

2015

GVSU Press Releases, 2015

Grand Valley State University

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For immediate release

December 22, 2014

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Sixth annual health forecast set for release by GVSU researchers

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Health care professionals and economics faculty members will present trends and predictions about the state of health among residents in the four-county West Michigan area at an annual summit in January.

Nearly 500 people are expected to attend the sixth annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast, set for Friday, January 9, at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St.

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Seidman College of Business Alumni Association and the Alliance for Health. It will begin with a breakfast at 7:30 a.m., presentations at 8 a.m.

It is free and open to the public; seating is limited. Register online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth. For more information, call (616) 331-5876.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said the annual health check forecast is intended to inform policies and community decisions about health care services, costs and delivery systems that would best suit the needs of residents.

The 2015 Health Check Report was led by Grand Valley economics professors Paul Isely and Sonia Dalmia, with colleagues Lesley Muller and Kevin Callison. Information for the data cost averages for the study were provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield and Priority Health. New to the report this year is a section on women's health. MEDIA NOTE: Interviews with Paul Isely can be arranged through University Communications, call (616) 331-2221.

A panel of experts will follow the Health Check Report and discuss West Michigan health care trends.

Panelists are Mike Faas, president of Metro Health; Dr. Karen Kennedy, Browning Claytor Center, Mercy Health Saint Mary's; Chris Priest, senior advisor to Gov. Rick Snyder; and Dr. Corey Waller, Center for Integrative Medicine, Spectrum Health.

For immediate release

December 23, 2014

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Film starring GVSU faculty offering additional screenings

MUSKEGON, Mich. — The West Michigan community is getting more opportunities to see a new feature film involving cast and crew members with ties to Grand Valley State University.

“Pilot Error,” inspired by the true story of a French jetliner missing in the Atlantic Ocean for nearly two years, stars Kate Thomsen, adjunct professor of theater at Grand Valley. Thomsen plays Nicola Wilson, a woman determined to find out how and why a jet on route from South America to Paris disappeared in the Atlantic, taking her close friend and more than 200 other passengers with it. As Nicola dives into the mystery, she puts her job, friends and livelihood at risk.

The following are additional screening times at Muskegon Harbor Cinema:

- **Wednesday, December 24 at 2 p.m.**
- **Friday, December 26 at 6:45 p.m.**
- **Saturday, December 27 at 6:45 p.m.**
- **Sunday, December 28 at 6:45 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 30 at 5:40 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, December 31 at 5:40 p.m.**
- **Thursday, January 1 at 5:40 p.m.**

Other members of the Grand Valley community were also involved in “Pilot Error,” including Shelley Irwin, host and producer of “The WGVS Morning Show with Shelley Irwin,” who plays a television reporter, and alumna Jacqui Bernhardt, ’14, who filled the roles of marketing director and extras coordinator.

“Pilot Error” filmed in various locations across Michigan, including Grand Valley’s Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute, and the cities of Saugatuck, Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Ann Arbor, Muskegon and Ypsilanti among others.

Based on five years of research and interviews with more than 100 pilots, producer Roger Rapoport’s script showcases the fate of pilots kept in the dark about failed automation. Rapoport said the goal of the film is to encourage more hands-on training for pilots as opposed to relying on automation.

For more information, contact Roger Rapoport at (231) 730-0930 or www.pilot-errormovie.com.

For immediate release
January 2, 2015
Contact: GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media-Grand Valley ranked by ETC for delivering value to students

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University was named “College of the Year” for 2014 by Educate To Career Inc.

The nonprofit organization is known for its suite of online, outcomes-based student college and career planning programs, including the ETC College Rankings Index.

Michael Havis, ETC president, said factors that go into selecting a College of the Year include an institution that delivers exceptional value to students, has a low student loan default rate and has graduates who secure jobs in their field of study.

For more about ETC, visit www.educatetocareer.org.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 25,000 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 86 undergraduate and 33 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For immediate release

January 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Registration open for annual G3 Camp

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Ever wonder how a zombie's brain works, how light can create art or how to make kid friendly snacks? These are just a few of the activities grandparents and their grandkids can experience by registering for the 2015 Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley (G3) Camp.

Hosted by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center, G3 Camp offers a fun and engaging opportunity for children ages 8-12 and their grandparents to attend hands-on classes while experiencing college life by living on the Allendale Campus for three days.

"The camp provides a great opportunity for generations to connect in a fun and educational environment," said Margo Dill, Regional Math and Science Center program director. "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."

Activities for this year's G3 Camp include, but are not limited to:

- Creating a zen-inspired garden.
- Exploring how light inspires art.
- Learning how sounds are created and how we hear them.
- Designing and building "Trash Bots" that will be tested on an obstacle course.
- Testing solar powered devices to learn how the sun impacts daily life.
- Stopping the villainous "Pete the Polluter" and his army of "Energy Suckers" from destroying the eco-friendly features of the Mary Idema Pew Library through a series of puzzles and clues.

During evening hours, campers can explore Grand Valley's campus and take advantage of activities in the Fieldhouse or Kirkhof Center where kids and their grandparents can swim, use the climbing wall, play basketball, bike, play pool or watch movies.

Registration is now open through April 30 and scholarships are available. For more information or to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/g3 or call the Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267.

For immediate release

January 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: "Animated Collaboration" can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X10fVUcrefY>.

ArtPrize animation with GVSU ties on display in Holland

HOLLAND, Mich. — With more than 1,000 entries spread across more than 170 venues in Grand Rapids, it can be challenging for ArtPrize entries to cut through the noise and gain attention during the annual art festival. Luckily for a collaborative project involving multiple Grand Valley faculty members and students, the group is getting another chance to showcase their work.

"Animated Collaboration," which was voted into the top 25 of the time-based art category at ArtPrize under the name "Animation Collaboration," will be on display through February 28 at the Holland Area Arts Council during the venue's fourth annual RePrize exhibit. RePrize features 17 pieces from 20 artists who entered their work in ArtPrize's 2014 installment.

Deanna Morse, animator and Grand Valley emerita professor of film and video said "Animated Collaboration" celebrates children's animation from around the world.

"It's an intergenerational collaboration between artists, educators, students and both local and international organizations," Morse said.

Along with Morse, Suzanne Zack, Grand Valley film and video professor; Maggie Annerino, Grand Valley media studies professor; Gretchen Vinnedge, Community Media Center (CMC) education director; and Lynn McKeown, CMC Education project coordinator, as well as multiple Grand Valley students, were also a part of the local team behind creating "Animated Collaboration." A new addition to the piece is a custom soundtrack produced by Dan Rickabus, '10, current drummer for the local indie-folk band The Crane Wives.

The video is a byproduct of 19 animation workshops held around the world each year by the Association International du film d'Animation (ASIFA) in 15 countries, including Belgium, China, Croatia, France, Japan and Ukraine. During these workshops young people build animations to a common theme. The short films are then compiled and premiered at international animation festivals.

The local ASIFA workshop, facilitated by Morse and Vinnedge, included students from Grand Rapids Public School's North Park Montessori, the Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth, Jubilee Jobs GR, Grand Valley and multiple CMC interns.

The Holland Area Arts Council is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

For more information about this piece, visit www.deanimations.com.

For immediate release

January 6, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Super Science Saturday celebrates International Year of Light

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Exploring the anatomy of glow sticks, laser light shows and tours of the solar system are just a handful of activities the West Michigan community is invited to experience at this year's Super Science Saturday.

In celebration of the International Year of Light, Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center and Physics Department are hosting "Super Science Saturday: The Wonder of Light," Saturday, January 24 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Seymour and Esther Padnos Hall of Science on the Allendale Campus.

This year's event will provide educational activities and opportunities for students and their families to experience light and how it applies to science, technology, history and art. Super Science Saturday will offer a diverse array of activities for people of all ages including:

- John Perlin, professor of physics at University of California, discussing his book, "Let It Shine: The 6,000 Year Story of Solar Energy."
- Exploring light as a communication method — from ancient signals to modern fiber optics.
- Learning about glow sticks, exploring glow-in-the-dark materials and how to write invisible messages.
- Creating drawings to reflect how we perceive light while learning how artists throughout history have created the illusion of light.
- Designing rainbow fish while learning about the color spectrum and color wheel.
- Taking to-scale walking tours of the solar system.

Super Science Saturday is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/rmsc or call the Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267.

For Immediate Release

January 6, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d8eiegjbdzaxapw/AABRKgNyvP_BzFARGIUPCecfa?dl=0

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow

Media-West Michigan economy slows

Current business trends: Seasonally slow growth

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy experienced seasonally slow growth in December, but is still growing modestly, according to 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 December.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, came in at +13, just slightly lower from +16 last month. The production index edged up to +19 from +12, and the employment index came in at +23, up from +16 last month.

"The main strength of the West Michigan economy continues to be automotive," said Long. "All of our auto parts producers have reported a good 2014, and some are cautiously optimistic about 2015. The office furniture business has also contributed to a strong 2014, and most firms finished December on a positive note. As some buyers scrambled to use up their 2014 budgets, several of the capital equipment firms reported a surge in the closing days of the year. For the industrial distributors, December is often a slower month, and this December was no exception."

Long said oil is now half the price it was in June. "There are a lot of reasons for this fall in price, but most of the drop is related to simple supply and demand," he said. "With the shale oil boom around the world, supply has crept up. At the same time, economic weakness in Europe, as well as in other industrial countries, has reduced the demand. Higher supply, followed by lower demand, results in lower prices. It just took a while for the world to add it all up."

Long said prices for some of the other major commodities have been falling as well. Copper and lead are now about 15 to 20 percent lower than they were about a year ago, and iron ore is now about a third of the price of four years ago. For the last six months, zinc and rice have been falling in price. Long said if too many smelters, mines, drilling rigs, and mining equipment manufacturers are shut down, the drag on the international economy can be severe.

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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For more Grand Valley news, visit www.gvsu.edu/gvnow or follow us on Twitter: @GV_Now.

EMBARGOED until 8 a.m. on Jan. 9, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU researchers: rising health care costs decrease advantage for area businesses

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Researchers at Grand Valley State University said health care costs in West Michigan have increased faster than other cities and may be eroding the competitive advantage the area once held for companies searching for low health care costs.

Economics professors Sonia Dalmia and Paul Isely released the 2015 Health Check Forecast during the sixth annual health care summit hosted by Grand Valley on January 9 at the Eberhard Center. The annual report identifies health-related trends and issues facing Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

Isely said hospital expenses in Grand Rapids have increase 108 percent over a 10-year period, 78 percent faster than comparison cities. He added the increase does not appear closely linked to length of stay, rate of hospital admissions, or changes in the demographics.

Isely, Dalmia and Seidman College of Business colleagues Kevin Callison and Leslie Muller used survey results and insurance data to analyze health care trends, health profession job outlook and demand, medical patents and medical costs for the four-county area.

Researchers also found that 17 percent of area residents are in poor or fair health. Other results are below:

- 20 percent of area residents smoke
- 19 percent binge drink
- 33 percent are obese
- 30 percent report no routine health exam within the last year

These lifestyle choices correlate with increases in health care costs, researchers said. They recommend decreasing costs with routine testing. For example, if all West Michigan residents who have diabetes received routine testing, it could potentially save the area \$32 million in medical costs.

The Health Check Forecast 2015 includes results of a survey about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on physician practices and a section about women's health.

- **Affordable Care Act:** Researchers found the ACA rollout and Medicaid expansion have not greatly changed physician practices except for reports of increased patient volumes, more administrative work, and difficulty finding referring physicians.
- **Women's Health:** Because women are typically the primary caregivers for children and elderly parents, the cost of treating women's health issues magnifies. Researchers found if maternal health is improved and the number of low birth weight babies reduced by 20 percent, West Michigan would save \$13.4 million annually.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said the report reveals possible challenges as the number of area residents over age 65 increases and a decrease in the number of residents ages 20-34 continues. “If this trend continues,” Nagelkerk said, “our community is likely to face an increasing number of chronic health problems, an increase in health care utilization and a limited labor pool.”

The full report will be available online January 9 at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth. It was made possible by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health.

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution image of Judge Smolenski is available for download and use via this DropBox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pku2qlme04qd66a/Judge%20Sara%20Smolenski%20%233.jpg?dl=0>

MEDIA-Judge Smolenski to share view of leadership from the bench

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University will host long-time District Judge Sara Smolenski as the first speaker of the center's 2015 Wheelhouse Talks Series.

Smolenski, a highly regarded community leader for her work both in and out of the courtroom, will speak about her view of leadership from the bench and beyond at her Wheelhouse Talk at 12:30 p.m. on January 14 at GVSU's L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Avenue, Grand Rapids. The event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested at HauensteinCenter.org.

"We are excited to have Judge Smolenski share her leadership perspectives with the community and with our future leaders in the Cook Leadership Academy," said Chadd Dowding, program manager at the Hauenstein Center. "The Cook Leadership Academy continues to receive great support from our community and university. The Wheelhouse Talks provide our student fellows and community mentors with a tremendous opportunity to join together, share visions of leadership, and support emerging leaders."

Smolenski, the Chief Judge of the 63rd District Court, is a strong advocate for education, prevention of violence against women, and community engagement. She has served the District Court since 1996.

For more information and to RSVP, visit HauensteinCenter.org.

For immediate release

January 8, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A sample of Wong-Ligda's work, titled "Detail of Passing Storm, Black Hills, South Dakota by Ed Wong-Ligda, oil on canvas, 2011" is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/N8>.

Exhibit marks retirement of Grand Valley art professor

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A special exhibition of paintings by Ed Wong-Ligda, professor and coordinator of illustration in the Art and Design Department at Grand Valley, will celebrate his retirement from the university.

"Veracity, Distortion, Reduction: Visual Explorations by Ed Wong-Ligda" debuts Thursday, January 15, with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. at the Grand Valley Art Gallery located in the Performing Arts Center, room 1121, on the Allendale Campus. The exhibit is free and open to the public, and runs through March 20.

The exhibit will feature 15 oil-on-canvas paintings created by Wong-Ligda during his time at Grand Valley. Wong-Ligda said visitors of his exhibit will follow the journeys of "multiple figure narratives" as well as "representations of solitary figures, figures with landscapes and invented landscapes based on 19th century artistic conventions."

While Wong-Ligda has been a professional painter since the early 1970s, he began his time with Grand Valley in 1996 after being hired to develop and coordinate the Art and Design Department's illustration emphasis. After two years of researching and writing the curriculum while teaching basic drawing and design courses, Wong-Ligda became the coordinator and primary instructor of illustration. He will retire in April.

"I don't think of not working at GVSU so much as retirement, but as a change of jobs, where my full-time work will be painting," Wong-Ligda said. "The rich mix of ideas, attitudes and opinions of faculty, staff and students has definitely influenced my work. The loss of those influences will certainly affect my painting, but how — I can't guess."

Wong-Ligda completed his undergraduate work in advertising design and illustration at Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and received a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from the University of Tulsa. As a professional design and illustrator, Wong-Ligda has worked with clients such as Benjamin Cummings, Cheshire Books, Dell Publishing and Van Nostrand Reinhold.

His works can be found in many private and public collections including the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Appalachian State University, State of Oregon, State of Missouri and Grand Valley State University.

For more information about the exhibit, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For more information about Wong-Ligda, visit www.edwong-ligda.com.

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communication, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Colliers Annual Economic and Real Estate Forecast

Grand Valley State economist will unveil findings

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University economics expert Paul Isely will release the findings of his annual survey of the regional economy, January 16. The 2015 Colliers West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast will be held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

The survey for the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November 2014. Isely, interim associate dean and 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. KC Conway, senior vice president of Credit Risk Management at Sun Trust Bank, will give an overview of the real estate forecast, both nationally and for the West Michigan market.

West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast

Friday, January 16

7:15 a.m. Continental breakfast

8 a.m. Program begins

9 a.m. Panel discussion

DeVos Place, 303 Monroe Ave, Grand Rapids

The event is free and open to the public; seating is limited and registration is required at www.gvsu.edu/seidman.

For more information, contact Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100.

For immediate release

January 8, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution image of Jocelyn Goldberg is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Nc>. Photo credit: Wieden+Kennedy.

GVSU alumna to share insider secrets for creating successful Super Bowl ads

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — What do Doritos ninjas, Clydesdale horses, talking frogs, cavemen, a miniature Darth Vader and Mean Joe Green have in common? They all have had their 30-60 seconds of fame as commercials during the Super Bowl.

Several studies have proven that 50 percent of the Super Bowl's more than 100 million viewers tune in to the big game just to watch the ads. That's a lot of pressure not to fumble a memorable commercial.

Grand Valley alumna, Jocelyn Goldberg, '10, is all-too-familiar with this pressure as a strategist with advertising agency Wieden+Kennedy, who has helped produce multiple Super Bowl commercials.

Goldberg will revisit her Grand Valley roots to present "Hashtags Don't Break for Halftime: Inside Coke's Social Media War Room" on **Friday, January 16, from 5:30-7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium located in the Richard M. DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.**

"My presentation will reveal all of the preparation and real-time efforts that happen behind-the-scenes during advertising's biggest event of the year: the Super Bowl," Goldberg said. "I would encourage people to attend if they have any interest in advertising, as it will expose much of the intricacies and realities that are often overlooked and have yet to be fully understood given today's ever-changing digitally-led landscape. I would also encourage people to attend if they would like to learn how to utilize real-time marketing for any business."

By "real-time efforts," Goldberg refers to the use of social media during large-scale events, like the Super Bowl, and how marketers are able to target their ads to a much smaller, more deliberate group of people for a lower price.

"Say your client wants to reach teens in Michigan. They could pay a hefty price to promote their ad on MTV, but there's no guarantee that every person who happens to be watching MTV the moment your ad is broadcast is a Michigan teenager. But, if they use paid social media, they can pay a much smaller price to promote their ad specifically to the 13-18 year olds that live in Michigan. More data, no risk, smaller price," Goldberg said.

With three Super Bowls under her belt working with Wieden+Kennedy's Coca-Cola account, Goldberg is currently working with Weight Watchers to produce their Super Bowl campaign this year.

Goldberg's presentation is being sponsored by Grand Valley's School of Communications and AAF West Michigan.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.aafwmi.org. Tickets: \$20 members; \$40 non-members; free for students.

For immediate release

January 9, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media advisory: Health Care Economic Forecast still on

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The sixth annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast will continue as scheduled Friday, January 9, at the Eberhard Center.

Health care professionals and economics faculty members will present trends and predictions about the state of health among residents in the four-county West Michigan area. It will begin with a breakfast at 7:30 a.m., presentations at 8 a.m.

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Seidman College of Business Alumni Association and the Alliance for Health.

The full report is available online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth. It was made possible by a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network, and Priority Health.

For immediate release

January 12, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Sample photos from this exhibit, as well as descriptions for each photo, are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Nq>. Photo credit: Megan Lendman.

GVSU alumna's photography exhibit showcases civilian life in China

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Imagine traveling across the world to be surrounded by 10,000 years of history, complete strangers and multiple language barriers. While this may seem like an intimidating adventure to some, Grand Valley alumna Megan Lendman embraced an international study abroad trip just like this and is now sharing her cultural experience with West Michigan through her pictures.

“China: The Life of the Civilian” is Lendman’s culmination of her photography major and Chinese language minor combined with her “sense of adventure, creativity and desire” to explore what it means to be human.

The honors senior project exhibition will be on display at the Grand Valley Art Gallery’s Blue Wall Gallery located in Building A of the Richard M. DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus through April 25.

“My photographs range from details, to portraits, to landscapes in order to give my viewers a full dynamic range to understand parts of the Chinese lifestyle,” Lendman said. “Each photograph represents a moment of culture and all are a valuable expression of my understanding of what Chinese culture consists of.”

Lendman said she was committed to finding a study abroad location where she could be fully immersed in the Chinese culture. She worked with the Padnos International Center to coordinate a trip to Kunming located in the southwest province of Yunman in China. Lendman was awarded the center’s Study Abroad Photography Scholarship to help fund her travels.

Lendman said her photograph “Old vs. New” showcases one of the strongest contrasts in the exhibit.

“‘Old vs. New’ depicts a gate built in the 14th century with a little boy sitting in a chair playing on an electronic device seemingly oblivious to the historic beauty surrounding him,” Lendman said. “With 10,000 years of history, this sort of modern and ancient juxtaposition happens on a daily basis in the lives of the Chinese.”

Lendman said she is eager to discover which cultural connections visitors make between Western and Eastern cultures through her exhibit.

“Western and Eastern trains of thought are considered to be almost like two sides of a coin – vastly different,” Lendman said. “Through this visual connection I am presenting, I believe my audience can learn about themselves and the world by identifying with the Chinese.”

For more information about Lendman’s exhibit, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For Immediate Release

January 13, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: The event is invitation only, but members of the media are welcome to cover the event. Cohen will not have media availability at this event. A high-resolution image of Secretary Cohen that is available for your use is available at the following Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/Ni>

MEDIA-Former Secretary of Defense Cohen to be awarded prestigious GVSU fellowship

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen will be presented with one of Grand Valley State University's highest honors following his presentation to the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan on January 19.

Cohen will be awarded the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship by Grand Valley President Thomas Haas and Hauenstein Center director Gleaves Whitney. The fellowship is one of the university's most prestigious awards, and is periodically awarded to a distinguished public servant whose achievements are consistent with the ethical leadership and public service of Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein, the namesake of the university's center for presidential studies.

The award has previously been given to Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and President Gerald R. Ford, posthumously.

"A Conversation with William Cohen" and Hauenstein Center presentation of the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship

Hosted by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan

Monday, January 19

Ambassador Ballroom, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids

11:30 a.m. networking, noon-1:45 p.m. program and presentation

Cohen served as the U.S. Secretary of Defense under President Bill Clinton from 1997-2001 as part of a 31-year career in public service. He currently serves as the principal in The Cohen Group, a consulting firm with corporate clients around the world. He serves as the chair of the Board of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations and has chaired and served on several other study groups and committees at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the School for Advanced International Studies and the Brookings Institute.

For more information, visit www.worldmichigan.org.

For immediate release

January 13, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution images of Aries Trio, Cooper, Hay, Van Lente Group, Todd Reynolds, Stanley Ritchie and Walter Verdehr are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/No>.

GVSU Arts at Noon series resumes with local jazz band

ALLENDALE, Mich. - The 37th season of Grand Valley State University's Arts at Noon series resumes Wednesday, January 14 at noon in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus with a performance by local jazz band, Cooper, Hay, Van Lente Group (CHV).

CHV, which formed in 2005, features Jim Cooper on vibes and marimba, Dave Hay on keyboards and Mike Van Lente on drums and percussion. The group boasts a history of creating lively versions of jazz standards and original compositions influenced by swing, fusion, Latin and world music rhythms.

This winter the West Michigan community can enjoy seven concerts ranging from the Grand Rapids Symphony to one of the founding fathers of the hybrid-musician movement, Todd Reynolds. **All Arts at Noon concerts take place on Wednesday at the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. The concerts are free and open to the public.**

Below is the full Arts at Noon winter lineup:

Cooper, Hay, Van Lente Group – January 14

Violinist Walter Verdehr – January 28

Grand Rapids Symphony – February 4

Grand Valley Winds – February 11

Aries Trio – March 11

Violinist Stanley Ritchie and the GVSU Early Music Ensemble – March 25

Todd Reynolds – April 1

For more information about the Arts at Noon series, visit www.gvsu.edu/music/arts-at-noon-197.htm or contact the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

For immediate release

January 14, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media Note: Photos of Fulton and Hill are available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Np>

National speakers, events highlight MLK Commemoration Week at Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. — National speakers and a day of service highlight activities at Grand Valley State University during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week, January 19-24.

Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, will speak at Grand Valley's Fieldhouse Arena at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 19. She will also speak that evening at Grand Rapids Community College, and on January 20 at Davenport University.

Since the 2012 shooting death of her son, a 17-year-old high school student, Fulton has dedicated her life to transforming family tragedy into social change. Fulton and Tracy Martin established the Trayvon Martin Foundation, to raise awareness of how violent crime impacts families of victims, and to support and advocate for those families.

MEDIA NOTE: Sybrina Fulton will speak to media members from 10-10:20 a.m. on Monday, January 19, at the DeVos Center, University Club room.

This marks the third year Grand Valley has not held classes on the King holiday, allowing more students, faculty and staff members to participate.

Other events on January 19 include a silent march and social justice sessions like crafting, panel discussions and lectures.

A second keynote speaker, Marc Lamont Hill, CNN contributor, author and activist, will give a presentation at the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus on Wednesday, January 21, 4:30 p.m. This event will be simulcast to the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, making it easier for Grand Rapids residents to participate.

Hill is a journalist who is frequently tapped by top news organizations for his views on everything from sexuality to politics to religion. He is a regular commentator for CNN, MSNBC and Fox News Channel. Hill also writes a column for the Philadelphia Daily News. Hill serves as distinguished professor of African American studies at Morehouse College.

About 200 Grand Valley students are expected to volunteer during the day of service, Saturday, January 24, at various sites in Grand Rapids.

For details, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk. Share photos, join the conversation and follow along with #GVSUMLK.

EMBARGOED until: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 8:15 a.m.

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-2221, barnesdo@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Paul Isely, as well as a copy of the economic forecast are available on Dropbox at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q3h8krsqdudctcs/AADqmckRUUnLmqnAgascITeoa?dl=0>

GVSU economist: Employment growth in 2014 a positive surprise

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Employment results in the West Michigan area for 2014 were much higher than anticipated, according to a Grand Valley State University economics expert.

Paul Isely, professor and associate dean of economics in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, revealed the findings of his benchmark survey of the regional economy at the Colliers Annual Economic and Real Estate Forecast January 16 at DeVos Place. The survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December 2014.

Isely said employment for the Grand Rapids metro area was up 3.8 percent in 2014, well above the 3.1 percent expectation, which was a positive surprise. He said employment is expected to grow by 2.8-3.2 percent in 2015.

"More than three quarters of respondents (78 percent) expect to hire in 2015, which is up from 69 percent last year," said Isely. "Of those persons being hired, about 80 percent are expected to be permanent workers. This suggests hiring in West Michigan will continue at a rate faster than the country as a whole."

Isely said organizations expect a 75 percent business confidence level for 2015, which is the highest reading since December 1999. "This is significant because when business leaders are confident, they hire and invest more," said Isely. "There has been a steady increase in business confidence since the low seen in 2008, and the West Michigan business leaders surveyed see this improvement continuing during 2015. West Michigan confidence is now back to levels seen during the 1990s. The regional economy is expected to continue to grow in 2015, but the rate of this increase is also expected to slow down."

Isely also said all of the major real estate markets in West Michigan are back above their 2000 prices. He also noted that Michigan's economy was led out of the recession of 2007-2009 by automotive manufacturing and this growth is now slowing and employment growth is shifting to services.

OVERALL FINDINGS FOR 2015:

- Employment expected to grow by 2.8-3.2%
- Sales expected to increase by 2.5-2.9%
- Export growth forecasted to be weaker than last year, with expected growth between 6.7-7.7%
- All indicators signal the 2015 economy continuing to grow as last year

For more information, contact Paul Isely at (616) 331-7418.

MEDIA ADVISORY

January 19, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU experts available for State of Union, State of State analysis

Several Grand Valley State University experts are available for comment before the January 20 State of the Union and State of the State addresses from President Obama and Governor Snyder.

Political Science:

Erika King, professor of political science, available to discuss general politics, congress and policy issues. (616) 245-1470.

Don Zinman, professor of political science, available to discuss elections, the office of the president. Available for in-studio interviews all day January 19 and 20. (616) 802-4007.

Roger Moiles, professor of political science, available to discuss either speech and general politics and policy. Available Tuesday 2:30-4 p.m. at (616) 331-3283, or via cell between 4-11 p.m. (except during the speeches) at (616) 994-9985. Also available Wednesday via cell (616) 994-9985 until noon and from 1-3 p.m. at (616) 331-3283.

Economics:

Paul Isely, professor and associate dean of economics in the Seidman College of Business, available to discuss economy and economic policy proposals. Email: iselyp@gvsu.edu, Office: (616) 331-7418 Cell: (616) 690-0902.

For other media requests, contact Nate Hoekstra or Dottie Barnes in GVSU University Communications, hoekstna@gvsu.edu or barnesdo@gvsu.edu, or (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release

January 20, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Mele will be available for media interviews from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, January 21. Please contact Nate Hoekstra to schedule. A high-resolution headshot of Mele is available for media use here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/NQ>

Does lack of belief in free will promote poor behavior and bad decision making?

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The concept of free will has long fueled a debate among philosophers, psychologists and theologians. A popular argument among neuroscientists and social psychologists that free will is not real, and that words and actions stem from unconscious predispositions and social conditioning.

But Alfred Mele, the Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University, claims that the popular case against free will actually leaves much room for doubt. Mele is a renowned philosopher noted for his leadership of the “Big Questions in Free Will” project, a four-year, \$4.4 million study undertaken at Florida State University with support from the John Templeton Foundation.

Alfred Mele presents Free: Why Science Hasn't Disproved Free Will

Thursday, January 22, 7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, Grand Valley State University

401 W. Fulton St.

Event is free and open to the public

[RSVPs requested here](#)

Hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies as part of the 2015 American Conversations Series, Mele will examine major experiments that free will deniers cite, and explain how they don't provide solid evidence. Mele will argue that conscious decisions play an important role in everyday life, especially in our political and moral decision-making, and further, that lack of belief in free will tends to promote poor behavior and bad decision-making.

“We at the Hauenstein Center are pleased to host Dr. Alfred Mele,” said Joe Hogan, program manager at the Hauenstein Center. “His groundbreaking work at the intersection of philosophy and neuroscience challenges the common argument that free will is illusory. Mele adroitly applies philosophical questions about free will to contemporary debates about political decision-making, and reveals the deep importance of each.”

This Hauenstein Center event is supported by the GVSU Department of Philosophy.

For more information and to RSVP to this event, visit <http://hauensteincenter.org>

For immediate release

January 21, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Samples of Wong-Ligda's work are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/NR>.

Retiring GVSU art professor to share artistic process

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A retiring art and design professor will discuss his artistic process in conjunction with an exhibit of his work commemorating his time at Grand Valley State University.

“An Artist’s Process: Ed Wong-Ligda on Creating His Work” will take place Wednesday, January 28 from 4-5 p.m. in the Art Gallery, room 1121, in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus.

Wong-Ligda’s professional painting career dates back to the early 1970s; he came to Grand Valley in 1996 when he was hired to develop and coordinate the Art and Design Department’s illustration emphasis. Two years later he became the coordinator and primary instructor of illustration.

Wong-Ligda’s presentation complements his current exhibit, “Veracity, Distortion, Reduction: Visual Explorations by Ed Wong-Ligda,” which is on display in the Art Gallery through March 20.

“The title reflects my planning process,” Wong-Ligda said. “Part of the process is determining what balance or relationship of veracity, distortion and reduction I want in each concept and image.”

The exhibit features 15 oil-on-canvas paintings Wong-Ligda created during his time at Grand Valley. He will retire as illustration coordinator in April.

Wong-Ligda completed his undergraduate work in advertising design and illustration at Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and received a MFA in painting from the University of Tulsa.

For more information about the exhibit or Wong-Ligda’s presentation, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.
For more information about Wong-Ligda, visit www.edwong-ligda.com.

For immediate release

January 22, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU exhibit explores persecution of homosexuals during Nazi regime

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Jewish population was the primary focus of Nazi persecution, but Roma (Gypsies), Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, Jehovah's Witnesses and those disabled during World War II were also targeted.

The story of what happened to another targeted population, homosexuals in Nazi Germany, is the subject of the traveling exhibit, "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945," which is on display in the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons on the Allendale Campus through February 18.

"The Holocaust was a catastrophe for humanity," said Rob Franciosi, professor of English who helped bring the exhibit to Grand Valley. "The more we learn about the fate of many groups under the Nazis, the more we can understand why the Holocaust, even 70 years later, remains relevant to our times."

The exhibition is free and open to the public. Various special programs and events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit. All of the events listed below take place in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room (LIB030):

- Jason Crouthamel, associate professor of history, presents "From Liberation to Persecution: Homosexuals in Weimer and Nazi Germany," from 4-5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29.
- Film festival featuring: "Paragraph 175" (February 2), "Bent" (February 3), "Out List" and "The Iron Closet" (February 4). All films show from 4-6 p.m. and will be followed by discussions with Grand Valley faculty.
- Author Lev Raphael presents, "Haunted by the Holocaust: A Reading and Lecture" from 3-4:15 p.m. Books by Raphael include, "Assault with a Deadly Lie," "My Germany," "Writing a Jewish Life: Memoirs," "Journeys & Arrivals: On Being Gay and Jewish" and "Coming Out of Shame."
- Ryan Bond, associate professor of modern languages and literatures, presents, "Connecting Past and Present: Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals and its Relevancy in 2015" from 1-3 p.m.

"Grand Valley has sponsored a host of co-curricular activities to complement our course offerings in Holocaust studies — lectures, readings, film series, even trips to Europe. We felt that the chance to share a national exhibition of this stature with Grand Valley and West Michigan would further extend those efforts," Franciosi said. "Additionally, the university's recent naming of the Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center made the focus of this United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibition especially appropriate."

This exhibit and related programs are supported in part by The Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment, which was established by Grand Valley in 1990 to fund lectures to promote the understanding of issues related to human freedom, including a special focus on the history and consequences of the Holocaust.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibitions program is supported in part by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund established in 1990.

For more information about this exhibit, visit www.gvsu.edu/holocausteducation.

For immediate release

January 26, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU-Symposium will focus on women and the environment

Registration open for women and environment symposium

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Environmental justice is the theme of the fourth annual Women and the Environment Symposium, set for February 25 at Grand Valley State University.

Organized by Grand Valley's Women Center and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, the symposium will include workshops and presentations on localizing food, healthy homes and family health, trust, inclusion and environment and climate resiliency.

Women and the Environment Symposium

Wednesday, February 25, 3-8 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The keynote speaker will be Nikki Silvestri, executive director of Green for All, an organization in Oakland, California, that works to build a more inclusive, healthy and sustainable economy. Silvestri served as executive director of People's Grocery in Oakland, where she led efforts to cultivate economic and environmental justice within the food sector. She has a master's degree in African American studies from UCLA. Watch her TEDxManhattan talk.

Registration and agenda information is at <http://wmeac.org/event/women-environment-symposium/>. Early bird pricing is \$45 for adults and \$20 for students.

For more information, contact Brittany Dernberger at (616) 331-2748 or dernbebr@gvsu.edu.

January 27, 2015

For Immediate Release

Contact: University Communications, Mary Eilleen Lyon, lyonme@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Jesse M. Bernal can be found on Dropbox at

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cl2tjnhmhov1otm/AAC_6EVrXJnhSgA_75PxliwYa?dl=0

Grand Valley State names new vice president for Inclusion and Equity

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas has named Jesse M. Bernal vice president for Inclusion and Equity. The announcement was made to the university community this afternoon.

“Dr. Bernal has the experience, talent and fresh thinking needed to enhance and expand Grand Valley’s commitment to diversity,” Haas said. “I look forward to having him on the Grand Valley senior management team for years to come. He has much to contribute to Grand Valley and to West Michigan.”

Bernal is director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at Santa Clara University in California, where he focuses on recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff and student body. Prior to joining SCU, Bernal coordinated system-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives in the Office of the President at the University of California. While a student at UC Santa Barbara, he was appointed a voting member of the Board of Regents of the University of California and served for two years. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Westmont College, and a master’s and a doctorate in education, both from UC Santa Barbara.

“I am honored to be asked to join Grand Valley and proudly accept President Haas’ invitation,” Bernal said. “Grand Valley is a leader for equity in public higher education. I look forward to partnering with all members of the campus community and our neighbors across West Michigan to build on the solid groundwork set by long-standing diversity champions. We all have a stake in this work, and together we will continue to advance our commitment to the inclusion and success of all our students and community members.”

The mission of the Inclusion and Equity Division is to provide a rich, inclusive, learning and working environment that attracts, retains and supports a diverse community of students, staff and faculty. The Inclusion and Equity Division at Grand Valley is committed to:

- Removing barriers to full participation;
- Creating and maintaining inclusive excellence;
- Developing intercultural competency;
- Advancing a campus climate of inclusion and equity;
- Building and engaging the community, and
- Advancing social justice.

Bernal expects to join the university in late February. He succeeds Jeanne Arnold, the university’s first vice president for Inclusion and Equity, who left the university in July 2014 after serving in the position for seven years. Wendy Wenner, a longtime Grand Valley dean and faculty member, is leading the division until Bernal takes over next month.

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Van Andel Global Trade Center celebrates 15 years

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center is celebrating 15 years of helping companies increase international business and become more competitive in the global marketplace. A ceremony will take place February 6, at L. William Seidman Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

VAGTC, an outreach center in the Seidman College of Business, offers international market research, consulting, import/export training and educational programs. The center has supported more than 6,800 businesses and 20,000 people through consulting projects. It has also provided more than 30 Grand Valley students the opportunity to receive hands-on experience conducting international market research and assisting with global projects. VAGTC has taken area businesses and Grand Valley faculty on trade missions to China, Canada, India and Brazil.

The center is named for Jay Van Andel, cofounder of Amway Corporation; the Jay and Betty Van Andel Foundation was a key financial contributor to the center.

VAGTC 15th Anniversary Celebration

February 6

3:30-6 p.m.

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave., Grand Rapids

In 1999, Van Andel Global Trade Center became the grantee-administrator for the Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign-Trade Zone. In 2005, the center received the Exporter of the Year award for outstanding contribution and commitment to international trade from the West Michigan World Trade Association, and became a City-State Partner of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, providing expertise and resources for businesses in need of financing options for international sales.

Van Andel Global Trade Center facts:

- 405 international events and trainings
- 6,843 businesses trained
- 205 VAGTC members
- 86 college classrooms visited to discuss international business opportunities
- 32 students employed at the center, gaining international experience

For more information, contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at (616) 331-6811.

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: High-resolution images of Millhiser and von Spakovsky are available for media use via this Dropbox link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/Oq>

Citizens United and unlimited spending: Is free speech really free?

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — According to a national campaign finance reform organization, the average political donation per person in the United States in the 2012 election cycle was less than \$10. But according to a New York Times report, in 2016, billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch and their vast political network are expected to spend nearly \$900 million, the same amount each of the parties are expected to spend on campaigns.

The disparity in political spending between average individuals and powerful super PACs, the extremely wealthy and nonprofit corporations that no longer have spending limits imposed by the government due to the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, is staggering.

The Citizens United ruling gave nonprofit corporations the same free speech rights as individuals, and raises important questions about whether or not corporations should have free speech and be allowed to dominate political spending, or if free speech for corporations should be limited to give average citizens a better chance to have their voice heard.

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University will host a Coffeehouse Debate between two experts on the matter on February 3. They will debate Citizens United and its implications on the role of money in politics and the nature of free speech in America.

Coffeehouse Debate: Is Citizens United Good for American Democracy?

Featuring Ian Millhiser, Center for American Progress; and Hans von Spakovsky, Heritage Foundation

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Free and open to the public

[RSVPs requested here](#)

"Few questions are as important to the lives of Americans as the meaning and purpose of the First Amendment, and we're looking forward to hearing a great debate on these critical issues," said Joe Hogan, program manager at the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. "The debate and discussion should pave the way for common ground."

The debate will be moderated by U.S. District Court Judge Hugh Brenneman, Jr.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For Immediate Release

January 29, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU helps students apply for college money

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — College-bound students and their families can get help applying for financial aid during College Goal Sunday, February 8.

Grand Valley State University is participating in the statewide initiative, aimed at increasing the number of students pursuing higher education. Students need to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by March 1.

Financial aid experts from Grand Valley will guide students through each step of completing the FAFSA, which 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. Students under 23 years of age are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. Parents and students should bring their completed 2014 Federal tax return (1040) if possible, or their W-2 and 1099 forms.

College Goal Sunday

February 8

2-4 p.m.

DeVos Center, Building A

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

Other items to bring include: PIN number, social security numbers, bank statements, investment information, untaxed income records and alien registration card (if applicable).

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

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU experts on Super Bowl ads

The National Retail Foundation estimates 43 million people across the country will host a Super Bowl party and will spend \$143 billion to do it.

Grand Valley State University experts can comment about Super Bowl Sunday — from advertising and marketing to economic impact and party food.

Tim Penning, associate professor of advertising and public relations

(616) 443-7690

penningt@gvsu.edu

Jennifer Pope, associate professor of marketing

(616) 334-7685

popeje@gvsu.edu

Paul Isely, professor of economics

(616) 690-0902

iselyp@gvsu.edu

Lisa Sisson, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management

(616) 331-8734

sissonl@gvsu.edu

Allison Adams, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management

(616) 331-3557

adamsa@gvsu.edu

For immediate release

January 30, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Opera Theatre presents "Company"

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students in Grand Valley State University's Opera Theatre are bringing an critically acclaimed, award-winning musical to the stage.

"Company" is one of Stephen Sondheim's most celebrated musicals. The show has been nominated for a record-setting 14 Tony Awards and has won six.

Unable to make a commitment to a long-term relationship, the musical's main character, Robert, spends his 35th birthday surprise party getting love advice from his five married couple friends. All the while, Robert is trying to stay afloat juggling three girlfriends. Despite the plethora of advice from his friends, Robert finally realizes he wants to meet someone with whom he can face the challenge of "being alive."

Below is the full schedule of "Company" performances. All performances will take place in the Louis Armstrong Theatre located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus.

- **January 30, 31, and February 6, 7 at 7:30 p.m.**
- **February 1 and 8 at 2 p.m.**

Tickets: adults \$14; alumni, seniors, faculty and staff \$12; students and groups \$6. Tickets purchased at the door are an additional \$1.

To purchase tickets, call the Louis Armstrong Theatre box office at (616) 331-2300 or online via Startickets at startickets.com/events/item/company.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/theatre.

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

State superintendent shares vision at GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — State Superintendent Mike Flanagan will share his vision for the future of education during a panel discussion, sponsored by Grand Valley State University's College of Education.

"The State of Education in Michigan," featuring three area school superintendents, will take place February 10, on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is part of the College of Education's 50th Anniversary Golden Lecture Series.

The panelists include superintendents Teresa Weatherall Neal from Grand Rapids Public Schools, Nick Ceglarek from Hudsonville Public Schools and Dirk Weeldreyer from Fennville Public Schools. They will discuss their challenges and hopes for education. The panel discussion will be followed by a presentation from Flanagan.

The State of Education in Michigan

February 10

5:30-6:30 p.m. Reception

6:30-7:15 p.m. Panel Discussion

7:15-8 p.m. Flanagan presentation

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

For more information, contact Ann Homrich in the College of Education at (616) 331-6290. Visit www.gvsu.edu/coe/50th/ for information on more events.

For immediate release

February 2, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of BRCAn't Stop Me members and Smith are available via this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/Ow>

GVSU student establishes group to raise awareness of hereditary cancers

-- Student organization is first of its kind in Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Most people don't associate cancer with college-age students, but a group of Grand Valley State University students is hoping to raise awareness and support for students who are at risk of developing hereditary cancers.

"BRCAn't Stop Me" is a new student organization dedicated to spreading the word about hereditary cancers and the importance of getting tested. It's the first organization of its kind on a Michigan college campus.

BRCA 1 and BRCA 2, or breast cancer genes 1 and 2, are the most well-known genes linked to breast cancer risk. BRCA gene mutations can be passed to children from either parent and can affect the risk of developing other cancers in women and men.

"People don't talk about breast cancer in their 20s. We like to talk about it at a younger age so we can be proactive," said Mollie Smith, founder of BRCAn't Stop Me.

While everyone carries the BRCA gene, women with the gene mutation, like Smith, are 60 to 80 percent more likely to develop breast cancer than the average person.

When Smith, a senior from Milford, came to Grand Valley, she said she felt alone so she began researching resources then started the student organization. "I formed this organization to meet and connect with people and gain a support system, as well as raise awareness of this gene mutation," Smith said.

Bailee Orman, a senior from Climax, is the organization's risk management officer.

"I knew it was important for me to get tested in order to take the necessary steps for early detection and prevention of hereditary cancers," Orman said.

BRCAn't Stop Me will host a Genetic Counselor Seminar on February 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2266. Two counselors from Spectrum Health will give a presentation on who should be tested, how to get tested, what BRCA is, and preventative measures one can take.

For more information about BRCAn't Stop Me, click [here](#).

For immediate release

February 2, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley March 2015 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Grand Valley Writers Series

The Grand Valley State University 2014-15 Writers Series is underway with a line-up of local and international writers visiting the Allendale Campus. All events are free and open to the public.

Samuel Park

Thursday, March 12, 6-7:30 p.m. Cook-DeWitt Center

Craft Talk: 4-5:15 p.m., Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

Samuel Park, associate professor of English and creative writing at Columbia College Chicago, is the author of "This Burns My Heart," chosen as "Best Book of the Year" by Kirkus Reviews, Amazon, NPR.org and BookPage. He is also the author of "Shakespeare's Sonnets," adapted into a short film that he wrote and directed. His scholarly articles and reviews have appeared in the journals *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *Theatre Journal* and *Black Camera*.

Arts at Noon Series

The 37th season of Grand Valley State University Arts at Noon series features seven concerts ranging from the Grand Rapids Symphony to one of the founding fathers of the hybrid-musician movement, Todd Reynolds. **All concerts take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. They are free and open to the public.** For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

Aries Trio – Wednesday, March 11

The Aries Trio features Richard Stoelzel, Grand Valley professor of trumpet, with violinist Megan Crawford and pianist Sheryl Iott. The ensemble's unique instrumentation has caught the attention of world-class composers. The Aries Trio has quickly established itself in the music world with its high standards and virtuosity.

Violinist Stanley Ritchie and the GVSU Early Music Ensemble – Wednesday, March 25

Stanley Ritchie, professor of violin and early music at Indiana University, performs with the GVSU Early Music Ensemble, under the direction of Pablo Manhave-Veglia, associate professor of music at Grand Valley. Ritchie has directed and appeared as a soloist with many period instrument ensembles, including The Academy of Ancient Music, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik and the Handel, and Haydn Society Orchestra.

