

2011

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For Immediate Release
January 4, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Current Business Trends: Modest growth returns

Audio available

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy is experiencing modest growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of December. The surveys index of business improvement, called new orders, rose to +31, up from +15. The production index edged higher to +19 from +18. The index of purchases rose modestly to +19, up from +16. The employment index rose to +27, up from +21.


Long said historically, December has been a seasonally slow month because of reduced production schedules and the Christmas holidays, but Decembers report for greater Grand Rapids broke the pattern. Comments from participants who were surveyed are among the most positive we have seen since our local recovery began in April of 2009, Long said.

Long added that the office furniture industry is pulling out of the long recession, evidenced by an uptick in new orders in recent months, and industrial distributors had one of their best months in recent memory. He said automotive parts suppliers posted a better month than usual with some electing to forego the usual holiday shutdown.

Long said several factors will define the 2011 economy: automotive sales, inflation, interest rates, real estate and unemployment rates. If the economy continues to improve at its present rate, we will probably begin to see more consumer inflation in the second half of the year. Food prices should continue to rise, as will the cost of many types of consumer services. Gasoline will probably approach \$3.50 per gallon by mid-summer, he said.

Although home prices are still falling at the national level, Long said there is evidence prices at the local level may have bottomed out and may even see some modest improvement throughout 2011. He said more bankruptcies and foreclosures will continue to add more houses to the market. The unemployment picture for Michigan will remain negative but will probably drop faster than the national rate if the automotive industry continues to improve.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are purchasing managers from the regions major industrial manufacturers, distributors, and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey



conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as same, up or down. An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

January 5, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Free international film series focuses on women

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- The feminine perspective on life, love, beauty and justice can be seen through the media of film during the 2011 Chiaroscuro international film series, which this year features films by women directors.

"Women Behind the Camera," will screen six feature films at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 41 Sheldon SE, Grand Rapids, from January 16 through April 17. Showings are on Sundays, beginning at 2:30 p.m. with a short film by local talent preceding the feature film, which is followed by a panel discussion and refreshments. All films are open to the public with free admission.

Chiaroscuro is coordinated by educators from local universities and members of the community, with a mission to promote cultural diversity and awareness through the presentation of international films and round-table discussions. It was co-founded in 2005 by Zulema Moret, Grand Valley State University director of Latin American Studies and associate professor of Spanish, and Gretchen Minhaar, a Grand Rapids architect and artist.

The work of local filmmakers is also featured in the shorts, including "Wacked," a 4-minute film directed by Grand Valley student Vincent Persichetti, paired on January 16 with the feature film "The Secret Life of Words/La Vida Secreta de las Palabras," directed by Isabel Coixet. Another short is actually a 9-minute series of films from the international Animation Workshop Group, youth summer workshops that explored animation, visual literacy and collaborative filmmaking. The workshops were led by Deanna Morse, a film and video professor, in the School of Communications at Grand Valley State University, and Gretchen Vinnedge, education coordinator at the Community Media Center in Grand Rapids.

Other Grand Valley faculty will participate in some of the panel discussions, including:

- Yan Liang, assistant professor of Chinese, following the February 27 screening of "Letter to an Unknown Woman" (China), directed by Jinglei Xu.
- Zulema Moret for the March 20 discussion of "Bluebeard/La Barbe Bleue" (France) directed by Catherine Breillat.
- Chad Lingwood, assistant professor of Middle East history, will be part of the April 17 panel for "The Day I Became a Woman/Roozi ke zan shodam" (Iran) by Marzieh Meshkini In her directorial debut.

For complete details on the films in the series visit www.chiaroscurofilmseries.com

Contact Zulema Moret, in the Grand Valley State University Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, at (616) 331-2286.

For immediate release

January 5, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to establish scholarship for students from Haiti

-- announcement to be made on anniversary of Haiti earthquake

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will announce its plans to raise money for scholarships for students from Haiti, continuing the university's relief efforts to help residents of that country. An announcement detailing the project will be made on January 12, the one-year anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Port-Au-Prince and other regions of Haiti.

Grand Valley officials will discuss the project, "Empowering Haiti through Education Fund," during a brief news conference:

Wednesday, January 12, 3:30 p.m.

Chez Olga, the Haitian restaurant in Eastown, 1441 Wealthy St. SE

The Empowering Haiti scholarship fund will help support rising stars from Haitian high schools to attend Grand Valley. The idea started several years ago with a discussion between Peter Wampler, associate professor of geology, and Mark Schaub, executive director of the Padnos International Center. Wampler has traveled to Haiti since 2007 to conduct research on water quality. Wampler said he hopes that the students who will eventually be scholarship recipients return to Haiti to teach the next generation of students.

At the news conference, Wampler and Schaub will be available for interviews. For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

January 6, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Women's Center receives U.S. Justice Department grant

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Women's Center received a federal grant to raise awareness of sexual assault and dating violence and help reduce the number of such incidents on campus.

The \$265,129 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women will help the Women's Center further transform the campus culture around violence prevention for dating/domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. It will also allow the center to expand partnerships with on-campus offices that will benefit from training such as the Counseling and Career Development Center, Public Safety, and Judicial Services through the Dean of Students Office.

Marlene Kowalski-Braun, director of the Women's Center, said she and other grant writers recognized a great disconnect between what students informally share about their experience with violence and what they formally report. In 2009, there were two reported sex offenses on campus.

"This is a transformative grant in that we are trying to further open communication with students who are victims of domestic and dating violence, stalking and sexual assault to help them utilize support systems that are already in place," Kowalski-Braun said. "More importantly, we get to do important campus-wide prevention work through the grant that will benefit all students."

The grant allows for hiring Theresa Rowland as grant coordinator, increasing education and training programs, and expanding partnerships with nonprofit agencies. One of the community partners is the YWCA of West Central Michigan. Carla Blinkhorn, CEO of the YWCA, said it took courage for the Women's Center to apply for this grant.

"The grant money focuses on preventing domestic violence and sexual assault but it means that you have to recognize that it's an underreported number," Blinkhorn said.

The YWCA manages a free nurse examiner program for victims of sexual assault. Blinkhorn said about 250 people ages 18-22 use the program annually. She added that in the past three years, college-age people account for nearly 50 percent of people who contact the sexual assault crisis hot line.

Other community partners include the Center for Women in Transition in Holland, Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, Lakeshore Alliance Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Community Coordinated Response Team in Grand Rapids, and Wesley Fellowship at Grand Valley.

For more information, contact Kowalski-Braun at (616) 331-2748 or kowalskm@gvsu.edu

For Immediate Release
January 11, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

MAREC lunch series focuses on the basics of sustainability

MUSKEGON, Mich. - For the next three months, the Lunch and Learn Series at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC) will focus on the basics of solar and wind power, and bioenergy.

Beverages and dessert will be provided at each event. The events are free and open the public, but requires RSVP. All events take place at noon at MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr. in Muskegon.

January, 19, 2011: "Solar Power - Energy Basics"

Bruce Lowstuter, lead instructor and board of directors at the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Center, will discuss the basics of solar energy. RSVP by January 17.

February, 23, 2011: "Wind Power - Energy Basics"

Kim Walton, education coordinator at MAREC, will discuss the basics of wind power. RSVP by February 21.

March 23, 2011: "Bioenergy - Energy Basics"

Speaker TBA. RSVP by March 21.

The goal of the monthly Lunch and Learn Series is to provide an educational opportunity for those interested in learning more about sustainable living practices.

For more information about the series, contact Kim Walton at (616) 331-6907 or visit www.gvsu.edu/marec.

For Immediate Release
January 11, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU installs first electric vehicle charging station

MUSKEGON, Mich. - Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center is the site of the university's first electric vehicle charging station. The ChargePoint charging station was installed during the last week of December as part of a regional effort led by the West Michigan Strategic Alliance and West Michigan Energy.

"The Chevrolet Volt and Nissan Leaf make electric vehicles a reality on our streets and roads, and the development of a national network of charging stations becomes a critical priority," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "It's very timely for MAREC and West Michigan to be part of this new initiative that will help to bring the next generation of automotive technology to our region."

The charging station is activated when account holders scan a card that tracks charging purchases online. The station provides charges at two different voltage levels and usually takes four to eight hours to fully charge. MAREC will offer free use of the charging station initially and will evaluate the need to charge a fee for use over time as usage and cost of the service is determined.

"Just as a network of gasoline pumping stations evolved when the Model-T was released, we'll be seeing something very similar with a network of charging stations for electric vehicles being installed throughout the country," said Boezaart.

Over the next nine months, a network of charging stations will be developed throughout the Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa County region.

BACKGROUND

The charging stations - the equivalent of gas stations for traditional automobiles - are being made available to nine selected regions across the United States through ChargePoint America, a public/private partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy and Coulomb Technologies, a manufacturer of charging stations, and its partners. The program provides the charging stations at no cost, with the host organization covering the costs of installation.

Last October, the West Michigan Energy coalition secured a commitment through the ChargePoint America program for up to 70 stations to be established in West Michigan.

For more information about using the electric vehicle charging stations at MAREC and other locations, contact Arn Boezaart at (616) 331-6905.

January 11, 2011
For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Interfaith lecture promotes understanding of diverse religions

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- The Interfaith Dialogue Association strives to promote friendship and trust among people of diverse religions and ideologies by study, dialogue, and sharing about religious experiences.

The IDA's 2011 Rabbi Philip Sigal Memorial Lecture, "From Tolerance to Holy Envy: The Interfaith Agenda," will be presented by Douglas Kindschi. The lecture will be given Thursday, January 20, at 7 p.m., at Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus of Grand Valley State University. Admission is free. See Building #5 on the Grand Rapids map link at, <http://www.gvsu.edu/maps.htm>.

Kindschi, director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, is now in his 35th year at Grand Valley, and served as a dean for 28 of those years. He is currently a professor of mathematics and philosophy. After receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Houghton College in New York, Kindschi did graduate study at the Divinity School, University of Chicago, and also received his master's and doctorate degrees in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a minor in philosophy.

At Grand Valley Kindschi began a faculty science and religion discussion group that is now in its 13th year and developed a similar course that received a Templeton Course Award. He also received a Metanexus grant to establish the Local Society Initiative called the Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion for the Greater Grand Rapids Area, which is cosponsored by IDA.

The Rabbi Philip Sigal Memorial Lecture was created by the IDA as a means of encouraging interest and discussion of subjects that are significant to the broader faith community of West Michigan. It was named for the former rabbi of Ahavas Israel, who was a great pioneer in local interfaith relations. This event is cosponsored by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute and Grand Valley State University. For more information please call (616) 454-5960, or visit <http://www.interfaithdialogueassociation.org>.

Media may contact Douglas Kindschi at kindschd@gvsu.edu, (<mailto:kindschd@gvsu.edu>,) or (616) 331-5878.

For immediate release

January 11, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Dyson to give presentation at GVSU during MLK Week

-- watch simulcast in DeVos Center in Grand Rapids

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Popular national radio show host Michael Eric Dyson will give a presentation at Grand Valley State University next week, highlighting the university's commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Week.

Dyson will discuss "What's Next? Martin Luther King Jr. in the 21st Century" on Wednesday, January 19, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, on the Allendale Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Dyson, professor of sociology at Georgetown University, is the author of 16 books and is well-known for his commentary on popular culture and African American society. Ebony magazine has named him one of the most influential African Americans.

Media note: Dyson will be available for interviews prior to his presentation beginning at 4 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall.

Because of the expected popularity of his presentation, his lecture will be simulcast to overflow rooms in the Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus, and Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Other GVSU events during MLK Week include:

-- January 15: Day of Service, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., coordinated by Grand Valley's Community Service Learning Center. Volunteers will go to Comprenew Environmental to help recycle electronics.

-- January 17: Silent March, noon, Allendale Campus, group will assemble at Zumberge Library and march to Kirkhof Center.

-- January 17: Program, 12:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room: Judy Richardson, filmmaker and founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, will discuss her film "Scarred Justice," which details the 1968 Orangeburg, South Carolina, massacre.

Faculty lectures and a presentation by Grand Valley's Student Senate round out the events. Visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk for details.

A photo of Dyson is available by contacting Michele Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu

For Immediate Release
January 12, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley holds screening of Bullied

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Grand Valley State University's College of Education will host a screening of *Bullied*, a film produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center that follows the story of a student from Wisconsin who filed a lawsuit against a school district for not protecting him from those who tormented him because of his homosexual lifestyle.

Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case That Made History will be shown:
Tuesday, January 18
6:30 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The event is free and will be followed by a panel discussion. Panelists include Kay Waters, a school counselor; Sue Verduin-Miller, a school social worker; Michele Coyne, a consultant to schools on bullying prevention; and Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan. The moderator is Shelley Irwin, from WGVU.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a leading provider of anti-bias education resources. This film is the seventh produced by the center's Teaching Tolerance program.

The GVSU College of Education Inclusion Committee has developed this event to inform educators and the public while promoting its mission of Teaching, Leading and Learning in a Democratic Society. For more information, contact Clay Pelon at Grand Valley's College of Education at (616) 331-6813 or News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU seminar highlights recent changes in food legislation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. The new FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, signed January 4, represents the most sweeping overhaul of food safety legislation since 1938. U.S. food imports are growing rapidly and Michigan is an important producer and exporter of agricultural products. A seminar exploring trends in food import and export is being held by the Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University.

Agriculture/Food Import and Export

Wednesday, January 26

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

GVSU Bicycle Factory location, 201 Front Ave. SW, Grand Rapids

The morning session will focus on U.S. food imports which have grown from \$41 billion in 1998 to nearly \$77 billion in 2009. The session will also cover new food safety laws, food transportation and import regulations and filing requirements.

The afternoon session will focus on exports and how agri-food and agri-energy are a \$71.3 billion industry in Michigan. Other topics to be discussed include international marketing strategies, free trade agreements, global food distribution and local assistance and resources.

The event is in partnership with Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business and Michigan Department of Agriculture, and sponsored by Varnum, MGM, Comerica Bank and MiBiz.

For registration information visit www.vagtc.org or call (616) 331-6811.

For Immediate Release
January 14, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU economist to unveil annual economic forecast

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Grand Valley State University economics professor Hari Singh will release the findings of his benchmark survey of the regional economy at a breakfast event. The survey, which includes business leaders from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties, was conducted in November 2010.

The 2011 Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast Breakfast

Wednesday, January 19

8:15-10 a.m.

DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids

Singh, a professor of economics in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, will talk about consumer confidence, employment, sales and export growth. The event is co-sponsored by Colliers International.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release

January 14, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Regional Math and Science Center, (616) 331-2267

Hundreds of K-12 students expected for GVSU Super Science Saturday

ALLENDALE, Mich. Grand Valley State University is holding Super Science Saturday in conjunction with the International Year of Chemistry 2011 and Grand Valleys 50th anniversary.

Every lab and classroom in Padnos Hall (Allendale Campus) will be filled with hands-on science activities so students, parents, teachers and community members can explore and learn how chemistry affects everyday life. Grand Valley science faculty and guest presenters will show how chemistry connects with biology, geology, physics, health science, engineering, history, art and more.

Super Science Saturday: Celebrating Chemistry - Past, Present, Future

January 29

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Padnos Hall, GVSU Allendale Campus

The event is hosted by Grand Valleys Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC), Chemistry Department, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It is free and open to the public; no registration is required. One adult per every five children is requested for safe supervision.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/rmsc or contact the RMSC at (616) 331-2267 or News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
January 18, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Priscilla Kimboko, (616) 331-7265, GVSU professor and conference coordinator

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. GVSU conference has tips for optimal aging

National and local experts will discuss new approaches for everyday and proactive aging at Grand Valley State University's Sixth Annual Art and Science of Aging Multidisciplinary Conference. The theme for the 2011 conference is Optimal Aging: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

The conference will open with a presentation by Dr. Larry Lawhorne, director of Geriatrics at the Wright State Boonhof School of Medicine and former director of the MSU-based Geriatric Education Center of Michigan. His lecture is titled, The Modern Fountain of Youth: An Ecology of Optimal Aging.

Art & Science of Aging Conference

Friday, February 11

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Lawhorne's presentation begins at 9 a.m. Morning and afternoon break-out sessions will cover a wide range of topics including the benefits of exercise, healthy eating, prescription purchasing practices, picking a retirement community, and more. A closing panel session features older adults sharing stories of life-changing choices they have made.

Another recurring feature of the conference is the presentations of Grand Valley student research on aging, in a poster format, which allows attendees to engage the students in discussions of their research.

For questions about the conference call (616) 331-6641 or e-mail geroconference@gvsu.edu.

Registration fees and conference details can be found at www.gvsu.edu/gerontology.

Media calls can be directed to Priscilla Kimboko, professor and conference coordinator, at (616) 331-7265 or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
January 19, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley experts offer analysis of State of the State address

ALLENDALE, Mich. The following Grand Valley State University experts can comment on Gov. Rick Snyders first State of the State address.

ECONOMY:

Gregg Dimkoff, (616) 331-7428 or (616) 990-5039, professor of finance, Seidman College of Business

Paul Isely, (616) 331-7418, professor and chair of the Department of Economics, Seidman College of Business

POLITICAL REACTION:

Erika King, (616) 331-2320 or (616) 245-1470, professor of political science

Roger Moiles, (616) 331-3283 or (616) 994-9985, affiliate professor of political science

Don Zinman, (616) 331-8714 or (616) 802-4007, assistant professor of political science

EDUCATION:

Elaine Collins, (616) 331-6821, dean of the College of Education

HEALTH CARE:

Cynthia McCurren (616) 331-3558, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing

January 20, 2011
For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Hillegonds to speak as Grand Valley 50th Anniversary Lecturer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- In celebration of Grand Valley State University's 50th Anniversary, the much-admired, former Speaker of the Michigan House, Paul Hillegonds, will bring his first-hand experience in government and business to his talk on what the next 50 years holds for Michigan.

Hillegonds' lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, at 7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception will be held at 5:45 p.m. and the lecture will be followed by a question and answer session. Events are free and open to the public.

Named by Governing Magazine in 1994 as Public Official of the Year, Hillegonds is currently senior vice president of corporate affairs at DTE Energy. Former president of Detroit Renaissance, Hillegonds serves on many boards including The Cultural Alliance for Southeast Michigan, Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Future, Inc., Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, The Center for Michigan and The Kresge Foundation.

Hillegonds is the second of three speakers in Grand Valley's Distinguished Academic Lecture series speculating on what the next 50 years may hold. Hillegonds will discuss "The Next 50 Years in Michigan." Previously in September, author, academician and businesswoman Jill Ker Conway presented, "The Next 50 Years in the World." The series will conclude with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns' presentation "The Next 50 Years in the United States," on April 21.

For more information on the series contact Jon Jellema in the Provost Office at (616) 331-2400, or visit www.gvsu.edu/anniversary.

For Immediate Release
January 21, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Families get help tapping college cash

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. During Michigan's economic recovery, many people are pursuing higher education and ways to afford it. College Goal Sunday is designed to increase the number of students who continue education beyond high school and earn post-secondary degrees.

College Goal Sunday is now in its 8th year in Michigan and since 2004, more than 4,500 students have received help submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA). The FAFSA is required of any student seeking financial aid including grants, loans and many scholarships. Statistics show students who complete and submit FAFSA forms are more likely to go on to college. Last year, more than 1,900 students received assistance at College Goal Sunday events.

College Goal Sunday
February 13, from 2-4 p.m.
DeVos Center, Building A, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus
Computer labs 113A, 115A, 204 A, 205 A and Rooms 125 A and 127 A.

On College Goal Sunday financial aid experts will be available to guide students through each step of completing and filing the FAFSA. Students should bring a completed 2010 IRS 1040 tax return (if possible) or their W-2 and 1099 forms.

Other College Goal Sunday sites in West Michigan include:
Davenport University-Holland location
Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency in Fremont
Baker College of Muskegon

For more information, contact Michelle Rhodes, director of Financial Aid at Grand Valley, at (616) 331-3234 or News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221, or visit www.micollegegoal.org.

For Immediate Release
January 21, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU sees growth in engineering and computing internships in West Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University has seen an increase in the demand for student engineering and computing internships and co-ops in West Michigan. The number of internships for engineering students increased by 42 percent in 2010, and computing and information systems co-ops increased by 31 percent, compared to 2009.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said one reason may be the recovering economy in West Michigan. "Roughly 40 percent of our engineering and computing students come from West Michigan and about 70 percent of them stay in the area, so we are retaining talent in the region," he said.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas said, "Ninety-two percent of our [Grand Valley] recent graduates are employed or attending graduate school; of those working, 88 percent are pursuing their careers here in Michigan."

According to Career Services at Grand Valley, growing industries in West Michigan such as automotive suppliers, health care, software development and electronics are hiring more Grand Valley students for internships and co-ops. "Employers are recognizing the value in internships, more so than they did before," said Tom Demmon, associate director of Career Services. "Now, instead of large corporations hiring 10-20 interns, it has become common for more small to mid-sized companies to hire one to five interns."

Grand Valley engineering and computing students are required to complete external internships or co-ops before graduation. "We take pride in preparing our students for the workforce through community involvement, career resources, and continually evolving our programs as needed," Plotkowski said.

Downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

For more information, contact Leah Zuber at Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or zuberle@gvsu.edu.

January 24, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Service, (616) 331-2224

Grand Valley celebration of Black History Month includes lectures, music and 'taste of soul'

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The celebration of Black History Month at Grand Valley State University includes numerous lectures, musical events, films and a "Taste of Soul."

Events will begin February 1 with a lecture connected to the university's community reading book, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." Author Harriet Washington will discuss the book at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

Other events are below; they are all free and open to the public. Details are online at www.gvsu.edu/oma or call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177.

-- "Incognito," a presentation by Michael Fosberg; February 3, 4-6 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus. Fosberg began a personal search for his biological father at age 34 that revealed more than family. His presentation will balance humor and emotion as it deals with race, prejudice and life's difficult choices.

-- Music: "When the Spirit Gets You," by jazz quintet John Hair and the New Connections; February 11, 7-9 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton St. in Grand Rapids.

-- Noontime Movie Series; 1240 Kirkhof Center. Reservations required, call (616) 331-2177. The following films will be shown and discussed from noon-1 p.m.

February 14: "Detroit Civil Rights Trilogy"; February 15: "Citizen King"; February 16: "Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed"; February 17: "The Neo African-Americans."

-- A Taste of Soul, February 18, noon-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center lobby. Samples from the deep southern, African American tradition of soul food will be available.

-- Diversity Brown Bag: "Living History, He Was There"; February 24, noon-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215-2216. William G. Anderson, founder of the Albany Movement, will detail his role in the civil rights movement as he worked with Martin Luther King in the first mass movement to desegregate an entire community.

-- A View of the Past and the Hope of the Future; February 24, 7-9 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center. William G. Anderson, founder of the Albany Movement, will discuss what makes Black history unique in America.

Black History Month events are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Community and Public Service, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Inclusion & Equity, Kutsche Office of Local History, LGBT Resource Center, Padnos International Center, Seidman College of Business, WGVU and Women's Center.

For Immediate Release
January 24, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

State of the Union address

Grand Valley State University experts available for comment

The following Grand Valley State University experts are available for comment on President Barack Obamas State of the Union address scheduled for Tuesday, January 25.

TERRORISM:

Brian Kingshott, (616) 331-7149 or (616) 453-7809, associate professor of criminal justice, is an expert on terrorism and organizational cultures and ethics. Kingshott is a former British police officer with 32 years of service.

Jonathan White, (616) 331-7243, a terrorism expert and director of the Homeland Defense Initiative. White was tapped by the U.S. government after Sept. 11 to travel the country and brief law enforcement agencies on international terrorism.

ECONOMY:

Paul Isely, (616) 331-7418, chair of the Department of Economics in the Seidman College of Business.

Hari Singh, (616) 331-7420, professor of economics in the Seidman College of Business.

FINANCIAL ISSUES:

Gregg Dimkoff, (616) 331-7428 or (616) 990-5039, professor of finance and director of Grand Valleys certificate financial planning program.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:

Gleaves Whitney, (616) 331-2770, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley. Whitney is a presidential historian and author who served under former Michigan Gov. John Engler for 11 years as chief historian and speech writer.

CONGRESS:

Erika King, (616) 331-2320 or (616) 245-1470, professor of political science, is an expert on campaigns and elections, public opinion, American politics and media and politics.

Polly Diven, (616) 331-3282, professor of political science, is an expert in international relations and U.S. foreign policy. She is the director of the International Relations Program.

Don Zinman, (616) 331-8714, assistant professor of political science, is an expert on American political history, political parties and the American presidency.

EDUCATION:

Elaine Collins, (616) 331-6820, dean of Grand Valleys College of Education.

HEALTH CARE:

Cynthia McCurren, (616) 331-3558, dean of Grand Valleys Kirkhof College of Nursing.

For Immediate Release
January 24, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Michael DeWilde, (616) 331-3612, GVSU Seidman Business Ethics Center

**GVSU holds panel debate on future of capitalism
--EVENT IS TONIGHT**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Area experts will debate the promise and performance of capitalist economic policy in an event sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Business Ethics Center at the Seidman College of Business.

MEDIA NOTE:

The Future of Capitalism: Constructive Competition or Chaos?

Monday, January 24

7-8:30 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium

DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Panelists include:

Craig Meurlin, Warner Norcross, rated as One of America's Best Lawyers

Nathan Goetting, Adrian College, editor of the *National Lawyers Guild Review*

Bruce Bettinghaus, GVSU professor of accounting with expertise in the history of banking

Tony Nelson, a teacher and human rights activist for the Mexico Solidarity Network

For more information contact Michael DeWilde at dewildem@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3612.

For Immediate Release
January 27, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

MAREC grant will expand energy and technology start-ups

MUSKEGON, Mich. - Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center received a grant to enhance the center's business incubator program that supports energy and technology-related business start-ups.

The \$100,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will help MAREC continue to recruit entrepreneurs, business start-ups, and early-stage businesses that are developing energy-related technologies, products, and services. It will fund an incubator manager and allow for support services such as legal consultation on patenting new technology. The grant also makes available limited seed capital for MAREC clients, and enables MAREC to develop additional incubator office and lab spaces within the existing building.

Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC, said the grant will strengthen the connection between the business community, MAREC and the Muskegon Lakeshore SmartZone. "Part of our purpose is to support technology start-ups that emphasize energy innovation," said Boezaart. "This grant allows us to increase our level of business incubation activity beyond what our present resources can support. One of the best ways we can help develop Michigan as a leader in the alternative energy field is to support and coach business start-ups and new ventures. Expanding employment opportunities and supporting economic growth are among our top priorities."

MAREC is currently home to five businesses: Smart Vision Lights, Logical Lighting Systems, Energy Partners, and McKenzie Bay International, along with a field office for Scandia Wind.

The West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative, based at Grand Valley State University, received a similar grant from MEDC. Rich Cook, venture center director of WMSTI, said the grant proposal was built on WMSTI achievements with hopes to expand its geographical reach to the greater West Michigan region, providing small entrepreneurial biotech companies affordable access to the WMSTI incubator/accelerator. Visit www.wmsti.org for more information.

For more information about the MAREC grant, contact Arn Boezaart at (616) 331-6905 or boezaara@gvsu.edu.

January 31, 2011

For immediate release

Contact Michele Coffill, Grand Valley State University News & Information Services,
(616) 331-2221

Tickets on sale for 10th anniversary of 'Vagina Monologues' at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Women's Center at Grand Valley State University will celebrate its 10th year of producing Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" with two performances set for February 11-12.

Performances are set for 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, February 11-12, at the Fieldhouse on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus. Admission is \$10 for students and \$20 for non-students. Tickets are available in advance at the Kirkhof Center 20/20 Desk and through Star Tickets Plus, www.starticketsplus.com, or (800) 585-3737.

Ensler's provocative yet wildly entertaining and acclaimed play has been performed at GVSU for the past nine years. It has reached more than 9,000 audience members with its message of ending violence and has raised more than \$90,000 for local, national and international anti-violence initiatives.

"The Vagina Monologues is an amazing show that educates as it entertains. In previous years I was involved as an activist and director and I am thrilled to be even more involved. I really believe in the power of theater as activism and love watching the audience respond to the show," said Anna Bennett, student and administrative chair.

This year, Grand Valley hopes to raise \$10,000 in proceeds from the productions. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit local organizations and the VDay designated initiative Women of Haiti, which focuses on women and girls of Haiti who have been victims of violence.

For more information contact Patricia Bogard, publicity chair, at (773) 891-6410, or bogardp@mail.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
January 31, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU hosts auto race for fifth graders

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Just in time for West Michigan's International Michigan Auto Show, more than 60 fifth graders are having a smaller-scale auto show and competition of their own at Grand Valley State University.

For the 12th year in a row, students from Sibley Elementary School will compete in a car-racing contest with pinewood derby cars they designed and built with the help of Grand Valley engineering students.

Friday, February 4, 2011

Noon-2:30 p.m.

Keller Engineering Labs, Design Bay

GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

"This event not only continues our ties to the community, but allows the students to see what a college environment is like," said Shirley Fleischmann, professor in the School of Engineering and creator of the event. "I think this experience of building a car and coming to Grand Valley to race it is an exciting accomplishment for each of these students."

For more information about the event, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Shirley Fleischmann at fleischs@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6750.

For immediate release

February 1, 2011 . . .

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host Girls in Sports Day

-- 25 spots still left for free event Saturday

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host its annual Girls in Sports Day on Saturday, February 5, on the Allendale Campus.

About 250 middle school students from Grand Rapids Public Schools will participate in skills clinics with Laker student-athletes, attend workshops and enjoy dinner and an evening program. Workshops for parents and coaches are also scheduled.

Events will start at 2:45 p.m. in the Laker Turf Building, following sign-in at 2 p.m. Skill clinics will be conducted for basketball, cheer, dance, golf, softball, soccer, lacrosse and volleyball in the Fieldhouse and Turf Building.

There are about 25 spots left for students interested in attending the free event. Pre-registration is necessary; call the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748 for more information or to register.

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley's Women's Center, Athletics, and Movement Science Department. The MEEMIC Foundation helped fund the event.

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU first public university in state to receive environmental certification

ALLENDALE, Mich. - Grand Valley State University is the first public university in Michigan to be certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP).

The program is intended to promote and communicate best management practices, to control potential sources of pollution, comply with environmental laws and regulations, adopt pollution prevention practices, and reduce waste. Nine modules were completed to receive certification on the main campus in Allendale, and included evaluating fuel storage systems, groundwater and well protection, and use of green products and recycling.

Ken Stanton, grounds supervisor at Grand Valley, said several construction projects were involved to complete the modules. "We installed a new, more efficient fueling station, a space that is used for mixing and loading pesticides, and a new equipment wash station that collects excess grass clippings from our mowing equipment. All of these developments will help us to magnify sustainable efforts already taking place at Grand Valley."

Completion of the certification program was also responsible for the development of a campus wide emergency response plan, as well as identifying storm water management practices that had been previously developed to help eliminate erosion of the ravines on the main campus in Allendale.

Achieving certification ensures that grounds and facilities will be in compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations.

For more information about Grand Valley's certification, contact Ken Stanton at stantonk@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3852.

For more information about MTESP, visit www.mtesp.org.

For Immediate Release
February 3, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
AUDIO AVAILABLE at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow

Current Business Trends: Modest growth continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy continues to experience modest growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of December. The surveys index of business improvement, called new orders, eased slightly to +25, down from +31. The production index rose higher to +29 from +19. The index of purchases rose modestly to +29, up from +19. The employment index rose slightly to +29, up from +27.

Long said the recovery of the office furniture industry is still on track, stronger auto sales have resulted in more business for local auto parts suppliers, and several local firms are approaching full capacity. He said, in general, performance for industrial distributors remains positive and although capital equipment firms are still recovering, this month's performance was mixed. Performance for the firms related to the aircraft industry was generally down.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are purchasing managers from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors, and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as same, up or down. An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

For immediate release

February 4, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

CANCELED: GVSU's Girls in Sports Day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The annual Girls in Sports Day scheduled for Saturday, February 5, on GVSU's Allendale Campus has been canceled.

Organizers said students from Grand Rapids Public Schools would have a difficulty arranging transportation due to weather. For more information, call Grand Valley's Women's Center at (616) 331-2748.

A make-up date has not been scheduled.

For Immediate Release
February 4, 2011

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - The pinewood derby event at Grand Valley State University scheduled for today, February 4, has been canceled due to Grand Rapids Public School closings.

The event will be rescheduled.

For more information, contact Leah Zuber at zuberle@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

February 4, 2011

Events at GVSU highlight Asian Pacific heritage

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Numerous events at Grand Valley State University are planned to highlight the cultural richness of Asian Pacific Islander Americans. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the events will run from February 7-17.

Events are detailed below; they are free and open to the public. For details, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma or call (616) 331-2177.

-- **Monday, February 7**, 1-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263.

Members of the Hmong American Student Association will present "A Walk To Remember," and share their stories of their families' ancestry.

-- **Tuesday, February 8**, 3-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/2216.

Philippines folk dance performance featuring Minnie Morey, artistic director of the Pacific Island Dancers of Grand Rapids.

-- **Wednesday, February 9**, 5-7 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center.

Ütaké, a trio of Rob Foster, Kurt Ellenberger and Ric Troll, will present songs from their CD "The Name of the Wind." Traditional Japanese poetry will also be read.

-- **Thursday, February 10**, 4-5:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/2216.

Amanda Kim, director of the Center for Multicultural and Diversity Studies at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, will present "Broken Promises of the Model Minority Narrative."

-- **February 14**, 4-6 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 1240.

"ExplorAsia" will highlight the diverse histories, languages and customs of the 50 countries represented by Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

-- **February 16**, 3-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

"East of Main Street," a 2010 HBO documentary that featured stories of APIAs, will be shown and discussed.

-- **February 17**, 3-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

"Unveiling the Truth: The Muslim Women," will feature Tahera Ahmad, the first Muslim woman chaplain at Northwestern University.

Other campus sponsors of the Asian Pacific Islander American heritage celebration are the Asian Student Union, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Community and Public

Service, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Counseling and Career Development, East Asian Studies, Housing and Residence Life, Hmong American Student Association, Honors College, Inclusion and Equity Division, Kutsche Office of Local History, LGBT Resource Center, Muslim Student Association, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Padnos International Center, Women's Center, WGVU and also WZZM 13.

For Immediate Release
February 7, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU hosts auto race for fifth graders

*Event canceled on February 4, rescheduled for February 11

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Just after West Michigan's International Michigan Auto Show, more than 60 fifth graders are having a smaller-scale auto show and competition of their own at Grand Valley State University.

For the 12th year in a row, students from Sibley Elementary School will compete in a car-racing contest with pinewood derby cars they designed and built with the help of Grand Valley engineering students.

Friday, February 11, 2011

12:30-2:15 p.m.

Keller Engineering Labs, Design Bay

GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

"This event not only continues our ties to the community, but allows the students to see what a college environment is like," said Shirley Fleischmann, professor in the School of Engineering and creator of the event. "I think this experience of building a car and coming to Grand Valley to race it is an individual accomplishment for each of these fifth graders."

For more information about the event, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Shirley Fleischmann at fleischs@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6750.

For immediate release

February 8, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Arab American leader to give presentation at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The founder of the Arab American Institute will discuss his latest book and also share his insight on the political strife in Egypt during a presentation at Grand Valley State University.

James Zogby, founder and president of the AAI, will center his talk around his latest book, "Arab Voices: What They Are Saying to Us and Why It Matters."

Zogby's presentation is scheduled for:

Thursday, February 17

1 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

The event is free and open to the public. Media coverage is encouraged.

Zogby's presentation is sponsored by Grand Valley's Middle East Studies Department, William Baum Lecture Series, Padnos International Center and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

The AAI, based in Washington, D.C., serves as the political and policy research arm of the Arab American community. For 30 years, Zogby has been involved in a range of Arab American issues. He served as chair of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in the 1970s, co-founded Save Lebanon, Inc. in 1982, then founded AAI in 1985.

Zogby's other books are "What Ethnic Americans Really Think" and "What Arabs Think: Values, Beliefs and Concerns." A book signing will follow his presentation.

For more information, contact the Area Studies office via e-mail at areastudies@gvsu.edu or by phone at (616) 331-8110.

A photo of Zogby is available by sending an e-mail to Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu

For Immediate Release
February 9, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy, (616) 331-7585

**Grand Valleys Johnson Center for Philanthropy gets new leader
James Edwards named executive director**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. James Edwards has been selected as the new executive director of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. He replaces Kathy Agard, who retired in December.

Edwards has served as director of the Johnson Centers Community Research Institute and assistant professor of social work since arriving at Grand Valley in 2003. Before joining the Johnson Center, Edwards was the program director for Network 180 Access Center in Kent County. He has direct service experience in child welfare and juvenile justice and has served as a foster care worker, juvenile court probation officer and investigator for the county Family Drug Court Task Force. He also assisted with the expansion of mental health home-based services in Kent County, and served for five years as a board member for the Arbor Circle Corporation.

I am truly honored and excited to lead the Johnson Center, said Edwards. Dr. Kathy Agard retired, leaving us with a strong local and national reputation. We plan to continue building on her work and our commitment to being a key organization in the support of philanthropic and nonprofit work in Michigan and nationally.

Edwards earned a bachelors degree from Aquinas College, a masters degree from Western Michigan University and a doctorate from Michigan State University.

I am delighted to welcome Dr. James Edwards as the executive director of the Center. His leadership, experience, and creativity will be invaluable to all nonprofits, foundations, and donors, said Dorothy A. Johnson, president emeritus, Council of Michigan Foundations.

Gayle R. Davis, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said: Dr. Edwards brings just the right combination of leadership, creativity, experience and knowledge of the field, and interpersonal effectiveness to this important position at Grand Valley. I look forward to working with him in this new role.

BACKGROUND

Established in 1992 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy promotes effective philanthropy, community improvement, and excellence in nonprofit leadership through teaching, research, and service. The Johnson Center is recognized for its applied research and professional development benefiting practitioners and

nonprofits through its Community Research Institute, The Foundation Review, The Grantmaking School, and Nonprofit Services.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 78 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For more information, contact Robert Shalett, communications director at the Johnson Center, at (616) 331-7585.

For Immediate Release
February 9, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, (616) 331-2770, www.allpresidents.org

Character interpreters mark Ronald Reagans 100th birthday

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. In a one-of-a-kind event celebrating Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday, five actors will come together on one stage to portray Reagan himself, and the four American presidents who most influenced our 40th president Jefferson, Coolidge, Roosevelt and Kennedy.

The event, sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, features actors who are accomplished character interpreters and historians. Paddy Morrissey will travel from San Francisco to give a warm, humorous portrayal of Ronald Reagan. Colonial Williamsburg's William Barker will portray Jefferson, Jim Cooke will play Coolidge, John Hamant will present FDR, and Brian Hilton will portray JFK.

Reagan's Heroes: A 100th Birthday Celebration
Tuesday, February 15
7 p.m.
Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids

To bring five talented actors to West Michigan is a major theatrical event, said Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. These individuals are also historians in their own right, so the audience will be treated to a delightful evening of entertainment and education.

Reagan's optimistic, western vision was shaped by Thomas Jefferson while his free-market economics came straight out the presidency of Calvin Coolidge. During the Great Depression and World War II, Reagan was a steadfast admirer of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and his combination of tax cuts and strong defense was from the playbook of John F. Kennedy.

BACKGROUND

Paddy Morrissey

Morrissey has been impersonating Ronald Reagan since 1981. He performed at the 1984 Democratic Convention, fielding questions from Sam Donaldson and other members of the press. In 1986, he starred as Ronald Reagan in Garry (Doonesbury) Trudeau's hit musical satire, Rap Master Ronnie. He has been featured on network television and countless radio stations.

William Barker

Barker has portrayed Thomas Jefferson in a variety of settings over the past 20 years. He began portraying Jefferson for Colonial Williamsburg in 1993, where he also assists in the development of Jefferson programs. Barker received a bachelor's degree in history from Villanova University.

He appeared as Jefferson in programs aired on ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, CNN, The History Channel, and C-SPAN.

Jim Cooke

Cooke is considered America's most famous Calvin Coolidge impersonator and has portrayed the 30th president for more than 30 years. Cooke has performed at Presidential Libraries, the National Archives, the Library of Congress and Mount Rushmore and on C-SPAN and NPR.

John Hamant

In his 33 years with Colonial Williamsburg, Hamant held the positions of senior archaeologist, character interpreter, director of Evening and Special Programs, and director of Special Events and Protocol. In 1993, Hamant developed a portrayal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt for a special Colonial Williamsburg program and continued to perform as the 32nd president over the next nine years. He has a bachelor's degree in theatrical production and a master's degree in acting and directing from the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Brian Hilton

Since 1987, Hilton has portrayed John F. Kennedy, young Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman and young George Washington. Hilton is a scholar of John F. Kennedy's presidency and is currently under consideration by the Kennedy Center for his portrayal of JFK. He has also given memorable talks on JFK's role in the Civil Rights movement, the Cold War, the U.S. space program, the Bay of Pigs, and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

February 10, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

**GVSU Opera Theatre, GR Ballet collaborate to present:
'Mother Goose' & 'The Boy Who Wouldn't Do His Homework'**

A first time collaboration between Grand Valley State University's Opera Theatre and the Grand Rapids Ballet Company brings an opportunity to experience both art forms during two entertaining productions geared to families.

It starts with stories from Mother Goose, danced by the Grand Rapids Ballet Company and choreographed by Patricia Barker, acting artistic director. Beauty and the Beast, Tom Thumb, and Sleeping Beauty come to life in French composer Maurice Ravel's imaginative ballet. Originally composed in 1908 and 1910 as a suite of four-hand piano pieces written for the children of his friends, Ravel later reworked them into the ballet *Ma Mère l'oye*.

The Boy Who Wouldn't Do His Homework! (*L'enfant et les Sortilèges* – also by Ravel) brings the talents of Grand Valley's Opera Theatre to the stage. The opera follows a disobedient boy who refuses to do his homework and destroys everything in his room, and then something weird and fantastic happens as the things he wrecked come to life. This classic French music is sung in English translation by an all-student cast.

"I am thrilled that Grand Valley's Opera Theatre and the Grand Rapids Ballet Company are sharing the stage," said Dale Schriemer, artistic director of the GVSU Opera Theatre. "The strong storytelling abilities of both pieces give the audience so much to enjoy."

All music will be performed by a professional ensemble, under the direction of pianist James Barnett, from Chicago, also including Ryan Stumpo, piano; Ed Clifford flute; and Alicia Eppinga, cello.

Performances at GRBC's Peter Martin Wege Theatre, are February 19 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., and February 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets available at the theatre box office, 341 Ellsworth Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, or by calling 616-454-4771, and through Ticketmaster at 800-982-2787.

Performances at Grand Valley's Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, on the Allendale Campus, are February 25 at 7 p.m. and February 26-27 at 2 p.m. Tickets, \$10-20, are available at the LAT box office, or by calling (616)-331-2300, Startickets at 800-585-3737, or online at www.startickets.com. For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/music.

Media may contact Dale Schriemer, artistic director of the GVSU Opera Theatre and associate professor of voice, at (616) 331-3484.

For immediate release

February 10, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Enjoy night of chocolate desserts at GVSU Women's Center fundraiser

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Enjoy an evening indulging in chocolate desserts and participating in a silent auction during the Grand Valley State University Women's Center annual fundraiser set for Thursday, February 17.

"Indulge in a Cause" will run from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St. Desserts from area restaurants and bakeries will be featured and participants can enter silent auctions for prize packages. A jazz band will provide entertainment for the evening.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Women's Center Program Endowment and the Non-traditional Endowment Scholarship for students who might not otherwise receive financial aid.

Tickets for the event are \$30 for the general public and \$10 for Grand Valley students. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748 or visiting the website www.gvsu.edu/women_cen and searching under "News."

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU approves major change for engineering students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The School of Engineering at Grand Valley State University will now offer five different engineering majors. The proposal was presented to the university's Board of Trustees at its February 11 meeting and was approved.

Beginning fall 2011, Grand Valley students, either freshman standing or current students enrolled in the engineering program, can choose majors in computer, electrical, interdisciplinary, mechanical or product design and manufacturing engineering.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said the current engineering programs have matured to the extent that each is appropriate for designation as a separate major. "Growth in enrollment, university and public support, and nationally recognized faculty and facilities are some of the reasons we need to expand the program."

Charlie Standridge, assistant dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing and director of the School of Engineering, said new courses in renewable and sustainable energy, biomedical engineering, fiber optics and nanotechnology have recently been created to keep up with developing industries, and a biomedical engineering minor has been added to the program as well. Standridge also said there will be no additional costs associated with the change, but that the increased visibility of the separate majors will likely attract more students.

