vissers.

“I was diagnosed with restless legs syndrome in 1995,” she said. “It’s uncomfortable and is worse at night when I’m trying to rest or sleep. Making these dresses or doing other crafts keeps my mind off of it. It relaxes me.”

Vissers admitted she also has a hard time saying no when asked to make something. That led her to make all kinds of crafts to help those in need.

“I had to spend some time in the hospital a few months ago and heard of the need for little hats for the newborn babies, especially the preemies. I can make a hat in one evening,” she said. Vissers estimated she has made more than 300 hats for babies at Spectrum Health and St. Mary’s Health Care.

And there’s more. It takes about two weeks to complete the prayer shawls that Vissers crochets for cancer patients. She has already made and donated about 30 of them. “I pick the colors and patterns and try to make something bright,” she said. The prayer shawls are given

to the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, which provides temporary housing for cancer patients and their families.

Then there is the most time consuming craft of all – sleeping mats for people in Africa. Each 3 feet by 6 feet mat is made from hundreds of plastic grocery bags and takes at least two weeks to crochet.

“The hardest part is cutting and rolling the bags in preparation to be crocheted. But, they are so nice when they’re done: soft and light and easy to carry,” she said. Vissers has made 13 mats that have been sent to Africa through local charities.

This past winter was an especially busy time for Vissers. Her husband has served on the games committee for Special Olympics for more than 20 years. She was asked to make red and teal scarves for all of the 1,600 winter games athletes.

“They didn’t give me much time and I knew that I could not do it all alone,” she said. “I called in a bunch of people to



help. I made 65. That was not much by my standards, but by the time the games came around in February, we exceeded our quota. The athletes were very excited to receive them.”

Vissers also takes the time to show friends, relatives and co-workers how to knit and crochet. “It really is a dying

trade. My mom did a lot of sewing but my grandmother would knit and crochet,” she said. “These traditions need to be passed down. Crocheting is something that is stress-free and I work on something every night. I have to. I like knowing what I make is putting a smile on someone’s face.”



# HOMECOMING

## OCTOBER 29, 2011

*GVSU,  
you put a spell  
on me...*

**IT'S A BLUE, BLACK AND WHITE WEEKEND OF FRIGHT!  
A "THRILLER" OF A WEEKEND SURE TO DELIGHT.  
DON'T MISS THIS EVENT, IT WILL BE QUITE A SIGHT!**

**Come back to campus, if you dare!**

It's a Laker celebration, a monster mash, and a great time for family, friends, witches and werewolves alike. Here are some of the spooktacular activities that will take place during this haunted Homecoming weekend.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.gvsu.edu/homecoming) for a full schedule of events.

### REUNION ROW

A gathering of groups in a fun tailgate fashion.

### ALUMNI TAILGATER

Ghosts and goblins young and old will enjoy the abundance of family friendly activities, including the tricks and treats at the tailgate buffet.

### HOMECOMING TRADITIONS

- Homecoming Concert
- Bus Trip from SE Michigan
- Pancake Breakfast
- Lip Sync Competition
- Homecoming 5K Run/Walk
- Charles H. Irwin Athletic Fund Dinner & Laker Hall of Fame Induction