Music and Dance Department

Artist-Faculty Series: Pablo Manhave-Veglia, cello

Monday, March 23, 7:30– 9 p.m.

Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Centers, Allendale Campus

This is the final concert in a series of three performances featuring cellist Pablo Manhave-Veglia

performing the Beethoven Cello Sonatas. This concert will feature the complete cello sonatas by Beethoven. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call (616) 331-3484.

Theater Department

Theater at Grand Valley presents "Restoration Comedy"

March 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m.

March 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Based on comedies of the late 1600s, Loveless, an insatiable womanizer, returns to England after squandering his own fortune. Now he intends to spend his wife's fortune after he hears she has died. But, when Amanda learns that her husband is alive, she begins plotting. With the help of her husband's friend, Worthy, she pretends she is a lascivious mistress and tempts her husband. While the two repair their broken marital bonds, Amanda breaks Worthy's heart in the process. Following typical restoration comedies, the "Restoration Comedy" characters all chase the joys of love and debauchery. Tickets: adults \$12; alumni, seniors, faculty and staff \$10; students and groups \$6. For more information, call the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

Grand Valley State University Art Gallery

New Music Ensemble Composition Competition

Thursday, March 12, 7-9 p.m.

101 L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Grand Valley music composition students will create adventurous, one-minute compositions inspired by the Art Gallery 2014 ArtPrize installation, "River Tattoo." These compositions will be played by the New Music Ensemble in rapid succession and judged by a guest panel and the listening audience for cash prizes. Featured guests are artist and creator of "River Tattoo," Jim Cogswell. Cogswell will give opening remarks and a specially commissioned work by composer Paul Steinberg will be premiered.

"Veracity, Distortion, Reduction: Recent Works by Ed Wong-Ligda"

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 15, 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition Dates: January 15 – March 20, 2015

GVSU Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, room 112, Allendale Campus

This exhibition of recent works marks the retirement of Ed Wong-Ligda, professor and coordinator of illustration of art and design at Grand Valley. Wong-Ligda completed his undergraduate work in advertising design and illustration at Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. He has a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Tulsa. Among his clients as a designer and illustrator are Benjamin Cummings, Cheshire Books, Dell Publishing and Van Nostrand Reinhold. Wong-Ligda's works are in many private and public collections including the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Appalachian State University, the State of Oregon, the State of Missouri and Grand Valley State University.

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

GVSU launches sustainable food systems certificate

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A new program at Grand Valley State University will provide an opportunity for students and community members to engage in interdisciplinary learning about sustainable food systems.

The 15-credit Sustainable Food Systems Certificate launched this winter in response to growing interest from students and the community to learn about local food systems and sustainable agriculture practices.

“You can see this increasing interest in new restaurants that serve locally grown produce, the construction of the Grand Rapids Downtown Market and the popularity of farmers markets,” said Kelly Parker, director of Environmental Studies and professor of philosophy.

Parker said the program was also created because of a need for a hands-on way to learn about sustainable food systems in an academic setting. He hopes the certificate appeals to the area food community, such as community gardeners, local farmers and food enthusiasts.

The program includes courses such as plant biotechnology, international food and culture, the science of soil, and sociology and food. Many projects and classes will take place at the [Grand Valley Sustainable Agriculture Project](#), a farming space in Allendale that includes gardens, hoopouses and a community supported agriculture share program (CSA).

The growth of the environmental studies minor at Grand Valley and a “green movement” on campus also encouraged Parker and Jim Penn, associate professor of geography, to pursue the creation of the certificate.

“How food is produced both locally and globally is an important topic to students and the community,” said Penn.

For more information, contact Kelly Parker at (616) 331-3257 or parkerk@gvsu.edu, or Jim Penn at pennji@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8522.

For Immediate Release

February 3, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU conference features expert on ageism

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The first woman to have four books on the *New York Times* best-seller list will be the keynote speaker at the 10th annual Art & Science of Aging Conference at Grand Valley State University. The theme of the February 13 conference is “Life Balance: Keep Moving Forward in the Third Age.”

Keynote speaker Ashton Applewhite has been writing about aging and ageism since 2007 in her blog “This Chair Rocks.” The *New York Times* calls her “a fresh voice in age studies.” She is a Knight Fellow, a *New York Times* Fellow and a Columbia Journalism School Age Boom Fellow.

Applewhite’s speech, “This Chair Rocks: How Ageism Warps our View of Long Life,” will take place from 9-10:30 a.m. in Loosemore Auditorium on Grand Valley’s Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The conference includes 18 workshops on a wide range of topics including health care, retirement, healthy eating, exercise and pain management, and a closing session featuring the Life Reimagined program from AARP. A complete conference schedule can be found at www.gvsu.edu/gerontology. Registration is open.

Life Balance: Keep Moving Forward in the Third Age

February 13

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

DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

As part of the conference, Grand Valley students will present their research on aging in a poster format, which will allow attendees to engage the students in discussions of their research.

The conference is sponsored by Grand Valley’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing, as well as several community organizations including BeaconHill, Covenant Village of the Great Lakes, Geriatric Education Center of Michigan and Mercy Health.

For more information and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/gerontology or contact Priscilla Kimboko, professor of gerontology and health care management, at (616) 331-6641 or geroconference@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

February 3, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU baton twirler teaching twirlers of tomorrow for charity

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley's third-generation baton twirler, Moriah Muscaro, can normally be seen on the football field or marching side-by-side with the Laker Marching Band, but this weekend she will be teaching the next generation of twirlers, all to support a good cause.

Muscaro will hold the third annual GVSU Twirler for a Day event on Saturday, February 7, where young girls ages 3-16 will visit the Allendale Campus to learn a simple routine. That evening during halftime at the Grand Valley men's basketball game against Michigan Tech the girls will perform their routine.

"I think this is an important event because it gives girls of the community a chance not only to perform at a collegiate athletic event for hundreds of people, but also a chance to raise money for a worthy cause," Muscaro said.

All of the proceeds from Saturday's game will benefit Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

"I'm hopeful the girls walk away from here having experienced the thrill of performing and the awareness of doing something for those less fortunate," Muscaro said.

Muscaro is a biomedical sciences major who will be graduating in April. After twirling for her four years at Grand Valley, Muscaro's final performances will take place on February 21 during the men and women's basketball games against Hillsdale.

From there, Muscaro will travel to Italy in April to represent Grand Valley at the World Baton Twirling Championships.

For more information about Grand Valley men and women's basketball, visit www.gvsulakers.com.

For Immediate Release

February 3, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE

A vehicle designed and built by students from Grand Valley State University will be showcased at the Michigan International Auto Show in Grand Rapids, February 5-8. Students from the Society of Automotive Engineers Chapter annually compete with area colleges and universities during the SAE International Collegiate Design Series, which challenges students all over the world to design, build and drive the most innovative vehicles.

For more information about Grand Valley's SAE chapter, contact team captain Bert Vosseler at vosselera@mail.gvsu.edu.

GVSU experts available during Michigan International Auto Show

-- Engineering students to showcase vehicle they designed and built

Paul Isely, professor of economics, can comment on the impact and future of the automotive industry in Michigan. He can be reached at iselyp@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7418.

Charlie Standridge, professor and associate dean of the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, is leading efforts in a national study to recycle and repurpose battery systems from vehicles. He can be reached at standric@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6260.

Bogdan Adamczyk, associate professor of electrical engineering, led the development of Grand Valley's course on battery systems for electric/hybrid vehicles and can comment on the technical details of battery systems for electric vehicles. He can be reached at adamczyb@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7286.

Lindsay Corneal, assistant professor of engineering, developed Grand Valley's energy storage materials course and can comment on advanced energy storage materials for lithium-ion batteries. She can be reached at corneall@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6502.

For Immediate Release

February 5, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138

Grand Rapids mayoral candidate Rosalynn Bliss to speak at Wheelhouse Talk

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Rosalynn Bliss, a current city commissioner and mayoral candidate in the City of Grand Rapids, will speak about leadership and her work representing constituents at the next Wheelhouse Talk, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

Bliss, who has served as the commissioner for the city's second ward since 2005, has a reputation for fiercely representing her constituents and serving as an advocate for homeless youth. She is a community leader and has been recognized as one of the Grand Rapids Business Journal's "40 under Forty" for her local and statewide leadership in child welfare and community outreach efforts.

Wheelhouse Talk: Rosalynn Bliss

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

12:30-1:30 p.m.

L. William Seidman Center, Forum Room

50 Front Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Free and open to the public

The Wheelhouse Talks is an annual series that brings together thought leaders, entrepreneurs and civil servants for the purpose of sharing stories of leadership and experience with students and the general public.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For Immediate Release

February 5, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aiisikpqaj1qe3/AADvYqo89sPiwQWgAuq9Yb98a?dl=0>

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.

GVSU-Economy continues modest growth

--Current business trends: modest growth continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The greater Grand Rapids industrial economy experienced modest growth in January, according to 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 January.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, was unchanged at +13. The production index remained positive but retreated to +13 from +19. In a similar move, the employment index eased to +19 from +13 last month.

"Although numbers remain positive, many of our local industrial groups reported mixed results for January," said Long. "The automotive parts producers continue to do well, although a couple of firms have reported that some segments of their business have flattened out or declined. Some segments of the office furniture business have also turned mixed, partially because of the rush toward the end of the year to use up budgets which shifted sales to December from January. However, Mike Dunlap's January Furniture Industry Index came in at the second best level since July of 2007."

The national unemployment rate is 5.6 percent and the unemployment rate in Michigan is 6.3 percent. Long said there has been steady improvement in the West Michigan unemployment numbers.

"The Kent County jobless rate fell to 3.4 percent, the lowest it has been in 17 years," he said. "In Kalamazoo County, the rate of 3.9 percent unemployment was last seen in July 2002. Ottawa County came in at 3.6 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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

February 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

“Reasons to be Pretty” set for GVSU Performance Studio Series

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Grand Valley’s Performance Studio Series will spotlight the human tendency to be consumed by physical appearance during the group’s performance of “Reasons to be Pretty.”

The series allows upper-level theater students to put into practical use the skills they learn in the class through directing, lighting, set design and costume design. For more information, visit

<http://gvsu.edu/s/Jo>.

Below is a full schedule of performances for “Reasons to be Pretty”:

February 13 at 7:30 p.m.

February 14 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

February 15 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The events in “Reasons to be Pretty” begin from a subtle remark of being “regular” and in a downward spiral of events, both comedic and serious, the featured couples’ relationships find themselves at various breaking points.

Cody Robison, student director for “Reasons to be Pretty,” said the trials and tribulations of love are only a few themes presented during the show.

“I also feel bullying and emotional abuse are touched on in the script,” Robison said. “The playwright, Neil LaBute, during his childhood suffered from abuse and he sources that in most, if not all, of his work. The characters all in some form suffer some sort of abuse and I don’t believe that it is a stretch to say that each character is allegorical in nature in the abuse they represent.”

Robison said attending these performances will provide an opportunity for audience members to absorb an important cultural message that he feels college students especially can relate to.

“Physical appearance has become an unavoidable ideal,” Robison said. “The media inflates the issue severely and we as individuals act on it. Coming to see this play will provide an outside perspective on the topic and ideally grant some insight on how individuals are affected by the silly ploys we issue to each other.”

Tickets for “Reasons to be Pretty” are \$6 and can be purchased at the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office or by calling (616) 331-2300.

For immediate release

February 6, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Documentary screening at GVSU explores Holocaust in France and Serbia

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A special screening of a two-part documentary exploring rare historical information about the Holocaust in France and Serbia will take place February 12 from 5-7:30 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium located in the Richard M. DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus of Grand Valley State University.

“Frozen Time, Liquid Memories: 1942-2012,” directed by Dragan Kujundžić, professor of Jewish, Germanic and Slavic studies at University of Florida, reflects on the 70 years since the two round-ups of members of the Jewish faith in 1942 – one in Novi Sad (today, Serbia) and the other in Paris.

The archival footage includes the last interview with Pavle Šosberger, the foremost historian of the Novi Sad Racija – a series of raids by Hungarian troops against civilians in regions of Serbia in 1942, after the Axis invasion and partition of Yugoslavia. The documentary also explores the deportation of children during these events.

“This screening is very interesting because it conveys new and personal information on the Holocaust both in France and Serbia,” said Isabelle Cata, professor of French in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Grand Valley. “This documentary combines history, philosophical questioning and information about the value of archiving and remembering.”

Following the screening, Kujundžić will facilitate a discussion about the documentary. The screening is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Isabelle Cata at catai@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

February 9, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution photo of Owen is available via this Dropbox link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OJ>

GVSU names new director of Traverse City center

TRAVERSE CITY — Shannon Owen was named director of the Grand Valley's Traverse City Regional Center. She joined the regional center staff in late January.

Simone Jonaitis, executive director of the Center for Adult and Continuing Studies, said Owen brings with her a wealth of experience.

Owen had served as manager of Northern Michigan Programs for Eastern Michigan University, and as academic and career advisor for Northwestern Michigan College. Her job at EMU was housed at NMC's University Center, where students from eight universities take classes.

"I saw this role as a way to keep me connected to the University Center and it was a good time for me to take all the information I learned at NMC and use it in this position for Grand Valley," she said.

In her new role, Owen will oversee programs and look for opportunities for new community connections.

Owen is a member of Traverse City Young Professionals and said she enjoys volunteering in the community and enjoying the area's winter resources.

For immediate release

February 11, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution photo of Doyle is available here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/PB>

Domino's executive to give leadership presentation at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The president and CEO of Domino's will give a presentation as part of the Frederik Meijer Lecture series at Grand Valley State University.

In a conversation moderated by WGVU's Shelley Irwin, Patrick Doyle will share his story, achievements and insights on the value of a liberal arts education to business and leadership.

Doyle's presentation is set for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, at the DeVos Center, 401 W. Fulton St., in Loosemore Auditorium. It is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested online at www.gvsu.edu/honor.

Patrick Doyle joined Domino's in 1997 as senior vice president of marketing. He was named president and CEO in 2010. A year later, Doyle was named CNBC's "Best CEO of the Year," recognizing Domino's success at reformulating its pizza recipe and reinvigorating the 50-year-old brand.

Jeff Chamberlain, director of the Meijer Honors College, said Doyle is an excellent example for students of a business leader who has very significantly shaped his profession and his life.

The Frederik Meijer Lecture Series was established with a gift from the Meijer Foundation to provide local and national presentations that focus on issues of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship from the perspective of students, faculty members and participants in business throughout the region.

For immediate release

February 12, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU ranked as top producer for faculty, student Fulbright recipients

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University was ranked second nationally for the number of faculty members who are Fulbright Scholars and within the top 15 for number of U.S. Fulbright students.

The Chronicle of Higher Education released a list February 12 of colleges and universities that produce the most Fulbright Scholars.

Grand Valley was tied for second among master's degree institutions for faculty Fulbright Scholars.

During the 2014-2015 year, three faculty members earned awards to teach and conduct research abroad.

They are Charles Baker-Clark, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management, Montenegro; Russ Rhoads, associate professor of anthropology, Sierra Leone; and Jerry Scripps, assistant professor of computing and information systems, Austria.

Grand Valley tied for 12th place among master's institutions for student Fulbright Scholars, with four student recipients. They are Lydia Benkert, research grant, Ghana; Anne Gioncondini, English Teaching Assistantship, Ukraine; Erin Lutenski, English Teaching Assistantship, Germany; Hayley Pangle, English Teaching Assistantship, Azerbaijan.

It's the first time Grand Valley has been ranked on the U.S. Fulbright student list.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer for Grand Valley, said being ranked among the top universities for Fulbright opportunities shows the university's commitment to global learning.

"Furthermore, it is evidence of the high quality of Grand Valley faculty," Schaub said. "They compete nationally for these prestigious awards, with regular success. Each award represents three levels of peer review."

The Fulbright program is a prestigious and competitive program, and is the flagship of the U.S. government's programs in international educational exchange. The program offers a variety of individual and institutional grants which are awarded on the basis of merit and allow individuals to study, teach, lecture, and conduct research in other countries. Grand Valley Faculty Fulbright Scholars are administered through the Padnos International Center.

The U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship competition is administered at Grand Valley through the Frederik Meijer Office of Fellowships. For more information on the award and other competitive academic awards, visit gvsu.edu/fellowships.

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Sprout Lab promotes agricultural entrepreneurs

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — In an effort to increase the exploration of innovative ideas and the development of new tools, Grand Valley State University is sponsoring Sprout Lab. Sprout Lab is designed to help participants explore the commercial potential of a solution to a problem in agriculture or natural resources, or any marketable idea suited to Michigan's Great Lakes economy. Residents from all backgrounds are encouraged to participate; no formal training in business is required.

Sprout Lab, sponsored by Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, will offer two-day ideation boot camps in several locations. The Ideation Boot Camp is focused on scalable ideas and high-value concepts in the agriculture, natural resource, renewable energy or tourism industries.

Boot Camps will be held:

- March 19 and 20 in Traverse City
- March 26 and 27 in Escanaba
- April 1 and 2 in Newaygo

Visit www.sproutlab.org for location and details on each camp

"As we review patents and the creation of intellectual property in Michigan, the agricultural sector lags behind other sectors, despite it representing \$100 billion in the state's economy," said Julie Cowie, program manager for Sprout Lab. "This project seeks out innovators and promotes the exploration of commercialization opportunities. We are partnering with regional colleges and universities to reach students and community residents who are innovators, and who may have entrepreneurial aspirations."

The registration fee is \$149 per person or \$300 for teams of three. Students pay \$25. Register online for any Boot Camp location at www.sproutlab.org.

For more information, contact Julie Cowie at julie@SproutLab.org or (616) 331-7248 or (269) 214-1227.

For immediate release

February 16, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU faculty and students to explore steamboat shipwrecks in Reeds Lake

EAST GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Following a cancelled dive due to questionable weather in 2014, a group of Grand Valley State University faculty and students will explore the depths of Reeds Lake in East Grand Rapids on Friday, February 20, beginning at 10 a.m. in hopes of finding the remains of sunken steamboats, *S.S. Hazel A.* and *S.S. Ramona*.

The shipwrecks are two of three confirmed in Reeds Lake. In the event of unfavorable weather, the team members will conduct their dive on Friday, February 27.

Mark Schwartz, associate professor of anthropology; Mark Gleason, assistant professor of tourism and hospitality management; Matthew Daley, associate professor of history; David Cummins from the Marine Technology Program at Alpena Community College; and Mary Dersch from the East Grand Rapids History Room are conducting the collaborative project, funded by Grand Valley's Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

"Our purpose is to document the wrecks with digital photos, video and sonar," said Schwartz. "We want to document these wrecks and learn more about the naval architecture that went into a steamboat designed for tourism versus a steamboat designed for trade."

Schwartz said the survey team will launch and guide a sonar unit and a small remotely operated vehicle (ROV) from a boat on the water's surface down to the wrecks off shore of Collins Park. The ROV is equipped with imaging sonar that will allow the team to get an acoustic picture of the vessel even if the water visibility is poor.

According to the East Grand Rapids History Room, regularly scheduled rides on excursion steamboats on Reeds Lake began in 1882 when Captain John Poisson came to live in West Michigan. Poisson originally from Three Rivers, Quebec in Canada, came to Grand Rapids for a job as a tailor and owned his own shop. When his failing eyesight forced him to give up this profession, he purchased the *S.S. Florence* and became part of the history of East Grand Rapids.

Continuing the family's legacy, Poisson's son, Charles, and grandson, William, followed in his footsteps as boat livery and steamboat owners and captains on the lake. *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* has even noted that Charles Poisson holds the record for going around the world the equivalent of 20 times during his trips around Reeds Lake on the steamers.

The 100-foot *S.S. Hazel A.* was originally built and owned by Captain Michael McCarthy, who was the primary competition to the Poisson family for docking space on the lake. After sinking in 1901 due to a small leak, Poisson bought and restored the ship to working order in 1905. As fate would have it, the *S.S. Hazel A.* was buried at sea again in 1923 when the engine was removed for use in a newer boat. One day a strong wind blew it out into the lake where it sank. Its hull is now located straight out from the boat launch on Reeds Lake.

Local shipwreck divers John Fuger and David Mohr, along with William Poisson's son, Andy, will also participate in the survey work.

The dive will also confirm the supposed location of the *S.S. Ramona*, which was burned to the waterline and sunk in 1956, not far from the *Hazel A*.

For more information about the survey, contact Mark Schwartz at (616) 331-8518 or schwamar@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

February 17, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media opportunity: Girl Scouts explore nursing careers at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 200 Girl Scouts from West Michigan will explore careers in nursing and learn about the profession during an event hosted by Grand Valley State University students on Saturday, February 21.

The event will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St. NE. Media members are welcome to attend. Two sessions are scheduled: 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

Kelsey Hautau, a Grand Valley nursing student, is a member of the Kirkhof College of Nursing's Student Nurses' Association. Hautau said the Girl Scouts will rotate through five different stations during the event.

Hautau said the scouts will have opportunities to use equipment, and play games. Grand Valley's Simulation Team will demonstrate the teaching manikins.

Questions about the event can be directed to Hautau at btndirector.gvsusna@gmail.com.

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communication, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU graduate program named a "Best Online Program"

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's online graduate education program has been named as a "2015 Best Online Program" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The online program, a master's degree in educational technology through the College of Education, began in 2011 and was developed by tenured faculty members. The program is also offered as a hybrid (online and face-to-face instruction).

In a recent survey of graduates in the online program, 86-percent said they were extremely or moderately satisfied with their experience and 77-percent said they would recommend the program to colleagues.

For more about Grand Valley's ranking, visit www.usnews.com/education/online-education/.

For more information about graduate education programs, visit www.gvsu.edu/admissions/graduate or contact Jeff Potteiger, dean of Graduate Studies at Grand Valley State, at (616) 331-7105.

For immediate release

February 18, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Medical ethics expert to give presentation at GVSU

-- Lecture is part of Community Reading Project

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — As part of the Community Reading Project at Grand Valley State University, a medical ethics expert will give a presentation on health care delivery during a crisis or disaster.

Joseph J. Fins is the professor of medical ethics and chief of the division of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. His presentation, "Health Care Delivery: Whither Professionalism When Disaster Strikes?" is set for Monday, February 23, at 6 p.m. at the L. William Seidman Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The CRP selection for this year is "Five Days at Memorial" by Sheri Fink. The bestseller recounts the period after Hurricane Katrina in a New Orleans hospital.

Brian Jbara, director of Integrative Learning and Advising, said Fins will discuss the role of health care providers when man-made or natural disasters strike.

Fins is the author of more than 250 publications. His most recent book is "A Palliative Ethic of Care: Clinical Wisdom at Life's End." Fins is also an attending physician and director of medical ethics at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center, and serves on the adjunct faculty of Rockefeller University, where he is a senior attending physician at Rockefeller University Hospital.

Co-sponsors with the Office of Integrative Learning and Advising for the event are Koeze Business Ethics Initiative, Kirkhof College of Nursing, and Priority Health.

Fink will visit the Grand Valley campus and Herrick District Library in Holland March 24-25 for presentations on her book. Visit www.gvsu.edu/read for more information.

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and video bites and b-roll of Lylah using the device can be found at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/Q8>

GVSU students build mobile device for child with spinal muscular atrophy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students has created a device that allows a child with type I spinal muscular atrophy to move and be independent. SMA is a genetic muscle disorder that causes extreme weakness and affects 1 in 6,000 births.

The Play and Mobility Device was designed and built to give 16-month-old Lylah Gritter the ability to become mobile by controlling a joystick attached to a device she sits in. Lylah's mother, Holly Gritter, said her daughter is gaining an independence that she's never had before.

"She was terrified of the device at first because she's never been able to control anything," Holly said, "but you could see it quickly clicking with her and she realized she has this freedom."

The project is funded through a five-year, \$180,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for students and faculty members to create specialized devices for people with disabilities.

"Lylah is very verbal and smart, but has no ability to move herself," said Lisa Kenyon, associate professor of physical therapy, who, along with a group of students majoring in physical therapy, is working with Lylah to use the device.

Kenyon said the ultimate goal is to help Lylah become qualified to get a power wheelchair, which can start at \$10,000. Insurance companies require proof that individuals can drive a wheelchair and the Play and Mobility Device is helping Lylah and her family gather proof that she can control a device of her own.

The creators are engineering students Brandon Johnson, Kevin Yahne, Tyler Kramer and Dustin Martin. Yahne said this third and current prototype includes improvements such as easier access for Lylah to control the joystick with her hand, and a longer-lasting battery.

"The group of students has spent a lot of time and hard work on this project," said Holly. "They've done a tremendous job at helping us and really adapting to her disability and understanding what she can and can't do."

Another engineering student is beginning work on a device that will support Lylah's arms, so she can have better use and control of her arms.

Kenyon calls the group the Grand Valley Power Mobility Project. In 2012, she worked with a team of [students who built a mobility device for a child with spina bifida](#).

For more information, contact John Farris, professor of engineering, at farrisj@gvsu.edu, or Lisa Kenyon at kenyonli@gvsu.edu.

About Grand Valley State University

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 25,000 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 85 undergraduate and 34 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For Immediate Release

February 19, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

16th Auto Suppliers Symposium at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The 16th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium, hosted by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center, will be held March 5 on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The theme for this year's symposium is "North American Manufacturing Fueling Growth." North America is home to many of the world's largest automotive suppliers, with 63 of the top 100 located in Michigan. The event will highlight how North America is fueling the automotive industry's growth in an era of new design and technology.

The yearly event brings together business owners, senior management and decision makers from all tiers of the industry, providing the most up-to-date automotive forecasts, trends and opportunities to network and learn from others.

16th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium

Thursday, March 5

8 a.m.-noon

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids

Keynote speakers:

- **Roberto Soto Montes, director of Powertrain Purchasing for Renault-Nissan of North America**

Soto Montes has more than 15 years of international background in manufacturing, project management and purchasing by serving Renault-Nissan in four different countries. He focuses on business development, negotiation and Powertrain technologies.

- **Ed Wulbrecht, vice president of Quality Control for Subaru of Indiana Automotive**

Wulbrecht has 25 years of automotive assembly experience, most of it in manufacturing and quality management. He started his career at Ford Motor Company as a paint automation engineer, eventually moving into manufacturing management. He then moved to Subaru, serving as senior manager of Manufacturing before becoming vice president of Quality Control.

- **Mike Wall, director of Automotive Analysis for IHS Automotive**

Wall has more than 18 years of financial analysis, forecasting, consulting and manufacturing experience with IHS Automotive. He assists financial firms and suppliers in their evaluation and understanding of the auto industry, and offers in-depth analysis of vehicle markets and trends.

- **Michael Dorney, director of Global Business Development for Lacks Enterprises, Inc.**

Dorney is responsible for the development of new business contracts and customer relationships for automotive market customers headquartered outside of the U.S. Dorney established the company's Lacks Japan G.K. unit, expanded Lacks Europe and manages the Lacks Los Angeles office.

To register or for more information, visit www.vagtc.org or call (616) 331-6811.

For immediate release

February 23, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Pictures of Duarte and Bowman can be viewed via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Qh>.

GVSU students win gold Pixie Award

ALLENDALE, Mich. — On the heels of the 87th Academy Awards, two Grand Valley film and video production students recently received their own golden statuettes.

Under the supervision of Kim Roberts, associate professor of film and video production, Mayna Duarte and Arthur Bowman III were awarded a Gold Pixie Award for their project called, “Tapping In: Stop.Think.Connect.” The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9e5jmEt5rw>.

The annual Pixie Awards honors outstanding work in motion graphics, visual effects and animation. The project, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the West Michigan Cyber Security Commission, was honored for its “exceptional motion graphics.”

Duarte said the goal of the video is to increase awareness regarding steps that should be taken on the Internet to protect individuals from hacking threats.

“We spent a lot of time perfecting our graphics,” said Duarte. “We wanted them to look as legitimate as possible, that way when people saw the video, they would realize that’s exactly what hackers do.”

Bowman added it was a privilege for the students to be able to work on such an extensive project. “This award has affirmed that our graphics were successful. It was a great gift to us to be able to work on a project such as this one. I’m proud to have this in my portfolio,” Bowman said.

Barb Hiemstra, a member of the West Michigan Cyber Security Commission, said choosing to work with students from Grand Valley was an easy decision.

“We approached GVSU’s Film and Video program because they have a great reputation for film production in our area. We were excited after the first meeting with GVSU’s team and they did an awesome, professional job,” Hiemstra said.

Roberts added that winning such a prestigious national award is no small feat.

“This award is a testament to the long hours and hard work that is involved in creating motion graphic effects that are worthy of recognition by experts,” Roberts said. “Several of our film and video production students and faculty were involved throughout the product and they all deserve praise.”

For more information, contact Kim Roberts at robertsk@gvsu.edu or visit www.pixieawards.com.

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-8138,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU Surplus Store to hold special anniversary sale

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Surplus Store is celebrating its first anniversary with a sale and special hours of operation on Saturday, February 28, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Everything in the store will be 15 percent off, and the store will provide popcorn and hold a drawing for a \$25 Surplus Store gift certificate.

Some of items that are available for purchase are laptops, desktop computers, Apple iMac computers, office chairs and furniture, cell phones, computer monitors and more.

The Surplus Store is located at 140 Front Street SW, south of the university's Seidman Center and across the street from the Bicycle Factory. Items for sale are surplus university inventory. Sales help sustainability efforts at the university by keeping items out of the landfill.

The Surplus Store is normally open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, call the Surplus Store at (616) 331-9072 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/gvsusurplusstore>

For immediate release

February 26, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High-resolution images from the exploration can be viewed via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Qf>. Photos by Amanda Pitts. A video recap of the survey can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMamnB-uAPk&feature=youtu.be>.

GVSU faculty successfully explore Reeds Lake steamboat shipwrecks

EAST GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. —A group of Grand Valley State University faculty, students and community members braved single-digit temperatures February 20 to explore the depths of Reeds Lake in East Grand Rapids, hoping to digitally map two sunken steamboats, S.S. Hazel A. and S.S. Ramona.

Mark Schwartz, associate professor of anthropology, and Mark Gleason, assistant professor of tourism and hospitality management, are leading the collaborative project, funded by Grand Valley's Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Their team is also comprised of Matthew Daley, associate professor of history; David Cummins from the Marine Technology Program at Alpena Community College; and Mary Dersch from the East Grand Rapids History Room, among many others.

While some law enforcement and local divers have traveled beneath the water to these shipwrecks in the past, Grand Valley's group is the first academic research team to explore the wrecks.

"We want to document these wrecks and learn more about the naval architecture that went into a steamboat designed for tourism versus a steamboat designed for trade," Schwartz said.

Gleason added the February 20 survey cleared up some misconceptions about the Hazel A. wreck in particular. "I had been told that this wreck was lying on its side, but my remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dive last fall showed it sitting upright. Last Friday's sonar image confirms the wreck is in one piece, sitting upright on the bottom [of Reeds Lake]," he said.

To reach the wrecks, the survey team first cut through ice estimated to be approximately 12 inches thick. Next, the team launched and guided a sonar unit through the ice, down to the wrecks off shore of Collins Park.

While the temperatures may have been low, Schwartz explained that kind of weather is ideal for this type of project.

"The coverage made the launching platform of the ice for the sector scan sonar stable so that our results were as accurate as possible. The sonar imaging was great, especially when you consider the poor visibility in Reeds Lake," Schwartz said.

The collection of sonar images may have been successful, but the group experienced technical difficulties during the latter portion of the exploration.

“Sadly, we did have trouble with the ROV,” Gleason said. “Problems happen often with this gear, which is why this type of work can be challenging. The most important part of the effort was to get the sonar images and we succeeded with that goal.”

The ROV is equipped with imaging sonar that allows the team to get an acoustic picture of the vessel even if the water visibility is poor. Schwartz said the next step in this project will be to attempt an ROV dive again to collect video and pictures of certain aspects of the wreck, including the name, boiler and below decks.

According to the East Grand Rapids History Room, regularly scheduled rides on excursion steamboats on Reeds Lake began in 1882.

The 100-foot S.S. Hazel A. was originally built and owned by Captain Michael McCarthy. After sinking in 1901 due to a small leak, the Poissons, who are also in the history books as a prominent family of steamboat captains on Reeds Lake, bought and restored the S.S. Hazel A. to working order in 1905. As fate would have it, the S.S. Hazel A. was buried at sea again in 1923 when the engine was removed for use in a newer boat. A strong wind blew it out into the lake where it sank.

For more information about the survey, contact Mark Gleason at (616) 331-8828 or Mark Schwartz at (616) 331-8518.

For immediate release

February 27, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Urban Sustainability to be highlighted during philosophy conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Urban sustainability will be one of the primary focuses of the 2015 Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Meeting hosted by Grand Valley's philosophy department March 5-7 at the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Grand Rapids.

"The SAAP Annual Meeting provides a chance for scholars who work in the American philosophical tradition an opportunity to meet every year, share their research and bring their work to an interdisciplinary and non-academic audience," said Kelly Parker, professor of philosophy at Grand Valley.

The urban sustainability panel will feature Haris Alibasic, director of the office of energy and sustainability for the city of Grand Rapids; Gayle Debruyne, chief sustainability officer and chair of the collaborative design and furniture/design studies programs at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University; and Bill Lawson, professor of philosophy at University of Memphis.

"The panelists each bring a distinctive perspective to understanding what we mean when we say we are working toward urban sustainability," Parker said. "I expect that the audience's questions will allow our panelists to engage current ideas and concerns in a very fruitful way."

The urban sustainability panel, which will take place Thursday, March 5, from 5:30-7 p.m. in Loosemoore Auditorium located in the Devos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, is just one of many panels, workshops and lectures taking place during the annual meeting.

For more information about the SAAP Annual Meeting and to register, visit <http://american-philosophy.org> and click on Events.

For immediate release

March 2, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley April 2015 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Arts at Noon Series

The 37th season of Grand Valley State University Arts at Noon series features seven concerts ranging from the Grand Rapids Symphony to one of the founding fathers of the hybrid-musician movement, Todd Reynolds. All concerts take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. They are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

Todd Reynolds – Wednesday, April 1

Violinist, composer, educator, and technologist Todd Reynolds is known as one of the founding fathers of the hybrid-musician movement and one of the most active and versatile proponents of what he calls 'present music.' The violinist of choice for Steve Reich, Meredith Monk, Bang on a Can, and founder of the string quartet known as Ethel, his compositional and performance style is a hybrid of old and new technology, multi-disciplinary aesthetic, and pan-genre composition and improvisation.

Music and Dance Department

*For more information about all Music and Dance Department events, visit www.gvsu.edu/music or call (616) 331-3484.

GVSU Faculty String Trio with pianist Robert Byrens

Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Pianist Robert Byrens joins the GVSU Faculty String Trio in recital. String Trio members are Gregory Maytan, violin; Paul Swantek, viola; and Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello. This concert is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Elizabeth Holowell, violin

Wednesday, April 8 at 8 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

After graduating as "Student of the Year" from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Elizabeth Holowell commenced her professional performance career as a core member of the renowned Australian Chamber Orchestra. With this ensemble she undertook her first national and international tours under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner and Christopher Hogwood CBE. Elizabeth was also a member of the William Hennessy String Quartet and a casual member of the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Sydney Opera House. Elizabeth is currently head of the String Faculty at the University of Auckland, NICA School of Music. She continues international concertizing in a well-established duo with pianist, Dean Sky-Lucas, head of collaborative piano with whom she has recorded two CDs. In 2002, the Australian Government honored her with the award of the Order of Australia Medal in recognition of

her achievements in violin performance and teaching. Joining Holowell on this concert will be pianist Mark Portolese.

Spring Dance Concert

Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Dance Company presents their annual Spring Dance Concert featuring the innovative choreography of Grand Valley faculty and nationally recognized guest artists, including Ann Sofie Clemmensen, Bryn Coh, and Kelly Kerastas, all performed by Grand Valley dance majors. Performances are free and open to the public.

University Band Concert

Monday, April 13 from 7:30-9 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

John Martin, director of Athletic Bands, Concert Band and University Band, conducts the University Band for this free performance that is open to the public.

Select Women's Ensemble and University Singers Concert

Tuesday, April 14 from 7:30-9 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Ellen Pool conducts the Select Women's Ensemble. Shirley Lemon conducts the University Singers. This concert is free and open to the public.

University Arts Chorale and Cantate Chamber Ensemble

Wednesday, April 15 from 7:30-9 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Ellen Pool conducts the University Arts Chorale and Cantate Chamber Ensemble. This concert is free and open to the public.

Concert Band

Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

John Martin conducts the Concert Band. This concert is free and open to the public.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Kevin Tutt, Symphonic Wind Ensemble director and professor of music, conducts the ensemble for this free concert that is open to the public.

Senior Dance Concert

Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 at 7 p.m.

Dance Studio Theatre, Performing Arts Center, room 1600, Allendale Campus

This performance celebrates the choreography and performances of our senior dance majors as they present their Senior Dance Concert. This concert, which is free and open to the public, is the culminating event for graduating dance majors.

Varsity Men with the West Ottawa High School Men's Choir

Friday, April 17 at 8 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Varsity Men, directed by Charles Norris, performs in concert with the West Ottawa High School Men's Choir.

Guest Artist Series: Ji-Myung Kim, violin

Friday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

A native of South Korea, violinist Ji Myung Kim came to the U.S. when he was 14 years old to study violin under C.J. Chang and Robert dePasquale in Philadelphia. Kim has since appeared as a soloist and chamber musician at various venues in Korea, Japan, and the U.S. Kim was recently featured as the soloist with the New York Classical Symphony Orchestra in Lincoln Center performing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5. Kim's future engagements include guest appearances with faculty members of the University of Houston and Western Illinois University. In the fall of 2015, Kim is scheduled to appear as a guest concertmaster of Busan Philharmonic Orchestra in Korea.

Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, April 18 from 7:30-9 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Henry Duitman conducts the Grand Valley Symphony Orchestra. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU Art Gallery

School of Communications Photography Senior Thesis Exhibition

April 13-25

Opening Reception Thursday, April 16, from 5-7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p95ildqcty47yy3/AACCKe0SvQm7Oq6l2nEwGacla?dl=0>

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.

Current business trends: modest growth continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy continues on a path of modest growth, although there is now a hint of caution in the air, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Long surveyed local business leaders; his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of February.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, came in at +13, the same level as the previous two months. The employment index also remained unchanged at +19. Despite a few weather challenges, the production index edged up to +18 from +13. The index of purchases remained virtually unchanged at +16, down from +17. Long said the pattern of slow growth continues to move forward heading into the spring season.

"Many local industrial groups reported mixed results for February," said Long. "The office furniture business remains positive, but sales in the middle of winter are seasonally slow. With auto sales still very positive, our automotive parts producers continue to be optimistic."

Long said numbers for capital equipment firms have turned flat, and numbers for industrial distributors came in mixed.

He said rapid growth will be restrained by the sluggish world economy. "The European economy remains marginal, but recent strength in the German economy bodes well as far as avoiding a recession in the Eurozone, said Long. "The strong dollar continues to hurt our exports. Simultaneously, the strong dollar reduces the earning for our multinational companies."

Long said many business leaders were worried about the negative impact of the West Coast dock strike and West Coast worker slowdown. "The entire supply chain was impaired by slow deliveries as well as the necessity to search for other sources of supply and other transportation modes," he said. "At least one of our local firms was facing the possibility of shutting down for lack of materials. Fortunately, on February 23, West Coast dockworkers concluded a tentative agreement for a five-year contract. Although we don't have to worry about a strike for another five years, some manufacturers are making long-term plans to ship through other ports."

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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An educational conference geared toward empowering women entrepreneurs will be held March 13 at Grand Valley State University, sponsored by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

“Develop Your Entrepreneurial Mindset — Empowering Women Entrepreneurs,” will feature keynote speaker Rebecca White, director of the Entrepreneurship Center at the University of Tampa.

White, a professor and distinguished chair of entrepreneurship, will help attendees learn about their own entrepreneurial profile and the latest research that defines the entrepreneurial mindset.

A panel discussion, including entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, will include White; Keith Boswell, founder of Perceptint; Kevin White, visual designer at Visual hero; Deborah Tacoma, CEO of Freedom Creators; and Kelly Hassberger, owner of Grand Rapids Natural Health.

Breakout sessions will be held on topics such as: crowd funding through social media, artists as entrepreneurs, successful entrepreneurial women and role models, and creative funding sources.

“The entrepreneurial journey can be difficult to navigate on your own,” said Shorouq Almallah, associate director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. “Attendees will be able to surround themselves with like-minded people and a great network of resources that will help them navigate the entrepreneurial journey, discover their strengths and develop their entrepreneurial mindset.”

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs

Friday, March 13

8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

301 W. Fulton St. Grand Rapids

Registration: \$50

The event is sponsored by Belle Michigan and will also include a student showcase of Grand Valley student entrepreneurs.

Registration includes parking, continental breakfast and lunch. **Seating is limited and registration will end on March 10. Tickets will not be sold at the door.**

Register at <https://events.blackbirdsvp.com/gvsuwomensymposium>

For more information, contact Grand Valley’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at (616) 331-7582.

For Immediate Release

March 6, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution photo of Beverly Grant is available for media use here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sc/to2ckb3qqamh6w8/AADR2kNePnCYwRx8Syp8z_a9a

Johnson Center associate director appointed to state commission

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Beverly Grant, associate director of the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University, has been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the Michigan Community Service Commission.

The commission serves the state by fostering a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. It also develops a three-year comprehensive community and national service plan that is updated annually.

“I am confident Beverly will do great work to help inspire people to further embrace volunteerism in our state. A strong sense of community service is what makes Michigan, Michigan,” Snyder said.

Grant will serve a three-year term.

Grant serves as the chief operational leader at the Johnson Center, supporting the executive director in key leadership projects. She also serves as key strategist in the center’s overall daily maintenance and operations.

She earned a bachelor’s and master’s in social work from Grambling State University and Atlanta University, respectively.

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Who's Afraid of War and Peace? Making history's most intimidating novel come alive for today's readers

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — War and Peace, widely regarded by many critics as the greatest novel ever written, is also widely regarded as one of the most intimidating books in history. At roughly 1,500 pages, it's easy to see why.

But the book is a fundamental story about people trying to create meaningful lives in a country ravaged by war, social change, political upheaval and spiritual confusion. The book mirrors issues faced in modern times.

In an American Conversations Series keynote presentation, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University, international Tolstoy expert Andrew Kaufman will take his audience through the mammoth work and dissect what it means to live through troubled times and survive them. Kaufman, who spearheaded a program that taught juvenile offenders about Russian literature and a professor at the University of Virginia, will cover topics from courage to romance and success to idealism.

Andrew Kaufman: Give War and Peace A Chance
Presented by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies
March 12, at 7 p.m.
Loosemore Auditorium
Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus
401 W. Fulton Street
Free and open to the public, but [RSVPs are requested here](#)

Kaufman's expertise has been [showcased by Katie Couric](#), and will be enjoyable to people who have never read a word of Tolstoy's work. He focuses on making the critically acclaimed novel approachable, relevant and fun.

"With personality and flavor, Kaufman shows how Tolstoy's War and Peace provides wisdom and insight for times of social unrest and political upheaval, especially our own," said Hauenstein Center program manager Joe Hogan. "In short, he brings Tolstoy to life."

Kaufman's book, "Give War and Peace A Chance," was released in paperback, February 10.

About the speaker:

An award-winning teacher of Russian language, literature and culture, Andrew Kaufman has a doctorate in Slavic languages and literatures from Stanford University and has spent the last 20 years bringing alive the Russian classics to Americans young and old. Kaufman, whose titles include "Give War and Peace a Chance: Tolstoyan Wisdom for Troubled Times" (Simon & Schuster, May 2014), "Understanding Tolstoy" and "Russian for Dummies" (coauthor), is a featured Tolstoy expert on Oprah.com, and he is frequently

invited to discuss Russian literature and culture on national and international television and radio programs.

An internationally recognized Tolstoy scholar, Kaufman has lectured at the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aspen Institute, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Leo Tolstoy Museum and Estate at Yasnaya Polyana, and at colleges and universities across the U.S. Currently he teaches at the University of Virginia, where he created and teaches a community-based literature course, “Books Behind Bars: Life, Literature, and Leadership,” in which students lead discussions about Russian literature with incarcerated youth at a juvenile correctional center in Virginia.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

March 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Composition contest to celebrate GVSU ArtPrize installation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley music composition students will hear their original, one-minute compositions inspired by the 2014 ArtPrize installation “River Tattoo” performed during a March 12 competition.

These “adventurous” compositions, submitted anonymously, will be performed by the New Music Ensemble in rapid succession and judged by a guest panel and the listening audience for various prizes.

“I think it’s always interesting to see how people react to visual art,” said William Ryan, New Music Ensemble director. “For this event, the audience will get to hear how the composers respond to a piece of art, and it may or may not correspond to what they see. The 30 one-minute compositions are very diverse, which I find fascinating because they all originated from the same piece of art. That illustrates how much depth is in the art, and what a personal experience interpreting art can be.”

New Music Ensemble Composition Competition

Thursday, March 12 from 7-9 p.m.

Eberhard Center, room 101, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Featured guests include artist and creator of “River Tattoo” Jim Cogswell, who will give opening remarks, and composer Paul Steinberg, who composed a new work to be premiered during the competition.

Crafted by Cogswell, University of Michigan Stamps School of Art and Design professor, River Tattoo is an 85-foot piece celebrating the Grand River and the Blue Bridge crossing over it. It was created from thousands of pieces of adhesive vinyl applied directly to the glass to form a mosaic of colored fragments based on handmade drawings and photographs. The mural will remain installed on the windows of the Eberhard Center for a minimum of three years.

For more information about this event, contact the Grand Valley Art Gallery at (616) 331-2563, or the Music Department at (616) 331-3484.

For more information about the New Music Ensemble, visit www.newmusicensemble.org.

For immediate release

March 10, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High-resolution photos from the production are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/QH>. Please credit "GVSU Ford Team."

MEDIA-Ford ad produced by GVSU students launches online

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Ford Motor Company ad produced by seven students from Grand Valley State University's School of Communications can now be viewed online by audiences around the globe.

The final video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qkEEjolphFU#t=111>.