The engineering program was established in the mid-1980s with 135 students. Driven by student interest and employer demand, the program grew to more than 600 students in 2009 and continues to grow. About 96 percent of engineering graduates are employed or pursuing graduate studies. The quality of engineering programs in the U.S. is assessed nationally by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), and each of the five engineering programs at Grand Valley has accreditation.

For immediate release

February 15, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Civil rights era leader to give presentations at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Detroit physician who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights era will give two presentations at Grand Valley State University as part of the Black History Month celebration.

During the early 1960s, William G. Anderson was founder and president of the Albany Movement, the first mass movement of the era to set a goal of desegregating an entire community: Albany, Georgia. In December 1961, King and Anderson were among hundreds of other protesters who were arrested within one week.

Now past president of the American Osteopathic Association, Anderson will give two presentations:

-- Thursday, February 24, noon, Kirkhof Center, rooms 2215/2216: "Living History: He Was There," discussing his experiences and work with King.

-- Thursday, February 24, 7 p.m., DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium: "A View of the Past and the Hope of the Future," discussing events in history that shaped the future for African Americans.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Anderson is also senior advisor to the dean of Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, and vice president for academic affairs at Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit. He graduated from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and, after practicing medicine in Georgia, conducted a successful group surgical practice in Detroit until 1984. He has also served as chief medical officer of the Michigan Health Corporation, director of government affairs for Detroit Osteopathic Hospital, and associate director of medical education at Detroit Riverview Hospital.

Anderson and his wife published a book, "Autobiographies of a Black Couple of the Greatest Generation." Proceeds from sales benefit the American Osteopathic Foundation for Minority Scholarships in osteopathic medicine.

For more information about Anderson's lectures, call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177.

February 15, 2011
For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to host Irish poet and Michigan writer

ALLENDALE, MI — A doubleheader of sorts is planned by Grand Valley State University as organizers bring two esteemed writers to the Allendale Campus. Each event is open to the public with free admission.

- Irish poet Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill will give a reading Wednesday, February 23, at 3 p.m., in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

- Michigan poet and fiction writer Laura Kasischke will be on campus Thursday, February 24, Room 2263 Kirkhof Center, to give a talk on writing craft from 4-5:15 p.m., followed by a reading from 5:30-6:30.

Ní Dhomhnaill is one of the few women Irish poets who writes exclusively in Irish. She has been a major influence in revitalizing the Irish language in modern poetry. In her work, Ní Dhomhnaill skillfully negotiates between the older forms, fables, and idioms of Ireland, and the commodity culture and Eurospeak of a modern world.

Born in Lancastershire, England, in 1952, to Irish physicians, Ní Dhomhnaill grew up in the Irish-speaking areas of West Kerry and Tipperary. She studied English and Irish at University College, Cork, where she has subsequently taught. She also speaks Turkish, French, German and Dutch fluently.

Currently the Naughton Fellow of Irish Studies at Notre Dame, Ní Dhomhnaill has held the Burns Chair of Irish Studies at Boston College, and the Humboldt Chair of Irish Studies at Villanova University. Her works have won numerous international awards, been widely published and translated, and have been anthologized in numerous collections, including *The Wake Forest Book of Irish Women's Poetry*, 1967-2000.

Kasischke was raised in Grand Rapids and attended the University of Michigan, where she received bachelor's degree and an MFA in creative writing. She is now an associate professor there, in the Residential College and the MFA program, and lives in Chelsea with her husband and son.

Kasischke has published eight novels, two of which have been made into feature films — *The Life Before Her Eyes* and *Suspicious River* — and eight books of poetry. She has received

fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as several Pushcart Prizes.

Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill visits Grand Valley as an English Department Visiting Scholar to provide Grand Valley students with the opportunity to actively engage with the voices that are shaping English Language and Literature studies. For more information contact Corinna McLeod in the English Department at (616) 331-8576, or mcleodc@gvsu.edu.

Laura Kasischke will come as a participant in the GVSU Writers Series. For more information contact Austin Bunn in the Writing Department at (616) 331-3601 or bunna@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
February 15, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Jennifer Deamud, (616) 331-7482, MI-SBTDC

Michigan's Emerging Technologies Fund receives additional \$1.4 million

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. The Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board approved an additional \$1.4 million to be allocated to the Michigan Emerging Technologies Fund (ETF) managed by the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC) in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The ETF provides commercialization funding to match federal SBIR/STTR awards for technology-based Michigan companies.

The Michigan ETF matches 25 percent of phase I awards up to \$25,000, and 25 percent of phase II awards up to \$125,000. The ETF awards are grants and award dollars must be used to help bring Michigan projects to commercialization.

The ETF grants are being used to hire key staff, protect intellectual property, build facilities for production and beta testing with new customers, stated Phil Tepley, ETF program manager.

Since the MI-SBTDC took over the program in February 2008, it has awarded 64 ETF awards for a total of about \$3.2 million. Companies report that the program has enabled them to create and retain 104 jobs and raise an additional \$5.5 million.

With Michigan ETF support, our company was able to secure a scientist with cellular imaging skills which accelerated our efforts in establishing the mechanism of action of our novel insulin-sensitizing agents, said Rolf Kletzien, founder of Metabolic Solutions Development Co.

About Michigan SBTDC Technology Team

The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center Tech Team is a state-funded initiative that enables entrepreneurs to bridge the gap between technology development and commercialization. The team consists of 10 consultants with proven track records of technology commercialization. In 2010, the Tech Team assisted 369 technology companies and entrepreneurs, assisted in raising \$66.5 million for the companies served, and accelerated job growth throughout the Michigan economy.

About Michigan SBTDC

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center provides counseling, training and market research for Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, expanding new businesses, new technology companies, and innovators. The MI-SBTDC is located at the Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As host of the MI-SBTDC State Headquarters, the Seidman College of Business oversees the 12-region MI-

SBTD network. Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest MI-SBTDC by calling (616) 331-7480 or visiting www.misbtdc.org.

For immediate release

February 17, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Career Services to host two job fairs next week

-- one in partnership with Michigan Department of Human Services

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Career Services will host two job fairs next week, one in partnership with Michigan's Department of Human Services.

The February 22-24 recruitment fair on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus will assist the state's announcement of hiring more than 500 highly qualified graduates to work in children's protective services, foster care, adoption, juvenile and home licensing services to continue to improve the child welfare system.

DHS is partnering with five colleges and universities statewide for a series of three-day recruitment and interview events to reach a diverse pool of applicants. Other recruitment fairs will be held at Northern Michigan University, Michigan State University, Oakland University and Marygrove College. The events are open to all applicants who meet the minimum qualifications of holding a bachelor's or master's degree in social work, psychology, family studies, counseling psychology, criminal justice, sociology, family ecology, consumer/community services, family and/or child development, or guidance/school counseling.

The event's first day will feature an introduction panel presentation that requires pre-registration. During Day 2, applicants must complete a written exercise and application form and undergo a brief interview. Applicants will be notified immediately if they are selected to come back for a second interview on Day 3. Current students with an expected May or August 2011 graduation are encouraged to apply.

For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/dhsjobs. Information is also posted on the Career Services website at www.gvsu.edu/careers, click on "Students."

-- More than 120 employers will be available to discuss internships and jobs during the Careerfest and Health Career Day. The event is set for Tuesday, February 22, from 2-6 p.m. at the DeVos Place Convention Center, 303 Monroe Ave. in Grand Rapids.

The event is free and open to all area college students and graduates. Pre-registration is not required but express check-in will be available with a current resume. Employers will represent a wide range of disciplines including a concentration from the health care field. Visit www.gvsu.edu/careerfairs for details. For more information call Career Services at (616) 331-3311.

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley and supported by these area schools: Aquinas College, Baker College, Calvin College, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, Hope College, Kendall College of Art and Design and Muskegon Community College.

For immediate release

February 17, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Media note: The Albright family can be reached at their home, (616) 662-9160.

A video from today's ceremony can be downloaded at <http://public.me.com/billcuppy>; download the file "James R. Albright Commencement"

GVSU student with Duchenne's disorder earns diploma early

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Earning a bachelor's degree is a high point in the lives of many Grand Valley State University graduates. For Jim Albright and his family, it was a milestone that once seemed impossible.

Albright, 21, suffers from Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a disorder that involves rapidly worsening muscle weakness. The average life expectancy of people with DMD often ranges to the mid-20s.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas and Provost Gayle R. Davis presented Albright with a bachelor's degree in computer science during a private ceremony on February 17 in Seidman House on the Allendale Campus. Albright, a senior, was scheduled to participate in April's commencement ceremony but his mother said they did not want to wait that long.

"We live with the unknown every day," said Deb Albright.

Albright has beaten the odds of DMD throughout his life. Diagnosed with the disorder at age 4, he was using a wheelchair by 7. While many boys with DMD do not finish high school, Albright graduated from Hudsonville High School when he was 16. He was homeschooled by his mother, who used the curriculums of both Freedom Baptist and Hudsonville schools.

"He was working year-round to get through because one of his friends with Duchenne's died at 14," Deb Albright said. "So many of these boys never finish high school." The genetic disorder affects mostly boys.

Albright started taking classes at Grand Valley in January 2007. For almost every course Jim took, Deb was by his side, taking notes and assisting him with his wheelchair and in the restroom.

As he and his mother learned to navigate campus, finding the unisex restrooms and wheelchair ramps, Albright became a stronger and stronger advocate for people with disabilities. He is currently working on a mobile application for smartphones that shows the locations of unisex restrooms, wheelchair ramps and handicapped parking spaces on campus. Through Grand Valley's Mobile Applications and Services Lab, led by associate professor Jonathan Engelsma, a group of five students is helping Albright develop it.

"It could be used at other universities, amusement parks, airports," Albright said.

He also worked with Facilities Services and building contractors to increase the number of unisex restrooms in Mackinac Hall, when that building was undergoing renovation.

"When I started here I didn't think I would make it this far," he said. "Now a lot of stress is lifted and I can get out in the real world and show people with disabilities that they can contribute to society." Albright's goals are not complete. He said he would like to begin working toward a master's degree.

For immediate release
February 18, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
For media interviews contact: Dr. Janet Vail, AWRI (616) 331-3749

Grand Valley research vessel to begin 25 years of service

MUSKEGON, Mich. Since 1986, the *D. J. Angus* research and education vessel has provided on the water experiences for almost 74,000 students and the general public. The vessel is docked on Harbor Island in Grand Haven and is operated by the Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) at Grand Valley State University.

More than 12,000 Grand Valley students have been on the *D. J. Angus*, conducting hands-on water-quality sampling and analysis. AWRI scientists use the vessel for their research.

More than 40,000 students, grades 4-12, have participated in AWRI's Water Resources Outreach Education Program on the *D. J. Angus*. Students from at least 27 counties in Michigan have been on the vessel and school districts, such as Grand Haven Public Schools, provide this experience for all of its middle school students.

AWRI maintains a second vessel, the *W. G. Jackson*, which is docked at Grand Valley's Lake Michigan Center in Muskegon. Launched in 1996, the vessel has carried almost 59,000 people. AWRI uses the vessel for research, outreach to schools, and Grand Valley courses and events such as the annual Family Weekend.

About the Annis Water Resources Institute:

The Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) is a multidisciplinary research organization committed to the study of freshwater resources. The mission of the institute is to integrate research, education, and outreach to enhance and preserve freshwater resources. More information is available online at www.gvsu.edu/wri.

For Immediate Release
February 21, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Charter Schools Office (616) 331-2240

Five GVSU charter schools become schools of excellence

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Five charter schools authorized by Grand Valley State University are now designated as a School of Excellence. The move was approved by the Grand Valley Board of Trustees at its February meeting. Grand Valley is only the second state university to designate select charter schools as Schools of Excellence.

The schools include Arbor Academy (Battle Creek), Black River Public Schools (Holland), Detroit Merit Charter Academy (Detroit), Oakland Academy (Portage), and Vanderbilt Charter Academy (Holland). All schools went through a rigorous review process that included analysis of historical performance.

"Grand Valley's schools of excellence are some of the best schools in the state, and they have proven themselves to be truly exceptional amongst their peers," said Dr. Tim Wood, special assistant to the president for Charter Schools at Grand Valley. "Great things are happening in Grand Valley authorized charter schools across the state."

Detroit Merit Charter Academy (K-8) in metro Detroit is operated by National Heritage Academies. More than 80 percent of Detroit Merit students qualify for free or reduced priced lunch services. On the 2009 MEAP test, 91 percent (math) and 90 percent (reading) of Detroit Merit students were identified as proficient.

Vanderbilt Charter Academy, also operated by National Heritage Academies, achieved a three-year average of 88 percent proficient on the MEAP math test and 87 percent proficient on the MEAP reading test while serving a student population of whom 72 percent qualifies for free or reduced priced lunch services.

Arbor Academy and Oakland Academy are operated by the non-profit group the Foundation for Behavioral Resources. The schools offer small class sizes, less than 20 students per class. Both schools have similarly exceptional results on state and national tests.

Black River Public School is nationally recognized as one of the highest performing high schools in the nation. Nearly 85 percent of Black River Public School graduates enroll in college or university programs.

Among the factors included in the School of Excellence review process are historical MEAP performances, attendance rates, graduation rates, and post secondary enrollments. Following

January 2010's charter school legislation, Michigan's state universities serving as charter school authorizers may open one new charter school for each currently operating charter school that becomes a School of Excellence. Any new charter school must be located within a school district with a three-year graduation rate of 75.5 percent or less.

All Michigan charter schools are tuition-free public schools open to all Michigan students.

For immediate release

February 22, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU seeks volunteers for Community Outreach Week

-- 50 volunteer projects planned locally and nationally

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In the spirit of Grand Valley State University's 50th anniversary, the theme of this year's Community Outreach Week is "50 for 50."

University organizers are looking for volunteers to participate in 50 volunteer projects locally and nationally. Community Outreach Week offers opportunities for individuals and groups to volunteer time to help with service projects in West Michigan and across the country.

Sponsored by Grand Valley's Alumni Association and the Community Service Learning Center, COW will run March 21-26.

Chris Barbee, director of Alumni Relations, says Grand Valley alumni are encouraged to take part in a project for that will benefit their community. "Individuals, alumni friends, and families can all volunteer their time by donating blood, cleaning a park or sorting and distributing food for people in need," Barbee said.

The current list of projects is online at www.gvsu.edu/cow, click on the "Volunteer Now" link. There are also links to submit a new project and a list of resources to search for an organization or service project.

In 2010, more than 150 volunteers in six different states participated in COW.

For more information, visit the website or call Alumni Relations at (616) 331-3590 or the Community Service Learning Center at (616) 331-2468.

February 24, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Meijer Campus partners with rescue mission for recycling project

HOLLAND, Mich. — A new recycling program at Grand Valley State University's Meijer Campus in Holland hits the triple bottom line of sustainability (economic, environmental and social).

Lisa Miller, director of the Meijer Campus, said recycled materials at the South Waverly Road complex used to be picked up by a waste/recycling disposal service company. The Holland Campus Green Team, a committee of students, faculty and staff members, came up with an idea that involves the Holland Rescue Mission.

"The Rescue Mission will pick up the recycling, sort it as part of their job training program and then use the money it generates to support that program," Miller said.

Items that are recycled from the Meijer Campus include paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass. Bob Koelndorfer, from the Holland Rescue Mission, said recycling efforts at the center have saved more than 2,400 trees.

Media opportunity: Staff members from the Rescue Mission are scheduled to pick up recycled materials from the Meijer Campus on 10 a.m. on March 1 and March 15. Media coverage is welcome. For more information, contact Lisa Miller, director of the Meijer Campus, at (616) 331-3910.

February 28, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services

Art in Public: Politics, Economics and a Democratic Culture

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- A free public lecture and symposium will examine the ongoing debate over government funding for the arts.

The events will focus on the work of Lambert Zuidervaat, who was active in the cultural life of Grand Rapids for 17 years, including serving on the board and as president of the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts. He is currently a professor of philosophy at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto and director of ICE's Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics.

Zuidervaat's lecture is on Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. in the Cook Auditorium, Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. It will draw from his most recent book, "Art in Public: Politics, Economics, and a Democratic Culture," which proposes an entirely new conception of the public role of art, with wide-ranging implications for education, politics and cultural policy, and also challenges assumptions about the state, the market, the arts.

The symposium, on Friday, March 18, from 1-4 p.m. at UICA, will include two parts: first, a look at national and historical contexts; second, a focus on the local connection in Grand Rapids. Each part will begin with a report presented by students from Grand Valley's Civic Studio, followed by short position papers that have been submitted in advance.

The events are presented by the Grand Valley State University Department of Art and Design in partnership with Grand Rapids Art Museum, co-sponsors of the lecture; and Civic Studio and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, co-sponsors of the symposium.

For more information, visit <http://artinpublicingr.wordpress.com>.

For Immediate Release
February 28, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley State University News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

MAREC partners with GVSU entrepreneurs to market solar energy credits

MUSKEGON, Mich. - Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center was recently certified as a generator of solar power, allowing the facility to gain revenue for the solar power it produces.

The certification, enabled by the state of Ohio, was developed through a partnership with Midwest Solar Aggregation Group (MiSAG), a subsidiary of Sustainable Energy Financing (SEF), a firm founded by Grand Valley-educated entrepreneurs Kyle Denning and Dan Kuipers.

MAREC is currently the largest solar generator in Michigan to receive this certification, and one of a few Michigan solar generators taking advantage of the emerging carbon offset market-based incentive.

The amount of energy MAREC generates per month translates into solar renewable energy credits, called S-RECs, for cash, which will go toward offsetting operating costs at MAREC. "It's like a commodity - like selling corn - there's market value that's been assigned to solar energy generation, which you can take somewhere and sell on the open market," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "Public utilities in states like Michigan and Ohio have to comply with each state's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), which require that energy generating facilities supply a certain amount of electricity to the public power grid. If they can't reach that obligation with their own resources, they can buy solar energy credits, in this case S-RECs, to meet those requirements."

Boezaart said MAREC is pleased to work with MiSAG to demonstrate renewable energy innovation. "Kyle and Dan are carving out a unique and pioneering business niche that will help to build a broader energy marketplace," said Boezaart. "They are an example of how business innovation can be linked with sustainability principles to generate 'win-win' benefits."

For more information, contact Arn Boezaart at boezaara@gvsu.edu or 616-331-6901, and Dan Kuipers at dan.kuipers@SEF-LLC.com or 616-396-6101.

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Impact of pornography will be discussed at GVSU event

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Several Grand Valley State University departments will sponsor a presentation by Robert Jensen, an expert on the impact of pornography on men and women.

"The Price of Pleasure: Pornography, Sexuality and Relationships" is set for Wednesday, March 16, at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette room. It is sponsored by Women and Gender Studies, Counseling Center and the Women's Center; the event is free and open to the public.

Jensen is a professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. Much of his research has focused on pornography and the radical feminist critique of sexuality. He is the author of numerous books, the latest is "Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity."

During his presentation, Jensen will discuss the effect pornography has on society and the role the adult film industry plays in popular culture. A video will be shown; due to its mature content, viewer discretion is advised.

Questions about Jensen's presentation can be directed to the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748.

For Immediate Release
March 1, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Economic impact of 2010 ArtPrize around \$7 million

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Grand Valley State University researchers have found that during the 2010 ArtPrize roughly 400,000 visitor days generated an estimated economic impact of as much as \$7.5 million for the Grand Rapids area.

Students from Grand Valley's Economic and Hospitality and Tourism Management departments collected data under the supervision of Paul Sicilian, associate professor of economics; Seohee Chang, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management; and Experience Grand Rapids.

The results showed:

50 percent of respondents came from outside Grand Rapids (94 percent were Michigan residents);

67 percent of non-locals were day-visitors (did not stay overnight);

9.5 percent of non-locals stayed in a hotel/motel or B&B;

87.5 percent said that ArtPrize was the primary reason for their trip to Grand Rapids;

Nearly 44 percent were attending ArtPrize for the first time (did not attend last year).

Results also showed direct spending of:

More than \$2.8 million on food;

About \$721,000 on lodging;

Nearly \$589,000 on transportation;

About \$684,000 on retail purchases;

And about \$168,000 on tourism.

For additional information, contact Paul Sicilian at (616) 331-7425 or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
March 2, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

MAREC to showcase Michigan-made renewable energy technology

MUSKEGON, Mich. - Learn and see first-hand the sustainable technology being created in Michigan at the first annual Made in Michigan Renewable Energy Technology Show at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC).

Made in Michigan is open to the public March 21-23, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr. in Muskegon.

At noon on March 23, Mark H. Clevey from the State of Michigan Bureau of Energy Systems (BES), will discuss how the BES supports renewable energy technologies and products in Michigan. Vendors, such as Flint-based solar thermal manufacturer Sunsiaray and Saginaw-based Global Watt, will be on display to highlight technologies and products produced by Michigan-based companies.

Targeted for installers, dealers, distributors, contractors and other businesses as well as the general public, Made in Michigan seeks to bridge the gap between vendors and customers. It also seeks to raise awareness about Michigan's growing role in building and supplying the "green" economy.

Donations will be accepted and will go toward supporting the 2011 Renewable Energy Technology Science Fair for high school and community college students in the spring.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221, or visit www.gvsu.edu/marec or call at (616) 331-6900.

For Immediate Release
March 2, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Current Business Trends: Growth accelerates
AUDIO AVAILABLE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy experienced accelerated growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of February. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, advanced to +45, up from +25. In a similar move, the production index rose to +41 from +29. The index of purchases edged up to +33, from +29. The employment index rose to +35, up from +29.

Long said the recovery of the office furniture industry is part of the strong report for this month. He said auto sales are still on track and even expanding and that business conditions for auto parts producers remain positive. At the national level, Long said the recovery continues at a moderate pace and that the industrial sector is leading the nation out of the recession. Long predicted the month of March will build on this success.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are purchasing managers from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors, and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as same, up or down. An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

March 3, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Reality circus to perform as a Grand Valley 50th anniversary event

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- West Michigan is invited to a free and fabulous reality circus performance as part of Grand Valley State University's 50th Anniversary celebration.

"Stand Up Eight" will be presented Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. in the Fieldhouse Arena, on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.

This is a show that breaks the rules by combining conventional theater and modern circus elements. Eight wild and spunky street performers interact with audiences during a partly scripted, partly improvised show of mesmerizing flight, cracking whips, untamed fire and side-splitting fun.

Among the performers is five-time national trampoline champion, Christianne Sainz, a Plainfield native who studied theater and graduated from Grand Valley in 2006. During a guest artist workshop, she met Allison Williams, and after graduating joined Williams' circus arts company, Aerial Angels and more recently, her Stand Up Eight reality circus.

"The opportunities I had at Grand Valley helped to shape me into the person I am today," said Sainz. "It's thrilling to return to campus as a professional performer."

Williams, the group's artistic director, said most of the performers have backgrounds in festival and street performance with specialties ranging from aerial skills and contortion, to fire eating and theatrics.

"This will be a family show, appropriate for all ages," said Bob Stoll, director of Student Life & Event Services. "We wanted to bring something quite unique to campus to celebrate the university's 50th anniversary with the community."

Open to the public with free admission, this event is sponsored by the School of Communications, Office of Student Life, Spotlight Productions, and the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

For more information contact Stoll at 331-2345, or stollb@gvsu.edu. Learn more about the performance group at <http://standup8show.com>

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley offers West Michigan's first AACSB-accredited full-time MBA

Program includes a paid fellowship and study abroad

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Grand Valley State University is offering a first-of-a-kind masters program that guarantees study abroad, a paid fellowship and a stint in Washington, D.C.

Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business is taking applications for this new, full-time Master of Business Administration program. This integrated and accredited program is the first in West Michigan. The accelerated program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and is designed to give students experiences that will jump-start their careers and provide immediate opportunities for them as business leaders.

The 14-month program is unique in several ways. It is designed for recently graduated business students. Unlike traditional MBA programs, the new program is integrated in nature, using the full business cycle as a framework for lesson plans. Faculty will team teach their subjects so topics such as raising capital, product launch, and operational management are integrated into their coursework.

Each student is guaranteed a paid fellowship which will run parallel with classes. This provides students an opportunity to immediately apply the knowledge they've gained through their studies.

Students will also attend the Washington Campus Program in Washington, D.C., to gain knowledge of the inner workings of the American political system and deepen their understanding of the relationship between business and government.

Each student will also participate in a study abroad experience during a module focusing on international business. There is no extra fee to study abroad; the cost is built into the tuition.

This program offers cutting-edge business knowledge developed in collaboration with business leaders, said H. James Williams, dean of the Seidman College of Business. Grand Valley is offering a unique opportunity in West Michigan, which will take students into area business, Washington and across the globe.

Sridhar Sundaram, chair of the Finance Department, led the development of the program content. The goal of this full-time MBA program is not just to teach students advanced business knowledge, but to create a uniquely skilled professional, he said.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2011; the first cohort is limited to 30 students. The program begins June 27, 2011.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 78 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

Media can contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100 or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221. Students interested in the program should call (616) 331-7400 or visit www.gvsu.edu/fimba.

For Immediate Release
March 7, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Federal officials expect a record year for agriculture exports

GVSU seminar highlights exporting to global markets

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said farm and food products are expected to reach a record \$135.5 billion in fiscal year 2011 and that agriculture may have its best export year ever.

A seminar exploring how exporting can help increase sales, expand market base and spread out risk is being held by the Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University.

Exports of consumer food products are growing three times faster than sales within the U.S., largely due to the growing purchasing power of consumers worldwide. Trade restrictions have also fallen globally, giving U.S. exporters an unprecedented level of access to many international markets, particularly benefiting exporters of value-added food and agricultural products.

Exporting to Global Markets

March 17, 2011

12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

GVSU Bicycle Factory, 201 Front Ave. SW, Grand Rapids

Sessions will focus on:

International marketing strategies: How to begin winning international customers

Export financing opportunities: Benefits from loan assistance and hedging

Efficient global food distribution system: Navigate customs and regulations with perishable cargo

Food labeling requirements: What do key U.S. export markets require?

Benefits from Free Trade Agreements and impacts to the food industry

Success stories: Hear real-life accounts of how others have successfully expanded globally

Local Michigan assistance and resources

The event is in partnership with Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business and Michigan Department of Agriculture, and sponsored by Varnum, MGM, Comerica Bank and MiBiz.

For registration information visit www.vagtc.org or call (616) 331-6811.

For Immediate Release
March 7, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU receives silver STAR status for sustainable practices

ALLENDALE, Mich. - Grand Valley State University 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 (AASHE).

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 three categories: education and research, operations, and planning, administration and engagement. The full report can be viewed by searching "Grand Valley" at www.stars.aashe.org/institutions.

"This could quite possibly be the biggest collaborative effort we have had on campus," said Norman Christopher, director of the Sustainable Community Development Initiative at Grand Valley. "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."

STARS is designed to help gauge the progress of colleges and universities toward sustainability in all sectors, from governance and operations to academics and community engagement. The system is similar to the LEED (Leadership in Energy Environmental Design) green building rating system. STARS, however, is applied to an entire campus rather than a single building or set of buildings and evaluates social responsibility as well as environmental stewardship.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or the Sustainable Community Development Initiative at (616) 331-7366.

For immediate release

March 7, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU, Northern Michigan College partner to offer environmental leadership program

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and Northern Michigan College have partnered to offer a new emphasis for the liberal studies degree program in Traverse City. It expands Grand Valley's Liberal Studies program to reach students from both institutions who are interested in jobs related to sustainability and the environment.

An information session about the new Liberal Studies/Environmental Leadership program will be held Wednesday, March 16, from 6-7:30 p.m. at NMC's Great Lakes Campus, room 111, 715 E. Front St.

Marty Litherland, director of regional centers for Grand Valley, said students who enroll in the program will study issues related to the environment from an interdisciplinary perspective. Courses will be wide-ranging and include studies in natural resource policies, environmental economics, grant writing and ethics. The environmental studies minor is also available.

Interested NMC students who are enrolled in the Freshwater Studies Associate's Degree program, or another NMC degree program are encouraged to attend the information session to meet with an advisor about credit transfers.

To RSVP for the session, visit www.gvsu.edu/traverse/envleadership/. Questions can be directed to (231) 995-1785.

March 7, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

GVSU Art Gallery exhibition 'Ravines Revisited' opens March 14

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A new exhibition at the Grand Valley State University Art Gallery explores the beauty and complexity of the landscape and the effects of erosion to the Allendale Campus Ravines.

The exhibition, "Ravines Revisited," in the GVSU Art Gallery, in the Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus, opens March 14. An opening reception with the artists is planned for Thursday, March 17, from 5-7 p.m. Both the exhibition and reception are open to the public with free admission.

Photographic essays by three Grand Valley faculty artists are featured in the exhibition: Dellas Henke, Department of Art & Design professor; Stanley Krohmer, Liberal Studies Department affiliate faculty; and Anthony Thompson, School of Communications associate professor and director.

Henke began as a painter and in 1975 discovered printmaking, which he studied at the University of Iowa. He later moved to Rochester, New York, where he set up a press, began an association with Samuel Beckett, and ultimately made three books of prints with his texts. He began to teach at Grand Valley in 1982 and continues to make prints, drawings and photogravures.

Krohmer's images were selected from more than 1,500 Tri-X and Fuji medium format film negatives made between Autumn, 2005 and early Spring, 2007 and shot with several vintage 1950's Rolleiflex F Twin Lens Reflex cameras. His Autumnal Series of color photos were taken at the trailhead of Ravines Sanctuary near Calder Art Center.

Thompson's interests include photographic theory and discourse, the intersection of Art and Science as ways of knowing, and creative photography that mixes traditional and digital processes. His Seasonal Light series is a meditation in visual form within and upon a part of the university's communal landscape, the Ravines.

Additional programs during the exhibition include a March 24, performance by the New Music Ensemble, and an April 15 guided tour of the ravines by Peter Wampler, professor of geology, to discuss improvements that have been made in recent years by the university to control ravines erosion by rain-water run-off. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery, (<http://www.gvsu.edu/artgallery>,) or call (616) 331-2563.

For immediate release

March 8, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Retired GVSU leaders will give 'lessons' to student audience

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Three men with a storied history at Grand Valley State University will share their knowledge with students and others during an event sponsored by Housing and Residence Life.

"Lessons from a Lifelong Learner" will feature Arend D. Lubbers, president emeritus; Glenn Niemeyer, provost and vice president of academic affairs emeritus; and Ron VanSteeland, vice president for finance and administration emeritus. Their presentation is set for Tuesday, March 15, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus. A reception will follow.

The three men formed the core of Grand Valley's central administration for more than three decades until they all retired in 2001.

Lubbers became president of Grand Valley in 1969 at the age of 37, making him one of the youngest college presidents in the nation. Niemeyer was working as an assistant professor of history when Lubbers arrived, and VanSteeland's tenure began in 1966 when he was named personnel officer.

During an interview for Grand Valley's 50th anniversary, VanSteeland said the three men "looked each other in the eye every day for almost 30 years." They also led the way for major changes at Grand Valley, including closing the cluster college system, establishing a presence in downtown Grand Rapids, and creating professional academic programs in health sciences, nursing, business, engineering, social work and education.

Niemeyer once said he credits two factors for the trio's longevity and success. "One was that we had great respect for one another," he said. "We enjoyed working with each other; we respected what the other was doing; we had confidence in each other; we knew each other that well. The second factor, I think, was that we had so much invested in this university."

Lessons from a Lifelong Learner is free and open to the public; RSVP by sending an e-mail to lessons@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU hosts 40 teams at FIRST Robotics Competition

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 1,000 students on 40 high school teams from around the Midwest are competing in the "varsity sport for the mind" at Grand Valley State University March 18-19.

The FIRST Robotics West Michigan District Competition is a high-energy event, filled with many strong visuals, and is more like a rock concert or major sporting event than a science fair.

Friday and Saturday, March 18-19
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Allendale Campus, Fieldhouse Arena
Event is free and open to the public

Using a common kit of parts, teams have six weeks to build a robot to compete in a game. FIRST Robotics helps students get hands-on experience solving real-world problems; they get to discover the excitement and rewards of science and technology careers. Since the program was founded in 1989, it has grown from 28 teams to more than 3,000. Statistics show those students are more likely to go to college, and they are twice as likely to major in science and engineering. One hundred universities including Grand Valley offer scholarships to FIRST participants. The scholarships total \$9 million nationwide.

Complete information, including a detailed schedule and a list of teams, is available at www.westmichiganfirst.com.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or the Padnos College of Engineering & Computing, at (616) 331-6260.

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Office of Graduate Studies, (616) 331-7105

GVSU graduate students conduct innovative research

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Graduate students at Grand Valley State University will display their original and significant research at the 2011 Graduate Showcase March 28 and 31.

Outstanding graduate students and their faculty mentors will display and present their research on topics like trends in local health care costs, how faith-based organizations can help former prisoners, and the quality of life for bobcats in Michigan, to name a few. Anyone interested in graduate education at Grand Valley should attend the event to learn more about the innovative and high quality programs.

The 2011 Graduate Showcase schedule is as follows:

March 28

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton

Presenting disciplines include: accounting, business administration, communication, criminal justice, education, English, health administration, public administration, social work, taxation

March 31

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Hager Auditorium

Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan N.E.

Presenting disciplines include: biology, biomedical sciences, biostatistics, cell and molecular biology, computer information systems, engineering, medical and bioinformatics, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, professional science masters

The event is being hosted by Grand Valley's Office of Graduate Studies and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. For more information, call (616) 331-7105, or News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
March 14, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Iannelli named director of GVSU engineering school

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Joe Iannelli has been selected as the new director of Grand Valley State University's School of Engineering. He succeeds Charlie Standridge, who filled both roles as director of the school and assistant dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

Standridge will resume his role as assistant dean, and Iannelli will officially assume his position July 3.

Iannelli comes from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, where he served as head of the engineering department for three years and led the establishment of a biomedical engineering concentration and a 300 percent rise in engineering enrollment. Prior to that, he taught aerospace, biomedical and mechanical engineering for 13 years at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he also received a doctorate in engineering science and mechanics. He also served as director of the Center of Aeronautics at City University in London for three years.

Born in Susa, Italy, Iannelli received a combined bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Palermo in aeronautical engineering, and earned a post-graduate diploma in fluid dynamics from the von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics, a NATO research institute near Brussels.

Iannelli said he wants to help Grand Valley receive more national attention.

"A compelling university vision, integration of liberal arts in the educational process, study abroad opportunities, state-of-the-art facilities, and excellent faculty, staff and academic programs, are all elements that I believe make Grand Valley an emerging leader of universities in the U.S.," he said.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said, "Paired with his extensive experience in the field and his passion for higher education, I am very optimistic that Joe will provide wonderful guidance and direction for the faculty, staff and students here."

Iannelli will continue to teach students, and wants to be as accessible to students, faculty and staff members as possible.

"I'm excited to roll up my sleeves and get to know the engineering community at Grand Valley," said Iannelli. "One of my goals is to institute the most favorable environment for faculty, staff and students to succeed, as I also measure my success in terms of their success."

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

March 14, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Author of 'Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks' will make two West Michigan appearances
-- Book is GVSU Community Reading Project

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The author of Grand Valley's Community Reading Project will discuss her best-selling book, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," during presentations in late March in Grand Rapids and Holland.

Rebecca Skloot will give a presentation on Monday, March 28, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE. The event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required and there will not be reserved seating. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

She will also be at Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave. in Holland, at 12:30 p.m. on March 28 for a book discussion.

The book, named by more than 60 critics as one of the best books of 2010, traces the story of Henrietta Lacks, a poor Southern tobacco farmer who underwent a medical procedure in the early 1950s and unknowingly had her cells taken. Her cells, known as HeLa, continue to grow in culture today; they are an important medical tool that led to advances in cloning, in vitro fertilization and gene mapping. Lacks' cells have been sold for millions, yet her family did not know of the research or the money involved until 20 years after Lacks' death.

Skloot, a science writer, took more than a decade to write her debut book. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications including the New York Times Magazine, O, the Oprah Magazine and Discover. She is also the founder and president of the Henrietta Lacks Foundation and a portion of book sales go to support the foundation that has given tuition grants to Lacks' descendants.

Grand Valley's Community Reading Project, now in its sixth year, is sponsored by the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Libraries and University Bookstores. Susan Mendoza, director of Undergraduate Research and Integrative Learning, said more than 3,000 Grand Valley campus and community members have been engaged in dialogue about the book via courses, discussion groups and community events.

Other events associated with CRP are detailed below.

-- March 24, 4 p.m., Meijer Campus in Holland: Community book discussion sponsored by Grand Valley and Black River Public Schools.

-- March 24, 7 p.m., Grand Rapids Public Main Library, Ryerson Auditorium: Discussion will feature guests from Grand Valley, Calvin College and Grand Rapids African American Health Institute.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/read or call (616) 331-8100.

Media note: A headshot of Skloot is available by sending an e-mail to Michele Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

March 15, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to host panel of religious leaders

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Office of Multicultural Affairs at Grand Valley State University will host a panel of religious leaders to discuss religious identity and how influences contribute to one's journey of faith.

"Speaking of Faith: Interfaith Dialogue in the 21st Century" will be held Wednesday, March 23, from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. The event is free and open to the public.

Panelists are as follows:

- Jerome T. Glen, senior pastor at Revolution Christian Ministries in Grand Rapids;
- Sheldon Kopperl, GVSU professor of biomedical sciences;
- Ghazala Munir, interfaith activist;
- Brad Schoeberle, St. Luke University Parish in Allendale;
- Fred Stella, president of Interfaith Dialogue Association.

Charles Honey, religion editor at the Grand Rapids Press, will serve as moderator.

The event is co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life, Dean of Students Office and WGVU. For more information, call (616) 331-2177 or visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

March 15, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley Writers Series to feature Kelcey Parker

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- The Grand Valley State University Writers Series presents Kelcey Parker, the author of the story collection *For Sale By Owner* (Kore Press 2011). Parker received a doctorate in literature and creative writing from the University of Cincinnati and currently directs the creative writing program at Indiana University South Bend.

Parker will give a reading on Thursday, March 24, at 1 p.m. at the GVSU Alumni House. She will also give a craft talk at 4 p.m. in room 136 Lake Superior Hall. Both events are on the Allendale Campus and are open to the public with free admission.

Parker's fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in *Indiana Review*, *Bellingham Review*, *Redivider*, *Sycamore Review*, *Santa Monica Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Third Coast*, and twice in *Image*, where she was featured as Artist of the Month in November 2009. She is a regular contributor to the Novel & Short Story Writer's Market.

For more information about Parker, visit her website: <http://kelceyparker.com>

For more information about Grand Valley's Writers Series, contact Austin Bunn, assistant professor in the Department of Writing, at bunna@gvsu.edu, (<mailto:bunna@gvsu.edu>,) or (616) 331-3601.

March 15, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

GVSU Theatre presents 'Braggart Soldier'

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Imagine the slapstick comedy of the Three Stooges, Laurel & Hardy and the Marx Brothers, all rolled into one play. Now place the setting in ancient Rome to envision the upcoming theater production of "Braggart Soldier," performed by students at Grand Valley State University, beginning April 1, which fittingly is April Fool's Day.

Don't be fooled by the ancient setting and characters. Based on the Roman comedy "Miles Gloriosus" by Plautus, this translation, by Erich Segal with modern twists, is as popular today as in ancient times and was the inspiration for Stephen Sondheim's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

"Braggart Soldier" refers to the main character Pyrgopolynices, who brags openly and often about his supposed greatness, while the rest of the characters feign their admiration and secretly plot against him. Stock characters including a pair of young lovers and a wily servant, spice up the secret plots and cases of mistaken identity with their own delusions and trickery.

"This is a fun way to bring attention to the Classics in a cartoon come-to-life way," said director Ben Cole, visiting assistant professor of theater, in Grand Valley's School of Communications. Cole, a member of the Society of American Fight Directors, also brings his expertise to scenes including stage combat, making them appear realistic while ensuring the safety of actors.

Other authentic elements include costumes inspired by Roman togas and gladiators, and an all-student sound design and performance team. Following ancient tradition, the "musicians" will be included on stage to create comedic sound effects throughout the performance. "Come expecting a wild and fun time," said Cole.

Performances, which run two hours, are April 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m. and April 3 & 10 at 2 p.m., at Grand Valley's Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. Tickets, \$6-12, are available at the LAT box office at (616)-331-2300, Startickets at 800-585-3737, or www.startickets.com. For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/theatre.

Media may contact director Ben Cole at (616) 331-8076.

March 16, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Michigan History Day regional contest at Grand Valley Saturday

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Performances, presentations, interviews and questions from judges are what lies ahead for young students headed to Michigan History Day. The western regional contest will be held at Grand Valley State University on Saturday, March 19, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

Michigan History Day offers middle and high school students a fascinating opportunity to move social studies beyond rote learning. Following research on an individually chosen topic they will present their work through the disciplines of art, literature, music, drama, and visual communications, in addition to writing.

This year's contest includes 160 students representing many West Michigan area schools. Their entries follow the theme, "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." The competition includes two divisions: junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12). There is also a noncompetitive youth division for fourth and fifth graders who may come to the competition for judging.

Entrants present in one of five categories: individual paper, individual or group exhibits, documentaries, websites and performances. Judges are faculty and graduates from Grand Valley's history department, local teachers and community historians. They will select the top three entries in each division and category, which will advance to the state contest, held at Grand Valley on April 30.

"It is the goal of the program to empower students with research skills, critical thinking skills and outlets for creative expression," said Sean O'Neill, Grand Valley professor of history. "These in turn will enhance their academic abilities in all areas of study."

Sponsors for the local event include Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of History, The Historical Society of Michigan, The Michigan Council for History Education, Meijer, Alticor, The Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation and the Detroit Salt Company.

For more information contact Sean O'Neill at (616) 331-3325. Teachers experienced at guiding students through the Michigan History Day program are listed opposite their schools; they would be good contacts for interviews.

Schools participating include:

Senior Category

Comstock Park High School — Karen Auwers
Forest Hills Central High School — Paul Ten Eyck
Forest Hills Eastern High School — Lea Seigny
Holland High School — Gary Vosburg, Mark Knopf, Ryan Harrell

Whitehall High School — Jan Klco

Junior Category

Ada Christian Middle School — Vonda Brasser

Bunker Middle School (Muskegon) — Joeseeph Panici and Cozette Thomas

Forest Hills Central Middle School — Paul Ten Eyck

Forest Hills Eastern Middle School — James Cross, Adam McVicker & Lea Sevigny

Forest Hills Northern Middle School — Mary Beth McMahon, Joe Curcuru and Patrick Stecco

Holland West Middle School — Gary Vosburg, Mark Knopf, Ryan Harrell

Holland East Middle School — Gary Vosburg, Mark Knopf, Ryan Harrell

Morley Stanwood — Dan Boyer

Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School — David Vermeulen

North Rockford Middle School — Maria Ward

Whitehall Middle School — Jan Klco and Robb Zoellmer

Youth Category

Ealy Elementary School, Whitehall — Jan Klco and Robb Zoellmer

For Immediate Release
March 16, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Schlossberg featured speaker for Secchia Breakfast Lecture

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Boris Schlossberg, director of currency research at Global Fortex Trading and commentator for Bloomberg radio and television, is the featured speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business.

Schlossberg will speak about "Three Themes That Can Move Currencies This Year."

Gary Tilkin, founder, CEO, and president of Global Forex Trading will also be present and available for interviews.

Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture

Tuesday, March 22

7:30 a.m. breakfast

8-9:30 a.m. presentation

Loosemore Auditorium

DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

MEDIA NOTE: Schlossberg and Tilkin will be available for interviews before and after the event.

Schlossberg, who spent 20-years on Wall Street, is a weekly contributor to CNBC's *Squawk Box* and a regular commentator for Bloomberg radio and television. His daily currency research is widely quoted by Reuters, Dow Jones and Agence France Press newswires.

Tilkin is a 30-year veteran in futures and currencies trading and has developed his company into a world-leading online currency trading firm.

For more information, call the GVSU Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100 or News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

March 17, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Women's Studies conference draws experts from across Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Participants at a daylong conference sponsored by the Michigan Women's Studies Association will explore feminism, activism and education.

"Leading the Way: Feminism, Education and Social Change" is set for Saturday, March 26, at the Eberhard Center on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 301 W. Fulton St.

The keynote speaker will be Susan Douglas, professor of communication studies at the University of Michigan. Douglas is an author of several books including "Enlightened Sexism: The Seductive Message That Feminism's Work Is Done." Breakout sessions throughout the day will cover a range of topics including politics, activism and equality. Session leaders draw from across the state and include activists, students and faculty members.

The conference will run from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Cost to attend is \$70 for Michigan Women's Studies Association, \$80 for non-members and \$60 for students. Register online at www.gvsu.edu/wgs. Cost to attend the luncheon only is \$30; the deadline for registration is March 21.