The ad is a byproduct of a 2014 competition that pitted Grand Valley's team against students from Calvin College and Compass College for Cinematic Arts. The challenge, presented by Ford's advertising agency Team Detroit, was to develop and produce online videos showcasing inspirational stories about people or organizations in Michigan. Grand Valley's team won the competition in December and was awarded the opportunity to continue working with Team Detroit to expand and improve their video project.

Grand Valley's video highlights Archangel Ancient Tree Archive, an organization dedicated to fighting global warming by cloning the world's largest and most iconic trees.

After winning the competition, Ian Kast, the project's director of photography and a senior majoring in film and video production at Grand Valley, traveled to California with Team Detroit and Archangel Ancient Tree Archive founder David Milarch to collect additional footage of monumental Redwood trees for the video.

"The trip was the most breathtaking, amazing, eye opening trip I have ever taken," Kast said. "David showed us his home away from home in the redwoods and made it clear to us the importance of the message of his company."

Throughout January and February, the entire Grand Valley team assembled in Detroit to finalize the post production process with Team Detroit.

Lindsey VanDenBoom, senior advertising and public relations major at Grand Valley, said seeing the team's final video posted along side a plethora of other videos spotlighting Ford's current Go Further campaign created an extraordinary feeling.

"The time our team dedicated toward research, crafting and editing shows how much hard work pays off," VanDenBoom said. "This final video ultimately captures David Milarch's humor, spirit and passion for trees. I hope this video will continue to educate, inspire and warm the hearts of people around the world."

To watch Grand Valley's original contest entry, visit <http://youtu.be/kfcXRmKr2f8>.

For more information, contact Lindsey VanDenBoom at vandlind@mail.gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

March 11, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Urban Planning focus of inaugural GVSU Global Cities Conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Local high school students will learn about and present urban planning practices from around the globe during Grand Valley State University's inaugural Global Cities Conference.

The March 21 event, presented by Grand Valley's Urban Planning Association student organization, will take place in the L. William Seidman Center (room 1008B) located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus from 12-6 p.m. and feature guest speakers Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell and Dean Menon, associate dean of Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"The intention of the Global Cities Conference is to introduce Grand Rapids and the GVSU community to the city planning and sustainable development initiatives from around the globe, as well as to show students the plethora of career and academic choices that the field of city planning has to offer," said Yulia Conley, Urban Planning Association president.

During the conference, student teams from Allendale High School will give 10-minute presentations about urban planning practices and approaches in their assigned global cities.

"This year the conference will feature several global cities including London, Moscow, Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Abu-Dhabi and Bogota, and will showcase examples of public transportation, public spaces, sustainability, innovation and historic preservation from these cities," Conley said.

Conley added that as the populations of the world occupy mostly urban environments, it is imperative that citizens take stock in the evolution of their own cities.

"It is predicted that by the year 2050 nearly 80 percent of the world's population will be living in cities. With the direction that our development is currently heading, however, this urbanization trend will not only be unsustainable, but nearly impossible to accommodate," Conley said. "Therefore, we are passionate about sharing the sustainable city planning practices and initiatives with our high school and college peers."

The conference will also give students the opportunity to attend a Department Showcase Session, faculty guided walking tours of downtown Grand Rapids, and a documentary screening of "The Human Scale" by Gehl Architects.

A "Fix my City" game that will challenge students to apply their new knowledge of sustainable development strategies to fix problematic hypothetical scenarios will conclude the conference.

For more information about the Global Cities Conference, contact Yulia Conley at lisovsky@mail.gvsu.edu.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 4:30 a.m. THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138 (office) or (616) 318-3673 (cell), hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Study: Race, socioeconomic status impact how GR residents rate city

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Eighty percent of Grand Rapids residents say they would give the city a grade of 'A' or 'B' as a place to live, according to the results of a city-wide survey and study by the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. However, the new research shows that differences in race, geography and socioeconomic status account for wide disparities in how respondents rank the city on many factors.

'A' ratings vary from 20 percent from residents of the city's southwest side to 36 percent on the northeast side, and from 14 percent for Hispanic/Latino residents, to 17 percent of black residents, and 36 percent of white (non-Hispanic) residents.

These insights and many more are drawn from the 2014 VoiceGR survey that researchers at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy's Community Research Institute (CRI) conducted last fall, seeking input from city residents about the city, safety, work, health care, economy, ability to meet basic needs and more.

The Johnson Center research indicates that while the city thrives as a whole, there is a critical need to address disparities between subgroups of the population. Results show that different demographic, geographic and socioeconomic groups have very different experiences within the same city.

Full results released at Community Research Summit

March 12, 8 a.m.

Salvation Army Kroc Center, 2500 S. Division Avenue, Grand Rapids

Johnson Center representatives available for media interviews

Registration free and available at VoiceGR.org

Some key findings from the report include:

- 41 percent of survey respondents said they feel very safe in their neighborhood, and 31 percent said their neighborhood is very safe for children.
- 76 percent of respondents said they can afford to meet their needs very or fairly well based on their current income, though this statistic ranges greatly by race and education level. 52 percent of Hispanic/Latino respondents said they can afford their needs, compared to 83 percent of Asian or Pacific Islander respondents. By education level, 53 percent of those with less than a high school education report being able to meet basic needs compared to 88 percent of those with a bachelor's degree or higher. For those who can't meet their basic needs, top concerns include: utilities (28 percent), food (21 percent), shelter (20 percent) and health care (17 percent).
- 42 percent of respondents report owning the place where they live, while 44 percent rent. Respondents with a high school diploma or GED are more than twice as likely to report having ever experienced homelessness as those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

- While 25 percent of VoiceGR respondents report not having a primary care physician (often called a “medical home”), breaking this down by race shows vast differences: 42 percent of Hispanic respondents, 32 percent of black respondents and only 19 percent of white respondents do not have a medical home. Similarly, 35 percent of those with a high school diploma or GED do not have a medical home compared to 18 percent of those with a bachelor’s degree or higher. 72 percent of respondents who earn less than double the poverty line do not have a medical home.
- 11 percent of respondents said racism is very much an issue in their community and 33 percent said it is somewhat of an issue. 33% report feeling discriminated against in the last year.
- 27 percent of respondents said the economy and jobs should be the top area for improvement in their community. 24 percent said crime and public safety should be the top area for improvement and 23 percent said transportation.

Full results from the report will be published on VoiceGR.org on March 12.

For more information, visit VoiceGR.org or JohnsonCenter.org.

For immediate release

March 12, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA-GVSU Juried Student Exhibition showcases student artwork

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A select group of art and design students at Grand Valley State University will showcase their talents and works during the 3rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition.

3rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition

March 16-26, Stuart B. and Barbara H. Padnos Student Art and Design Gallery

Calder Art Center, Allendale Campus

Reception and Awards Ceremony, March 17, 5-6 p.m.

Virginia Jenkins, chair of the Art and Design Department, said this exhibition is unique in that professionals and educators outside the Grand Valley community select the participants and the award winners. While some monetary awards will be given, most of the “awards” for students are permanent places for their works in Grand Valley’s Art Collection, which currently consists of approximately 13,000 pieces of art. Student works will also be available for purchase by the general public.

“[The goal] is to provide an opportunity for majors, minors and other students taking courses in our programs to have the opportunity to have their work evaluated by professionals in the field other than the professional faculty,” Jenkins said.

Visitors of this exhibition will experience more than traditional artwork, as submissions come from various artistic arenas, including printmaking, photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry and metalsmithing, graphic design, illustration, film and video, drawing, mixed media and electronic works.

Anthony Thompson, director of the School of Communications, said this exhibition is an opportunity to celebrate excellent student work in the visual arts.

“As an annual event, this is an important opportunity for our community, especially our leaders and friends, to see the great work our students and faculty are doing in the arts. It also encourages students and builds our community,” Thompson said.

The Juried Student Exhibition is open to the public during normal gallery hours. For more information, contact the Art and Design Department at (616) 331-3486.

For immediate release

March 12, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution head shots of John Berry, Danielle Lake and Linda Chamberlain are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/QX>.

New Design Thinking class to be offered at Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. — At the start of the 2014-15 academic year, Grand Valley announced its Design Thinking Initiative with the goal of ensuring students will be prepared for lifelong learning and careers in ever-changing work environments. One of the results of this ongoing initiative is a new course that will be offered at the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year.

“The course, ‘Design Thinking to Meet Real World Needs,’ will provide cross-discipline students the opportunity to experience and apply the design thinking process within the context of the complex problems existing today,” said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director. “One learns design thinking by doing, and this class will provide that experience.”

Design thinking is generally defined as an interactive, project-based, problem-solving process that combines empathy, creativity and rationality to meet user needs.

The new course is the first step in the initiative to incorporate design thinking into an explicit and credentialed experience for students at Grand Valley.

Danielle Lake, assistant professor of liberal studies, and Linda Chamberlain of Grand Valley’s Technology Commercialization Office will teach the course. Lake said students will receive the opportunity to address complex problems in the West Michigan community by working with local organizations and community partners.

“This course will help students develop the skill sets and tools that are essential for tackling our large-scale public problems, including empathic listeners, effective collaborators, adaptive innovators, capable organizers, fair facilitators, critical interpreters, as well as public and engaged problem solvers,” Lake said.

In addition to this new course, a Design Thinking Initiative task force consisting of students, faculty, staff and West Michigan business leaders has been established. The goal of this planning team is to develop new ways to bring design thinking to Grand Valley. Berry said the task force has discovered many courses at Grand Valley already unknowingly utilize the concepts of design thinking, without using the actual term.

“The values that Design Thinking brings to higher education include the students’ experiences of gaining insights from others, an ability to collaborate and the recognition that the most creative solutions result from dissimilar disciplines working on a common problem. Such values are key to active participation in our society today,” Berry said.

For more information about Grand Valley’s Design Thinking Initiative, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For immediate release

March 13, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Mosaic Lecture to celebrate diversity in mathematical sciences

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 2nd Annual Mosaic Lecture, which celebrates diversity in the mathematical community, will focus on the fun and engaging aspects of the field.

Mosaic Lecture 2015: My Favorite Math Fun Facts

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Loutit Hall, Allendale Campus

Dessert reception at 7 p.m.

This year's event will feature Francis Su, author of the Math Fun Facts website and mobile device application and professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College.

"For several years I have been collecting 'Math Fun Facts,' which are juicy math tidbits that I have been using to start off math classes as a warm-up activity," Su said. "Math Fun Facts can be from any area of mathematics, can be presented in less than five minutes, and are meant to arouse my students' curiosity. Math Fun Facts show that mathematics is full of interesting ideas, patterns and new modes of thinking that come from diverse sources."

Su received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin and his doctorate from Harvard University. His research focuses on geometric combinatorics, the study of geometric objects and their combinatorial structure, and applications to the social sciences.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for folks to hear an engaging talk from a nationally known speaker who is not only an award-winning teacher, but also the president of the Mathematical Association of America, and the first person of color to hold this post," said Jonathan Hodge, Mathematics Department chair.

The Mathematical Association of America is one of only two major professional societies for mathematicians in the United States.

The 2015 Mosaic Lecture is co-sponsored by the Political Science Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Frederik Meijer Honors College.

For more information about this year's Mosaic Lecture, contact Jonathan Hodge at hodgejo@gvsu.edu.

For more information about Su's Math Fun Facts, visit www.math.hmc.edu/funfacts.

For immediate release

March 13, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

COW provides opportunities for GVSU Laker volunteers

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University Lakers around the world will volunteer and provide support to hundreds of projects during a dedicated week of service, March 21-28.

Community Outreach Week is sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Community Service Learning Center.

Projects have already been created in Allendale, Chicago, Detroit, Hawaii and Phoenix, and many other locations. Students, alumni and friends can join an existing project or create a new one; a list is available online at www.gvsu.edu/cow. Service opportunities range from outdoor clean up, to food banks and day care centers.

Participants who sign up by March 13 will receive a collectible bandana. Prizes will also be given away to select winners who share photos and videos on social media using the hash tag #GVCow.

In 2014, more than 630 students, staff, faculty and alumni volunteers contributed to Community Outreach Week, and Grand Valley leaders hope to increase the impact to 770 volunteer this year.

For immediate release

March 13, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU celebrating Michigan History Day with regional contest

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 150 West Michigan students will showcase their research in creative and engaging formats during the Michigan History Day Western Regional Contest being held at Grand Valley State University. The March 21 event will be held from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

During the event that Grand Valley has hosted for the past 30 years, middle and high school students will present their findings from self-directed research on individually chosen topics. Those in attendance can expect to see presentations rooted in art, literature, music, drama, visual communications and writing, all following the common theme of "Leadership and Legacy in History."

Entrants will present in one of five categories: individual paper, individual or group exhibit, documentary, websites, and performances. Faculty and graduates from the Grand Valley History Department, as well as local educators and historians, will judge the presentations.

The top three entries in each division and category will advance to the state contest April 25 in DeWitt.

Regardless of who wins, Sean O'Neil, professor of history at Grand Valley, said the ultimate goal of the contest is to teach students how to conduct historical research and present their work to the public.

"Students benefit from participating even if they do not advance in the contest because they look at the history they learn in school in a different, more informed and sophisticated way," O'Neil said. "When these students go to college, they take with them experience working with primary sources, researching in libraries and archives, interviewing historians and historical actors."

For more information, contact O'Neil at (616) 331-3325.

For immediate release

March 20, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Daltyn Little is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Rf>.

GVSU senior named PRWeek Student of the Year

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University advertising and public relations senior surpassed more than 100 students across the U.S. to be named PRWeek's 2015 Student of the Year.

Daltyn Little, CEO of Grand Valley's student-run public relations firm GrandPR, was challenged to develop an advertising campaign for the Toyota Mirai, a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle. Little's round one submission consisted of a five-page campaign plan, two pages of supporting materials and an educational video explaining fuel cell technology. Once in the top five, Little had to pitch her campaign to PRWeek news editor Frank Washkuch and submit an additional 100-word essay.

Little was awarded the first place honor at the annual PRWeek Award Ceremony in New York City March 19.

"Nervous is an understatement of what I've been feeling over the past three months as I progressed through each round of the competition," Little said. "The additional opportunity to attend the PRWeek industry awards in NYC was phenomenal, and the people I met were some of the most talented and respected professionals in the public relations, advertising and communications world."

To help Little achieve the award, a team of current students and alumni of Grand Valley's School of Communications was assembled. Among them was Adrienne Wallace, visiting professor of advertising and public relations, who aided Little in planning and strategy.

"My reaction can be summarized in the first email I sent to Daltyn when she asked for my help: 'I'd love to help you Daltyn, but only if you commit to winning it.' And she did," Wallace said. "It goes to show you that even in a world packed with talent, the GVSU liberal arts emphasis helps create balanced thinkers in logic, passion and creativity."

For more information about the PRWeek Student of the Year competition, visit awards.prweekus.com/student.

For immediate release

March 20, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High-resolution images from the exploration can be viewed via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Qf>. Photos by Amanda Pitts. A video recap of the survey can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMamnB-uAPk&feature=youtu.be>.

GVSU faculty to present steamboat shipwreck survey results

EAST GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University faculty will present their findings March 24 from a recent expedition exploring steamboat shipwrecks on the bottom of Reeds Lake.

The program, sponsored by the Friends of the East Grand Rapids Library, will take place at 7 p.m. in the East Grand Rapids City Commission chambers, located at 750 Lakeside Drive.

Mark Schwartz, associate professor of anthropology, and Mark Gleason, assistant professor of tourism and hospitality management, are leading the collaborative project, which aims to digitally document sunken steamboats in the lake. The goal is to learn more about the naval architecture that went into a steamboat designed for tourism versus a steamboat designed for trade.

The February 20 dive located the wreck of the *Steam Ship Hazel A*. Some law enforcement and local divers have traveled beneath the water to these shipwrecks in the past, however, Grand Valley's group is the first academic research team to explore the wrecks.

Despite some technical difficulties with a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) during the dive, the team's sonar unit successfully mapped the wreck, showing that the *S.S. Hazel A* is in one piece and sitting upright on the bottom of Reeds Lake.

Funded by Grand Valley's Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, the project's team is also comprised of Matthew Daley, associate professor of history at Grand Valley; David Cummins from the Marine Technology Program at Alpena Community College; and Mary Dersch, curator of the East Grand Rapids History Room, among many others.

During the March 24 presentation, Dersch will provide a history of steamboat excursions on Reeds Lake, which date back to 1882. Descendants of the Poisson family, who pioneered steamboat activity on Reeds Lake, will also be present.

For more information, contact Mark Gleason at (616) 331-8828 or Mark Schwartz at (616) 331-8518.

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU hosts FIRST Robotics Competition

ALLENDALE, Mich. —High school students on 40 teams from across the state are gathering at Grand Valley State University March 20-21 to compete in the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics District Competition.

The teams will compete in the Fieldhouse Arena on the Allendale Campus with robots they built and designed for the competition. This year's game is "Recycle Rush," which challenges teams to score points by stacking totes and capping them with recycling containers. All game pieces are made of recyclable materials.

The competition runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 20 and 21. Complete information, including a detailed schedule and a list of teams, is available at <http://bit.ly/1BWE5fO>.

The competition helps students get hands-on experience solving real-world problems and discover the excitement and rewards of science and technology careers. The teams had six weeks to design and build the robots for the competition.

Winners will move on to the state championship April 8-11 at the DeltaPlex Arena in Grand Rapids. The national competition will take place in St. Louis, Missouri, April 22-25.

For more information contact Ken Platteschorre, event coordinator, at ken.platteschorre@haworth.com, or Nicki Bonczyk, volunteer coordinator, at nbonczyk@gmail.com.

For immediate release

March 19, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU office to host annual history roundtable

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University will host the sixth annual Local History Roundtable on Thursday, March 26, at the Grand Rapids Public Library auditorium.

The daylong event will run from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and include two keynote presentations and two panel discussions. This year's topic, "Food, Farm, and Table," will explore West Michigan's diverse food history including producing, picking and processing.

Hank Meijer, co-chair and CEO of Meijer Inc., will give the opening keynote address at 10 a.m.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, director of the Kutsche Office, said Meijer will discuss his family's history and the importance of food, place and markets in West Michigan.

The afternoon keynote address, "Local to Global Food Values: Policy, Practice, and Performance," will be given by Ellen Messer, professor at Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Her talk will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is free for members of the Kutsche Office and \$25 for non-members. To register for the event, visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For Immediate Release

March 19, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU's Johnson Center launches first-ever Michigan philanthropy history site

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — OurStateofGenerosity.org, a unique new website launched by researchers at Grand Valley State University's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, catalogs four decades of work in Michigan to increase and improve philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

OSoG's online materials describe the history, provide guidance, and will be a growing repository of resources to capture what is learned in Michigan's philanthropy and beyond. The free website offers an opportunity for leaders around the world to access ideas and models for their communities, based on experiences and projects launched in Michigan — the developments and achievements that have made Michigan a "State of Generosity."

Offering many resources that are not found elsewhere, OSoG profiles Michigan's philanthropic leaders, describes projects to increase/improve the charitable sector, and provides unusual access and transparency to original historical documents of the four partner organizations. The partners (Council of Michigan Foundations, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Michigan Community Service Commission, and Johnson Center for Philanthropy) donated their historic records, now available through online text search through Grand Valley State University's Library and Archives.

Within OurStateofGenerosity.org, current nonprofit and foundation board/staff members will find resources that provide an orientation to Michigan's philanthropic culture of collaboration and the history of current institutions and projects. Researchers and students studying the nonprofit and philanthropic sector will find a rich repository of original material describing four decades of experience in building structures to support giving and service, including project evaluations and lessons learned. Emerging board and staff members in philanthropy will find examples of inspired and successful leadership to help inform their practice.

For more information, visit OurStateOfGenerosity.org

For immediate release

March 19, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU telethon to benefit Relay for Life

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students from three student-run campus media organizations are teaming up to host a live telethon to raise money for Relay for Life at Grand Valley State University.

Grand Valley Television (GVTV), the Grand Valley Lanthorn, and Whale Radio are hosting the **“Lakers for a Cure Telethon” Thursday, March 26, from 7-9 p.m. in Area 51 located in the lower level of the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.**

The event will include music, comedy stand-up, and more all performed by Grand Valley students. Guest speakers who have been affected by cancer, as well as representatives from Colleges Against Cancer, will also be present.

Donations will be collected throughout the day on the main level of the Kirkhof Center. Sean O’Melia, GVTV public relations coordinator and sophomore broadcasting major, said this event hits close to home, which is why he hopes those in attendance will feel the desire to donate.

“Having family members in my life who have suffered from cancer, I know how difficult and troubling the experience can be,” O’Melia said. “I would say this event is a win-win for everyone, and that’s what makes this event really special.”

The telethon can be viewed live online at grandvalleytv.com/live and students who live on the Allendale Campus can tune in to channel 46.1.

For more information, visit grandvalleytv.com/telethon. Those wishing to interact with the event via social media are encouraged to use the hashtag #LakersForACure.

For Immediate Release

March 18, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Rapids Drive helps fund GVSU Literacy Project

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The College of Education Michigan Literacy Project (MLP) at Grand Valley State University is partnering with the Grand Rapids Drive to host a fundraising game April 1.

The Grand Rapids Drive will take on the Sioux Falls Skyforce April 1, at 7 p.m., at the DeltaPlex Arena. The Drive is reserving a section of \$10 seats and 50 percent of all \$10 ticket sales will be donated to the Michigan Literacy Project, an initiative that provides children's books to public schools.

Just before the game begins, Alison Orth, a first-year teacher from Grand Rapids Public Schools, will receive a wagon full of books for her classroom, presented by the Drive mascot. Children's books will also be sold during the game that can be directly donated to the Michigan Literacy Project or purchased with a percentage of the profit going toward MLP.

Grand Valley students will also be on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses of Grand Valley State handing out ticket vouchers and selling children's books.

Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus:

March 24: 10 a.m.-noon

March 25: 9-11 a.m.

March 26: 10 a.m.-noon

DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus:

March 25: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 26: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Last year, six area teachers received hundreds of books through MLP to build their classroom libraries. This year, six more area teachers are receiving classroom books.

For more information, contact Sheryl Vlietstra at (616) 843-3192.

For Immediate Release

March 18, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Caribbean tourism official to speak at GVSU conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Sustainable tourism and competing through diversity will be the focus of a presentation by the secretary general of the Caribbean Tourism Organization during a conference at Grand Valley State University.

Hugh Riley, who joined the Caribbean Tourism Organization in 2002, will give a presentation March 21, as part of the 13th Conference on the Americas sponsored Grand Valley's Latin American Studies Program.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization, the region's tourism development agency, has more than 30 Dutch, English, French and Spanish country members. As the chief executive officer, Riley oversees the organization's operations in Barbados, North America, United Kingdom and Europe.

The Caribbean: Competing Through Diversity

March 21

9 a.m.

Eberhard Center

301 W. Fulton

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Riley joined the Caribbean Tourism Organization New York as director of marketing after working in a number of senior tourism positions in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean over a period of 20 years. He is credited with having instituted new air services from North and South America to his native Barbados and the Caribbean, and was responsible for engaging the Caribbean Diaspora and travelers through targeted events in major cities throughout North America. He attended the City University of New York and Thomas Edison State College where he earned a bachelor's degree in communication and later studied tourism management at the University Of Surrey.

The event, sponsored by Grand Valley's Hospitality and Tourism Management Department, is part of a series of events celebrating the 10th anniversary of Grand Valley's College of Community and Public Service.

For more information, contact Michael Scantlebury, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management, at (616) 331-2705.

For immediate release

March 18, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU presentation to examine contemporary feminism in the U.S.

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Themes of contemporary feminism in the United States will be the focus of a presentation at Grand Valley State University by Jo Reger, director of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Oakland University. The event will take place Monday, March 23, from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204, on the Allendale Campus.

Reger's presentation will be based on her 2012 book, "Everywhere and Nowhere: Contemporary Feminism in the United States."

"Reger will discuss the fascinating paradox that she uncovered in her study — that feminist ideals are deeply embedded in our culture, but at the same time, we often think that feminism is dead," said Laurel Westbrook, professor of sociology at Grand Valley.

Through an investigation of three feminist communities, Reger shows the reactions of contemporary feminists toward the local environment currently shaping their identities, tactics, discourse and relations with other feminist generations. Through her work, Reger explains how feminism is simultaneously absent from the national, popular culture, and yet also ingrained in the foundations of American culture.

Reger's presentation will give students, faculty, staff and the general public the opportunity to hear about her work and participate in a Q&A session.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Sociology at (616) 331-3129.

For immediate release

March 18, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing recognizes CNL graduates

-- Social media campaign raises awareness of new health care role

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The role of a clinical nurse leader is relatively new to health care, but a dedicated social media day is helping create awareness while recognizing health care professionals in that role.

The Commission on Nurse Certification has dedicated March 19 as Certified Clinical Nurse Leader Day. The commission is encouraging professionals to use social media and tweet about their roles using the hashtag #CertCNLDay.

Rebecca Davis, professor of nursing at Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing, said a clinical nurse leader helps ensure quality care by coordinating care across settings, facilitating practice innovations and monitoring and targeting quality improvement efforts.

"They see themselves as the keeper of the patient's story, a skilled nursing leader who can help ensure the best possible care," Davis said.

Graduates of a nursing master's degree program accredited for CNL education, like the Kirkhof College of Nursing, must take a CNL certification exam.

The following KCON graduates are certified CNLs: (class of 2013) Mariah Hockin, Terri Ruitter, Michelle Smith, Amanda VandenBerg and Erin Wisniewski; (class of 2014) Erin Micale, Julie Polanic and Diane Ullery.

For more information about the Kirkhof College of Nursing, visit www.gvsu.edu/kcon.

For immediate release

March 17, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Theater at Grand Valley presents Restoration Comedy

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Chasing the joys of love and debauchery is a common thread found in upcoming performances of “Restoration Comedy” by Grand Valley State University theater students.

Theater at Grand Valley presents “Restoration Comedy”

March 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m.

March 22, 29 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Based on comedies of the late 1600s, Loveless, an insatiable womanizer, returns home to England after squandering all of his money. After learning that his wife Amanda is dead, Loveless intends to spend her fortune. Unbeknownst to Loveless, Amanda is in fact alive and begins plotting revenge when she discovers his plans. With the help of Worthy, a mutual friend who is in love with Amanda, she pretends to be a lascivious mistress and tempts Loveless into her bed. While the two repair their broken marital bonds, Amanda breaks Worthy’s heart in the process.

Tickets: adults \$12; alumni, seniors, faculty and staff \$10; students and groups \$6.

For more information, call the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

For immediate release

March 17, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Author of GVSU community book selection will visit West Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The author of book read by many at Grand Valley State University and in West Michigan will give two presentations about her work, which takes readers through a harrowing week at a New Orleans hospital during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Sheri Fink, author of “Five Days at Memorial,” will give a presentation on March 24, 7 p.m., at the Herrick District Library in Holland, and March 25, 7 p.m., in the Kirkhof Center on GVSU’s Allendale Campus. Both presentations are free and open to the public. Fink will sign books after each event; doors of the Kirkhof Center will open at 6 p.m.

Fink is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who received both a doctoral degree and medical degree from Stanford University. Published in 2013, “Five Days at Memorial” exposes the hidden dilemmas of end-of-life care while bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life. Fink also reveals how ill-prepared many major hospitals and medical centers are for large-scale natural disasters.

The book earned numerous accolades, including the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, and it was named to many best-selling lists. Fink, a New York Times correspondent, initially wrote an article about Memorial Hospital and said that was the catalyst for the book.

“Two doctors had told me they had intentionally hastened the deaths of their patients,” Fink said. “This happened in the U.S. in the context of an emergency that overwhelmed many of the systems in place to deal with it. The events seemed worthy of a book that would disseminate the truth about what happened and why.”

Brian Jbara, director of Integrative Learning at Grand Valley, said nearly 50 faculty members incorporated the book in their classes this year. Jbara’s office is charged with organizing the Community Reading Project annually.

“Each year, the book reaches a different group of constituents, but this year in particular, we were able to connect closely with the professional schools,” Jbara said. “More importantly, it was great to hear their perspectives on all of this.”

He added that it may have been difficult for readers to maintain empathy and perspective while reading the book, and listening to Fink’s presentation will hopefully aid their understanding.

“Sheri did some incredibly thorough research to write this book, and I hope she can humanize the experience of what it was like to hear from people directly involved,” Jbara said.

Next year’s CRP book will be announced after Fink’s March 25 lecture.

The CRP is sponsored by the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, University Libraries, Herrick District Library and the Grand Rapids Community Foundation in addition to many on-campus departments. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/read.

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Technology business leader named head of MI-SBDC

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Local business leader and entrepreneur Keith Brophy has been named state executive director of the Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC), which is housed in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

He succeeds Carol Lopucki, who served as state director for 14 years before retiring in December.

Brophy has served on the MI-SBDC advisory board for many years. A past West Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year, he has spent much of his career as a business builder across the state and nation. He launched his first business, Sagestone Consulting, with assistance from the SBDC, and has since been a longtime advocate for SBDC services and programs.

“I am excited to join an organization that has such a positive impact on small businesses across our state and contributes to the continued building of our state’s economy,” said Brophy. “The SBDC provided vital guidance when I launched my first business, as well as in subsequent business growth activities. I directly experienced the high value the SBDC provides in stewarding high-impact small businesses. I look forward to working with the talented team of SBDC counselors.”

Brophy has served as CEO of Ideomed, a care-team connected mobile health company; president of Business Development at NuSoft Solutions; and CEO/co-founder of Sagestone Consulting. NuSoft and Sagestone built sophisticated technology solutions for various industries including manufacturing, health care, education, finance and other sectors.

Brophy began his career at IBM Federal Systems and Systems Integration divisions in Washington D.C. working on a wide variety of forward looking technologies. He has been a frequent speaker on future trends in regional and national venues, including testimony before a U.S. Congressional subcommittee on mobile health innovation. He earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Michigan and an M.S.I.S. degree from Strayer University.

Brophy’s insights and predictions are highly anticipated each year at the Tech Trends event in Grand Rapids. He will be sharing at this year’s event March 18, at 6 p.m. at City Flats in Grand Rapids.

The Michigan Small Business Development Center™ (MI-SBDC™) provides counseling, training, research and advocacy for new business ventures, existing small businesses and innovative technology companies. The state headquarters, located at Grand Valley State University, supports 12 regional offices and more than 30 satellite offices, each providing counseling and training to small business owners and entrepreneurs in all 83 counties in Michigan through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For immediate release

March 23, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution photo of Chamberlain is available via this Dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/Rd>

Chamberlain named to endowed chair position at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Linda Chamberlain was named the new Frederik Meijer Endowed Honors Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Grand Valley State University.

She fills the position first held by Bill Holsinger-Robinson. Chamberlain is a familiar face at Grand Valley and in West Michigan's entrepreneurship circles.

Since 2012, Chamberlain has served as director of the Michigan Accelerator Fund and has been responsible for all aspects of the Grand Rapids-based partnership that contributes to Michigan's economy by investing in companies such as life sciences, advanced manufacturing and alternative energy.

At Grand Valley, Chamberlain works for the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence in the technology commercialization office. In that role, she co-developed a new course centered on design thinking, and provides services and resources for faculty research projects.

Chamberlain has served as executive director of Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. She also served as senior vice president for Global Forex Trading, and executive director of what is now GR Current, a business incubator.

Jeffrey Chamberlain, director of the Meijer Honors College, said Chamberlain (no relation) brings a wealth of experience in business, design thinking and entrepreneurship to the endowed chair position.

"Linda has excellent connections with community partners, and will help students get involved with West Michigan businesses and organizations in important experiences that will make a real difference in the world," he said.

As Meijer endowed chair, Chamberlain said she looks forward to working closely with students on individual or class projects. She will co-teach a course, "Design Thinking to Meet Real World Needs," with a faculty member in Liberal Studies.

"I am honored and privileged to assume the endowed chair position at the Honors College and am looking forward to the opportunity to work with students in both innovation and entrepreneurship," she said.

For immediate release

March 23, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Science Olympiad celebrates Regional Math and Science Center 25th anniversary

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Launching rockets, constructing bridges, solving crimes, and building robots are only a few of the activities that will challenge approximately 1,500 students during Grand Valley State University's 31st Region 12 Science Olympiad tournament.

The Science Olympiad, presented by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC), will take place **Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus.**

Students from 48 middle schools and 25 high schools across West Michigan will showcase their knowledge in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology during the annual competition.

Winners of this year's contest will advance to the state tournament May 2 at Michigan State University.

This year's Science Olympiad competition helps mark the 25th anniversary of the Regional Math and Science Center. The RMSC currently provides educational K-12 resources and programs to approximately 6,000 students and more than 600 teachers in approximately 42 school districts within Kent, Ottawa and Montcalm counties each year.

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education by increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievements in science education by both students and teachers.

During Grand Valley's first Science Olympiad Tournament in 1984, 26 teams competed from schools in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan and Oceana counties. To this day, the tournament, which currently sees approximately 70 participating teams each year, acts as a fun way to bring young students to the university for a fun and educational experience.

For more information about the Science Olympiad Tournament, visit www.gvsu.edu/mso-r12.

For Immediate Release

March 23, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE

Former governor to speak at GVSU

Former Michigan Gov. John Engler will be the keynote speaker at the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture at Grand Valley State University.

Registration for the event is full, but media coverage is encouraged. Engler, president of Business Roundtable, will talk about "The State of our State and Union."

The event will be held:

March 30

7:30 a.m. breakfast

8 a.m. lecture begins

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave.

Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Business Roundtable is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. corporations with a combined workforce of nearly 16 million workers and more than \$7 trillion in annual revenues. A former three-term governor of Michigan, Engler assumed leadership of Business Roundtable in January 2011, after serving for six years as president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers.

He had previously served for 20 years in the Michigan Legislature, including seven years as senate majority leader. Elected in 1970, Engler was the youngest person ever elected to the Michigan State House of Representatives.

Engler serves on the board of directors for Universal Forest Products, K12 Inc., and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU seminar on Mexico's new customs laws and tax reform

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Broad tax reforms swept through one of West Michigan's largest trading partners in 2014 — Mexico. A true tax reform has taken hold, including important changes to Mexico's customs procedures, which have a big impact on the maquiladora industry (foreign-owned factories in Mexico where imported parts are assembled by lower-paid workers for export).

The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University is sponsoring a seminar April 17 to discuss the reforms and implications they have on local businesses.

Keynote speakers include Felipe Chapula Almaraz with Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton in Mexico City, Mexico, and Scott Sneckenberger with Plante Moran in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Almaraz's legal practice includes implementing business and customs strategies for businesses operating in accordance with numerous free trade agreements signed by Mexico. He is experienced in tax and customs law supporting international transactions. Sneckenberger has more than 16 years of experience in international consulting. He assists clients with tax planning decisions in North and South America, Southeast Asia and Western Europe. In addition, he leads the firm's Mexico consulting practice.

Customs Compliance in Mexico

April 17

8:30 a.m.-noon

L. William Seidman Center

50 Front Ave., Grand Rapids

Register at www.vagtc.org

Topics to be covered include:

- Changes to Mexico's customs laws in 2015
- The import process and customs clearance
- The 2014/2015 Mexico tax reform
- The tax administration service and Mexico's customs
- Mexico's electronic accounting and reporting requirements and implications for maquiladoras

For more information contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at (616) 331-3811.

For immediate release

March 24, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Meijer Campus will host spring break 'staycation' classes

HOLLAND, Mich. — Staying in town during spring break?

Grand Valley State University's Meijer Campus in Holland will host two days of free, family friendly classes, suitable for parents and children through fifth grade.

- **Scrubs Camp:** Tuesday, April 7, 10-11:30 a.m.

Grand Valley nursing students will lead interactive activities that include working with stethoscopes and glow-in-the-dark germs. A free blood pressure clinic for adults will be held at that time.

- **Kids Around the World:** Thursday, April 9, 10-11:30 a.m.

International students from Grand Valley will share stories, games and foods from their home countries.

The Meijer Campus in Holland is located at 515 S. Waverly Road. RSVP for either class by April 5 by calling (616) 331-3910 or visiting www.gvsu.edu/holland.

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU Charter School Office to present national accreditation results

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Charter Schools Office is leading a statewide effort to increase authorizer accountability by presenting results of a third-party accreditation review. The review is the first performed in the state by AdvancED, a nonprofit accreditation agency.

"The leadership at AdvancED has created a very comprehensive process of accreditation that is extremely rigorous," said Tim Wood, special assistant to the president for charter schools. "Their intent is to hold authorizers to an exceptionally high standard, which we value and appreciate. We are confident that the independent review by AdvancED will demonstrate our commitment to quality and accountability throughout our portfolio of charter schools. We hope that by becoming the first authorizer to undergo a full accreditation review, other authorizers in the state will follow suit to ensure high standards among all charter schools."

The media presentation will take place March 26 at 3:30 p.m. in room 330 of the Bicycle Factory, 201 Front Ave. SW, in Grand Rapids. Representatives from Grand Valley and AdvancED will be available to discuss the accreditation results.

As an authorizer, Grand Valley serves the most charter school students in the state of Michigan, and is working with the Michigan Council of Charter Schools and AdvancED to provide real solutions and increase accountability of authorizers through the accreditation process.

The accreditation review takes place over several days and is conducted by a six-member national team from AdvancED, Michigan authorizers, and experts from North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

The review process includes over 60 stakeholder interviews, on-site observation of day-to-day operations at authorized schools and an extensive document review. Grand Valley provided AdvancED with documents including contracts between the university and the charter schools it authorizes, as well as surveys and performance analysis.

Members of the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers are working with state lawmakers to develop legislation that would require accreditation of charter school authorizers to ensure stronger accountability for all Michigan charter school authorizers.

The AdvancED accreditation process provides a detailed review of charter school authorizers through a balanced, systemic approach combining standards of quality, stakeholder feedback and student performance. The process aligns accreditation with accountability, emphasizing learner outcomes and organizational effectiveness. Accreditation requires that authorizers meet the AdvancED standards and accreditation policies, demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review and engage in continuous improvement.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/cso

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media-Grand Valley to celebrate Cesar Chavez Day

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Grand Valley State University will host an event to celebrate Cesar E. Chavez Day on Tuesday, March 31.

The event will honor the United Farmworkers, the Young Lords, Chavez and other activists who have fought to defend Latinos from being displaced. It will take place from 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus.

The event will begin with a live performance of “Elvira,” a 90-minute professional play about a Mexican woman and her son who sought refuge at a Chicago church. It focuses on immigration rights and the separation of families. An awards ceremony recognizing local community activists will follow at 4:40 p.m.

A 30-minute screening of the film, “Millie and the Lords,” will follow the awards ceremony. The film features Puerto Rican students in New York in the 1960s who joined [the Young Lords](#), a historical movement in the U.S. where youth questioned and challenged many decisions of government and experimented with alternatives to deal with issues of civil rights, racism and social justice. The film tackles issues such as gangs, LGBT bias and domestic violence. The Young Lords were part of the Latino Civil Rights Movement, led by Cesar Chavez and others.

The event is hosted by Grand Valley’s Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Young Lords Student Organization, a new service and advocacy group at Grand Valley. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Allison Montaie in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177 or montaiea@gvsu.edu, or Jose (Cha-Cha) Jimenez of the Young Lords Student Organization at jjimenejo@mail.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU study measures economic impact of Ford International Airport

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Gerald R. Ford International Airport has an important role in the local economy, supporting more than 40,000 jobs in West Michigan, said a Grand Valley State University economics expert.

Paul Isely, professor and associate dean of economics in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley, worked with airport officials for six months, gathering data for the economic study.

The study found the airport supports or contributes more than 40,000 additional jobs in West Michigan, with 25 percent of these jobs directly related to the airport, airport-dependent businesses and visitors. Additionally, the airport adds \$3.1 billion in economic output, equivalent to 5.8 percent of the areas surrounding Kent County.

“The responses by local firms showed that not only did the airport have the traditional economic impact generated by aviation and visitor spending, but also significantly affected local business activity not directly related to the airport,” said Isely.

The study found the Gerald R. Ford International Airport supports or contributes:

- 40,311 additional jobs in West Michigan;
- \$3.1 billion in economic output, equivalent to 5.8 percent of the areas surrounding Kent County;
- Visitors from outside the region who directly spend \$418 million;
- Construction that creates 271 jobs during an average year for the last 25 years;
- Businesses and governmental units located at the airport contribute \$212 million directly to the West Michigan economy;
- An estimated 6,500 households located within one hour of the airport that would have chosen not to live there without an airport like the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

“The strength of our airport is a direct reflection of the thriving West Michigan economy and renewed commitment of local business and leisure travelers to choose the Gerald R. Ford International Airport as their primary airport,” said Brian Ryks, executive director of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

“We are proud to do our part to help facilitate the creation of jobs and the movement of people and products across our region. We are pleased with the results of the Grand Valley State University study.”

For more information, contact Paul Isely at (616) 331-7418 or iselyp@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

March 26, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Cornel West and Robert P. George will be available to the media for 30 minutes on April 2 at 5 p.m. in the Gordon Gallery in DeVos Building E on Grand Valley's downtown campus, 401 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. High resolution photos of West and George are available for media use via [this Dropbox link](#).

Cornel West, Robert P. George take on culture wars at Hauenstein Center event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Rich versus poor, Republican versus Democrat, or black versus white, controversy and cultural experiences divide the American public along dozens of socioeconomic, political, ethnic and racial lines. With these stark contrasts and divisions in mind, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University is proud to announce a discussion between two cultural and academic giants, Cornel West and Robert P. George, at “The Culture Wars: A Workable Armistice?” on April 2.

West, a nationally recognized progressive political philosopher and race theorist who has been featured on [The Colbert Report](#), [Real Time with Bill Maher](#), [CNN](#), and the [Late Show with David Letterman](#), will present alongside [George](#), a conservative Catholic philosopher of jurisprudence and natural law who was called America’s “most influential conservative Christian thinker” by the [New York Times](#).

“The Culture Wars: A Workable Armistice?”

American Conversations Season Finale

April 2 at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center, Grand Valley Pew Campus

301 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Free and open to the public

[RSVPs requested, capacity audience expected](#)

Both West and George are professors at Princeton, but share little else in common. While it’s easy to imagine these titans of academia and intellect clashing, West and George have managed to develop a friendship based on productive collaboration. Despite staggeringly different views on race, politics and government, they teach together, debate each other, and remain open to each others’ best arguments.

Together, they will present a case study in the pursuit of common ground, showcasing how two extraordinarily brilliant thinkers of the modern age can disagree on nearly every core issue, but still learn from each other in their respective examinations.

In the Hauenstein Center’s final American Conversations event of the season, West and George will discuss their productive friendship and how to promote the pursuit of common ground.

For more information, visit HauensteinCenter.org

For immediate release

March 26, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Shaily Menon is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Rm>.

GVSU associate dean named American Council on Education Fellow

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Shaily Menon, associate dean for professional development and administration in Grand Valley State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has been named a 2015-16 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow.

The ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing emerging leaders for senior positions in college and university administration.

During her time as one of 47 ACE Fellows, Menon will take part in various retreats, interactive learning opportunities and campus visits. She will also be placed at another higher education institution to observe and work with the president and other senior officers at their host institution, attend decision-making meetings and focus on issues of interest. Additionally, Menon will conduct a project intertwining design thinking and community engagement aimed at benefiting campus-wide initiatives at Grand Valley, such as internationalization, diversity, sustainability and big data analytics.

Menon said she hopes to leave her fellowship with a better understanding of the larger landscape of higher education and issues facing higher education.

"Universities are being called upon to address issues of access and equity, and to innovate in order to prepare students for a changing world and the ever-increasingly complex local and global problems they will face," Menon said. "I hope to learn about and gain insights into innovative strategies that can bring together various constituencies of higher education institutions and community stakeholders."

Grand Valley Provost Gayle Davis said she nominated Menon for the honor because she has distinguished herself in every role she has taken at the university.

"I know of her successes as a department chair and associate dean in all aspects of the work and know that she will apply those same attributes to be successful in future leadership roles," Davis said. "Shaily will return to Grand Valley having grown through this experience and be even more prepared to help Grand Valley excel in the future."

In the past 50 years of the ACE Fellows Program, nearly 2,000 higher education leaders have participated, with more than 300 Fellows having served as chief executive officers of colleges or universities and more than 1,300 having served as provosts, vice presidents and deans. With this appointment, Menon joins the ranks of President Thomas J. Haas and Nancy Giardina, vice provost for Student Success, who have previously participated in the program.

For more information about the ACE Fellows Program, visit

<http://www.acenet.edu/leadership/programs/Pages/ACE-Fellows-Program.aspx>.

For Immediate Release

March 26, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU Charter Schools Office recommended for accreditation by AdvancED

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University’s Charter Schools Office has been recommended for accreditation by a third-party review team, making the university the first charter school authorizer in the nation to achieve the national AdvancED accreditation classification.

The recommendation from AdvancED came after an intensive three-day review of the university’s Charter Schools Office and portfolio of schools. The review consisted of evaluations of resource utilization, teaching and learning and leadership capacity. Other considerations included student performance, continuous improvement, strategic plans, an index of education quality and more.

A review team from AdvancED showed that GVSU’s Charter Schools Office not only met but significantly surpassed average results for the rigorous evaluation process, which included an extensive document review and interviews with more than 120 stakeholders at Grand Valley and GVSU authorized schools.

“This review by AdvancEd is proof that we do what we say we’re doing throughout our office on behalf of the schools that we authorize,” said Tim Wood, special assistant to the president for charter schools at Grand Valley. “We are proud to be leading the effort to enhance accountability among charter school authorizers across the state.”

AdvancED is the largest accrediting body in the world, having accredited more than 32,000 schools serving more than 20 million students worldwide.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/cso/advanced.

For immediate release

March 27, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Diane Rayor is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Rn>.

GVSU professor publishes translations of rare classical texts

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University classics professor's new book is gaining national attention thanks to its inclusion of classic Greek texts never before published or translated for contemporary audiences.

Diane Rayor's "Sappho: A New Translation of the Complete Works" translates all of the works of Sappho. The ancient Greek poet lived around 600 BC on the island of Lesbos and has been h for more than 2,500 years as the earliest and most famous female Greek poet.

Rayor's publication includes two new poems discovered in 2014, additions to five other poems from this discovery, and a poem discovered in 2004. The book is currently the only publication that includes the poems discovered in 2004 and 2014.

"Sappho: A New Translation of the Complete Works" was most notably reviewed in The New Yorker twice in one week by Daniel Mendelsohn, acclaimed literary critic and former Grand Valley Fall Arts Celebration Distinguished Lecturer.

"Coverage by The New Yorker brings attention not only to Sappho, but to classics and GVSU," Rayor said. "It is good for our students to know that classics holds a broad appeal and also that their professors are recognized for their excellence in their fields."

Rayor's other translated works of ancient Greek poetry and drama include "Euripides' 'Medea': A New Translation," "Sophocles' 'Antigone': A New Translation," "Homeric Hymns: A Translation, with Introduction and Notes," "Sappho's Lyre: Archaic Lyric and Women Poets of Ancient Greece," and "Callimachus."

Mendelsohn's article can be read here: <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/hearing-sappho>.

For more information about the book, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/RI>.

For immediate release

March 26, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: a photo of H. Sook Wilkinson at the event is available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/Rp>

Historians earn awards, recognition from GVSU Kutsche Office

-- Olson winner is NMU trustee H. Sook Wilkinson

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Three historians earned honors from the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University during the annual Local History Roundtable March 26 at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Dr. H. Sook Wilkinson, of Bloomfield Hills, received the second Gordon Olson Lifetime Contributions to Local History award. The award is named for Olson, former Grand Rapids city historian. Criteria for receiving the Olson award includes contributions to local history that give voice to diverse communities.

Finalists for the award were Cindy Laug and Lori Shusta.

A Korean adoptee herself, Wilkinson has written several books on the experiences of adoptees, including "Birth is More than Once: The Inner World of Adopted Korean Children" and "After the Morning Calm: Reflections of Korean Adoptees." Another book, "Asian Americans in Michigan: Voices from the Midwest," will be released this month.

Wilkinson has chaired the Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs as well as the new Michigan Pacific American Affairs Commission. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for Northern Michigan University.

Laug is the administrative assistant for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Grand Valley. She is well-known for her work in women's history, and has researched and brought to light stories of Michigan citizens like Etta Smith Wilson, Grand Rapids' first women journalist.

Shusta has collected and preserved histories of Native Americans and the archives at the Grand Valley American Indian Lodge, where she works. She has also advocated for Native American history through a wide range of projects across the region.

Visit the Kutsche Office of Local History's website at www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For immediate release

March 31, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Register for annual campaign training workshop for women

SAGINAW, Mich. — Organizers of a political campaign training workshop say ending partisan gridlock will begin when more women are elected to office.

Shannon Garrett, of Ready to Run Michigan, a nonpartisan campaign training workshop, said recent research by [Quorum](#) shows not only should more women serve in office, more should be invited to run for elected office.

“The research states that female members of Congress work more frequently with each other, and more frequently across the aisle,” Garrett said.

To help boost the number of women serving in local, state and national political leadership, the fourth annual Ready to Run Michigan workshop will be held April 18 on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University. Partners of Ready to Run are Grand Valley State University, Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan ACE Women’s Network, SMG Strategies, and VoteRunLead.

Cost to attend the daylong workshop is \$125, an optional networking reception is \$25. Visit www.gvsu.edu/readytorun to register and see details. Space is limited and some scholarships are available.

The workshop will include sessions on campaign planning, fundraising, media training and messaging. Campaign professionals will lead trainings, and elected and appointed female politicians are scheduled to speak and provide insight.

Of the 148 legislators in Lansing, 31 are women; four of them serve in the state Senate and eight legislators in the state House are women of color.

For more information, visit the website or call (616) 331-2748.

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Muskegon Lake water quality continues to improve

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Researchers at the Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) at Grand Valley State University have released a new report that indicates the water quality of Muskegon Lake continues to improve, and is meeting desirable criteria in three of four key water quality indicators.

The results are reported on the [AWRI annual water quality dashboard](#), which is part of the Muskegon Lake Long-Term Monitoring program. The dashboard provides an at-a-glance representation of conditions in the lake, and historical data are also included to demonstrate water quality changes over time.

AWRI scientists have been monitoring the status of Muskegon Lake since 2003, when community philanthropists, led by W.G. Jackson, started an endowment fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Distributions from this fund, combined with additional grants from the Alcoa Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Fremont Area Community Foundation, have allowed faculty members, staff and students to obtain consistent, long-term data on Muskegon Lake.

The information is used to assess the short- and long-term health of the lake, which in turn has helped the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. EPA determine if the Muskegon Lake Area of Concern is meeting its restoration targets. The goal is to remove Muskegon Lake from the Great Lakes Area of Concern within five years.

“I’m not certain what is more impressive — the dramatic improvement in Muskegon Lake water quality since the early 1970s, or the incredible generosity of the community in helping support these very important research initiatives,” said Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute.

The monitoring data were enhanced four years ago, when the U.S. EPA granted AWRI more than \$500,000 to install the Muskegon Lake Monitoring Observatory, which is a buoy that generates real-time data on the lake throughout the ice-free season. Led by Bopi Biddanda, a researcher and faculty member at AWRI, the data generated by the buoy are giving scientists a much deeper understanding of the Muskegon Lake functions.

Visit: www.gvsu.edu/wri/director/dashboard to view the 2014 dashboard update.

Visit: www.gvsu.edu/wri/buoy/ to learn more about the buoy.

For Immediate Release

April 1, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU offers free international market research

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University is offering international market research to Michigan businesses free of charge.

Small and medium enterprises looking to expand into new markets will receive a custom tailored market research report specific to products and industries.

Businesses located in the following West Michigan counties are eligible: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Saint Joseph and Van Buren.

VAGTC received a Pure Michigan Export Grant to assist businesses with developing export markets.

For more information contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at (616) 331-6811 or email vagtc@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

April 1, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU social work program celebrates 20 years in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's School of Social Work will celebrate 20 years of serving northern Michigan with an event for social work faculty members and alumni.

The breakfast and continuing education training event is set for Thursday, April 30, at Northwestern Michigan College's Hagerty Conference Center, 715 Front St.

Welcome remarks and a breakfast at 9 a.m. begin the day, followed by training from 9:30-11 a.m. There is no charge for event or the continuing education training hours for practicing social workers.

RSVP by April 17 online at www.gvsu.edu/traverse or call (231) 995-1785.

For Immediate Release

April 2, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Families of kidnapping victims in Mexico to visit Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Family members of the 43 college students who were kidnapped last September in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, will visit Grand Valley State University April 7.

The visit by two parents and one survivor of the incident is part of the U.S. speaking tour, “Caravana 43.” It is centered around human rights violations and the events of September 26, 2014, when 43 students at Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers College disappeared after witnesses saw them clash with local police. The students are still missing.

Ayotzinapa: What’s Happening in Mexico

Tuesday, April 7

8-10 p.m.

Multipurpose Room, Mary Idema Pew Library

Allendale Campus

The parents plan to take their case to the Inter-American Commission, Amnesty International and the United Nations. Photos of the students’ faces, carried on placards in demonstrations throughout Mexico and in other countries, have become symbols of the tens of thousands of forced disappearances and more than 100,000 killings in Mexico since 2006.

The event is organized in collaboration with the Coalition Justice for Ayotzinapa: Grand Rapids and Grand Valley’s Community Service Learning Center. It is sponsored by Grand Valley’s Advocates for Immigration Reform, Hermanos, Latino Male Scholar Initiative, Latin American Studies and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

For more information, contact Adriana Almanza, Grand Valley admissions counselor and advisor of Advocates for Immigration Reform student organization, at almanzad@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2025.

For immediate release

April 2, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution images of each placard are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/RH>.

Poetry on the Rapid to feature poetry by GVSU faculty

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Passengers on The Rapid will have more than just West Michigan scenery to look at throughout April when poetry crafted by Grand Valley State University faculty will be on display during the Poetry on the Rapid program.

Six poems will be featured on placards throughout The Rapid bus system, each designed by Vinicius Lima, assistant professor of graphic design at Grand Valley. The placards will feature works by multiple Grand Valley Writing Department faculty, including Patricia Clark, Chris Haven, Amorak Huey and Todd Kaneko. Poetry from Calvin College and Grand Rapids Community College faculty will also be on display.

Clark, chair of Grand Valley's Writing Department, said the placards will create a sense of wonder in the minds of Rapid riders. "Let's use our imagination a little more and see the world with a sense of fun, a sense of play, a sense of fooling around with language," Clark said. "Let's be children again a little bit. Go ahead and read those poems."

The Poetry on the Rapid program celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as National Poetry Month.

For more information, contact Gretchen Galbraith, associate dean for faculty resources and sharing in Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at (616) 331-2495 or galbraig@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

April 3, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host Design Thinking panel discussion

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley will host a panel of local business leaders to discuss the concepts of design thinking and how they can be applied to solve complex problems. The event is in conjunction with West Michigan Design Week.

“Design Thinking for Social Impact”

Tuesday, April 7

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

L. William Seidman Center, room 1008, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

John Berry, director of the Design Thinking Initiative at Grand Valley, will facilitate the panel discussion.

Panelists for this event will include Ellen Carpenter, vice president of marketing and communications for Heart of West Michigan United Way, Ryan Kilpatrick, community assistance specialist at Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Kris Spaulding, sustainability director and owner at Brewery Vivant.

Design thinking is generally defined as an interactive, project-based, problem-solving process that combines empathy, creativity and rationality to meet real world needs.

Grand Valley announced its Design Thinking Initiative at the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year. Its mission is to help ensure students will be prepared for lifelong learning and careers in ever changing work environments by teaching interdisciplinary skills such as empathy, ideating, testing and prototyping.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit <http://www.wmdesignweek.com/new-events-2/2015/4/7/design-thinking-for-social-impact>.

The event is sponsored by Grand Valley in association with the Grand Rapids Art Museum and AIGA West Michigan Design For Good.

For more information about Grand Valley’s Design Thinking Initiative, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU hosts entrepreneurial challenge

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An event designed to create cross collaboration between students from several West Michigan universities will be held at Grand Valley State University April 17.

MWest Challenge, hosted by Grand Valley's Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, allows entrepreneurially minded students to develop and grow new ventures based on their own ideas. The event includes 41 startup teams representing 100 students from Grand Valley and its university partners — Aquinas College, Calvin College, Kendall College of Art and Design, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, Kuyper College and Hope College.

All teams will have the opportunity to compete for \$30,000 in prize money. As a result of last year's first annual MWest Challenge, seven teams incorporated a new business in Michigan.

New to this year's event is the Health Care Innovation award, sponsored by Spectrum Health Innovations. The \$5,000 award will help increase the success of new biomedical product concepts with commercialization opportunities in West Michigan's growing life sciences corridor.

MWest Challenge

April 17

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eberhard Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 301 Fulton W. St.

www.mwestchallenge.com

Since it's initial kick off in November 2014, MWest Challenge has provided networking opportunities, mentors, workshops and seminars for participating students.

The event is sponsored by and in partnership with Atomic Object, GR Current, Spartan Innovations, Spectrum Health Innovations, Start Garden and Varnum LLP.

For more information, contact Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at (616) 331-7582.

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Brian%20Long%20audio%20April%202015>

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.

Current business trends: growth rate improves

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The growth rate improved for the West Michigan economy during the month of March, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Long surveyed local business leaders; his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of March.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, bounced to +29, up significantly from +13. The employment index rose to +25 from +19. The production index posted a respectable gain, rising from +18 to +35. The index of purchases came in at +35, up nicely from +16.

"It was not surprising to find that most of our industrial groups are seeing improvement," said Long. "Despite auto sales showing signs of topping out, our local auto parts producers continue to attract additional business. The office furniture business is starting to come out of its seasonally slow period, and the improvement in rental of new office space in some of the big cities has helped to boost demand. As a group, the industrial distributors had a very good month. The only significant drag on this month's report came from the capital equipment firms, several of which appear to have encountered a soft spot in the marketplace."

Long said the short-term business outlook index bounced to +32, up sharply from February's +18 and the long-term business outlook index posted a more modest gain, rising to +46 from +41.

"More importantly the comments from our participants were considerably more upbeat for March," said Long. "It may have just been the fatigue of winter finally wearing off, although the same uptick in optimism may also be found at the national and international economic levels."

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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

EMBARGOED UNTIL April 7, 2015, 4:30 a.m.

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Interactive report shows water's importance to Michigan economy

MUSKEGON, Mich. — A new report that documents the critical importance of water to Michigan's economy illustrates how and why water impacts jobs and recreation, and explores the broad impact of Michigan's water-based economy.

[The Michigan Blue Economy report](#), compiled by the Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University and the Michigan Economic Center at Prima Civitas, examines the role of water from Michigan's past to future, and inventories the water-based activities in the business sector, higher education and research centers, and community redevelopment and thinking. The report indicates that at least one in five jobs in Michigan is related to water. Researchers say several simple suggestions could be implemented to make the state the center of the growing global water solutions industry.

The report, available online at michiganblueeconomy.org, reveals several important facts about the water-based economy, including:

- Transportation, ports and shipping contribute more than 65,000 jobs and \$3 billion annually
- Big water-using sectors such as farming and manufacturing account for 581,000 Michigan jobs
- Emerging water growth sectors, including water technology product and service firms account for 138,000 jobs
- Economic activity driven by water placemaking, including water cleanup, waterfront development and recreation and enjoyment collectively account for more than 175,000 jobs and \$12.5 billion annually
- Water research, education centers and conservation organizations conducted \$300 million worth of water research in recent years. Water conservation organizations employ 2,700 people and contribute \$80 million to incomes.

"More than 1 in 5 Michigan jobs are already linked to water, and given Michigan's unique water resources and water innovation assets, we can be the world's center of water work, and seize more than our share of growing global water solutions business and related jobs," said John Austin, the report's lead author.

"There is only so much waterfront real estate, and with 3,000-plus miles of Great Lakes freshwater coast, 11,000 inland lakes, hundreds of rivers, coastal and inland wetlands, Michigan is a magical place to live, work and play," said Alan Steinman, co-author of the report and director of the Annis Water Resources Institute. "Taking advantage of our incredible water resources has become an exciting priority for communities across Michigan that are reclaiming and reconnecting to their waterfronts."

The report features the significant water research, innovation and education programs at Grand Valley State University, where work is being done to solve local, Great Lakes and truly global freshwater challenges. In the process, faculty and researchers at GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute are educating the water problem solvers, and providing future stewards that the world needs.

The report also provides a set of recommendations for strategic actions by state and local public officials, businesses, non-profits, and education and philanthropic leaders who can accelerate Michigan's already impressive Blue Economy growth and leadership.

The recommendations are:

- Create a business-led "Blue Economy Council" to forge public-private partnerships bringing companies and researchers together to solve thorny water treatment and new technology development issues, and spur new business lines and companies;
- Create a new State Office of Water Innovation to re-fashion water use, regulatory standards and financing tools to encourage new sustainable water technology deployment and business growth;
- Organize a Pure Michigan Water Technology Innovation fund: a catalyst organization to commercialize new water product and services, and develop new firms;
- Create Blue Economy Compacts by challenging communities and regions to organize around their Blue Economy as a priority economic development opportunity;
- Create a Blue Economy "prize" for innovative community water and Blue Economy development strategies.

"Michigan is already a leading center of water research and development, invention, new smart water technologies and business development," Austin said. "Michigan can show the rest of the world how to be smart stewards of freshwater, and become the nation's leader in water-based jobs and economic development."

The full interactive report can be viewed online at michiganblueeconomy.org.

The [Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute \(AWRI\)](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri) 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.

The Michigan Economic Center is a center for ideas and a network of state and local leaders and citizens working to: Advance a vision for Michigan's economic renewal; provide policy ideas and solutions that realize the vision; and engage and support a diverse network of citizens, leaders and organizations in advancing the vision and making ideas for a more competitive, innovative and global Michigan a reality. More information is available at www.MiEconomicCenter.org

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to host pow wow April 11-12

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Native American Student Association at Grand Valley State University will host an indoor spring pow wow April 11-12 to raise awareness about Native American culture and tradition.

The 18th annual Spring Pow Wow will take place in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. Hundreds of people are expected to attend, including people from Native American communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will celebrate traditional Native American dancing and music. Each pow wow will begin with a Grand Entry, when performers line up by dance style and age and enter the arena while the host drum sings a song.

Saturday, April 11:

2–5 p.m.: Grand Entry

5–7 p.m.: Break

7–10 p.m.: Grand Entry

Sunday, April 12:

12 p.m.: Grand Entry

4 p.m.: Pow wow ends

There will be a silent auction, and Native American art, jewelry and cuisine will be available to purchase throughout both days.

Supporting sponsors include Grand Valley's Division of Inclusion and Equity, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Auxiliary Services and Cultural Programming Board, as well as FireKeepers Casino Hotel, Notwaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi and Gun Lake Casino.

For more information, contact NASA at gvsu_nasa@yahoo.com or Kristie Scanlon in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177.

For immediate release

April 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Ho is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/RS>.

Renowned chemist to speak at Ott Lectureship

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A professor of chemistry, physics and astronomy, who is recognized for his research in molecule probing, will be the featured speaker at the Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry at Grand Valley State University.

Wilson Ho is currently the Donald Bren Professor of Physics and Astronomy at University of California, Irvine. Ho's research has been guided by the development of new instrumentation and experimental procedures for probing molecules by adsorbing them on solid surfaces.

Public Lecture: "Visualization of Chemistry: Seeing is Believing"

Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

Loosemoore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Student Seminar: "Bond, Chemical Bond"

Friday, April 17 at 1 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room, Allendale Campus

A reception will precede Ho's lecture at 5 p.m. in Hager Lubbers Exhibition Hall, room 105E, in DeVos Center. All Ott Lecture events are free and open to the public.

Ho received his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, and his doctorate in physics from the University of Pennsylvania. He spent years as a member of the technical staff at the AT&T Bell Laboratories and was on the faculty at Cornell University prior to joining the University of California, Irvine in 2000.

Ho has published 270 papers and his work has been recognized by Fellowships in the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Bonner Chemistry Prize, Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for Senior U.S. Scientists, Medard Welch Award of the American Vacuum Society, and Irving Langmuir Prize of the American Physical Society.

The Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry was created and endowed by a gift from Arnold C. and Marion Ott. Arnold Ott was a leading chemist and entrepreneur in West Michigan. He was also one of the co-founders of Grand Valley and served on the Board of Trustees for 28 years.

For more information, contact Grand Valley's Chemistry Department at (616) 331-3317 or visit www.gvsu.edu/chem.

For Immediate Release

April 10, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Susan Ford Bales to discuss education of her parents

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Susan Ford Bales will explain what education was like for her parents, President Gerald R. Ford and Betty Ford, as part of Grand Valley State University's College of Education 50th Anniversary Golden Lecture Series.

The lecture will include discussion on President Ford's signing of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, which provided equal access to education for children with physical and mental disabilities. The event will also feature Hendrik Booraem, author of "Young Jerry Ford: Athlete and Citizen."

"The Education of Gerald R. Ford" with Susan Ford Bales

April 15

5:30 p.m. open reception

6:30 p.m. lecture

L. William Seidman Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The 50th Anniversary Golden Lecture Series celebrates 50 years of quality teacher preparation programs in the College of Education.

For more information, contact Ann Homrich in the College of Education, at (616) 331-6290.

For Immediate Release

April 13, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

World Trade Week focuses on Latin America

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — West Michigan World Trade Week will bring together a multitude of Michigan businesses May 6 to discuss emerging trends in Latin America. The conference, hosted by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center and the U.S. Commercial Service, is celebrating 30 years of helping Michigan's business leaders increase exports and bring more business opportunities to West Michigan.

This year's keynote speaker is Ambassador Richard Holwill, vice president of public policy for Alticor, Inc. in Washington, D.C. Holwill has worked around the world with extensive experience in South America, China, India and Russia. He served in the U.S. Department of State in a number of positions including U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador. He is co-chairman of the Cuba Working Group at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

West Michigan World Trade Week

May 6

11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

L. William Seidman Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Register at www.worldtradeweekmi.org

Other conference speakers include Thys DeBruyn, president of Advance Resources and Consulting, and Juan Manuel Solana Morales, consulate of Mexico-Detroit.

Several breakout sessions are planned on a variety of topics including:

- Protecting business interests while traveling in Latin America
- Doing business in Brazil
- Beyond NAFTA: Opportunities in Mexico
- Emerging Markets: Chile, Colombia and Peru

The West Michigan World Trade Week Planning Committee is comprised of volunteers from more than 20 internationally focused companies and organizations. The committee leadership alternates on an annual basis between the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Van Andel Global Trade Center.

For a full schedule or more information, visit www.worldtradeweekmi.org or call 616-331-6811.

For immediate release

April 13, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos and videos of Moriah Muscaro are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/S8>.

GVSU twirler places among top five in the world at international competition

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Moriah Muscaro, Grand Valley State University's current third-generation baton twirler, rose above twirlers from around the world to place fourth during an international competition.

Muscaro competed as part of Team USA in the Baton Solo Event category at the World Federation National Baton Twirling Association (WFNBTA) World Baton Twirling Championships April 1-5 in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy. Muscaro said her "two perfect routines" during the preliminary and final rounds were personal bests.

"Twirling for 17 years, my goal was always to reach this highest level, so just to be at the World Championships was a dream come true," Muscaro said. "I am very proud to bring this fourth place finish back to the USA and GVSU."

Muscaro earned her spot on Team USA by winning a finalist position at the National Baton Twirling Association national championships in 2014. Her spot on Team USA is an honor Muscaro said many twirlers aspire to attain, but few actually achieve.

"I was so honored to be a part of this prestigious team because there are hundreds of American twirlers each qualification cycle that do not make it onto the team," Muscaro said.

With graduation looming, Muscaro said she is sad to leave Grand Valley, but grateful for the experiences she's been afforded.

"My years at GVSU have been the best of my life and I so hope that others have the opportunity to experience what I have been blessed to experience," Muscaro said.

With offers from three medical schools on the table, Muscaro will retire from twirling to continue pursuing her dream of becoming a physician. Following one final competition this summer, she will continue to coach and judge.

For Immediate Release
April 14, 2015

Lincoln's death, life, recalled in enormous GVSU collection

ALLENDALE, Mich. — 150 years ago on the evening of April 14, President Abraham Lincoln was taking in a play with his wife at Ford's Theater when a gunman changed the course of history, shooting Lincoln, who would die the next day.

Since Lincoln's assassination, thousands of books have been written about his legacy, his presidency and his life, and countless artists have recreated his likeness. The collective knowledge about Lincoln and his impact on the world is expansive, and Grand Valley State University has a renowned collection of works on the late president that is a clearinghouse for Lincoln fans. It is one of the most comprehensive archival collections of material on Abraham Lincoln in the state of Michigan.

The university's collection was donated to Grand Valley more than two decades ago by former Meijer executive Harvey Lemmen. The collection is made up of more than 5,000 volumes and pieces of memorabilia, lithographs, prints, paintings, reproductions and rare original pieces from Lincoln's life, presidency and legacy.

"The university's Lincoln collection is a treasure for fans and scholars of the former president," said university archivist Robert Beasecker. "Mr. Lemmen had a passion for collecting books and other materials pertaining to Lincoln. We're lucky to have them."

The collection of Lincoln material is accessible to students, faculty and staff, and the general public on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus in the Seidman House university archives. While not available for check out, the material is available for use in the on-site reading room.

The collection includes an original first printing of the Gettysburg Address, dozens of original postcards and lithographs depicting the room Lincoln died in, an original printing of the 1858 debates with Stephen Douglas, and an original 'Wanted' poster from shortly after Lincoln's death seeking John Wilkes Booth for arrest. The main room of the university archives features a large painting called 'Allegory of the Death of Lincoln' from 1865 by Belgian artist Constantin Meunier.

An additional resource for Lincoln-hungry scholars is the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, an academic center dedicated to leadership and the study of presidents and their politics. Director Gleaves Whitney is a presidential historian and scholar with a fondness for Lincoln, a president he called "one of democracy's greatest leaders."

Whitney has spoken extensively about Lincoln, and in 2009, was appointed to Michigan's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee, a two-year effort charged with helping the state celebrate the 16th president's contributions to the nation.

Portions of the collection are available for [viewing online through the university libraries site](#).

For immediate release

April 14, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Cho is available via Dropbox at <http://qvsu.edu/s/RT>.

Acclaimed pianist Sookkyung Cho to perform at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Sookkyung Cho, an experienced educator and performer, will be the featured pianist at the William Baum Endowment Fund Series at Grand Valley State University April 19.

**William Baum Endowment Fund Series presents pianist Sookkyung Cho
Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m.**

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Before recently being appointed an assistant professor of piano at Grand Valley, Cho served on the piano faculty at New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Continuing Education in Boston. She was also adjunct faculty in theory at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and served as a Teaching Fellow in the piano minor and music theory departments at The Juilliard School.

Cho has performed throughout North America, Europe, and her native country, Korea, in prestigious venues, including Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Steinway Hall in New York, Chicago Cultural Center, Sarasota Opera House, Beaux concerts de la releve in Quebec, Château de Fontainebleau in France and Zijingang Theater at Zhejiang University in China, among others.

She received a bachelor's of music and doctorate of musical arts degrees from The Juilliard School, and her master's from Johns Hopkins University.

Grand Valley's Political Science Department, in conjunction with the William Baum Endowment Fund, is sponsoring Cho's performance. The fund was established in 1998 to support a special speaker series on issues in American law during even numbered years, and a recital by a noted pianist on odd numbered years.

This concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Cho's performance, contact Grand Valley's Political Science Department at (616) 331-2320.

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Family Owned Business Summit incorporates Design Thinking

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Design Thinking can transform the core capabilities of a family-owned business. This concept and more will be explored at the Family Owned Business Institute Summit May 21 at Grand Valley State University.

“Research shows family-owned businesses score lower on measures of innovation, including the amount spent on research and development and number of new patents,” said Joseph Horak, director of the Family Owned Business Institute. “Also, family businesses have a tension between tradition and change, which makes innovation difficult. This interactive workshop is designed with these challenges in mind and for participants to leave with solutions.”

Seth Starner, president of NewNorth Center for Design in Business, is the featured workshop leader. NewNorth helps companies and nonprofits through innovative learning experiences, practical resources and strategic services based on the discipline of Design Thinking. Starner previously led the Business Innovations Group at the Amway Corporation.

Family Owned Business Institute Summit

May 21

8 a.m.-noon

L. William Seidman Center

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The workshop includes:

- Working with family and non-family managers to find solutions unique to each business
- Defining core strengths and understanding how to leverage them in a more profitable way
- Learning the 10 types of innovation and how leveraging them gives companies a competitive edge
- Turning ideas into action and leaving with a plan to implement new concepts in a way that will inspire growth

For more information, contact Grand Valley’s Family Owned Business Institute at (616) 331-7278 or visit www.gvsu.edu/fobi.

For Immediate Release
April 15, 2015

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of speakers are available at: <http://qvsu.edu/s/RR>

GVSU to celebrate 100,000th graduate

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Some 3,000 Grand Valley State University students will participate in commencement ceremonies April 25 at Van Andel Arena. One of those graduates will be the 100,000th to receive a Grand Valley degree.

Grand Valley will celebrate another record-breaking milestone with more than 5,600 students expected to receive a degree during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Michael Jandernoa, former CEO and current board member of Perrigo Company, is the morning speaker, and Paula Kerger, president and CEO of PBS, is the afternoon speaker.

Grand Valley Commencement Ceremonies
Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Van Andel Arena, downtown Grand Rapids

The ceremony will be webcast at www.gvsu.edu/commencement

MEDIA NOTE: Skybox 101B is reserved for media. The box offers a mult box and an elevated, unobstructed view of the podium and platform.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include the following colleges: Seidman College of Business, College of Community and Public Service, Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing. The 3 p.m. ceremony will include the following colleges: College of Education, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Speakers

Jandernoa served as CEO of Perrigo Company from 1998-2000 and chair of the board from 1991-2003. He graduated from the University of Michigan and worked for BDO Seidman as a CPA before joining Perrigo in 1979. He is the founder of Jandernoa Entrepreneurial Mentoring and 42 North Partners.

Kerger joined PBS as president and CEO in 2006. Under her leadership, PBS has grown its audiences across genres and platforms. She was named to the Women's Forum in 2005 and was honored in 2012 by national media outlets with a Brand Builder Award. She serves on boards for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Awards and honorary degrees

The Alumni Association will present its Distinguished Alumni Award to Noreen Myers, '72, a sole practitioner specializing in employment law and the first alumna to be appointed to Grand Valley's

Board of Trustees. The Outstanding Educator Award will be presented to Brad Wallar, associate professor of chemistry.

David Hecht and Bea Idema will receive honorary degrees. Hecht, a current trustee for the Grand Valley University Foundation, is president of the Charles W. Loosemore Foundation. He has practiced law for more than 50 years. Idema was among the lead donors for the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons at Grand Valley.

Notable students

A set of triplets will graduate together. Jake, Victoria and Zachary Rinvelt, from Ada, will participate in the morning commencement ceremony together. Their father, Rob Rinvelt, graduated from Grand Valley in 1979.

Jacob is a finance and international business major; Victoria is a hospitality and tourism management major; and Zachary is an advertising and public relations major. They are available for interviews; contact Jake at (616) 916-8534 or rinveltj@mail.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley State named a 'Green College' for sixth year

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review for the sixth year in a row. The university is included in "[The Princeton Review's Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition.](#)"

Released just prior to the April 22 celebration of the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, the guide profiles institutions of higher education in the U.S. that demonstrate exemplary commitments to sustainability. Areas of evaluation included the university's commitment to building at LEED standards, environmental programs, the use of renewable energy resources and recycling and conservation programs. Nearly 900 schools were surveyed to be included in the guide.

Schools are chosen based on their 2014 Green Rating scores (of 60 to 99); schools with scores of 83 or higher made it into the guide. Grand Valley has been included in the guidebook every year since the first issue was published in 2010. View the guidebook [here](#).

This is the latest recognition Grand Valley has received for its sustainability efforts. In 2014, Grand Valley was recognized at the United National University 2014 Global RCE Conference for preparing students for the workforce by teaching sustainability skill sets. Also in 2014, the Sierra Club ranked the university 58th out of 173 schools as one of the country's greenest universities. In 2015, Grand Valley maintained its status as being one of 75 in the country to receive gold status after completing a sustainability program developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainability Practices at www.gvsu.edu/sustainability or (616) 331-7366.

For immediate release

April 16, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Screening set for GVSU Summer Film Project "Lucky Jay"

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is set to premiere a sneak preview of its 20th annual Summer Film Project, "Lucky Jay," for West Michigan audiences April 24 at 7 p.m. at Celebration Cinema North in Grand Rapids.

The seven-episode comedy-drama is a web series about one semester in the life of a young film professor pursuing tenure at a fictional college in the Midwest.

The web series will be available online for global audiences beginning May 1 at luckyjayseries.com with one episode set for release each day until all seven are posted on May 7.

John Harper Philbin, associate professor of film and video production, directed "Lucky Jay" and wrote the script, along with collaborators John Dufresne, a novelist and creative writing professor at Florida International University, and Angelo Eidse, a Vancouver-based screenwriter.

The film's crew consisted of 22 members including Grand Valley faculty, students and various professionals. Filming for "Lucky Jay" took place at multiple locations on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids and Allendale campuses as well as private homes in Grand Rapids and Fenian's Irish Pub in Conklin.

Barbara Roos, associate professor of film and video production and program founder, established the Summer Film Project in 1995. The project was established to offer junior and senior students an opportunity to work side-by-side with professionals to produce a short film during a six-week practicum course. Post-production is completed during a 15-week fall course, with a premiere screening each spring.

For more information, contact John Philbin at (616) 331-3608.

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MAREC to host workshop on solar development

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Individuals interested in learning about solar development in Michigan are invited to a free workshop May 5 at Grand Valley State University's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center in Muskegon.

The workshop, "Solar Powering Your Community," will take place from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. It will focus on actionable steps for adopting solar in West Michigan. Lunch will be provided; register by April 22 at <http://bit.ly/muskegonmiworkshop>.

The workshop will feature national and local experts who will discuss:

- the benefits and barriers of solar development in Michigan;
- creating solar-friendly planning and zoning codes and ordinances;
- understanding the regulatory landscape of solar;
- and innovative financing options for solar projects.

The event is sponsored by MAREC, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, National Association of Regional Councils and the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership through the U.S. Department of Energy.

For more information, contact Kim Walton, program director for MAREC, at (616) 331-6900.

For immediate release

April 21, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Registration open for GVSU Will Power Shakespeare Camp

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Registration is now open for Grand Valley State University's fourth annual Will Power summer education program for children.

These Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival day camps focus on developing creativity and expanding campers' imaginations through the process of drama. Using the works of Shakespeare, campers will learn about theater concepts and storytelling through activities such as theater games, stage combat, and improvisation centered on the Bard's plays.

Session 1: July 13-17

Buckingham Group (entering grades 1-3), 9 a.m.-noon

Westminster Group (entering grades 4-6), 1-4 p.m.

Session 2: July 20-24

Buckingham Group (entering grades 1-3), 9 a.m.-noon

Westminster Group (entering grades 4-6), 1-4 p.m.

"Without the pressure of a presentation or production, every camper gets a chance to build a character, create lines and have fun," said Karen Libman, camp organizer and Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival director of community engagement. "Campers learn theater vocabulary, explore elements of storytelling, and expand their imaginations."

Teachers from Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, assisted by Grand Valley theater students, will provide instruction and encouragement. All sessions will be held at the Performing Arts Center on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.

Registration fees are \$110 per camper; \$95 second child discount; \$200 two-week discount. Price includes class fees and materials. Scholarship opportunities are also available.

For more information, contact Karen Libman at libmank@gvsu.edu, or visit www.gvsu.edu/theatre.

For more information about the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

For immediate release

April 22, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU conference on autism draws national experts

LANSING, Mich. — Local and national experts will discuss teaching strategies for children with autism or Asperger Syndrome at Grand Valley State University's Statewide Autism and Training Project (START) 2015 conference. Registration for the conference is closed, but media is encouraged to attend.

Mark Durand, professor of psychology at University of South Florida St. Petersburg, will give the keynote address on "An Optimistic Approach to Helping Students with Challenging Behaviors." His presentation will focus on new insights into how positive psychology can help families and others effectively care for persons with even the most severe behavioral challenges.

2015 START Conference

Monday, April 27

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Lansing West Hotel

925 South Creyts Road, Lansing

Keynote Address: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Breakout Sessions: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Afternoon breakout sessions include discussions on technology, social skill strategies, and decision making for students with challenging behaviors.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/autismcenter or call (616) 331-6480.

For Immediate Release

April 22, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley celebrates Earth Day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — At Grand Valley State University, every day is Earth Day. While Earth Day is celebrated across the country on April 22, the university employs green practices on a daily basis.

Most recently, Grand Valley was named one of the country's most environmentally responsible universities in the nation by The Princeton Review for the [sixth year in a row](#). This recognition is the result of many efforts, including the following:

- A surplus store that opened in February 2014 on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. In 2014, the store recycled 115,000 pounds of scrap metal and 5.5 tons of ewaste.
- Grand Valley ranked sixth in the nation for composting efforts during this year's Recyclemania, a 10-week competition among hundreds of colleges and universities across the country to collect the largest amount of recyclables and the least amount of trash.
- Produce grown on campus is now being incorporated into meals served on campus, thanks to a new partnership between two offices on campus. In honor of Earth Day, a farm-to-table meal that incorporates produce grown at the university's Sustainable Agriculture Project will be served today at Engrained, a campus restaurant located on the Allendale Campus.
- New this year is the Food System Certificate program. Open to community members, the program was created in response to a growing interest from students and community members to learn about local food systems and sustainable agriculture practices.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainability to learn more.

For Immediate Release

April 23, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, hoekstna@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-8138

GVSU conference draws national reporters, experts on Midwestern culture, art, history

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Referencing the Midwest in popular culture often conjures images of cornfields, small towns, and generally a large swath of the country that's not as important to the national identity as the East or West coasts, or the American South.

That perception of the Midwest has resulted in a dearth of understanding and research about the Midwest and its culture, including the history of its people and places, literature, music and art, along with the complexity and richness of its landscapes and geography. The neglect of the Midwest is not limited to the popular imagination. Historians and critics of art and literature tend not to seriously focus on the Midwest in academic work, and the region seems blasé compared to the cultured, driven Northeast; the genteel, historical South; or the hip, innovative West Coast.

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University will host a two-day conference that will explore the rich, varied history and culture of the region through keynote addresses and panel discussions on the history, literature and art of the Midwest, along with Midwestern political leadership, statesmanship, and the growing field of Midwestern studies.

Presenters will include national reporters from the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Chicago Tribune*, along with historians, literary critics, geographers and more — more than three dozen in all. The summit will serve as a starting point for a conversation on the Midwest that engages scholarly and popular imagination about the life and culture of one of America's important, vibrant regions.

"Finding the Lost Region: A Conference on Rediscovering the Midwest, America's Most Common Ground"

April 30: 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

May 1: 8:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

For a complete schedule and to RSVP for one or both days, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Sp>

GVSU DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

401 W. Fulton St. Grand Rapids

"I am proud of the fact that Grand Valley State University is hosting the largest conference on the Midwest ever held," said Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at GVSU. "No one has ever brought in more scholars and journalists to explore this burgeoning field dedicated to the heartland. It is exciting to rediscover the heartland's role in shaping American history and culture."

This conference is co-sponsored by the Earhart Foundation, the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation and the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

For more information, visit HauensteinCenter.org

EMBARGOED UNTIL April 25, 2015, 2 p.m.

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE

GVSU 100,000th graduate details

Some 3,000 Grand Valley State University students will participate in commencement ceremonies April 25 at Van Andel Arena. One of those graduates will be the 100,000th to receive a Grand Valley degree.

There will be a special presentation when the 100,000th graduate crosses the stage during the 3 p.m. ceremony. Media are welcome to cover the ceremony, but please DO NOT publicize which ceremony will announce the 100,000th graduate beforehand or the monetary gift; this is not public knowledge and will be a surprise for students and those attending the ceremony. Skybox 101B will be available for media during the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the graduate will be brought to the Intermission Room for interviews. The room (see map [here](#)) is located on the first floor by the bathrooms and right of the escalators. Diane Paton, a 1967 alumna and Grand Valley's first accepted student, will celebrate with the new graduate, among others.

Learn more about commencement [here](#).

For immediate release

April 24, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Consumers Energy Foundation gift will enhance GVSU student success

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A gift from the Consumers Energy Foundation will enable Grand Valley State University to grow an already successful program and help more students stay on track to a timely graduation.

Representatives from Consumers Energy Foundation will present Grand Valley officials with a \$200,000 donation on Friday, April 24, following a Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus; the check presentation is set for noon on the first floor in the Fred and Lena Meijer Study Lounge. Media members are welcome to cover the presentation.

The university's Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy will use the contribution to expand to upperclass students, establish a degree completion program and provide assistance to 400 students within their first four years. It will also create a Sophomore Summer Success Institute and build an emergency aid fund to assist students with books, meals and more.

John Russell, president and CEO of Consumers Energy, and chair of the Consumers Energy Foundation, said, "As one of Michigan's largest employers and investors, Consumers Energy is proud to support educational initiatives like this." Russell is also a member of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees.

"We are committed to supporting Michigan's economic revival for the next generation, and we believe an educated, engaged and diverse workforce is essential for that to continue," he said.

Named for a former Grand Valley dean of Multicultural Affairs, the Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy helps first-year students transition successfully to college by providing academic, social and personal support and resources. The expansion of the academy will strengthen opportunities for these students, who are often the first in their families to attend college.

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Consumers Energy, providing funds for education, community, civic and cultural development, social services, the environment and emerging issues.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas said this gift aligns and further enables the university's mission and its strategic plan as it creates opportunities for students to be successful.

Learn more about the Student Academic Success Center, and the Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy, at www.gvsu.edu/sasc.

For Immediate Release

April 25, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and video are available to use at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Sr>

GVSU celebrates 100,000th graduate

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — No one was more surprised to be named the 100,000th student to graduate from Grand Valley State University than the graduate himself, Dale Boedeker.

The milestone was celebrated at the university's afternoon commencement ceremony April 25 at Van Andel Arena. More than 3,000 students walked across the stage during the ceremonies.

"I couldn't believe it at first; I was in shock," said Boedeker, a native of the state of Wyoming. "I was waiting for someone to say 'just kidding, you're being punked,' but it was real!"

Family members, including ones who traveled from Wyoming, celebrated with Boedeker after the ceremony when he was presented with a \$1,000 check and gear from the Grand Valley Alumni Association. Diane Paton, a 1967 alumna and Grand Valley's first accepted student, was a part of the celebration.

As a health communications major and advertising and public relations minor, Boedeker said he plans to remain in Grand Rapids and work for a hospital or health care system.

Grand Valley is celebrating another record-breaking milestone this year with more than 5,600 students expected to receive a degree during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Michael Jandernoa, former CEO and current board member of Perrigo Company, spoke to graduates during the morning ceremony, and Paula Kerger, president and CEO of PBS, was the afternoon speaker.

The Alumni Association presented its Distinguished Alumni Award to Noreen Myers, '72, and its Outstanding Educator Award to Brad Wallar, associate professor of chemistry.

David Hecht and Bea Idema received honorary degrees. Hecht, a current trustee for the Grand Valley University Foundation, is president of the Charles W. Loosemore Foundation. He has practiced law for more than 50 years. Idema was among the lead donors for the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons at Grand Valley.

For immediate release

April 27, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution pictures of Lixenberg are available via Dropbox at <http://qvsu.edu/s/Ss>.

GVSU to hold memorial service for late artist Cyril Lixenberg

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will celebrate the life and works of artist and longtime university supporter Cyril Lixenberg during a memorial service Sunday, May 3.

The service will be held from 3-5 p.m. in the Charles W. Loosemoore Forum room located in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Lixenberg died January 11 at age 82 in his Amsterdam home with his daughter, Dana, and son, Onno, by his side after suffering from prostate cancer.

Henry Matthews, director of galleries and collections at Grand Valley, said Lixenberg has been part of Grand Valley since 1998 when he offered his first donation of personal works. Since then, Lixenberg has contributed examples of his work right up to his final donation in 2014. Currently, Grand Valley's Lixenberg collection includes more than 550 works of art. In 2013, Lixenberg received an honorary doctorate from Grand Valley.

"[Cyril] loved that GVSU would hold the largest selection of his work anywhere," Matthews said. "He was very proud to have this collection at GVSU serve as a valuable teaching resource to students and scholars. His legacy at GVSU will remain with us for a very long time. The large-scale metal sculptures in Allendale, Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon will serve as a reminder of his energy and talents."

Aside from his numerous professional accomplishments, Matthews added that Lixenberg was most importantly a kind, gentle and "humorous Mensch, a Yiddish word for human being."

"Cyril's strongest traits included caring for others. Generous to a fault, he believed in the goodness of humanity," Matthew said. "People talk about his easy smile, gleaming and gentle eyes."

Both the Grand Valley and West Michigan communities are invited to attend this memorial. Parking will be available in Grand Valley's Mount Vernon lot. For more information, contact Grand Valley's Art Gallery at (616) 331-2563.

For more about Lixenberg and his art, visit www.cyrillixenberg.com.

MEDIA ADVISORY
April 28, 2015

GVSU to hold radiological exercise April 28

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Police Department will host a radiological emergency exercise April 28, from 5-9 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

The exercise will involve several departments including the Allendale Fire Department, Ottawa County Hazmat, Grand Rapids Regional Response Team, Muskegon Regional Response Team, state DEQ-Radiological Protection Section and GVPD.

The exercise will be held at North B Living Center; media are welcome to attend.

For more information contact Sgt. William O'Donnell, GVPD, at (616) 331-7526 or University Communications at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

May 1, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Brian Hatzel is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/SG>.

GVSU professor named Athletic Trainer of the Year

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Brian Hatzel, associate professor of movement science at Grand Valley State University, has been named the Michigan Athletic Trainers Society 2015 Distinguished Athletic Trainer of the Year. The honor recognizes role models in athletic training who exhibit outstanding contributions to the profession.

“As athletic trainers and Grand Valley faculty members, we are always focused on doing what’s right for our patients and students. I’ve dedicated myself to working hard for both,” Hatzel said. “I’m thankful for the support and time that Grand Valley and our athletic training program have afforded me to allow me to contribute to the profession and our students in ways that are both long-lasting and meaningful.”

Hatzel has been a faculty member at Grand Valley since 2002. He received a bachelor’s degree in exercise and sport sciences, and a doctorate in sports medicine and athletic training from the University of Florida. Hatzel received a master’s degree in biomechanics from Ball State University.

He will receive the award during the annual MATS Clinical Symposium June 5 in Ypsilanti.

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

*MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at <https://www.dropbox.com/home/2015%20Brian%20Long%20May%20audio>
The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.*

Current business trends: growth rate improvement continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The economic growth rate in West Michigan improved for a second consecutive month in April, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Long surveyed local business leaders; his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of April.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, rose to +37, up from March's +29 and significantly higher than the +13 reported in February. The employment index, which has remained strong for the past year, remained virtually unchanged at +24. The production index remained strong, but backtracked modestly to +28 to from +35. The index of purchases eased to +32, down from +35.

"The West Michigan economy has shown two months of considerable strength, making the summer outlook very positive," said Long. "Most of our industrial groups are continuing to show improvement. Our local auto parts producers continue attracting new business from many different nameplates around the world. With the seasonally slow period over, the office furniture business posted a stronger performance for April.

Long said April's big economic news came from the Commerce Department's report that the first quarter GDP for the U.S. came in at a 0.2 percent increase, down considerably from the 2.6 percent gain reported in the fourth quarter of 2014.

"As we move toward the summer months, the momentum remains positive. However, we are always subject to the risk of geopolitical events, such as additional unrest in Libya, Yemen or Ukraine, and from ISIS," said Long. "The financial markets and the news media continue to push these events further into the background, resulting in the stock markets to continue to set record highs. The Fed's threat to increase interest rates, which was tentatively scheduled for June, now appears to be deferred to September, if then. So, there is at least a 95 percent probability that the recent economic improvements we have been experiencing will continue for the rest of the summer season."