The conference is sponsored by the Michigan Women's Studies Association, Grand Valley's Women & Gender Studies Program, and the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

For Immediate Release
March 18, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Margo Dill or Karen Meyers, tournament co-directors, (616) 331-2267

Science Olympiad celebrates Year of Chemistry 2011

ALLENDALE, Mich. As Grand Valley State University celebrates its 50th anniversary, the 2011 Michigan Science Olympiad Region 12 Tournament at Grand Valley is celebrating the International Year of Chemistry. At this year's Science Olympiad competition, five chemistry related events will be highlighted. The events include Can't Judge a Powder, Chemistry Lab, Crime Busters, Forensics and Protein Modeling.

Middle and high school students from 73 schools in Kent and Ottawa counties are preparing to show off their science and mathematics skills. This is Grand Valley's 27th year hosting the regional tournament, which consists of events in biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, computers and technology. These events are a mixture of academic, engineering and design challenges.

Michigan Science Olympiad Region 12 Tournament

Saturday, March 26

9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Award ceremony 4:30-6 p.m.

GVSU Allendale Campus

Headquarters is located in room 192 in the Fieldhouse

Public is invited to attend open events

Winners advance to the state tournament held Saturday, April 30, at Michigan State University.

For a complete schedule of events, event locations, and participating schools, contact Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267, or visit www.gvsu.edu/mso-r12.

For Immediate Release
March 21, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Michael DeWilde, (616) 331-3612, GVSU Business Ethics Center

Local CEOs talk business ethics

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Three local CEOs and founders of the Business Ethics Center at Grand Valley State University will discuss ethics in the workplace at the Fifth Annual Barry Castro Business Ethics Lecture. Shelley Padnos, Fred Keller, and Jeff Koeze are the featured speakers for the presentation, Why Ethics Matter: Local CEOs on Money, Managing, and Morality.

Padnos is executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Louis Padnos Iron and Metal Company, Keller is the founder and owner of Cascade Engineering, and Koeze is part owner of Koeze Company, Koeze Direct and Nuthatch Software.

Why Ethics Matter
Tuesday, March 29
6-7:15 p.m.
Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center
Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Business Ethics Center in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business. For more information, contact Michael DeWilde at (616) 331-3612 or dewildem@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
March 21, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, (616) 331-7257

GVSU student entrepreneurs compete for \$10,000

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Watch the next generation of West Michigan entrepreneurs in the 4th Annual Grand Valley State University Business Plan Competition. Seven undergraduate student groups will compete for total prize money up to \$10,000 in startup capital and the opportunity to lift their business off the ground.

During their presentation, contestants have 10 minutes to pitch their business model and what it will take to get their business operational. The competition is an opportunity for entrepreneurial students to think through business opportunities that prepare a business plan, and learn the fine art of pitching ideas to investors.

The competition is sponsored by Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Seidman College of Business.

GVSU Business Plan Competition

Tuesday, March 22

6-9 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center
Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Judges include:

Michael Hollander, vice president and regional market manager with Business Banking Group, 5/3 Bank

Michael Hyacinthe, founder of Urban Liberty

Mark Olesnavage, president of Hopen Therapeutics

Mary Reagan Shapton, founder of Reagan Marketing+Design

Jody Vanderwel, president of the Grand Angels

Featured students include:

MILES SMITH, Simplistic Innovation

Miles is a sophomore and an international business major. His company seeks to break into the niche market of the fishing industry. Smith developed a new product designed to reduce the loss of fishing lures caused by underwater snags.

FRANK LEONARD, Keg Regulator

Leonard is a senior and an operations management and marketing major. His company aims to prevent skimming (stealing) of draft beer at bars while also assisting with marketing and research concepts and distribution of draft beer.

DANIEL GREER & MIKE PATTERSON, InventEFFICIENCY

Greer is a sophomore and an accounting and marketing major, and Mike Patterson is a senior and a finance major. Their company's mission is to help small- to medium-sized hospitals close the gap between larger hospitals by providing unmatched inventory management strategies.

JOE PRESUTTI & CORY CAIN, Suckers for a Cause

Presutti is a sophomore and a finance and business economics major and the president of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO). Cain is a business major and the past president of CEO. Suckers for a Cause seeks to create and distribute a unique line of hard-candy suckers that will support non-profit organizations and other charitable causes.

EMILY TEALL, Seven Seeds Enterprises

Teall is a sophomore and an anthropology major. Her intermediary business negotiates supply contracts between ecologically conscious small-scale farmers and food producers, and the dining services of educational institutions.

JEREMIAH CORNELL & MU YANG, The Great American Culture Company, LLC

Cornell is a senior and a marketing major, and Mu Yang is a junior and an international business major. Their organization hires American college students to help international students adapt to life in America. Employees will meet up with international students two-to-three times per week for activities such as going to the beach, camping and going to the mall.

LUKE RICHARD, G.R. Greens

Richard is a senior and a philosophy major. His business will grow produce to sell at both a retail and wholesale value.

For more information, contact the GVSU Center for Entrepreneurship at (616) 331-7257.

For Immediate Release
March 22, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU students to gather in Lansing to advocate for higher education

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students from Grand Valley State University will be joining students from other Michigan public universities to rally support for the allocation of more funding for higher education on Thursday, March 24, in Lansing, from noon-3 p.m.

The Student Association of Michigan, an advocacy group for Michigan's students of higher education, and the student governments at each public university are hosting the rally, "Lansing Blitz." Students will rally on the Capitol steps, visit legislators, and be recognized in both the Michigan House and Senate sessions to send a message to their elected leaders. According to the Facebook event page, more than 1,000 students plan on attending. (Visit <http://on.fb.me/fdltxg>) (<http://on.fb.me/fdltxg>)

"There is growing student frustration with the lack of investment in higher education," said Trevor Tenbrink, Grand Valley Student Senate vice president of political affairs. "The Blitz will be a fantastic opportunity for Grand Valley students to voice their opinions regarding Gov. Snyder's proposed budget cuts and express their disappointment."

Students interested in attending the rally can register at <http://rally.mistudents.org>

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Natalie Cleary, Grand Valley Student Senate vice president of public relations, at clearyn@mail.gvsu.edu.

March 22, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221.

Two from Grand Valley will perform at Carnegie Hall

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Two on staff at Grand Valley State University are headed to Carnegie Hall to perform on March 28, as members of the Holland Chorale.

Jeff Chamberlain, from Hudsonville, is a professor of history and director of the Frederik Meijer Honors College at Grand Valley. Greta Huyser, from Jenison, is assistant to Vice President Matt McLogan, in Grand Valley's University Relations office. Though they work on the same campus, their paths rarely crossed until they each discovered the chorale.

When Chamberlain gets time to research and write, his focus has been on "conspiracy and intrigue" in the 18th century. But these days, it's music that grabs his attention as the baritone prepares for his Carnegie Hall debut.

"I sang in college, then later in church and other choral groups, but then got away from it as life got busier," said Chamberlain. "A couple of years ago, I saw the Holland Chorale was holding auditions, so I decided to try out."

He admits being nervous about sight-reading at the audition and the range on the musical scale he needed to reach. He made a good impression though and is now in his second year of performing with the group. He also sang in Grand Valley's Fall Arts Celebration performance of "Messiah," at Fountain Street Church in December.

For Huyser, who joined the chorale in September, the biggest challenge has been the foreign languages. "Our Christmas concert included songs in Russian and our February concert had French, German and Italian songs," she said. "I've learned so much from this elite group and feel honored to perform with them."

Like Chamberlain, Huyser saw the audition notice, but hesitated to try out. She had previously only sung in school and a church choir. After some private lessons with the chorale vocal consultant, Nicholas Loren, it was the encouragement of a friend that gave her the push she needed.

Ryan Kelly is artistic director of the Holland Chorale, which was invited to join other choirs and an orchestra for the Carnegie Hall performance of Haydn's "Missa in tempore belli," or "Mass in Time of War," which will be conducted by Jason Paulk of Eastern New Mexico University. The Holland Chorale will give an encore performance April 30, 7:30 p.m., at the Zeeland Performing Arts Center.

For more information, visit www.hollandchorale.org.

For Immediate Release
March 22, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Nael Barakat, (616) 331-6825, GVSU School of Engineering

GVSU regional engineering conference draws students from across country

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - Students from Michigan, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ontario will attend a professional mechanical engineering conference and competition at Grand Valley State University from March 25-27. The competitions are free and open to the public.

This is the second time Grand Valley is hosting the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) 2011 Student Professional Development Conference. The conference will feature competitions in oral presentation, student design, technical poster, web design and impromptu design. The outcomes will determine what teams will advance to the international competition in Denver, Colorado, in November. ASME has more than 120,000 members in 150 countries.

Competitions:

Saturday, March 26, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Grand Valley, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Kennedy Hall of Engineering

Media are encouraged to attend the competitions on Saturday. For more information, contact Nael Barakat, professor and program organizer, at (616) 331-6825 or barakatn@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Maryann Lesert, 616-234-4368, GRCC

Author to present ways students can change the world

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Libuse Binder, author of "Ten Ways to Change the World in Your Twenties," will visit two higher education institutions in West Michigan on April 4 and 5. She will discuss ways students can make a difference – from eating locally to starting a nonprofit organization.

Grand Valley State University will host Binder on Monday, April 4, from 6-8 p.m. in Cook-DeWitt Auditorium, Allendale Campus. A panel discussion by students from Grand Valley and Grand Rapids Community College will follow Binder's presentation, as well as a book signing.

Binder will visit Grand Rapids Community College on April 4 from 2-3 p.m. and on April 5 from 10-11 a.m. at GRCC's downtown campus.

In the book, Binder provides up-to-date resources and ideas for both the casually concerned and the deeply passionate. By combining easy-to-follow suggestions with the stories of Millennials already making a difference, she aims to inspire young people to find and follow their passions.

After college, Binder moved to Hollywood to start a career in film production. She has experience as a writer, teacher, and environmental activist, as well as a researcher on how technology has energized grassroots movements everywhere. She has grown to believe in the powerful potential of this generation to change the world in revolutionary ways. Her work has appeared in Weekly Way, Earth911, Worldchanging, and Fit Yoga. Ten Ways to Change the World in Your Twenties is also an organization designed to offer ways for everyone to change the world.

Binder's visit is sponsored by the Sustainable Community Development Initiative at Grand Valley and the Center for Teaching Excellence at GRCC. The co-hosted event also aims to increase the interaction between the faculty and students of both GRCC and GVSU. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainability. Learn more about the Binder's book at www.tenways.org.

March 23, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221
Zulema Moret, GVSU Director of Latin American Studies (616) 331-2286

Area colleges promote Latin American Film Festival

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University and other area colleges and sponsors have joined together to present the second annual Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival, April 7-9. Six of the most acclaimed Latin American films will focus on a wide range of contemporary topics.

The festival is open to the public and all events at Wealthy Theatre are free. The festival opens April 7 with two screenings of Roberto Girault's film, "El estudiante," from Mexico, at Celebration! Cinema RiverTown at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. A \$3 admission is charged at this event only.

On Friday, April 8, the festival will continue at Wealthy Theatre with a special guest and two films:

"Maldeamores" (Lovesickness), from Puerto Rico, directed by Carlitos Ruiz and Mariem Pérez, at 5 p.m.

"Voces inocentes" (Innocent Voices), from Mexico/El Salvador, directed by Luis Mandoki at 7:30 p.m.

Special guest, screenwriter Oscar Torres, will introduce his semi-autobiographical movie, "Voces inocentes." After the film, Torres will answer questions and discuss his childhood growing up in war-torn El Salvador, and the use of children in armed conflicts.

The festival concludes on Saturday, April 9, with three films at Wealthy Theatre:

"Contracorriente" (Undertow), from Peru, directed by Javier Fuentes-León, at 2 p.m.

"Paraiso Travel" from USA/Colombia, directed by Simon Brand, at 4:30 p.m.

"El secreto de sus ojos" (The Secret in their eyes), from Argentina, directed by Juan José Campanella, at 7:30 p.m.

Institutional sponsors of the festival include: Aquinas College; Calvin College; Chiaroscuro Film Series; Consulate of Mexico, Detroit; Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities; and Wealthy Theatre. Grand Valley State University's support includes Latin American Studies, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of Multicultural Affairs, School of Communications, and the Departments of English, History, and Political Science.

Visit grlatinofilmfest.wordpress.com for more information on the films and festival.

For Immediate Release
March 24, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

MAREC receives federal approval, moves forward with offshore wind study
New technology to provide first-time approach to research

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center is acquiring a wind assessment buoy that will collect wind data. MAREC has received final federal approval to proceed with the three-year, offshore wind assessment study.

Manufactured by AXYS Technologies, Inc. of Sidney, British Columbia, the buoy, called WindSentinel, will deploy into Lake Michigan in September. It will come equipped with a laser wind sensor manufactured by Catch the Wind of Virginia to measure offshore wind conditions. The buoy will serve as a platform, with the technology secured on top.

"This is the first time this laser wind sensing technology is being used on a floating platform in the Great Lakes," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "The WindSentinel will provide real-time, in-the-water data using the most advanced wind testing equipment. The flexibility and mobility of the buoy compared to constructing a fixed meteorological tower will provide a new level of research capability."

Data will be transmitted from the research buoy to a shore station where it will be evaluated and analyzed by researchers in Grand Valley's Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. Then remote sensing data will be sent to researchers at the University of Michigan and its Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) of Michigan State University Extension (MNFI) for more comprehensive analysis. Work at MNFI will focus on bird and bat studies.

Effective April 1, James B. Edmonson will serve as project manager for the wind assessment study. He brings a background in geology, geography and spatial planning. The U.S. Department of Energy, the Michigan Public Service Commission, We Energies of Wisconsin and Sierra Club provided funding for the project.

BACKGROUND

The primary objective of the wind study assessment is to gain a better understanding of offshore wind energy, as well as other physical, biological and environmental conditions on the Great Lakes. The research will provide information for the future development of offshore wind energy technology. In June 2010, the project secured \$3.1 million in grants and research funds, including a \$1.36 million energy efficiency grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221, or Arn Boezaart at (616) 331-6901 or Jim Edmonson at (231) 557-8543. Learn more about AXYS Technologies at www.axystechnologies.com.

March 25, 2011

For immediate release

Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Two events planned at GVSU to help Vietnam veterans

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two campus events are planned by Grand Valley State University students and staff members to raise awareness and help veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

For the second year, "Welcome Home" events are sponsored by WGVU, Grand Valley's Health and Wellness Department and the Student Veterans Organization. A 5K fun run and walk is set for Sunday, April 3, near the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus; and WGVU will show its documentary, "LZ Michigan: A Journey Home," on Tuesday, March 29.

March 29: The documentary will be screened at 6:30 p.m. at the WGVU studio in the Eberhard Center. "LZ Michigan: A Journey Home" is an award-winning documentary that features the stories of local war survivors who talk about their feelings after returning home from the war. The screening is free and open to the public.

April 3: The 5K run/walk will begin at 2 p.m., rain or shine. Participants are asked to gather in parking lot C West. The event is free but runners and walkers are encouraged to bring personal care or non-perishable food items for the West Michigan Veterans Assistance Program. Pre-register online at www.gvsu.edu/veterans.

Tim Eernisse, WGVU development and marketing manager, said about 250 people are expected. At 3 p.m., a patriotic mural will be unveiled at the Central Utilities Building.

For more information on either event, visit www.gvsu.edu/veterans. Other sponsors of Welcome Home events are On the Border Mexican Grill and Pokagon Potawatomi Indian Nation Veterans Group.

For immediate release

March 28, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Events at Grand Valley planned to honor Cesar Chavez

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Juan Buriel will highlight the Cesar Chavez Celebration at Grand Valley State University Thursday, March 31, with a keynote address, "What Do We Do with This History Now?"

Buriel is an associate professor of English at the College of Canyons in California. He has worked extensively with the Latino community to develop a generation of young leaders.

His presentation will begin at 1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, Allendale Campus. It will be preceded by a silent march at noon with participants gathering in front of Zumberge Library. Both events are free and open to the public.

Buriel has written numerous publications, including "Feasting of Latino Labor in Multicultural Los Angeles." Cesar Chavez events are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs with support from many other campus departments.

For more information, call (616) 331-2177 or visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

March 28, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Seidman brings experience to Grand Valley lecture and film

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship will be the focus of two special events with Tom Seidman, an independent film producer and son of the late L. William "Bill" Seidman who founded Grand Valley State University.

As part of the new Grand Valley Frederik Meijer Lecture Series, Seidman will present "What's So Good About Being A Liberal (Arts Major)?" on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton, on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A reception will be held prior to the lecture, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Both the lecture and reception are open to the public with free admission.

Seidman, who directed Grand Valley's 2010 Summer Film Project, will also attend the film's premiere. "Horizontal Accidents" will be screened April 7, at 7 p.m., at Celebration Cinema North, 2121 Celebration Drive NE, Grand Rapids. General admission is \$5.

"It will be great to be back at Grand Valley for both events," said Seidman. "Without the wide range of disciplines that I was exposed to as a liberal arts student, I never would have acquired the skills to attempt a film that combines literary adaptation, the technical aspects of audio and cinematography, and the humanistic arts of performance, writing and direction."

During the lecture, Seidman will focus on the benefits of a cross-disciplinary, liberal arts education for success in both business and creative work. He will speak from his own experience as a student who graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College, attended the American Film Institute as a directing fellow, and became managing partner of Honey Creek Pictures in California.

Seidman has worked in the entertainment industry for more than 20 years. His films include "The Hazing," a teen thriller featured on Showtime, and the documentary "Lost Angeles," which was selected for the PBS series "P.O.V.: The American Documentary" and received an Emmy nomination. His local work includes "The Christmas Bunny," starring Florence Henderson, filmed in West Michigan and scheduled for release in November; and "Horizontal Accidents" for Grand Valley's Summer Film Project.

"Horizontal Accidents" features a week in the life of two modern-day grave robbers. It is a dark, funny story about robbing the dead, and rejoining the living. Grand Valley's Summer Film Project was established in 1995 to offer junior and senior students the opportunity to earn credit while working on a short film under the direction of professionals. Seidman directed the film and

co-wrote the screenplay with film and video student Tom Castillo. It was adapted from a short story written by Grand Valley alumnus Michael Salisbury, while a student in the Writing Department.

Seidman is also a fitting choice for the Frederik Meijer Lecture Series, established to provide local and national presentations that focus on the importance of cross-disciplinary and liberal arts learning for a successful career. The series is part of a gift from Frederik Meijer and the Meijer Foundation to Grand Valley's Frederik Meijer Honors College, which also included the Frederik Meijer Honors College Office of Fellowships, Frederik Meijer First Generation Honors College Scholarship, and the Frederik Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Meijer has provided many additional opportunities for students at Grand Valley through the Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors, and the Meijer Public Broadcasting Center.

For more information contact:

Frederik Meijer Honors College, about the Frederik Meijer Lecture Series, phone (616) 331-3219, or visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/honor/frederik-meijer-lecture-series-58.htm>.

Kim Roberts, associate professor in the School of Communications and producer of the Summer Film Project, "Horizontal Accidents." Phone (616) 331-3607, or visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/filmvideo/2010-horizontal-accidents-105.htm>.

For Immediate Release
March 28, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, (616) 331-2770, www.allpresidents.org

Author, historian H.W. Brands returns to West Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Award-winning author and presidential historian H.W. Brands will be in West Michigan to give two lectures. Brands will talk about the journey of Gen. Grant and the triumph of capitalism.

His visit is sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation and Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

"H.W. Brands is one of the preeminent biographers of our time," said Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. "West Michigan audiences deeply appreciate his insightful, entertaining talks. He is consistently one of our best speakers, and this will be the 7th time we've brought him back to the Hauenstein Center. These two talks promise to stretch our minds and stimulate our curiosity."

American Ulysses: The Journey of General Grant

Thursday, April 7

7 p.m.

Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids

American Colossus: The Triumph of Capitalism, 1865-1900

Friday, April 8

7:30 a.m., continental breakfast

8 a.m., presentation

Eberhard Center, room 215 Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 301 W. Fulton St.

Henry William Brands was born in Oregon, went to college in California, sold cutlery across the American West, and earned graduate degrees in mathematics and history in Oregon and Texas. He taught at Vanderbilt University and Texas A&M University before joining the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is the Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor of History.

Brands has written 20 books, coauthored or edited five others, and published dozens of articles and scores of reviews. His writings have received critical and popular acclaim. "The First American" was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the Los Angeles Times Prize, as well as a New York Times bestseller. "The Age of Gold" was a Washington Post Best Book of 2002 and a San

Francisco Chronicle bestseller. "Andrew Jackson" was a Chicago Tribune Best Book of 2005 and a Washington Post bestseller.

His writings have been published in several countries and translated into German, French, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

For more information call the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

For immediate release

March 29, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley faculty, student research takes stage

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Research by faculty members and students at Grand Valley State University will be highlighted in two separate events this week. Media are welcome to cover both events.

-- Faculty members who received external grants will be recognized at the annual "Grants on the Grand," set for Wednesday, March 30, at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and an awards ceremony at 7 p.m.

Chris Chamberlain, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, said faculty researchers collectively received more than \$24 million in external grants last year. For more information about the event, call (616) 331-6826.

-- The second of two Graduate Showcases will highlight research by graduate students on Thursday, March 31, from 4:30–7:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan N.E.

Presenting disciplines include biology, biomedical sciences, biostatistics, cell and molecular biology, computer information systems, engineering, medical and bioinformatics, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, professional science master's.

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of Graduate Studies and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. For more information, call (616) 331-7105.

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley offers first online master's degree

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will offer its first completely online program — a master's degree in educational technology through the College of Education. Through this program, educators at all levels will learn how to integrate and maximize technology use in instructional settings.

"We created this online program to reach students who might not benefit from existing Grand Valley offerings, due to living at a distance from our campus," said Andrew Topper, associate professor of education. "When we designed this new program, we started by building on the high quality of our existing degree.

The master's degree is meant for those living outside of Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon counties. The program is also offered as a hybrid (online and face-to-face) option for those who reside in or close to the Grand Rapids area. The program will allow teachers to access cutting-edge information and build ongoing learning communities and networks.

"I create community in my online classes," said Sean Lancaster, associate professor of education. "That social component contributes to a positive online learning experience. The anytime-anywhere learning aspect of our online program also allows for the kinds of flexibility that busy adults need."

The program prepares teachers and leaders to enhance the academic and personal potential of their students and to evaluate the social and ethical implications of educational policies and practices. Content covers the educational application of technology, such as computers and the Internet, for professional and instructional purposes.

Elaine Collins, dean of the College of Education, said the state requires all high school students to have online learning experiences and take a course in an online format and many teachers need greater preparation to develop strategies for instruction.

For more information contact Andrew Topper in Grand Valley's College of Education at (616) 331-7273 or visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/edtech. Students can get more information at edtech@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

April 1, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Workshops will teach museum basics to participants

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Workshops sponsored by the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University and the Lakeshore Museum Center in Muskegon will teach museum basics to museum staff, volunteers, collectors and students.

"Musuem 101" will be held April 16 and May 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day, at the Lakeshore Museum Center, 430 W. Clay Ave. in Muskegon.

Participants will learn tools of the trade such as how to catalogue, archive, preserve and display rare documents. The April 16 workshop will focus on collections and archival management, the May 7 workshop will focus on historic house management.

Staff members from the Lakeshore Museum Center will lead the sessions.

Cost is \$15 for the public and \$10 for students, which includes lunch. To register or for more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/localhistoryroundtable or call the Kutsche Office of Local History at (616) 331-8099.

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley rowing to host Lubbers Cup

SPRING LAKE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's rowing club will host the 16th annual Lubbers Cup Regatta on Saturday, April 2, at the Spring Lake Yacht Club.

Top collegiate rowing teams from around the country and Canada are expected, including Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Brock University (Canada), Ohio State University, University of Virginia and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Events will begin at 8 a.m. and end with an awards ceremony at 3 p.m.

The regatta is free and open to the public. Races can be viewed from the Spring Lake Yacht Club, 17500 W. Spring Lake Road. Parking is limited at this viewing location, a shuttle service will pick up viewers from the Emmanuel Free Church Parking Lot and Water Tower Park for a donation. The Harbor Transit Shuttle will run from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.grandvalleyrowing.com.

For Immediate Release
April 1, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Van Andel Global Trade Center, (616) 331-3811

Comparing business trends of China and Mexico

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — When companies look into international expansion, China and Mexico stand out. Both countries have highly competitive cost structures, and each offers a unique set of benefits and challenges.

A seminar, sponsored by the Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University, will explore the pros and cons of doing business in each country, to help businesses make the best choice for expansion.

China or Mexico? Comparing the latest business trends and changes
Thursday, April 14
8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St.

Topics covered include:

- Key industrial regions
- Types of business structure
- Infrastructure and human capital
- Regulations on investments, intellectual property and real estate
- Taxation and mobility of funds
- Free trade agreements and tariff rates
- Transportation, logistics and supply-chain management
- Safety, law and order

The event is also sponsored by Miller Canfield and Clayton & McKervey.

For registration fees and more information contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at (616) 331-3811 or visit www.vagtc.org.

For Immediate Release
April 4, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

*Photo available upon request.

MAREC partners with Spanish company for further Great Lakes wind energy research

MUSKEGON, Mich. — A partnership between a Spanish renewable energy research company and Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center will allow for more comprehensive wind energy research on the Great Lakes and a connection to Europe, which is more advanced in the area of wind energy development.

CENER (Centro Nacional De Energias Renovables) National Renewable Energy Center, based in Pamplona, Spain, will work with MAREC to research wind patterns in Lake Michigan that will lead to developing advanced mapping technology, something that has never been done on the Great Lakes. The wind data mapping will provide new data about wind resources which will assist in evaluating the viability of developing an offshore wind industry on the Great Lakes. CENER ("sin-air") will also help Grand Valley's Padnos College of Engineering and Computing manage data collected from the offshore wind study.

"CENER has very deep knowledge in a number of technology and engineering areas relating to renewable energy, and wind in particular," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC.

The partnership came about following an agreement in early 2010 by former Michigan Gov. Granholm and the governor of the Navarro region of Spain. The partnership was arranged by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Boezaart became aware of CENER's interest after talking with colleagues at West Michigan Energy; a memorandum of understanding was recently signed to finalize the relationship.

Javier San-Miguel Armendariz, product manager for CENER, said: "We believe partnering with Grand Valley is an excellent opportunity to link efforts between U.S. and Europe in renewable energy technologies. The main goal of this partnership is to promote the knowledge sharing of the best experts in this field across the Atlantic Ocean."

Learn more about CENER at www.cener.org. For more information about the new partnership, contact T. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart at (616) 331-6905 or Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release – April 5, 2011

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, 331-2221

Student named top Writing Center Tutor in region

Dale Johnson, a writing major from Hartford, has won the East Central Writing Centers Association Tutor of the Year award. In doing so, he beat out graduate assistants from Purdue and Michigan State, and undergraduate students from many other schools.

Johnson, a senior, has worked for three years as a consultant in Grand Valley's Fred Meijer Center for Writing & Michigan Authors. He received his award certificate and \$200 prize at the 2012 ECWCA annual conference hosted by Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, in Indianapolis, March 30-31. This award recognizes innovative approaches to tutoring/consulting, the quality of work with writers, and the articulation of a tutoring/consulting philosophy.

"Dale's an extremely effective consultant because he uses the student's paper to help them understand something new or useful that will apply to future writing situations," said Ellen Schendel, Grand Valley Writing Center director. "Dale has applied his own research on the role of self-efficacy in writing to his consultations in the writing center—and he has, through sharing his research at staff meetings, helped our staff to become more skilled at this aspect of consulting, too."

Johnson and seven other Grand Valley students gave research presentations and facilitated workshops at the annual meeting conference. Over the past two years, he has also given presentations and workshops at the Michigan Writing Centers Association conference, the East Central Writing Centers Association conference, and the National Conference of Peer Tutors in Writing.

Johnson said his research is based on Albert Bandura's work on self-efficacy—a person's perception of his or her ability to perform a task in a specific context. He expanded his research to explore the dynamics in play when consultants meet one-on-one with students, and how those practices can be impacted by confidence theory.

"The fact that I can help these students navigate unfamiliar territories and emerge as stronger, confident writers inspires me, and reinforces the valuable function we have as writing consultants," said Johnson.

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO AVAILABLE at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow

Current Business Trends: Growth Stabilizes

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy has stabilized, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of March. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, moderated to +38, down from +45. In a similar move, the production index eased to +39 from +41. The index of purchases edged up to +34 from +33. The employment index also edged up to +37 from +35.

Long said 41 percent of the firms surveyed said they are adding personnel. "Overall, the growth rate for the local economy appears to have stabilized at a moderate rate, and confirms many of the other positive numbers that have been posted in the local media," said Long. "We have now posted 22 months of positive reports since the recovery began in 2009. The bad news is that this is still the slowest post-war recession recovery in history."

Long said the recovery of the office furniture industry is still very much on track and the excellent improvement in auto sales has resulted in strong business conditions for local auto parts suppliers. He also said there are some convincing signs that the capital equipment business is on the road to recovery. For March, performance for the industrial distributors was good but not great and performance for the firms supporting the aircraft industry was generally stable, but not growing, according to Long.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are purchasing managers from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors, and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

April 6, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services

Grand Valley student on Price is Right Thursday

Gina Maniaci planned to have fun while visiting her sister in Los Angeles, but was surprised to land on stage for The Price is Right game show. The taped show will air Thursday, April 7, at 11 a.m. on CBS.

Maniaci was selected from the audience during a spring break trip from her studies at Grand Valley State University, where she is a freshman, studying dance. The Howell native went with her best friend and fellow student Beth Donovan, along with Maniaci's sister, Sarah Beck, to watch a taping of the show as something fun to do.

"I was not expecting to be chosen to be on the show at all, which made the whole experience that much more exciting," said Maniaci. "I was so excited and nervous the whole time I was on the show that I have a hard time even remembering all the details of what happened, so it will be exciting for me to watch the show on television Thursday."

April 7, 2011

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services

Grand Valley 50th Anniversary celebrated with special concert in Grandville

More than 200 vocal and instrumental performers from the Grand Valley State University Department of Music will present a special concert to celebrate 50 years of musical excellence in West Michigan.

The GVSU Music Department 50th Anniversary Celebration, on Wednesday, April 20, at 8 p.m. will be held at the Grandville High School Auditorium, 4700 Canal Avenue SW, Grandville. The concert is open to the public with free admission. All alumni, parents and other supporters are especially encouraged to attend and be recognized.

"We needed to find an off-campus venue to accommodate the large number of performers who will be on stage together," said Henry Duitman, who directs the 65-member Symphony Orchestra. They will be joined on stage by the Symphonic Wind Ensemble conducted by Barry Martin, and a massed chorus consisting of four of the university's vocal ensembles, conducted by Director of Choral Activities Ellen Pool, with John Martin and Janice Dudley.

Winners of Grand Valley's 2011 Concerto Competition, Michelle Kozachik and Kelly VanderMolen will demonstrate their exceptional musical talent performing virtuoso solos with the ensembles. Kozachik, a senior music education major from Kentwood, will perform the first and second movements of the demanding Concerto for Saxophone by Ingolf Dahl with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. VanderMolen, a senior music performance major from Grand Rapids, will be accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra as she performs the lushly romantic first movement of Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto.

The concert will also include works by Bernstein, Barber, Kabalevsky, Nielsen, Persichetti and the popular Polovetsian Dances by Alexander Borodin, which will be performed by the combined forces of the 150-voice Massed Chorus and the Symphony Orchestra. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform works by Bernstein and Sousa, among other selections. The entire concert will be performed in about 90 minutes.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at (616) 331-3484.

April 7, 2011
For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Human souls topic of Grand Dialogue

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Human souls will be explored during the Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion held at Grand Valley State University. This annual conference is an inter-institutional, inter-disciplinary, inter-faith exploration of science and religion.

Grand Dialogue will be held on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

This year's keynote speech, "Do Humans Have Souls? Perspectives from Science and Religion," will be presented by Nancey Murphy, professor of Christian philosophy at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. Murphy holds a doctorate in philosophy of science from U.C. Berkeley and a doctorate in theology from the Graduate Theological Union.

Murphy is the author of many articles and 10 books. Her first book, *Theology in the Age of Scientific Reasoning* (Cornell, 1990), won the American Academy of Religion award for excellence. Her current research interests include the relations among philosophy of mind, neuroscience and Christian anthropology.

Afternoon breakout sessions feature presentations from faculty and representatives of the member colleges and universities. A complete list of the breakout topics can be found on the web site. The conference is free and open to the public, with registration at www.GrandDialogue.org or by calling (616) 331-5702. An optional lunch for \$5 is also available with registration.

The event is sponsored by an association of colleges, universities and related organizations that have unique perspectives, foci, messages and intended audiences. By cooperating, they affirm a willingness to be open to various issues and perspectives in a spirit of mutual respect.

April 11, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns to speak at Grand Valley

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Ken Burns, one of the most influential documentary filmmakers of all time, will speak at Grand Valley State University as the third and final 50th Anniversary Distinguished Academic Lecturer.

Using the insights gleaned from his work, Burns will turn his keen eye to the future with his lecture "The Next 50 Years in the United States," Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. at the L.V. Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It will be followed by a Q&A session and a reception. All events are open to the public with free admission.

Burns, who was born in 1953 in Brooklyn, N.Y., graduated from Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor in 1971, and received a bachelor's degree from Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. in 1975. He is the recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees and is co-founder of Florentine Films. He has unofficially visited Grand Valley previously, while his father, Robert Kyle Burns, taught anthropology and photography from 1973 until his retirement in 1993.

Burns has devoted more than 30 years of his life 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, baseball, and jazz, to the National Parks.

The Baltimore Sun once praised Burns as "not only the greatest documentarian of the day, but also the most influential filmmaker period ... because Burns not only turned millions of persons onto history, but showed us a new way of looking at our collective past and ourselves."

A GVSU 50th Anniversary Event. For more information, call 616-331-2179, or visit www.gvsu.edu/anniversary.

For Immediate Release
April 15, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU Sustainable Agriculture Project kicks off with teams of horses

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) at Grand Valley State University is kicking-off the farming season with three teams of horses that will prepare the farming space next to Grand Valley for planting.

The event will take place Monday, April 18, at 10 a.m.; the space is located on Luce Street, one-half mile west of 42nd St. in Allendale. The event is free and open to the public.

The space was originally the Community Garden, founded in 2008, and will now be used for agriculture production. "We hope the project will allow people to engage in building community relationships and learn about organic farming through hands-on experience," said Levi Gardner, manager of SAP.

Gardner will lead the project to grow and harvest 30 crops, ranging from herbs to tomatoes to lettuce. Harvested fruits and vegetables from SAP will be sold at farmers' markets, and excess crops will be donated to the Student Food Pantry at Grand Valley, which provides groceries to students who struggle to pay for food.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainableagproject.

April 19, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Indy student earns prestigious scholarship

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University student from Indianapolis has received a competitive scholarship sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Kate Coveney, an applied mathematics major, received an \$8,000 award for the next two years plus \$6,500 to attend a 10-week summer session at a NOAA facility for an internship in NOAA-related science, research, technology, policy, management and education activities.

Coveney, a Frederik Meijer Honors College student, was one of 72 recipients selected from a national pool of applicants for the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship. The scholarship program is designed to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology and education.

For more information, contact Amanda Cuevas, director of the Office of Fellowships, at cuevasam@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3219.

A photo of Coveney is available by sending an email to Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu

ABOUT GVSU:

Grand Valley State University is a four-year public university. It attracts more than 24,500 students with high quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 78 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships. Grand Valley employs more than 1,700 people and is committed to providing a fair and equitable environment for the continued success of all.

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Jennifer Deamud, MI-SBTDC, (616) 331-7480

Statewide effort helps growing companies

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley today endorsed a statewide program by the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC) and Fifth Third Bank that assists growing companies. The MI-SBTDC is located at the Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids.

The program, Five Keys to Fiscal Fitness, was launched in 2009; in 2010, more than 225 Michigan companies completed the program. The MI-SBTDC said 25 workshops are planned this year, which means nearly 300 small businesses will be trained.

The program teaches business owners and CEOs how to analyze their financial information and make healthy financial business decisions. Topics include identifying opportunities and challenges, increasing cash flow, improving decision making and strengthening banker partnerships.

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center provides counseling, training and market research for businesses. As host of the MI-SBTDC State Headquarters, Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business oversees the 12-region MI-SBTDC network.

For more information, contact the MI-SBTDC at (616) 331-7480 or Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, (231) 722-4371

Wind energy costs and benefits are topics at MAREC event

MUSKEGON, Mich. — The economic side of producing wind energy in West Michigan will be discussed at an event at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC). The event is part of the monthly Lunch and Learn Series.

"The Cost of Wind"
Wednesday, April 27, at noon
MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon

Paul Isely, professor and chair of Grand Valley's Economics Department, will discuss job creation, local energy sourcing, manufacturing, and construction, and will compare costs of wind-generated electricity with other forms of energy used to generate electricity.

RSVP for the event at marecinfo@gvsu.edu or (231) 722-4371. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/marec or contact Kim Walton at waltonk@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
April 22, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Princeton Review names Grand Valley 'Green College' for second year

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University was named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review for the second year in a row. Grand Valley is included in "The Princeton Review's Guide to 311 Green Colleges: 2011 Edition."

The guide focuses on higher education institutions that have demonstrated an above average commitment to sustainability in campus infrastructure, activities and initiatives. Areas of evaluation included the institution's commitment to building at LEED standards, sustainability committees, environmental literacy programs, the use of renewable energy resources and recycling and conservation programs.

"Being named a 'Green College' further helps position Grand Valley as a leader in sustainability and demonstrates the progress we're making," said Wendy Wenner, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies at Grand Valley. "It also shows how students are making a huge impact on the university's success and accomplishments."

View the guidebook at www.princetonreview.com/green-guide.aspx.

Grand Valley's Sustainable Community Development Initiative created a guidebook of their own. The Sustainability Guide provides tips, stories and opportunities for the community to take an active role in shaping a sustainable environment at Grand Valley and throughout the community. View it under "Resources" at www.gvsu.edu/sustainability.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or the Sustainable Community Development Initiative at (616) 331-7366.

For immediate release

April 25, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley students earn Fulbright scholarships

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two students at Grand Valley State University have received Fulbright scholarships to serve as teaching assistants overseas. Another student was named an alternate.

Rikki Brown, of West Olive, and Sean Duffie, of Brighton, earned Student Fulbright Scholarships and will teach English classes in Russia and Spain, respectively. Shaynon Munn of Grand Rapids was named an alternate and could teach classes in Rwanda.

The Student Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The Fulbright Teaching Assistantships program is highly competitive as only 68 national grants were awarded to students to teach in Spain, 20 for Russia and two for Rwanda.

Brown is a Russian studies major and a Frederik Meijer Honors College student. After fulfilling her Fulbright year, Brown will attend Georgetown University to pursue a master's degree.

Duffie is a double major in Spanish-secondary education and group social sciences. Following his Fulbright year, he plans to teach at the secondary level.

GVSU students interested in applying for Fulbright scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year can contact Amanda Cuevas, director of the Office of Fellowships, at cuevasam@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3219.

Photos of these students can be obtained by sending an email to Michele Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
April 25, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information

Haworth exec reveals hot export markets

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The new, hot export markets include China, the Middle East and Brazil, according to John Mooney, global vice president of finance for Haworth. Mooney will share insights into these export markets during the 26th annual World Trade Week West Michigan Business Conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University, will offer practical advice on business development, export financing, and how to compete globally.

"Growing Your Export Sales to Hot Markets"

Monday, May 4

2 p.m.

Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids

Mooney also serves as secretary of the Board of Directors and is the executive sponsor of Global Sustainability at Haworth. He is responsible for all financial aspects of the worldwide organization including financial analysis, manufacturing accounting, general accounting and international finance, as well as corporate strategy and sustainability. He has a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from DePaul University.

"World Trade Week is a great way for businesses to share ideas on the best way to approach markets around the world," said Sonja Johnson, executive director of the Van Andel Global Trade Center and chair of World Trade Week West Michigan. "The half-day business conference allows companies to ask questions in a one-on-one format, gathering essential details of the global markets they are interested in developing. Companies get connected and stay up to date on what is happening around the world."

There are other events taking place during World Trade Week West Michigan, May 2-6. For more information or to register for the business conference, visit www.gvsu.edu/wtw or call (616) 331-6811.

For Immediate Release
April 25, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Breakfast with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, a Grand Valley State University alumnus, will speak at a breakfast event sponsored by the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University. The event is free and open to the public; registration is required.

Breakfast with Lt. Gov. Calley
Tuesday, May 10
Breakfast: 7:15 a.m.
Presentation: 7:55 a.m.
Loosemore Auditorium
DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapid Campus, 401 W. Fulton

Calley is the second youngest lieutenant governor in Michigan's history. Before being elected to his current position, Calley served two terms in the Michigan Legislature as a state representative where he served as minority vice chair of the House Tax Policy Committee.

Also at the event, the Seidman College of Business and the Small Business Development & Technology Center will recognize the "Michigan Celebrates Small Business" award recipients from the West Michigan area.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Service at (616) 331-2221. To register call (616) 331-7100.

April 26, 2011

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Poetry is focus of community event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Poetry whispering and a piñata stuffed with poems are just two unusual elements of a local event celebrating Poetry Month with an international flair, including guest poets.

"Building Community Through Poetry/Creando comunidades a través de la poesía" will take place Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Cook Arts Center, 644 Grandville Ave. SW, Grand Rapids. Zulema Moret, director of Latin American Studies at Grand Valley State University, is organizing the events, co-sponsored by Cook Arts Center. All activities are free and open to the public. MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Moret is sharing a social poetry strategy she learned in Argentina and has presented during a seminar in Barcelona. It is based on a tradition in France known as the "souffleurs du poeme."

"I wanted to share this wonderful and easy way to communicate poetry with my students and colleagues," said Moret. "Now we are ready to provide a fun workshop at the Cook Arts Center. The whole day is aimed at the local Hispanic community as well as everyone who loves poetry."

The local community event is an opportunity to be immersed in a day of poetry written in Spanish and English. Interactive events include a poetry-writing workshop, whispering poetry (through decorated cardboard tubes), piñata poetry (breaking a poetry-filled piñata) and poetry reading marathons by the audience and noted local and international poets.

Participants in the marathon reading will include Rei Berroa (Santo Domingo), Juana Goergen (Puerto Rico), Pablo Pescheira (Perú/ USA), and Grand Valley faculty members Medar Serrata (Santo Domingo), Rebecca Castellanos (Santo Domingo), and Zulema Moret (Argentina).

Earlier in April at Grand Valley, Moret organized a whispering poetry workshop with Patricia Clark, Grand Valley's Poet-in-Residence, and Ellen Sprouls from the GVSU Art Gallery. "We started with a group of creative writing and Spanish students," said Moret. "It was very successful, so I involved students from my Chilean Literature course to celebrate Poetry Month by whispering Chilean poems to other students."

Students from the Department of Art & Design helped to decorate six-foot cardboard tubes that were donated by Field's Fabric. Students also 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."

For details about the April 30 event, contact Zulema Moret at (616) 331-2286.

Guest Poet Biographies:

Pablo Peschiera teaches creative writing at Hope College. He was raised in Kalamazoo, though previously lived in Lima, Peru, his family's homeland. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Pleides*, *Shenandoah*, and *Copper Nickel* and he has published reviews, interviews and translations in various literary journals and anthologies. Peschiera is a contributing editor at *Wake: a Journal of Great Lakes Art and Culture*. He received a master's degree from Western Michigan University and his doctorate from The University of Houston, where, for three years, he was the managing editor of *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art*.

Zulema Moret (Argentina) She has published *Cuaderno de viaje solitario* (Venezuela: Ed. Intertextos, 1985), *Cazadora de Sueños* (Madrid: Torremozas, 2005), *Un ángel al borde de un volcán ardiendo* (Argentina: Vox, 2008, French, English and Spanish) She has read her poetry at local, national and international meetings, conferences and poetry fairs. Her poems were translated into English, Italian and German. Forthcoming in August is *Una rata en la mesa del poeta*. (Argentina: Vox, bilingual edition, 2011) and in December, the bilingual edition of *Poemas del Desastre* (Argentina: Ed. de la Danza, 2011). Moret is director of Latin American Studies at Grand Valley State University.

Rei Berroa (Dominican Republic, 1949) teaches Spanish literature, culture, and literary criticism at George Mason University since 1984. He has published about 30 books of poetry, literary criticism, and poetry anthologies in Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, India, Mexico, Spain, the U.S. and Venezuela. Since 1992, he coordinates Teatro de la Luna's Poetry Marathon, a poetry festival taking place every year at Teatro de la Luna and the Library of Congress.