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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of the students can be found on Dropbox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/GVSU%20Cannes%20students>

GVSU students to work at Cannes Film Festival

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Fourteen Grand Valley students in the hospitality and tourism management program will spend two weeks in France working at the 68th annual Cannes International Film Festival.

Founded in 1946, the invitation-only festival previews new films of all genres and is considered one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world.

Grand Valley students will coordinate events at The American Pavilion including the Emerging Filmmaker's Showcase, a competition which highlights the works of the next generation of filmmakers. Students will also be outsourced to various country pavilions and private companies showcased in the Marche de Film.

"Grand Valley students are among the select few that will be on site with full access for the duration of the festival," said faculty advisor Lorie Tuma. "They will hold official positions in international pavilions, host press panels, assist A-List celebrities and coordinate exclusive events."

The students leave Grand Rapids May 9 and return May 25.

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221.

GVSU dean named president of Johnson State College

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Elaine Collins, dean of the College of Education, has been named president of Johnson State College in Vermont. The appointment became public in February.

Collins' last day at Grand Valley is June 30; a national search will be conducted to find a replacement. Longtime education professor John Shinsky has been named interim dean of the College of Education, effective July 1.

Collins came to Grand Valley in 2003 to lead the College of Education, which houses the largest graduate program at the university. The college is comprised of approximately 4,000 students, 175 faculty and 25 staff members. Before coming to Grand Valley, Collins served as vice president of Arts and Sciences at West Shore Community College and interim vice president of Academic Affairs at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

"Elaine brought a rich background of teaching and leadership experience to Grand Valley, where for the past decade she has successfully negotiated the very difficult political environment that has characterized teacher preparation and certification," said Provost Gayle R. Davis. "It is no surprise that her talent and experience have attracted another institution to select her as its president. We will miss her at Grand Valley where she has served so very well, and we wish her all the best in her new position."

Collins led the College of Education through two successful national accreditations, receiving commendations for faculty quality and academic partnerships. Under her leadership, the College of Education strengthened its programs through partnerships with local museums, school districts, community colleges and businesses.

Collins received a bachelor's degree in music from the University of California at Los Angeles, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of California at Davis, and a doctorate in educational policy and leadership from Ohio State University. Collins chairs the Professional Teacher Education Advisory Council and serves on the Advisory Board for Sustainability.

In past years, she has served as president and member of the executive board of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and has represented Michigan's public university education deans on the State Board of Education's Professional Standards Commission. She has also chaired both Leadership West Michigan's Urban Center Revitalization/Education and Arts/Education Initiatives.

For immediate release

May 7, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos of Karen Libman are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/SX>.

GVSU theater professor receives prestigious Fulbright research award

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Karen Libman, professor of theater at Grand Valley State University, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright grant to conduct research in Bangladesh in 2016 focusing on intercultural dialogue through theater and production.

Libman, who has been teaching at Grand Valley since 1999, will direct a Shakespearean play at the University of Dhaka while teaching and observing in the university's theater program.

"The process of artistic creation is so exhilarating and fruitful, and the opportunity to do this with Bangladeshi artists and students will surely result in a production that is invigorating, enlightening, and aesthetically new and pleasing," Libman said.

Libman added that she hopes her time working with students at the University of Dhaka will inspire social change.

"My artistic philosophy embraces the exploration of the relationships between theater and society in order to reflect on the potential for such endeavors to successfully promote such goals as heightened aesthetics, cultural awareness and social justice," Libman said. "Assisting students in seeing diverse viewpoints is critically important to helping students live and learn in our changing world."

Outside of the classroom, Libman can typically be seen directing productions for Grand Valley's annual Shakespeare Festival and working with the festival's touring student group, Bard to Go, which performs 50-minute compilations of Shakespearean scenes at secondary schools in Michigan.

West Michigan audiences at Grand Valley, Aquinas College, Heritage Theatre Group, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre and The Grand Rapids Jewish Theatre have enjoyed Libman's directing work in the past. Nationally and internationally, she has directed productions in New York, Illinois, Texas, Jamaica, China and The Bahamas.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program is designed to increase mutual understanding among people in the U.S. and other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide.

For Immediate Release

May 14, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Hauenstein Center to host annual PTSD conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Veterans and their families have struggled with the epidemic of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and moral injury since the dawn of warfare, yet treatment of these often debilitating conditions is only just beginning to be understood.

The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University will host the second annual “Hidden Wounds of War” conference to address issues surrounding PTSD and TBI, while increasing awareness of the conditions and educate the community about treatments and resources available to wounded veterans and their families.

“Hidden Wounds of War”

Friday, May 15 2015

8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Grand Valley State University

Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Loosemore Auditorium

Free and open to the public

“The incredible community response to the second annual Hidden Wounds of War conference demonstrates Grand Rapids’ commitment to our veterans,” said Michael Ryan, co-chairman of the Michigan Combat PTSD Task Force. “This event is the largest conference to integrate information and services for the medical, psychological and spiritual needs of our returning veterans and their families.”

Conference participants will have an opportunity to watch the HBO documentary “War Torn: 1861-2010,” followed by a panel discussion. There will also be presentations by Colin A. Ross, M.D., who will discuss the relationship between trauma and physical and mental health, and Theodore Mauger, M.D., who will explain unique ways current war injuries alter the brain. Chaplain Col. Herman Keizer (ret.), will present a ministerial viewpoint and then offer closing remarks.

The conference is co-sponsored by GVSU’s Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, the Michigan Combat PTSD Task Force, American Legion, the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program, Riverview Psychological Services, P.C., Forest View Hospital, GVSU Veterans Network, Soul Repair Center, West Michigan Veterans Coalition and Hope Network.

For more information, visit <http://hauensteincenter.org/events-calendar/>

For Immediate Release

May 14, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell coordinator at Grand Valley, (616) 331-6414

Students showcase efforts to protect Grand River watershed

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Area high school students will showcase their efforts to protect the Grand River watershed and the Great Lakes during the Sixth Annual Groundswell Student Showcase May 20.

Groundswell, housed in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University, creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for students throughout Kent County. Student projects will be displayed on the big screen and in the Beacon Lobby at Celebration! Cinema North in Grand Rapids.

Groundswell currently works with 22 schools and more than 40 teachers. School districts represented at the showcase include East Rockford Middle School, New Branches Charter Academy and CA Frost Environmental Science Academy.

Groundswell Student Showcase

May 20

6 p.m. Theater Presentations

7-8 p.m. Table Exhibits

Celebration! Cinema North at East Beltline & Knapp, 2121 Celebration Drive NE, Grand Rapids

Free and open to the public

Groundswell, a coalition of community partners, is a hub of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and is committed to enhancing student learning while empowering students to develop solutions to environmental problems in their communities.

For more information, contact Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell coordinator, at (616) 331-6414.

PROJECT DETAILS

East Rockford Middle School

Students at East Rockford Middle School are working with Trout Unlimited to help protect the Rogue River. This river is an important resource for the local economy, but new growth and urban development are impacting river health. With help from community partners, the students determined that rain falling on urban areas and flowing to the river was one of the biggest threats to local water resources. In response, they are designing and implementing projects to reduce the stormwater runoff in their community. The students are planting two rain gardens in downtown Rockford that will allow rainwater to soak into the soil instead of flowing directly to the river. They engaged local city government officials to enhance support for the project and presented to the city council.

New Branches Charter Academy

Middle school students at New Branches Charter Academy teamed with a well-known local artist to create an educational art campaign. The artist, Reb Roberts, is helping the students design art that will be painted on storm drains in the community. This art will include an educational message to raise

awareness that rainwater flowing through urban areas adds pollution to the Grand River. Students want to make sure community members know that water entering storm drains goes directly to the river, not a treatment facility. The students will paint three drains near their school property this spring and host a community event to unveil the art. They also plan to enter ArtPrize this fall with several additional painted storm drains in downtown Grand Rapids. The Grand Rapids Environmental Services Department has been a valuable partner on this effort by providing technical assistance and support.

CA Frost Environmental Science Academy

Students in fifth through eighth grade are learning how activities on land affect the health of water resources. They partnered with the Blandford Nature Center to identify ways to help protect the forests and natural areas surrounding the center. The students concluded residential development had changed the water cycle in the area and was harming local streams. Natural vegetation was replaced with houses, lawns and pavement, and rainwater was no longer able to soak into the ground. Instead, it flowed into storm drains that emptied into a nearby creek, causing erosion. In response, the students organized an event to educate neighborhood residents about ways to keep rainwater out of the storm drains. At this Water Night event, community members can sign up to have students visit their property and provide suggestions for reducing stormwater impacts.

For immediate release

May 13, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Metz is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/TC>.

GVSU theater professor recognized for ReACT! program

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Allison Metz, assistant professor of theater at Grand Valley State University, is the recipient of the 2015 Lin Wright Special Recognition Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education (AATE).

Metz received the special recognition for her work as program director of ReACT!, a group of student actors at Grand Valley who use theater performances on campus to raise awareness of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The Lin Wright Special Recognition Award honors those who have established special programs, developed experimental work, made a distinctive educational contribution or provided praiseworthy services furthering theater and drama for young people.

While the AATE award is in Metz's name, she said it is an honor that belongs to everyone involved in ReACT!

"ReACT! is a shining example of how 'it takes a village' to effectively raise social awareness and change," Metz said. "Now that ReACT! has been nationally recognized, I'm excited about continuing to explore ways to grow and expand our positive impact on campus communities near and afar."

Metz will receive the award at the national AATE conference the first week of August in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ReACT! exists through a partnership between Grand Valley's Women's Center and School of Communications' theater program. During performances, students encourage audience members to explore how they can engage in realistic, safe and effective methods of preventing interpersonal violence and help survivors connect with valuable social services.

"ReACT! actors are consistently involved in high-impact learning experiences that empower them to question the status quo, responsibly resist institutionalized oppressions and practice ways to make their world a more socially just place," Metz said. "Audience members get to realize that a scary, taboo topic like interpersonal violence can be discussed with high energy in productive ways."

For more information about ReACT!, visit www.gvsu.edu/theatre.

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Video and photos of the car are available to use at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/TB>

GVSU to compete at international collegiate racing competition

BROOKLYN, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students will compete at one of the world's largest collegiate autocross car competitions May 13-16 at Michigan International Speedway.

Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) is an educational competition that challenges students to design, build and test formula-style race cars. The competition started in 1979 and has grown to include events around the world, with Michigan's being the longest running and largest. About 120 teams will participate this year.

This is the first time Grand Valley is participating in the competition. A team of 25 students began the project in August 2014 and met weekly throughout the academic year to build the car in the Keller Engineering Labs. The car has a Honda 600 CBR RR engine — a motorcycle engine — that can hit speeds as high as 80 miles per hour.

The team will race several times throughout the day, May 14-16. The competition will conclude with an awards ceremony the night of May 16. The winner is determined by the highest cumulative score of inspections and testing, which include brake and acceleration tests, design judging and a business plan presentation.

The team has raised \$38,000 from sponsors in West Michigan, including the West Michigan SAE chapter and organizations throughout West Michigan.

For more information, contact Greg Quante, a junior who is operations manager for the team, at quanteg@mail.gvsu.edu. For more information about Formula SAE Michigan, visit <http://students.sae.org/cds/formulaseries/fsae/>.

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: A high-resolution image of Kyle Caldwell is available for media use through the following Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3dul7qat62qkm9I/KCaldwell-2013.jpeg?dl=0>

GVSU Johnson Center for Philanthropy names new executive director

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A nonprofit leader and Michigan native has been selected as the new executive director of the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University, one of the nation's largest academic centers for philanthropy.

Kyle Caldwell, current director of the Pathways Out of Poverty grantmaking team at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, brings more than 22 years of experience and will provide overall leadership and vision for sustainable growth and strategic objectives to the center. He begins August 1.

"This is a great opportunity to work with a storied organization under the vision of Dottie Johnson, a great philanthropic leader, and I am honored to be a part of Grand Valley State University," Caldwell said.

Caldwell has served in several leadership positions in the nonprofit sector, including president and CEO of the Michigan Nonprofit Association and Connect Michigan Alliance. His extensive experience includes serving both former Michigan governors John Engler and Jennifer Granholm as the executive director of the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC). He also has teaching experience at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

"Caldwell's experience will ensure the organization has the strong leadership needed to fulfill its mission and 22-year legacy of developing research, resources and educational opportunities for the philanthropic community," said George Grant Jr., dean of the College of Community and Public Service.

Dorothy A. Johnson, namesake of the Johnson Center, said, "Kyle's vast experience and entrepreneurial approach will ensure the center can help Grand Valley, donors and philanthropic organizations for years to come."

Caldwell serves on a number of national and state governing boards including: National Council of Nonprofits, Independent Sector, Points of Light and the Michigan Community Service Commission. He also serves on several advisory boards including Nonprofit Vote Leadership Council, Council of Michigan Foundations Public Policy Committee and the School of Communication Advisory Committee at Western Michigan University. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University, where he studied organizational communication.

Established in 1992, the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy is an academic center within the College of Community and Public Service at Grand Valley State University. The center offers original research and expertise on the latest theories in the philanthropic field. The Johnson Center puts

research to work, with and for professionals across the country. Through professional development services, courses and trainings, philanthropic tools, and more, the center supports effective philanthropy, building strong nonprofits and providing resources for informed community change.

For more information, visit johnsoncenter.org.

For immediate release

May 20, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley partners with city entities to preserve oral histories of Native Americans

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.— Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Public Library, and Grand Rapids Public Museum signed a memorandum of understanding May 18 that will make more than three generations of Native American urban histories publicly available for the first time in Michigan's history.

This collaboration is a part of the Gi-gikinomaage-min (We are all teachers) Project. Key Grand Valley partners in this endeavor include University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives, Kutsche Office of Local History in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Native American Advisory Board, and Office of Multicultural Affairs.

As Levi Rickert, editor of Native News Online and a member of GVSU's Native American Advisory Board said, "This agreement sets a plan for working together for years to come."

Alex Forist, curator at the Public Museum, said the current content is on VHS and reel-to-reel tapes, making it nearly obsolete.

Later this year, this project will reformat the materials in the Native American Oral History collections of the Grand Rapids Public Library and Grand Rapids Public Museum, as well as collect 50-60 new oral histories from Native American elders in West Michigan. These materials will all be made available to the public via a common website.

Lee VanOrsdel, dean of university libraries, said library faculty and staff members are proud to have a role in preserving the voices of Native Americans in West Michigan.

Nancy Richard, university archivist, said digital preservation initiatives are relatively new for the Libraries' Special Collections team and can be quite expensive, making collaborations such as this necessary.

"This collaboration with local Native American communities, the Kutsche Center, and historical curators to preserve and share generations of stories of our first people in their own voices, emphasizes just how essential the technology is to the understanding of our culture," Richard said.

Having these oral histories available through one portal is important for providing broad access to the community as well as for researchers, said Tim Gleisner, head of Special Collections at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

"The mission of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies is to connect diverse interdisciplinary communities and cultivate innovative liberal learning. This collaborative agreement captures the essence of the Brooks College mission," continued Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College.

Visit the Kutsche Office of Local History's website: www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

Contact Belinda Bardwell, Gi-gikinomaage-min project coordinator, (616) 331-8099; or Nancy Richard, university archivist, 616) 331-8726, for more information.

For Immediate Release

May 20, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos will be available to use at this Dropbox link on Friday, May 22 in the afternoon:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/TP>

GVSU farm to start season with tilling demonstration

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Sustainable Agriculture Project will mark the start of its summer growing season with a tilling demonstration May 22 at 10 a.m. at 4539 Luce St. in Allendale.

Tilling is an agricultural method that prepares soil for seeding, removes weeds and enhances soil nutrients. The traditional tilling method of a set of horses guiding a tiller cart through the soil will be demonstrated.

The SAP open house is free and open to students, faculty and staff members. A free lunch prepared with produce grown at SAP will be prepared. Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, will make remarks at noon.

SAP is a collaborative, hands-on space that was established in 2008 and includes two hoopouses used for fall and winter vegetable production and a community supported agriculture program (CSA). Support is provided by Farm Club members, faculty and staff members and a team of student interns. Learn more at www.gvsu.edu/sustainableagproject.

For Immediate Release

May 22, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell coordinator, (847) 774-0508, allerhaj@gvsu.edu

Festival celebrates Grand River

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Groundswell, housed at Grand Valley State University, and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) are partnering to create the inaugural River City Water Festival.

The festival, held on the north lawn of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, will celebrate the Grand River and feature hands-on activities led by regional environmental experts.

The community event will include educational activities showcasing the need to protect water resources. Participants will learn how small actions at home can make a big difference in the quality of the Grand River.

Staff members from the John Ball Zoo will lead demonstrations about the connection between clean water and animal health, using a few animal friends to help teach how protecting animals means protecting water.

River City Water Festival

Saturday, May 30

10 a.m.–2 p.m.

North lawn of Grand Rapids Public Museum

Free and open to the public

Additional activities will be led by Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute, Blandford Nature Center, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, WMEAC, Trout Unlimited, City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services Department and Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds.

For participating in presenter activities, families can receive \$1 off general admission to the museum, a free planetarium show and a free carousel ride.

For more information contact Joanna Allerhand at (847) 774-0508 or allerhaj@gvsu.edu or visit <http://groundswellmi.org/river-city-water-festival/>.

For Immediate Release

May 26, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the group are available to use on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ub>

GVSU students, special olympics athletes form soccer league

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students and Special Olympics of Michigan athletes have teamed together to form a soccer league that plays every Wednesday through June 10.

The four-team intramural league, called Unified Soccer, plays at 6 p.m. at the soccer fields on the Allendale Campus along Laker Village Dr. Media are invited.

Games are played in a 7 vs 7 format, with four SOMI athletes and three Grand Valley students playing together on each team.

The partnership is part of Special Olympics Unified Sports, an international initiative that promotes social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences.

"The new program provides SOMI athletes and students the opportunity to live a healthy lifestyle and create new friendships in an inclusive environment, which is the goal," said Mackenzie Lucius, organizer of the league and graduate assistant for Campus Recreation at Grand Valley.

Grand Valley plans to add flag football, basketball and kickball programs in the future.

For more information contact Mackenzie Lucius at luciusma@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

May 27, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Conference at GVSU to explore relationship between science and religion

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The relationship between science and religion will be the topic of discussion for an association of colleges, universities and organizations at the annual Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion conference, hosted by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University.

A Grand Dialogue in Science and Religion

Saturday, June 13

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Loosemoore Auditorium, Richard M. DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Doug Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director, said this inter-institutional, interdisciplinary, and interfaith conference seeks to find positive ways of relating science and religion in constructive dialogue.

"This is an opportunity to see how people from other cultures and religious traditions deal with science and religion," Kindschi said.

Caner Taslaman, professor of philosophy at Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul, Turkey, will present this year's keynote address: "Can a Muslim be a Darwinian?" Taslaman began his work in the area of science and religion exploring the Big Bang theory for his master's thesis. Then, his doctorate examined the relationship between evolutionary theory, and philosophy and theology. After earning his second doctorate in political science, Taslaman pursued studies at Tokyo University and Oxford University. He has published nine books, including "The Big Bang" and "Philosophy and God," as well as numerous articles.

Lunch and breakout sessions will follow the morning welcome and keynote address. All events are free and open to the public. Registration for the conference and optional lunch (\$5) can be made at www.granddialogue.org or by calling the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at (616) 331-5702.

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

More than a thousand expected at Grand Valley-hosted 'Girls on the Run' 5k

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 1,000 girls and their families will attend the "Girls on the Run" annual 5k event May 29 at Grand Valley State University.

Girls on the Run of Ottawa and Allegan Counties is an organization that educates and prepares girls in third through eighth grades to be healthy and confident through a curriculum that integrates running. The 5k will celebrate the end of the 10-week spring program; about 300 volunteers coached the girls.

Girls on the Run 5k

Friday, May 29

6-8 p.m.

Lubbers Stadium, Allendale Campus

A pep rally will take place at 6:30 p.m. and the race will start at 7 p.m. During the race, Campus and Laker Village drives will be closed.

More than 70 schools participated this year in the program, which has been in Ottawa and Allegan counties for more than 10 years. Some of the early participants are now coaches or volunteers at the 5k.

Grand Valley partnered with the Center for Women in Transition to host the event.

The 5k is open to the public; registration is online at www.gotroac.org.

For more information, contact Shyla Nash at (616) 494-1719 or Brittany Dernberger from Grand Valley's Women's Center at (616) 331-2748.

For immediate release

May 28, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU physician assistant program expands to Traverse City

-- Information session set for July 23 at NMC University Center

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has responded to a national shortage of health care professionals in rural and underserved areas by opening a satellite program in northern Michigan offering a Master's in Physician Assistants Studies (MPAS) degree.

Nicholus Kopacki, a faculty member in Traverse City, said the MPAS program earned two grants from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to expand the program with a goal to educate and train students who are interested in primary care and serving rural populations.

In November, Grand Valley announced the expansion and full accreditation of its MPAS program in Traverse City. The announcement was made with community partners, Northwestern Michigan College and Munson Medical Center. Grand Valley is among the eight universities who are partners at NMC's University Center who, along with NMC provide educational opportunities to members of the Traverse City Region

Beginning in August, students enrolled in Traverse City will begin classes and interact daily with their counterparts at Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in Grand Rapids through the use of ITV, a remote site classroom video system. With the use of the ITV system and the addition of two faculty members located at the Traverse City campus, students located in Traverse City will have the same educational opportunities as the students located at the Grand Rapids campus.

Roy Olsson, dean of the College of Health Professions, said the satellite location will lead to more physician assistants being hired for positions in Traverse City and northern Michigan.

"Educating students who complete their education and clinical experiences in northern Michigan should lead to more graduates staying in that area," Olsson said.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley, said expanding the university's collaborative partnerships meets the needs of Traverse City area residents. "We are delighted to participate in the development of a health care workforce with expertise in population health, team-based care, and primary health care," Nagelkerk said.

Kopacki added that the shortage of health care professionals will grow more critical as more people will seek medical care after passage of the Affordable Care Act.

"Physician assistants have been called on to be a critical part of the solution," he said. "Access to quality health care, especially in rural and underserved communities, will continue to be a challenge for many years to come."

Grand Valley's MPAS program has a proven track record; 100 percent of students in the last three cohorts to take the national licensure exam have passed on their first attempt, and the program has an overall first time pass rate of 98.6 percent since its inception in 1995.

There will be an informational session on July 23, at 9 a.m., located at the NMC University Center in Traverse City. People who are interested in attending can call (231) 995-1785 or send an email to nminfo@gvsu.edu to RSVP as seating is limited.

For more information about the program, visit www.gvsu.edu/pas/.

For immediate release

May 28, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU summer Carillon Concert Series set

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Some of the world's finest carillonneurs will fill the air with music on the campuses of Grand Valley State University during the annual International Carillon Concert Series.

The 21st annual Cook Carillon International Concert Series will take place Sundays at 8 p.m. on the Allendale Campus, June 28 through August 23. Kicking off the series is a performance by local Hudsonville carillonneur Helen Hofmeister Hawley.

Cook Carillon Concerts

June 28 – Helen Hofmeister Hawley, Hudsonville

July 5 – Margaret Pan, Toronto, Canada

July 12 – Open tower tours (tours begin at 7 p.m.)

July 19 – Tebbel-Lonie Carillon Duo, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 26 – Toru Takao, Emmerich, Germany

August 2 – Olesya Rostovskaya, St. Petersburg, Russia

August 9 – Francis Crépin, Saint-Quentine, France

August 16 – Jonathan Hebert, Ottawa, Canada

August 23 – Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, Grand Valley university carillonneur

The 15th annual Beckering Family Carillon International Concert Series brings five concerts to the Pew Grand Rapids Campus on Wednesdays at noon, beginning July 1. This series will begin with a performance by Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur at Grand Valley.

Beckering Family Carillon Concerts

July 1 – Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, Grand Valley university carillonneur

July 8 – Gijsbert Kok, The Netherlands

July 15 – Tebbel-Lonie Carillon Duo, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 22 – Toru Takao, Emmerich, Germany

July 29 – Olesya Rostovskaya, St. Petersburg, Russia

All concerts are free and open to the public. They will take place rain or shine.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/music, or call Grand Valley's Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

For Immediate Release

May 28, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU crowdfunding conference comes to Muskegon

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Crowdfunding business opportunities through sites like Kickstarter, IndieGoGo and GoFundMe are becoming more common for upstart companies, but crowdfunding needs to be done right to be effective and not violate government regulations.

The Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center at Grand Valley State University and SBDC are hosting the second annual crowdfunding conference to help answer questions about how to best start and run a campaign.

Crowdfunding 2015 Conference

June 2, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

MAREC, 200 Viridian Drive, Muskegon

The conference will teach participants about the elements that are required to build a high-quality local investment market, how to tell when the time is right to start a campaign, and how businesses and nonprofits can connect with investors.

A panel discussion will focus on the pros and cons of crowdfunding, and detail what happened in campaigns run by Newygo Brewery and Rhino Media as case studies.

Other topics will focus on crowdfunding for investment vs. crowdfunding by donation, how to promote a campaign through social media and managing online funding sources.

The conference will conclude with a panel question and answer session.

The conference is sponsored by MAREC, Small Business Development Center Michigan, the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley, and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association.

Conference registration is open and is \$50, which includes lunch.

For more information and to register, visit gvsu.edu/marec

For immediate release

May 28, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Speech Lab earns national certification

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Speech Lab at Grand Valley State University is now among a select group of communication centers in the U.S. to be nationally certified by the National Association of Communication Centers (NACC).

“Many communication centers apply for certification, but few are seen as having the clear and stringent plans and directions needed for approval,” said Carl Brown, Speech Lab director. “This means that Grand Valley’s Speech Lab has gained respect across the communication center community in America.”

The Speech Lab employs a handful of student consultants each academic year who help their fellow students sharpen their presentations skills. Consultants assist undergraduate students with a wide variety of steps in the speechmaking process including: topic selection, presentation organization, developing supporting materials, crafting outlines, speech delivery and eliminating speech anxiety.

To be considered for national certification, the NACC requires communication centers to submit their detailed training and operating procedures, such as tutor selection and training, introducing new technologies and developing interpersonal skills.

Aside from gaining national recognition, Brown said this distinction will help set students on a path to success after leaving the university.

“This should signal to departments and employers that our student consultants understand what it means to rigorously train for a position and that they are used to being held to high standards,” Brown said. “Grand Valley is fortunate to have a Speech Lab in general, but to have a national award winning, and now nationally certified, Lab is something students should take advantage of in the future.”

The Speech Lab is a program housed within Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Communications.

For more information about the Speech Lab, visit www.gvsu.edu/speechlab or call (616) 331-8115.

For immediate release

June 2, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Summer Film Web series now available online

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's 2014 Summer Film Project, "Lucky Jay," is now available online for global audiences to enjoy. The entire seven-episode comedy-drama Web series can be viewed at www.luckyjayseries.com.

The series follows a young film professor pursuing tenure who finds himself in hot water when his carousing, eccentricities and commitment issues stand in the way of his ultimate goals. Season One follows assistant professor Jay Calder, his colleagues and a host of challenging students throughout one semester at a fictional Midwest college as Jay's tenure review quickly approaches.

The film's crew consisted of 22 members, including Grand Valley faculty, students and local industry professionals. The cast includes award-winning actors from the Screen Actors Guild, as well as young actors from university theater programs in Michigan. Filming for "Lucky Jay" took place at multiple locations on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids and Allendale campuses as well as private homes in Grand Rapids and Fenian's Irish Pub in Conklin.

The film's producer and Grand Valley alumnus, Brian Gotberg, '15, said this experience helped him become an enhanced leader while learning how to manage a large team.

"This was my second time working on the Summer Film Project and this is the pinnacle of learning experiences that the film program has to offer," Gotberg said. "I am now proficient at budgeting, accounting, processing, purchasing, procuring, managing, marketing, and project management among many other skills."

Gotberg added that working on the summer film helps students grow an invaluable trait: confidence.

"It allows students to know what to expect when they walk onto a film set," Gotberg said. "The project forces you out of your classroom comfort zone and makes you work hard toward a common goal. Film set experience is everything when it comes to landing a job in film production and the Summer Film Project is the best course offered by GVSU to teach students how they need to communicate on a film set."

John Harper Philbin, associate professor of film and video production at Grand Valley and "Lucky Jay" director, wrote the script, along with collaborators John Dufresne, a novelist and creative writing professor at Florida International University, and Angelo Eidse, a Vancouver-based screenwriter.

Philbin said when audiences watch these final films, many are surprised they have been produced by students.

"Our goal has always been to make the final product look as good as anything a professional crew could produce, it just takes a little longer since students are learning as they go," Philbin said. "I like to avoid telling audiences that these films were made with a student crew before they see the film, so they don't go in with any caveats. Once they see the film and find out it was made with a student crew, you can see

their jaws drop."

For more information about "Lucky Jay," contact Brian Gotberg at (248) 767-5591.

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jqlz5e6c5wbjy7o/AAA71gcwvuGQK97vxsCvUkDNa?dl=0>

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.

Current business trends: moderate growth continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The economic growth rate in West Michigan improved for a third consecutive month in May, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Long surveyed local business leaders; his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of May.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, remained strong but backtracked to +31, from April's +37. The employment index, which has remained strong for the past year, remained virtually unchanged at +24. The production index rose slightly to +29 to from +28. The index of purchases eased to +24, down from +32.

"Overall, the West Michigan economy has clearly shaken the mediocre performance of the winter months to show three solid months of strength," said Long. "With the economic fundamentals for West Michigan still firm, the outlook for the next few months remains positive."

Long said the employment index for West Michigan has shown consistent improvement for the past 14 months and May was one of the stronger months in recent history for the office furniture industry.

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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Seven GVSU students awarded prestigious Gilman scholarships

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Seven Grand Valley students have been selected to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship out of more than 1,000 applicants from 332 colleges and universities across the country.

The scholarships, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, are awarded to high-achieving students to help fund study or internships abroad during the summer 2015 academic term.

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs. The program aims to diversify the students who study and intern abroad and the countries and regions where they go. Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant from two- and four-year institutions who will be studying abroad or participating in a career-oriented international internship for academic credit are eligible to apply. Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages and economies, making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

These Grand Valley students were awarded a combined total of \$20,000 in scholarship money, and are listed with their major, country of study and hometown:

- Erika Bakeman, biology/pre-veterinary, France, Grand Rapids
- Brody Cragg, economics/honors, Norway, Oakley
- Lindsey Dopheide, psychology/honors, Ghana, Lawton
- Kamarie Evink, English/elementary education, Netherlands, Zeeland
- Brenda Garcia, legal studies, Argentina, Grand Rapids
- Christian Knighten, psychology, Ghana, Chicago
- Mason Villanueva, allied health sciences/pre-PA, Eaton Rapids

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA) mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations. In an effort to reflect the diversity of the United States and global society, ECA programs, funding, and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges. For more information about ECA programs, initiatives, and achievements, visit <http://eca.state.gov>.

For more information on competitive scholarships and fellowships, visit gvsu.edu/fellowships

For Immediate Release

For Immediate Release

June 3, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Mark Rambo, Pew Campus Operations, (616) 331-5801

GVSU installs bicycle repair stations on downtown campus

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Four bicycle repair stations have been installed on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus and are open to the public.

Mark Rambo, manager of Pew Campus Operations, said there has been an increase in faculty, staff and student bikers on the downtown campus.

“The repair stations will provide an outlet for minor repairs and filling up low tires,” said Rambo. “The stations will complement the city’s enhanced mobility efforts.”

Rambo said the Dero brand repair stations include all of the tools necessary to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes and derailleurs.

The bicycle repair stations are located at the L. William Seidman Center, Eberhard Center, Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences and Winter Hall.

The project funding and installation was a joint effort between Pew Campus Operations and the Office of Sustainability Practices.

For more information about transportation services contact Mark Rambo at (616) 331-5801 or visit www.gvsu.edu/bus.

For immediate release

June 3, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution images of all Poetry on The Rapid designs are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Uw>.

GVSU professor honored for Poetry on The Rapid graphic designs

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Throughout the month of April, passengers on The Rapid may have noticed poetry written by Grand Valley State University faculty on placards as part of the Poetry on The Rapid initiative. Now, the art and design faculty member who brought the words to life through her designs is being recognized for her work.

Vinicius Lima, assistant professor of art and design, recently received a 2015 American Inhouse Design Award from Graphic Design USA for her Poetry on The Rapid placard designs. The awards honor outstanding in-house designers for their work, talents and value they bring to their institutions. Nearly 6,000 entries were submitted for the competition.

Lima said this renowned distinction belongs to the entire team who collaborated to display these poems on all 150 Rapid buses during the campaign.

“Design is a problem-solving field, in which we get requests from clients who wish us to communicate something for them. Had I not received the request from GVSU and the direct input from the GVSU committee members I was reporting to, the work would not have evolved the way it did,” Lima said. “We must also acknowledge Patricia Clark’s careful selection of poems that made the final pieces. They were an excellent starting point, with a lot of possibilities for visual metaphors and investigation.”

Along with Lima and Clark, Writing Department chair, the placards featured works by multiple Grand Valley faculty, including Chris Haven, Amorak Huey and Todd Kaneko. Faculty works from Calvin College and Grand Rapids Community College were also on display during the initiative.

The Poetry on The Rapid program celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact Gretchen Galbraith, associate dean for faculty resources and sharing in Grand Valley’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at (616) 331-2495 or galbraig@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

June 5, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley celebrates long-standing international partner

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley delegation traveled to Poland in late May to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Cracow University of Economics and a long-standing international partnership.

CUE is Grand Valley's oldest international partner. President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers signed the initial partner agreement with CUE officials 40 years ago.

Lubbers traveled with the delegation that included President Thomas J. Haas, Provost Gayle R. Davis and Mark Schaub, chief international officer. Schaub said the original signers of the agreement, Lubbers and then-Rector Antoni Fajferrek, attended a special dinner honoring that event.

CUE leaders also presented Haas with an honorary doctoral degree. Schaub said this is only the 30th time in the history of CUE they have presented an honorary doctorate. Lubbers is also an honorary doctorate recipient.

Haas gave a presentation during the special convocation ceremony and signed a new five-year agreement with CUE.

The exchange has seen more than 275 students and 150 faculty and staff participate.

Highlights of the 40-year partnership:

- 1975: Grand Valley faculty members Christine Rydel and Ezra Gearhart, plus members of the Grand Rapids Polish Heritage Society, travel to Poland to establish further contacts in Krakow.
- 1978: First CEU faculty scholar visits Grand Valley.
- 1981: Lubbers presents honorary doctorate to Rector Antoni Fajferrek at Grand Valley commencement.
- 1989: Lubbers receives CUE honorary doctorate.
- 2005: 30th year of partnership, more than 275 Grand Valley students have studied at CUE. Begin exchange between Master's of Public Administration programs, two CUE graduate students come to Grand Valley to complete MPA degrees.
- 2008: STAIR (Studies in Trans-Atlantic International Relations) program begins. Students from both universities can obtain dual degrees, increased opportunities for faculty exchanges. Program jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the European Union.
- 2013: Funding for STAIR program ends.
- 2015: Haas receives honorary doctorate and signs new five-year agreement.

For immediate release

June 15, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grant to expand GVSU Kaufman Interfaith Institute community service initiative

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Thanks to a large grant from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute will be able to expand its 2015 Year of Interfaith Service initiative.

Since the 2015 Year of Interfaith Service began, various congregations around West Michigan have been participating in community service activities, including interfaith builds with Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at homeless shelters in Grand Rapids, donation drives for Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, park maintenance and cleanup with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, and much more.

Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager, said the \$50,000 grant will partially support interfaith efforts on local college campuses by funding student interns. The goal will be to provide students with opportunities to expand their interfaith leadership skills and apply them on their own campuses, and in the broader community. Students from Grand Valley, Aquinas College and Calvin College will be invited to apply for the institute's inter-institutional committee.

"Since these campuses haven't had student-driven interfaith efforts before, we're excited to see what plans these student leaders will come up with to promote interfaith education and service on their campuses," Gordon said. "Between our colleges and universities, we'll have a meaningful project that calls us all to think about, and act upon, why we want to encourage interfaith understanding within our diverse community."

With the grant, the institute will additionally be able to fund its Triennial Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue Conference, as well as host Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, for a presentation at Grand Valley. Both events will take place in October.

Doug Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director, said the GRCF grant is follow-up funding to a similar grant the institute received for its 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding, which saw a year of more than 300 events take place, all with the central aim of exploring commonalities and difference in the religions of the world.

"The previous GRCF grant in 2012 helped West Michigan better understand the value that each tradition brings to our community. This grant takes us to the next step of acting through service to build a better and more vibrant community," Kindschi said.

For more information, email interfaith@gvsu.edu or call (616) 331-5702.

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Annual VoiceGR survey begins, expands to Muskegon, Byron Center

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The VoiceGR street team is about to begin distribution of the annual survey conducted by researchers at Grand Valley State University's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy. This year the VoiceGR survey is expanding to include Muskegon and Byron Center with an emphasis on questions focusing on racial equity and neighborhood change.

The new programs, known as VoiceMuskegon and VoiceByronCenter, will serve the same purpose as the established VoiceGR program, which is to gather information about how residents of each city rank aspects of their lives on topics ranging from neighborhood safety and education to food availability and leisure activities.

The VoiceGR survey is done to connect demographics to opinions and perceptions. It is meant to be a baseline to stimulate conversation on pertinent issues to the West Michigan region.

Survey collection begins on July 1, and will continue through October 31. The Johnson Center hopes to increase the total number of responses in Grand Rapids to 7,000 by sending the VoiceGR street team to more community events throughout the summer.

When all surveys have been completed, results will be compiled and presented at a year-end Community Research Summit where nonprofit program managers, public officials and community leaders will be able to use the data to inform their work and decision making.

"This year there has been a focus on informing key city leaders; including the Mayor, city commissioners, Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Grand Rapids Police Department about the data," said Jodi Petersen, senior researcher of the Community Research Institute at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy. "The hope is to provide easily accessible data to inform decisions."

The primary goal of VoiceGR is to provide objective data to residents, nonprofits, governments, businesses and other decision makers regarding the perceptions and needs of the community.

For more information on the program, visit VoiceGR.org or johnsoncenter.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 19, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Interviews, B-roll and pictures of the new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science on the Allendale Campus of Grand Valley State University can be found at the following Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k978o47rb30hqm/AAA6IUdljpKDcye78qsFN06la?dl=0>

Media-GVSU Hall of Science video and photos

The building will be open for classes August 31; a dedication ceremony will take place August 28. A media tour was given June 19 by Shannon Sullivan, project manager from Facilities Planning; Shaily Menon, associate dean from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Aaron Perry, director of Lab Support.

The 151,000-square-foot facility will help meet the demand for the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and health professions fields.

Grand Valley offers 86 undergraduate programs and 34 graduate programs; more than 40 of them touch on the STEM and health professions in some way.

The building will feature nine classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, 14 faculty and student research laboratories, study spaces, offices and a greenhouse.

Construction on the \$55 million dollar facility began in July 2013. Grand Valley received \$30 million from the state and bonded the remaining \$25 million.

For more information, contact University Communications at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

June 18, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of York and Proulx are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V0>.

Evening of music to support GVSU voice and dance scholarship

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan community is invited to enjoy an evening of selections from the canon of some of the most influential American music to help raise funds to support voice and dance students at Grand Valley State University.

“A Musical Evening with Libby York and John Proulx: Music from the Great American Song Book and Proulx Originals,” will take place Tuesday, June 30 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, located inside the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. There will also be a pre-performance reception from 6:30-7:15 p.m.

A portion of ticket proceeds will benefit the Pamella and Daniel G. DeVos Musical Theater Scholarship, which supports degree-seeking voice or dance students at Grand Valley.

Although York has been performing jazz since 1980, her recording career began in 1998 with her debut album, “Blue Gardenia.” This was followed by her breakthrough recording “Sunday in New York” in 2004. During this evening of music, the seasoned jazz vocalist will share works from her third and first self-produced 2008 album entitled, “Here With You,” which showcases York’s love of The Great American Songbook, the canon of the most important American popular songs and jazz standards from the early 20th century.

Proulx, a Grammy-winning composer, began his musical education at the age of three in Grand Rapids on Suzuki violin, but quickly switched to classical piano. Hooked on the freedom of improvisation, his education took him to Chicago to study at Roosevelt University’s Chicago School of Performing Arts, and then to Los Angeles. Proulx’s debut album, “Moon and Sand,” was released in 2006. Also in 2006, jazz legend Nancy Wilson recorded “These Golden Years,” a song that Proulx co-wrote with lyricist D. Channsin Berry, for her 2006 Grammy-winning album, “Turned to Blue.”

To RSVP and purchase tickets, visit www.gvsu.edu/giving/clasmusicaleve. Seating is limited.

The event is being sponsored by Nancy Giardina, vice provost for Student Success, along with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Music and Dance Department and West Michigan Piano.

For Immediate Release

June 17, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Grand Valley supporters celebrating the gift is available via Dropbox:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/Us>

Gift allows continuation of DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will now host an established medical ethics speaker series thanks to a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy was established in 2005 by Richard and Helen DeVos in response to a need for a forum where topics of medical and ethical significance could be discussed under guidance from experts. The gift to Grand Valley supports the continuation of the colloquy as part of the university's efforts to provide outreach and education for students, the community and medical ethics centers worldwide. The series has tackled topics such as genetic testing, end-of-life care and health care reform.

Jean Nagelkerk, the vice provost for Health at Grand Valley, will oversee the series. She believes the community and Grand Valley students will benefit tremendously from hearing experts discuss the ethical issues medical professionals and society are facing.

"This gift will allow health science students, health care professionals and community members to join innovative discussions in the context of delivering quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care in communities," Nagelkerk said.

The bi-annual series is free and open to the public. It occurs in the spring and fall with the next one scheduled for October 26. The lecture, "Ethics of Resource Allocation across the Lifespan," will take place from 5:30-8:10 p.m. in Hager Auditorium at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The speakers are Mildred Solomon, president and chief executive officer for The Hastings Center, and Frederick Zimmerman, professor in the department of health policy and management at UCLA. It will be moderated by the Rev. Julius Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

Richard and Helen DeVos said they are extremely pleased to transition the colloquy to Grand Valley to continue the important discussions that benefit the health professions, the academic institutions and the patients who are the ultimate beneficiaries.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

For Immediate Release

June 17, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU teen entrepreneur academy returns for 9th year

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Thirty-seven high school students from 16 high schools across the state will spend a week immersed in the world of entrepreneurship to learn about creating a start-up company. The 9th annual Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy (TESA), sponsored by the Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship at Grand Valley State University and Amway, will take place June 22-26 at the L. William Seidman Center in Grand Rapids. This year's theme is centered on the arts.

- Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy
- June 22-26
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave., Pew Grand Rapids Campus
- Idea presentations and awards will take place June 26 from 3-5 p.m.

The week-long academy is packed with interactive lectures, team-building activities, hands-on research, field trips, networking with local entrepreneurs and strategic planning for personal aspirations. The camp introduces students — ninth grade through freshman year in college — to idea generation, problem solving, marketing techniques, management philosophies, financial strategies, presentation skills and much more as it relates to launching a new business.

The academy concludes with a pitch competition where students showcase their new entrepreneurship talents before a panel of professional judges for a chance to win an iPad, Beats by Dre headphones and cash prizes totaling \$5,000.

Amway employees will help mentor and coach the student teams throughout the week.

For more information, contact the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Grand Valley at cei@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7582.

MEDIA NOTE

June 16, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Media Tour of Kindschi Hall of Science

A media tour of the new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science on the Allendale Campus of Grand Valley State University is scheduled for Friday, June 19, at 2 p.m.

The tour will be hosted by Shannon Sullivan, project manager, and a representative from Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

- Kindschi Hall of Science Media Tour
- Friday, June 19
- 2 p.m.
- *Park in Lot G next to the science building. Park in any designated student spot. Do not park in faculty/staff spots. Enter by sign for Marketplace and meet inside by Which Wich restaurant.
- **Please RSVP to Dottie Barnes at barnesdo@gvsu.edu

The Kindschi Hall of Science is scheduled to open in August. The 151,000-square-foot facility will help meet the demand for the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and health professions fields.

Grand Valley offers 86 undergraduate programs and 34 graduate programs; more than 40 of them touch on the STEM and health professions in some way.

The building will feature nine classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, 14 faculty and student research laboratories, study spaces, offices and a greenhouse.

Construction on the \$55 million dollar facility began in July 2013. Grand Valley received \$30 million from the state and bonded the remaining \$25 million.

For more information, contact University Communications at (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Grand Valley Surplus Store to hold summer sale June 27

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Surplus Store at Grand Valley State University, which sells used university equipment and materials as part of an effort to reduce landfill waste and increase sustainability, will be open for a special sale Saturday, June 27.

The store, located at 140 Front Ave. SW in Grand Rapids, will be open 9 a.m.–noon.

Special sale pricing will be offered on several items, including 25 percent off all furniture, including desks, tables, office swivel chairs, stackable chairs, couches, dressers and more. All laptops are also on sale for \$20 off sticker price.

Customers in-store can get 5 percent off their total purchase by 'liking' the Surplus Store's designated sale post Saturday, either on Facebook or 'favoriting' the same post on Twitter.

The Surplus Store is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/gvsusurplusstore?fref=ts> and on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/gvsusurplus>

For Immediate Release

June 29, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Water, Blue Economy focus of inaugural Detroit Grand Lecture Series

DETROIT — Water and the Blue Economy will be the focus of the first Detroit Grand Lecture Series, hosted by Grand Valley State University and Crain's Detroit Business.

Alan Steinman, director of GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute, a national leader in research of freshwater ecosystems, plants and animals, will discuss highlights of a recent report on the broad impact of water on Michigan's economy and how water can propel the state to a new era of economic growth and job creation.

Steinman's presentation of the report will examine the role of water from Michigan's past to future, and inventories the water-based activities in the business sector, higher education and research centers, and community redevelopment and thinking. The report indicates that at least one in five jobs in Michigan is related to water.

Grand Valley State University's Detroit Grand Lecture Series

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

GVSU Detroit Center

163 Madison St. • Detroit, MI 48226

The report, available online at michiganblueeconomy.org, reveals several important facts about the water-based economy, including:

- Transportation, ports and shipping contribute more than 65,000 jobs and \$3 billion annually
- Big water-using sectors such as farming and manufacturing account for 581,000 Michigan jobs
- Emerging water growth sectors, including water technology product and service firms, account for 138,000 jobs
- Economic activity driven by water placemaking, including water cleanup, waterfront development and recreation and enjoyment collectively account for more than 175,000 jobs and \$12.5 billion annually
- Water research, education centers and conservation organizations conducted \$300 million worth of water research in recent years. Water conservation organizations employ 2,700 people and contribute \$80 million to incomes.

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

July 1, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Grand Valley Charter Schools Office receives formal accreditation from AdvancED

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- Grand Valley State University's Charter Schools Office has formally received accreditation from AdvancED, making the university the first charter school authorizer in the nation to achieve the national AdvancED accreditation classification.

The formal accreditation was awarded after a favorable recommendation was provided by the AdvancED review team earlier this year.

"The final approval of the accreditation of the Charter Schools Office marks a significant step toward increasing standards, transparency and accountability for charter school authorizers in our state," said Tim Wood, special assistant to the president for charter schools at Grand Valley. "We're proud to be the first authorizer in the state and nation to be accredited by AdvancED."

The accreditation assessment process included an intensive three-day review of the university's Charter Schools Office and portfolio of schools. The review consisted of evaluations of resource utilization, teaching and learning and leadership capacity. Other considerations included student performance, continuous improvement, strategic plans, an index of education quality and more.

A review team from AdvancED showed that GVSU's Charter Schools Office not only met but significantly surpassed average results for the rigorous evaluation process, which included an extensive document review and interviews with more than 120 stakeholders at Grand Valley and GVSU authorized schools.

"This review by AdvancEd is proof that we do what we say we're doing throughout our office on behalf of the schools that we authorize," Wood said.

AdvancED is the largest accrediting body in the world, having accredited more than 32,000 schools serving more than 20 million students worldwide.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/cso/advanced.

For immediate release

July 7, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos corresponding to each Fall Arts Celebration event are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration 2015 schedule set

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has a rich history of providing events and programs for the community centered on the arts. Fall Arts Celebration 2015 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

"Dusk-to-Dusk: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal"

Exhibition reception Thursday, September 10, from 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition dates: August 28-October 31

Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

For the first time in the history of Fall Arts Celebration, the featured collection of artwork is so large that it cannot be solely housed at Grand Valley. Half of this year's 32-piece art collection from the Netherlands will be showcased at Grand Valley's Art Gallery, while the other half will be displayed at the DePree Art Center and Gallery at Hope College in Holland. The exhibit consists of paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography and video art, with Dutch themes.

"Faculty Artistry Gems! Recognizing GVSU Music Faculty Performances in the Community"

Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur

While Grand Valley students have historically been featured during the Fall Arts Celebration music event, this year faculty members will receive the spotlight. The evening will begin with the Lighthouse Brass Quintet, featuring Richard Stoelzel, professor of trumpet. William Ryan, director of Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble, will also be honored through a masterful rendition of his composition, "Simple Lines," performed by Pablo Manhave-Veglia, associate professor of cello. The celebration of faculty artistry concludes with the Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Kwame Dawes"

Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m.

2nd Floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Reading followed by book signing and reception

As author of 16 collections of poetry, Dawes is heavily influenced by the rhythms and textures of songs cherished during his youth, including reggae music. His book, *Bob Marley: Lyrical Genius*, is currently the most authoritative study of the lyrics of the late musician. Dawes is the Glenna Luschei editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska, where he is a Chancellor's Professor of English.

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of three books of poetry: *Lucky Fish* (2011), *At the Drive-In Volcano* (2007) and *Miracle Fruit* (2003). *Lucky Fish* won the gold medal in poetry for the 2011 Independent Publishers Book Awards, and was featured in *The New York Times* and on the PBS

NewsHour *Art Beat*. Nezhukumathil is an associate professor of English at the State University of New York in Fredonia.

The Kun-Yang Lin Dancers presents: "Meditation in Motion: Virtuosity and Imagination in Dance – Innovation and Modernity in Music"

Monday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur

Dance performance followed by reception

This year's dance event will feature one of the foremost contemporary Asian-American dance companies in the U.S. The Kun-Yang Lin Dancers will present an evening of dance set to music composed by Grand Valley alumnus Dan Rhode, '12, and performed by Grand Valley's award-winning New Music Ensemble. The Kun-Yang Lin Dancers take some of the more movement-oriented Asian traditions, such as martial arts or Tai Chi, and create a language that follows musical and other choreographic ideals.

Distinguished Academic Lecturer Kip Thorne

"Discovery and Collaboration"

Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m.

2nd floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Lecture followed by book signing and reception

Kip Thorne is a theoretical physicist whose research has focused on Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, as well as astrophysics with an emphasis on wormholes, time travel, relativistic stars, black holes and gravitational waves. Formerly a faculty member at Caltech, Thorne has since transitioned into a career of writing and filmmaking. The Einstein Medal winner served as an executive producer for the 2014 film "Interstellar" and co-authored *The Science of Interstellar*, which explores the physics behind the movie. Thorne's lecture at Grand Valley will discuss the marriage of visual arts and scientific discovery.

"Stille Nacht: A Celebration of Holiday Music from Europe"

Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids)

Fall Arts Celebration concludes with the voices of the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale singing Johann Sebastian Bach's timeless holiday classic "Magnificat." This holiday gift to the West Michigan community will also feature the iconic sounds of the GVSU Varsity Men's Chorus singing melodies of Europe's most beloved holiday music.

For more information about all of this year's Fall Arts Celebration events, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts or call (616) 331-2185.

For release July 10, 2015

Contact: University Communications, Mary Eilleen Lyon, lyonme@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley trustees adopt budget, set tuition

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees adopted the university's FY 2016 budget and set tuition rates for the academic year at its July 10 meeting held on the Allendale Campus. The tuition increase complies with the state's tuition cap and keeps Grand Valley's tuition in the bottom half of all Michigan universities. The budget passed by the trustees substantially raises financial aid in keeping with the university's mission to provide access to Michigan's students.

Trustees voted to increase tuition by \$163 per semester, bringing the annual tuition to \$11,078 for a full-time undergraduate Michigan resident. The budget includes \$40.4 million in financial aid for students, an increase of more than \$2 million to be awarded in the form of scholarships or grants. This results in financial aid increasing 6 percent, while tuition is increasing 3 percent.

"This budget reflects our deep concern for students searching for affordability and a quality education in the state of Michigan," said David Hooker, chair of the Grand Valley Board of Trustees. "We know Michigan is depending on the educated workforce that Grand Valley is producing, and we also know we want our graduates to stay in the state, being productive immediately with little or no debt. To that end, we increased financial aid by a substantial amount and kept the tuition increase modest. A Grand Valley degree continues to be an excellent return on investment."

In the fall of 2014, 64 percent of all undergraduate students received gift aid, and of the 2013-14 graduates who earned a degree in four years or less, 33 percent had no debt.

The university is expected to receive \$65 million in state funding, some of which is awarded based on Grand Valley's performance in key areas such as retention and graduation rates. The university shows operational efficiency with administrative costs per student nearly \$800 lower than the average Michigan university's administrative costs. That results in \$16 million of savings being given back to Grand Valley students and their families.

The state's share of Grand Valley's entire budget is 18 percent, meaning students and their families pay 82 percent. Trustees earmarked all of the funding from the state to student financial aid, debt service, maintenance and utilities for classroom buildings.

President Thomas J. Haas said he is pleased lawmakers have begun linking performance to funding because that helps Grand Valley students.

"We have always been known for being student centered at Grand Valley," said Haas. "That has resulted in our enrollment growth and the number of our graduates who are leading in their communities. The state is recognizing our administrative efficiency and our student success, and that allows us to continue to hold down our tuition and offer students grants and scholarships that keep them excelling in our classrooms. We're poised for another great academic year."

Nearly 90 percent of recent graduates are employed or pursuing advanced degrees. Of those working, 86 percent are employed in Michigan.

The budget passed by the board also includes a modest 2.9 percent wage increase for faculty and staff members.

For additional information highlighting Grand Valley's performance, visit www.gvsu.edu/accountability. For a chart detailing tuition at Michigan universities, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Vx>.

In other board action:

- The Board approved a proposal to create a graduate program in Applied Linguistics scheduled to be offered in fall 2015. The field of applied linguistics focuses on the systematic study of language and its practical application to real-world issues, such as language teaching, language policy and planning, literacy and advocacy.
- The Board approved two new programs in the College of Health Professions. The Clinical Dietetics graduate program will focus on preparing students to provide nutrition therapy and consultations to patients. The second program, a undergraduate degree in Health Information Management, will focus on preparing students to acquire, analyze, and protect digital and traditional medical information.
- The Board approved an easement agreement with Consumers Energy on 7 to 14 acres on the Allendale Campus, south of Pierce Avenue near 48th Avenue. Consumers proposes to construct a solar energy garden and would be responsible for 100 percent of all construction and operating costs. Separately, the university is being offered the ability to purchase one half of the first megawatt, which equates to about 7 percent of the total electricity currently purchased from Consumers. The project would be completed in 2016, in time to qualify for the federal energy investment credit.
- The Board approved an agreement with Consumers Energy to lease land on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus to co-locate a corporate training and professional development center adjacent to a university-owned warehouse on Front Avenue. Consumers plans to construct a \$15 million building that is expected to open in late 2016. The riverfront site is between the L. William Seidman Center and the Steelcase Building. This is a 40-year agreement, after which ownership of the building transfers to Grand Valley. A groundbreaking is scheduled for July 20.
- Grand Valley State University received top ratings from Moody's and S&P. The university received A1 and A+ ratings, respectively. Moody's cited Grand Valley's increasing market share, healthy cash flow and strong management team; S&P cited the university's stable operating surpluses, adequate financial ratios and stable enrollment. The university has consistently received favorable ratings.
- The Board approved the authorization of a new public charter academy in Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo Covenant Academy will serve a unique population of students who have previously been dropouts, homeless, or at-risk. Serving grades 9-12, with special permission to educate students who would have otherwise aged-out of the public education system, the academy will serve up to 300 students. The board also approved the appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to GVSU authorized public school academy boards.
- The board of trustees approved the second phase of an expansion to the Recreation Center on the Allendale Campus. The 33,500-square-foot, \$12.2 million expansion includes three additional basketball courts, weight equipment, lockers and staff offices. The project will be funded by the Campus Development Fund.

- The trustees also elected to keep Chair David Hooker and Vice-Chair John Kennedy in their positions for another term.

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-8138, hoekstn@gvsu.edu

Former treasury secretary to be given prestigious GVSU award

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill will be awarded the Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein Fellowship July 14, by leaders of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

O'Neill will be presented with the Hauenstein Fellowship following his remarks at the 2015 William E. Simon Lecture, hosted by the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library and Museum.

Registration for the lecture is closed, but media are welcome to attend for coverage.

William E. Simon Lecture

July 14, noon–1:30 p.m.

JW Marriott, International Ballroom, Grand Rapids

The fellowship, presented by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley, is one of the university's most prestigious awards, and is periodically awarded to a distinguished public servant whose achievements are consistent with the ethical leadership and public service of Col. Ralph W. Hauenstein, the namesake of the center.

The award has previously been given to Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft and President Gerald R. Ford, posthumously.

Hauenstein has been a journalist, war hero, entrepreneur and philanthropist. During World War II he rose to the rank of colonel and worked under General Dwight Eisenhower. In 1944-45, he was among the first Americans into liberated Paris, war-torn Germany, and Nazi concentration camps. He is 103 years old.

For more information, visit <http://hauensteincenter.org/col-ralph-w-hauenstein-fellowship-award/>

For immediate release

July 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Please use the revised schedule of events and descriptions. Photos corresponding to each Fall Arts Celebration event are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

REVISED GVSU Fall Arts Celebration 2015 schedule

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has a rich history of providing events and programs for the community centered on the arts. Fall Arts Celebration 2015 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

"Dusk to Dusk: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal" Exhibition reception Thursday, September 10, from 5-7 p.m. Exhibition dates: August 28-October 31 Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

This exhibition of contemporary art welcomes viewers to experience a beautiful world, unsettling in its vision of personal isolation, but collectively bound by the small comfort of knowing that everyone is alone. Through paintings, photography, sculptures and video, this exhibition shows viewers a strange contemporary familiarity into a collective darkness. A collaborative project between the Grand Valley Art Gallery and the De Pree Art Center and Gallery at Hope College, this exhibition turns a mirror to the world, examining individual isolation, political repression and collective ennui during the decline of the industrial age. "Dusk to Dusk" was organized by the Samek Art Gallery at Bucknell University, curated by Richard Rinehart, director of the Samek Art Gallery, with works generously loaned from THE EKARD COLLECTION. The exhibition is toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

"Faculty Artistry Gems! Recognizing GVSU Music Faculty Performances in the Community" Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur

While Grand Valley students have historically been featured during the Fall Arts Celebration music event, this year faculty members will receive the spotlight. The evening will begin with the Lighthouse Brass Quintet, featuring Richard Stoelzel, professor of trumpet. This ensemble delights audiences throughout Michigan and the U.S. with its musical representations of Great Lakes lighthouses. Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble, will also be honored through a masterful rendition of his composition, "Simple Lines," performed by Pablo Manhave-Veglia, associate professor of cello. The celebration of faculty artistry concludes with the Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Kwame Dawes" Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m. 2nd Floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus Reading followed by book signing and reception

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of three books of poetry: *Lucky Fish* (2011), *At the Drive-In Volcano* (2007) and *Miracle Fruit* (2003). *Lucky Fish* won the gold medal in poetry for the 2011 Independent Publishers Book Awards, and was featured in *The New York Times* and on the PBS NewsHour *Art Beat*. Nezhukumatathil is an associate professor of English at the State University of New York in Fredonia.

As author of 16 collections of poetry, Kwame Dawes is heavily influenced by the rhythms and textures of songs cherished during his youth, including reggae music. His book, *Bob Marley: Lyrical Genius*, is currently the most authoritative study of the lyrics of the late musician. Dawes is the Glenna Luschei editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska, where he is a Chancellor's Professor of English.

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers present: "Meditation in Motion: Virtuosity and Imagination in Dance – Innovation and Modernity in Music" Monday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur Dance performance followed by reception

This year's dance event will feature one of the foremost contemporary Asian-American dance companies in the U.S. Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers will present an evening of dance set to music composed by Grand Valley alumnus Dan Rhode, '12, and performed by Grand Valley's award-winning New Music Ensemble. Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers take some of the more movement-oriented Asian traditions, such as martial arts or Tai Chi, and create a language that follows musical and other choreographic ideals. The internationally known Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers celebrate the ability of dance to integrate body, spirit and mind, inviting audiences to engage their own journeys of self-discovery.

Distinguished Academic Lecturer Kip Thorne "Discovery and Collaboration" Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m. 2nd floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus Lecture followed by book signing and reception

Kip Thorne is a theoretical physicist whose research has focused on Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, as well as astrophysics with an emphasis on wormholes, time travel, relativistic stars, black holes and gravitational waves. Formerly a faculty member at Caltech, Thorne has since transitioned into a career of writing and filmmaking. The Einstein Medal winner served as an executive producer for the 2014 film "Interstellar" and co-authored *The Science of Interstellar*, which explores the physics behind the movie. Thorne's lecture at Grand Valley will discuss the marriage of visual arts and scientific discovery.

"Stille Nacht: A Celebration of Holiday Music from Europe" Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids)

Fall Arts Celebration concludes with the voices of the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale singing Johann Sebastian Bach's timeless holiday classic "Magnificat." This holiday gift to the West Michigan community will also feature the iconic sounds of the GVSU Varsity Men's Chorus singing melodies of Europe's most beloved holiday music.

For more information about all of this year's Fall Arts Celebration events, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts or call (616) 331-2185.

For Immediate Release

July 9, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-8138, hoekstn@gvsu.edu

Annis Water Resources Institute to offer educational boat cruises

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) will host two public educational cruises on Muskegon Lake July 15.

Participants will take part in water monitoring and learn about the tools and methods scientists and researchers at AWRI use to help restore freshwater ecosystems.

The research trips will take place aboard the W.G. Jackson research vessel. One cruise will take place from 10 until 11:30 a.m. and the second cruise will take place from 12:30 until 2 p.m.

Both cruises will depart from the dock at AWRI, located at 740 West Shoreline Drive in Muskegon.

Space is limited, and registration is required. To register, call (231) 728-3601 and ask for Roxana.

Due to the nature of the research trips, shoes are required. No seating is available on the boat. Due to limited space, please plan to leave personal belongings such as backpacks, totes, food, etc. in your car. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/wri.

For Immediate Release

July 9, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

NOTE: Photos of Gentry and his teammates are available on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Vw>

GVSU student on winning team at World University Games

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley student and his fellow team members on the U.S. rowing men's eight team captured gold at the World University Games July 7 in Chungju, South Korea. Ukraine took second place and The Netherlands took third.

Austin Gentry, a junior from Corona, California, is a member and team captain of Grand Valley Rowing. He transferred to Grand Valley from Orange Coast Junior College and is majoring in philosophy and political science.

John Bancheri, Grand Valley rowing head coach, said Gentry's mastery of small boat rowing prepared him to win a spot on the U.S. team. "He constantly asks questions, not because he questions the program, but because he wants to learn the process. He's a true student of the sport," said Bancheri.

Bancheri said this is the first win for the U.S. in the rowing men's eight since the World University Games began in 1923. The team, which includes members from across the country, completed the race with an overall time of 5:37.30.

The World University Games is a multisport event held every two years. It is organized by the International University Sports Federation and open to university athletes. This year's games have U.S. representation in 21 sports with 550 athletes, the largest U.S. team in the history of the event. Read more about the win [here](#).

For more information, contact John Bancheri at (616) 262-9537 or bancherj@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

July 8, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-2221

Area teens to explore health professions at GVSU camp

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — West Michigan 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 at Grand Valley State University.

Sponsored by Grand Valley's College of Health Professions and Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC), the sHaPe program is designed for students entering 8th or 9th grade. The camp will be held July 13-16 at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in Grand Rapids.

Students participating will have the opportunity to study anatomy, physiology, epidemiology and personal health and fitness during hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities, including making nutritious meals, collecting data in a laboratory setting, using modern medical equipment and learning different therapies for various injuries and disabilities. Student will also take a field trip to the Mercy Health Saint Mary's Campus.

Media interested in attending are asked to check in at room 123 in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences during the event or call Kathy Agee, RMSC science program coordinator, at (616) 331-2267 prior to the camp.

For more information about sHaPe Camp, visit www.gvsu.edu/rmsc.

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/43tmmeittesfhj6/AAAQTz8Q_ww7syaqf9mtZwrCa?dl=0 The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow.

Current business trends: growth rate remains good

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The economic growth rate in West Michigan is good but has moderated, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University. Long surveyed local business leaders; his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of June.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, backtracked to +19, from +31. The employment index came in at +20, a little below the previous month of +24. The production index eased to +16 from +29, while the index of purchases bucked the trend and rose to +24 from +19. Long said the West Michigan economy remains on a solid footing, but the growth rate has tapered off because the summer months are often slower for local industries.

"Our survey participants have also taken on a tone of moderation," said Long. "Although certain segments outside of the industrial market, such as new home construction, have picked up, many local industrial firms are at capacity and can only contribute to the economic expansion by adding capacity. The expansions now unfolding by some of our local firms is the reason that the index of employment has remained in double digits for the past 18 months."

Long said while short-term business optimism faded a little over the past month, the long-term outlook remained unchanged. 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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

July 14, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: an image of Lown and Hekstra is available via Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/VH>

GVSU researchers help Grand Rapids food pantries establish healthy policies

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Data collected by Grand Valley researchers has helped two Grand Rapids food pantries establish policies and ensure fresh produce and healthy foods are available to their clients.

Deborah Lown, associate professor of biomedical sciences, and graduate student Katherine Hekstra created a survey and collected data from people who visit food pantries at South End Community Outreach Ministries (SECOM) and Streams of Hope neighbors.

SECOM, in southwest Grand Rapids, provides more than 20,000 services to more than 9,000 people annually. Streams of Hope, in southeast Grand Rapids, services 6,000 people annually through its food center.

Eleanor Moreno, SECOM director of client services, said affordable options for healthy foods within walking distance of the neighborhood are limited.

"These are families committed to healthy eating but who are having a hard time finding affordable healthy foods," Moreno said. "Through this initiative, we want to make sure that these families can access the nutritious foods they need to improve health and have the energy to work and learn."

Hekstra, who will graduate in December, said the data revealed more than 40 percent of SECOM clients were diagnosed with high blood pressure and 46 percent as overweight. She added that 70 percent of clients stated they would like more fresh fruit and vegetables in the pantries.

Hekstra said the data will help staff members at the food pantries evaluate the change in food distribution and better understand their clients. Data will be collected again at the three- and six-month stages.

"We also created a guide for the volunteers at the pantries who shop with the clients," Hekstra said. "It resembles My Plate, a visual image of what a balanced diet is."

Staff at both food pantries received help from Access of West Michigan to establish and transition to healthy food policies. Emma Garcia, hunger response director at Access of West Michigan, said the research by Lown and Hekstra will help improve the health of neighborhoods through nutritional options.

"We know from national data that low-income populations have much higher incidence rates of diseases related to food," Garcia said. "Having our own data in food pantries that serve Kent County will help us make positive and deeply impactful nutritional changes in how we serve our community."

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2015
Contact: GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Lylah using the device are available to use on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Vz>. Watch a video of her first test run: <https://youtu.be/Es6ihoHKycl>

GVSU students create device to support child's arms

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A team of engineering students are again working with Lylah Gritter, a child with a weak version of type 2 spinal muscular atrophy, to help her become more independent. In 2014, a different group of engineering students built the Play and Mobility Device that allows her to move and be mobile.

The new device, a 3D-printed exoskeleton, was created by mechanical engineering graduate students Brooks Schaefer and Joseph Kissling to allow Lylah to better control her arms. SMA is a genetic muscle disorder that causes extreme weakness.

Lylah's mother, Holly Gritter, said her daughter doesn't have the ability to lift up her arms without assistance, so they needed something that could provide shoulder-to-elbow support.

"We were struggling to find ways that would allow her to feed herself or pick up a toy," Holly said. "There wasn't really anything out there to help that we could get easily."

The current 12-piece prototype, made of plastic, allows Lylah to do tasks such as color and feed herself.

"Holding a spoon and bringing it to her mouth seems like such a simple thing, but that's something she can do now with the device that she couldn't do before," said Gritter.

The device was created as part of engineering associate professor Brent Nowak's Advanced Medical Device Design class, where students are given a real-world problem and asked to solve it. Students are mentored and guided by faculty members, including physical therapy associate professor Lisa Kenyon who works with Lylah, and learn about the design process through multi-disciplinary, project-based learning.

The project began in January when the team researched current devices and conducted observations before the one-month design process began.

"It was an amazing feeling to see the device work the first time we put it on her," said Kissling, a Texas native. "We did all this design work and testing, so to see Lylah and her mom's face when it worked was priceless."

The project was funded through a five-year, \$180,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for Grand Valley students and faculty members to create specialized devices for people with disabilities. Kissling and Schaefer hope to make the design available for others.

The duo is participating in the first stage of Emerge West Michigan's 5x5 Night, a competition where people have the opportunity to pitch an idea and receive \$5,000 in funding. Voting to get to the next stage goes through July 20 at: <http://5x5night.com/ideas/detail/angel-arms-excoskeleton>.

For more information, contact Brent Nowak at nowakbr@gvsu.edu, Joseph Kissling at kisslinj@mail.gvsu.edu, or Brooks Schaefer at schaesam@mail.gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

July 15, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

International trumpeters to teach, perform at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — High school and college trumpet students will learn from some of the most talented educators and performers from around the world during the 11th annual Grand Valley State University International Trumpet Seminar. The seminar will take place July 20-26 at varying locations on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.

During the annual seminar, students will learn different teaching and performance styles from world-class artists through group lessons, master classes, rehearsals, ensembles and recitals.

Nightly concerts will be offered to the public and held in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus.

Nightly concerts include:

Opening Concert featuring Richard Stoelzel, Wiff Rudd, and Vincent DiMartino with the Grand Rapids Jazz Trio

Monday, July 20 at 7 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre

Admission: \$5 at the door

Manu Mellaerts

Tuesday, July 21 at 7 p.m.

Van Solkema Recital Hall

Admission: \$5 at the door

Stephen Burns

Wednesday, July 22 at 7 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre

Admission: \$5 at the door

Faculty Concert

Thursday, July 23 at 7 p.m.

Van Solkema Recital Hall

Admission: \$5 at the door

Allen Vizzutti and the GR Jazz Orchestra

Friday, July 24 at 7 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre

Admission: \$20 at the door

John Hagstrom

Saturday, July 25 at 7 p.m.

Van Solkema Recital Hall
Admission: \$5 at the door

Closing Concert featuring trumpet ensembles and finalists of the college and high school solo competitions

Sunday, July 26 at 10 a.m.
Louis Armstrong Theatre
Admission: Free

For more information, call (616) 331-3484, or visit www.gvsu.edu/trumpetseminar.

For immediate release

July 16, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

New GVSU Multimedia Journalism program combines journalism and broadcasting majors

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In an effort to better prepare students to work in the ever-evolving media landscape, Grand Valley is merging its journalism and broadcasting majors into a unified Multimedia Journalism program this fall.

Vandana Pednekar-Magal, School of Communications director and journalism professor, said this change comes at a time when the demands on professional journalists are greater than in the past.

“In the new media environment, the distinctions between newspapers, radio and television are increasingly irrelevant as they have converged onto an integrated platform of online media,” she said. “In this milieu, a journalist, after researching, writing, shooting, voicing and editing a story for traditional newscasts, must also be able to rewrite it for the Web or mobile devices. He or she may also be expected to produce short videos for the Web.”

Pednekar-Magal added that Grand Valley joins four-year colleges and universities across the U.S. who are advancing their journalism programs by reflecting these changes in the media landscape.

“This merged program will offer journalism instruction that considers the nature of each medium in the convergence model and enable students to learn and eventually operate in the integrated media platform,” she said.

While audio and video technologies, as well as digital media, will be components of the new curriculum, Pednekar-Magal said at the heart of the program will be teaching students the art of storytelling.

“We want students to learn to tell stories in all media by getting the facts right, pursuing public interest, doing the tedious legwork that we call journalistic inquiry, and knowing the ethics of journalism,” she said. “Yet, ultimately students are learning how to tell a great story in the mediums they understand or like to work in. They can use their story telling skills in unimaginable ways that new technologies now seem to allow.”

For more information about the new Multimedia Journalism program, visit www.gvsu.edu/soc.

For immediate release

July 20, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU research presentation to focus on disease endangering local snakes

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University biology professor and multiple students are conducting research in an effort to keep a species of rattlesnake being threatened by snake fungal disease off the U.S. Endangered Species list.

Jennifer Moore, assistant professor of biology, will present her team's research and a history of the disease in Michigan **Thursday, July 23, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (701 W. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, MI).**

Moore said her team is actively studying eastern massasauga rattlesnakes in Michigan that carry snake fungal disease. This species of rattlesnake is small, venomous and generally found in small populations in wetland habitats. In Michigan, they can typically be found in the Lower Peninsula.

Moore said the eastern massasauga rattlesnake species is threatened or endangered in every state they reside, except for Michigan, where they are listed as a "species of special concern." She added that the species is a candidate for federal listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and will likely be listed by the end of this year.

"We currently don't know what impact this disease will have on wild snake populations, but all rattlesnakes that have been brought into captivity for potential treatment have died, so the potential for serious declines exists," Moore said.

Snake fungal disease was first detected in Michigan massasaugas in 2013. Aside from studying population demography and how habitat management activities may affect the presence of the disease, Moore's team is also aiming to better understand the ecology of the fungus, *Ophidiomyces*, which causes snake fungal disease.

Moore explained that Grand Valley biology majors Danielle Bradke, Nate Kudla and Jeff Bartman have been conducting the bulk of this research.

"Letting the students ask the important questions, carry out the work and tell people about what they discovered is great training for their future careers in science," Moore said. "They are hard-working, dedicated and enthusiastic about this project, which makes them an absolutely integral part of the work."

For more information or to register for the presentation, visit www.cedarcreekinstitute.org or call (269) 721-4190.

For immediate release

July 20, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU student's involvement leads to tangible solution for Disability Network Lakeshore

ZEELAND, Mich. — The process of installing a permanent residential wheelchair ramp is not simple and usually begins with obtaining blueprints and a building permit.

Through a class project, a student in Grand Valley's liberal studies leadership cohort connected his engineering firm with Disability Network-Lakeshore (DNL) to develop a product that streamlines that process.

Richard Campbell is in the second semester of the 19-month accelerated degree completion program at Grand Valley's Meijer Holland Campus. He works as a team lead and product development engineer for Disher Design and Development, an engineering firm in Zeeland.

Campbell and the rest of his leadership cohort were asked to connect with local nonprofits, learn about them and offer problem-solving skills. Campbell chose Disability Network-Lakeshore, a center that works to connect people with disabilities to resources and opportunities.

Through meetings and conversations with DNL staff members, Campbell learned about the red tape involved with residential wheelchair ramps. He took that problem to Disher Design and worked with team members to create a 3D Computer-Aided Design and blueprint of a wheelchair ramp that meets all Americans with Disabilities Act and Michigan residential building codes. Disher also reconditioned several old wheelchairs for DNL.

"The CAD model allows us to easily lay out a wheelchair ramp assisting someone with limited mobility and simplifies the process for them to acquire a building permit before installation," Campbell said.

Todd Whiteman, executive director of DNL, said Campbell's efforts led to a tangible solution to a real problem. Because of his involvement with DNL, Campbell was nominated for an Ability Scholarship, offered jointly by DNL and the West Coast Chamber of Commerce. The scholarship pays Campbell's tuition to attend this fall's West Coast Leadership program.

"None of this would be possible if I hadn't been in Grand Valley's leadership program," Campbell said.

Campbell said the skills and knowledge he has gained through the program have transferred well to his workplace.

"I'm getting the knowledge to help colleagues at Disher reach their fullest potential," he said.

The 19-month accelerated degree completion program is offered in Grand Rapids and Holland; it is geared toward students who are at least 24 years old and who have work experience and college credits. Classes are offered in Holland and Grand Rapids; learn more by clicking [here](#).

Learn more about Disher Design [here](#); and the Disability Network Lakeshore [here](#).

For immediate release

July 23, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and video of "The Lens" production at Rosa Parks Circle are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/W6>. Please credit GVSU University Communications.

21st annual GVSU Summer Film Project begins production in West Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Filming is underway for "The Lens," the 21st annual Grand Valley State University Summer Film Project. Production will wrap Monday, July 27.

The film's 20-member crew, consisting of all Grand Valley students, will film in various West Michigan locations, including Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA), Marks Photo and Video, and a house in Jenison.

Joseph McCargar, affiliate professor of broadcasting at Grand Valley, and Brian Gotberg, '14 and '15, are co-producing "The Lens." Richard Brauer, president of Brauer Productions Inc., based in Traverse City, wrote the script and will function as director.

Brauer said the story revolves around a woman named Isabelle who buys an antique camera lens at a garage sale and discovers it has mystical powers of healing.

"Anything or anyone she photographs gets better. When she realizes that, it's quite startling, but then almost immediately she also realizes that every time that phenomenon happens it pulls a piece out of her soul. So she's faced with this moral dilemma of continuing her passion for healing knowing full well that it's hurting her," Brauer said.

Lewis Stone, senior film and video major and the film's first assistant director, said among the many benefits of working alongside industry professionals on the Summer Film Project, there's one in particular that helps prepare students for future careers in film and video production.

"The No. 1 thing this project gives to students is confidence and seeing how our skills and abilities can grow," Stone said. "As first assistant director, I have to facilitate all departments and make sure everyone is working together and on time. Through that I know that after this project I can move on to more professional sets and do a really good job as first assistant director or in other roles in other departments especially as a director or screen writer, which is what I want to do in the future."

The Summer Film Project was established in 1995 to offer junior and senior students and opportunity to work side-by-side with film industry professionals to produce a short film during a six-week practicum course during the summer semester. Post-production is completed during a 15-week fall course, with a premiere screening each spring.

For more information about "The Lens," contact Brian Gotberg at (248) 767-5591 or bgotberg@gmail.com.

For immediate release

July 22, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU earns three TRiO grants to expand services to students

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University received more than \$3.7 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Education to fund and expand services over five years to students enrolled in one of three TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) programs.

The grants will serve students who are first-generation in college or from families with lower incomes. Grand Valley's TRiO SSS programs provide intensive tutoring, learning skills support, academic advising and mentoring to students while assisting them in other ways to be successful, through counseling, financial guidance and offering other resources.

Two of those grants will fund new initiatives: TRiO SSS Teacher Preparation will serve students pursuing bachelor's degrees with teacher certification, and TRiO SSS STEM/Health Sciences will serve students who are majoring in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing and other health professions. TRiO SSS is a long-standing program at Grand Valley.

Grand Valley was the only Michigan institution to be awarded three TRiO SSS grants, and the only state institution to receive the TRiO STEM/Health Sciences grant. The grants will be implemented September 1.

Nancy Giardina, vice provost for Student Success, said the grants allow the Student Academic Success Center to serve twice as many students as in past years. "I am very appreciative that the SASC, through collaborations across the university, met challenging strategic goals to retain the long-standing TRiO grants and secured additional grant funding to provide more intensive support for Grand Valley students," Giardina said.

Mike Messner, assistant vice provost for Student Success, said the general SSS program (it was known as the Educational Support Program) serves 215 students. The Teacher Preparation program will serve 140 students and STEM/Health Sciences will serve 120 students.

Messner, who will serve as principal investigator for the STEM/Health Sciences program, said the new programs are a good fit for Grand Valley and the state of Michigan. "Through these federal grants, we are able to get more students into STEM fields, into health care and into teacher education," he said. "It's good for the state as we try to keep college graduates in Michigan."

Arnie Smithalexander, from the College of Education, will serve as the principal investigator for SSS Teacher Preparation. She said its goal is to help more students from urban schools and communities prepare for teacher education, and be successful in the College of Education.

Over time, Smithalexander said, the grant will provide a cohort of education majors with resources to become successful graduates, perhaps including scholarships that would enable students to continue volunteering and building skills to be better prepared for teaching. "Many students from urban schools

have to work to earn money for tuition. Scholarships would allow them to volunteer and focus on building their resumes and skills," she said.

MarcQus Wright, director of TRiO SSS and principal investigator of its grant, said the new programs are needed at Grand Valley. For 60 openings in the traditional SSS program, Wright received 300 applications.

Wright said students who participate in SSS are in good academic standing and have a 96 percent persistence rate, 90 percent are in good academic standing and the six-year graduation rate is 76 percent.

For Immediate Release

July 27, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of past regattas are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Wd>

GVSU engineering students to race handmade sailboats during 25th annual regatta

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – It will be a race to the finish on the high seas in the Keller Engineering Labs during Grand Valley State University's 25th annual Wooden Shoe Regatta July 29.

Each summer junior-level mechanical engineering students design and build small sailboats as a lesson in fluid mechanics. Students are awarded wooden shoes as trophies for style and speed for their 1/12 scale model sailboats, each carved from a 2-inch by 4-inch by 10-inch block of basswood.

This year, a record-breaking 66 students will participate in the speed competition, starting at 11:30 a.m. in room 102 of the Keller Engineering Labs on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is open to the public.

The students will use a 12-foot towing tank and a wind tunnel to predict the performance of the hull and sails on their individual boats. Based on the results, they are able to predict how a full-scale boat would perform.

To celebrate the event's silver anniversary, commanding officers of two U.S. Coast Guard Cutters – the Alder and Buckthorn – will be in attendance, as well as Grand Valley alumni. The commanders are also attending the U.S. Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, July 24-August 2.

Engineering professor Shirley Fleischmann started the regatta at Grand Valley in 1989 to provide students a hands-on learning experience in the field of fluid mechanics. A style competition took place July 27.

For more information, contact Fleischmann at fleischs@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-6761.

For Immediate Release

July 30, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of past graduation ceremonies are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Wi>

GVSU engineering students graduate, showcase industry-sponsored projects

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 75 engineering students will participate in a special graduation ceremony July 31 at Grand Valley State University. The graduates will join the thousands of Grand Valley alumni who are helping to drive the state's economy with their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) degree.

At the Order of the Engineer ceremony — a traditional commencement ritual — each student will receive an iron ring, placed on the little finger of the working hand, which symbolizes bridging the step between training and experience. Engineering graduates at Grand Valley earn their degrees later than the traditional spring ceremony because they complete a year-long co-op experience with a company.

Order of the Engineer Graduation Ceremony

Friday, July 31, 6-7 p.m.

Eberhard Center, second floor, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The 17th annual Engineering Design Conference will take place the same day. The conference celebrates the completion of the Capstone Design Program and the Grand Valley partnership with local industry, in which teams of senior engineering students solve real-world engineering design problems sponsored by participating industries and organizations.

Engineering Design Conference

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Labs, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Sponsors of this year's senior projects include Haworth, Cascade Engineering, Shape Corp., Viking Products, Attwood Marine, L-3 Communications and Gill Electronics.

For more information about the conference and graduation ceremony, contact the School of Engineering in the [Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing](#) at (616) 331-6750.

For immediate release

August 4, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host international library innovation conference

ALLENDALE, Mich - As libraries continue to evolve to better meet the changing needs and expectations of users, there is a desire for information sharing to support the increasingly important roles libraries play in the communities they serve.

To help fill this need, Grand Valley State University, in conjunction with Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS), is hosting the "Re-think it: Libraries for a New Age" conference August 10-12 on the Allendale Campus. The conference will take place in the Mary Idema Pew Library, Loutit Lecture Halls and Kirkhof Center.

"The first goal of the conference is to share what we are doing here at GVSU libraries to increase the impact of the library on student learning and success," said Lee Van Orsdel, dean of University Libraries. "The second goal is to host a conversation among innovative academic and public librarians who, like us, are committed to staying relevant and impactful in their communities."

The conference, which will host approximately 270 library enthusiasts, including librarians, design thinking experts, architects and furniture designers, will explore:

- Transforming physical library spaces and places;
- Innovative services, programs or technologies;
- Assessing and evaluating spaces, services, technologies and programs;
- Reflecting community values and needs;
- And developing a forward-thinking organizational culture

The conference includes panel presentations, contributed paper presentations, tours and interactive discussion sessions.

Van Orsdel said Grand Valley created this international conference because there is industry interest in how the university is contributing to the international dialogue about the future of libraries through forward thinking ideas about how student learning can be actively supported by spaces and programs that nurture, inspire and inform them with each visit.

"Many libraries around the country and abroad are adapting some of our practices, programs and design ideas for their own libraries," she said. "The Mary Idema Pew Library was designed with the intent to turn it over to students, and that itself is an unusual approach. We feature student assistants as the face of our libraries and our services to an extent that few libraries have even considered."

One of those student-operated services is The Knowledge Market, which offers students the opportunity to seek consulting services from other highly trained students regarding research, writing and public speaking. In 2014, 784 research consultations, 4,031 writing consultations and 604 speech consultations were provided for students by peer consultants at The Knowledge Marketplace. The Mary Idema Pew Library IT Help Desk, User Experience Team and Technology Showcase are also all primarily comprised of student employees.

The Mary Idema Pew Library has been praised for its innovative new technologies and academic spaces. With more than 154,000 square feet of space, the library boasts multiple customizable spaces for both quiet studying and collaborative work, more than 700,000 books, one million e-books, an abundance of natural lighting and outdoor work spaces.

For more information about the conference, contact Linda Anderson, administrative assistant to the dean of University Libraries, at (616) 331-2606 or anderlin@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k3kvoh023n0v1t/AAAAYtR14ncTYFvLiSkJFGHwa?dl=0>

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.

Current business trends: Growth returns to normal

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The economic growth rate in West Michigan has returned to normal, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Long surveyed local business leaders; his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of July.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, improved to +22, from +19. The employment index continued its positive trend at +25, up from +20. The production index rose to +26 from +16, and the index of purchases eased to +14 from +24.

Long said the West Michigan economy remains on a solid footing, but the growth rate has tapered off because the summer months are often slower for local industries. "The six-year pattern of slow growth continues on track, although we have had a few minor adjustments along the way," said Long. "The late summer economy for West Michigan should remain in the slow growth paradigm."

Long said local auto parts producers and the office furniture industry are still near full capacity and reporting business conditions to be stable or expanding. He said the summer pattern for industrial distributors remains mixed and the capital equipment firms are generally flat compared to a few months ago. He added that with the fall in oil and commodity prices, firms tied to the extractive industries are having some difficulties.

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.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: video of their phone call is available to use on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ws>

Haas FaceTimes with GVSU student stationed in Middle East

A Grand Valley State University student stationed in the Middle East received a special phone call from President Thomas J. Haas, Monday, August 3.

Nikki Anderson, a biomedical sciences major and U.S. Air Force airman first class, is spending the summer in between her freshman and sophomore years on deployment in the Middle East. She serves as a crew chief on a Boeing KC-135 (an aerial refueling aircraft).

Haas, a retired captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, connected with Anderson through FaceTime, a video-calling app. During the conversation, he thanked Anderson for representing the best of Grand Valley.

Anderson will return to Michigan in late August, in time to start classes.

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley named Best in the Midwest for 2016

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named one of the best universities in the Midwest by The Princeton Review.

Grand Valley was one of 159 colleges and universities chosen for the annual "Best in the Midwest" section of the website's "2016 Best Colleges: Region by Region" feature.

Only 25 percent of the nation's colleges and universities are selected to one of the regional lists, according to The Princeton Review. Schools were selected primarily for excellent academic programs. Student feedback from individual surveys was also taken into account.

Students were asked to rate their own schools on several issues, from accessibility of professors to the quality of food on campus, and answer questions about their experiences and campus life. Grand Valley students said the university has "a small college feel with the opportunities of a large university" and described small class sizes and professors who are invested in the success of their students.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 25,000 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 86 undergraduate and 36 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. 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 immediate release

August 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for all events are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ww>.

GVSU September 2015 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Fall Arts Celebration

Grand Valley State University has a rich history of providing events and programs for the community centered on the arts. Fall Arts Celebration 2015 continues this 13-year tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

"Dusk to Dusk: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal"

Exhibition reception Thursday, September 10, from 5-7 p.m.

Exhibition dates: August 28-October 31

Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

This exhibition of contemporary art welcomes viewers to experience a beautiful world, unsettling in its vision of personal isolation, but collectively bound by the small comfort of knowing that everyone is alone. Through paintings, photography, sculptures and video, this exhibition shows viewers a strange contemporary familiarity into a collective darkness. For the first time in the history of Fall Arts Celebration, the featured collection of artwork is too large to be solely housed at Grand Valley. As a result, half of "Dusk to Dusk" will be displayed in the Grand Valley Art Gallery, while the other half will be viewable in the De Pree Art Center and Gallery at Hope College. This exhibition turns a mirror to the world, examining individual isolation, political repression and collective ennui during the decline of the industrial age. "Dusk to Dusk" was organized by the Samek Art Gallery at Bucknell University, curated by Richard Rinehart, director of the Samek Art Gallery, with works generously loaned from THE EKARD COLLECTION. The exhibition is toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

"Faculty Artistry Gems! Recognizing GVSU Music Faculty Performances in the Community"

Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur

While Grand Valley students have historically been featured during the Fall Arts Celebration music event, this year faculty members will receive the spotlight. The evening will begin with the Lighthouse Brass Quintet, featuring Richard Stoelzel, professor of trumpet. This ensemble delights audiences throughout Michigan and the U.S. with its musical representations of Great Lakes lighthouses. Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble, will also be honored through a masterful rendition of his composition, "Simple Lines," performed by Pablo Manhave-Veglia, associate professor of cello. The celebration of faculty artistry concludes with the Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone.

Arts at Noon Series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University begins Wednesday, September 16, with a performance by Grand Rapids' own Perugino String Quartet. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, September 16 – The Perugino String Quartet

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

Wednesday, September 23 – Bass Clarinetist Michael Lowenstern

Michael Lowenstern, widely considered one of the finest bass clarinetists in the world, has performed and recorded with a diverse array of musicians and groups. During his 23-year career, Lowenstern has composed music for concerts, film, dance and various other new media. Described as a mix of late American jazz artist Eric Dolphy, Meat Beat Manifesto, NPR's *This American Life*, The Gap Band and Igor Stravinsky, his sound has been branded "ClassicoFunkTronica." As a composer, his work can be found on more than 40 recordings, including four solo discs. Lowenstern is currently a faculty member at Manhattan School of Music and the Julliard School.

5th annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture

"The Pope, The Rabbi, Caitlyn Jenner and the Confederate Flag: Stories at the Heart of Communications" presented by Helen Sterk

Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The "heart" of communications and creating connections between people will be the focus of the 5th annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture. Helen Sterk, head of the Department of Communications and professor at Western Kentucky University, will present "The Pope, The Rabbi, Caitlyn Jenner and the Confederate Flag: Stories at the Heart of Communication" during the event. Sterk said her lecture centers around how society can flourish when communication spawns from strong foundations of respect and empathy. "This past year, stories of race and sex have dominated our national news," said Sterk. "Who gets to say what the story is of the Confederate flag? What does a story of serving tea have to do with sexual consent? How did a 60-something he become a she? Stories connect human beings better than any other form of communications and we connect when we understand and care about each other."

For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, associate professor of communications studies, at (616) 331-2981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

The Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. The 22nd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival offers multiple events beginning October 2 when theater students put a 1960s twist on a classic Shakespeare piece about a one-sided romance in

“All’s Well That Ends Well.” Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley’s Shakespeare Festival activities each season.

“All’s Well That Ends Well”

October 2, 8, 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m.