Médar Serrata - Born in the Dominican Republic, Serrata is an assistant professor of Spanish at Grand Valley State University. He has a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin and has published the books *Las piedras del ábaco* (1986), and *Rapsodia para tontos* (1999). His poems have also appeared in several anthologies, including *Máscaras de Orfeo: Poesía brasileña y dominicana* (2009); and *Quedar en lo cantado: Selección de poesía contemporánea dominicana y argentina* (2009).

Rebeca Castellanos - Born in the Dominican Republic, Castellanos is a visiting professor at Grand Valley State University. She has a doctorate in Spanish from the University of Texas at Austin, and has published the books *Eva 2000* (2000) and *Sueños de Nebuhla* (2005).

April 27, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Crown Point native heads to Nashville

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Nashville is the next stop for Grand Valley State University student Emilee Westphall from Crown Point, Indiana. She was selected from thousands of students who applied for a 10-week summer internship with Country Music Television, sister network of MTV and VH1, owned by Viacom.

"Actually, I'll be working in their radio division with Cody Alan on CMT Radio Live," said Westphall, who graduated from Crown Point High School in 2008 and is studying broadcasting in the School of Communications at Grand Valley. "I will be assisting in several areas including social networking, website features, archiving audio, promotion development, listener sweepstake mailings, and other daily tasks, such as preparing a prep news sheet that is sent out to more than 120 country radio stations nationwide."

Westphall will also have opportunities to shadow artist interviews and help out with live events such as the CMT Music Awards and the CMA Festival, which features country music's top musicians. "I'm a real people person and this definitely feeds my passion for entertainment news," said Westphall. "I hope they offer me a job after I finish the internship and my degree."

As a sophomore in college Westphall did an internship with Citadel Broadcasting working on the morning show "Scrubs in the Morning" on the Grand Rapids country music station WTNR. She screened callers and worked on many promotional tasks. They were so pleased with her work that they offered her a job before she had finished her internship. For the past year she has worked as an assistant in the promotions department and also as one of the solo operators during the night broadcasts.

"I've had many great opportunities with Citadel both professionally and personally, such as meeting Taylor Swift and members of the group Lady Antebellum, among other country music stars," said Westphall. "I hope to continue growing my experience and skills during my time in Nashville and my final year at Grand Valley."

Grand Valley State University serves students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 78 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experiences. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
April 27, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, (616) 331-7257

Grand Valley receives grant for "Green TEA" entrepreneurship education

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Michigan Green Technology Entrepreneur Academy (MI-GTEA), an innovative new program hosted by Grand Valley State University, has been awarded a \$61,000 grant to advance new clean technology ideas.

MI-GTEA is an innovative, intensive five-day course offered through Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Seidman College of Business. It is designed as a springboard for moving clean technology ideas beyond the university lab. The program is tailored specifically for science and engineering faculty, doctoral and post doctoral students who want to learn to commercialize their research, prepare for a career or take the first steps toward launching a new venture.

Grand Valley is partnering with Huron River Ventures and the Growth Capital Network to run the inaugural academy in Grand Rapids July 25–July 29. The program provides participants with:

- A practical understanding of how innovations move from the laboratory to the market
- The skills necessary to select, guide and advocate the commercial potential of their own research
- An introduction to a strong network of professionals who can help mentor and connect participants as they move forward

The grant was awarded by The Michigan Initiative for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (MIIE), a consortium of all 15 Michigan public universities acting together to foster a new knowledge economy based on entrepreneurship and innovation. The consortium supports individual universities in their role as local and regional economic drivers for Michigan and encourages regional collaboration between universities, foundations, economic development organizations, government agencies and private enterprise.

"We're very excited to be awarded the MIIE grant and kick-start the inaugural year of the MI-GTEA program," said H. James Williams, dean of the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley. "This grant will position MI-GTEA to serve a wide breadth of science and engineering researchers to move their technologies out of the labs and into the marketplace — creating jobs and new economies in the process."

For more information contact Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at (616) 331-7257 or visit www.migtea.org. Or, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release April 29, 2011

Contact: GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU reports record number of internships for 2009-10 academic year

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University reported a record number of students are getting practical experience in the work force, saving employers money and keeping more graduates in Michigan.

Approximately 6,811 experiential education opportunities, which encompasses internships, co-ops, student teaching, and practica, were completed in 2009-10, a 15 percent increase from 2008-09. The economic impact is equal to more than \$25 million. The report compiled numbers from the Seidman College of Business, arts and humanities, Kirkhof College of Nursing, social sciences, College of Education and School of Social Work, and science, math and health professions.

Troy Farley, director of Career Services at Grand Valley, attributes the increase to faculty support and a growing interest for local talent. "Employers in West Michigan and beyond are beginning to understand more and more the value of providing internships and co-ops before hiring," he said. "Another factor is continued faculty encouragement for students to find experience beyond the classroom."

Rachel Becklin, assistant director of Career Services and internal internship specialist, said the national conversion rate from intern to employee is about 50 percent. "The majority of experiential education experiences take place locally, so the chances of a former intern getting hired in West Michigan increases," she said. "We're helping to retain local talent in Michigan, which in turn will aide in building Michigan's economy."

Of recent graduates, 88 percent are employed or pursuing advanced degrees. Of those working, 84 percent are employed in Michigan. Grand Valley has also seen a one-year, 18 percent increase in Grand Valley graduates who are working in West Michigan — that number went from 58 percent to 76 percent.

This information was part of a report presented by Career Services to the Grand Valley Board of Trustees April 29.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Career Services at (616) 331-3311.

For Immediate Release

April 29, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Charter Schools Office (616) 331-2240

GVSU announces four new charter schools for 2011–2012 school year

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Four charter schools are being replicated by Grand Valley State University, replacing schools that were designated as Schools of Excellence earlier this year. The move was approved by the Grand Valley Board of Trustees at its April 29 meeting.

The new schools include Cornerstone Health School in Detroit, East Arbor Charter Academy in Ypsilanti, Forest Academy in Kalamazoo and South Canton Scholars Charter Academy in Canton.

"Grand Valley's schools are some of the best schools in the state, and they continually prove themselves to be truly exceptional among their peers," said Tim Wood, special assistant to the president for charter schools at Grand Valley. "We are excited to offer these new and unique schools to communities in Michigan needing choice, and look forward to great things from each of them."

Cornerstone Health School students will work through project-based curriculum relating to the health care field. Instead of teachers, students will have relationship, relevance, rigor, and discipline managers in grades 9–12.

East Arbor Charter Academy and South Canton Scholars Charter Academy students will follow the programmatic excellence model used in all National Heritage Academy schools. They will be provided with challenging academic programs and a strong culture that values integrity, academic excellence and accountability in areas with approximately 4,200 students on combined waiting lists.

Forest Academy limits class sizes to 20 students with two certified teachers in each classroom. Parents will get weekly previews and progress reports on how their students are doing.

Among the factors included in the charter school review process for a school replicating a school that became a School of Excellence is that it be located in a school district graduating fewer than 75.5 percent of its student body in a three-year average. All Michigan charter schools are tuition-free public schools open to all Michigan students.

For more information, contact the GVSU Charter Schools Office at (616) 331-2240.

For Immediate Release
May 2, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

MEDIA NOTE: GVSU terrorism expert holds news conference

Jonathan White, executive director of Grand Valley State University's Homeland Defense Initiative, will hold a news conference today concerning the death of Osama bin Laden, at 10:30 a.m. in the Amway Boardroom at DeVos Center (5th floor) on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

White was tapped by the federal government after the Sept. 11 attacks to travel the country briefing law enforcement officials on international terrorism because of his extensive research and expertise in counterterrorism, special warfare and intelligence operations. White traveled to Pakistan, Turkey and Europe to train police and security forces on counterterrorism.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
May 3, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, (616) 331-2770, www.allpresidents.org

Nixon's son-in-law shares White House stories

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Ed Cox, son-in-law of President Nixon, will be in Grand Rapids to share his first-hand experiences of what the White House was like during the Nixon years. Cox campaigned extensively for the re-election of his father-in-law and after the election traveled to Europe and the Soviet Union, meeting privately with leaders and their families.

The Nixon White House — A View From the Inside
Monday, May 16
7 p.m.
Ford Museum
Free and open to the public

Cox graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School. He worked with consumer advocate Ralph Nader as a founder of what came to be called "Nader's Raiders," co-authoring The Nader Report on the Federal Trade Commission and writing articles and editorials for The New Republic.

Cox was a lawyer with Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York, and served in the Reagan Administration as the senior vice president and general counsel of the government corporation, The United States Synthetic Fuels Corporation.

Cox is a founding director of the Student Sponsor Partners, serves on the Commission on Judicial Nomination, is chairman of the New York Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and is a trustee of the State University of New York, SUNY. Cox is also director of the New York Institute for Special Education.

After the 2006 election, Cox chaired Attorney-Elect Andrew Cuomo's environmental transition team. In 2007 and '08, Cox chaired John McCain's New York campaign.

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770, or visit www.allpresidents.org.

For Immediate Release
May 3, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Family Owned Business Institute, (616) 331-7246

Grand Valley hosts international business conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Business leaders from across the country, as well as Canada and Finland will gather at the Family Enterprise Research Conference (FERC), sponsored by the Family Owned Business Institute in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The theme of the conference is "Strategic Entrepreneurship in Family Business: How Do Family Businesses Promote & Manage Entrepreneurial Activity?"

Last year, the conference was held in Cancun and next year's site is Montreal. West Michigan was selected this year because of the area's reputation for strong family owned businesses, community philanthropy, leadership, drive and character. Ninety-nine percent of businesses globally are family owned.

Family Enterprise Research Conference
May 7-8, all-day sessions
Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids

Speakers and presenters include David Van Andel, Van Andel Institute; Mark Bissell, CEO of Bissell, Inc.; Doug DeVos, president of Amway Corp.; Matthew Haworth, chairman of Haworth, Inc.; Hank Meijer, co-chairman of Meijer Inc.; and representatives from Grand Valley State University, Texas A&M University, University of Alberta, Canada, and California State University, to name a few.

For more information and a complete schedule of speakers and panel discussions, contact the GVSU Family Owned Business Institute at (616) 331-7246 or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
May 4, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO AVAILABLE at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow

Current Business Trends: Growth Remains Positive

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy continues to grow, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of April. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, moderated to +29, down from +38. In a similar move, the production index eased to +35 from +39. The index of purchases rose significantly to +51 from +34. The employment index also posted a nice gain and rose to +46 from +35.

Long said 50 percent of firms surveyed are still adding personnel and despite this month's moderation in new orders, the growth rate for the local economy appears to be stabilizing at a moderate rate. He said there have been 23 months of positive reports since the recovery began in 2009.

"Despite our lofty employment index, our local industrial sector has not had nearly the impact on our local unemployment statistics as we would like," said Long. "In this same light, the strength in the industrial sector has had little or no impact on the seemingly never-ending housing and construction crisis."

Long said local automotive parts suppliers continue to do well; none have reported any impact from the Japanese disaster. The report from the office furniture sector is still positive, but there are signs that the industry may be plateauing at the current level.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are purchasing managers from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors, and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
GVSU Charter School Office, (616) 331-2240

GVSU launches website of school/neighborhood data

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has developed a website designed to help Michigan residents and educators learn more about their schools and communities, and how they impact one another.

The website, Mi-School.net, combines 2010 U.S. Census data with information from the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Department of Community Health and local police departments and clerks. The website features visual markers that represent all traditional, charter and private schools in the state. Each marker representing a school can be selected to view information about that specific school and/or district including enrollment characteristics and standardized test performance.

Mi-School.net, is built on a platform similar to Google Maps and allows users to visually display information such as an area's population, housing, vital records, crime, education, income, voting and transportation through color-coded maps. The site also features a comparison tool that allows users to compare up to five schools and/or districts using 40 different indicators.

Each data set can be narrowed to feature more specific information. For example, an area's population can be analyzed based on total population, race, average household size, population under 5 years old or population under 18 years old. The geographic area being analyzed can be customized as well, featuring an area as large as the entire state or as small as a city block.

"We believe that this tool can be an asset to many in our state," said Rob Kimball, director of research and measurement for the GVSU Charter Schools Office. "Whether it's parents who are seeking a community to raise their children, a legislator who is determining the future course for our state's schools or a community leader who is seeking in-depth information about his or her neighborhoods, this tool will provide a cross-section of useful information in a completely new way."

Mi-School.net was developed by the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office in collaboration with Grand Valley's College of Education and Johnson Center for Philanthropy, as well as the Michigan Council for Charter School Authorizers.

For more information, contact the GVSU Charter Schools Office at (616) 331-2240 or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

May 6, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Media opportunity: Center for Michigan president to speak at Grand Valley

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The president of the Center for Michigan will give a presentation about his vision for the state next week at Grand Forum, a community outreach program sponsored by Grand Valley State University.

Philip H. Power will discuss "A Common Ground Agenda for Michigan's Prosperity" on Tuesday, May 10, at 12:30 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St. in Grand Rapids. The session is open to Grand Forum members only, but media members are welcome to cover Power's speech.

Power, former regent at the University of Michigan, founded the Center for Michigan in 2006. The "think-and-do tank" is aimed at improving the policy and political environment in Michigan.

Grand Forum is an educational outreach program for adults 55 and older and is a division of Continuing Education at Grand Valley. Grand Forum provides the opportunity for individuals of diverse backgrounds to meet in an academic setting for the purpose of intellectual stimulation and social exchange.

For more information about Power's speech, contact Judy Palmer, director of Grand Forum, at palmerju@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6615.

For Immediate Release
May 6, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Robert Shalett, (616) 331-9038, GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy

National philanthropy leaders offer expertise at summit on family philanthropy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Rich DeVos, co-founder of Amway; David Frey, chairman of the Frey Foundation; and John Pepper, Jr., chairman of the board for Walt Disney Corporation, are just a few of the scheduled speakers for the Johnson Center National Summit on Family Philanthropy sponsored by the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University.

The theme of the conference is "Charity Begins at Home: Families Rebuilding Communities." Family donors and foundations work constantly to sustain vital institutions, nurture innovation and growth, and collaborate with other leaders to address community problems. Philanthropy leaders from across the country will share insights and advice during the summit May 19 and 20.

Johnson Center Summit on Family Philanthropy
May 19 and 20
JW Marriott, downtown Grand Rapids
Full schedule at www.familysummit.johnsoncenter.org

Highlights:

Thursday, May 19

1:30–2:45 p.m.

The Grand Rapids Renaissance featuring:

Rich DeVos, co-founder of Amway Corporation; David Frey, chairman of Frey Foundation; Kate Pew Wolters, president of Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation. Moderator: Dorothy A. Johnson, trustee of the Johnson Family Fund.

7:30–9 p.m.

Dinner and keynote presentation by Tom Tierney, founder of the Bridgespan Group and co-author of Give Smart. Tierney is one of the nation's leading experts on strategic giving. He will share his experiences helping donors and foundations, from Bill and Melinda Gates to numerous other families giving in their local communities.

For more information including the conference schedule visit
www.familysummit.johnsoncenter.org or contact Robert Shalett at (616) 331-9038 or
shaletttr@gvsu.edu.

May 9, 2011
For immediate release

Photos available
Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley concert series to include 26,000-pound instrument

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A traveling musical instrument that weighs 26,000 pounds, including a 4-octave keyboard and 48 bells cast in a Netherlands foundry, will be coming to Grand Valley State University this summer as part of the annual International Carillon Concert series. All concerts are free and open to the public, rain or shine, and will feature performances by internationally renowned carillonneurs from Denmark, the Netherlands and the U.S.

The 17th Annual Cook Carillon International Concert Series, held on the Allendale Campus Sundays at 8 p.m., is from June 19-August 21.

The 11th Annual Beckering Family Carillon International Concert Series, held on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus Wednesdays at noon, is from July 6-27.

The Chime Master traveling carillon will be featured at the July 3 concert in Allendale at 8 p.m., with a performance by Gijsbert Kok, from the Netherlands. The special carillon provided fascination and musical entertainment throughout Europe for 16 years before being purchased by a company in Ohio. It was built in the Netherlands in 1991 and was sized to the dimensions of a standard shipping container and flatbed truck to allow transport to a variety of concert venues. The Chime Master concert at Grand Valley will be held in parking lot G, near the West Campus Drive entrance to campus off 48th Street, to provide ample space for visitors to get up close to an instrument that is usually perched high in a tower.

For those who want a bit of carillon music to take home, there is a 2-CD set recently compiled as part of Grand Valley's 50th Anniversary by Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur and organizer of the annual series. It includes one CD of holiday music recorded on the Beckering Family Carillon and one CD of typical carillon recital music, including a piece commissioned for the university's anniversary, "Suite IV GVSU 2009," composed by the late John Courter from Berea College in Kentucky. The CD set, which costs \$16, is available at Grand Valley's University Bookstore or online at www.ubs.gvsu.edu by clicking on the link to 50th Anniversary Gift Items.

For more concert information, including details of each performance, call (616) 331-3484, or visit www.gvsu.edu/artscalendar.

May 9, 2011

MEDIA NOTE

Mark Murray, president of Meijer, Inc. and former president of Grand Valley State University, will speak at the Seidman College of Business breakfast event May 10, in place of Lt. Gov. Brian Calley who canceled because of another commitment.

Murray's presentation, "Transformational Business Development," will begin at 7:55 a.m. in Loosemore Auditorium in DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Breakfast will be served at 7:15 a.m.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release
May 10, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

DTE Energy awards GVSU incentive for energy conservation efforts

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University received an incentive from DTE Energy for its 2010 energy conservation projects. The \$38,800 incentive comes from DTE Energy's "Your Energy Savings" program and will help the university offset its energy costs. Campus-wide energy efficient efforts save the university \$1.4 million annually.

Terry Pahl, an engineer in Facilities Services at Grand Valley, and Tim Thimmesch, assistant vice president of Facilities Services, accepted the check and gave a presentation on utility incentives at the 2011 Energy Conference and Exhibition, which was hosted by the Engineering Society of Detroit and DTE Energy, May 10 in Novi, Mich.

"We are continually trying to reduce cost and save energy across the university, so this incentive is a great representation of our efforts this year," said Pahl. "I like to call the annual savings 'accrued cost avoidance' because the amount of money we accrue is a tally of what we would've spent if we didn't implement energy saving projects."

DTE Energy provides the incentives or rebates to companies participating in the "Your Energy Savings" program throughout the state for their energy saving measures, such as high efficiency heating and cooling equipment and energy saving lighting.

Pahl said there is room for creativity when finding ways to reduce energy consumption and costs. "We were the first university in Michigan to install Aircuity Systems, which monitors fresh air supply in classrooms and labs through motion sensors and environmental measurements. The technology helps us to conserve energy when people aren't occupying the spaces," he said.

Pahl added that since 2000 Grand Valley has also saved \$1.3 million in one-time energy saving projects.

Grand Valley was one of two organizations that received an incentive from DTE Energy, Detroit Media Partnership was the other.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley develops summer camps guide for children with autism

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Researchers believe the number of children who have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is much higher than previously believed, according to a new study published May 9 in the American Journal of Psychiatry. Grand Valley State University is home to the Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) project, which provides training and technical assistance to educators and families throughout Michigan.

The START project has been in place for 10 years through the funding and support of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. The rapid increase in the number of students with ASD entering public schools in Michigan has created a critical need for more in-depth training for educators.

In a recent study completed by START, 57 percent of families with children who have ASD (including Kent County) reported they needed more access to peer-supported social opportunities, and nearly 50 percent of these families also reported they needed more access to recreation and non-school summer programs. With this in mind, Grand Valley has developed a summer camps guide for families to seek opportunities for their child with ASD.

It can be found at www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/summer-camps-383.htm

"Although incorporating children with disabilities into typical community-based camps is a growing trend, children with ASD are often excluded from the community camp experience due to a lack of staff training and support to meet their needs," said Amy Matthews, director of the START project. "Studies show that including children with ASD into settings where they can learn and interact with their typical peers is quite beneficial, and including children with ASD in settings where they can learn and interact with typical peers is highly beneficial, and including children with ASD in a camp setting teaches their typical peers how to involve all kids in camp activities."

For more information, contact Amy Matthews at (616) 331-3513, or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley announces 2011 Woodrow Wilson Fellows

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A recorder of climate change in arctic Alaska, the captain of the Muskegon Thunder arena football team and a geologist of fossil digs in Israel describe just a few of the 2011 Woodrow Wilson Fellows coming to Grand Valley State University.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and Gov. Rick Snyder announced the inaugural class of teaching fellows at a news conference May 12 at the Michigan State Capitol. A total of 92 fellows were announced for the 2011 statewide cohort; 14 fellows will attend Grand Valley State University beginning June 1.

The Kellogg Foundation launched the Michigan fellowships in 2009, with \$18 million in support, to recruit teachers — both recent college graduates and career changers — with strong backgrounds in math and science fields and to place them in hard-to-staff middle and high schools across the state. Each fellow will receive a \$30,000 stipend to complete an intensive master's degree program, and they must commit to teaching for three years in designated state schools.

Grand Valley has partnered with Grand Rapids Public Schools, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools and Muskegon Public Schools. Grand Valley was one of six Michigan universities chosen to participate in the program, which is aimed at increasing the number of science and mathematics teachers. The university has developed an innovative master's level teacher preparation program linked with intensive classroom experience in the candidate's field of expertise.

"It is an honor to be a part of this exciting program which is designed to make a difference for students in high needs secondary schools," said Loretta Konecki, project director of Grand Valley's Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program. "We look forward to having our first cohort of fellows start their cutting edge teacher preparation program and participate in their year-long clinical placements in our partner districts."

Gov. Rick Snyder said: "We need great teachers and great teaching to support our development of the highest quality education in Michigan. The teachers in this fellowship program will bring their much-needed expertise in key disciplines to some of our schools in which the need is greatest. We want our students to have every opportunity for success in this global economy. Greater exposure to these key subjects will provide that foundation."

The 2011 W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellows attending Grand Valley are:

- Vlad Borza, from Sterling Heights
Wayne State University '07, biology
Former manager, University of Michigan Neuromotor Behavior Laboratory (medical physics, brain research)
- Ana Castleberry, from Grand Rapids
Grand Valley State University '09, biomedical sciences
Substitute science teacher at Intercity School, youth advocate for Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Steven Feutz, from Grand Rapids
University of Notre Dame '09, aerospace engineering and music theory
Engineering intern at high-tech aerospace manufacturer, researcher on airfoil modification and testing in aerodynamics lab
- Novel Grant, Jr., from Southfield
Ohio State University '84, mathematical sciences, minor in engineering sciences
Cambridge College '11, master's in education leadership
Sales manager/business developer, 20 years in engineering consulting, sales development and loss control; licensed insurance agent
- Anne Heyt, from Sparta
Michigan State University '85, civil engineering
Grand Valley State University '08, MBA
Civil engineer in water and wastewater systems for more than 20 years, volunteer engineering mentor in public schools
- Heather Holland, from Sparta
Grand Valley State University '10, mathematics and psychology major
Volunteer math tutor at middle/high schools and community college
- Steven Jablonski, from Grand Haven
Grand Valley State University '10, biology
Volunteer at GVSU Regional Math and Science Center assisting with science presentations and activities for children
- Elyssa Krivicich, from Geneva, New York
The College of Wooster '09, geology
Ohio State University '11, master's in geology
Research assistant in tree ring lab at The College of Wooster; undergraduate researcher in Jurassic fossils from Israel
- Toby Onyekonwu, from Champaign, Illinois
St. Francis University '11, health leadership

Certified health tech since 2007 with British Government training in classified drugs/substance abuse and the law

- Robert Slider, from Grand Rapids

Grand Valley State University '09, biology

Grand Valley State University '11, master's in biology

Arctic ecologist with three field seasons in Alaska researching the impacts of climate change on plants as part of an international study

- Tammy Stambaugh, from Jenison

Grand Valley State University '11, biology

Published undergraduate researcher; teaching assistant in ecology lab

- Virginia Wimmer, from Whitehall

Grand Valley State University '94, chemistry and psychology

University of Florida '97, master's in physical chemistry

Research chemist in private industry for a decade, lab technician in municipal water facility, chemistry teaching/research assistant

- Nathan Wruble, from Big Rapids

Ferris State University '06, survey engineering

Survey engineer for five years, former captain of Muskegon Thunder football team

- Christina Muckenfuss will be named a fellow once application is fully processed.

NOTE: Grand Valley alumni are heading to other institutions as fellows. They include:

- Benjamin Garlets, math/biomedical science '10, who will attend Michigan State University
- Shanda Bennett, cell/molecular biology '09, who will attend Western Michigan University
- Mitchell Overway, health sciences BS '88 and MS '90, who will attend Western Michigan University
- Jennifer Buchman, cell/molecular biology '08, who is attending the University of Indiana

For more information contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release
May 16, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu, GVSU News and Information Services

Students to display renewable energy and technology ideas at GVSU

MUSKEGON, Mich. — High school and community college students will display their sustainable ideas and business plans at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center's first annual Renewable Energy and Technology Science Fair (RE-Fair). Students will share their ideas with community members and judges, and will have the chance to win cash prizes.

Projects will be divided into two categories, renewable energy and sustainability. Community members representing entrepreneurship, energy and business will serve as judges.

RE-Fair

Monday, May 23

MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon

Judging will take place in the morning; the event will be open to the public from 1-3 p.m.

Kirk Wyers, director of Career and Technical Education in Newaygo County, will be speaking from noon-1 p.m. about SERGIL (Students Effectively Reducing Glass In Landfills), a program developed by students.

"Taking part in RE-Fair offers many benefits," said Kim Walton, MAREC program coordinator. "The incentive of a friendly competition has been shown to promote deeper learning as students see the value of science and technology in their lives. They'll also learn through the challenge of integrating science and business, and making a case for their project."

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Kim Walton at (616) 331-6907.

For Immediate Release
May 17, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Students help find solutions to community environmental problems

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Students from eight Kent County middle and high schools will showcase their work in helping to solve area environmental issues. The students worked on several projects through Groundswell, a coalition of more than 40 community partners and local middle/high schools that is housed at the Grand Valley State University College of Education.

Groundswell develops school-based programming aimed at involving students in solving environmental problems in their communities and promoting lifelong environmental stewardship in Kent County.

Second Annual Student Showcase
May 18, 7 p.m.
Celebration! Cinema North at Beltline and Knapp
Media are welcome

Students are from East Rockford Middle School, Forest Hills Eastern Middle School, Grand Rapids City Middle School, Kent City Middle School, Lowell High School, New Branches School, the Potter's House School and Sparta High School. Students will showcase their work on the following projects:

- East Rockford Middle School students and the Izaak Walton League are working to build and distribute rain barrels to their community.
- Forest Hills Eastern, Ada Parks and River City Wild Ones removed invasive species and plant native vegetation on their campus and in an Ada Township park.
- Students from New Branches worked with WMEAC to learn about water quality and have started investigations into understanding and addressing invasive species in the Great Lakes.
- Sparta High School students have been working with Tessa Tape to clean up, minimize erosion, and remediate pressing concerns on their cross country course.

Groundswell was created by funding from the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI), the Wege Foundation and the Frey Foundation. The coalition consists of businesses, government agencies, local foundations, non-profits, school partners, and institutions of higher learning all working together to create sustained professional development for area educators.

For more information, contact Grand Valley's College of Education at (616) 331-6240.

For immediate release
May 18, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

MAREC welcomes renewable energy business entrepreneur

MUSKEGON, Mich. — A company ready to help Michigan municipalities and businesses make use of a law that facilitates renewable energy financing is the newest tenant at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC).

Michigan PACE Energy Program, L3C (MPEP) will provide technical, educational and training services to assist Michigan municipalities, developers, and financial institutions in renewable energy finance using Michigan's recently enacted PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) legislation. An "L3C" corporation is a new, legal hybrid of a for-profit and nonprofit organization created to be more efficient.

"Renewable energy is no longer just about manufacturing products like solar cells and electric vehicle batteries," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "Renewable energy also offers important opportunities in the service sector, and the launching of Michigan PACE Energy Program is a sign of things to come."

Michigan is one of 25 states that has adopted PACE legislation. Passed in December 2010, Michigan's PACE law allows energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to use the traditional land-secured financing mechanism that for 100 years has financed improvements like sidewalks, sanitation systems, public parks and water works.

Gregory Truex, president of MPEP, said the company will promote awareness, educate and train organizations in preparation for PACE. "The PACE laws have lowered the barriers that have discouraged municipalities and developers from including and financing renewable technology in their projects. However, the law is little known by decision-makers whose organizations could benefit. Our company's goal is to change that," he said.

As president of MPEP, Truex has 26 years of experience as a technology entrepreneur and financial institution executive. He is also co-founder of TruAssurance, Inc., a risk and regulatory consulting firm, and the owner of Huron Shores Wind Technologies, Inc., an alternative energy development and consultant organization in Chicago.

MPEP becomes the fifth current incubator tenant at MAREC.

About the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center

The Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC) in Muskegon is an economic development initiative of the City of Muskegon in partnership with Grand Valley State University

and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. As one of Michigan's 11 SmartZones, MAREC's mission is to be an economic development catalyst and business accelerator, as well as a center for high-technology business development, with particular focus on alternative and renewable energy.

MAREC offers a range of business start-up and incubation opportunities for technology companies, in partnership with the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC). Its work also includes education and outreach programs for audiences like energy professionals, educators and citizen groups. MAREC uses a combination of renewable and clean energy technologies to heat, cool, light, and power its facility.

For more information contact Gregory Truex, president of MPEP, at (616) 929-7121 or gtruex@michpace.org or MAREC at (616) 331-6900.

For Immediate Release
May 19, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Seidman brings national attention to West Michigan
Ground breaking scheduled for L. William Seidman Center

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

Grand Valley will break ground at the future site of the Seidman College of Business at 38 Front Ave. in downtown Grand Rapids, on May 25 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Remarks begin at 6:15 p.m.

Participants will include Rich DeVos, lead donor and general chairman of the Grand Valley University Foundation. The generous philanthropist and founder of Amway first publicly broached the idea for this building during the memorial tribute to Bill Seidman on Grand Valley's campus two years ago.

Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will also be 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. More than 10,200 permanent off-campus jobs in the region exist due to the presence of Grand Valley's campuses in those communities. 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.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas has noted that during this year of 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 will support the Seidman College of Business' growing reputation as the premier business school in the Midwest. It will also house the Small Business and Technology Development Center, a federal/state/Grand Valley-sponsored program that creates and sustains jobs across Michigan.

SEIDMAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- The Seidman College of Business has experienced amazing growth. In its 40-year history it has gone from 145 students to more than 3,300 currently enrolled.
- The college offers an accelerated, full-time, integrated Master of Business program that has an innovative curriculum, a paid fellowship, international experience and a stint in Washington, D.C.
- The college has given Grand Valley international standing as one of only 173 schools of business worldwide that have a dual accreditation in both business and accounting.
- The college attracts an impressive graduate student population, with GMAT scores that are consistently among the highest in the state.
- The college is increasingly seen as a premier business college because of the quality of graduates who fuel the talent base for West Michigan and beyond.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- The designer for the project is Robert A. Stern Architects, LLP, an internationally recognized firm known for attention to detail and a commitment to design quality.
- Local firms Integrated Architecture and Pioneer Construction will be part of the project.
- The building will be Grand Valley's 16th LEED-certified building. Grand Valley is nationally recognized for being a "green college" and the building will contribute to that reputation by promoting water and energy conservation, recycled and locally manufactured materials and indoor air quality.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

May 23, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley grad receives U.S. Department of State scholarship

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University recent graduate Sandra Braden has won a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship issued by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Braden is among 575 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to receive a scholarship, from more than 5,200 applications from all 50 states and a wide range of academic disciplines.

The program is part of a wider U.S. government effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical-need languages to help promote mutual understanding and respect between people of the U.S. and people of other countries. Braden will study the Arabic language and culture in Oman from June 1 to August 1. The Arab state is located in southwest Asia on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula.

Braden, from Big Rapids, graduated from Grand Valley in April with a bachelor's degree in international relations and a minor in Mid-East studies. While at Grand Valley she participated in the Arab Culture Club for four years, serving as president in her senior year. She also joined the Model Arab League, which provided opportunities to develop leadership skills, attend a regional conference at Grand Valley and the national conference in Washington, D.C., where she also visited embassies.

"I took every class offered in Arabic language and culture at Grand Valley, did a summer study abroad in Jordan, and knew I wanted to continue my Arabic studies after graduating," said Braden. "I was very excited to receive notification of this award and the doors it might open to possible careers with the government, business, nonprofit or academic sectors."

Prior to her departure Braden, who was born in Cairo, and the other scholarship winners will attend orientation sessions in Washington, D.C. "My mother is Egyptian and my father, who died when I was a freshman, was an American engineer," said Braden. "We used to visit my mother's family every other summer, so I know quite a lot about the area."

For more information about the U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, visit www.clscholarship.org.

May 26, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley's Veterans History Project featured on iTunes U

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Just in time for the Memorial Day weekend, Grand Valley State University's Veterans History Project will be spotlighted on iTunes U.

Grand Valley State University on iTunes U features 34 interviews selected from more than 1,000 in the ongoing project by Grand Valley's Department of History, under the direction of Professor James Smither, in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress established the Veterans History Project in 2001 to collect and preserve memories and documents from U.S. war veterans for future generations. In 2006 Grand Valley's Veterans History Project was established to serve as an archiving and collecting partner with the LOC. All interviews are conducted following LOC procedures and are archived both in the Digital Collections of Grand Valley's library and in the Library of Congress.

Grand Valley's project also includes partnerships that have produced several documentary films, educational outreach programs and events with area preservation groups and historical societies.

Visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/vethistory> to learn more about Grand Valley's Veterans History Project.

Visit the iTunes store <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/storeFront> to access iTunes U.

For immediate release
June 1, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

New Community Reading Project at GVSU announced

ALLENDALE, Mich. — 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 State University.

"The Warmth of Other Suns," by Isabel Wilkerson, will be the focus of classroom and small group discussions on campus next year. 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.

For Immediate Release
June 2, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO AVAILABLE at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow

Current Business Trends: Slow but positive

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy continues to grow slowly, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of May. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, moderated to +19, down from +29. In a similar move, the production index eased to +26 from +35. The index of purchases eased considerably to +25 from +51. The employment index remained fairly strong at +43 down modestly from +46.

"Economics 101 tells us that employment is almost always a laggard," said Long. "Given that many other indicators have pointed to slower growth for the second half of 2011, this month's numbers are not a total surprise."

Long said some projections now say the housing downturn may have further to go, and it could take eight to 10 years for a full recovery. He said the office furniture sector is still positive and most auto parts suppliers remain stable. Overall, he said the performance for the industrial distributors came in fairly positive for the month.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are purchasing managers from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors, and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

For immediate release
June 6, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

Middle school girls get glimpse into engineering careers
GVSU engineering camp celebrates 10 years

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area middle school girls will get a glimpse into the careers of engineering, an occupation made of 10 percent women, at a four-day camp at Grand Valley State University. The camp is held to demonstrate engineering career possibilities to female students and to help them prepare for courses in high school and college.

Science, Technology and Engineering Preview Summer Day Camps (STEPS (<http://www.gvsu.edu/steps>)) will be held June 13-16 and June 20-23 in the Kennedy Hall of Engineering at Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

About 80 campers will get hands-on engineering experience by designing, manufacturing and flying radio-controlled electronic airplanes. Campers will also learn about the aerodynamics of flight in classes and as they take a ride in a small airplane at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

MEDIA NOTE: To celebrate the camp's 10 year anniversary, camp alumni and students will fly their airplanes at the Warped Wings Fly Field located at the corner of Alger and 56th Avenue in Allendale Thursday, June 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Another Fly Night is schedule for Thursday, June 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The camp is coordinated by the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing with support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Major sponsors include Alcoa Foundation, Alcoa Howmet-Whitehall Operations, the Michigan Space Grant Consortium (NASA), and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.gvsu.edu/steps or contact Sara Maas at (616) 331-6025.

For immediate release

June 8, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley leaders to announce comprehensive campaign numbers

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — As an appropriate conclusion to Grand Valley State University's 50th anniversary, an announcement will be made that the university's first comprehensive campaign is coming to a close at the end of June and has far surpassed its original goal of \$50 million.

University and community leaders will announce the total raised-to-date for the Shaping Our Future campaign at the annual Enrichment Dinner, hosted by Grand Valley University Foundation and set for June 8 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

"We have so much to celebrate as we carry the momentum of this campaign into the next 50 years at Grand Valley," said President Thomas J. Haas. "We owe the success of this campaign to our community friends, loyal supporters of this university, who believed in us in 1960 and will continue to support us in the future."

More than 1,600 people are expected at the Enrichment Dinner. A reception will begin at 6 p.m., dinner and program at 7 p.m.

Dan and Pamella DeVos, co-chairs of Shaping Our Future, will make the announcement about the campaign numbers. Joining them will be campaign co-chairs Jim and Donna Brooks and honorary chairs Rich and Helen DeVos.

Shaping Our Future was launched in 2007 and concludes at the end of June 2011. Gifts to the comprehensive campaign have helped fund the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons, L. William Seidman Center and other capital projects, academic programs, academic centers, endowed chairs, and more than 90 new private scholarships.

Prior to the campaign announcement, the Enrichment Dinner audience will celebrate 14 West Michigan leaders whose involvement, leadership and support have shaped Grand Valley. These "Grand Stewards" are listed below; family members will accept posthumous honors.

-- Bill and Sally Seidman; Rich and Helen DeVos; Fred and Lena Meijer; Bob Pew II and Mary Idema Pew; Peter and Pat Cook; Seymour and Esther Padnos; and Stuart and Barbara Padnos.

"We are so honored by the generosity of our Grand Stewards," said Maribeth Wardrop, vice president for University Development. "West Michigan is a special place and Grand Valley has benefited from generations of families who continue to support the work we do."

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Erik Nordman, (616) 331-8705, GVSU assistant professor of biology

GVSU study looks at pros/cons of offshore wind turbines

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The West Michigan Wind Assessment project team at Grand Valley State University has issued a report to address the benefits and concerns related to offshore wind, including public acceptance, visibility, noise and tourism. Currently, there are no offshore wind farms in North America, but several have been proposed for the Great Lakes.

Erik Nordman, principal investigator of the project and assistant professor of biology at Grand Valley, said the study reveals public perception of the Great Lakes shoreline. "We found there are different expectations and uses of the shoreline, from power plants to recreation to relaxation," said Nordman. "This information can help open up a discussion to understand the different values of the Great Lakes and whether offshore wind energy is appropriate."

The study showed:

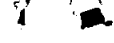
- Water depths in Lake Michigan increase rapidly with distance from shore so offshore wind turbines are likely to be located within view of the shore.
- A wind farm located six miles offshore in Lake Michigan would be visible about 64 percent of the time based on average weather conditions.
- Sound from an offshore wind turbine can reflect off the water and travel farther than similar sounds on land, although it is unlikely that any sound would reach the shore six miles away.
- Permitting an offshore wind farm is complex — it took Cape Wind (Massachusetts) nine years to secure a permit, however, the permitting process in Michigan's Great Lakes is different from that for federal waters along the continental shelf.

Some advantages of offshore wind:

- More consistent wind
- Proximity to large cities and energy centers
- Larger and more efficient turbines
- Located where noise is less likely to disturb people

Some drawbacks to offshore wind:

- Construction and maintenance costs
- Public acceptance
- Could negatively affect people's connection to a landscape



The West Michigan Wind Assessment is a Michigan Sea Grant-funded project which is analyzing the benefits and challenges of wind energy development in coastal West Michigan. For more information on the study visit www.gvsu.edu/wind.

In a separate study, Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center will conduct a three-year offshore wind assessment study in Lake Michigan beginning in the fall of 2011.

For media interviews contact Erik Nordman at (616) 331-8705, or Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

June 8, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU announces totals for record-setting campaign

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University fittingly concluded its golden anniversary year June 8 with an announcement that will provide the university with momentum well into the next 50 years.

University and community leaders said Shaping Our Future, Grand Valley's first comprehensive campaign, greatly surpassed original goals and raised \$95.3 million to date. A record number of donors, 17,000, contributed to the campaign.

Shaping Our Future was launched in 2007 and officially concludes June 30, 2011. Gifts to the comprehensive campaign have helped fund the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons, the L. William Seidman Center and other capital projects, academic programs, centers and endowed chairs; and more than 90 new private scholarships. The original goal was \$50 million, then stretched to \$75 million.

The announcement was made at the annual Enrichment Dinner, hosted by the Grand Valley University Foundation and held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

President Thomas J. Haas said, "The generous support for Grand Valley will positively impact many areas of the university, and have a broad economic impact for West Michigan."

"Shaping Our Future touches so many areas of Grand Valley but most importantly more students will be able to reach their full potential. We will be able to attract a broader range of students to West Michigan and as graduates they will be our future leaders in their communities and vocations."

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/sof.

For immediate release
June 13, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

GVSU earns national grant to help science, engineering students

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Science and engineering students entering their last two years at Grand Valley State University may be eligible to receive assistance through a National Science Foundation grant that will allow the university to provide scholarships.

The \$600,000 grant supports Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarships (S-STEM), a program for students who have high financial need in the science and engineering fields. The grant was awarded to Jann Joseph, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

Plotkowski explained that the grant will build upon the success of the NSF S-STEM grant the university was awarded in 2006. "Ninety-five percent of students who were supported by the previous S-STEM program have successfully graduated," he said.

New to the grant will be the ability to include and support transfer students from community colleges. Joseph said Grand Valley will work with Grand Rapids Community College to award scholarships to transfer students.

"Increasing the number of graduates from programs in engineering and the sciences is essential to the economic vitality of Michigan and the nation," said Plotkowski. "This grant will help support high-need and high-talent students in science and engineering fields to complete their degrees in a timely manner."

Joseph said students can apply for a STEM scholarship this fall and winter. "The scholarship supports not just tuition, but provides funds for research experiences with faculty mentors, and opportunities for recipients to present their work at regional and national professional meetings," she said.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Shorouq Almallah, Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, (616) 331-6909

Teens to pitch eco-friendly business ideas at GVSU entrepreneurship academy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — High school students from across West Michigan will showcase their entrepreneurship talents as they develop and pitch eco-friendly business plans for a chance to win cash prizes. Grand Valley State University's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) is a sponsor of the Teen Entrepreneurship Summer Academy in Holland, Muskegon and Grand Rapids.

Student teams will dive into the issues surrounding their business concept, discover how teamwork is crucial in developing a successful idea, and will have the opportunity to develop key business and communication skills.

Grand Rapids
June 20-24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pew Grand Rapids Campus, DeVos Center

Holland
July 11-15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Grandy Valley Meijer Campus, 515 S. Waverly Rd.

Muskegon
July 18-22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, 200 Viridian Dr.

Entrepreneurial and technology workshops are scheduled throughout the week and students will have opportunities to listen and network with entrepreneurs from the area, who will judge the final presentations.

MEDIA NOTE: Students will pitch their ideas and judges will announce winners around noon on the last day of each academy, Friday, June 24 and July 15 and 22.

For more information and to view an itinerary, visit www.gvsu.edu/cei or contact Shorouq Almallah, finance and strategy specialist for CEI, at (616) 331-6909.

For immediate release
June 22, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

Expert panel will discuss clean energy future, job outlook

MUSKEGON, Mich. — A panel of experts from Michigan will discuss the future of clean energy and what it means for the economy at a round table discussion at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC). The panel will also discuss the current Michigan job outlook of more than 100,000 clean energy jobs.

What a Clean Energy Future Means for Jobs and the Environment: A Round Table Discussion
Tuesday, June 28, at 6:30 p.m.
MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon
The event is free and open to the public.

The panel will include former Michigan congressman and BlueGreen Alliance representative Mark Schauer, Michigan representative from the Laborers International Union of North America Dan Fingas and Director of MAREC Arn Boezaart.

The event is also presented by the Sierra Club, BlueGreen Alliance and Yes to West Michigan Wind Power.

For more information, contact Tiffany Hartung from the Sierra Club at (231) 747-7489 or MAREC at (616) 331-6900.

For immediate release

June 22, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU sets news conference for Laker Turf Building dedication

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host a news conference for the Laker Turf Building Dedication that will feature former GVSU and current Notre Dame head football coach Brian Kelly on Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m. in conference room 2C at the Laker Turf Building.

Remarks from Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, Director of Athletics Tim Selgo and Brian Kelly will begin at 11:15 a.m. in the upper lobby of the Laker Turf Building.

For more information, contact Tim Nott, associate director of athletics/sports information director, at nottt@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3275.