October 3, 4, 11 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Tickets: \$14 adults, \$12 alumni, seniors, faculty and staff, \$6 students and groups

Helena, an orphan with little hope but great courage and tremendous intelligence uses every trick in the book to win her man. Full of comic characters, adventure, swashbuckling and bravado, this play proves that no one is a match for a truly determined woman. Visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes for more information.

GV Writers Series

Critically acclaimed authors will visit Grand Valley State University’s Allendale Campus as part of the 2015-16 Grand Valley Writers Series beginning October 1. The Grand Valley Writers Series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students.

Marcia Aldrich

Thursday, October 1, from 4-5:15 p.m.

Kirkhof Center room 2215/2216, Allendale Campus

Reading and book signing following presentation at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center

Marcia Aldrich is currently a professor of creative writing at Michigan State University. Former editor of *Fourth Genre*, she is the author of the memoir *Girl Rearing*, and *Companion to an Untold Story*, which was selected for the 2011 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award in Nonfiction. Aldrich’s personal essays have been published in *Gettysburg Review*, *North American Review*, *Witness*, *Arts and Letters*, *Northwest Review*, *Brevity*, *The Normal School*, *the Kenyon Review*, *Hotel Amerika*, and *The Seneca Review*, among others.

For immediate release

August 10, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to offer certificate in hospice, palliative care

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will offer a new interprofessional certificate in palliative and hospice care that meets a growing need in West Michigan. Classes will begin in September.

Organizers said the four-course certificate is designed for professionals who work with patients who are facing terminal illnesses, or graduate students interested in that field.

"There is a definite need in our community for professionals prepared at advanced levels in palliative and hospice care," said Tammy Kroll, clinical administrator with TANDEM365. "The interprofessional approach of this certificate offers a unique advantage for the professionals and organizations committed to delivering person-centered, family-oriented care."

The interprofessional certificate program is a collaborative effort by Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing, School of Social Work, and School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration along with West Michigan leaders in hospice and palliative care. It is coordinated through the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation within the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

"This four-course interprofessional certificate is designed for post-baccalaureate professionals and graduate students interested in the field. This includes nurses, social workers, physicians, physical therapists, physician assistants, members of the clergy and others working with patients and families facing life-limiting health conditions, terminal illness and death," said Karen Burritt, interim associate dean for graduate programs at the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

The certificate program is offered in a combination of online and in-seat classes and includes coursework in palliative and hospice care, pain/symptom management, death and grief, and an elective in pharmacology, social work or health care systems.

"This certificate offers an added level of study of the multidisciplinary perspective and scope of practice within palliative care," said Dr. Robert Johnson, member of the faculty teaching team. "Students will explore their own perceptions about palliative care while examining communication techniques, ethical reasoning and patient-centered goals."

Developers of the certificate, including Ruthann Brintnall, retired associate professor of nursing, said the need for better palliative care education in West Michigan follows a national trend. Brintnall added the program was established "in response to expressed community need for advanced education leading to optimized outcomes for patients receiving palliative and hospice care."

According to a 2014 report from the Institute of Medicine, "Dying in America," many people in rural or underserved areas do not have access to experts in palliative care. The report acknowledged person-centered, family-oriented care should be a priority.

- An information session hosted by the interprofessional certificate teaching and advising team will be held at Grand Valley's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids on Tuesday, August 11, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in room 340.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/phc, or contact Linda Buck at buckli@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7160.

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the speakers are available for your use at the following Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/faoq8o5dobcxe9u/AADQ1S0JGmtJzCNLI5hEvdIVa?dl=0>

GVSU's Hauenstein Center announces 2015-16 Wheelhouse Talks lineup

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A state senator and a well-known entrepreneur are just two of the half-dozen speakers who will take the stage during the 2015-16 Wheelhouse Talks series, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

The Wheelhouse Talks are a monthly series that feature presentations by civil servants, entrepreneurs, business leaders and more, as they discuss their leadership perspectives, life lessons, personal motivations and other topics in their "wheelhouse" that have impacted their lives to make them the leaders of today.

All of the presentations will take place on Friday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, located at the intersection of Winter Avenue and West Fulton Street.

The 2015-16 series will include six speakers:

- **September 11:** Charles Pazdernik, GVSU professor of classics and an expert in Greco-Roman political and legal history, late antiquity and classical historiography
- **October 2:** Megan Sall, member of the GVSU Board of Trustees and business development manager at The Right Place
- **November 13:** Mike Jandernoa, founder and chair of 42 North Partners and Jandernoa Entrepreneurial Mentoring
- **January 22:** Rebekah Warren, state senator for Michigan's 18th District
- **February 12:** Brian Flanagan, managing director of the Sanger Leadership Center at the University of Michigan
- **March 18:** Kate Pew Wolters, philanthropist, disability advocate and GVSU Board of Trustees member

For more information about the Wheelhouse Talks or the Hauenstein Center, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

National environment group names Grand Valley a greenest school

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named one of the country's greenest universities for the fourth year in a row by Sierra Club, the largest national grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. The university is the highest-ranking Michigan institution on the list, ahead of universities such as Penn State, Oregon State and Harvard.

Grand Valley is included in the Sierra's Club's annual list of "Coolest Schools," a list that ranks schools that have a strong commitment to environmental improvement and are making significant efforts to operate sustainably. View the full list [here](#).

Grand Valley placed 34th out of 153 institutions, and ranked highest in the energy and waste categories. The ranking was based on scores given to universities that completed a questionnaire on measurable environmental goals and achievements, presented by the Sierra Club, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) and Princeton Review. The self-reporting assessment included more than 900 questions.

Norman Christopher, executive director of the Office of Sustainable Practices, said the recognition is a reflection of the collective efforts of the entire campus community.

"Empowered students, faculty and staff members make sustainable choices daily," said Christopher. "It can be seen everywhere — in the classroom, in the living centers, and on and off campus. The importance they place on sustainability is why we are listed among the top greenest schools in the nation."

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainable Practices at www.gvsu.edu/sustainability or (616) 331-7366.

For immediate release

August 17, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU professor, students discover gate to ancient home of Goliath

ALLENDALE, Mich. - A Grand Valley State University professor, along with 12 students and an international team of archaeologists, recently unearthed a massive gate at the archaeological site of Tell es-Safi in Israel, which may have marked the entrance to the ancient biblical city of Gath. The city is thought to be the home of Goliath, the giant warrior whom the young Israelite King David bested with a slingshot.

Elizabeth Arnold, associate professor of anthropology at Grand Valley and member of the excavation team led by Aren Maeir of Bar-Ilan University in Israel, said that Gath was occupied until it was destroyed following a siege around 830 B.C. It has been depicted as the most important of the five principal cities of the "Philistine Pentapolis," along with Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza and Ekron.

"This discovery shows the powerful status of Gath during the time of the early Israelite monarchy in 9th or 10th century B.C.E., meaning the Judahite kingdom could not have controlled Philistia until after Gath was destroyed around 830 B.C.," Arnold said.

Along with the monumental gate, the team exposed the remains of a fortified wall, a temple, an iron production facility, pottery and other objects typically associated with Philistine culture. Arnold added that the team additionally found evidence of widespread destruction that took place in the city after the Aramean siege of Gath, as well as the earliest known siege system in the world comprised of manmade trenches surrounding the site on three sides.

The 12 students participating are part of the Study Abroad Israel program, through the Barbara H. Padnos International Center at Grand Valley.

"Every find has significance, but the ones we found really opened the gates, figuratively and literally, to what the biblical city of Gath contained, and what happened to it and its inhabitants," said Kelly Darcy, a junior advertising and public relations major serving on the expedition team. "The more we dug, the more artifacts we found, thus giving us a better idea of what the households we were working in really looked like, what every day life was like and what the occupations were."

Aside from Darcy, Arnold's team of Grand Valley students consists of Keegan Brewster, Parryss Carter-McGee, Jesse Dedic, Kimberly Crago, Kara Larson, Emily Gilhooly, Robert Tissot, Natalie Renkes, Dylan Rowe, Gabe Hassenthaler and Christopher Long. Arnold said more students will receive the opportunity to participate in this ongoing research in Israel at the site through this program in 2017.

Archaeologists have been excavating in this general region of Israel for the past 30 years; however, little research had been conducted at Tell es-Safi/Gath until "The Ackerman Family Bar-Ilan University Expedition to Gath" began in 1996. Arnold joined the excavation team in 2012.

For more information about these discoveries, visit the expedition blog at <https://gath.wordpress.com>.

For immediate release

August 18, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU partners with Holland organizations to collect stories of Hispanic Americans

HOLLAND, Mich. — Staff members from Grand Valley State University will work with Holland organizations to collect and share the stories of Hispanic Americans who live in that lakeshore community.

“Nuestra Comunidad Hispana” is a collaborative effort by Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, GVSU's Meijer Campus in Holland, City of Holland, Herrick District Library, Latin Americans United for Progress, and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

Stories and portraits of Holland area Hispanic Americans will be collected at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River St., during Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs September 15-October 15. Completed portraits and stories will be displayed at Holland City Hall and Herrick District Library in October.

Dates and times for story collections at the library are September 10 and September 26, from 10 a.m.-noon; September 12, from 2-4 p.m.; September 21, from 3-5 p.m. Translators will be available for participants.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said she is grateful to work with the City of Holland and community leaders on this project.

"Holland has such a rich Hispanic tradition, we want to learn and preserve the stories of the people who help build this city and sustain it," Shell-Weiss said.

The Kutsche Office of Local History has completed similar oral history projects with Native Americans and Hispanic Americans who live in Grand Rapids. Read more about that story [here](#).

For Immediate Release

August 19, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE

GVSU to welcome new students during move-in week

Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas and hundreds of alumni, faculty and staff members are volunteering to help new and returning students move in August 23-27. A record-breaking 6,223 students are living on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses this year.

President Haas and his wife, Marcia Haas, will serve ice cream to families and new students on Wednesday, August 26, beginning at 11 a.m. by Kleiner Commons on the Allendale Campus.

Faculty and staff members will welcome the newest class of students during Convocation, a celebration that marks the beginning of the academic year, on Friday, August 28. The ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. The new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

For Immediate Release

August 19, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE

Drive Sober campaign at GVSU

Law enforcement officials from Grand Valley State University, Ottawa County and the Office of Highway Safety Planning will gather near the Mary Idema Pew Library on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus August 21 to kick off the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign.

The campaign, sponsored by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, runs through September 7 in an effort to emphasize the importance of a safe, sober ride home for college students and to save lives during Labor Day weekend.

"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"

August 21

10 a.m.

Outside of the Mary Idema Pew Library, GVSU Allendale Campus, Parking available in Lot H

Speakers at the event will include Chief Renee Freeman, GVSU Police Department; Capt. Valerie Weiss, Ottawa County Sheriff's Office; and Anne Readett, Michigan Office of Highway Planning.

During the campaign, officers from more than 150 law enforcement agencies will put extra officers on the road to locate and arrest drunken drivers.

During the 2014 Labor Day holiday period, five of the six fatal traffic accidents involved alcohol. In 2014, 319 people died in Michigan as a result of alcohol and/or drug-involved traffic crashes.

For Immediate Release

August 21, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU receives gold status for support of veterans

ALLENDALE, Mich.— Grand Valley State University has received gold status from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for its commitment to supporting student veterans.

In its first year, MVAA's Veteran-Friendly School program recognizes institutions of higher learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents using G.I. Bill and other education benefits. Schools can receive bronze, silver or gold status.

Criteria to become a gold-status institution includes having an on-campus veteran's coordinator or center, a website, student organization, process to identify current student veterans, and a process to monitor and evaluate academic retention, completion, graduation rate and job placements.

Steven Lipnicki, assistant dean of students, said receiving the highest of three possible rankings demonstrates Grand Valley's dedication to going above and beyond to helping veterans and service members succeed.

Grand Valley joins 17 Michigan schools as a gold-status institution.

Grand Valley provides support and resources for service members and veterans, including in-state tuition for veterans and active military members who are stationed in Michigan. The university is a member of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators, a statewide network of institutions that works to support military members and veterans and ensure access to resources that can lead to employment. Grand Valley is also part of the "8 Keys to Veterans' Success" initiative through the U.S. Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs.

Learn more about Grand Valley's Student Veterans Network at www.gvsu.edu/veterans.

For immediate release

August 24, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU professor finds social surveys no longer accurately measure sex and gender in U.S.

ALLENDALE, Mich. — New research released by professors from Grand Valley State University and Stanford University reveals most social surveys in the U.S. are not measuring what surveyors think is being measured in regard to sex and gender.

“The way that surveys have historically measured sex and gender and how they still continue to do so does not align with current gender theory or lived experiences,” said Laurel Westbrook, assistant professor of sociology at Grand Valley and co-author of the study. “While gender theorists see sex and gender as separate concepts, surveys conflate them. Moreover, surveys only count two categories, male and female, and do not allow respondents to change sex or gender over time.”

Westbrook, along with Aliya Saperstein, professor of sociology at Stanford, analyzed four of the largest and longest-running social surveys in the U.S. for their study. They found that the surveys not only used answer options that were binary and static, but also combined sex and gender into one category. The study shows that these practices have changed very little over the 60 years of surveys examined by Westbrook and Saperstein.

The study explains that traditional understandings of sex and gender found in social surveys, such as only allowing people to check one box when asked “male” or “female,” do not reflect either academic theories about the difference between sex and gender, nor how a growing number of people prefer to identify.

“Treatment of sex and gender in surveys is very different from that of race and ethnicity, where they allow for more than two answer options and often include an ‘other’ category,” Westbrook said. “By not including an ‘other’ category for sex or gender, surveys imply that ‘male’ and ‘female’ cover all possible ways of being. Binary understandings of gender exist throughout these surveys. This has a normative effect, teaching respondents that there are only two sexes and only two genders.”

The study outlines that there are in fact more than two sexes and more than two genders so, as a result, how people identify in terms of gender may differ from how others perceive and classify them. Gender identities and classifications can also change over the course of a person’s life, Westbrook said.

Westbrook and Saperstein said sex and gender categories in social surveys and official statistics do not align with the above understanding. For example, they found that answer options to questions about a person’s sex or gender were limited to “male” or “female” only. They noted the practice stands in contrast to other demographic questions that allow for more diversity.

The surveys also treat sex and gender as synonymous, often using “sex” and “gender” interchangeably or using the sex terms “female” and “male” to measure gender, rather than gender terms such as “man” or “woman,” “cisgender” or “transgender.”

To change these stagnant practices, Westbrook and Saperstein suggest social surveys must:

- Consistently distinguish between sex and gender;
- Rethink binary categories;
- Incorporate self-identified gender and acknowledge it can change over time;
- Measure gender as a spectrum of masculinity and femininity; and
- Ask two separate questions in which respondents indicate their sex at birth, followed by the gender they currently present as or identify with.

The full study, “New Categories Are Not Enough: Rethinking the Measurement of Sex and Gender in Social Surveys,” can be viewed on the Gender and Society website at <http://gas.sagepub.com/content/29/4/534>.

For more information, contact Westbrook at westbro1@gvsu.edu or Saperstein at asaper@stanford.edu.

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2015

Contact: University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley ranked as a Best College by Washington Monthly

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Washington Monthly ranked Grand Valley State University 21st in the nation in the “Best Master’s Universities” category in its annual College Guide Magazine.

Grand Valley also ranked first in the nation in the "community service" subcategory and 9th in the "financial aid support, courses and service staff" subcategory. The magazine also ranked Grand Valley 32nd in its "Best Bang for the Buck - Midwest" category.

The rankings are based on three criteria: civic engagement, research and social mobility. Access and affordability were also considered.

The full report can be seen at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Xd>

The College Guide Magazine also includes a feature article by the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) about college access for low-income students. Grand Valley is listed as an "Access Improver" and is one of 10 colleges identified for exceeding expectations to enroll and graduate more low-income students. Read the article [here](#).

For immediate release

August 24, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to celebrate dedication of new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University community will celebrate the dedication of the new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science Friday, August 28, from 2-4 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

The 151,720 square-foot, four story building includes nine classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, 14 faculty/student research laboratories, a computational research lab, study spaces, offices and conference rooms. The large research laboratories are based on a concept of "shared functionality" adopted at Grand Valley. These research spaces feature instrumentation along the walls and flexible workbenches in the middle, which allows students and faculty to share space and instrumentation while collaborating on research.

Academic programs to be housed in the Kindschi Hall of Science include Biology and Cell and Molecular Biology. Offices for the Movement Science Department will also be located in the building along with the Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Services and Information Technology unit.

The Kindschi Hall of Science is located on Campus Drive on the Allendale Campus, next to the Fieldhouse, just south of the Recreation Center and across from the Padnos Hall of Science and Henry Hall. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in April 2013 and construction began three months later, creating 950 temporary construction jobs.

The \$55-million dollar, state-of-the-art facility received \$30 million from the State of Michigan; the remaining \$25 million came from university resources. No tuition money was used for the building.

More than 400 donors also contributed to The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Margin of Excellence for Science Endowment Fund, which provides materials, technology and research opportunities across the university for students to have hands-on experiences in and outside of the classroom.

The Marketplace is connected to the building, which houses the 45,000-square-foot, two-story GVSU Laker Store (formerly the University Bookstore), Starbucks and Which Wich Superior Sandwiches, a made-to-order sandwich shop.

The building was designed and constructed for LEED silver certification.

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the flag at half mast are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Xp>

Scholarship created in memory of GVSU alumnus who died battling wildfires

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University scholarship has been created in memory of Richard Wheeler, an alumnus who died last week while battling wildfires in Washington.

The Richard Wheeler First Responder Memorial Scholarship will be available to students who are first responders, including firefighters, police officers and paramedics.

Wheeler, from South Haven, graduated from Grand Valley in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in natural resources management. He was one of three firefighters who died in Twisp, Washington.

The Grand Valley flag will fly at half mast for 30 days, starting August 24, in memory of Wheeler.

"We are deeply mourning the loss of Rick," said Neil MacDonald, chair of the Biology Department.

"Rick was a very hard working and diligent student. He was pursuing what he wanted in life, and we are all extremely proud of him."

A memorial service is being planned.

For immediate release

August 26, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Kamen to receive honorary degree at GVSU convocation

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen will receive an honorary degree during convocation ceremonies at Grand Valley State University on Friday, August 28.

The ceremony is set to begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. Media members are welcome to cover the event.

Kamen is founder and president of DEKA Research and Development Corp. Technology developed by the company includes the Segway, a portable dialysis machine, an iBOT Mobility System and a water purifier.

Kamen is also the founder of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an organization dedicated to motivating the next generation to understand, use and enjoy science and technology.

Other speakers at convocation include Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, Provost Gayle R. Davis and new Student Senate President Maddie Cleghorn.

At 2 p.m. on August 28, Kamen will join university and state leaders at the dedication of the P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science.

For immediate release

August 26, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos of Ann Dilley and her work are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/XA>.

86-year-old student begins 36th academic year at Grand Valley State University

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Ann Dilley, an 86-year-old jewelry and metalsmithing student at Grand Valley State University, will begin her 36th academic year at GVSU this fall.

Dilley first registered as a student at Grand Valley in 1979 after hearing a presentation at the Grand Rapids Art Museum by Beverly Seley, coordinator of the jewelry and metalsmithing program, who spoke about opportunities within the program at the university.

A mother of three and grandmother of four, Dilley's passion for the craft of jewelry making didn't start at the GRAM, however. In 1968, Dilley's mother gave her a little white box that had been passed down through multiple generations within her family. The box contained a bloodstone and seven uncut cameos. While previous holders of this family heirloom stored it away, Dilley was determined to use the materials to make something meaningful and useful. This sparked her interest, and future passion, in jewelry making and metalsmithing.

Since her first creation, Dilley has developed a love of transforming family trinkets into wearable jewelry. She is currently crafting broaches for her two daughters made from wax flowers used in 1927 from her mother's wedding bouquet, and old sterling silver handles.

"It's not a hobby, it's more of a passion," Dilley said. "I think as one marches along in life you need one because as you get older, a lot of things happen that aren't particularly pleasant. This is what keeps me going. It's just a total pleasure for me."

Having worked her way through the entire jewelry and metalsmithing program, Dilley now continuously enrolls in the two most advanced courses. She even requires a special permit signed by the chair of the Art and Design Department to enroll since she is a non-degree seeking student.

To celebrate her passion for metalsmithing arts and commitment to lifelong learning, Dilley's family established the endowed Ann Dilley Jewelry/Metalsmithing Scholarship in 2014. The scholarship gives preference to non-degree seeking or part-time students.

"I was very proud, pleased and touched that my family chose to do that. I cried at the time," Dilley said. "I think the struggle to achieve a degree is monumental now and I think this will at least give more than one student an opportunity to take the classes and have a future."

For immediate release

August 27, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution samples of artwork from "Dusk to Dusk" are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration begins with international art showcase

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the first time in the history of Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration, the featured collection of artwork is so large that it cannot be solely housed at the university.

Half of the 32-piece traveling "Dusk to Dusk: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal" exhibition will be shown at the Grand Valley Art Gallery, while the other half will be housed at the De Pree Art Center and Gallery at Hope College in Holland. The exhibition will officially debut at Grand Valley during an opening reception September 10.

"Dusk to Dusk: Unsettled, Unraveled, Unreal"

Opening reception: Thursday, September 10, from 5-7 p.m.

Art Gallery (room 1121), Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

***Exhibit on display through October 31**

The exhibition comes to West Michigan from a private collection in the Netherlands and features works by internationally acclaimed artists, including Salvador Dali, Louise Bourgeois, Gilbert & George, Richard Long, Edward Burtynsky, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Erwin Wurm, Erwin Olaf, James Aldridge, Tony Cragg, Marcel Dzama, Matthew Day Jackson, and Ruud van Empel.

This contemporary art exhibition welcomes viewers to experience a beautiful world, unsettling in its vision of personal isolation, but collectively bound by the small comfort of knowing that everyone is alone. Through paintings, photography, sculptures and video, this exhibition shows viewers a strange contemporary familiarity into a collective darkness.

David Newell, curator of exhibitions at Grand Valley, said the exhibit carries themes of isolation in the modern world, political repression and engulfing angst and anxiety.

"This is a very strong collection that has a tendency to get under the viewer's skin. It's edgy and at times unnerving," Newell said. "It tests your comfort levels and forces you to confront your emotions, values and anxieties."

Henry Matthews, director of Galleries and Collections at Grand Valley, said collaborating with Hope College for this exhibition affords both universities the opportunity to expose students and the community to international works of art that don't normally visit West Michigan.

"These specific examples of artwork can typically only be found in major art museums and galleries so this provides important teaching and learning opportunities for our students, multidisciplinary educators and various community constituencies," Matthews said.

“Dusk to Dusk” was organized by the Samek Art Gallery at Bucknell University, curated by Richard Rinehart, Director of the Samek Art Gallery, with works generously loaned from The Ekard Collection. The exhibition is toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California.

Since its start in 2003, Fall Arts Celebration has featured some of the preeminent writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars of today. The tradition continues in 2015 with six signature events that aim to broaden horizons, help make sense of the new and unfamiliar, reflect on the past and charm with the classics.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts or call (616) 331-2185.

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE

B-roll and photos are available to use on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/XH>

GVSU Move-In Week: photos and video

Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas and more than 600 students, alumni, faculty and staff members helped new and returning students move in August 23-27. A record-breaking 6,223 students are living on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses this year.

President Haas and his wife, Marcia Haas, served ice cream to families and new students on Wednesday on the Allendale Campus.

Faculty and staff members will welcome the newest class of students during Convocation, a celebration that marks the beginning of the academic year, on Friday, August 28. The ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. The new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU crowdfunding conference comes to Muskegon

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Crowdfunding business opportunities through sites like Kickstarter, IndieGoGo and GoFundMe are becoming more common for upstart companies, but crowdfunding needs to be done right to be effective and not violate government regulations.

The Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC) and Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC) at Grand Valley State University are hosting the second annual crowdfunding conference to help answer questions about how to best start and run a campaign.

Crowdfunding 2015 Conference September 23, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The conference will teach participants about the elements that are required to build a high-quality local investment market, how to tell when the time is right to start a campaign, and how businesses and nonprofits can connect with investors.

A panel discussion will focus on the pros and cons of crowdfunding, and detail what happened in campaigns run by Newaygo Brewery and Rhino Media as case studies.

Other topics will focus on crowdfunding for investment and crowdfunding by donation, how to promote a campaign through social media and managing online funding sources.

The conference will conclude with a panel question and answer session.

The conference is sponsored by MAREC, Small Business Development Center Michigan, Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley, and West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum.

Conference registration is open and is \$50, which includes lunch.

For more information and to register, visit gvsu.edu/marec

For immediate release

August 28, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A digital media kit, including information regarding building features, art, sustainability, academic programs, the time capsule and Douglas and Barbara Kindschi, is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Xe>.

A video highlighting the impact of the new Kindschi Hall of Science can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEpHd10XFOq&feature=youtu.be>

GVSU celebrates dedication of new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University community celebrated the formal dedication of the new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science August 28 on the Allendale Campus.

In his opening remarks, President Thomas J. Haas welcomed and recognized the nearly 700 in attendance, including those who collaborated to bring the Kindschi Hall of Science to life.

“As a scientist myself, I could not be more excited about the opportunities this facility provides for our students,” Haas said. “The addition of this facility significantly expands our space for students to conduct research with faculty, which is a highlight of the Grand Valley experience.”

The new science building is named in honor of P. Douglas Kindschi, who has served the university for nearly 40 years in many different capacities, including dean of Science and Mathematics, and is currently the director of Grand Valley's Sylvia and Richard Kaufman Interfaith Institute.

"My nearly 40 years at Grand Valley have been more fulfilling than anyone could have imagined," Kindschi said. "To help a university grow from 5,000 to 25,000 students is an opportunity few in academia have enjoyed."

The 151,720 square-foot, four story building includes nine classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, 14 faculty/student research laboratories, a computational research lab, study spaces, offices and conference rooms.

Provost Gayle R. Davis said the new lab spaces will grow the important relationships between faculty and students, which will ultimately benefit the state of Michigan.

“Students who engage actively with their faculty and their subjects are most likely to succeed in college and in life. It takes a specialized space to facilitate those important collaborations,” Davis said. “With this new facility we’ll be able to involve many more students in extracurricular research with their faculty members – strengthening the basis on which they will grow the sciences for our state.”

Academic programs housed in the Kindschi Hall of Science include Biology and Cell and Molecular Biology, as well as offices for the Movement Science Department and the Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Services and Information Technology unit.

Madelaine Cleghorn, Student Senate president, said Grand Valley students actively take note of the investments the university makes to support its student body.

"When students see more buildings like this on campus, we don't just see a building, we see Grand Valley's priorities and its commitment to students' success," Cleghorn said. "We also see the incredible support from our community and it reminds us that we're a part of something bigger than just ourselves."

The \$55-million dollar, state-of-the-art facility received \$30 million from the State of Michigan; the remaining \$25 million came from a variety of university resources, plus private donations. The Kindschi Hall of Science is the first state-funded construction project on the Allendale Campus in 20 years.

Representatives from the state included Sen. Arlan Meekhof, (R-Grand Haven), Senate Majority Leader; Rep. Adam Zemke, (D-Ann Arbor), vice chair of the Capital Outlay Subcommittee; and Rep. Roger Victory, (R-Hudsonville). Victory said the Kindschi Hall of Science is a great asset to Grand Valley and the state.

"The return on investment will come in the form of developing the knowledge and skills needed for our community and the growth of Michigan," said Victory. "Grand Valley has one of the highest retention rates of its graduates who continue to live, work and invest in our community and our state."

More than 400 donors contributed to The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Margin of Excellence for Science Endowment Fund, which provides materials, technology and research opportunities across the university for students to have hands-on experiences in and outside of the classroom.

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

First Wheelhouse Talk to discuss overcoming obstacles, hardship

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley professor of classics Charles Pazdernik will kick off the 2015-16 Wheelhouse Talks series hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University.

During his presentation, Pazdernik will reflect upon what the ancient Greeks and Romans had to say about challenges and hardship. His talk will reflect his personal experience overcoming obstacles, as he continues to work to return to his students and colleagues after sustaining a permanently disabling spinal cord injury last year.

Pazdernik is an expert in Greco-Roman political and legal history, as well as classical historiography and late antiquity, but is known at the university for his approachable and thoughtful teaching style.

He was awarded Grand Valley's Pew Teaching Excellence Award in 2005, was selected as a faculty member of distinction by Omicron Delta Kappa in 2011-12, and was honored as a "Last Lecture" presenter in 2014.

Charles Pazdernik Wheelhouse Talk

Friday, September 11

3:30–4:30 p.m.

Grand Valley Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Loosemore Auditorium

The event is free and open to the public, but [RSVPs are requested here](#).

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

October 1, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for events are available via Dropbox at <http://qvsu.edu/s/X1>.

Grand Valley October 2015 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Fall Arts Celebration

Grand Valley State University has a rich history of providing events and programs for the community centered on the arts. Fall Arts Celebration 2015 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Kwame Dawes"

Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m.

2nd Floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Reading followed by book signing and reception

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of three books of poetry: *Lucky Fish* (2011), *At the Drive-In Volcano* (2007) and *Miracle Fruit* (2003). *Lucky Fish* won the gold medal in poetry for the 2011 Independent Publishers Book Awards, and was featured in *The New York Times* and on the PBS NewsHour *Art Beat*. Nezhukumatathil is an associate professor of English at the State University of New York in Fredonia. As author of 16 collections of poetry, Kwame Dawes is heavily influenced by the rhythms and textures of songs cherished during his youth, including reggae music. His book, *Bob Marley: Lyrical Genius*, is currently the most authoritative study of the lyrics of the late musician. Dawes is the Glenna Luschei editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska, where he is a Chancellor's Professor of English.

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Arts at Noon Series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University brings world-renowned artists to West Michigan. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, October 7 – Dale Cockrell

Dale Cockrell, professor emeritus of musicology from Vanderbilt University and a specialist in nineteenth-century American music, presents his lecture "Blood on Fire: Sex, Music, and Dance from Minstrelsy to Jazz." This lecture will examine the relationship between the big business of prostitution in the U.S. from 1840-1917, music composition, dance, sexuality, the underground cultural economy and the development of musical foundations upon which twentieth-century American popular music was built.

Wednesday, October 14 – Chamber Orchestra Kremlin

Founded in 1991, the Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, comprised of some of Russia's finest young string players, has carved a niche for itself under the creative baton of its founder and music director Misha

Rachlevsky. The ensemble has performed in 24 countries in Europe, North America, South America and Asia. The orchestra's discography of more than 30 titles has received widespread international acclaim, such as the Diapason d'Or Award in France, Critics' Choice in London's Gramophone, Critics' Choice in *The New York Times*, and Record of the Year award in Hong Kong.

Wednesday, October 28 – Cello Fest!

Nationally and internationally recognized cellists will visit Grand Valley's Allendale Campus in October to perform and collaborate with students, audiences and local professionals during Cello Fest! 2015. Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello, hosts this annual event featuring music for solo cello and cello ensemble. This year's performance will include internationally acclaimed guest artists Emilio Colón, professor of cello at Indiana University, and André Gaskins, principal cellist of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

For more information about Arts at Noon, call (616) 331-3484.

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Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

The Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. The 22nd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival offers multiple events beginning October 2 when theater students put a modern twist on a classic Shakespeare piece in "All's Well That Ends Well." Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival activities each season.

"All's Well That Ends Well"

October 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m.

October 3, 4 and 11, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Tickets: \$14 adults, \$12 alumni, seniors, faculty and staff, \$6 students and groups

Helena loves Bertram; Bertram just wants to be one of the guys. But Helena, a low-born woman who achieves greatness by the sheer strength of her will and intellect, has other ideas. Set against the rising counterculture of the 1960s, "All's Well That Ends Well" tells a bittersweet romantic tale of love, lust and the mysteries of the human heart.

Guest Scholar-in-Residence Presentation

"My Sighs Stream: Comedy and Empowerment in 'All's Well That Ends Well'"

Presented by Grant Mudge

Friday, October 2, at 4 p.m.

Pere Marquette Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

A reception will precede this presentation at 3 p.m.

Grant Mudge is in his third year as artistic director for the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival after having served as the founding artistic director for the Richmond Shakespeare Festival in Virginia for more than 15 years. Mudge is a member of Notre Dame's film, television and theatre faculty, and also serves on the Executive Committee of the Shakespeare Theatre Association.

**Renaissance Faire and Greenshow
October 3-4
Cook Carillon Tower, Allendale Campus**

All ages are welcome to enjoy bagpipers, sword-fighting demonstrations, face painting, dancing, crafts and much more at this year's Renaissance Faire. A free traveling festival Greenshow will also be performed at various times both days.

**Bard To Go presents "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits"
Friday, October 9, at 2 p.m. (preview performance)
Saturday, November 7, at 1 p.m. (public performance)
Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus
Free and open to the public**

Through the eyes of the Bard's fool characters, audiences will journey through the scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," "As You Like It," "The Tempest," "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," and "King Lear." Shakespeare's fools and clowns are more than just comedians, but rather they often turn out to be the wisest of his characters, speaking the truth with wit and humor.

For more information about the 2015 Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

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GV Writers Series

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus as part of the 2015-16 Grand Valley Writers Series beginning October 1. The Grand Valley Writers Series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students.

**Marcia Aldrich
Thursday, October 1, from 4-5:15 p.m.
Kirkhof Center room 2215/16, Allendale Campus
Reading and book signing following presentation at 6 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center**

Marcia Aldrich is currently a professor of creative writing at Michigan State University. Former editor of *Fourth Genre*, she is the author of the memoir *Girl Rearing*, and *Companion to an Untold Story*, which was selected for the 2011 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award in Nonfiction. Aldrich's personal essays have been published in *Gettysburg Review*, *North American Review*, *Witness*, *Arts and Letters*, *Northwest Review*, *Brevity*, *The Normal School*, *the Kenyon Review*, *Hotel Amerika*, and *The Seneca Review*, among others.

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Music and Dance Department

*For more information about all Music and Dance Department events, visit www.gvsu.edu/music or call (616) 331-3484.

GVSU Opera Theatre presents "Dido and Aeneas"

October 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m.

October 11 at 2 p.m.

Peter Martin Wege Theatre (341 Ellsworth Ave SW, Grand Rapids)

To order tickets, contact the Grand Rapids Ballet box office at (616) 454-4771 ext. 10

Students with GVSU Opera Theatre will bring to life a story of love won and lost during the ensemble's presentation of "Dido and Aeneas." In this story, written in 1688 by Henry Purcell and reimagined for modern audiences, Dido, the queen of Carthage, is visited by the young Aeneas, a hero of Greek mythology. Their love quickly blossoms, but soon after, a sorceress plots to destroy their love and sends a false messenger to command Aeneas to leave Carthage to found the city of Rome. Torn by his love for Dido and obeying the commands of the gods, Aeneas leaves Carthage. After his departure, Dido dies of grief and a broken heart.

Concert Band

Tuesday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Barry Martin conducts the Concert Band for this performance that is free and open to the public.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Kevin Tutt, professor of conducting and assistant Music and Dance Department chair, conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble for this performance that is free and open to the public.

Symphony Orchestra

Friday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The 65-member orchestra will perform "Hungarian Dance No. 6" by Johannes Brahms and "Symphony No. 88" by Joseph Haydn. The second half of the concert is dedicated to music of the Halloween season with performances of "Night on Bald Mountain" by Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky, "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg and "Mars" from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst. Henry Duitman conducts the Symphony Orchestra for this performance that is free and open to the public.

String Leadership Day Concert

Saturday, October 17, at 7 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

String Leadership Day will not only bring more than 60 top high school string players to GVSU to combine with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra string players for a concentrated day of rehearsals and master classes, but this year the distinguished conductor, Raphael Jimenez, orchestra director at Oberlin Conservatory, will be the guest conductor of the 100-member Festival Orchestra. Jimenez, trained in Venezuela's esteemed El Sistema program, has become one of the most sought-after All-State and orchestra festival conductors. The Grand Valley string faculty and String Trio will also be teaching and

presenting a recital during the day. The evening concert will feature numbers by the full GVSU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Henry Duitman. This concert is free and open to the public.

Choral Concert

Tuesday, October 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

This concert is free and open to the public.

Voice Studio Recital – Students of Professor Min Jin

Friday, October 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Voice students under the direction of Min Jin, affiliate professor of voice, will perform. This concert is free and open to the public.

Guest Artist Recital: Benjamin Whitcomb, cello

Sunday, October 25, at 5 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Cellist Benjamin Whitcomb has earned a national reputation as a highly skilled performer and teacher of music. An active recitalist and chamber musician, he performs more than 20 concerts per year. Whitcomb appears regularly on the "Sunday Afternoon Live from Chazen" concert series broadcast live on Wisconsin Public Radio. He is also a member of the Ancora String Quartet and the UW-Whitewater Piano Trio. This concert is free and open to the public.

Side-by-Side Concert – GVSU Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Jenison High School (2140 Bauer Road, Jenison)

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will perform with the Jenison High School Chamber Orchestra, followed by the GVSU Orchestra performing works from their October 16 concert. The two orchestras will combine for a thrilling performance of Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain." Henry Duitman conducts the GVSU Symphony Orchestra. This concert is free and open to the public.

20th/21st Century Piano Competition and Festival

Saturday, October 31, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert

Saturday, October 31, at 8 p.m.

Mary Idema Pew Library, Allendale Concert

The Symphony Orchestra performs Halloween classics during this especially haunting concert that is free and open to the public.

For immediate release

September 2, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Eighth annual interprofessional conference planned at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center (MIPERC) will hold its eighth annual conference September 17-18 at Grand Valley State University's DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

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

Keynote speakers are listed below.

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

Barbara Brandt, director of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education at the University of Minnesota will give a pre-conference workshop and discuss the center's resource exchange and measurement instrument collection.

Breakout sessions will be presented by health care educators and professionals as well as poster presentations.

MIPERC was established in 2007 under the leadership of Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley. "Through activity such as the conference, Grand Valley and its MIPERC partner organizations provide leadership in advancing interprofessional education and assessing models of interprofessional collaborative practice," Nagelkerk said.

MIPERC founding partners include GVSU, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, Michigan State University – College of Human Medicine and Ferris State University Colleges of Pharmacy and Optometry.

Cost to attend the conference is \$100 for both days, \$50 for one day; deadline to register is September 11. Visit www.gvsu.edu/miperc or call (616) 331-5876 to register or for more information.

For immediate release

September 4, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images from the Altagracia Province underwater cave exploration and tibia fossil are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Yn>.

GVSU professor, student help discover one-million-year-old monkey fossil

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

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

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

The fossil was embedded in a limestone rock that was dated using the Uranium-series technique.

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

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

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

“Many times when a long-lived species is discovered, there is a shift in its morphology over time,” Tallman said. “For these primates, at least in the tibia, they remained remarkably stable morphologically. They obviously adapted to their island environment in such a way that was flexible enough that it allowed them to persist for more than one million years. They were likely still around when humans first colonized the Greater Antillean Islands.”

The full study, “1.32 ± 0.11 Ma age for underwater remains constrain antiquity and longevity of the Dominican primate *Antillothrix bernensis*,” can be read via the [Journal of Human Evolution](#).

For more information, contact Tallman at (616) 331-3603 or tallmame@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ct3a9hebsinhcfm/AABYjlsbWoaqGDpkQo4jjGbGKa?dl=0>

The audio is also available at www.gvsu.edu/qvnow.

Current business trends: economic growth slows

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Economic growth in West Michigan paused for the late summer season, according to Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of August.

The survey's index of business improvement, called new orders, remained positive but backtracked to +5, down significantly from July's +22. The employment index fell to +7 from +25. The production index eased to +3 from +26, and the index of purchases eased modestly to +12 from +14.

Long said the six-year pattern of slow growth continues on track, but many economists are concerned about China.

"The China Purchasing Manager's report for August was the catalyst for the stock market sell-off panic over the past few days," said Long. "Just like most PMI surveys, any number in the diffusion index below the break-even point of 50 is considered to be negative, and the current slide to 47.1 is the lowest the index has been since 2009. This report is especially telling because even the Chinese agree that the success of their economy is almost exclusively attributed to manufacturing and export."

Long said some of the drop in new orders domestically may be attributed to the slow worldwide growth and recessions in countries like Russia, Turkey and Brazil. He said the U.S. economy continues to flatten and the slower rate of growth will eventually impact Michigan.

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 can be found in the dropbox link provided above under media note.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU named a top Midwest university and best value

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named a top university in the Midwest and a best value by *U.S. News & World Report*.

For its prestigious annual Best Colleges 2016 publication, Grand Valley ranked 3rd for “Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest” and 14th for “Best Value in the Midwest.”

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

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

For more information on how Grand Valley continues to excel in the areas of graduation and retention rates, alumni working in Michigan and keeping down the cost of a college degree, view the university’s accountability report at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 25,000 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 86 undergraduate and 36 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Detroit, 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

September 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Stacey Tvedten, Galleries and Collections program coordinator at Grand Valley, and Tim Eernisse, WGUV development and marketing manager, are available for interviews. Media requests for interviews or appearances by members of the Laker Marching Band, GVSU Dance Company or Nerd Walk staff must be scheduled by Wednesday, September 16.

ArtPrize kicks off with GVSU Laker Marching Band, Dance Company and WGUV Nerd Walk

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Laker Marching Band, Dance Company and WGUV Public Media will kick-off ArtPrize and the PBS Arts Fall Festival Wednesday evening, September 23, at Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids.

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

Following their Rosa Parks Circle performances, the marching band, dancers and participants in the WGUV/PBS Nerd Walk will proceed in cadence through downtown and across the Blue Pedestrian Bridge to the L.V. Eberhard Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus where the band will perform a second time.

The second annual WGUV/PBS Nerd Walk encourages participants to embrace their own uniqueness by sporting horn-rimmed glasses, magic wands, lightsabers, mystical hammers and capes while marching the streets of Grand Rapids. A new addition to this year's Nerd Walk is a PBS Bob Ross look-alike contest. The first 500 individuals to register at www.wgvu.org will receive a free Bob Ross wig. Participants can also register to walk at the WGUV/PBS Arts Fall Festival tent in front of the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM).

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

Below is a full schedule of events:

6:00 p.m. — WGUV/PBS Arts Fall Festival tent check-in

6:25 p.m. — Opening remarks by ArtPrize officials

6:30 p.m. — Laker Marching Band and Dance Company perform

6:45 p.m. — Laker Marching Band, Dance Company and Nerd Walk march to Eberhard Center

6:50 p.m. — Proclamation by Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell

6:55 p.m. — ArtPrize Education Days announcement

7 p.m. — PBS Bob Ross look-alike contest

7:30 p.m. — Concert by the Reely Keely Trio

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE

GVSU students to create 9/11 memorial

A group of Grand Valley State University students will organize a daylong memorial to remember victims of 9/11.

During the morning of September 11, students will put 2,977 mini American flags — one for each person who died in the attacks — in the ground on the lawn next to the Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale Campus and on the courtyard lawn at the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The memorial is organized by Grand Valley's Student Senate, and Young Americans for Freedom and College Republicans student organizations.

For immediate release

September 14, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: photos of Strange and Bailey are available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/YA>

GVSU's Traverse City Center to celebrate partnership

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University representatives will join colleagues from seven other institutions to help Northwestern Michigan College celebrate the 20th anniversary of its University Center.

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

A celebration is planned for September 17.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For immediate release

September 14, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos of the performers are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration to spotlight music faculty

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University music faculty will showcase their nationally-recognized talents during this year's Fall Arts Celebration music event September 21.

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

"Faculty Artistry Gems! Recognizing GVSU Music Faculty Performances in the Community"

Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

***Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur**

The evening begins with a celebration of the university's long-standing artistic and community relationship with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra (GRSO). Christopher Kantner, affiliate professor of flute and GRSO principal flutist; Richard Britsch, affiliate professor of horn and GRSO principal horn; and Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, will join together to masterfully portray "Souvenir du Rigi, Op. 34" by Franz Doppler.

Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble, will be honored through a masterful rendition of his composition, "Simple Lines," performed by Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello. For the past 20 years, Ryan has been a tireless advocate of contemporary music. As a composer, conductor, producer and educator, he has engaged diverse audiences throughout the country with his work.

This celebration of faculty artistry concludes with the award-winning Donald Sinta Quartet, featuring Dan Graser, assistant professor of saxophone. The quartet has quickly achieved international acclaim for its recitals, concerto performances, memorized presentations and championing of the latest collections from emerging young composers. The group made history as the first saxophone quartet to win first prize in the International Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition in New York City, while also being selected as grand prize winners at the 2013 Coleman International Competition in Los Angeles.

Since its start in 2003, Fall Arts Celebration has featured some of the preeminent writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars of today. The tradition continues in 2015 with six signature events that aim to broaden horizons, help make sense of the new and unfamiliar, reflect on the past and charm with the classics.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2185.

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU safety app aims to protect students on campus

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Mobile safety apps are now being utilized by thousands of college students across the country. The Grand Valley Police Department at Grand Valley State University offers a free campus safety app called Rave Guardian.

The mobile phone app, first introduced in 2014, enhances safety on campus through real-time interactive features that create a virtual safety network of friends, family and law enforcement officials.

The app has several features, including a panic button that offers immediate connection to GVPD with GPS location and personal profile information. It also includes a safety timer, which allows students to identify guardians, such as friends, roommates and family members, when editing the timer's settings. During a timed session, guardians and GVPD can check the status of a student. If the safety timer is not deactivated before it expires, GVPD is automatically provided with the user's profile to check on the user's status.

Whenever students, faculty or staff connect with GVPD from their mobile phone, the safety app automatically delivers a complete caller profile, including current location, medical conditions, course schedule, addresses, campus ID photo and other critical data.

"We are hoping all members of our campus community take advantage of this electronic escort program that is offered at no cost from the university," said Capt. Brandon DeHaan of the Grand Valley Police Department.

DeHaan said the department also offers the Safewalk program; participants can request someone to accompany them to their destination. The service is offered seven days a week from 6 p.m.-2 a.m. during the fall and winter semesters. To request a Safewalk, call GVPD Dispatch at (616) 331-3255 or Pew Campus Security at (616) 331-6677.