June 27, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221 or
Grand Valley's University Carillonneur Julianne Vanden Wyngaard (616) 6581-0622

Special outdoor concerts planned at Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A special concert to commemorate our nation's birthday, and another concert featuring a traveling musical instrument that weighs 26,000 pounds, are part of the International Carillon Concert Series at Grand Valley State University. All of the concerts, which feature performances by internationally renowned carillonneurs from Denmark, the Netherlands and the U.S., are free and open to the public, rain or shine.

The Chime Master traveling carillon will be featured at a July 3 concert on the Allendale Campus, with an 8 p.m. performance by Gijsbert Kok, from the Netherlands. The special carillon provided fascination and musical entertainment throughout Europe for 16 years before being purchased by a company in Ohio. It was built in the Netherlands in 1991 and was sized to the dimensions of a standard shipping container and flatbed truck to allow transport to a variety of concert venues.

The Chime Master concert will be held in parking lot G, near the West Campus Drive entrance to campus off 48th Street, to provide ample space for visitors to get up close to an instrument that is usually perched high in a tower. It is part of the 17th Annual Cook Carillon International Concert Series, held on the Allendale Campus Sundays at 8 p.m., from June 19-August 21.

The Cook Carillon will also be part of a nationwide, simultaneous bell-ringing ceremony Monday, July 4. Let Freedom Ring 2011 will be initiated at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia with 13 tolls rung at 2 p.m. At that moment, carillons, church bells, city halls, courthouses, national monuments, and ships at sea will join in the celebration. Other participating sites include Arlington National Cemetery, the USS Arizona National Memorial at Pearl Harbor, the National Cathedral, Old North Church in Boston, West Point Chapel, and every ship in the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine. Grand Valley's University Carillonneur Julianne Vanden Wyngaard will follow the 13 tolls with a short concert of patriotic selections to celebrate Independence Day with joyful music from the Cook Carillon.

The 11th Annual Beckering Family Carillon International Concert Series, held on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus Wednesdays at noon, is from July 6-27. For more concert information, including details of each performance, call (616) 331-3484, or visit www.gvsu.edu/artscalendar.

For immediate release

June 30, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Lakeshore students to pitch business plans to experts

-- Media opportunity July 15 at Herrick District Library

HOLLAND — About 20 high school students from the Lakeshore area will develop eco-friendly business plans and pitch their plans to local judges for a chance to win cash prizes.

Teen Entrepreneurship Summer Academy, sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, will run July 11-15 at Grand Valley's Meijer Campus, 515 S. Waverly Road.

Media opportunity: Students will pitch the ideas they have worked on all week at a business showcase set for Friday, July 15, at noon at Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave.

The Teen Entrepreneurship Summer Academy scheduled for Muskegon in July was canceled.

Students participating in the Holland event are from nine area schools: West Ottawa, Holland High, Careerline Tech, Garber, Black River, VanRaalte Tech, Juvenile Justice Institute, Jenison and Grand Haven. Business showcase judges are Liz Hoffswell, Holland Area Chamber of Commerce; Jennifer Linart, Lakeshore Advantage; and Seidman College of Business faculty members.

The public is welcome to attend the July 15 business showcase; RSVP by sending an email to holland@gvsu.edu.

The Holland academy is sponsored by Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Continuing Education and the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District.

For more information and to view an itinerary, visit www.gvsu.edu/cei or contact Shorouq Almallah, finance and strategy specialist for CEI, (616) 331-6909; or Lisa Miller, Meijer Campus, (616) 331-3910.

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Jennifer Deamud, (616) 331-7482, MI-SBTDC

Veterans receive no-cost business training

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC), housed at Grand Valley State University, is offering no-cost training to veterans who have an interest in growing or launching a small business.

"Many veterans are launching and growing businesses here in Michigan and they need assistance," said Carol Lopucki, state director of the MI-SBTDC. "The training programs will help veterans evaluate their business ideas, build implementation plans and effectively grow their businesses."

The courses are presented by experienced business professionals or current small business owners with pertinent expertise. The Entrepreneurial Series consists of five fundamental courses ranging from how to start a small business to how to market a small business. The Advanced Entrepreneurial Series includes:

- Essentials of Internet Business
- Running a Restaurant
- Succession Planning
- The Retail Survival Guide
- The Successful Contractor

"The training from the SBTDC has been excellent, timely and very appropriate for the business climate we are in," said Larry Bergman, a veteran and the owner of Bergman Power Equipment. "The training has helped me look at how to grow a small business and how to better reach my customers."

The MI-SBTDC also offers a 10-week FastTrac NewVenture training program that aims to help entrepreneurs evaluate business opportunities and develop an action plan for owning their own business. During the course, entrepreneurs evaluate the feasibility of their business concept, make contacts, and learn how to start profitable businesses. They also learn how to attract new clients or customers, retain employees and improve service and product offerings.

In 2010 the MI-SBTDC trained 10,097 small business owners and entrepreneurs in 810 training courses. The MI-SBTDC also offers follow-up individual counsel at no-cost to the participants as their businesses grow.

Descriptions of courses offered, along with dates and locations can be found at www.misbtdc.org/training.

About Michigan SBTDC

The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center provides counseling, training and information based planning for Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, expanding new businesses, new technology companies and innovators. The MI-SBTDC is located at Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As host of the MI-SBTDC State Headquarters, the Seidman College of Business oversees the 12-region MI-SBTDC network. Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest MI-SBTDC by calling (616) 331-7480 or visiting www.misbtdc.org.

For Immediate Release
July 1, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Health professions camp for area youth held at Grand Valley

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area teenagers will have the opportunity to explore careers in the health professions field during the Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration (SHAPE) summer day camp sponsored by Grand Valley State University.

Participants will explore the professions of medical laboratory science, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, radiation therapy, sonography, speech pathology, sports medicine and therapeutic recreation.

SHAPE provides students with the opportunity to participate in hands-on science activities that include laboratories and simulations with modern medical equipment. They will also gain academically challenging scientific knowledge, learn about personal health and fitness, experience a field trip to Spectrum Health Butterworth campus and learn CPR through the American Red Cross of Ottawa County.

The SHAPE program is designed for students entering 8th or 9th grade.

SHAPE camp
July 11-14 and July 18-21
Cook-Devos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St., Grand Rapids

SHAPE is sponsored by Meijer along with Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center, College of Health Professions, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kirkhof College of Nursing and Office of Inclusion and Equity.

For more information, contact Ranelle Brew, GVSU College of Health Professions, at (616) 331-5947 or Kathy Agee, GVSU Regional Math and Science Center, at (616) 331-3031.

For immediate release

July 5, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Children's Enrichment Center event supports working families

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Children's Enrichment Center will co-sponsor a "Twilight Gathering" aimed at raising awareness and funds for a nonprofit organization, Women's Caring Program, which helps support working families with early childhood education costs.

The event is set for Tuesday, July 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Frey Foundation courtyard at the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St. Tickets for the event are \$35 and can be purchased online at www.womenscaringprogram.org, click on "Grand Rapids Twilight Gathering" under Upcoming Events.

The Women's Caring Program was established 30 years ago to help children of the working poor with financial support for quality child care during the formative early education years.

Sharalle Arnold, director of the Children's Enrichment Center, said six Twilight Gatherings will be held throughout Michigan and she is pleased to help host the Grand Valley event. "It's going to be a great night out to support a great cause," Arnold said. "Please join us in this 32-year tradition of women and men lending a supporting hand to families in need."

For more information about the event, call the Children's Enrichment Center at (616) 331-5437.

For immediate release
July 6, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

GVSU master's program is a first for West Michigan

-- Biomedical engineering professions among fastest growing in state, nation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — For the first time in West Michigan, students can further their education in one of the fastest growing professions in the nation. Grand Valley State University is the first university in West Michigan to offer a graduate-level degree program in biomedical engineering (<http://gvsu.edu/engineering/courses-in-biomedical-engineering-169.htm>) and it is the only program in Michigan to focus on medical device design and development.

Joe Iannelli, director of the School of Engineering at Grand Valley, explained that the program was brought about by the expansion of the biomedical sector in West Michigan. "Grand Valley's biomedical engineering program is even more valuable with the university located in close proximity to Grand Rapids' growing medical research and biomedical industries," he said. "The aging of the population and a growing focus on health issues will drive demand for better medical devices and equipment designed by biomedical engineers."

Biomedical engineering employment nationwide is expected to rise by 72 percent between 2008-2018, much faster than the average for all occupations, said Iannelli, and the number of biomedical engineering jobs in Michigan is expected to increase by 70 percent by 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Traditionally, biomedical engineering attracts more women than men. "The number of degrees granted in biomedical engineering has increased significantly, so many biomedical engineers, particularly those employed in research laboratories, need a graduate degree," he said.

The program, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and supported by the West Michigan Medical Device Consortium and local companies, will help students match development opportunities with research trends and bring innovative products to market. It is available for students interested in enrolling part-time or full-time, and is enriched by a state-of-the-art biomedical engineering laboratory located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The engineering facilities provide more than 80,000 square feet of space for students to experience hands-on learning and engage in industry-sponsored projects.

The program was developed by engineering professors John Farris and Samhita Rhodes. Farris said students who complete the biomedical engineering program can go on to medical school and careers in medical device/biotechnology industries, research and development, and health care management. "Students who enroll in the program will work with local businesses to design and build devices, especially in the medical industry," he said. "So there's an entrepreneurial twist to the program."

Farris said students will team with other majors at Grand Valley. "In one class, a group of students made a medical device that was tested by physical therapy students on real patients, so their feedback was incredibly helpful," he said.

Anyone with an engineering background is invited to apply for the fall semester, although the program is shaped for people with electrical or mechanical engineering backgrounds. Farris said the program provides four fellowships that will cover all tuition costs and include a two-year stipend. Students may apply online or contact Samhita Rhoades at (616) 331-6267 or rhodesam@gvsu.edu.

The School of Engineering also offers two other biomedical-engineering educational opportunities: a five-year joint bachelor and master's degree program and an undergraduate minor.

MEDIA NOTE: Two students currently enrolled in the biomedical engineering master's program are available for interviews, as well as Farris, Iannelli and Charlie Standridge, assistant dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. Contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
July 6, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Bryan Bickford, (616) 331-2525, GVSU Institutional Marketing

Grand Valley hosts TEDxGrandRapidsLive

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — TEDxGrandRapidsLive is a full day of live streaming of the TEDTalks from TEDGlobal2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland. The event is sponsored by the Graduate Studies department at Grand Valley State University and the local TEDxGrandRapids community.

There are 230 seats available for the July 13 event so registration is required. Both the event and lunch are free. To register for the event, visit <http://tedxgrandrapidslive.eventbrite.com> (<http://www.tedxgrandrapidslive.eventbrite.com>).

TEDxGrandRapidsLive
Wednesday, July 13
8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Loosemore Auditorium, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Information about the schedule and speakers can be found on the TEDxGrandRapids website at www.tedxgrandrapids.org/tedxgrandrapidslive-gvsu (<http://www.tedxgrandrapids.org/tedxgrandrapidslive-gvsu/>).

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Bryan Bickford at (616) 331-2525.

July 6, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley alumnus wins Kresge Artist Fellowship

Grand Valley State University alumnus Hubert Massey ('83) is among the 12 awardees to receive a 2011 Kresge Artist Fellowship. The fellowship provides a \$25,000 award, public recognition and professional practice opportunities to literary, performing and visual artists in metropolitan Detroit.

Massey works in a variety of media to create large public art installations. He is noted for collaborating with communities to create art that tells their stories. His installations can be seen in Detroit at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit Athletic Club, Campus Martius and outside the IRS building. His first fresco commission, "Exporting and Importing of Knowledge," was installed at Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus in 2000.

Kresge Artist Fellowships provide artists with the time and resources to explore and develop their work over the yearlong fellowship period. The fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis and the awardees were chosen out of hundreds of applications by a panel of distinguished local and national artists and arts professionals.

The fellowships are funded by the Kresge Foundation and administered by the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Now in its third year, Kresge Arts in Detroit has given more than \$1.3 million to local artists, which has, in turn, helped to sustain a healthy cultural life in Detroit.

Learn more about Hubert Massey on his website, www.hubertmasseymurals.com.

July 8, 2011

For immediate release

Contacts: Jane Brierley, Clark Retirement Community, (616) 452-1568 ext 102
Kim Roberts, GVSU School of Communications, (616) 901-9708
GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Unique LipDub launched by retirement community and university

PHOTOS AVAILABLE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — What may be the nation's first LipDub performed solely by residents of a retirement community was produced in Grand Rapids through the joint efforts of Clark Retirement Community and Grand Valley State University.

Michael Buble's cover of "Feelin' Good" sets the pace and an infectious mood throughout the four-minute production. With more than a dozen unique scenes, there are humorous surprises as residents reenact the glamorous days of yesteryear and poke fun at stereotypical views of aging. From a synchronized swim scene to prune juice cocktails, more than 100 Clark residents gave their all throughout a grueling three hours of shooting.

MEDIA NOTICE: The Clark LipDub premiere screening for residents and film crew is scheduled for Monday, July 11 at 3 p.m., at Clark Retirement Community, 2nd Floor Chapel, 1551 Franklin St. SE, in Grand Rapids, Mich. Media are invited to attend. Following the private screening, the Clark LipDub will be posted on YouTube for all to view.

"I loved the GVSU LipDub and thought, why can't we do that?" said Jane Brierley, director of Marketing and Admissions at Clark. "The residents and students had a fabulous time working together. From practices to sharing meals, it was an amazing experience for everyone."

Brierley tapped into the talents of faculty, students and alumni at the university by connecting with Kim Roberts, associate professor of film and video in the School of Communications. "Jane asked me to assemble a crew and guide the logistics," said Roberts, who produced the student-directed GVSU LipDub, which broke the Top 100 in YouTube's "Entertainment" category shortly after it was posted online last fall. "I think what most surprised everyone was how the young crew and Clark residents bonded with each other. Our director, Alan Ledford, who graduated from Grand Valley in April, became so attached to the residents that he went back the day after the shoot to have coffee with them."

As the credits roll, the video sneaks in a final humorous scene with Clark Executive Director Bob Pearl discovering Grand Valley's Tom and Marcia Haas smooching — a reprise of their role in the GVSU LipDub. Tom Haas also appeared in the City of Grand Rapids LipDub this summer, which may place him as the only local LipDub triple threat performer. Marcia Haas is a member of the Clark Board of Directors.

For more information, contact Jane Brierley, Clark Retirement Community at (616) 452-1568 ext 102. For photos contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

July 11, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Jane Brierley, Clark Retirement Community (616) 452-1568 ext 102
GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Seniors star in unique LipDub posted online

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- What may be the nation's first LipDub performed solely by residents of a retirement community was produced in Grand Rapids through the joint efforts of Clark Retirement Community and Grand Valley State University.

The LipDub premiered Monday, July 11, at Clark Retirement Community for residents and the local community. The video is available at www.vimeo.com/26294157.

Michael Buble's cover of "Feelin' Good" sets the pace and an infectious mood throughout the four-minute production. With more than a dozen unique scenes, there are humorous surprises as residents reenact the glamorous days of yesteryear and poke fun at stereotypical views of aging. From a synchronized swim scene to prune juice cocktails, more than 100 Clark residents gave their all throughout a grueling three hours of shooting.

"I loved the GVSU LipDub and thought, why can't we do that?" said Jane Brierley, director of Marketing and Admissions at Clark. "The residents and students had a fabulous time working together. From practices to sharing meals, it was an amazing experience for everyone."

Brierley tapped into the talents of faculty, students and alumni at the university by connecting with Kim Roberts, associate professor of film and video in the School of Communications. "Jane asked me to assemble a crew and guide the logistics," said Roberts, who produced the student-directed GVSU LipDub, which broke the Top 100 in YouTube's "Entertainment" category shortly after it was posted online last fall. "I think what most surprised everyone was how the young crew and Clark residents bonded with each other. Our director, Alan Ledford, who graduated from Grand Valley in April, became so attached to the residents that he went back the day after the shoot to have coffee with them."

As the credits roll, the video sneaks in a final humorous scene with Clark Executive Director Bob Pearl discovering Grand Valley's Tom and Marcia Haas smooching — a reprise of their role in the GVSU LipDub. Tom Haas also appeared in the City of Grand Rapids LipDub this summer, which may place him as the only local LipDub triple threat performer. Marcia Haas is a member of the Clark Board of Directors.

For immediate release
July 18, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, zuberle@gvsu.edu, (<mailto:zuberle@gvsu.edu>,) (616) 331-2221

MAREC appoints battery expert as associate director

MUSKEGON, Mich. – A chemical engineer with extensive experience in the battery industry has been appointed associate director of research and technology for Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center. Suresh Mani joined MAREC July 15.

Mani comes from A123 Systems in Ann Arbor, where he served as technical director and conducted research and development work in battery technology. At A123 Systems, he was the principal investigator on a NASA project to develop advanced batteries for space, in which he created and led a team that included two NASA centers, a battery manufacturer, and two universities. Mani's past experiences include being a research specialist at Michigan State University and technical director of Flint Ink Corporation where he worked on the development of fluid ink products.

Mani will lead projects in advanced energy storage, smart grid development and other renewable energy technologies. He will serve as technical liaison with regional manufacturers, including the emerging battery industry in West Michigan. One of his initial projects will be to develop a characterization laboratory at MAREC that will support comprehensive testing of battery materials and components.

"Dr. Mani joins us at a time when the advanced energy storage industry is rapidly developing in West Michigan," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "His technical skills and industry experience with innovative companies will allow MAREC and Grand Valley to assist with the rapidly growing energy storage industry throughout the region."

Mani will also help the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing develop battery technology curriculum.

Born in India, Mani received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and a master's degree and doctorate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in chemical engineering.

"I'm pleased to take on this role in a region that is gaining momentum in battery technology development, wind development and other renewable energy innovation," said Mani. "Advanced energy storage systems will be critical components as other renewable energy systems are further developed."

For more information, contact T. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart at (616) 331-6901 or News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

July 20, 2011

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Local resident has role in unique video production

A South Haven resident had a hand in producing a wildly popular video (<http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow/index.htm?articleId=69200968-ED2F-57B8-F9200A55864F437F>) that has "gone viral" on YouTube and played on national television news and programs including the Today Show, Good Morning America and Inside Edition.

André Guimond, a 2005 graduate of South Haven High School worked on visual effects and as a section director in what has become known worldwide as the Clark LipDub. It may be the nation's first LipDub performed solely by residents of a retirement community - produced through the joint efforts of Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids and Grand Valley State University. Guimond is also a December 2010 graduate of the Film & Video Program in the School of Communications at Grand Valley.

The LipDub premiered Monday, July 11, at Clark Retirement Community for residents and their families. The video posted on YouTube has had more than 421,000 views and was awarded "most viewed" in countries ranging from Egypt to Sweden.

Michael Buble's cover of "Feelin' Good" sets the pace and an infectious mood throughout the six-minute production. With more than a dozen unique scenes, there are humorous surprises as residents reenact the glamorous days of yesteryear and poke fun at stereotypical views of aging. From a synchronized swim scene to prune juice cocktails, more than 100 Clark residents gave their all throughout a grueling three hours of shooting.

Guimond says his first experience with film was in a high school journalism class. "We recorded interviews with members of the community, made documentaries and posted an online version of the school newspaper," he said. "My senior year, I was editor and helped to teach others and was selected to receive the school's journalism award."

While attending Grand Valley, Guimond took classes in creative writing and thought about a career in non-fiction filmmaking. "I learned that my true passion is in post-production, doing editing, color-grading and motion graphics, for example." But nothing could prepare him for the unexpected power blackout during the final stage of post-production on the Clark video.

"We were on a tight deadline to have the video ready for the premiere screening for the residents at Clark," said Guimond. "After three solid days of fine tuning, the power went out

while I was doing the final touches. Fortunately our professor, Kim Roberts, had power so I packed up my entire edit station and moved to her house."

Roberts, associate professor of film and video, tapped Guimond and the talents of other students, alumni and faculty at Grand Valley to produce the Clark video. Clark's marketing director, Jane Brierley sought out Roberts who also produced the recent student-directed GVSU LipDub, which broke the Top 100 in YouTube's "Entertainment" category shortly after it was posted online last fall.

July 21, 2011

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Local resident part of unique video production team

A Beverly Hills resident had a hand in a wildly popular video (<http://youtu.be/uZ7-n930zJo>) that has "gone viral" on YouTube and played on national television news and programs including the Today Show, Good Morning America and Inside Edition.

Dayna Campbell, a 2008 graduate of Birmingham Groves High School served as producer in what has become known worldwide as the Clark LipDub, which may be the nation's first LipDub performed solely by residents of a retirement community - produced through the joint efforts of Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids and Grand Valley State University. Campbell is currently a senior in the Film & Video Program of the School of Communications at Grand Valley.

The LipDub premiered Monday, July 11, at Clark Retirement Community for residents and their families. The video posted on YouTube has had more than 465,256 views and was awarded "most viewed" in countries ranging from Egypt to Sweden.

Michael Bublé's cover of "Feelin' Good" sets the pace and an infectious mood throughout the six-minute production. In more than a dozen unique scenes, residents reenact the glamorous days of yesteryear and poke fun at stereotypical views of aging. From a synchronized swim scene to prune juice cocktails, more than 100 Clark residents gave their all throughout a grueling three hours of shooting.

Once the video was complete and posted online, Campbell sent an email to Bublé to tell him about it. Bublé put a link to the video on his Facebook page and told CNN, "I love this video. I will definitely visit there one day."

Kim Roberts, associate professor of film and video selected Campbell among the talents of faculty, students and alumni at Grand Valley to produce the Clark video. Clark's marketing director, Jane Brierley, sought out Roberts, who also produced the recent student-directed GVSU LipDub (<http://www.gvsu.edu/lipdub>), which broke the Top 100 in YouTube's "Entertainment" category shortly after it was posted online last fall.

"This was by far the most challenging, but more importantly, the most rewarding film experience I have been a part of," said Campbell. "We have gotten so many positive comments from the Clark staff and residents about how we have changed their outlook on young people and bridged the gap between generations."

July 21, 2011

For immediate release

Additional photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Local resident has role in unique video production

An Auburn resident had a hand in producing a wildly popular video (<http://youtu.be/uZ7-n930zJo>) that has "gone viral" on YouTube and played on national television news and programs including the Today Show, Good Morning America and Inside Edition.

Christopher Greene, a 2007 graduate of Bay City Western High School worked as the sound designer in what has become known worldwide as the Clark LipDub. It may be the nation's first LipDub performed solely by residents of a retirement community - produced through the joint efforts of Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids and Grand Valley State University. Greene is currently a student in the Film & Video Program of the School of Communications at Grand Valley, with plans to graduate after fall semester 2012.

The LipDub premiered July 11 at Clark Retirement Community for residents and their families. The video posted on YouTube has had more than 421,000 views and was awarded "most viewed" in countries ranging from Egypt to Sweden.

Michael Buble's cover of "Feelin' Good" sets the pace and an infectious mood throughout the six-minute production. In more than a dozen unique scenes, the residents reenact the glamorous days of yesteryear and poke fun at stereotypical views of aging. From a synchronized swim scene to prune juice cocktails, more than 100 Clark residents gave their all throughout a grueling three hours of shooting.

Kim Roberts, associate professor of film and video, tapped Greene and the talents of other students, alumni and faculty at Grand Valley to produce the Clark video. Clark's marketing director, Jane Brierley sought out Roberts, who also produced the recent student-directed GVSU LipDub (<http://www.gvsu.edu/lipdub/>), which broke the Top 100 in YouTube's "Entertainment" category shortly after it was posted online last fall.

Greene says his first experience with film was while taking a broadcasting and television production class in high school. He thought he wanted to become a cinematographer and video editor, but after learning about sound design, he changed his mind.

"I was very impressed with, among others, what sound designer Ben Burtt did in the (2008) film WALL-E," said Greene. "Because it was animated, there was no production audio to work with so literally everything was built from the ground up."

While working on the Clark LipDub at Grand Valley, Greene spent 36 hours between a Saturday and Sunday creating the soundscape for the six-minute video.

"We were on a tight deadline to have the video ready for the Monday premiere screening for the residents at Clark," said Greene. "I'm very detail oriented and that has proven to be of immeasurable value in my production experience so far."

Sound design involves layering sound tracks to direct the viewer's attention to important elements on the screen. In some scenes Greene layered as many as 16 tracks. He used a lot of creativity to produce many special sound effects, such as windshield wipers for the dancing sound, because it matched their gestures. He also put Super Mario type sounds in the hallway wheelchair race; bubbling in the hot tub; pool table balls breaking, slot machine sounds and much more.

"I'm learning new techniques to manipulate audio and I'm developing my abilities every single day," said Greene. "After graduation I hope to make a career in post-production or in a studio working on various types of media - feature films, shorts, animation, video games. I want it all!"

Media may contact Christopher Greene at greechri@mail.gvsu.edu.

July 27, 2011

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Filming of 'Message Sent' is underway

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- A vagrant finds a cell phone full of trouble in the upcoming Grand Valley State University film "Message Sent," now in production. The original screenplay was written by Angelo Eidse of Vancouver and selected for the university's 17th annual Summer Film Project.

The Summer Film Project was established in 1995 to offer junior and senior students an opportunity to work side-by-side with professionals to produce a short film. More than 25 students are enrolled in the six-week practicum course that will shoot the film in late July and early August. Post-production is done during a 15-week fall course, with a premiere screening in the spring.

The plot of "Message Sent" involves a vagrant, played by Michael McCallum from Lansing, who begins to receive emergency messages on a cell phone he found and becomes compelled to find the owner. The cast also includes, among others, 15-year-old Kaitlyn Squires, from Byron Center, who recently played the role of Helen Keller at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre.

Director John Harper Philbin and cinematographer Jack Anderson are reuniting for their fifth summer film together, though Philbin has done nine and Anderson has worked on seven. Philbin is associate professor of film and video in Grand Valley's School of Communications. Hollywood veteran Anderson is now a professor at California State, Long Beach. The producer is Carian White, an April 2011 graduate of Grand Valley's Film & Video Program. Megan Soderberg, art director and Adam Rock, camera operator are also 2011 graduates.

Thanks to a generous grant from Panavision and Fuji Motion Picture Film, the production will once again be shot on 35mm film, as it was the first year of the project. "In the past we've shot on Super-16mm, a format more common for independent and college films because 35mm is too expensive," said Philbin. "This summer students will get to experience making a movie on the same camera and film that Hollywood uses for feature filmmaking."

Past years' films have been selected for screening at film festivals throughout the country and have won many awards. The 2003 film "Flickering Blue," by the same screenwriter as "Message Sent," won First Place Short, at the East Lansing Film Festival and Audience Award, at the Crested Butte Reel Fest, in Colorado.

"Walter's Wife" (2008) - nominated for Best Short, Great Lakes Film Festival; "To Live & Die in Dixie" (2007) - won Best Feature, Flint Film Festival and won Best Thriller at Illinois International Film Festival; "The Gospel According to Roy" (2005) - won Best Short, Utah Film Festival.

For more information contact: John Harper Philbin, director, at (616) 331-3608, or Carian White, producer, at (989) 640-9470.

For Immediate Release
August 1, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

New honor society forms at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — An honor society that focuses on freshmen and sophomore students is forming at Grand Valley State University.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) is the nation's only honor society that recognizes high-achieving first- and second-year students for their academic accomplishments and provides them with opportunities to network with other scholars, perform service activities on campus and apply for scholarships.

Grand Valley senior Samantha Kraska will serve as president of the organization. "I think it will be a great opportunity for some of the underclassmen at Grand Valley because a lot of the honor societies here induct mostly juniors and seniors. NSCS will allow newer students to receive early recognition for their achievements and will provide the tools to continue to perform at a high level," she said.

Invitations went out to students with a grade point average of 3.4 or higher this summer. An induction ceremony is planned for September, where students will be recognized by family, friends and the campus community.

"The new chapter on Grand Valley's campus is a way for high-achieving students to take advantage of the diverse opportunities NSCS has to offer," said Senta Sample, senior director of Chapter Development for NSCS. "We're looking forward to making this year the first of many successful, engaging and exciting years for our chapter."

Grand Valley's NSCS chapter will join the more than 280 NSCS chapters across the nation, including Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University and the University of Virginia.

For more information about NSCS at Grand Valley, visit www.facebook.com/nscs.gvsu or contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221. For more information about The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, visit www.nscs.org.

For Immediate Release
August 2, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU again named a “Best In The Midwest” college by Princeton Review

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has once again been named one of the best universities in the Midwest, according to The Princeton Review. Grand Valley was selected as one of 153 institutions in the “Best in the Midwest” section of its website feature 2012 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

The Princeton Review said colleges and universities are selected primarily for their excellent academic programs. The list is based on data collected from each school and visits to each school. Students are also given an 80-question survey asking about their campus experiences.

The Princeton Review survey for this project asks students to rate their own schools on several issues — from the accessibility of their professors, to quality of the campus food — and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students, and their campus life.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 81 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

The Princeton Review (www.PrincetonReview.com) is a New York-based company known for its test preparation courses, books, college admission and other education services.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221. Media contact for The Princeton Review is Joseph Iovino, (888) 865-7737.

For Immediate Release
August 2, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, zuberle@gvsu.edu, (
<mailto:zuberle@gvsu.edu>,) (616) 331-2221

GVSU engineering students graduate August 5

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Students graduating from the School of Engineering (<http://www.gvsu.edu/engineering>) at Grand Valley State University will conclude their college experiences by showing off their industry work in a special ceremony Friday.

The School of Engineering Senior Design Conference will be Friday, August 5, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the Keller Engineering Lab Building on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The Order of the Engineer ceremony will follow. Some 56 students will display projects that were designed and built to address actual problems and needs of area companies. The projects take two semesters to complete, and at the end, the participating companies have an actual working product. The students are not paid for their work, but instead gain college credit and valuable work experience.

The day culminates in the Order of the Engineer ceremony, which is a special commencement ritual for engineering students. It will take place on the same day, August 5, from 6-7 p.m. in the Eberhard Center on the second floor. The graduates earn their degrees later than the traditional spring ceremony because they must complete a year-long co-op experience. In the ceremony, each student receives an iron ring, placed on the fifth finger of the working hand, which symbolizes bridging the step between training and experience.

The projects on display were completely designed, built, and tested by the students. Sponsors of the projects include: Magnum Engineering, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Burke Porter, DornerWorks, Gill Industries, Stanley InnerSpace and Fulton Innovation.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Tina Lee from the School of Engineering at (616) 331-6508.

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Current Business Trends: Growth rate turns modest

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy is experiencing modest growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected in the last two weeks of July. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, edged lower to +17 from +23. The production index eased to +21 from +26. The index of purchases backtracked to +23 from +29. The only modest uptick this month came from the employment index, which rose to +37 from +34.

"Overall, local statistics are actually stronger than the rest of the country and we are still on track for continued economic growth," said Long, "however, the second half of the year is now growing more questionable."

Long said the uptick for the 2012 model year is well underway for automotive parts producers but production schedules for the rest of the year are not as optimistic as they were a few months ago. He said the office furniture market remains positive and for the third month in a row, industrial distributors came in fairly positive.

Long added: "Congress has passed a framework for a modest deficit reduction package along with an extension of the debt ceiling. A promise for \$6 trillion worth of reductions that was touted a few weeks ago was downgraded to a small fraction. As expected, creditors around the world were also expecting a more robust package and their displeasure has been reflected in the financial markets."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long.

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley ranked among America's Best Colleges by Forbes

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is listed as one of America's Best Colleges in 2011 by Forbes magazine.

Michigan has 15 public universities. Of the nine on the list, Grand Valley is ranked fourth. This list is as follows:

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Grand Valley State University
Wayne State University
Oakland University
Central Michigan University
Eastern Michigan University
Western Michigan University

The list is based on quality of education and student achievement and experiences. For a complete list of rankings visit www.forbes.com/colleges.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 81 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
August 11, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

New GVSU farming structure to provide yearlong learning, growing
-- Ribbon-cutting ceremony August 19

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A new addition to the Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) at Grand Valley State University will allow for yearlong, hands-on agriculture education.

The SAP Hoophouse will extend the growing season into the academic year so more classes can learn about sustainable agriculture and organic farming.

SAP Hoophouse ribbon-cutting ceremony
August 19, 3 p.m.
Luce Street, one-half mile west of 42nd Street, Allendale

"The hoophouse will be a tool that students from many disciplines can use," said Levi Gardner, manager of SAP. "Extending the growing seasons into the academic year will allow more students to see the full growing cycle, from seed to product."

Gardner said while a greenhouse produces a synthetic climate year-round, a hoophouse works in context with the seasons. He also said while a greenhouse relies on fossil fuels, a hoophouse relies solely on passive solar heating as well as crops selected for the seasons. Kale, spinach, beets and turnips will be grown this fall.

Grand Valley's hoophouse will be 30 feet by 72 feet and will provide temperatures up to 10-15 degrees above the outdoor air temperature.

The hoophouse is a collaborative effort that includes support from the Farm Club student organization, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

August 12, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU TRiO program receives federal grant

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The TRiO Educational Talent Search at Grand Valley State University received a federal grant to continue to serve area middle and high school students.

The five-year, \$1.6 million grant is from the U.S. Department of Education.

Sarah Keranen-Lopez, director of TRiO Educational Talent Search, said the program serves 719 students who are in the sixth-12th grades in the following schools: Union High, Ottawa Hills High, Grand Rapids Montessori, Riverside Middle, Godwin Heights High, Wyoming Park High, Central High, Creston High, Westwood Middle School, Burton Middle, Wyoming Rogers High and Wyoming Newhall Middle.

TRiO Educational Talent Search is a program that assists low-income and first-generation students to persist to the next grade level, graduate from high school, and enroll in the college of their choice after high school graduation.

For more information about the program, visit www.gvsu.edu/ets

For Immediate Release
August 18, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

MAREC incubator tenant launches business expansion

-- Smart Vision Lights doubles sales each year, moves to own location

MUSKEGON, Mich. — An advanced energy-efficient lighting applications manufacturer has completed a successful three-year stay in the business incubation program at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC).

With a growing work force and doubling sales every year since entering the incubator program, Smart Vision Lights exceeded its start-up goals and has outgrown the incubator space at MAREC. The company will move Friday, August 19, and re-open Monday, August 22, in a new location at 2359 Holton Rd. in Muskegon.

"We are very pleased that we have been able to assist Smart Vision Lights with the growth and development of their business," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "The expertise provided by our in-house MI-SBTDC business consultants, the innovative and collaborative atmosphere at MAREC and the extensive resources available through our affiliation with GVSU provides our incubator clients great opportunities for success."

Smart Vision Lights started with one employee in 2007 and now has eight employees. "MAREC's positive and professional image and networking with other incubator tenants has helped us promote our small company as an innovator and leader in the industry," said Bobby Segraves, SVL sales manager.

SVL total sales in 2010 were \$1.7 million, with about 40 percent of sales outside the U.S. Segraves said the company anticipates sales between \$10-20 million within the next three to five years, and plans to expand the work force to 25 people. SVL will continue to use LED lights to support high speed photography for industrial applications and begin work on a project that involves designing lights that will appear on license plates for automobile identification.

About Smart Vision Lights

Smart Vision Lights develops and manufactures machine vision lights for the advanced lighting industry. The company boasts 80 distributors worldwide and serves customers including Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, BMW, Volkswagen, Heinz, Proctor & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson. The products feature high current LEDs and an intelligent driver in every light. Learn more at www.smartvisionlights.com.



About MAREC Business and Technology Incubation Program

The MAREC incubation program supports the commercialization of innovative technology with both existing and new companies, and promotes the application and use of alternative, clean and renewable energy sources. MAREC has the community and institutional resources to create a successful, collaborative environment and achieve its vision of energy and technology development for a sustainable economy in West Michigan and beyond. Learn more at www.gvsu.edu/marec.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Bobby Segraves at bobby@smartvisionlights.com.

For Immediate Release
August 22, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley State plays role in rapidly growing AES global industry
-- University experts can comment on advanced energy storage industry

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Just as President Barack Obama visited Holland, Mich. last week to learn more about the advanced energy storage (AES) industry, students at Grand Valley State University are learning about the technology and how they can support the growing global industry.

Over the next several years, it is estimated that more than \$5 billion will be targeted at advanced energy storage projects to launch cell, battery and materials manufacturing facilities. Located in West Michigan, Johnson Controls SAFT and LG Chem will develop the greatest concentration of lithium-ion cell manufacturing facilities for electrified vehicles in North America.

Grand Valley is responding to the expansion of the industry by developing AES-specific courses and curriculum. "Our approach is not to introduce an entire major that focuses on AES, but to leverage our current programs by incorporating AES courses. We've found that companies are looking for people with a well-rounded background in engineering and a specialty in AES," said Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

Collaboration and creating a unified relationship with the community is essential, said Arn Boezaart, director of Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center. "We have started to approach these AES manufacturers like Johnson Controls and simply ask, 'How can we be helpful?' We want Grand Valley to be involved in this new opportunity for West Michigan," he said.

Looking ahead, Boezaart said there is a bigger, more long-term opportunity for the area. "With access to a long coastline along Lake Michigan, there is opportunity to utilize AES technology for renewable energies like solar and wind. AES is not limited to automotive use."

MEDIA NOTE: The following Grand Valley State University experts can comment on the AES industry.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, can discuss how Grand Valley is preparing students for the industry. He can be reached at (616) 331-6260.

Arn Boezaart, director of Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC), can comment on the application and business development aspects of the AES industry. He can be reached at (616) 331-6905 or boezaara@gvsu.edu.

Suresh Mani, associate director of MAREC, can discuss chemistry, research and technology aspects of AES. He can be reached at (616) 331-6908 or manis@gvsu.edu.

Bob Smart, executive director of the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, specializes in research and development and chemistry and can discuss how it relates to AES. He can be reached at (616) 331-2281 or smartr@gvsu.edu.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
August 23, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Congressman Huizenga to visit MAREC Thursday

MUSKEGON, Mich. — As part of his West Michigan Entrepreneur and Innovation Tour, U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga will visit Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center Thursday. He will visit companies participating in MAREC's business and technology incubation program.

Huizenga will attend and speak at a workshop led by entrepreneurs about the resources available to start a small business. Representatives from Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center will speak at the workshop as well.

Entrepreneur Resources Workshop
Thursday, August 25, noon-1:30 p.m.
MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon
The workshop is open to the public.

"Small businesses are America's true job creators, and the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center is a business incubator right here in Western Michigan. It's a great resource to draw innovators and job creators to the 2nd District," Huizenga said.

View a full schedule of the tour at <http://huizenga.house.gov/>.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or MAREC at (616) 331-6900.

August 23, 2011
For immediate release

Photos available
Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley reveals Fall Arts Celebration 2011

Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration is set to go at venues in three locations, including downtown Grand Rapids. Grand Valley's gift to the community includes free admission to six enriching events, from classical compositions, to a focus on contemporary issues and global arts.

The opening night event, September 12 at 8 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus, 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. **"A Night in Hapsburg Vienna: From the Marriage of Figaro to Fidelio as arranged for Wind Harmonie,"** includes rich arrangements from "Marriage of Figaro," "Magic Flute," "Don Giovanni," "Barber of Seville" and "Fidelio," all very upbeat music, but rarely heard this way today. 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 of these great operas.

[Photo available]

Distinguished Academic Lecturer Michael Sandel will present **"Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?"** September 22, at 7 p.m. at Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A professor of political philosophy at Harvard, Sandel's wildly popular course, "Justice," has enrolled more than 15,000 students. His books, 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, from affirmative action and bioethics, to government bailouts and immigration reform. Sandel's book, *Justice*, will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture.

[Image available of Juan's work with caption: 'Aeromante,' 2006, by Juan Batalla]

The rich and diverse trends in contemporary South American art will be reflected in **"Arte Argentino Actual/Contemporary Argentine Art,"** with an Opening Reception October 6, 5-7 p.m., in the GVSU Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. This eclectic exhibition features paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures by Argentine artists Juan Batalla, Daniel Barreto, Pedro Cugnasco, Gretchen Minnhaar and others. Batalla and Barreto will travel from Argentina with new works to the exhibition and to participate in ArtPrize 2011. 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 their vibrant colors and subjective perspectives. 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 and provide an insider's view of Buenos Aires not usually seen by the casual tourist.

[Photos available]

Poetry Night: "An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Ted Kooser and Terrance Hayes" is set for Friday, October 21, at 7 p.m. at Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus. 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. Terrance Hayes, born in 1971, is the accomplished author of four award-winning books of poetry, including *Lighthouse* (2010), winner of the 2010 National Book Award in poetry. A native of South Carolina, Hayes excelled in the graduate program at Carnegie Mellon University, where he now teaches creative writing. His work confronts racism, sexism, religion, family structure and stereotypes with overwhelming imagery, grace, tenderness and disarming humor. 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*"** October 24, at 8 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. Manuel de Falla captured the cultural identity of Spain, as found in the folk music and dance of his native Andalusia, and incorporated them into his ballets. Fall Arts Celebration presents this historic ballet in a brilliant new choreographic interpretation by dance faculty member Shawn T Bible, performed to the historical music.

Fall Arts Celebration 2011 closes with a holiday gift to the community, **"Gloria: Music of the Holiday Season from Grand Valley"** will be performed December 5, at 8 p.m. at 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."

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2180.

For Immediate Release
Friday, August 26, 2011

Contact: News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley State classes begin Monday

-- President Haas available for interviews

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Classes begin August 29 at Grand Valley State University. The university welcomes its largest freshman class. Final enrollment numbers will be available Sept. 8. President Thomas J. Haas will be available to talk to media beginning Monday at 9 a.m. at the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Call News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews.

August 31, 2011
For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2228

Grand Valley opens art exhibitions

Grand Valley State University kicks off the fall season with a fresh set of Art Gallery exhibitions in Allendale and Grand Rapids.

"American Cuisine: New Paintings by Tim Fisher," is on exhibit now through September 23 in the GVSU Art Gallery, 1121 Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. The gallery's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday. **An opening reception with the artist will be held on Thursday, September 8, from 5-7 p.m.**

In recent years Fisher has been making paintings of food and people in a culturally diverse, working class, west side Grand Rapids neighborhood. The subject of each portrait is the primary or delegated household cook and the materials needed to prepare a dish that exemplifies their identity. The gender, presented cuisine, kitchen setting, various ingredients and presentation all signify actual or desired aspects of class, cultural background, aspects of assimilation, economic status and even beliefs system.

Each painting incorporates the dish's ingredient's weights and measures (still life), cooking locale (space), and the individual's representation (portrait), which together reflect their history and culture(s). The paintings celebrate the subjects' ethnic and economic position and allow the viewer to actively connect with the subject beyond passively observing the image as a likeness of the subject.

Robert Koropp (1924-2008): Photographic Art is on exhibit now through October 14 in the Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus. **The opening reception will be held on Thursday, September 8, at 4:30 p.m.**

Koropp was a true creative in the field of photography. He received a master's degree in chemistry but went on to study photography at the Art Center School in Los Angeles and realized it was his real passion. He had a successful career in advertising with numerous high profile clients including Kellogg's, First National Bank, Amoco, Mobil, Honeywell and Pentax. With a background in science and a desire to experiment, he created multiple bodies of work including experimental and microphotography, land and cityscape, still life and motion images, and much more.

The artist published several photography books and produced limited-edition fine art prints for private and corporate collections. This exhibition is a selection from a new gift to the university,

from Daryl Fischer, of 94 photos produced by her father, Robert Koropp, during his five-decade career.

During **ArtPrize 2011, September 21 through October 9**, the Grand Valley State University Outdoor Art & Sculpture Exhibition Center will showcase 31 exterior works of art by local, national and international artists. The artworks will be displayed throughout the beautiful grounds of the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A shuttle stop, voter registration and ArtPrize store will be located at Richard M. DeVos Center. Visitors will enjoy Grand Valley's Art & Sculpture walk between DeVos Center, Eberhard Center and the pedestrian Blue Bridge over the Grand River.

The **2011 DeVos Art Lecture** will include Grand Valley's "ArtPrize Public Forum and Opening Reception," September 23, at 5 p.m., Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton, Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A lively discussion with a panel of past and present, regional and international Grand Valley State University Exhibition Center ArtPrize artists includes an opportunity for the audience to share their views. A reception in the Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall adjacent to the auditorium immediately follows.

The upcoming Fall Arts Celebration exhibition, **Arte Argentino Actual/Contemporary Argentine Art opens October 6**, with a reception from 5-7 p.m. in the GVSU Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. A rich and diverse selection of paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures by Argentine artists Juan Batalla, Dany Barreto, Pedro Cugnasco, Gretchen Minnhaar and others, will reflect contemporary South American trends in art. The exhibition includes a wall of fifty-seven photographs, "Imagine Buenos Aires", depicting the city as interpreted by a group of 12 talented, emerging photographers, curated by Grand Valley's Latin American Studies Director, Zulema Moret. The exhibition, through November 4, will be enhanced and supported with a series of music, dance, film, video and visiting artists programs.

All exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information call the GVSU Art Gallery at (616) 331-2563, or visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

August 31, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Vienna operas open Grand Valley's Fall Arts Celebration

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration 2011 presents six enriching events, from classical compositions to a focus on contemporary issues and global arts. Each event, September 12 – December 5, is free and open to the public.

The opening night event is "A Night in Hapsburg Vienna: From the Marriage of Figaro to Fidelio as arranged for Wind Harmonie," Monday, September 12, at 8 p.m., Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus.

This is a rare opportunity to hear opera compositions by Mozart, Beethoven and Rossini 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 the Department of Music and Dance. "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."

The concert will be followed by a reception. Fall Arts Celebration is made possible, in part, through the generosity of sponsors including, Ginny Gearhart and the Gearhart Family, Liesel and Hank Meijer, Elaine and Larry Shay, Judy and Peter Theune, and WOOD Radio.

For details about all Fall Arts Celebration events visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2180.

Sent to African American, Local Spanish language and West MI General Events lists.

September 1, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221,
coffillm@gvsu.edu

Events at GVSU celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Numerous events are planned at Grand Valley State University to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which will run September 16-October 13.

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, with support from many other campus departments, Hispanic Heritage Month events are free and open to the public.

Events kick off September 16 with "Caribbean Night," highlighted by a performance from Grupo Ayé. The band combines salsa, bachata and Latin jazz, mixed with Afro-Cuban music. The energetic group will play from 6-9 p.m. in the DeVos Center Courtyard on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Other events are detailed below:

-- Latino Health Services in Grand Rapids, September 20, 1-2:30 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center. A panel of community health care experts will discuss available resources and misconceptions about health care access for area Latinos.

-- Diversity Brown Bag Series, September 28, noon-1 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 1240. "Understanding Our Differences: Mexicans and Americans," a video, will be shown and discussed. The video portrays two neighboring families as they confront misconceptions about each other.

-- Tres Vidas: Three Legendary Latin American Women, October 4, 2-4:15 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center. Chamber Music Theatre will present a unique performance that will celebrate the lives of Frida Kahlo, Rufina Amaya and Alfonsina Storni. The ensemble is comprised of cellist Tahirah Whittington, pianist Hugh Hinton, percussionist Michael Parola, and actress Georgina Corbo, who will portray the featured women.

-- Immigration's True Impact on Higher Education, October 13, 2-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, co-founder of the Harvard Immigration Projects, will lead discussion on whether a U.S. education should be offered to children of immigrants. Suarez-Orozco is currently professor of globalization and education at New York University.

For more information about events, visit www.gvsu.edu/oma or call (616) 331-2177.

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Allison Kaufman, Kent ISD, (616) 365-2227, allisonkaufman@kentisd.org
Leah Zuber, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221, zuberle@gvsu.edu

Unique back-to-school tool will help children with special needs

-- New product from GVSU engineering students aids mobility, communication, socialization

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An exciting partnership between engineering students at Grand Valley State University and physical therapists at Kent ISD will make a big difference for some children with special needs.

Grand Valley and Kent ISD have developed a new, transparent tray designed to be used with walkers or wheelchairs. The tray can carry items such as iPads or lunch trays which allows students to move around more easily.

In a special media demonstration, two kindergarten students will show how they use the new tool and designers will give background information on its development. Grand Valley engineering students and professors, along with Kent ISD physical therapists, administrators, and family members will also be available.

Media walker tray demonstration

Monday, August 29, 2 p.m.

Kent ISD Educational Service Center, Parking Lot #11, 2930 Knapp NE

For more information, call Allison Kaufman at (616) 365-2227.

September 7, 2011
For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Michael Sandel brings 'Justice' to Grand Valley

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- A Harvard professor with rock star status will present the Distinguished Academic Lecture during the Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University.

Michael Sandel will present "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?" Thursday, September 22, at 7 p.m. at the L.V. Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton, Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

A professor of political philosophy at Harvard since 1980, Sandel's wildly popular course, "Justice," has enrolled more than 15,000 students. The introduction to moral and political philosophy is 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.

Fred Antczak, dean of Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 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 freely available online (www.JusticeHarvard.org). Segments of his lectures have also been broadcast on PBS, BBC and to audiences in Japan on NHK. His books, 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.

Sandel graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brandeis University in 1975 and received a doctorate from Balliol College, Oxford, as a Rhodes scholar. 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 15 foreign languages.

Sandel's book, *Justice*, will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture. For more information about Fall Arts Celebration visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331- 2180.

For Immediate Release
September 7, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Jalyn Kamp, Pew Campus Operations, (616) 331-6700

GVSU introduces bike rental program

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Rapids continues to uphold its title as a "Bicycle Friendly Community," named by the League of American Bicyclists in 2009, with Grand Valley State University's introduction to a new bicycle rental program.

Students, faculty, staff and university departments can rent bikes each semester on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses. The new initiative was introduced as a pilot program this fall, and nearly 30 bikes were repaired and revamped by a local, independently-owned bicycle repair shop over the summer.

Lisa Haynes, assistant vice president for Pew Campus Operations, explained that the idea stems from observing other universities in Michigan and noticing how often bikes are abandoned on campuses toward the end of each year. "Instead of throwing the deserted bikes away, we're recycling them and providing the campus community with another transportation option," she said.

Learn more about renting a bike at www.gvsu.edu/bus, click on "Bike Rentals on Campus."

Contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 for more information.

For Immediate Release
September 7, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Political Fallout: Impact on Main Street and Wall Street

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business Alumni Association is hosting a panel discussion called Political Fallout: Impact on Main Street and Wall Street. The breakfast event will feature experts from Grand Valley and the community.

Political Fallout: Impact on Main Street and Wall Street
Wednesday, September 14
Time: 7:30-9 a.m.
Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center
Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Moderators will be Sridhar Sundaram, chair of Grand Valley's Finance Department and Paul Isely, chair of Grand Valley's Economics Department.

Panelists include:

- Mitch Stapley, managing director of Fixed Income Strategies, Fifth Third Asset Management
- Bob Roth, president and CEO of RoMan Manufacturing
- Erika King, professor of political science at Grand Valley

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. For more information, call the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100.

September 8, 2011

EMARGOED UNTIL 10:30 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Year of Interfaith Understanding launches 9/11 responses

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – In a bold response to the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, a large West Michigan group will launch the “2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding,” designed to cultivate peace through community interest and understanding of all faith traditions.

MEDIA CONFERENCE: Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, Grand Rapids Press Editor Paul Keep and Douglas Kindschi, director of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University, will provide an overview of the project, the variety of events and community partners. Media conference will take place on Monday, September 12, at 10:30 a.m., Grand Valley State University Club, DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton, Pew Grand Rapids Campus. See building 5C on the Grand Rapids Campus map [here](#).

The endeavor was developed through a unique partnership led by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, the Grand Rapids Press, WGVU public radio and television stations, the mayor’s office and three organizing councils. Hundreds of events will be sponsored by participating congregations, campuses and community organizations including, sacred space tours, study groups, speakers and interfaith service projects in Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon throughout 2012.

The goal is for participants not only to learn about each other’s faith and culture, but how to live in community with respect for their differences. Unlike interfaith dialogues that stress similarities, this effort will frankly confront differences and encourage personal experience of other faith traditions.

Heartwell was an early supporter of the idea and has pledged to make an official declaration of 2012 as the “Grand Rapids Year of Interfaith Understanding.” The planners and media partners believe that this will be a unique community response to the 10th anniversary of 9/11, remembering those who died and honoring others as we look forward in a spirit of understanding and respect.

As part of the Campus Council, 25 Grand Valley faculty members from 10 departments are incorporating interfaith topics in their class curriculum. The Dean of Students Office is sponsoring small interfaith discussions throughout campus and with the Office of Student Life, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Interfaith Dialogue Association and the Kaufman Interfaith Institute. A series of events, screenings and speakers on campus throughout the year is also planned as part of the Migrations of Islam programming, and the Grand Valley Women’s Center will sponsor a campus-wide presentation with special guest Ana Louise Keating in March. Grand Valley and Calvin College are also participating in the White House’s Interfaith &

Community Service Challenge.

"The 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding" will culminate in the Triennial Interfaith Dialogue on October 30, 2012, featuring prominent scholars from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions – Rabbi Donniel Hartman, Marilyn McCord-Adams and Omid Safi.

For more information, including a list of participants, visit www.2012gr.org, or call (616) 331-5702.

For Immediate Release
September 9, 2011

Contact Grand Valley's News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley State has record enrollment

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University's enrollment is up for the 29th year in a row. Fall enrollment stands at 24,662 up from 24,541 last year. The record enrollment number comes after a record number of applications at almost 24,000.

The freshman class is the second largest in Grand Valley's history. This year's class has 3,927 students. The number of transfer students is also up. The enrollment numbers are right on target with the university's plan for modest and steady growth.

"We're attracting solid students from all over the state," President Thomas J. Haas said. "This is right in line with our plans to keep Grand Valley affordable and accessible while ensuring all of our students are receiving the high-quality education they expect at Grand Valley. We're thrilled with the caliber of students who are attracted by our academic programs, and we're ready to fulfill the promises we've made to them and to the people of Michigan."

Grand Valley's fall 2011 freshman class has an average GPA of 3.51 and an average ACT score of 24, which keeps Grand Valley's freshman class in the upper quartile of Michigan's public universities.

Detailed enrollment information will be available at www.gvsu.edu/ia.

For immediate release

September 12, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU student gives research findings at national breast cancer symposium

— *Research with St. Mary's suggests early, routine mammograms would impact early detection*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University student initiated a study of Michigan breast cancer patients that suggests routine mammography and self-breast exams continue for women ages 40-49 as important screening tools, despite recommendations from a national task force.

Daniel Smith, a physician assistant studies major, presented his team's research as part of a panel discussion at the 2011 Breast Cancer Symposium in San Francisco on September 8. While most of the presenters at the national meeting were practicing physicians, Smith was the only student not attending medical school to give a presentation.

Smith said he got the idea for the study while an undergraduate student at Grand Valley, taking a biomedical ethics class. At that time, his class discussed the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations that discouraged teaching self-breast exams and recommended that only women over 50 be offered routine mammograms.

"I thought that was rather a bold statement and knew I wanted to follow up on that," he said. "The topic seemed very relevant, and once I was accepted into the PAS program I needed a research project to work on."

For the study, Smith teamed with Theresa Bacon-Baguley, professor of PAS at Grand Valley; Dr. Jamie Caughran, Lacks Cancer Center in Grand Rapids; GVSU students Jennifer Kreinbrink and Grace Parish, and others from different medical organizations. Researchers used the Michigan Breast Oncology Quality Initiative, a breast cancer registry, to analyze data from patients who were diagnosed with breast cancer between the years of 2006-2009.

The registry, during that time frame, included nearly 6,000 patients. Of that number, 42.5 percent of patients under the age of 50 had detected breast cancer either through self-exam or mammography. According to Smith and Bacon-Baguley, the percentage of patients with breast cancer suggest that no longer teaching self-breast exams or recommending screening mammography has the potential to impact early detection.

Bacon-Baguley said the patients in the study with breast cancer that was detected at an earlier stage were more likely to undergo a less-aggressive surgical procedure and had a lower incidence of chemotherapy. "Increasing the age of screening mammography from 40 to 50 may result in an initial presentation at a higher stage," she said. "Cancers detected at a higher stage are more likely to require a more aggressive treatments, which could impact the quality of life of the patient."

She added that this type of student-driven research was not uncommon at Grand Valley. "This has turned out to be a great project for Grand Valley," Bacon-Baguley said. "It's a collaborative effort with other area institutions that will benefit women's health."

Media note: for a photo of Smith giving a presentation in California, contact Michele Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU ranks tops in Midwest

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been ranked second as an “up-and-coming” institution in the Midwest in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2012 edition of Best Colleges.

For its prestigious annual publication, *U.S. News & World Report* asked the experts who respond to its annual peer assessment survey to identify schools that fit the profile of up-and-coming institutions. College administrators surveyed for the rankings were asked to nominate institutions they believe have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus or facilities. Grand Valley has made the up-and-coming list each year since 2008.

Also, Grand Valley has been ranked 37th among Midwest Universities and 8th among Midwest Public Universities.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 81 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or visit www.usnews.com.

September 14, 2011
For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley kicks off ArtPrize with events

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Thirty outdoor works of art, a panel discussion and weeks of hands-on events will welcome visitors during ArtPrize 2011 at the Grand Valley State University Exhibition Center, throughout the grounds of the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. All events are free and open to the public.

The Grand Valley site provides visitors a shuttle stop, voter registration site, an ArtPrize store and an information tent on Front Street at the L.V. Eberhard Center. The art works include a variety of materials, scales and messages by national and international artists. Included this year is Buenos Aires artist Juan Batalla, whose work is also featured in the Grand Valley Fall Arts Celebration Art Gallery exhibition "Arte Argentino Actual/Contemporary Argentine Art," opening October 6 in Allendale.

Henry Matthews, Grand Valley's director of Galleries and Collections, said **Rick DeVos will join Batalla and others for a panel discussion, "Perspectives on ArtPrize," Friday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. at Loosemore Auditorium, in the DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton.**

"This year we designed our annual DeVos Art Lecture to give an insider's view of ArtPrize," said Matthews. "We've included a panel of highly creative individuals who will share their perspectives as artists and educators, from Buenos Aires and Amsterdam, to Michigan."

A series of events for visitors of all ages will also be held throughout ArtPrize, including:

- **Try It! Opening Night September 21, 6-8 p.m.** Make your own "Mini-monument to Mother Nature" out of soft recycled stone and then add it to the collaborative assemblage sculpture. Additional sessions will be held on Fridays and Saturdays from 3-7 p.m., and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. through October 7.
- **Playing with the Wind, Opening Night September 21, 7 p.m.** Stop by the ArtPrize entry, "Win, Win, Wind" to hear Sue VanderVeen read her new children's book, *Farming the Wind*, and make a paper pinwheel to take home. "Win, Win, Wind! Protecting our Great Lakes for Future Generations," organized by Richard VanderVeen of Lowell, is a kinetic sculpture that includes a mural designed by artist Glenn Wolff and painted on a 36-foot turbine blade by students from Grand Rapids City High School. It is located in front of the Steelcase Library on Fulton Street. Additional sessions Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to noon, through October 9.

Students from Black River Public School in Holland worked with Dutch artist Cyril Lixenberg to design and create a series of steel sculptures entered in the ArtPrize competition by Black River art teacher Jamie Roggenbuck. Black River is a charter school authorized by Grand Valley.

For more information on these and other ArtPrize artists and events at the Grand Valley State University Exhibition Center, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For Immediate Release
September 15, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU Ott Lecture features award-winning chemist

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry at Grand Valley State University features Harry B. Gray, professor of chemistry and founding director of the Beckman Institute at the California Institute of Technology.

Gray will give a public lecture September 22 and address Grand Valley students September 23. His public lecture, "The 21st Century Solar Army," will be held in Grand Rapids at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St.

"The sun is a boundless source of clean energy, but it goes down every night," said Gray. "We and many others are trying to design solar-driven molecular machines that could be used on a global scale to store solar energy by splitting water into its elemental components, hydrogen and oxygen. We have recruited hundreds of students to join a solar army whose mission is the discovery of brand new metal-oxide catalysts for solar water splitters."

Gray's research addresses a wide range of fundamental problems in inorganic chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics. Electron transfer chemistry is a unifying theme for much of this research.

The 21st Century Solar Army
Thursday, September 22
5 p.m. Reception
6 p.m. Lecture
Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, Hagar Auditorium

Electron Flow through Proteins
Friday, September 23
1 p.m.
123 Manitou Hall
GVSU Allendale Campus

Gray is the Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology. Gray has published more than 750 research papers and 18 books. He has received several medals including the National Medal of Science from President Ronald Reagan (1986), the National Academy of Sciences Award in Chemical Sciences (2003), the Wolf Prize (2004) and six national awards from the American Chemical Society.

The lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the GVSU Chemistry Department at (616) 331-3317 or visit www.gvsu.edu/chem.

For Immediate Release
September 16, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Deborah Herrington, (616) 331-3809, GVSU Chemistry Department

GVSU chemistry professor receives \$1 million grant for Target Inquiry

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Deborah Herrington, principal investigator and associate professor of chemistry at Grand Valley State University, has received a grant to expand and further study the Target Inquiry (TI) program. TI is an innovative professional development program designed to improve the quality and frequency of inquiry-based instruction in middle and high school science classes.

The \$1.1 million National Science Foundation DRK-12 award is a five-year grant to support science teachers working through the intensive, two-year TI program, along with an in-depth study of the effects of TI on its teachers and their students.

“The initial implementation of the program for high school chemistry teachers has been successful beyond what we had originally envisioned,” said Herrington. “Not only have teachers been able to more successfully implement inquiry instruction into their chemistry classes, but we also have evidence that suggests students better understand chemistry as a result of these instructional changes.”

Herrington said teachers and students report increased student confidence and engagement as well as improved retention of concepts. “Instructional change is difficult and requires adequate time and support if it is to be achieved and sustained,” she said. “TI is a long-term, coherent program that helps teachers develop a solid understanding of inquiry instruction and supports them through the development and implementation of inquiry activities.”

The grant, along with support from Grand Valley and a collaboration between the College of Education and science education faculty from chemistry, physics, biology and geology, will help expand the program to all middle and high school science teachers.

Herrington is a co-creator of the TI model and began its implementation and study at Grand Valley in 2006. For more information, contact Deborah Herrington at (616) 331-3809 or visit www.gvsu.edu/targetinquiry.

September 19, 2011
For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley kicks off Shakespeare Festival

Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival is ready for a new season at Grand Valley State University. A full line-up of events begins September 23 and concludes November 5.

The Festival's 18th season begins with a free public performance of the popular touring show, **Bard to Go: Lovestruck** **September 23, at 2 p.m. in Room 1506, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus.** The production is a 50-minute collage that explores the complications of falling in love, using scenes from *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and other popular Shakespeare plays. Geared for touring to area secondary schools, this lively production will be performed in early October in the Bahamas, by invitation as part of a "Shakespeare in Paradise" program, then return to West Michigan to tour area schools. For school scheduling information, contact Katherine Mayberry at maybekat@gvsu.edu. A final public performance is scheduled for November 5, at 1 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It will be preceded by an awards ceremony showcasing the winners of the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Annual Student Competition, which features performing, literary and visual arts.

Guest Scholar-in-Residence Dennis Kennedy will give a free public presentation, "Shakespeare and Globalized Performance," September 30, at 4 p.m. in the Pere Marquette Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus. Preceding the presentation is a 3 p.m. reception to welcome back the internationally known theater scholar and practitioner who taught for more than a decade at Grand Valley, beginning in 1970. He was also co-founder of Stage 3 in Grand Rapids. Kennedy is Beckett Professor of Drama Emeritus at Trinity College Dublin and has held positions as a distinguished visiting professor at universities from Berlin to Beijing. A member of the Royal Irish Academy and Academia Europe, he also has worked as a playwright and dramaturg, given lectures and acting workshops.

September 30 also is opening night of Twelfth Night, the Festival Mainstage production, at 7:30 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. This classic comedy, set on the Adriatic coast, is a tale of mistaken identity and jovial indulgence. It features Viola, who after being shipwrecked, is reunited with her twin brother, but not before love, mistaken identity, and confusion ensue! Additional performances are October 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and matinees October 1, 2 and 9, at 2 p.m. Sign language interpretation will be available at the October 6 performance. A pre-show discussion at 6:45 p.m. will precede the September 30 and October 8 performances, featuring dramaturg Jo Miller, Grand Valley professor of English.

During Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival, the popular Renaissance Faire returns October 1-2, to the "greensward" near the Cook Carillon Tower, Allendale Campus. This family-friendly event provides a variety of outdoor entertainment throughout the day.

For more event information or to purchase Twelfth Night tickets online, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes. Twelfth Night tickets, \$6 students, \$12 faculty, staff and seniors, and \$14 general admission, are also available in person or by calling the Performing Arts Center Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Chris Plouff, School of Engineering, (616) 331-6017

GVSU engineering programs earn reaccreditation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Accreditation Board for Engineers and Technology, Inc. (ABET) has granted reaccreditation to all engineering majors within the School of Engineering at Grand Valley State University.

Being accredited especially benefits graduates, said Chris Plouff, engineering professor and coordinator of the reaccreditation process. "Employers most commonly seek engineers who earned their degree from an accredited school," he said. "Also, if a graduate wants to become a licensed professional engineer, they must come from an accredited institution."

The accreditation is based on an assessment of each program's objectives and outcomes and how they are met. The review process takes nearly a year, ending with a visit from ABET representatives to the university to tour facilities and meet with faculty, students and community members. The first engineering program at Grand Valley became accredited in 1999; each cycle lasts six years.

Plouff said becoming reaccredited validates the curriculum and programs the school employs. "Being accredited is a signal to our students, community and employers that our graduates come from programs that meet the same standards of the best programs in the country," he said.

Accreditation, courses, laboratories and professional relationships with area employers directly contribute to the nearly 100 percent job placement rate of Grand Valley's engineering graduates. "We hire Grand Valley graduates with confidence," said Nicholas Hayhoe, Grand Valley alumnus and engineer at Disher & Development in Zeeland. "As an alumnus, I know that they will have not only have theoretical education, but also great hands-on experience."

About the School of Engineering

Since admitting the first 20 students in 1988, enrollment in the engineering school has grown to nearly 750. The number of cooperative education work experiences for engineering students increased by 42 percent in 2010, compared to 2009. Continued growth is predicted with the designation of separate engineering majors, increased community partnerships and the latest introduction of a master's degree in biomedical engineering, the only such program in West Michigan.

Rapistan founder James Sebastian is credited with originally pushing for an engineering program at Grand Valley because of his beliefs in skills training and internships. Today, Grand Valley's Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, which includes the School of Engineering, is named for Seymour and Esther Padnos, of Holland, in recognition of their support and their focus on engineering design for environmental responsibility, a hallmark of the school.

Contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 for more information.

Follow [Grand Valley news](#) on Twitter to stay up-to-date with campus news and events.

September 20, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy expert

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Today's announcement of the repeal of the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is good news to Trevor Thomas, who worked extensively toward that goal as communications director for two lead groups on the issue, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and Human Rights Campaign.

Thomas, a Grand Valley State University alumnus, will speak to students at Grand Valley on Thursday, September 22, during a class, "American Society and Media," taught by Wendy Burns-Ardolino, chair of the Department of Liberal Studies. After his presentation in Mackinac Hall, room B1116, media are welcome to interview Thomas at 5:15 p.m.

Thomas served as deputy director of communications for the Human Rights Campaign for three years, and also directed the communications rollout of Lady Gaga's internationally recognized efforts to help spotlight the repeal by asking young people to call their senators.

In 2008 Thomas served as the LGBT specialty media director for the Democratic National Convention Committee, and before joining HRC, worked on the communications team for Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Thomas began his career as a news producer and reporter at WOOD-TV and WGVU-TV after receiving a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Grand Valley in 2005.

For Immediate Release
September 22, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, (616) 331-2770

GVSU Wheelhouse Talks feature state leaders

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Prominent state and local leaders including Rick DeVos, Andy Dillon and H. James Williams are scheduled for the 2011-12 Wheelhouse Talks sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

A Wheelhouse is defined as a source of energy and innovation, a place where leaders converge. The monthly talks feature eight leaders who will share their philosophy and experience. **Each talk will be held at the Kroc Community Center, 2500 S. Division Ave., in Grand Rapids from 12:30-1:30 p.m.**

The first Wheelhouse talk is September 28, featuring Gretchen Minnhaar, an Argentina born artist and architect who is the former president of the Grand Rapids Downtown Alliance and founder of the Chiaroscuro International Film Series at UICA. Minnhaar is also a three-time competitor in ArtPrize.

Other scheduled speakers:

October 19: Mark Murray, president of Meijer, Inc. and former president of Grand Valley State University

November 9: Luisa Schumacher, executive director of the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology

November 30: H. James Williams, dean of Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business

January 18: Marsha Rappley, dean of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine

February 8: Andy Dillon, state treasurer

March 14: Mayra Martinez, founder of Mi Raza Association of Commerce

April 11: Rick DeVos, founder of ArtPrize

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

September 22, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

ArtPrize Media Opportunity: WWII vets to attend ArtPrize

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Four remaining WWII veterans from the 32nd Red Arrow Division will be attending a reception for ArtPrize artist Kimberly Gill and view their images within in her entry, "Fading Warriors." The piece is being exhibited at First United Methodist Church, 227 E. Fulton and the reception is 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 27. MEDIA ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Gill's ArtPrize entry was inspired by her late father Jack Hill, who fought valiantly alongside his fellow Red Arrow soldiers in the Pacific Theater. Their experiences were highlighted in the documentary film, "Nightmare in New Guinea," produced by students and faculty of the Department of History and the School of Communications at Grand Valley State University.

"My father was one of the heroes interviewed for the documentary," said Gill. "In capturing the later-day likenesses of these warriors and collages of photographs used in the film, my objective was to honor them and keep alive the memory of their sacrifices."

It was important to Gill to portray the veterans' enduring strength of character and indomitable spirit, which she said remain undimmed by the passage of time. "For most of them, their service was a life-changing event. Despite more than 65 years that separate them from wartime, their memories of those experiences are both vivid and emotional," she said.

The artist worked with watercolor, gouache, charcoal and pastel to create an abstract impression of disappearing, or fading away, in the 8-foot by 4-foot piece. "There is an abstract feeling of disappearing as many of these men have passed," Gill said. "Their stories need to be preserved."

Visit <http://www.artprize.org/artists/public-profile/18851> for more information about Gill's ArtPrize entry.

Professor James Smither, director of the GVSU Veterans History Project, in partnership with the Library of Congress, can be contacted at (616) 331-3422, or smitherj@gvsu.edu. Learn more at <http://www.gvsu.edu/vethistory/>.

For Immediate Release
September 22, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley named a Best College Buy for 16 consecutive years

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the 16th year in a row, Grand Valley State University has been named one of **America's 100 Best College Buys** by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. in Georgia.

Each year, Institutional Research identifies the 100 American colleges and universities providing students the very highest quality education at the lowest cost. Grand Valley has made the list far more times than any other Michigan institution; authors of the report say it is because of Grand Valley's high academic performance coupled with its low cost. **No other state public institution made the list.**

To be considered for the designation, an institution must:

- Be an accredited, four year institution
- Offer full residential facilities
- Have an entering freshman class in the fall of 2010 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen
- Out-of-state tuition in 2011-2012 below the national average or not exceeding the national average cost by more than 10 percent

The average GPA for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2010 was 3.53, compared to the national average of 3.31, according to Institutional Research. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2010 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 81 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
September 22, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Paul Cornish, GVSU political science, (616) 331-3502

MEDIA NOTE

Justin Amash to speak at Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. — U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, R-Grand Rapids, will visit Grand Valley State University's Allendale campus for a public event on **Monday, September 26, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2266.**

Rep. Amash will talk about federal budgetary policy and the debt ceiling increase, before taking questions from students and community members.

The Kappa Phi Chapter of The Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society at Grand Valley is sponsoring the event. For more information, contact Paul Cornish, faculty advisor, at (616) 331-3502 or cornishp@gvsu.edu or contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

September 23, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grant allows working nurses to earn bachelor's degrees

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Megan Hulsebos has an associate's degree in nursing and works on an on-call basis for St. Mary's Health Care. When she earns a bachelor's degree in nursing, her job opportunities will likely widen.

Hulsebos is among 14 nursing students enrolled in the Kirkhof College of Nursing ADVANCE program at Grand Valley State University. The new grant program offers stipends and necessary resources to students and working nurses who want to earn bachelor's degrees in nursing.

Last year, Elaine Van Doren, associate dean for KCON undergraduate programs, received a \$773,837 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish ADVANCE and increase diversity within the RN-BSN program. Grand Valley partnered with Grand Rapids Community College and Muskegon Community College for the three-year program.

ADVANCE students must have an associate's degree in nursing and be economically or educationally disadvantaged. Victoria Hecksel-Lantz, program coordinator, said a cohort of 20 students will be enrolled for the winter semester.

For more information about enrolling in ADVANCE, contact Hecksel-Lantz at (616) 331-5924 or heckselv@gvsu.edu.

September 26, 2011
For immediate release

Image available of "Aeromante," 2006, by Juan Batalla
Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Contemporary Argentine art exhibit at Grand Valley

While Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus is the site of 30 outdoor artworks as an ArtPrize Exhibition Center, a new exhibition will soon be underway on the Allendale Campus.

Grand Valley's Fall Arts Celebration presents "Arte Argentino Actual/Contemporary Argentine Art" in the art Gallery, Performing Arts Center. An Opening Reception with the artists is planned for Thursday, October 6, from 5-7 p.m. The exhibition continues through 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," which is located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Batalla and Barreto traveled from Argentina and bring new works to the exhibition. Batalla has also participated in ArtPrize 2011 and both artists were 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 into 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.

September 26, 2011 – For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES - ArtPrize events and artists with Grand Valley links:

- ArtPrize events and **30 outdoor works of art at the Grand Valley State University Exhibition Center**, visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/artgallery>. Contact Henry Matthews, Grand Valley director of Galleries and Collections, by cell phone: 616-292-9955, or curator Ellen Sprouls by cell phone: 517-282-3539.

- Nearly 70 alumni from Grand Valley State University are participating artists in ArtPrize 2011 at venues throughout the city of Grand Rapids. For a complete list and map visit www.gvsu.edu/alumni. **Many of the alumni artists will be available to speak to media about their ArtPrize works during a reception on Tuesday, September 27, from 5:30-6:30, at West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology.** For more information, contact Abigayle Sloan, assistant director of Alumni Relations at 616-331-3591.

- Two Grand Valley faculty members that are participating in ArtPrize are available to speak with media: Norwood Viviano and Deanna Morse.

Viviano, who teaches sculpture at Grand Valley, and his wife Sarah Lindley, who teaches sculpture at Kalamazoo College, have teamed up for an intriguing ArtPrize entry at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Their **"Kohler Pile" is a large floor installation comprised of more than 75 black toilet tank lids with miniature glass models of the original Kohler Factory Plant**, created during an Arts-Industry residency in the same factory in 2010. They worked alongside factory associates utilizing the same technologies and processes that they were using to create Kohler bathroom fixtures. For details, visit <http://www.artprize.org/artists/public-profile/49997>. **Media may contact Viviano by cell phone at 269-598-9014**

Morse is a professor of film and video production in the School of Communications at Grand Valley. An independent film/video artist specializing in animation and personal short films and videos, Morse's ArtPrize entry is at Westminster Presbyterian Church. **"Wish you here..." is a collection of six short video postcards from Spain, Hot Springs National Park, Porcupine Mountains State Park, Ukraine and the artist's yard. Each examines nature through the lens of time. Morse will sell DVDs of the work, with every dollar going to the Film/Video Scholarship at Grand Valley. Morse has also planned artist talks and family-friendly, hands-on events, "Postcards Unplugged" each Saturday during ArtPrize, from 2-4 p.m. For details, visit <http://www.artprize.org/artists/public-profile/1960>. Media may contact Morse by cell phone at 616-516-2471.**

- Finally, artist Kimberly Gill pays tribute to WWII veterans from the 32nd Red Arrow Division, including her late father, in an ArtPrize mural First United Methodist church that depicts their images. The piece was inspired by the Grand Valley documentary "Nightmare in New Guinea" produced by students and faculty of the Department of History and School of Communications and included interviews with the veterans. See more at <http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow/index.htm?articleId=50764FB9-AE45-BA13-4239429682909B30>. **Media may contact Gill at (616) 560-8705 or attend her ArtPrize reception with four remaining vets at First United Methodist Church, 227 E. Fulton, on Tuesday, September 23 at 2:30 p.m.**

September 27, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Contemporary and historic issues are focus of Great Lakes History Conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- The proliferation of educational testing and the crisis in funding for higher education are just two of the hot issues to be addressed at the 37th annual Great Lakes History Conference at Grand Valley State University. This year 25 panels will be presented by local historians, area academics and national experts, under the theme of "Education and Society."

The conference, October 7-8, will be held at the L.V. Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton, on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. All events are open to the public; the full schedule and registration are at www.gvsu.edu/history. An RSVP is required to attend the Saturday luncheon. **MEDIA IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

The conference provides an opportunity for a wide range of audiences to hear about many aspects of history, from the collegiate life of women from 1870-1900 to preserving historic battlefields.

Edward St. John from University of Michigan will present "The College Financial Crisis: Finding Historical Perspective," during a plenary panel on Friday, October 7, at 1 p.m. St. John is concerned with education for a just society, an interest that stems from three decades of research on educational policy. St. John serves as series co-editor for *Readings on Equal Education*, an annual volume of policy research focusing on initiatives seeking to reduce inequalities in, while improving quality of, educational opportunities in K-12 and higher education. He also co-edits *Core Issues in Higher Education*, topical texts for professors and graduate students with an interest in the field. He directs the initiative Promoting Equity in Urban and Higher Education, funded by the Ford Foundation, at the University of Michigan's National Center for Institutional Diversity. St. John is a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association and recipient of awards from other associations for this scholarship.

William Reese, University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the keynote speaker during the luncheon Saturday, October 8, at 12:30 p.m. He is an expert in the history of American education, including the history of high schools, reform movements, progressive education and testing. A member of the National Academy of Education and an American Educational Research Association Fellow, Reese is also the author of *America's Public Schools: From the Common School to 'No Child Left Behind'*, among other books.

For more information about the Great Lakes History Conference, contact Paul Murphy or Doug Montagna in the GVSU Department of History at (616) 331-3298.

For immediate release

September 28, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students sponsor 5k run/walk for Oasis of Hope

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A 5k run/walk planned by Grand Valley State University students will benefit Oasis of Hope, a Grand Rapids clinic that provides care and education for people who do not have health insurance.

"Running for Hope" is set for Saturday, October 8, beginning at 11 a.m. on the Allendale Campus, starting near the Cook Carillon Tower. The event is sponsored by the RPC Student Physician Assistant Society, a group of students who are majoring in physician assistant studies. They have partnered with Oasis of Hope for previous clinics and fundraisers.

At the 5k event, awards will be given to the top male and female runners. Registration will run from 9:30-10:45 a.m. on race day. The 5k walk is a noncompetitive event.

For more information, send an email to rpc.gvsu.pa@gmail.com or visit Facebook and search "Running for Hope."

For Immediate Release

September 29, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Erica Bloom, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, (734) 222-9650

GVSU hosts panel on electric vehicles, advanced battery and impact on economy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A panel of community members, including Mayor George Heartwell, will discuss how the electric vehicle and advanced battery industries are affecting job growth and the economy in West Michigan. The event will take place at Grand Valley State University and is free and open to the public.

Get Plugged In

October 3, 7 p.m.

Kennedy Hall of Engineering, room 330

Grand Valley State University

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton

The panel will include:

- George Heartwell, mayor of Grand Rapids
- Mike Helsel, Grand Valley student and member of the Electric Car Club
- Greg Northrup, president of West Michigan Strategic Alliance
- Bob Synk, community member and owner of an electric vehicle
- Rob Ozar, Michigan Public Service Commission's Plug-in Vehicle Preparedness Taskforce

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley's School of Engineering, Michigan League of Conservation Voters and Built by Michigan.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Erica Bloom at (734) 222-9650.

For immediate release

September 29, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Fall Career Fair set for DeVos Place

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 120 employers and 1,200 job seekers are expected at the annual Fall Career Fair, sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Career Services.

The free event is set for Tuesday, October 11, from 1-5 p.m. at DeVos Place Convention Center, 303 Monroe Ave. Pre-registration is not required; express check-in is available by providing a current resume.

All college students and professionals with degrees can attend and meet more than 120 employers. Companies will be seeking people to fill internships and permanent professional positions. Examples of participating employers are Consumer Energy, Flagstar Bank, Gentex Corp., Holland Hospital and Perrigo Co. More details and a listing of all employers is online at www.gvsu.edu/careerfairs.

The event is supported by 11 area colleges and universities.

For more information, contact Susan Proctor, Career Services, (616) 331-6708 or proctors@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

October 3, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Victims of domestic violence remembered during GVSU event

-- Silent Witness readers will recount lives lost during shooting rampage

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The lives of five women and girls killed during the Grand Rapids shooting rampage in July will be among those remembered during a Silent Witness event sponsored by the Women's Center at Grand Valley State University.

Silent Witness is an annual event to remember women and children in Michigan who have died because of domestic or dating violence; it's held during October, recognizing the month as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The Grand Valley event is set for:

-- Wednesday, October 12, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, in the DeVos Center courtyard, 401 W. Fulton St. (weather permitting, alternative location is Loosemore Auditorium)

Speakers will include Charisse Mitchell, executive director for the Center for Women in Transition, and Lesley Coghill, DELTA project coordinator at the Center for Women in Transition.

Individuals who died last year are represented by full-size cutouts and a volunteer reads their story. Readers include members from the GVSU student organization Eyes Wide Open, YWCA West Central Michigan, and Center for Women in Transition.

For more information, contact the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748.

For Immediate Release
October 3, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU readies for wind assessment study in Lake Michigan
-- Dedication ceremony for research platform is October 7

MUSKEGON, Mich. — A celebration ceremony is planned for the arrival of the research buoy for the Lake Michigan offshore wind assessment study that will be conducted by Grand Valley State University, University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The buoy will support state-of-the-art research opportunities in Lake Michigan for the next 10 years.

The research buoy, one of three in the world, is an eight-ton, 20-by-10 foot boat-shaped structure that can measure wind characteristics up to 150 meters above the water using advanced wind sensor technology. The WindSentinel buoy was constructed by AXYS Technologies of British Columbia, and will come equipped with a Vindicator laser wind sensor manufactured by Catch the Wind Inc. of Virginia.

The launch of the buoy in the Great Lakes is the first introduction of this technology anywhere in North America, said Arn Boezaart, director of Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center. "The research buoy and laser pulse technology represents the most advanced wind measurement technology available and will help to dramatically increase data affecting the development of those resources," he said.

Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Assessment Research Buoy Dedication

Friday, October 7, 2011, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lake Michigan NOAA/GLERL Field Station, 1431 Beach Street, Muskegon, Mich.

Media Note: The ceremony is an opportunity to see the buoy onshore before it is launched in Lake Michigan.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, T. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart, Professor and Assistant Dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing at Grand Valley Charlie Standridge, and Professor and Director of the Ocean Engineering Laboratory for the University of Michigan Guy A. Meadows will give remarks; an opportunity to view the buoy and talk with project researchers will follow.

Following a week of tests on Muskegon Lake, the buoy will move four miles offshore on Lake Michigan for a month-long trial.

Real-time data will be transmitted from the platform to researchers at Grand Valley, University of Michigan and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory of Michigan State University (MNFI). The research will provide information to support possible future development of offshore wind energy technology in the Great Lakes. MNFI research will focus on bird and bat flight patterns

and migration studies.

Background

The primary objective of the Lake Michigan offshore wind assessment is to gain a better understanding of the potential of offshore wind energy, as well as other physical, biological and environmental conditions on the Great Lakes. The research will provide information for the future development of offshore wind energy technology. In June 2010, the project secured \$3.3 million in grants and research funds, including a \$1.33 million energy efficiency grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Partners

Funding partners include the U.S. Department of Energy, Michigan Public Service Commission, We Energies, University of Michigan and Sierra Club.

Research partners include: Grand Valley's MAREC and Padnos College of Engineering and Computing; University of Michigan College of Engineering, School of Natural Resources and Environment and Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute; and Michigan Natural Features Inventory, an extension of Michigan State University.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

October 3, 2011

For immediate release

Photos available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services

Kooser and Hayes paired for Poetry Night at Grand Valley Fall Arts Celebration

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — 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, for Poetry Night during Fall Arts Celebration 2011 at Grand Valley State University.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Ted Kooser and Terrance Hayes" will be presented Friday, October 21, at 7 p.m., 2nd Floor L.V. Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The unveiling of a special poetry-inspired gift to Grand Valley will also take place.

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.

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. The unveiling of a special poetry-inspired gift to Grand Valley will be followed by a reception and book signing by the poets.

Fall Arts Celebration is made possible, in part, through the generosity of sponsors including, Ginny Gearhart and the Gearhart Family, Liesel and Hank Meijer, Elaine and Larry Shay, Judy and Peter Theune, and media partner WOOD Radio. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2180.

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Current Business Trends: Modest growth, slightly improved

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy is experiencing slightly improved modest growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected during the last two weeks of September. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, rose to +25 from +13. In a similar move, the production index edged up to +25 from +17. The index of purchases backtracked to +14 from +21. The employment index almost remained unchanged but bumped up to +27 from +26.

"Locally, automotive parts producers are generally reporting business conditions to be improving, no doubt in response to the 10 percent improvement in auto sales for this month," said Long. "The capital equipment firms are also doing better than they have for the past two years."

Long said the office furniture firms are still holding steady, but the recent decline in business confidence is starting to erode the prospect for future performance. He said for the fifth month in a row, industrial distributors came in fairly positive.

"A recent survey of economists shows most believe there is a one in three chance of sliding into another recession, or a double dip of the 2007-2009 recession," said Long. "By the statistics in our current report, the odds are probably higher than that. However, the big problem is not with the United States but the rest of the world. It appears many places may already be in a recession. If we do slide into another recession, it will be the fault of the European debt crisis."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long.

For immediate release

October 4, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Immigration expert to speak at GVSU on globalization

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The co-founder of the Harvard Immigration Project will speak about the impact of globalization on business and education during a Professionals of Color Lecture sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Marcelo Suarez-Orozco will give a presentation, "What is the Impact of Globalization and Immigration on Businesses Around the World?" on

-- Thursday, October 13, 6 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton St.

The event is free and open to the public.

Suarez-Orozco is a professor of globalization and education at New York University. His latest book, "Latinos: Remaking America," is a comprehensive study of the fastest-growing ethnic group in America. The Harvard Immigration Project, part of Harvard Law School, dedicates itself to promoting immigrants' rights by providing outreach, advocacy and legal representation to immigrants.

For more information about the event, call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177.

For Immediate Release
October 7, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Sustainability Week focuses on zero-impact lifestyle

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University challenges the campus community to practice a zero-impact lifestyle during the university's Campus Sustainability Week, which runs October 14-23.

Going on its seventh year, Campus Sustainability Week's theme is "No Impact Experiment" and models No Impact Man Colin Beavan's experiment to see if living a zero-impact lifestyle could lead to a happier life. Each day of the week will focus on a specific aspect of life like consumption, transportation, energy and food, and will provide challenges to reduce impact in that area. Students, faculty and staff can register for the No Impact Experiment at www.gvsu.edu/csw.

The week will start with the Sustainability Champions Awards Breakfast on Friday, October 14, from 7:30-8:45 a.m. in the Pere Marquette Room in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. President Thomas J. Haas and Wendy Wenner, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, will recognize and celebrate campus sustainability champions.

CSW participants are invited to share their celebrations and challenges during the week on the CSW Blog, Facebook and Twitter with the hash tag #GVCSW11. A full schedule of events is available at www.gvsu.edu/csw.

Fair Trade Fair

Monday, October 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center Lobby, Allendale

Hosted by Students for Fair Trade, the fair will showcase sustainable products and services vendors.

"Dive! Living Off America's Waste" Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Monday, October 17, 1-2:30 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Allendale

Film producer Timothy Vatterott will participate in a panel discussion addressing hunger and food waste in West Michigan on October 17 from 6-9 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The documentary "Dive" explores what happens with the 93 billion pounds of food thrown away in the United States each year.

Shooting Down the Myths of Climate Denial

Tuesday, October 18, 3 p.m., University Club, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Environmental awareness and energy alternatives advocate Peter Sinclair will present on climate change. Sinclair has worked with Al Gore and the world's leading climate experts for more than 30 years.

Beehive Design Collective: "The True Cost of Coal"

Thursday, October 20, 7 p.m., Calder Art Center, Allendale

Maine-based artists and storytellers will present an oral and visual narrative, "The True Cost of Coal."

Sustainapalooza

For Immediate Release
October 10, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students dance to raise funds for local hospital

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students at Grand Valley State University plan to dance through the night to raise funds for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital on October 15.

Going on its fourth year, Dance Marathon at Grand Valley is part of the largest, student-run philanthropy event on college campuses across the country. Students come together to raise funds for Children's Miracle Network hospitals. The goal is to keep participants standing or dancing for eight hours.

Dance Marathon at Grand Valley
Start: October 15, 6 p.m.
End: October 16, 2 a.m.
Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Participating students will have the opportunity to meet children and families treated at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Refreshments, live music and games will be provided.

Teams can register and start raising funds by visiting
www.helpmakemiracles.org/event/gvsudancemarathon.

The event is sponsored by Laker Weekends and Phi Mu Fraternity at Grand Valley.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or Tom Coy, assistant director for Student Life, at (616) 331-2345. Follow Grand Valley news on Twitter to receive live updates of the event.

For Immediate Release
October 12, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU makes 'Best Business Schools' guide

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business has been named by the Princeton Review as one of the 'Best 294 Business Schools' for 2012.

The rankings are based on a survey of business school students conducted during the 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09 academic years. The 80-question survey asks students about their school's academics, student body and campus life, themselves and their career plans. At the time of the survey, 266 students were enrolled in the business school, 88 percent were part-time students. The average age at entry was 31.

Grand Valley graduate students in the MBA program said they truly appreciate their "smart" and "efficient" professors. They said professors work diligently to "instill real-world principles" in their students and know how to demonstrate "solutions to everyday business problems." Students also said it is very clear that faculty "truly care about the students."

The Princeton Review compiled its lists based on surveys of more than 19,000 students at the best AACSB-accredited MBA programs in the world.

For more information, contact GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221, or visit www.princetonreview.com/business-school-rankings.aspx.

October 12, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Fall Arts Celebration brings the Spanish tradition in dance and music

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- A rambunctious, comedic evening of seduction and mishap told through the dramatic exuberance of flamenco music and song, pantomime and dance is next up during Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University.

"The Spanish Tradition: Manuel de Falla, El corregidor y la molinera," will be performed Monday, October 24, at 8 p.m., in Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus. Performance and afterglow reception are free and open to the public.

De Falla did much to forge a new national musical idiom that revitalized Spanish music and propelled flamenco to international attention. His ballet "El corregidor y la molinera," which is best translated as "The Magistrate and the Miller's Wife," has rarely been performed outside of the composer's native Spain, and only twice in the U.S. since its 1917 premier in Madrid.

Grand Valley dance faculty members and students, assisted by guest artists, with music performed by music faculty members and students, will present a brilliant new choreographic interpretation of De Falla's ballet by dance faculty member Shawn T Bible.

"Flamenco was traditionally done as a solo dancer responding in a spontaneous way to a local musician, usually playing on a guitar, and 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 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.

Fall Arts Celebration is made possible, in part, through the generosity of sponsors including, Ginny Gearhart and the Gearhart Family, Liesel and Hank Meijer, Elaine and Larry Shay, Judy and Peter Theune and WOOD Radio. For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2180.

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Wheelhouse Talks features Mark Murray

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Mark Murray is a sector-smashing leader who served as director of Michigan's Department of Management and Budget, budget director, and treasurer under Gov. Engler before becoming the third president of Grand Valley State University from 2001-2006 and current president of Meijer Inc.

Murray is the latest speaker for the 2011-12 Wheelhouse Talks sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley. A Wheelhouse is defined as a source of energy and innovation, a place where leaders converge. The monthly talks feature leaders who will share their philosophy and experience. Murray's talk is scheduled for October 19 at the Kroc Community Center in Grand Rapids.

Mark Murray-Wheelhouse Talks

Wednesday, October 19

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Kroc Community Center, 2500 S. Division Ave.

Other scheduled speakers include:

November 9: Luisa Schumacher, executive director of the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology

November 30: H. James Williams, dean of Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business

January 18: Marsha Rappley, dean of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine

February 8: Andy Dillon, state treasurer

March 14: Mayra Martinez, founder of Mi Raza Association of Commerce

April 11: Rick DeVos, founder of ArtPrize

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU panel discussions will address climate change, consumption

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Climate change, dumpster diving and biodiesel will be topics of discussion at three events during Grand Valley State University's Campus Sustainability Week.

A viewing of "Dive! Living Off America's Waste," and a panel discussion with film producer Timothy Vatterott, will take place Monday, October 17, from 6-9 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The film received 21 awards worldwide and explores what happens with the 93 billion pounds of food thrown away in the United States each year. The panel will include people from local organizations like Feed America West Michigan and Our Kitchen Table, and will address hunger and food waste in West Michigan.

Environmental awareness advocate Peter Sinclair will give a presentation, "Shooting Down the Myths of Climate Denial," Tuesday, October 18, at 11 a.m. in the Pere Marquette Room of the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus, and at 3 p.m. in the University Club on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Sinclair has worked with Al Gore and the world's leading climate experts for more than 30 years. He is an award-winning graphic artist, illustrator and animator, and manages his own business in Midland, Mich.

A panel of local alternative energy experts will discuss the documentary film "Fuel" on Thursday, October 20, at 3 p.m. in room 2215 of the Kirkhof Center in Allendale. A screening of the film will begin at 1 p.m. The Sundance Film Festival award-winning film outlines the problem of dependence on fossil fuels and suggests a solution to increase production of biodiesel, an alternative fuel made from waste vegetable oil. Grand Valley communications professor Joe Helgert founded Green Diesel, Inc., an organization that provides a biodiesel additive for vehicles and marine vessels in West Michigan.

Campus Sustainability Week runs October 14-23. Participants are invited to share their celebrations and challenges during the week on Facebook and Twitter with the hash tag #GVCSW11. A full schedule of events is available at www.gvsu.edu/csw.

Follow Grand Valley [news on Twitter](#) to stay up-to-date with campus news and events.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
October 14, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Grand Valley named a 'Military Friendly School'

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the third consecutive year, Grand Valley State University has been named "A Military Friendly School" by G.I. Jobs magazine.

G.I. Jobs released its "2012 Military Friendly Schools," which includes the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that make it easy for veterans to enroll, have supportive programs for veterans and military spouses, and recruit and retain veterans as students. The list is online at www.militaryfriendlyschoools.com.

Steven Lipnicki, assistant dean of students at Grand Valley, said more than 450 veterans enrolled at Grand Valley for the fall semester. The university has created a Veterans Network of faculty and staff members who are knowledgeable about veteran's issues, including representatives from Admissions, Academic Advising, Registrar's Office, Career Services, Counseling and Disability Support Services. A website was also created, www.gvsu.edu/veterans.

For more information, contact Steven Lipnicki at (616) 331-7188.

For Immediate Release
October 17, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Eric Stevens, Office of Student Life, (616) 331-2368

GVSU community ready for annual day of service

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 400 people from the campus community at Grand Valley State University are expected to participate in Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 22.

Grand Valley faculty, staff and students will volunteer their time to more than 20 Grand Rapids area organizations such as Kids Food Basket and Rays of Hope for Haiti.

Participants will meet in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus at 9 a.m., where Vice Provost and Dean of Students Bart Merkle will welcome volunteers before they are bused to various sites throughout Grand Rapids.

Entering its 21st year, Make a Difference Day is held annually and supported by millions of Americans who want to help change the world. Students can sign up at www.gvsu.edu/service.

For more information, contact Eric Stevens in the Office of Student Life at (616) 331-2368 or stevene2@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
October 17, 2011

Contact: Grand Valley News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley Board of Trustees to meet in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting in Traverse City on Friday, November 4, at 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Traverse City Regional Center, located at 2200 Dendrinos Dr., Suite 102.

The board meets at different campus facilities for each meeting, but this is the first time the board is meeting at the regional center in Traverse City.

Established in 1995 as a charter member of Northwestern Michigan College's University Center, the campus offers a broad range of programs for Grand Valley students including bachelor's and master's degrees.

For more information, contact Grand Valley News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

October 18, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley student to receive UICA award

A Grand Valley State University student has been selected to receive the Junior Maven Award by the "Women + the Arts" committee of the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts. Previous Mavens have included Kate Pew Wolters and Linda LaFontsee.

The award will be presented to Amber Stout, a native of Grand Rapids, who will graduate from Grand Valley in April 2012. She is an art and design major, with an emphasis in graphic design and a minor in nonprofit administration. The award will be presented on Wednesday, October 26, during the "Women + the Arts" luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Goei Center, 818 Butterworth St. S.W. in Grand Rapids.

The committee, led by UICA staffer Jill May, is made up of local arts advocates who nominate innovative women "who embody the spirit of arts advocate and generously share their creative vision and wisdom to make the community a better place." The actual award is a unique jewelry design created by a local artist. Stout's award was created by Renee Zettle-Sterling, an associate professor in Grand Valley's Department of Art & Design.

A statement from UICA said that the committee felt "Stout represented everything they were looking for in a Junior Maven: her long history with the ArtWorks program, first as an intern, then as a lead artist; her dedication to the Avenue for the Arts; and her continued involvement with UICA while actively pursuing a career in graphic design." This year's luncheon will highlight the 10th Anniversary of UICA's ArtWorks youth job-training program, for youth interested in creative careers.

Stout first became involved with ArtWorks as an intern in the after-school program when she was a senior at Northview High School in Grand Rapids. "I was so fortunate to be selected for the printmaking group," said Stout. "It was led by Alynn Guerra, who did this year's Festival of the Arts poster." They designed and printed linoleum prints and banners for their client, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, as part of an emerald ash borer public awareness campaign.

"The experience not only gave me skills, but also a bit of confidence to try out printmaking and learn new techniques in other art classes at Grand Valley," said Stout. This past summer, Stout returned to the ArtWorks program as a lead artist to teach graphic design to her own group of 13 young students. Much of their work, following the themes of "take flight," "soar" and "nurture," all loosely related to the ArtWorks program, will be featured at the luncheon where

Stout will receive her award.

The Dwelling Place's Avenue of the Arts Market has also benefited from both intern and volunteer efforts by Stout, as she managed several community events and worked to oversee the entire 2010 operations. While still a student, she has also served as an arts administration intern and led tours of exhibitions at UICA.

Stout currently works as a student web and graphics designer with the Community Research Institute in Grand Valley's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy. She is interested in continuing to work with community arts organizations after graduation.

October 18, 2011

For immediate release

Images available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616)331-2221

Beehive Design Collective part of Grand Valley's 'Sustainability Week'

The efforts of an interesting assortment of worker bees will bring an educational story-telling and graphic art project to Grand Valley State University's Campus Sustainability Week.

The Beehive Design Collective will present "The True Cost of Coal," Thursday, October 20, at 7 p.m. in the Padnos Student Art Gallery, located in the Calder Arts Center, on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus. The event is open to the public with a donation suggested for admission.

The large mural coming to Grand Valley addresses the extreme coal extraction process and mountaintop removal in Appalachia, as a lens through which to understand the historical and contemporary story of energy resource extraction and bring to light the ensuing climate chaos facing the world today. The event was organized by Brett Colley, an associate professor of art at Grand Valley with a current research focus on the implementation of art in eco-justice education and activism.

"Though situated in a fairly specific subculture, somewhere in the midst of education, activism and art, the Bee's work has reached a surprisingly broad audience," said Colley.

Colley describes the Beehive process as three-fold. First a group of journalists travel to a site of activist interest, such as Appalachia, or Guatemala, and live with the indigenous population to glean a multi-faceted narrative concerning their community's problems. Next, they return to their "hive" or headquarters in rural Maine, where their text is "synthesized" with images in collaboration with a cohort of illustrators/artist-bees.

"Once the artwork is complete, another group of Bee storytellers, or educators, take large-scale graphic reproductions on the road, traveling from school to school, teaching social justice via these unique graphic campaigns," he said. "I've seen the Bees on four occasions and they are always great."

Since their start in 2000, the Beehive has distributed more than 75,000 posters as part of an innovative and story-based education strategy that conveys far-reaching community issues with interactive, image-based lectures and graphic workshops.

Learn more about the group at <http://www.beehivecollective.org>.

For Immediate Release
October 18, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU hosts IBM-sponsored regional programming contest

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The demand for computer engineers and programmers is expected to grow the fastest and add the most jobs from 2008-2018, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The School of Computing and Information Systems at Grand Valley State University prepares students for the workforce through learning opportunities like the IBM-sponsored Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM ICPC) on October 22.

The regional contest is Saturday, October 22, but media is encouraged to attend the practice contest, which will help familiarize students with contest rules, Friday, October 21, from 7-9:30 p.m. in room 207 of Manitou Hall on the Allendale Campus.

"Our graduates are getting jobs immediately upon graduating," said Paul Leidig, assistant dean of the School of Computing and Information Systems. "There are more employers hiring than there are students available. This event is a great way for students to showcase their skills and develop new ones."

Student programmers from the School of Computing and Information Systems at Grand Valley will be participating as well as students from Central Michigan University, Indiana Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Teams of three are given eight real-world problems to solve in five hours and must use skills based upon open technology and advanced computing methods. The winning team that finishes the most problems correctly in the least amount of time will win a spot on the World Finals roster.

The World Finals, held May 14-18, 2012, will take place in Warsaw, Poland, where 100 world finalist teams will compete at the University of Warsaw. This select group of programming students is chosen from tens of thousands of participants from universities in 90 countries and six continents.

For more information about the ACM ICPC visit <http://cm.baylor.edu/welcome.icpc>. To learn more about Grand Valley's participation contact Hugh McGuire, mcguireh@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2915.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2011

Photo available

Contact: Mary Pirkola, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

New Yorker publishes story by Grand Valley faculty member

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Caitlin Horrocks may live in Michigan, by way of Ohio, Arizona, England, Finland and the Czech Republic, but it is her "Sun City" story that is included in the October 24 issue of the *New Yorker*.

Horrocks, assistant professor of writing at Grand Valley State University, is no stranger to publishing success. Her stories and essays appear in *The Best American Short Stories 2011*, *The Pen/O. Henry Prize Stories 2009*, *The Pushcart Prize XXXV*, *The Paris Review* and elsewhere. Her work has won awards including the Plimpton Prize and scholarships from the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers' Conferences and the Norman Mailer Writers Colony.

"It seems Caitlin has just arrived and she already has a lifetime achievement under her belt," said Writing Department Chair Dan Royer. "These publications and awards are great - they bring a lot of recognition to our program and the university, which is fantastic. But Caitlin also finds ways to bring all of this talent to the classroom and to her students as well, and that's really important to her. She's not just a talented writer, but a talented teacher as well."

The story is set in a real town in Arizona. "It involves a young woman who is going through her recently deceased grandmother's things," said Horrocks. "She finds letters that lead her to wonder about her grandmother's relationship with another woman."

Horrocks said that writing is very solitary work so it is exciting to be read and to have the chance to reach the wide audience that a magazine like the *New Yorker* has. Her recent book of short stories, *This is Not Your City*, was published in July. She is currently working on an historical novel inspired by the eccentric French composer and pianist Erik Satie, who was a notable figure in the early 20th-century Parisian avant-garde.

For Immediate Release
October 19, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU extends unique MBA program to students in India

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, signed an agreement with National Management School in Chennai, India, for students in India to enroll in Grand Valley's full-time, integrated MBA program (FIMBA).

H. James Williams, dean of Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, traveled to India for the signing, which was held at the Indo American Chamber of Commerce in Chennai. Others at the signing included Suresh Kumar, assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Commerce; Jennifer McIntyre, consul general of the American Consulate General in Chennai; and Sridhar Sundaram, academic director of FIMBA in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business.

The FIMBA program admits students with a business background. As part of the agreement, students in India who may not have a business degree can be admitted to the FIMBA program one year ahead. During this year, students will study the required business core courses at the National Management School in India to qualify as a business student before joining the FIMBA cohort at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"The master's program is targeted at emerging leaders," said H. James Williams, who returned from India this week. "We are glad to collaborate with National Management School in India to bring Indian students to our 2012 cohort to make it truly international."

Sankaran P. Raghunathan, dean of National Management School, said: "This model now makes an American MBA accessible to a much wider spectrum of students, and is undoubtedly a winning proposition for anyone looking for international education at an affordable fee. We are honored to partner with Grand Valley State as their extended arm in India, and look forward to working with them."

For more information, contact Sridhar Sundaram, FIMBA academic director in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, at (616) 331-7433.

FIMBA

Grand Valley State University's full-time, integrated MBA is a 14-month program designed for recently graduated business students. Each student is guaranteed a paid fellowship which runs parallel with classes. Students also attend the Washington Campus Program in Washington, D.C., to gain knowledge of the inner workings of the American political system and deepen their

understanding of the relationship between business and government. Each student also participates in a study abroad experience during a module focusing on international business.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 81 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

The National Management School (www.nms.edu.in) is committed to redefining the way management education is delivered in India by leveraging international collaborations. NMS has collaborations with The University of Louisville, University at Albany-SUNY, and Telecom Ecole de Management in Paris, enabling it to offer truly global programs.

For immediate release

October 20, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host Girls in Sports Day

-- more than 200 middle school students expected

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 200 middle school girls will learn sports skills from Grand Valley State University student-athletes during Girls in Sports Day, set for Saturday, October 22.

The event will run from 12:30-6:30 p.m. with sport clinics at the Fieldhouse and Brian Kelly Family Sports Center.

The majority of middle school girls are from Grand Rapids Public Schools. Girls in Sports Day is a national event to celebrate the successes of Title IX and offer athletic opportunities to girls.

Laker student-athletes will help run clinics in tennis, basketball, volleyball, softball, cheer, track and lacrosse. Louie the Laker will help kick off events with a Zumba class from 12:30-1:15 p.m. in the Kelly Family Sports Center. Guests will also attend Grand Valley's volleyball match against Northern Michigan University at 4 p.m.

Media members are welcome to cover any part of the day's events.

Girls in Sports Day is sponsored by Grand Valley's Women's Center, Intercollegiate Athletics and Movement Science Department. Financial support is from MEEMIC Foundation and Dean Transportation. For more information, contact Jo Ann Wassenaar, Women's Center, at (616) 331-2748.

October 20, 2011

Images available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Meijer Foundation gifts famed 'Portraits of American Poets' to Grand Valley

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – The unveiling of a special, poetry-inspired gift to Grand Valley State University from the Meijer Foundation will follow the university's Fall Arts Celebration Poetry Night on Friday.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Ted Kooser and Terrance Hayes," will be presented October 21, 7 p.m., at Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Following the presentation will be the first viewing at Grand Valley of "Portraits of American Poets," a series of 28 paintings by Michigan native Jack Richard Smith, who now resides in Taos, New Mexico. Smith is widely regarded as one of the most powerful contemporary painters working in the country. The artist and a number of poets in the series will be on hand for the unveiling. Media are encouraged to attend.

The series includes portraits of U.S. Poet Laureates Ted Kooser, Billy Collins and Charles Simic; Noble Laureate Derek Walcott; and Michigan-born poets Jim Harrison and Dan Gerber, among others. The collection of six-by-six-inch oil on copper paintings was first exhibited at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, prior to a 2009 tour to various U.S. cities.

Smith, born in Fremont, Mich., in 1950, began his training at Interlochen Arts Academy when he was only 16. As a young man he was also encouraged by both Harrison and Gerber to pursue his love of poetry. He later moved to Ohio to attend Columbus College of Art and Design, followed by the Instituto de Allende, at San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico.

The artist spent three years traveling across the country to the homes and studios of poets he admires because of their important contributions to literary America. Spending the time to sketch, photograph and converse with each one, the paintings were done after Smith returned to his studio in Taos. Drawing upon his profound knowledge of art history and an alchemist's sense of painting craft, Smith used a mixture favored by the Dutch Masters, made from raw linseed oil, white beeswax and lead salts, mixed on his kitchen stove. When painted onto copper, the pigments produce a glowing effect, bringing realism to each portrait. Though small in size, each portrait is highly detailed and conveys an intimate understanding of the poet.

Smith's interest in miniatures was first developed as a practical convenience when traveling to work in Mexico in 1982. A self-portrait was included in another miniatures series, an important solo exhibition, The Taos Portraits, at the Harwood Museum of Art at the University of New Mexico in 2004. Learn more about the artist and his work at www.jackrichardsmith.com.

October 20, 2011
For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Sisterly love and rivalry play out in 'Crimes of the Heart'

ALLENDALE, MICH. -- An abundance of drama unfolds between three sisters in the Grand Valley State University production of "Crimes of the Heart," by playwright Beth Henley. Six performances, November 11 - 19, will be given in the Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus.

The tragic comedy is set in 1974, in the Magrath family kitchen in Hazelhurst, Miss. Adult sisters Lenny (Alyssa Simmert), Meg (Sophie Ni) and Babe (Taylor Barton) reunite at their Grandparents' home, where sibling rivalries resurface, along with a slew of new problematic circumstances.

"The ways these sisters try to solve their problems is what brings humor to their tragic situations," said director Rob Radkoff Ek, a visiting assistant professor of theater. "The sisters were raised by grandparents after their father abandoned them and their mother committed suicide. Each of them brings a new set of issues back to their childhood home."

The all-student cast includes three supporting roles: cousin Chick (Krista Scott), lawyer Barnett (Chaz Bratton), and Doc (Brad Alonzo). Southern Gothic elements abound, as the sisters try to put closure on past events and draw on the strength of family bonds to start fresh.

Ek says the realistic set will have a spacious but lived-in look to it, with period aesthetics. Pre-show music will set the mood with a country feel that is alternately somber and uplifting.

"Each of the sisters has a different personality and their own set of old and new problems," said Ek. "Throughout the play, their relationships with each other run from cold, to warm, to hot, as they discover they need to bond together, no matter what."

Ek came to Grand Valley in August, from Florida State University. He has 20 years experience as a theater professional in acting, directing and fight directing, and more than 10 years experience as a university instructor of performance training for actors.

Performances are scheduled for two weekends: November 11-12 and November 17-19, at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee Sunday, November 13, at 2 p.m. To purchase tickets, \$6-\$12, call the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at 616-331-2300, or Startickets at 800-585-3737, or visit www.startickets.com.

For Immediate Release
October 20, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, GVSU News and Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to host Sociological Association Annual meeting
Conference brings national speakers

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — **Race and ethnicity, social class and gender** are just a few of the topics that will be discussed at the 2011 Michigan Sociological Association Annual Meeting hosted by Grand Valley State University at the Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids. This year's conference theme is **"Navigating Intersectionality."**

Keynote speakers include Nikol Alexander-Floyd, associate professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, whose talk, "Melodrama and Post-Civil Rights, Post-Feminist Ideology in Grey's Anatomy, Crash, and the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign," will be Friday, October 28 at 7 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, professor of sociology at Duke University, will give the luncheon address "Racism without Racists" on Saturday, October 29. Registration is required for this and all Saturday events.

Michigan Sociological Association Meeting
October 28 and 29
Eberhard Center
301 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids
www.gvsu.edu/msr/msaconference

Alexander-Floyd is a feminist theorist whose work and teaching integrate the study of politics, law, women's studies and Black studies. Her research explores narrative analysis, interpretive methodology, the gender politics of contemporary Black nationalism, critical race feminism, and popular culture. Her work has appeared in *Frontiers*, *The International Journal of Africana Studies*, *The National Political Science Review* and *Politics & Gender*.

Bonilla-Silva's research areas include racial stratification, social theory, critical race methods and political sociology. His latest project is titled "We are All Americans! The Latin Americanization of Race Relations in the USA," and explores the changing dynamics of racial stratification in the U.S. His most recent book is "The State of White Supremacy: Racism, Governance, and the USA." His past books include "White Logic, White Methods: Race, Epistemology, and the Social Sciences," and "Racism Without Racists."

Details on registration and cost, along with the complete conference program are online at www.gvsu.edu/msr/msaconference. For more information contact Rachel Campbell, conference co-chair, at (616) 331-8977.

For Immediate Release
October 21, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber or Dottie Barnes, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to dedicate new student recreation fields
Ceremony is October 22

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The new student recreation fields at Grand Valley State University will be dedicated at a ceremony Saturday, October 22, at 5:30 p.m. The fields will provide more room for the growing number of students involved in athletics and intramural sports and clubs on campus.

The fields encompass 65 acres and includes a stormwater management system, a rugby field, a lacrosse field, a 400 meter track, two softball fields, a track throws area and picnic shelters. There is also a building for concessions, locker rooms and scoring.

Student Recreation Fields Dedication

Saturday, October 22, 5:30 p.m.

The ceremony will take place on the west side of the fields, between the Kelly Family Sports Center and Laker Village; parking is available in Lot H.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, Athletics Director Tim Selgo and Assistant Director of Intramurals John Rosick will make remarks.

The recreation fields, varsity lacrosse field and track will be available early next week for use. The fields were created using recycled rubber and synthetic turf, eliminating the need for water and mowing, which will reduce emissions.

The project was accepted into The Sustainable Sites Initiative, a pilot program that hopes to create national guidelines for sustainable land design. It is an interdisciplinary effort by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the U.S. Botanic Gardens to create voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

Friday, October 21, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., Kirkhof Center, Allendale

Several student organizations will host a concert to kick back, relax and celebrate sustainability.

Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale

Each year students, faculty and staff volunteer their time by performing a variety of projects for local Grand Rapids agencies.

Grand Valley is recognized nationally for its sustainability efforts. The university was named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review for the second year in a row and received silver status this year 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.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

October 24, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Ford Focus Electric comes to Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Students studying public relations at Grand Valley State University will have an opportunity to get an up-close look at a prototype of the Ford Focus Electric vehicle and hear about the company's promotional campaign from Ford Motor Company officials. **Media is welcome.**

On Monday, October 24, beginning at 5 p.m., the vehicle will be viewed in parking lot M, outside Lake Michigan Hall on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus, with Mike Tinskey, Ford's global associate director of Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure. Beginning at 6 p.m. in lecture room 176, Lake Michigan Hall, Dan Pierce, Ford's global Environmental Communications manager, will discuss the promotional campaign for the vehicle and answer students' questions.

Tim Penning, associate professor in the School of Communications at Grand Valley, was contacted by Ford Motor Company officials after blogging about their earlier Grand Rapids event that Penning said "didn't go so well." He discussed the ramifications of that visit with students in some of his public relations classes last winter. The students also created a campaign to promote the vehicle to college students.

For immediate release

October 24, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU student sponsored by Grandville Rotary Club to spend year studying in Ghana

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Dorr resident was selected as Grand Valley State University's first Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

Jessica Pleyel, an art and design major, is sponsored by the Grandville Rotary Club and will spend the next academic year studying at the University of Ghana, in Accra, and performing service work with the Rotary Club International chapter there.

Recipients of the award serve as goodwill ambassadors; the scholarship is worth about \$27,000.

"Being chosen as the recipient of this award is an honor and blessing to me," Pleyel said. "I am thrilled to begin my journey abroad to not only take master's courses in visual arts and sociology, but also to potentially help women and children through art therapy."

Pleyel serves as a program intern for Grand Valley's Women's Center, and belongs to the Asian Student Union. Active in the community, she volunteers for John Ball Zoo Society, Heartside Gallery and West Michigan Refugee Education and Cultural Center.

Media note: a headshot of Pleyel is available by sending an email to Michele Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
October 24, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU supports high school students at FIRST Robotics Invitational

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Engineering students from Grand Valley State University will support high school students participating in the 2011 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) West Michigan Robotics Invitational on October 29 at Zeeland West High School, 3390 100th Ave. in Zeeland.

More than 600 people and 24 statewide teams are expected to attend the one-day event, which is free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Photo opportunity: Teams of students and their handmade robots will begin competing with others at 9 a.m., break for lunch at 12:30 p.m., and continue matches at 1:15 p.m.

The invitational, supported by Grand Valley, aims to prepare, inspire and excite statewide high school students competing in the FIRST Robotics West Michigan Regional Competition that Grand Valley will host in March. Engineering students from Grand Valley's Padnos College of Engineering and Computing will be at the event to provide support, offer advice and foster encouragement to the high school students.

Grand Valley has supported The FIRST West Michigan Robotics Invitational since 2006. The annual competition provides high school students the opportunity to learn how to be science and technology leaders. The competition connects high school students to colleges, sponsors, engineers and technology professionals through an engineering challenge in a competitive and creative environment.

For more information about WMRI FIRST, visit www.wmri.info.

Follow [Grand Valley news](#) on Twitter to stay up-to-date with campus news and events.

October 25, 2011

For immediate release

Photo available

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Area schools to enjoy Bard to Go performances

The Grand Valley State University Shakespeare Festival is wrapping up the 2011 season with the final Bard to Go performances. As the festival's touring arm, Bard to Go reaches about 800 Michigan middle and high school students each year through contracted performances.

The BTG production, "Lovestruck," is a 50-minute collage that explores the complications of falling in love, using scenes from *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and other popular Shakespeare plays.

Media is welcome to the performances:

October 28, 9 a.m., at Grand Rapids City Middle High

October 28, 1 p.m. at Wayland High School

November 4, 9:40 a.m. at Valleywood Middle School in Kentwood

November 4, 1:10 p.m. at Crestwood Middle School in Kentwood

A final performance is free and open to the public, November 5, at 1:30 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It will be preceded by an awards ceremony showcasing the winners of the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Annual Student Competition, which features performing, literary and visual arts.

Professor Karen Libman directs and Professor Katherine Mayberry, also a Shakespeare Festival alumna, is serving as dramaturg for the production. Grand Valley actors include Chaz Albright, Ryan Jackson, Sean Kelley, Allison Staley, Bridgett Vanderhoof, Brynhild Weihe, with student stage manager Lydia Benkert and student videographer Alyson Caillaud-Jones.

This lively production was performed in early October in the Bahamas, by invitation, as part of a "Shakespeare in Paradise" program. The eight-member Bard to Go team also performed in the Nassau secondary schools. Bard to Go traveled to the Liverpool International Theatre Festival in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2010, Italy in 2009, China in 2008, and Jamaica in 2005. Bard to Go won the "Best in Festival" at the Sapperlot Youth Theatre Festival in Brixen, Italy, in 2009.

Learn more about the Bard to Go program at www.gvsu.edu/shakes, or contact Professor Karen Libman in the School of Communications at (616) 331-3668.

For Immediate Release
October 26, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Haworth president and CEO to give Secchia Breakfast Lecture

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The president and CEO of Haworth Inc. will give The Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture sponsored by the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Franco Bianchi will present "From West Michigan to the World — The Haworth Way" on Tuesday, November 8, in Loosemore Auditorium on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The Peter Secchia Breakfast Lecture featuring Franco Bianchi
Tuesday, November 8
7:30 a.m. breakfast, 8 a.m. presentation
Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center
Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

Bianchi assumed the role of president and chief executive officer of Haworth Inc. in 2005. He oversees and directs the performance of the global organization, which comprises Haworth North America, Haworth Europe, Haworth Asia Pacific and Groupe Lacasse. He is a graduate of Bologna University in Bologna, Italy, a chartered public accountant and has served in the military for NATO.

Reservations can be made online at www.gvsu.edu/business/events or call (616) 331-7100.

For immediate release

October 27, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Wesorick to present Meijer Lecture on health care at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A nursing leader and entrepreneur in the field of transformative patient care will give the Frederik Meijer Lecture in early November at Grand Valley State University.

Bonnie Wesorick, founder and chair emerita of the Clinical Practice Model Resource Center in Grand Rapids, will present "Leading Health Care Transformation for Those Who Give and Receive Care" on Monday, November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public.

The lecture series, sponsored by Grand Valley's Frederik Meijer Honors College, was established to provide local and national presentations that focus on issues of liberal education as they apply to leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Wesorick will discuss her experience as a leader in the development of interprofessional patient care using evidence-based tools and resources that have revolutionized health care.

Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing launched a campaign in 2009 for the Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation to be a center of excellence within the college. The Wesorick Center will help address urgent issues in health care, including the need for patient-centered care, interprofessional teamwork, quality and safety, through research and teaching.

"It is my vision that the impact of the center's research and scholarly work will improve every aspect of health care, wherever the hands of those who give and receive care meet," Wesorick said.

One week prior to her lecture, Wesorick will receive a lifetime achievement award from the honor society of nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International. Wesorick is a former KCON faculty member who has written many books and articles related to evidence-based health care. The Clinical Practice Model Resource Center is a business unit of Elsevier, a company based in the Netherlands, which is among the leading publishers of science and health information.

The next Frederik Meijer Lecture will bring Barbara Pierce Bush to campus to discuss global health care on February 27.

For more information about the event, contact the Meijer Honors College at (616) 331-3219.

October 28, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU teams with Van Andel Institute to host high school students

-- MichBio event shows students health professions careers, research

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and Van Andel Institute will host more than 250 high school students during MichBio Student Career Day on Tuesday, November 1.

MichBio Student Career Day exposes Michigan high school juniors, seniors and their teachers to the scientific research currently being conducted in West Michigan.

- Morning sessions will run from 8:30-11:15 a.m. at Van Andel Institute; lunch and afternoon sessions will run from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and be held at GVSU's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St. NE.

At VAI, students will hear from scientists about their career paths and current research. At GVSU, students will see demonstrations at the simulation lab, learn how to take vital signs from student nurses and hear presentations from health professions students. Media members are welcome to cover the GVSU activities.

The student event coincides with the MichBio Expo, held November 2-3 at DeVos Place Convention Center.

For more information about MichBio Student Career Day, contact Mary Ziolkowski, GVSU Office of the Vice Provost for Health, at (616) 331-5842 or ziolkoma@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
October 31, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU Ott lecture features analytical chemist

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry at Grand Valley State University will feature Gary Hieftje, distinguished professor and Mann Chair of Chemistry at Indiana University. Hieftje is known for his award-winning research in analytical chemistry.

Hieftje will give two lectures scheduled for November 10 and 11. His first lecture, "Teaching and Research: Symbiosis or Conflict," will be Thursday, November 10, at 6 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The second lecture, "New Tools, Toys, and Tricks for Chemical Measurements," will be Friday, November 11, at 1 p.m. in Manitou Hall (room 123) on the Allendale Campus.

Hieftje has been a member of the Indiana University Bloomington Department of Chemistry since 1969. He has authored or co-authored 10 books and more than 500 scientific papers, and holds 15 patents. Hieftje was awarded the 2010 Robert Boyle Prize for Analytical Science by the Royal Society of Chemistry in London.

Both lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Grand Valley's Chemistry Department at (616) 331-3317.

For Immediate Release
October 31, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU Wheelhouse Talks features Luisa Schumacher

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Luisa Schumacher, executive director of the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, is the next speaker for the Wheelhouse Talks sponsored by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

The monthly talks feature regional and state leaders who will share their philosophy and experience. Schumacher's talk is scheduled for November 9 at the Kroc Community Center in Grand Rapids.

Luisa Schumacher-Wheelhouse Talks

Wednesday, November 9

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Kroc Community Center, 2500 S. Division Ave.

Schumacher serves on the Wealthy Theater Centennial Cabinet, Varnum Diversity Inclusion Council, Laugh Fest Cabinet and the Grand Rapids Boxing Foundation. Her previous work experience includes serving as manager of Corporate and Community Relations for Metro Health and marketing and communications director for Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids.

Schumacher received the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Athena Young Professional Award in 2009, and was named a Regional Thought Leader by MiBiz in 2008.

Future Wheelhouse speakers include:

November 30: H. James Williams, dean of Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business

January 18: Marsha Rappley, dean of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine

February 8: Andy Dillon, state treasurer

March 14: Mayra Martinez, founder of Mi Raza Association of Commerce

April 11: Rick DeVos, founder of ArtPrize

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

For Immediate Release
October 31, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Christine Thiele, Student Senate, thielec@mail.gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2333

Battle of the Valleys benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the ninth year in a row, Grand Valley State University will compete head-to-head with Saginaw Valley State University in a weeklong battle to raise the most donations for a selected charity. Proceeds from this year's competition will be donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Battle of the Valleys will take place November 6-12 and consists of a variety of events and fundraisers. The winner will be announced at half time during the Grand Valley vs. Saginaw Valley football game at Grand Valley's Lubbers Stadium on Saturday, November 12.

Sponsored by Grand Valley's Student Senate, Battle of the Valleys has raised more than \$100,000 for local charities since the event began in 2003. The campus tradition aims to develop school pride and bring together students to support a charitable cause. Each university chooses a local organization to raise money for the week prior to the football game.

There are five ways to donate:

- Find an on campus contribution spot or drop off donations at the Student Senate office in room 0040 of the Kirkhof Center;
- Donate a dollar while purchasing a meal at any on campus food location;
- Attend and contribute at any Battle of the Valleys event;
- Buy a Battle of the Valleys T-shirt;
- Donate online anytime after midnight on November 6.

For more information about Battle of the Valleys visit www.gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys or contact Christine Thiele, Student Senate member, at thielec@mail.gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2333.

For immediate release

November 1, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Documentary recounts history of LGBT community in West Michigan

-- Two GVSU departments co-sponsor project with GRIID

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Two Grand Valley State University departments and the Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy have teamed to produce a documentary that traces the history of the LGBT community in West Michigan.

"A People's History of the LGBTQ Community in Grand Rapids" will premiere on November 17, 6:30 p.m., in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, 401 W. Fulton St. The event is free and open to the public; discussion will follow the screening.

Colette Seguin Beighley, director of the LGBT Resource Center at Grand Valley, said more than 70 interviews were conducted with members of the West Michigan LGBT community about their struggle for equality. The interviews from the documentary will eventually be accessible online in an archive, she said, allowing for continued dialogue about the LGBT community in the area.

The LGBT Resource Center and Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History are co-sponsors of this Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy documentary. The documentary includes interviews with city leaders and recounts historical events like the first Pride Celebration, the battle to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance in Grand Rapids and the 1990 appearance by AIDS Quilt founder Cleve Jones.

For more information, contact Seguin Beighley at (616) 331-2530 or visit www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc and click on "A People's History."

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU awarded for energy savings

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A check for more than \$52,000 was presented to Grand Valley State University in October for the university's efforts to decrease energy use.

The check from Consumer's Energy represents the amount of energy incentive for upgrading the heating and cooling controls to be more efficient in the Eberhard and DeVos centers. The rebate check will help the university offset its energy costs.

The total incentive rebate returns from both Consumer's Energy and DTE Energy for 2011 is estimated to be \$165,000, said Grand Valley engineer Terry Pahl. "We're constantly finding creative ways to reduce energy consumptions and avoid costs," he said.

Another energy project that is almost completed will decrease energy usage in the parking ramp on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Florescent lamps controlled by motion sensors were installed, and compact florescent lamps will replace stairwell lighting. "The project is not yet completed and we've already noticed a 37 percent drop in energy use," Pahl said.

Pahl added that since 2000 Grand Valley has avoided costs equaling \$1.3 million in one-time energy saving projects, and permanent and continuous energy efficient practices save the university \$1.4 million annually.

For more information, contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

Follow [Grand Valley news](#) on Twitter to stay up-to-date with campus news and events.

November 1, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Douglas Kindschi, director, Kaufman Interfaith Institute, (616) 331-5702

November events promote Year of Interfaith Understanding

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding, designed to cultivate peace through community interest and understanding of all faith traditions, is getting an early start this fall with many events in November.

Developed through a unique partnership led by Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute, the Grand Rapids Press, WGVU public radio and television stations, the Grand Rapids mayor's office and three organizing councils, hundreds of events will be sponsored by participating congregations, campuses and community organizations in Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon. For more information, including a list of participants and additional upcoming events, visit www.2012gr.org, or call (616) 331-5702. November events include:

'The Taqwacores' screening and lecture with director

Wednesday, November 2, 7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

This feature film chronicles a Muslim punk rock scene and examines the complexities of being young and Muslim in modern-day America. The screening and lecture with director Eyad Zahra is part of the Migrations of Islam project. Contact Brian Bowe at boweb@gvsu.edu.

Hinduism: The Role of Prayer

Tuesday, November 8, 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wege Ballroom, Aquinas College

Part of the World Religions Lunchtime Lecture Series, Hinduism: The Role of Prayer will be presented by Fred Stella, Pracharek (Outreach Minister) of the West Michigan Hindu Temple, and Beena Chandran, also from the West Michigan Hindu Temple. A light lunch will be served from 12:30-1:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Contact Mary Clark-Kaiser at clarkmar@aquinas.edu.

Two Friends, Two Faiths

Tuesday, November 8, 7–9 p.m.

Dominican Center at Marywood

Monsignor Gaspar Ancona and Rabbi Albert Lewis are both local faith leaders who have collaborated often in their work and have also formed a deep friendship. This evening is an opportunity to learn more about their shared experiences, including what they have learned about each other's faith and how they have helped each other grow in faith. Cost is \$20.

Contact Mary Vaccaro at mvaccaro@dominicancenter.com.

'My Name is Asher Lev'

November 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 19 at 8 p.m. and November 13 at 3 p.m.

Spectrum's Black Box Theatre

Asher Lev is a young Hasidic Jew in New York with an astonishing talent for art and a deep connection to his religious faith and family. His two conflicting loyalties come to a head in this poignant coming of age story when young Asher is forced to make a difficult decision between family and vocation, and between his love for God and his desperate need to make art. Cost is \$18 for general admission, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information visit www.itgr.org.

Special Performance of 'My Name is Asher Lev' (followed by Interfaith panel discussion)

Sunday, November 20, 3 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 West Fulton, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

This show will feature a special interfaith panel discussion following the performance. Cost is \$18 general admission, \$15 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Contact Kathy Boylon at kathyboyton@comcast.net or (616) 363-1558.

Poetic Vision Tour

Friday, November 11, 7 p.m.

Eberhard Center Auditorium, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

A national traveling concert featuring spiritually inspired folk rock music and hip hop poetry performed by prominent Muslim musicians to instruct and inspire. Part of the Migrations of Islam project. Contact Brian Bowe at boweb@gvsu.edu or visit www.poeticvisiontour.com.

Faith in Motion

Tuesday, November 15, 7 p.m.

Hope Reformed Church

Faith in Motion is an interfaith effort begun in 1998 to increase the availability of public transportation in Kent County. This justice-based effort meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. as part of the Micah Center activities. The goal of this effort is to provide an opportunity for all persons of faith to work in partnership on an interfaith service project. With a prophetic voice, the religious communities of metro Grand Rapids call for a comprehensive public transportation system to be built in our community. Contact Dave Bulkowski at Disability Advocates of Kent County at dave.b@dakc.us or (616) 949-1100 x228.

Grand Rapids Symphony at Temple Emanuel

Saturday, November 19, 8 p.m.

Temple Emanuel

The Jewish Cultural Council and the Grand Rapids Symphony present the Sacred Dimensions Series at Temple Emanuel. The Symphony will perform pieces with Jewish flavor as well as works by well-known Jewish composers. This unique concert will include music by Prokofiev, Bloch, Copland, and contemporary composer Dalit Warshaw. Tickets are available for \$15 at the

Jewish Federation Office (2727 Michigan St. NE) or at the Grand Rapids Symphony Box Office (300 Ottawa Ave. Ste. 100). Contact Mike Presant at (616) 942-5553.

Tour of Masjid At-Taweed: Grand Rapids Mosque and Religious Institute

Monday, November 21, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Masjid At-Taweed Mosque and Religious Institute

The Islamic Mosque and Religious Institute opened in the spring of 2010. The membership is made up of families from Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Jordan, Somalia, Bosnia, Indonesia, and the U.S. among others. Join this popular repeat tour and be exposed to the rich traditions of the Muslim faith. In order to respect the Islamic religious tradition, removal of shoes is required and women will need to cover their heads upon entering the mosque (coverings will be available). This event is sponsored through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Aquinas College. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Register at (616) 632-2430 Contact Sheila Pantlind sheila.pantlind@aquinas.edu.

Grand Rapids Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 21, 7–8:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Andrew

Prayers, sacred writings, music, and other sharing will be woven together with a common theme of gratitude from across many cultures and faith traditions. The event will conclude with refreshments. To serve the needs of the community, a free will offering will be taken up to benefit the Cathedral Outreach Clothing Center of St. Andrew's Justice and Charity Ministry. Contact Larry Barton at (616) 617-2694 or interfaith.thanksgiving.gr@gmail.com.

November 2, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Toni Perrine, interim director GVSU School of Communications (616) 331-3668

Michigan, who do you think you are?

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- With a focus on film, art and literature, an upcoming symposium will explore the Michigan perspective in creative expression.

The Michigan Film, Art & Literature Symposium, November 12 & 13 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, will bring together scholars, artists and community leaders from around the state. Event partners include Grand Valley State University School of Communications, Grand Rapids Art Museum and Grand Rapids Public Library.

The events on Saturday include special guest speaker Jennifer Guerra, Michigan Radio arts and culture reporter/producer, who will discuss "Cultural Trends in Michigan," and keynote speaker Kevin Budelmann, president of Peopledesign, who will explore the idea of "The Michigan Brand." Afternoon breakout sessions include writers, artists and filmmakers. The Symposium is designed to be a catalyst for creative thinking that produces an environment for connecting, focusing, and developing a collective vision. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the conversation.

"It's important to include the humanities in the re-imagining of Michigan," said Toni Perrine, interim director of the School of Communications and professor of film and video production. "We want to provide a platform for public discourse about how we identify ourselves and how we are perceived by others."

Perrine will be a moderator and presenter at a Sunday panel on "Dystopic Detroit?" Her session will examine "Eminem, Chrysler and the New Detroit." The panel also features Heather Addison from Western Michigan University, speaking on "Detroit and 'Ruin Porn,'" and photographer Brian Kelly's recent work, "This is Also Detroit."

Other Grand Valley participants include Caitlin Horrocks, assistant professor of writing, who will moderate a Saturday Michigan Writers Roundtable, which also features Chris Havens, associate professor of writing. The closing discussion on Sunday will be facilitated by Paul Wittenbraker, associate professor in the Department of Art & Design, who will work to synthesize ideas generated throughout the conference.

Additional support is provided by the Peter C. and Emajean Cook Foundation, Grand Valley

State University: Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies; Writers Series; and Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors.

A complete schedule and more information is available at <http://www.artmuseumgr.org>.

Sessions are free; seat reservations are recommended via <http://www.michigansymposium.org>.

For Immediate Release
November 3, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Current Business Trends: Growth slows

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy is experiencing slower growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected during the last two weeks of October. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, retreated to +9 from +25. In a similar move, the production index edged lower to +8 from +25. The index of purchases backtracked to +6 from +14. The employment index fell to +15 from +27.

"Slow growth by any measure is still better than no growth at all," said Long. "Our local statistics continue to be stronger than the rest of the country, and even the rest of the world. We hope that this trend will continue."

Long said the automotive parts producers are keeping local statistics positive; in October auto sales for the industry were up by 8 percent. He said the office furniture firms are still holding steady, but the slowdown in the world economy is starting to erode the prospect for future performance. He also said industrial distributors are steady, but the slowing of the local economy has caused their sales to moderate.

"Despite the modestly positive numbers in this local survey, caution still remains that the world economy is still slowing and many countries may soon slide into a technical recession," said Long. "For us, the big question remains about how much we will be drawn in if the economy for most of the rest of the world turns slightly negative. Barring an immediate collapse of the Euro, we still expect to see the current pattern of slow growth to continue in West Michigan for the next few months. If we do slide into another recession, chances are this time we can blame it on the Europeans."

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long.

For Immediate Release
November 4, 2011

Contact: News and Information Services, Mary Eilleen Lyon, (616) 331-2221, lyonme@gvsu.edu

Grand Valley's annual Accountability Report shows solid return on investment

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- National and state data show that Grand Valley State University continues to excel in the areas of graduation rates, alumni working in Michigan and keeping down the cost of a college degree. The university issued its fifth Accountability Report at its November 4 Board of Trustees meeting.

The report has been cited as a national model for universities to prove their return on investment. Grand Valley puts together the report using sourced data that shows Grand Valley attracts students with academic performances in the top tier for the state's public universities. It shows Grand Valley is efficient, student-centered and a powerful economic engine for Michigan.

Highlights from this year's report are:

- Grand Valley's graduation rate is near the top of the 15 public universities in the state
- Of recent graduates who are employed, 84 percent are working in Michigan
- In ten years, Grand Valley's enrollment has gone up more than 44 percent, with students from all but one county in Michigan
- Grand Valley's tuition remains in the bottom half of Michigan's universities
- Grand Valley receives the lowest state funding per student of any of Michigan's public universities
- Grand Valley has the largest share in the growth of degrees granted in Michigan since 2001
- The university pumps more than \$680 million into the Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties

"It is our responsibility to be accountable to the people of Michigan, and we show year after year that we are," Thomas J. Haas, president of Grand Valley State University said. "Grand Valley has a reputation for being efficient, and the Accountability Report proves its basis in fact. We attract top students who receive a high-quality education and most often stay in Michigan and give back. We are a model of frugality and sustainability. Our administrative costs have stayed low and our faculty and student successes continue to climb. We're proud to post the facts online and make them available to everyone."

The full Accountability Report can be viewed at www.gvsu.edu/accountability by clicking on accountability.

Other action by the Board of Trustees included:

- Approval of an annual state appropriation request, asking the state to increase funding for Grand Valley students from \$2,365 to \$3,775 per student. That is the number set by the state Senate as a minimum funding floor.
- Approval of a capital outlay budget request and five-year plan for FY 2013, including a request for funds for a new teaching laboratory building in Allendale that would increase the number of labs for sciences. The proposed project would also include student study spaces and faculty offices.

November 7, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221
Patricia Clark, GVSU Department of Writing, (616) 331-3411

NYPL Spencer Collection includes project created at Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- The Spencer Collection of the New York Public Library has purchased a collaborative project created by two Grand Valley State University faculty members.

T(here), is a collection of poems by Patricia Clark and images by Steven Sorman, published in a limited edition in 2009. The 31 loose leaves are unnumbered but identified by a small colored triangle that matches each poem with the accompanying print. Text and images are printed on 9-by-13-inch sheets of handmade Amalfi paper. Each print includes hand painting combined with one or more printmaking techniques.

Clark is poet-in-residence at Grand Valley and a professor in the Department of Writing. Her poetry has appeared extensively in national publications and in her own four published books. Sorman, an internationally known and accomplished printmaker and painter now from Ancram, New York, was the first artist to hold the university's Stuart and Barbara Padnos Chair in the Department of Art and Design. Named in 2007, Sorman held the position for three years.

"Steven not only brought his years of expertise as an artist to share with our students, but also a fascination with combining a wide variety of media," said Clark, who served as interim chair of the Department of Art and Design in 2007. "Steven and I found a way to respond to each other's work – a very gratifying experience for both of us. I'm thrilled our project will be in the New York Public Library."

The Spencer Collection of Illustrated Books and Manuscripts and Fine Bindings surveys the illustrated word and book bindings of all periods and all countries and cultures, from medieval manuscripts, Japanese scrolls, and Indian miniatures to monuments in Renaissance printing, illustration and binding to contemporary livres d'artistes.

For immediate release
November 8, 2011

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Charter school's leader wins excellence award

LENDALE, Mich. -- Timothy Wood, special assistant to the president for Charter Schools, was recently awarded an Excellence in Education award.

The state-level award was given out by AdvancEd, an education company, during a ceremony on Wednesday, November 9 in Lansing. Wood was honored for his service to the educational community and for demonstrating unparalleled leadership in promoting and advancing excellence in education.

Nominees for the award included teachers, administrators, board of education members, or community representatives.

Before he joined the GVSU team, Wood was the superintendent of Saugatuck Public Schools. He also served as the principal of Northview High School in Grand Rapids and Lakewood High School in Lake Odessa.

For more information, contact Nate Hoekstra, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release
November 9, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Sharon Ward, (616) 331-6811, Van Andel Global Trade Center

Forum on global exports outlines new financing incentives

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The new Michigan State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) pilot grant to assist exporters will be discussed at a forum sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center.

The November 17 event will provide companies information on how to qualify for expert assistance through new export financing incentives as well as updates on the many resources available to support export activities throughout the state.

Keynote speaker Fred Hochberg, chairman and president of Export-Import Bank, will discuss the new financing incentives and how it works with businesses throughout the world facilitating international trade.

Global Access Exporter Forum
Thursday, November 17
1:30-5:30 p.m.
Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St.

Topics include:

- State Trade and Export Promotion program: eligibility requirements and how to apply
- Export assistance: how to grow exports
- Financing exports: trade experts discuss latest tools and techniques
- Marketing products internationally: research to move export sales forward

Registration is \$15. For more information, contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at (616) 331-6811 or visit www.vagtc.org. Other sponsors of the event include Fifth Third Bank and Huntington Bank. Community partners include Lakeshore Advantage, Economic Development Corporation, Southwest Michigan First and The Right Place.

For Immediate Release
November 11, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services
Loretta Konecki, (616-331-6652), GVSU Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program

Grand Valley seeks Woodrow Wilson Fellows

Application deadline is January 10

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Applications are now being accepted for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellows Program at Grand Valley State University.

The Fellowship Program, aimed at increasing the number of science and mathematics teachers, is open to graduating college seniors, recent graduates and mid-career or second-career professionals with degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) who are interested in teaching in Michigan's high-need, urban secondary schools.

Each Fellow selected by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and Grand Valley State will receive a \$30,000 Fellowship in exchange for a three-year commitment to teach in a high-need secondary school. Fifteen Fellows will be selected for admission to each of the June 2012 and 2013 Grand Valley State cohorts.

An informational meeting has been scheduled for:

Wednesday, November 16

5-6 p.m.

Kennedy Hall, room 134

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Grand Valley State is one of six Michigan universities chosen to participate in this innovative program to prepare science and mathematics secondary teachers. "Grand Valley has developed a unique master's level certification program that is clinically based in schools and addresses Michigan's need for outstanding mathematics and science teachers," said Loretta Konecki, project director for the Woodrow Wilson Fellow program at Grand Valley.

CURRENT FELLOWS

There are 12 Woodrow Wilson Fellows in Grand Valley's current program.

Anne Heyt gave up her 20-year career as a civil engineer to become a Fellow. She is now in a math classroom at Creston High School in Grand Rapids. "The program is set up in a way that allows cohort Fellows to form a unique bond with each other and university staff, which has given me a sense of community that I never had in my previous work or college experiences," said Heyt. "I hope I will become the type of teacher who can make a difference in the lives of

students.”

Robert Slider, who has experience researching the impacts of climate change on plants as part of an international study, left his studies as an arctic ecologist, for his fellowship. Slider is at Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids. “Being placed in a cohort of professional, well-rounded, and highly motivated individuals has kept me excited about this opportunity,” said Slider. “Each person brings in something different and it seems like I pick up a new skill or piece of information with each class we hold together.”

The ten additional Fellows are at Central High School and C. A. Frost Middle School in Grand Rapids, Muskegon High School and Bunker Middle School in Muskegon. Godfrey-Lee has three Fellows placed in the Godfrey Middle and High School.

To arrange interviews with current Fellows, contact Loretta Konecki at (616) 331-6652. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/teachingfellowship.

November 14, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley presents 'Gloria: Music of the Holiday Season'

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration 2011 wraps up with a holiday gift to the community.

"Gloria: Music of the Holiday Season from Grand Valley" will be performed Monday, December 5, 8 p.m. at Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids. The concert is free and open to the public.

The University Arts Chorale and soloists will join Music Department faculty and students for a special performance of Baroque holiday music masterpieces, including Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Arcangelo Corelli's "Christmas Concerto." Fountain Street Church was selected for its superb acoustics and central location.

"This is a rare opportunity to hear this iconic and upbeat music with professional performers in the Fountain Street Church venue," said Danny Phipps, Department of Music chair. "That the public is invited to attend, without cost, is a true gift to the community."

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 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.

For more Fall Arts Celebration information visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/fallarts>, or call (616) 331-2180.

For Immediate Release
November 14, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU hosts electric car workshop for high school students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Nearly 50 high school students from West Michigan will attend an electric car workshop at Grand Valley State University on November 15. Students will learn about a wireless technology that will help them at the National Electric Cart Association races this spring at the Berlin Raceway in Marne, Mich.

Students will learn how to apply Wireless Data Logging, a technology that transmits data from a vehicle and allows teams to advise drivers on how to improve performance during a race. The workshop will be led by Grand Valley electric engineering professor Andrew Sterian and Coopersville High School senior John Booth.

Electric Car Workshop

Tuesday, November 15, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Rooms 102 and 106, Keller Engineering Lab, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The workshop will begin at 12:15 p.m.

A Volt electric car will be on display for students and faculty.

The workshop is offered each year to teach students how to build the electric cars they will race in the National Electric Cart Association races at Berlin Raceway in the spring. The event is sponsored by Grand Valley's School of Engineering.

For more information about the workshop, contact Tom Yackish from the School of Engineering at yackisht@gvsu.edu. To learn more about the spring races, visit the National Electric Cart Association at www.neca-racing.com.

Follow [Grand Valley news](#) on Twitter to stay up-to-date with campus news and events.

For Immediate Release
November 14, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU installs electric vehicle charging stations in Allendale and Grand Rapids

-- Media opportunity November 16

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will install seven electric vehicle charging stations on the Pew Grand Rapids and Allendale campuses throughout the month of November. Five dual and two single charging stations will be installed for a total of 12 possible charging locations.

Media is invited to see a charging station that was installed by Excel Electric, Inc., a company based in Grandville, Mich., on November 16. Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing; Tim Thimmesch, vice president for Facilities Services at Grand Valley; Dave Feenstra, facilities maintenance supervisor for Grand Valley; and Ed Tripp from Excel Electric, Inc. will be available to answer questions.

Media opportunity

Wednesday, November 16, 9 a.m.

**Parking lot in front of the Kennedy Hall of Engineering, Pew Grand Rapids Campus
A Chevrolet Volt will be available for demonstrations.**

"Installation of these stations is in recognition of the growing number of electric vehicles on the road and highlights the university's ongoing commitment to sustainable endeavors," said Thimmesch. "We anticipate that more faculty, staff and students will acquire such vehicles in the future."

The charging stations will join the university's first station that was installed at Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in Muskegon last December. The Chargepoint charging stations are provided by the Chargepoint America, a regional effort led by the West Michigan Strategic Alliance and West Michigan Energy.

For immediate release

November 14, 2011

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU ranks in top 10 of study abroad programs

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is ranked within the top 10 of institutions its size in terms of the number of students who study abroad.

The Institute of International Education released statistics November 14 on international students studying in the U.S. and Americans who participate in study abroad programs. Grand Valley was ranked 10th among master's degree-granting institutions, with 658 students who studied abroad in 2009-2010, the latest reporting year available. Last year, Grand Valley was ranked 11th.

Grand Valley offers more than 4,000 study abroad opportunities for students. Top destinations are Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, Australia and China. Mark Schaub, executive director of Grand Valley's Padnos International Center, said another trend is the number of students going to sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010-2011, 71 GVSU students traveled there.

To access IIE data, visit www.iie.org/opendoors. For more information about Grand Valley's international education programs, contact the Padnos International Center at (616) 331-3898 or visit www.gvsu.edu/pic.

For immediate release
November 21, 2011

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, (616) 331-2221, Grand Valley State University News and Information Services

First-ever documentary on legendary senator
The story of Arthur H. Vandenberg

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — He was present at the creation of the United Nations and played a key role in the formation and adoption of the Marshall Plan. Arthur H. Vandenberg was a legendary U.S. senator from Michigan from 1928-1951. He played major roles in foreign relations, especially during and after World War II when he abandoned his previous support of isolationist policies and became an internationalist.

Vandenberg's story is captured in a first-ever television documentary based on the forthcoming biography of Vandenberg written by Hank Meijer, a Grand Rapids historian, author and business leader.

"America's Senator — The Unexpected Odyssey of Arthur H. Vandenberg" will premier on WGVU TV, Grand Valley State University's Public Broadcast Station on December 7, at 8 p.m., to coincide with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which had much to do with Vandenberg's switch on policy.

The documentary will be shown during two public events:

December 8 – Ford Library in Ann Arbor, 7:30 p.m.

December 12 – Grand Rapids Public Library, 7 p.m.

Vandenberg was born and raised in Grand Rapids, where he rose from reporter to owner and publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald. A pragmatic politician, Vandenberg was often a bridge inside the Senate between the GOP's progressive and conservative wings.

BACKGROUND:

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University, is serving as historical advisor to Hank Meijer, the film's executive producer, and to Mike Grass, the program's writer and producer. The program is narrated by NPR's Susan Stamberg. WGVU, as the sponsoring station, will provide an uplink of the documentary to PBS stations in Michigan and nationwide.

For more information, contact Gleaves Whitney at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, (616) 331-2770 or whitneyg@gvsu.edu.

November 21, 2011

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley State signs international declaration on Open Access

ALLENDALE, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University is among 33 institutions, associations and foundations in the U.S., Canada and Mexico that have signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. The signing was in conjunction with the ninth Berlin Conference, which was held November 9-10 at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

To date, nearly 300 institutions from around the world have signed the declaration, which promotes the Internet as a medium for disseminating global knowledge, making it more accessible to the broad public. North American signatories include leading private research institutions, such as Harvard University and Duke University, non-profit organizations and major library coalitions. For more information, visit www.berlin9.org.

The Grand Valley State University Libraries has already begun building an infrastructure to support the principles of the Berlin Declaration. For example, the Libraries host ScholarWorks@GVSU, an open-access digital repository that collects scholarly, educational, and creative works by Grand Valley faculty, staff and students, and preserves these works, with a static URL, on a long-term basis. The documents in ScholarWorks can be discovered through Google or Google Scholar. In the past year, more than 117,700 items were downloaded from the Grand Valley repository by researchers in 141 countries and in all 50 states.

In addition, the Libraries have set up a grant to support faculty and graduate students who want to publish their scholarship in an established peer-reviewed journal that offers an open access option. For more information, visit <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu>.

"One of the ways Grand Valley gives back to the community is by ensuring that the research and creative outputs of its faculty and staff are made available to the widest possible audience," said Lee Van Orsdel, Grand Valley dean of university libraries. "Research that is both peer-reviewed and openly accessible is possible. By signing the Berlin Declaration, Grand Valley joins a growing number of leading institutions who are committed to finding that better way."

Grand Valley State University attracts more than 24,500 students with high-quality programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Grand Valley is a comprehensive university, serving students from all 83 Michigan counties and dozens of other states and foreign countries. Grand Valley offers 81 undergraduate and 29 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release
November 21, 2011

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley dean next speaker at Wheelhouse Talks

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The dean of Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business will be the next speaker for the Wheelhouse Talks, a series of lectures hosted by Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

H. James Williams, who is also an accounting professor at Grand Valley, will speak about his leadership philosophy and experience in a presentation called "Growing Your Innate Leadership Talents" on November 30.

H. James Williams Wheelhouse Talk: "Growing Your Innate Leadership Talents"
Wednesday, November 30
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Kroc Community Center, 2500 S. Division Ave., Grand Rapids

"Dean Williams will combine his own deep knowledge and experience in leadership with insights from the top thought leaders of our day," said Brian Flanagan, associate director of the Hauenstein Center. "You can expect an intensely practical message that packs an intellectual punch."

Williams serves on more than half a dozen community and corporate boards, including the AICPA Minorities Initiatives Committee, the Baxter Community Center, Fifth Third Bank, the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Foundation, Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids, Saint Mary's Hospital and the Washington Campus.

Williams has numerous academic accolades, including a Ph.D., C.P.A., C.M.A., J.D., and LL.M. Williams is from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is married and has two children.

Future Wheelhouse speakers include:

January 18: Marsha Rappley, dean of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine

February 8: Andy Dillon, state treasurer

March 14: Mayra Martinez, founder of Mi Raza Association of Commerce

April 11: Rick DeVos, founder of ArtPrize

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

For immediate release
November 21, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley Breakfast Lecture

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Huntington Breakfast Lecture sponsored by the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University will feature Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

Calley, who earned an MBA from Grand Valley in 2000, will give a presentation on Thursday, December 1, at Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Before being elected to his current position, Calley served two terms in the Michigan Legislature as a state representative. During this time he served as minority vice chair of the House Tax Policy Committee. Calley is the second-youngest lieutenant governor in Michigan's history and part of Gov. Snyder's transition team.

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley Breakfast Lecture

Thursday, December 1

Breakfast at 7:15 a.m.

Presentation at 7:50 a.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

The event is free and open to the public but seating is limited. For more information and to RSVP, contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100.

For Immediate Release
November 21, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

GVSU camp for grandparents and grandchildren

Grandparents and their grandchildren can live on campus, eat in the dining halls and take classes at Grand Valley State University. It's all part of G3 — Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley — a summer camp being offered at Grand Valley from June 26-28.

G3 is designed for children ages 8-12. The three-day educational camp includes hands-on learning activities in areas like art, history, science, mathematics, engineering, technology and law enforcement, to name a few. Class sessions are taught by Grand Valley faculty and staff members and will be held during the day in the campus academic buildings. In the evenings, families can choose from a variety of activities including swimming, playing volleyball, using the climbing wall, watching movies and playing games.

A graduation luncheon ceremony will be held on the final day of camp.

Families will spend three days and two nights on campus, sleeping in the living center apartments and eating in the common dining halls along with college students and others on campus.

"This type of summer camp is a growing trend in universities," said Karen Meyers, director of the Regional Math and Science Center. "The camp provides a great opportunity for generations to connect in a fun and educational environment. The goal is to offer educational activities that will strengthen the family bond, give children a college-life experience and create many positive memories for family members."

G3 is sponsored by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. More information is available at www.gvsu.edu/g3 or by calling the Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267.

For Immediate Release
November 22, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221
Todd Buchta, Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, (616) 331-6900

GVSU, MOCAP partnership brings solar energy technologies to income-eligible households
-- Event will feature speakers from partner organizations on November 28

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is part of an initiative to bring renewable energy technology to income-qualified households and programs that serve income-eligible individuals in Muskegon and Oceana counties.

Muskegon Oceana Community Action Partnership, Inc. (MOCAP) was awarded a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy through a Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) grant. It allows several Michigan contractors to install one or more systems at residential and income-eligible group care facilities. Installations may include hybrid domestic hot water, solar domestic hot water or solar photovoltaic systems in single and multi-family units. Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center provides technical assistance and serves as a resource for the project.

"All the money saved by these installations will go directly back into the community," said Kim Walton, program coordinator at MAREC and technical adviser for the project. "There is a large multi-family project underway and about one-third of the residential projects have begun."

Media note: MAREC and MOCAP are hosting an event to celebrate the grant and first installations of solar energy systems on Monday, November 28, at 11 a.m. at MAREC, 200 Viridian Dr., Muskegon. Fred Keller, CEO of Cascade Engineering, and Susan Johnson, CEO of Every Woman's Place, are among the speakers. U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga and others will attend. A tour of the solar project sites will follow at noon.

"This project places renewable energy systems with people in Michigan who haven't had access to this technology in the past, and those people are often the ones who can benefit from it the most," said Arn Boezaart, director of MAREC. "We are proud to be part of this initiative."

Walton said the single and multi-family units selected were income-qualified, were deemed energy efficient or underwent weatherization for energy efficiency before the renewable energy technologies were installed. The project will be completed by March 31.

For more information, contact Sid Shaw, SERC grant manager, at (231) 725-9499 or at sid@mocapl.org.

For Immediate Release
November 22, 2011

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU News & Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU experts available to talk about Black Friday

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University experts are available to speak to the media for a variety of stories as Black Friday approaches.

Grand Valley experts can speak on several topics, including the general economic impact of a major sales day like Black Friday, consumer behavior, marketing, retailing and e-commerce.

Available experts include:

Paul Isley, professor of economics, can speak about **general economic impact and consumer behavior**. Contact at (616) 331-7418 or via email at iselyp@gvsu.edu.

Anna Walz, professor of marketing, can speak about **marketing and retailing**. Contact via email at walza@gvsu.edu or via cell phone (812) 568-8772.

Paul Lane, professor of marketing, can speak about **e-commerce and online retailing**. Contact via cell phone (203) 558-3140.

Suzeanne Benet, professor of marketing, can speak about **consumer behavior** and is available via phone on Tuesday at (616) 331-7476.

Availability will depend on each source. Please contact them personally to arrange an interview.

Other experts on other topics can be arranged if your story is taking a different angle. If you need help locating an expert for your story or segment, please contact News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221 or visit our sources guide online at gvsu.edu/sources.

For immediate release
November 26, 2011

For more information, contact Mary Eilleen Lyon (616) 560-2548 or Nate Hoekstra (616) 318-3673,
GVSU News and Information Services

Businessman and philanthropist Frederik G. H. Meijer remembered by Grand Valley State University

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Leaders at Grand Valley State University and in Michigan are mourning the passing of former Chairman Emeritus of Meijer, Inc., Frederik "Fred" G. H. Meijer on November 25, 2011. Meijer was a successful businessman and generous philanthropist who cared deeply about the Grand Rapids and West Michigan community. Throughout his life he made many contributions that helped local medical institutions, educational facilities, and nature preserves.

He was 91.

Upon learning of his death late Friday night, university officials expressed their sympathy to the Meijer family.

"As a university community we deeply regret the loss of Fred Meijer," said university President Thomas J. Haas. "Mr. Meijer's generosity, from the beginning of Grand Valley's history, has been critical to our success and has helped make us the university that we are today. Our hearts are with the Meijer family." Jeff Chamberlain, head of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, also expressed his condolences.

"The Frederik Meijer Honors College won't be the same without Fred Meijer's regular contact with our students, faculty and staff," Chamberlain said. "He was an incredible supporter of our programs and our students, but more than that, he was our friend. We will deeply miss him."

Mr. Meijer also had close ties to WGVU Public Television and Radio.

"Grand Valley's public television and radio stations broadcast from the Meijer Public Broadcast Center at Grand Valley State University," said Michael T. Walenta, general manager at WGVU. "Fred's support for PBS and NPR has enriched the lives of everyone who watches television and listens to radio in West Michigan. We will be forever in his debt."

Meijer was a faithful Grand Valley supporter. His generosity had a major part in making construction possible for the Richard M. DeVos Center, GVSU Meijer Campus in Holland, and Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

A member of the Advisory Cabinet for The Grand Valley University Foundation, Meijer was a university supporter since the early days of the school. He generously gave to help create the Eberhard Center and the Meijer Public Broadcast Center, the building from which WGVU broadcasts its public radio and television stations.

After donating land to help create the Grand Valley State University Meijer Campus in Holland, he became a member of the "Land Barons." Under the leadership of Richard M. DeVos, this small group of philanthropists helped secure land and funding for the Grand Design 2000 Campaign. Meijer's

dedication to the project helped Grand Valley expand its downtown Grand Rapids campus and the Eberhard Center.

In September 2003, Meijer's commitment to the construction of the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in downtown Grand Rapids was recognized with the naming of the Meijer Family Floor. His gift helped ensure that education would join health care research and delivery as a cornerstone of the emerging health enterprise in Grand Rapids.

In 2005, Grand Valley State University was able to acquire the papers of internationally acclaimed writer and Michigan native, Jim Harrison. The purchase was aided by funding from Meijer. In recognition of his gift, the University established the Frederik Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors.

In October 2008, Grand Valley honored Meijer and his years of charitable support with the university by naming the Honors College the Frederik Meijer Honors College.

"This university has been a symbol of excellence, not just here in West Michigan but nationwide," said Meijer upon the announcement. "We hope that through this Honors College and our support, we have an opportunity to assist young minds and help them achieve their goals."

Most recently, The Meijer Foundation made a generous commitment to the L. William Seidman Center at GVSU.

Meijer was recognized as one of the university's Grand Stewards in June, 2011.

To honor his distinguished career as a successful businessman and community leader, Grand Valley State University awarded Meijer an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 1982. In 1986, Meijer was a Grand Valley State Hall of Fame Honoree. Ten years later, in 1992, the Economic Club of Grand Rapids named him their Businessperson of the Year. Most recently, in 2004, he received the Business Direct Weekly 30 over 60 Leaders Award.

For Immediate Release
November 28, 2011

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE — EVENT CANCELED
Wednesday Wheelhouse Talk canceled

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Wednesday's Wheelhouse Talk, sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, has been canceled. The event was scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, at the Kroc Community Center in Grand Rapids.

The scheduled speaker was H. James Williams, dean of Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business. The event has been canceled because of funeral proceedings for Fred Meijer and Cindy Van Andel.

All other Wheelhouse Talks are expected to occur as scheduled. The remaining events in the series are listed below.

January 18: Marsha Rappley, dean of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine

February 8: Andy Dillon, state treasurer

March 14: Mayra Martinez, founder of Mi Raza Association of Commerce

April 11: Rick DeVos, founder of ArtPrize

For more information, contact the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at (616) 331-2770 or visit www.allpresidents.org.

For immediate release
November 28, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Holland to Netherlands video chat on wind energy

HOLLAND, Mich. — Grand Valley State University, in partnership with Michigan Sea Grant and the Michigan Energy Office, is hosting a public meeting on the benefits and challenges of offshore wind energy development, with a special focus on tourism. The December 5 meeting includes a video chat from people in the Netherlands who live and work near an offshore wind farm.

Representatives from the West Michigan tourism and government sectors, along with community members, can ask questions about how the Egmond aan Zee offshore wind farm has affected tourism in coastal communities in the Netherlands. Dutch participants include a tourism program manager and a sustainability program manager. Paulus Heule, Honorary Dutch Consul for West Michigan, will provide opening remarks about the social and economic ties between West Michigan and the Netherlands and continued opportunities for cultural and scientific exchanges.

Holland (Mich.) to Holland (Netherlands) video chat
Monday, December 5
10 a.m.-noon
GVSU Meijer Campus in Holland, Room 102

Offshore wind energy projects generate low-pollution electricity in many countries in Europe, including the Netherlands, but there are none presently in North America. "People here have no experience with the technology and are rightfully concerned about potential effects on tourism and coastal communities," said Erik Nordman, principal investigator for West Michigan Wind Assessment at Grand Valley. "By connecting people in Michigan with those in the Netherlands, we hope to share knowledge and experiences about offshore wind energy."

The event is free and open to the public but space is limited. RSVP at wind@gvsu.edu. For more information contact Erik Nordman at (616) 331-8705.

For Immediate Release
November 30, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU engineering school launches new, industry-integrated GA program

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The School of Engineering at Grand Valley State University is introducing a new, unique graduate assistantship program that allows students receiving a master's degree in engineering (MSE) to perform work outside of the university with West Michigan companies.

"Graduate students are usually offered assistantships as teaching or research assistants, and most schools fund the students through research and grants from government entities," said Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. "With our new program, engineering graduate students will be sponsored by a local West Michigan company where they will do real engineering work."

Plotkowski explained that the graduate assistant (GA) will perform supervised engineering work and applied research in the field for up to 20 hours per week during the fall and winter semesters while taking a full course load, then transition to 40 hours of field work each week in the summer.

Compared to an internship, where a company employs a student for a specific block of time, graduate students will be part of a company for a full year or more. "These graduate students already have a valued undergraduate degree under their belt, so they will be overseeing real engineering work," said Shabbir Choudhuri, associate professor of engineering and graduate program director.

Grand Rapids Chair is the first company to join the program and will sponsor a GA in 2012. Geoff Miller, vice president of Operations for Grand Rapids Chair and Grand Valley MSE graduate, said this new arrangement will provide an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Few students have the opportunity to not only get a master's degree, but to work on an actual project for a small manufacturing company like ours," he said. "Our graduate student will have the opportunity to not only learn and experience engineering, but many different aspects of our company like manufacturing, materials, finance, sales and marketing."

The number of internships for engineering students increased by 42 percent in 2010, and computing and information systems co-ops increased by 31 percent, compared to 2009. "Employers are seeing the value of industry-sponsored experience, so our reaction is to provide it for our graduate students as well," Plotkowski said.

Companies interested in joining the program can contact Choudhuri at choudhus@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6845.

Follow Grand Valley news on Twitter to stay up-to-date with campus news and events.

For immediate release
November 30, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Educators honored at GVSU Convocation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The College of Education at Grand Valley State University will honor two outstanding educators during its convocation ceremony Wednesday, December 7, at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Performance Hall in downtown Grand Rapids.

More than 100 graduates are expected to participate. The ceremony is a precursor to Grand Valley's commencement ceremonies on December 10 at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

During convocation, Char Firlik and Patronella Koster will receive the Outstanding Alumni Educator Award.

Char Firlik earned a bachelor's and master's degree in psychology from Grand Valley. She is currently an educational consultant working with the Kent Intermediate School District. She serves on the advisory council of the Community Literacy Coalition of West Michigan and on United Way's Vision Council for Education. Firlik previously served as a special education teacher and elementary principal in the Grand Rapids and Kentwood public school districts.

Patronella (Nelli) Koster earned a master's degree in special education from Grand Valley. She worked for 30 years at Sparta Middle School where she taught in a resource room, fifth grade, and sixth grade language arts and social studies. She served on many district and building committees which focused on literacy and student achievement. Koster retired in 2006 and currently works with the Kent Intermediate School District.

For more information, contact Forrest Clift in the College of Education at (616) 331-6230.

For immediate release
December 5, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Experts share investment knowledge at GVSU conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Beyond the world of stocks and mutual funds are options that can produce both above average returns and community development in West Michigan. Private capital investments will be the focus at an investment conference sponsored by the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Local investors, fund managers and entrepreneurs will share their investment knowledge at the December 15 conference. Forums, lectures and breakout sessions will provide a solid base of private capital knowledge. Speakers will cover topics on risk and returns, qualifications, investment amounts, accreditation and deal access, among other topics.

Invest Locally – Invest Profitably: The Key to Successful Investing in West Michigan
Thursday, December 15
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St.
GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The keynote address by Tom Groos will begin at 8:15 a.m. Groos is a partner of City Light Capital and is currently on the Boards of Glacier Bay Technology and Shotspotter.

“Local investing can be profitable and rewarding,” said J. Kevin McCurren, executive director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Grand Valley. “You get to touch your investments as those investments touch their communities through wealth and job creation. It’s not as easy as pressing a key to send a buy order, but the extra work can be rewarding through financial and social returns. This program is designed to share investor experiences, both good and bad, on how to make a difference by investing your dollars locally.”

The event is sponsored by Barnes & Thornburg LLP, BDO, Grand Valley’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Michigan Accelerator Fund I (MAF-1), Michigan Angel Fund, Michigan Venture Capital Association, LV2 Equity Partners, LLC and the West Michigan College Fund.

John Kerschen, managing director of MAF-1, said: “West Michigan offers a growing range of high-quality investment opportunities, but many potential investors either aren’t aware of them, or aren’t sure how to participate. This forum will answer questions and provide a clear path for both new and seasoned investors to profitably invest in the future of our community.”

Martin Stein, founder and managing editor of Blackford Capital, is a presenter at the conference. "We have seen a lot of possible private equity transactions locally," said Stein. "West Michigan has enormous potential to become an even bigger powerhouse in the investment world. This conference will lay the groundwork for what is working, what's available and how we can all learn from one another."

For registration information, contact Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at (616) 331-7582 or visit www.gvsu.edu/investmi.

For Immediate Release
December 5, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley will celebrate new graduates Saturday

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Nearly 1,000 Grand Valley State University students will participate in the December commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 10, at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Dorothy A. Johnson, former member of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees and president emeritus of the Council of Michigan Foundations, will give the commencement address. Johnson will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters; her speech is "An Important FOUR Letter Word."

A longtime supporter of Grand Valley, Johnson was a member of the university's Board of Trustees from 1995-2010 and served as chair from 2001-2004. She currently serves as a trustee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and co-chairs a national Learning to Give Initiative, in addition to serving on the boards of Princeton Theological Seminary and the Grand Rapids Symphony. U.S. Presidents Clinton and Bush appointed Johnson to the board of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Grand Rapids Economic Club recognized her with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. Grand Valley's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy was renamed in honor of Johnson and her distinguished career in 1999.

Grand Valley Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.
Van Andel Arena, downtown Grand Rapids

The ceremony will live stream online at www.gvsu.edu/commencement.

The Alumni Association will present two awards during the ceremony. Felix Ngassa, professor of chemistry, will receive the Outstanding Educator Award and Michelle Troseth, executive vice president and chief professional practice officer for Clinical Practice Model Resource Center, will receive the Distinguished Alumna Award.

Follow the conversation on Twitter with the hashtag [#GVLakergrad](https://twitter.com/GVLakergrad).

MEDIA NOTE: Skybox 101B has been reserved for media. The box offers a mult box and an elevated, unobstructed view of the podium and platform. For more information, contact Grand Valley's News and Information Services Department at (616) 331-2221.

NOTABLE STUDENT

During the ceremony, Megan Seirz will follow in her mother's footsteps and graduate from Grand Valley. She will receive a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in elementary education.

Seirz received an associate's degree in art from Grand Rapids Community College before she enrolled at Grand Valley in 2008. She is a member of the Youth Enrichment Scholarship Program, a program through the Grand Rapids Community Foundation that awards children of low-income households scholarships to participate in extracurricular activities and provides financial support when they attend college. She has worked at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum since 2004. She said she enjoys working with children and hopes to find a job with an organization that helps victims of human trafficking.

Seirz can be reached at sierzma@mail.gvsu.edu or (616) 916-1396.

For Immediate Release
December 6, 2011

Contact: Leah Zuber, News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

GVSU engineering students display projects built for real-world use

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Students in Grand Valley State University's Padnos College of Engineering and Computing will showcase projects they completed during the fall semester to more than 150 high school and middle school students from Grand Rapids, Saginaw and Grosse Pointe.

Created for real-world use, the projects will be on display in the halls and classrooms of the Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Laboratories on the **Pew Grand Rapids Campus on Thursday, December 8, from 10 a.m.-noon.**

Some projects will include:

- Dosage Device: A mechanism designed to reduce errors in administering medication to pediatric patients.
- Effect of Music on Stress Levels: A machine that measures a heart rate and other factors in response to different music.
- Automated Mail Sorting: A contest between student-made robots to sort simulated mail.
- RFID Personal Inventory Device: A device that provides alerts when important items like car keys are missing from personal items.

MEDIA NOTE: Lunch will be provided for students from 11 a.m.-noon, so the best time to see students and projects may be from 10-11 a.m.

For more information, contact Jonathan Miner, student services outreach assistant, at (616) 331-6025 or minerj@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release
December 6, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Current Business Trends: Modestly positive and still improving

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy is experiencing modestly positive growth, according to the results of a monthly survey compiled by Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

The survey results are based on data collected during the last two weeks of November. The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, advanced to +13 from +9. The production index remained virtually unchanged but retreated to +7 from +8. The employment index posted a gain, rising to +24 from +15.

Long said Michigan still has the automotive parts producers to thank for the positive numbers. He said second strongest group for November was industrial distributors, many of whom appear to be having a good year. He said the office furniture firms appear to be plateauing at the current level.

"The auto industry continues to strengthen," said Long. "Since much of Michigan's recession recovery can be attributed to the auto parts suppliers and assemblers, it is especially gratifying to see industry sales for November rise by 14 percent, up from October's increase of 8 percent."

Long said the other big economic news for November was the drop in the national unemployment rate to 8.6 percent from 9 percent.

The Institute for Supply Management survey is a monthly survey of business conditions that includes 45 purchasing managers in the greater Grand Rapids area and 25 in Kalamazoo. The respondents are from the region's major industrial manufacturers, distributors and industrial service organizations. It is patterned after a nationwide survey conducted by the Institute for Supply Management. Each month, the respondents are asked to rate eight factors as "same," "up" or "down." An expanded version of this report and details of the methodology used to compile it are available at www.gvsu.edu/scblogistics.

Call Dottie Barnes, Grand Valley News and Information Services, at (616) 331-2221 to arrange interviews with Long. NOTE TO RADIO: downloadable audio bites are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

For immediate release
December 7, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

Export seminar for Michigan food companies

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Michigan's overall agricultural exports in 2010 increased by more than 10 percent from 2009, reaching \$1.75 billion. Food exports support more than 15,000 jobs and help generate further economic activity in Michigan.

Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center is sponsoring a seminar, "Why to Export?" featuring industry leaders discussing how food exporting carries significant growth potential in today's economy. The seminar is being presented by the Food Export Association of the Midwest and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Why to Export?

Tuesday, December 13

8 a.m.-noon

GVSU Eberhard Center

301 W. Fulton St.

Speakers will discuss assistance programs and resources available to help Michigan companies become "export ready" and successfully enter international markets. Companies will learn how to develop their products into global brands and hear success stories from Michigan businesses, including Michigan Ag Exporter of the Year, Cherry Central. Professional export advisors will be available for personal consultation with individual companies.

The free seminar is sponsored by the Van Andel Global Trade Center, Varnum, Comerica Bank and MiBiz.

For more information contact Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, at zmitkoj@michigan.gov or (517) 241-3628.

December 7, 2011
For immediate release

Contact: Mary Isca Pirkola, GVSU News & Information Services (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley State University January 2012 Arts Events

January 9 ongoing through March 1

Saudi Arabia: 1946-1954 by Ilo Battigelli

The images include rarely seen photographs depicting social and economical life and documenting an important phase in the development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Free and open to the public. For more information call the GVSU Art Gallery at 616-331-2563 or visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery. [read more](#)

Location: Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

January 9 ongoing through April 28

Tjukurrpa: Aboriginal Dream Paintings Works from the Grand Valley State University Permanent Collection

A selection of Australian Aboriginal paintings created as part of the ceremonies celebrating Tjukurrpa or Dreamtime, which can be interpreted as an embodiment of creation that gives meaning to everything for the Australian Aboriginal people. Free and open to the public. For more information, call the GVSU Art Gallery at 616-331-2563 or visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery. [read more](#)

Location: West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids Pew Campus

January 11, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Arts at Noon Series: The Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra

Open to the public. Free admission. For more information, please call (616) 331-3484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music. [read more](#)

Location: Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, GVSU Allendale Campus

January 15, 3 - 4 p.m.

Master Class: Andrea Ridilla, oboe

Master Class, Andrea Ridilla, professor of oboe at Miami University. Open to the public. Free admission. For more information, please call (616) 331-3484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music. [read more](#)

Location: Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, GVSU Allendale Campus

January 15, 2 p.m.

Chiaroscuro Film Series: Max and Mona

The series kicks off with this 2004 film from Africa directed by Teddy Mattered. Languages: English, Zulu and Afrikaans with English Subtitles. Not rated. Enjoy an afternoon of great cinema, discussion and refreshments. Free admission. www.gvsu.edu/artscalendar. [read more](#)

Location: Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 2 West Fulton, Grand Rapids, (616) 454-7000.

December 19, 2011

For immediate release

December 19, 2012

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU News and Information Services, (616) 331-2221

National speakers highlight GVSU celebration of King's legacy

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two national speakers will highlight Grand Valley State University's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Events will extend beyond the national holiday and run the week of January 16-21.

Bakari Kitwana, journalist and author, will help kick off programming on Monday, January 16, with a presentation, "The King Legacy and the Next Generation," at 12:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. Kitwana's presentation will follow a silent march on campus that will begin at noon at Zumberge Library.

The author of four books, Kitwana is a senior media fellow at the Jamestown Project, a Harvard Law think-tank; and CEO of Rap Sessions, a company that conducts townhall meetings around the country on difficult topics facing the hip-hop generation. Kitwana's latest book is "Hip-Hop Activism in the Obama Era." He earned a bachelor's and two master's degrees from the University of Rochester.

Kitwana will also give a keynote address at the 26th annual Grand Rapids community celebration, beginning at 6:30 p.m. January 16 at Ford Fieldhouse at Grand Rapids Community College.

Longtime civil rights advocate and author Michelle Alexander will give two presentations at Grand Valley, Wednesday and Thursday, January 18-19. Alexander is the author of "The New Jim Crow," a critique in which Alexander argues that racial caste has not ended in America, it has been redesigned. Alexander writes that by targeting black men and other people of color, the U.S. justice system functions as a system of racial control.

The book was published in 2010. Lauded by critics nationally, Alexander received a 2011 NAACP Image Award for outstanding literary work-non-fiction. Alexander is a former law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun. She now holds dual appointments at Ohio State University in the College of Law and Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

Her keynote presentation is set for 5 p.m. January 18 in the Kirkhof Center. That address will be simulcast to an audience at Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center on GVSU's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. She will discuss her book at 10 a.m. January 19 in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

With the theme "Shake the World: Moving Dreams to Reality," all King celebration week events are free and open to the public. Other GVSU events are detailed below:

-- Tuesday, January 17: Melanie Shell-Weiss, assistant professor of liberal studies, will discuss "Race, Migration and Social Justice: What Would MLK Say Today?" at 1 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room.

-- Saturday, January 21: "Day of Service" when students, faculty and staff members will volunteer within the community in honor of King and civil rights activist Gloria Richardson. About 100 people will gather in the Kirkhof Center at 9 a.m. before heading to the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank and other locations.

For more information about King events, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk. Contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177 with questions.

For headshots of Kitwana or Alexander, contact Michele Coffill at coffillm@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release
December 22, 2011

Contact: Dottie Barnes, (616) 331-2221, GVSU News and Information Services

West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Two Grand Valley State University economic experts will discuss trends in West Michigan health care at the 2012 West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast, sponsored by Grand Valley.

Hari Singh, professor of economics, and Paul Isely, professor and chairperson of economics, will give a presentation followed by a panel discussion on health care predictions for 2012.

West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast

Friday, January 6

7:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St.

The schedule for the event is as follows:

7:30 a.m.-8 a.m. Continental breakfast

8 a.m.-8:05 a.m. Welcome from GVSU Provost Gayle Davis

8:05 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Trends in West Michigan health care (Singh and Isely)

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Alliance for Health panel presentation on health care predictions for 2012

The event is also sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan.

For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/business. RSVP to Jason De Long at delongj@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2729.