For more information about Rave Guardian, [visit www.gvsu.edu/gvpd/rave-guardian-129.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvpd/rave-guardian-129.htm)

For immediate release

September 14, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Arts at Noon performers are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/YE>.

Arts at Noon concert series to bring nationally-acclaimed musicians to GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University begins Wednesday, September 16, with a performance by Grand Rapids' own Perugino String Quartet.

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

This fall there will be seven concerts followed by seven concerts this winter. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Each concert is free and open to the public.

Below is a full schedule of the fall Arts at Noon concerts:

September 16 – Perugino String Quartet
September 23 – Bass clarinetist Michael Lowenstern
October 7 – Dale Cockrell (lecture)
October 14 – Chamber Orchestra Kremlin
October 28 – Cello Fest!
November 11 – Alhaji Papa Susso
December 2 – Holiday Music for Brass Quintet

For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Doing business in South Korea

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — With a population of 51 million people, South Korea's \$1 trillion economy is export-driven and relies heavily on international trade. With a consistent placement in the top 10 countries to which Michigan exports its goods, the South Korean market provides several opportunities for businesses.

The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University is hosting "Doing Business in South Korea." The one-day conference will focus on strategic business practices, tips for building relationships and furthering knowledge regarding imports, exports and investments with South Korea. Participants will hear from international trade and legal experts, compliance managers and economists.

Doing Business in South Korea

September 18

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

Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

- Speakers include:
 - Wei Sun, professor of economics, Grand Valley State University
- Robert King, manager of Global Trade Compliance, Amway
- You Kyung (Claire) Koo, assistant manager, Kotra-Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency
- Consul Kim, Consulate of the Republic of Korea – Chicago

The event is hosted by VAGTC and underwritten by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. For registration and more information, contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at (616) 331-6811 or visit www.vagtc.org.

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Record number of students to take part in ArtPrize Education Days

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A record number of students from across the state will take part in ArtPrize Education Days this year, thanks to support from Grand Valley State University's Charter Schools Office.

More than 2,800 students from 25 different Grand Valley-authorized charter schools will spend time exploring ArtPrize entries and engaging in art-making activities during the annual festival, which begins September 23. This year's program will span eight days, with opportunities for both Grand Valley charter schools and public community schools to take part.

Students will travel to Grand Rapids from around the state, including six schools in Detroit, and others from Muskegon, Lansing, Big Rapids and Battle Creek.

This year's program is called "From Recycled 'Trash' to Wearable Art." It will teach students how to use everyday items to create art. The programming for the event was created with assistance from Grand Valley's Art and Design Department and Art Gallery.

ArtPrize is also helping bring students to Grand Rapids to take part in the unique learning experience; ArtPrize awarded a \$5,000 grant to help fund the program.

The ArtPrize Education Days program has been taking place since 2011.

For more information, visit <http://www.artprize.org/for-educators/details#educator-k-12-partner-programs>

For immediate release

September 16, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos of Corcorran are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/YH>.

GVSU event to explore the history of design thinking

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The evolution of design thinking, theories related to the process, and its various applications will be the topics of an upcoming presentation sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Design Thinking Initiative.

"Design Thinking: Theory and Practice"

Presented by Sean Corcorran

Tuesday, September 29

Reception: 5-6 p.m.

Presentation: 6-6:45 p.m. followed by Q&A

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Corcorran, general manager of Steelcase Education in Grand Rapids, played an integral role in the development of the "d. School" program at Stanford University, which provides the experience of the design thinking process to graduate level students. The program was created by IDEO, a design and innovation-consulting firm where Corcorran spent 16 years of his career in design, engineering, product development and innovation consulting.

"We are fortunate to have Sean in West Michigan as his involvement with IDEO and Steelcase put him in the middle of evolving the process of design thinking," said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director.

From 2008 to 2011, Corcorran served as the director of product development and marketing for Steelcase Education. Since co-founding this Steelcase business unit, CorCorran has been responsible for research and development of innovative new products for secondary and higher education.

Seating for this event is limited. Registration is required by September 21. To register, visit

www.gvsu.edu/designthinking/theory.

For immediate release

September 17, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Sterk is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/YN>.

GVSU lecture: How stories like Confederate flags, Trump and the pope can connect people

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Caitlyn Jenner, the Confederate flag and Donald Trump have one thing in common: they have been the subjects of some of the national stories at the heart of communications in the past year. These types of stories and how they connect people will be the focus of the 5th annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture at Grand Valley State University.

Helen Sterk, head of the Department of Communications and professor at Western Kentucky University, will present **“Stories at the Heart of Communication” Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium located inside the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.**

Sterk said her lecture centers around how society can flourish when communication spawns from strong foundations of respect and empathy.

“This past year, stories of race and sex have dominated our national news. Who gets to say what the story is of the Confederate flag? What does a story of serving tea have to do with sexual consent? How did a 60-something he become a she? Stories connect human beings better than any other form of communication and we connect when we understand and care about each other,” Sterk said.

Prior to her time with WKU, Sterk was a professor at Calvin College and chaired the Communication Arts and Sciences department. She received a bachelor’s degree in speech and theater from Calvin College, a master’s degree in speech and theater at WKU and a doctoral degree in rhetoric from the University of Iowa.

The lecture is sponsored by the Communication Studies major, School of Communications, English Department, Liberal Studies major, Institute of General Semantics, Frederik Meijer Honors College, Dean’s Office of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dean’s Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Provost’s Office.

Carey, who died in 2006 at age 71, was a cultural historian, theorist of communications and an influential teacher of journalists at the University of Illinois and Columbia University.

For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, associate professor of Communications Studies, at (616) 331-2981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

September 17, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: For a high-resolution headshot of Bruce Frohnen, click this Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/atynl5cd46dsl03/Frohnen.jpg?dl=0>

The church and the Constitution: Is there room for interpretation?

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. —Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis has made national headlines for weeks after refusing to grant marriage licenses to gay couples in her county in Kentucky, despite a Supreme Court ruling requiring the licenses to be granted. Her refusal on religious grounds has sparked a nationwide controversy about religious liberty and the separation of church and state as outlined in the Constitution.

The debate about whether the Constitution guarantees a wall of separation between church and state or if the Constitution was written for a Christian nation with Christian values will take center stage September 24 when the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University hosts, "The Constitution and Religion: Allies, Adversaries, or Something Else?"

The discussion will focus on the legal and social questions surrounding the Supreme Court and religious beliefs. Bruce Frohnen, a constitutional law expert and professor from Ohio Northern University's Pettit College of Law, will lead the discussion. Frohnen will look behind the debate and consider if the Constitution allows individual communities to make their own decisions on divisive moral topics.

"The Constitution and Religion: Allies, Adversaries, or Something Else?"

Keynote by Bruce Frohnen

September 24

7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center Building A

Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids

The free public lecture is part of the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative as well as its annual Constitution Day series, in which constitutional and legal experts are asked to look at the Constitution from different vantage points.

"Debates about the Constitution and the role of religious belief in society are often fierce," said Joseph Hogan, program manager of the Common Ground Initiative. "Dr. Frohnen will take a step back and encourage us to think deeply about these issues. The questions he asks will certainly elicit diverse responses; in all cases, they will challenge us to think critically about our Constitution."

For more information and event registration, visit <http://hauensteincenter.org/bruce-frohnen-the-constitution-and-religion/>

For immediate release

September 18, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU named finalist in presidential community service and interfaith challenge

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named a top-five finalist in the fifth annual Presidential Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge among more than 500 campuses from 24 countries and six continents.

The challenge is part of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Selection to the Honor Roll is recognition from the highest levels of the federal government for commitment to service and civic engagement. Since 2008, Grand Valley has been nationally recognized for community service (including service-learning) through the Honor Roll.

The Interfaith and Community Service Challenge invites higher education institutions to commit to a year of interfaith cooperation and community service programming on campus.

“Grand Valley has been committed to community service institutionally for a long time, and this recognition of interfaith community service shows that we’re diving headfirst into embracing a meaningful engagement with the diversity of our campus and community,” said Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager.

This year’s challenge recognizes interfaith community service work completed during the 2013-14 academic year. Events and initiatives submitted by the Kaufman Interfaith Institute included Better Together Day, the Ravel/Unravel Video Campaign and a panel presentation hosted with Habitat for Humanity of Kent County on faith and sustainability.

Grand Valley was named a finalist for the Presidential Award for Interfaith Community Service during a special gathering September 10-11 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The winner of the award will be announced later this fall.

The Kaufman Interfaith Institute is continuing its community service and engagement programming with the 2015 Year of Interfaith Service. Since the initiative began in 2014, various congregations and campuses around West Michigan have been participating in community service activities, including interfaith builds with Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at homeless shelters in Grand Rapids, donation drives for Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, park maintenance and cleanup with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, and much more.

The institute also recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, which will support interfaith efforts on local college campuses by funding student interns who will sharpen their interfaith leadership skills. The grant will allow the institute to host its Triennial Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue Conference, as well as Eboo Patel, founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, for a separate presentation. Both events will take place in October.

For more information, call the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at (616) 331-5702.

For immediate release

September 18, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
James Bell, Shakespeare Festival director, (616) 331-3066, bellja@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution images for each event are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Yt>.

GVSU to host Michigan's largest and oldest Shakespeare festival

ALLENDALE, Mich. —The Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. The 22nd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival offers multiple events beginning October 2 and concluding November 7. Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival activities each season. All events will take place on the Allendale Campus.

"All's Well That Ends Well"

October 2, 8, 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m.

October 3, 4, 11, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center

***Opening night reception to follow October 2 performance**

Helena, one of Shakespeare's most remarkable heroines, performs miracles and undertakes a perilous journey to win the love of nobleman Bertram. But, Bertram has a lot to learn about women, love and what it means to be a man. Set against the rising counterculture of the 1960s, "All's Well That Ends Well" spins its fairytale plot of a lowborn woman who achieves greatness through her courage and imagination. Those who come in a 60s-themed costume for the October 8 performance will receive a half-off coupon for a future production and entry into a costume contest.

"My Sighs Stream: Comedy and Empowerment in 'All's Well That Ends Well'"

Presented by Grant Mudge, Guest Scholar-in-Residence

Friday, October 2, at 4 p.m.

Pere Marquette Room, Kirkhof Center

***A reception will precede this presentation at 3 p.m.**

Grant Mudge is in his third year as artistic director for the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival after having served as the founding artistic director for the Richmond Shakespeare Festival in Virginia for more than 15 years. Mudge is a member of Notre Dame's film, television and theatre faculty and also serves on the Executive Committee of the Shakespeare Theatre Association.

Renaissance Faire and Greenshow

October 3 and 4, from 10 a.m.-dusk

Cook Carillon Tower lawn

All ages are welcome to enjoy bagpipers, sword-fighting demonstrations, face painting, dancing, crafts and much more at this year's Renaissance Faire. A free traveling festival Greenshow, "Jack Juggler," will also be performed at various times both days. "Jack Juggler," a lively comedy of deception, identity and

misunderstandings, will also perform outside the Performing Arts Center Thursday, October 8, at 4:30 p.m.

Bard To Go presents "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits"

Friday, October 9, at 2 p.m. (preview show), Mary Idema Pew Library

Saturday, November 7, at 1 p.m. (public performance), Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center

Through the eyes of the Bard's fool characters, audiences will journey through the scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," "As You Like It," "The Tempest," "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," and "King Lear" during "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits." Shakespeare's fools and clowns are more than just comedians, but rather they often turn out to be the wisest of his characters, speaking the truth with wit and humor. This event will also feature the awards ceremony for the annual Shakespeare Festival Student Competition.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes or call (616) 331-2300.

For immediate release

September 21, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students, faculty to compete in ArtPrize

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students, faculty and alumni will showcase their talents among the 1,739 artists from around the world competing in ArtPrize, September 23-October 11 in Grand Rapids.

The sole entry being displayed on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus venue this year is a collection of works by 14 current and former jewelry and metalsmithing students.

Beverly Seley, coordinator of the jewelry and metalsmithing program, said the works on display cover all class levels and demonstrate the range of techniques, materials and approaches found in contemporary metals and jewelry.

Ross Tanner, '15, who is showcasing a bracelet crafted from drafting equipment inherited from his late uncle, said showing artwork at ArtPrize is a valuable entryway to large-scale exposure as an artist.

"Exhibiting during ArtPrize breaks down any potential barriers that an artist may have to exhibiting work in a gallery or museum setting," Tanner said. "This gives students the opportunity to find all the resources needed to obtain a space and exhibit their work."

Below is a list of Grand Valley students and faculty competing in ArtPrize this year:

- "Framing the Experience" by Grand Valley art and design students
Location: Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus (301 W. Fulton St.)
Vote code: 61964
- "Try To Remember" by Margaret DeMaat, art education major
Location: Fifth Third Bank/Warner Norcross & Judd LLP (111 Lyon St. NW)
Vote code: 61392
- "Starts in the Park" by Chelsea Whitaker, photography major
Location: Bagger Dave's (241 W. Fulton St.)
Vote code: 62000
- "Origami Lighthouse" by William Newstead, natural resources management major
Location: Courtyard Marriott Downtown (11 Monroe Ave. NW)
Vote code: 61356
- "Ocean Installment" by Kenny Urena, psychology and preprofessional studies (premedical) major
Location: Swift Printing & Communications, Inc. (404 Bridge St. NW)
Vote code: 61102

- “Recess Community” by Melody Schmidt, post-graduate education student
Location: Buffalo Wild Wings (8 Ionia Ave.)
Vote code: 62500
- “Arcus” by Monica Johnstone, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences communications and advancement director
Location: Processing Fiber at 250 Monroe (205 Monroe Ave., 3rd floor)
Vote code: 61034
- “Auralwood” by Jacob Pierzchala, adjunct professor of communication studies
Location: Grand Rapids Public Museum (272 Pearl St. NW)
Vote code: 62070
- “The Family Portrait Project” by Stafford Smith, assistant professor of photography
Location: Grand Rapids Children’s Museum (11 Sheldon Ave. NE)
Vote code: 61977
- “Mathias Alten Triptych” by Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley’s New Music Ensemble; Jeremy Crosmer, GRSO assistant principal cellist; and Alexander Miller, GRSO assistant principal oboe
Location: St. Cecilia Music Center (24 Ransom Ave. NE)
Vote code: 61158

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More than 15 Grand Valley alumni will also have entries in ArtPrize this year.

For more information, visit www.artprize.org.

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU conference will focus on global health initiatives

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Improving health for people worldwide and preventing global health threats will be the focus of a conference hosted by Grand Valley State University’s College of Health Professions.

The Institute for Global Health Showcase will take place October 16, from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It is free and open to the public; RSVP by October 8 at www.gvsu.edu/chp.

Faculty members from a variety of health disciplines will give presentations on topics such as community health in Haiti, therapeutic recreation programming in post-tsunami Japan, and medical laboratory science education in Zimbabwe. A poster presentation will feature research by students and faculty members.

Grand Valley alumnus Christopher Weis will give a keynote presentation, “Toxicology for the 21st Century: The Science Behind the Strategy.” He is senior advisor and toxicology liaison for the National Institute of Environmental Health Science. He is an expert of environmental contaminants, including asbestos, lead and radon.

Azizur Molla, associate professor of public health and event organizer, said the idea for a conference came when the Institute for Global Health was established in 2014 as a way for faculty members and students to facilitate global health research and activities.

The conference is sponsored by Grand Valley’s College of Health Professions, Institute of Global Health, and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

For immediate release

September 22, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU New Music Ensemble teams with local dance company to celebrate modern music, dance

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's award-winning New Music Ensemble will unite with the Kalamazoo-based Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers for a concert celebrating modern dance and music, September 26.

"Orbit: Concert of Modern Dance/Modern Music"

Saturday, September 26, at 8 p.m.

Peter Martin Wege Theatre (341 Ellsworth Ave. SW, Grand Rapids)

During the event, the Wellspring dancers will perform original choreography set to an original composition by Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director.

Ryan said experiences like collaborating with the Wellspring Dancers gives his students a taste of the kind of work they can expect to encounter after graduating from Grand Valley.

"The students get to experience putting together a live show in partnership with a professional dance company," Ryan said. "The production pressure and expectations are different when working with a professional group."

The nationally recognized New Music Ensemble promotes contemporary music with roots in jazz, rock, pop and minimalism. The ensemble has released three critically acclaimed recordings that have appeared on "best release lists" by *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Weekly* and *Time Out Chicago*. The group has performed at the Bang On a Can Marathon in New York City, the College Music Society National Conference in Atlanta, New Music Detroit's Strange Beautiful Music marathon and Carnegie Hall.

Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers is a 34-year-old modern dance company that has performed with many different music ensembles including Detroit Dance Collective, the Canvani String Quartet, Opus 21, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and many others.

For ticket pricing and purchasing, visit <https://www.artful.ly/store/events/6660> or call (269) 342-4354.

For immediate release

September 22, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU, Grand Rapids Symphony ArtPrize concert to honor Mathias Alten paintings

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Members of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra will bring three Mathias Alten paintings to life through an original music composition during a special ArtPrize concert at Grand Valley State University, September 26.

“Mathias Alten Triptych” is a three-movement composition commissioned by GRSO specifically for ArtPrize. Composers Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley’s New Music Ensemble; Jeremy Crosmer, GRSO assistant principal cellist; and Alexander Miller, GRSO assistant principal oboe, each chose a painting by Alten to musically interpret. The three paintings include “The Grand River,” “Approaching Storm” and “Gulls of Leland.”

Six members of GRSO will perform the composition Saturday, September 26, at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., in Loosemore Auditorium in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The composition will be available to ArtPrize visitors throughout the duration of the festival at St. Cecilia's Music Center (24 Ransom Ave. NE) in Grand Rapids.

Grand Valley holds the largest public collection of Alten works in the world at more than 80 pieces, which can be viewed at the George and Barbara Gordon Gallery located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Alten, a celebrated American regionalist artist, painted more than 2,500 works of art throughout his life. He began as a naturalist scene painter and later transitioned into painting in an impressionistic style before his death in 1938.

For more information, contact Grand Valley’s Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

To vote for "Mathias Alten Triptych," use the vote code 61158.

For immediate release

September 25, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU will host Native American community exhibition

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History will host an exhibition, "Walking Beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience," beginning November 3 at the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons on the Allendale Campus.

"Walking Beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience" will be part of several events planned to celebrate Native American Heritage Month during November at Grand Valley. The exhibition will conclude with a campus dialogue on November 18.

The new exhibition is the beginning of a series that will highlight Native Americans living in the Grand Rapids area during the last half-century. It is a small portion of the work completed in conjunction with the "Gi-gikinomaage-min (We are all teachers): Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit" project that kicked off last fall by the Kutsche Office of Local History.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, director of the Kutsche Office, said the oral history project gives voice to the experience of urban Native Americans.

Levi Rickert, a tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, was among the planners of the exhibition.

"The exhibit is truly a collaborative effort of the whole community, and Grand Rapids can take considerable pride in that," Rickert said. "The exhibition shows the strength and resiliency of our local Native community that can trace our ancestry back hundreds of years to where Grand Valley's Allendale Campus is today."

The exhibition contains historic documents and objects made by local Native Americans during the past several decades.

After the exhibition ends at Grand Valley, it will travel to the Grand Rapids Public Library in January.

The exhibition collaborators are the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Public Library, and Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, Native American Advisory Board, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Special Collections & Archives.

For more information, visit the Kutsche Office's website at www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

September 25, 2015

Contact: University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photo opportunity

Grand Valley Rowing Club to train on Grand River

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley Rowing Club will row from the Grand Valley Boathouse in Allendale to Harbor Island in Grand Haven, Sunday, September 27.

The team will leave Allendale at 4 p.m. and journey down the Grand River for 23 miles to the Grand Haven Coast Guard Station for a photo opportunity. The best views will be along the boardwalk in Grand Haven to welcome the rowers. The row will last between two and three hours, with the team arriving in Grand Haven between 6-7 p.m.

Varsity athletes from the men's and women's teams will be participating in the row, including Austin Gentry, who won the gold medal for Team USA in the World University Games in Korea this past summer. The men's and women's varsity squads will consist of three four-man shells and two eight-man shells.

"The Grand River is one of the most beautiful rivers in the United States, and during the fall season, it is a fantastic river to train on," said Head Coach John Bancheri. "This is a special opportunity for our student-athletes to row many miles in one practice."

Looking ahead: the Grand Valley Rowing Club, in partnership with the Spring Lake and Grand Haven communities, will participate in the Annual Lubbers Cup Regatta April 8-10. For more information, visit www.lubberscup.com or the Grand Valley Rowing Club website at www.grandvalleyrowing.com. Follow the club on Twitter at @gvsurowing

For immediate release

October 26, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Symphony Orchestra to perform Halloween classics during multiple concerts

ALLENDALE, Mich. —The Grand Valley State University Symphony Orchestra will perform spooky selections during two free concerts to celebrate the Halloween season, with one performance occurring side-by-side with local high school students.

The orchestra will travel to Jenison to perform at its annual Side-by-Side Concert, this year with the Jenison High School Chamber Orchestra at the **Jenison Center for the Arts (8375 20th Ave.)** **Wednesday, October 28, beginning at 7:30 p.m.** The orchestra will first perform Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 6," Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King," Holst's "Mars from 'The Planets,'" as well as a brass fanfare. The concert will conclude when the Jenison orchestra joins the GVSU Symphony Orchestra to perform Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain."

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will also offer a 30-minute Halloween concert comprised of seasonal classics and surprises for those in attendance. Children in the audience are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes, as the orchestra will pass out candy. **The Halloween concert will take place Saturday, October 31, at 8 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Atrium.**

Both concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Grand Valley's Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484 or worthemc@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

October 27, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Holocaust "hidden child" to speak at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A “hidden child” of the Holocaust will visit Grand Valley State University to share his story of living under the threat of discovery and death at the hand of the Nazi regime.

Fred Lessing will present “My Holocaust Story: Reflections of a Hidden Child” November 2 at 4 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room on the Allendale Campus.

Lessing, the youngest son of highly assimilated Jewish parents, was four-years-old when the Nazis invaded the Netherlands in 1940. He and his family were living in Delft when they were ordered to prepare for deportation in October of 1942. Lessing and his family were ready to obey the Germans, but before the family departed, Lessing’s grandfather arrived from Amsterdam to warn them of the dangers of boarding a German transport. This warning saved Lessing’s family from sharing the fate of the 75 percent of Jewish citizens from the Netherlands who died in the Holocaust. From that moment in 1942, Lessing spent two-and-a-half years in hiding.

“Unlike the many video testimonies or oral histories, there is something distinctively valuable about listening to a Holocaust witness in person,” said Rob Franciosi, professor of English at Grand Valley. “Fred lived under the threat of discovery and death for nearly three years. Had he been discovered or betrayed, like Anne Frank and her family, it is likely he would have been a victim, not a survivor.”

For more information, contact Franciosi at francior@gvsu.edu or call (616) 331-3069.

For immediate release

October 28, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Shakespeare Festival concludes with witty fools

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The annual Grand Valley State University Shakespeare Festival concludes this year with a play featuring some of the Bard's most foolish characters.

Bard to Go, Grand Valley's all-student touring Shakespeare troupe, will offer a final performance of the 50-minute production, "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits," Saturday, November 7, in Loosemore Auditorium located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The performance will be preceded by the awards ceremony for the annual Shakespeare Festival Student Competition beginning at 1 p.m.

During "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits," audiences will experience scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," "As You Like It," "The Tempest," "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," and "King Lear" through the eyes of Shakespeare's fools and clowns who often turn out to be the wisest of his characters.

Bard to Go is a part of the educational outreach programs incorporated into the annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival. This year, the group performed "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits" at eight Michigan schools for approximately 450 students. In December, Bard to Go will travel to Madison, Wisconsin, to perform for about 1,000 middle and high school students. Over past seasons, the troupe has traveled around the world to perform in various locations, including Italy, Canada, Czech Republic, China, Jamaica and more.

For more information, contact Katherine Mayberry, Bard to Go producer, at maybekat@gvsu.edu or visit gvsu.edu/shakes.

For immediate release

October 29, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU musicians to unite with local students for piano festival

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 40 grade school musicians from across Michigan, as well as Grand Valley State University faculty and students, will celebrate 20th- and 21st-century piano music with a day of recitals that are free and open to the public.

The 20th/21st-Century Piano Music Festival will be divided into four age groups, with elementary, intermediate, junior and high school students performing during various recitals beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 31, in the Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall (room 1325) located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus.

“As pianists, we often focus on traditional repertoire, such as those by Mozart, Beethoven or Chopin, but we forget that 20th century and 21st century composers have written, and continue to write, beautiful and exciting pieces for the piano,” said Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano.

Several Grand Valley piano students and faculty will also perform throughout the festival. Featured during these presentations will be students Angela Schmitt, Connor Austell, Brian De Young, Yushan Ying, Anna Vander Boon, Luis Silva and Grace Maust, with saxophone accompaniment provided by Karsten Wimpish. The students will be joined by Cho, Helen Marlais, associate professor of piano and pedagogy, and Arthur Campbell, professor of clarinet.

Below is the full schedule of performances during the festival:

10 a.m. – Elementary level (grades 1-4)

11 a.m. – Intermediate level (grades 5-6)

12:30 p.m. – Performances by Grand Valley faculty and students

1 p.m. – Junior level (grades 7-9)

2:30 p.m. – Performances by Grand Valley faculty and students

3 p.m. – High school level (grades 10-12)

For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/piano.

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host environmental education conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Educators from across the Midwest will learn about hands-on environmental education opportunities at the fifth annual Great Lakes Place-based Education Conference November 5-7 at Grand Valley State University.

The conference, coordinated by Grand Valley's College of Education, will feature speakers who will share how they have contributed to positive changes in their communities.

The keynote speaker is Chad Pregracke, founder of Living Lands & Waters, an organization providing river cleanup services to help with watershed conservation. A network of thousands of volunteers average nine states per year, cleaning up areas along the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers, as well as many of their tributaries.

Pregracke, the author of "From the Bottom Up: One Man's Crusade to Clean America's Rivers," was named CNN Hero of the Year in 2013. He is a member of the National Geographic Speakers Bureau and has delivered more than 300 presentations to corporate, public and student audiences worldwide.

Great Lakes Place-based Education Conference

November 5-7

Eberhard Center

GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Pregracke's address is Nov. 6 at 11 a.m. See full agenda [here](#).

The conference includes workshops, field trips and presentations focusing on how to move place-based environmental education forward in schools and communities. Sponsors include the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (through its Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative), Grand Valley State University, Public Sector Consultants, Open Systems Technology, Trout Unlimited, John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Earth Force and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To register, visit www.glstewardship.org. For more information contact Grand Valley's College of Education at (616) 331-6650.

For immediate release

October 30, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU play to explore social impact of 1992 Los Angeles riots

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In Los Angeles in 1992, four police officers who were caught assaulting an African-American motorist were acquitted of any wrongdoing. Hours after the verdicts were announced, outrage and protest turned to violent riots in the streets of south-central LA.

During an upcoming theater production at Grand Valley State University, students will perform testimonials from a collection of approximately 300 interviews collected from people who experienced the riots firsthand.

“Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992”

November 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, at 7:30 p.m.

November 15, 22, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Tickets: adults \$12; seniors, faculty, alumni and staff \$10; students and groups \$6

“Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992” captures the identities of 36 famous, infamous and anonymous individuals linked to the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. The show was originally written and performed as a one-woman show by award-winning playwright and actress Anna Deavere Smith, but Michael Mueller, director and visiting professor of theater, said 12 student actors will portray the 36 roles.

“The students play multiple characters of different ethnicities and genders, which enables them to confront issues of stereotyping, as well as the characters’ own prejudicial perspectives while finding empathy and understanding through the stories being told,” Mueller said.

Mueller said he hopes this production transcends the stage to create a broader dialogue about race relations and societal struggles both past and present.

“As a strong advocate for inclusion and equity, I think this production provides GVSU with an opportunity to engage with current societal struggles through the juxtaposition of a pivotal point in American history,” Mueller said. “The largest takeaway I hope our audiences walk away with is the idea that awareness, though important as a first step in the process, is not enough to bring about positive social change.”

This performance utilizes adult language and graphically violent images, and may not be appropriate for younger audiences. For more information about this production, visit gvsu.edu/theater, or call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

For immediate release

November 2, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for events are available via Dropbox at <http://qvsu.edu/s/ZP>.

Grand Valley State University December 2015 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Fall Arts Celebration

Grand Valley State University has a rich history of providing events and programs for the community centered on the arts. Fall Arts Celebration 2015 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

“Stille Nacht: A Celebration of Holiday Music from Europe”

Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids)

Fall Arts Celebration concludes with the voices of the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale singing Johann Sebastian Bach’s timeless holiday classic “Magnificat.” This holiday gift to the West Michigan community will also feature the iconic sounds of the GVSU Varsity Men’s Chorus singing melodies of Europe’s most beloved holiday music.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts.

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Arts at Noon Series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University brings world-renowned artists to West Michigan. All Arts at Noon concerts take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit www.gvsu.edu/music or call (616) 331-3484.

Wednesday, December 2 – Holiday Music for Brass Quintet

The GVSU Brass Quintet presents its annual concert. Grand Valley music faculty members Alex Wilson, trumpet; Richard Britsch, horn; Mark Williams, trombone; and Paul Carlson, tuba, will perform traditional music of the holiday season arranged specifically for brass instruments.

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Music and Dance Department

*For more information about all Music and Dance Department events, visit www.gvsu.edu/music or call (616) 331-3484.

GVSU Dance Company Fall Dance Concert

December 5, at 7 p.m.

December 6, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Dance Company’s annual Fall Dance Concert will feature choreography by world-renowned guest artists Amy Rose, former soloist with American Ballet Theatre and Pacific Northwest Ballet; Joshua Manculich, former dancer with Thodos Dance Chicago and winner of the 2015 Princess Grace Award for Choreography; and Mina Estrada, independent choreographer and teacher at Manship Theatre in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The performance will also spotlight new works by Grand Valley dance faculty in ballet, modern dance and jazz. The Dance Company is comprised of students majoring in dance at Grand Valley.

Choral Concert

December 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

This choral concert will feature Grand Valley’s Cantate Chamber Ensemble, University Singers and Select Women’s Ensemble. This performance is free and open to the public.

Concert Band

December 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Under the direction of Barry Martin, associate professor of music, the Grand Valley State University Concert Band is dedicated to broadening the artistic level and interest of its members while performing music of artistic and historical significance. This performance will feature “Gavorkna Fanfare” by Jack Stamp, “An American Elegy” by Frank Ticheli, “Variations on a Korean Folk Song” by John Barnes Chance, “Do Not Go Gentle Into that Good Night” by Elliott Del Borgo, “An Original Suite” by Gordon Jacob, “Yosemite Autumn” by Mark Camphouse, and “Hands Across the Sea” by John Philip Sousa.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

December 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

GVSU Symphony Orchestra Concert featuring Sookkyung Cho

December 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Presenting her first concerto performance at Grand Valley State University will be Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano. With the GVSU Symphony Orchestra, Cho will perform Beethoven's masterful “Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major.” Kodaly's “Hary Janos Suite” will round out the program, which begins with Verdi's “Nabucco Overture” led by guest conductor Deborah Freedman-Rhodes.

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Art Gallery Exhibitions

*For more information and directions to all galleries, call (616) 331-2563, email artgallery@gvsu.edu or visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

Paya Lliklla, Las Tejedoras de Chari, Peru: Reweaving Tradition in the 21st Century

West Wall Gallery, Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Exhibit runs through December 18

In the Andean mountain village of Chari, Peru, a weaving cooperative of indigenous women are changing the structure of their lives. The weavers who make up Paya Lliklla utilize handicraft skills to fabricate woven trade goods marketed to clients well outside their local boundaries. Weaving is an accepted female occupation within this cultural group, but it has always fallen to their male relatives to market the finished handmade textiles. The women of Paya Lliklla have managed to merge the two — manufacture and sales of the products — as the sole responsibility of the association. This significantly changes the established division of labor and moves the women's weaving from a private to a public sphere, empowering the women both financially and socially, and this significantly alters their status within their families and the larger community.

Nothing New Under the Sun

Thornapple Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Exhibit runs through December 18

Beginning in the late 19th and early 20th centuries a special group of inventors began exploring the potentials for harnessing the energy of the wind and sun. Discover the results of their experiments and innovative thinking in this exhibition produced by the Grand Valley State University Art Gallery in conjunction with guest curator Glen Swanson, visiting professor of physics.

Different Waters: Thirty Years in the Western Amazon

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

Exhibit runs through December 18

During the past 30 years, Jim Penn, associate professor of geography and planning, has repeatedly traveled to the Loreto Region of Peru, South America, participating in programs ranging from wildlife research and natural resource management to community development, health care and human rights work. Located inland of the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains, the Loreto Region covers one third of the landmass of Peru. This dense jungle region stands in vivid contrast to the typical images of Peru featuring the citadel of Machu Picchu, indigenous people of the Andes and their ubiquitous llamas. The Loreto Region is a key part of the vast intertwining network of tributaries that combine to form the headwaters of the Amazon River. Penn's experiences form the basis of "Different Waters: Thirty Years in the Western Amazon," a dramatic collection of photographs and pointed observations documenting the struggles, turmoil, growth and changes in this risky world of ever-moving water.

School of Communications Photography Senior Thesis Exhibition: "Tumultuous"

Exhibit runs December 1-12

GVSU Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Opening reception: December 3, from 5-7 p.m.

"Tumultuous" is an exhibition featuring the work of 12 senior photography students. The exhibition will feature works by Kaitlyn Bowman, Jordan Furest, Nicole Gafa, Megan Kafka, Daniela Lisi, Jane Matta, Jacob Nuss, Doralynn Runyon, Jess Weal, Erin Williams, Christi Wiltenburg and Natasha Yeager.

For immediate release
September 28, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-2221;
James Bell, Shakespeare Festival director, (616) 331-3066, bellja@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution images for "All's Well That Ends Well" are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Yt>.

"All's Well That Ends Well" takes GVSU Shakespeare Festival to the 60s

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Heartbreak, deception and generational misunderstandings are all themes Grand Valley State University students and professional artists will bring to life during "All's Well That Ends Well" — part of the 22nd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival.

William Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well"

October 2, 8, 9, 10 at 7:30 p.m.

October 3, 4, 11 at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

"All's Well That Ends Well" finds Helena in her pursuit of a man of higher social position than herself. The man whom she desires is Bertram, a young gentleman of nobility in mourning over the death his late father, the Count. Helena follows Bertram to Paris where she is granted the husband of her choice as a reward for curing the king of a terminal illness. She chooses Bertram, but he vows to never accept his marriage with Helena unless she can perform two tasks: remove a ring from his finger and conceive a child with him. Utilizing her trickery and imagination, Helena finally earns her man, and all apparently ends well.

Each year, the Shakespeare Festival mainstage production adapts Shakespeare's works in order to modernize them for today's audiences. Karen Libman, director and professor of theater, said Grand Valley's version of "All's Well That Ends Well" takes place in the 1960s.

"In this play, the women are fighting to get what they want. They are becoming more liberated. Women's liberation was becoming a big thing in the 1960s, particularly toward the end of the decade," she said.

Libman added that another important theme in "All's Well That Ends Well" is generational gaps.

"The older generation didn't understand the younger generation, and there was a war going on, but I wanted to make sure that the play was taken as a comedy, so I didn't want to get into the strife of this period — just the nostalgia," she said. "So I am setting it in the nostalgic 60s with more of a 'mod' feel than a hippy feel, and not in a particular year."

Multiple guest professional artists join Grand Valley students in the mainstage production each year. Two of this year's three guest artists are Rick Moreno, stage manager, and Brian Webb Russell, Actors Equity Association actor. Mark Cabus, teaching artist at Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia, helped prepare students for their performances during a 40-hour intensive workshop in August.

Jo Miller, professor of English and production dramaturg, will host pre-show discussions at 6:45 p.m. prior to the October 2 and October 10 performances.

Tickets for “All’s Well That Ends Well” are \$14 adults; \$12 alumni, seniors, faculty and staff; and \$6 students and groups. Those who come in a 60s-themed costume to the October 8 performance will receive a half-off coupon for a future production and entry into a costume contest.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

For immediate release

September 28, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU teaming with local performing arts companies to present "Dido and Aeneas"

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — GVSU Opera Theatre students will bring to life a story that hasn't been seen in Grand Rapids for more than 50 years during the ensemble's presentation of "Dido and Aeneas."

"Dido and Aeneas"

October 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m.

October 10, 11 at 2 p.m.

Peter Martin Wege Theatre (341 Ellsworth Avenue SW, Grand Rapids)

In this story, written in 1688 by Henry Purcell and reimagined for modern audiences, Dido, the queen of Carthage, is visited by the young Aeneas, a hero of Greek mythology. Their love quickly grows, but a sorceress plots to destroy their love and sends a false messenger to command Aeneas to leave Carthage to found the city of Rome. Torn by his love for Dido and obeying the commands of the gods, Aeneas leaves Carthage. After his departure, Dido dies of grief and a broken heart.

"Dido and Aeneas" is a collaborative performance also spotlighting Grand Valley's Early Music Ensemble, the Grand Rapids Ballet School's Junior Ballet, Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids and Daredevil Circus Company.

"It is such a good experience to work side-by-side with artists in West Michigan, not only because of their professional caliber and attitude, but also for the connections we are able to make as upcoming professionals ourselves," said Valerie Beck, senior voice major portraying Dido. "They set a higher standard for us and we work harder to reach that standard."

For more information and to order tickets, contact the Grand Rapids Ballet box office at (616) 454-4771 ext. 10, or visit <http://www.grballet.com/2015-16-season/dido-aeneas/>.

For Immediate Release

September 28, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU named a Best College Buy for 20 consecutive years

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the 20th 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 and Evaluation 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.

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 fall 2014 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 2015-2016 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 2014 was 3.54, compared to the national average of 3.35, according to Institutional Research and Evaluation. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2014 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.

Grand Valley State University, one of the 100 largest universities in the nation, attracts more than 25,000 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 86 undergraduate and 36 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon, Traverse City and Detroit. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

For more information visit www.100bestcollegebuys.com and click on annual report.

For Immediate Release

September 29, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU Board of Trustees member to speak at next Wheelhouse Talk

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees member Megan Sall, '07 and '09, will speak about her work experience and rise to leadership in the next installation of the Wheelhouse Talks hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at GVSU.

In five years, Sall has gone from a Grand Valley student to its Board of Trustees, and is a well-known figure in Grand Rapids' business community. Sall is a business development manager with The Right Place Inc. and serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations.

In her presentation, Sall will discuss her transition from being an engaged student to a thriving young leader. Her presentation is set for Friday, October 2, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 301 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids.

The event is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are requested online at www.gvsu.edu/s/Zi.

For immediate release

September 29, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of all authors are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Yx>.

Writers Series brings award-winning authors to GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University as part of the 2015-16 Grand Valley Writers Series beginning October 1 with local author Marcia Aldrich.

The Grand Valley Writers Series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students.

“The writers have all won awards and together represent diverse voices and perspectives. They are experts in poetry, memoir, fiction and long-form journalism,” said Oindrila Mukherjee, assistant professor of writing and Writers Series coordinator. “The writers represent different genres from different corners of the country. We have made a concerted effort to be inclusive and make sure that America comes to Grand Rapids in all its complexity.”

Below is a full list of scheduled events:

Marcia Aldrich

Thursday, October 1, Allendale Campus

Craft talk: 4-5:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/16

Reading and book signing: 6 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Aldrich, professor of creative writing at Michigan State University, is the former editor of *Fourth Genre* and author of the memoirs *Girl Rearing* and *Companion to an Untold Story*. Her personal essays have been published in *Gettysburg Review*, *North American Review*, *Witness*, *Arts & Letters*, *Northwest Review*, *Brevity*, *The Normal School*, *Kenyon Review*, *Hotel Amerika* and *Seneca Review*, among others.

Nina McConigley

Tuesday, November 17, Allendale Campus

Craft talk: 2:30-3:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215

Reading and book signing: 6 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

McConigley is the author of the story collection *Cowboys and East Indians*, which won the 2014 PEN Open Book Award and a High Plains Book Award. She has been a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, as well as nominated for a Pushcart Prize for The Best New American Voices. McConigley's work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Orion*, *Salon*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *American Short Fiction* and *The Asian Literary Review*, among others. She currently teaches at the University of Wyoming and the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers.

Faculty Reading: Glenn Shaheen and Oindrila Mukherjee

Thursday, January 28, Allendale Campus

7:30-8:45 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Shaheen, assistant professor of writing at Grand Valley, is the author of the poetry collection *Predatory*, which won the 2010 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize. He is also the author of the flash fiction chapbook *Unchecked Savagery*. His second collection of poetry, *Energy Corridor*, will be released in 2016.

Mukherjee hails from India where she worked as a reporter for the country's oldest English language newspaper, *The Statesman*. Her work has been published in *Salon*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Oxford Anthology of Bengali Literature*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *The Silk Road Review*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Jaggery*, and elsewhere.

Rubén Martínez

Wednesday, February 24, Allendale Campus

Craft talk: 4:30-5:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263

Reading and book signing: 7-8:15 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Martínez currently holds the Fletcher Jones Chair in Literature and Writing position at Loyola Marymount University. He also functions as an artist-in-residence at Stanford University's Institute for Diversity in the Arts. Martínez is the author of *Desert America: A Journey Across Our Most Divided Landscape*, *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*, *The New Americans*, and *The Other Side: Notes from the New L.A., Mexico City and Beyond*. An Emmy award-winning journalist, Martínez hosted and co-wrote the documentary film "When Words Collide" for PBS. His essays, opinions and reports have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Salon* and *Village Voice*, among others.

Jericho Brown

Monday, March 28, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Craft talk: 6-7 p.m., DeVos Center, room 203E

Reading and book signing: 7:30-8:45 p.m., DeVos Center, University Club

Brown is the recipient of the Whiting Writers Award and fellowships from the Radcliff Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts. His poems have been featured in *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker* and *The Best American Poetry*. Brown's first book, *Please*, won the American Book Awards, and his second book, *The New Testament*, won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. *The New Testament* was also named one of the best books of the year by *Library Journal*, *Coldfront* and Academy of American Poets. Brown is currently an associate professor of English and creative writing at Emory University.

For more information, contact Oindrila Mukherjee at (616) 331-8034 or mukherjo@gvsu.edu, or visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/writing/grand-valley-writers-series-12.htm>.

For immediate release
September 30, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, GVSU, (616) 331-2221;
James Bell, Shakespeare Festival director, (616) 331-3066, bellja@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Images for all Shakespeare Festival events are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Yt>.

Renowned actor, director and educator named GVSU Shakespeare Festival guest scholar

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A nationally acclaimed actor, director and educator will discuss the themes present in one of Shakespeare's lesser known tales, "All's Well That Ends Well," at Grand Valley State University while serving as this year's Shakespeare Festival Resident Festival Scholar.

"My Sighs Stream: Comedy and Empowerment in 'All's Well That Ends Well'" will take place Friday, October 2, at 4 p.m. in the Pere Marquette Room located in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. A reception will precede this presentation at 3 p.m.

Mudge currently serves as the Ryan Producing Artistic Director of the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival (NDSF) and teaches film, television and theater at Notre Dame University. Now in his 19th year as an artistic director and his third for the NDSF, Mudge is known for his role in creating a pilot touring program for schools in northern Indiana. NDSF: ON TOUR brings Shakespearean performances and accompanying workshops to middle and secondary schools in the aforementioned region. He previously served as the founding artistic director for the Richmond Shakespeare Festival at Agecroft Hall in Virginia. There he helped develop the traveling Richmond Center Stage group, which has toured 23 states and performed for more than 200,000 people.

Mudge's directing and acting credits include more than 50 productions. As an actor, his performances include the title roles in "Henry V" and "Macbeth," as well as roles in various productions of "Twelfth Night," "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Tempest," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "As You Like It" and "The Taming of the Shrew."

Along with his public presentation, Mudge will meet with students and visit classes while visiting the university.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

For immediate release

September 30, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: Photos of foundation leaders are in a Dropbox folder via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/ZD>

Grand Valley University Foundation names new chairs

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — New leadership marks a transition period for the Grand Valley University Foundation as Richard M. DeVos was named Chairman Emeritus after serving nearly 25 years as the foundation's General Chairman.

During the foundation's annual meeting September 30, Jim and Donna Brooks (past vice chairs) were named general chairs, and Dan and Pamella DeVos were named vice chairs, continuing their service to the foundation's executive committee.

Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas celebrated DeVos' two decades of leadership, citing DeVos' vision and planning that led to the establishment of a downtown Grand Rapids campus. DeVos was named GVV Foundation Chairman in 1991.

Five new directors were named (bios below) and Gary VerPlank was named a member of the foundation's advisory cabinet.

- Jim and Donna Brooks are longtime supporters of Grand Valley. Donna served as a member of the university's board of trustees from 1993-2009 and is an honorary life member of the board. They co-chaired the university's first comprehensive campaign. The College of Interdisciplinary Studies is named in honor of Jim and Donna and their family.
- Dan and Pamella DeVos also co-chaired Grand Valley's comprehensive campaign. Through their foundation, the DeVoses work with many West Michigan and national organizations; they have supported Grand Valley and served on the GVV Foundation for many years.

Below are bios for the new directors.

- Charles "Trip" Johnson III is president of G&L Chili Dogs, quick-serve restaurants, and PBJ Realty LLC. Johnson serves on the board of directors for the Community Foundation of Muskegon County and Muskegon Museum of Art. He is a member of MCC Partners and the Muskegon Angels, a local investment group that funds startups.
- Holly Johnson is president of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. She had served as the foundation's vice president of development. Johnson serves on the Lake Michigan Estate Planners Council executive committee, and is the membership chair for Western Michigan Planned Giving Group. She earned a master's of public administration degree from Grand Valley.

- Greg Kaufman is president and CEO of Amstore Corp, a supplier of store fixtures and store interiors to national retailers. Kaufman had worked as vice president for business development for New Line Cinema, and as a management consultant for Booz & Co. He is active in the Young Presidents Organization, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, and the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley.
- Randy Price is owner-operator of 19 McDonald's restaurants in West Michigan. He also owns Lakeshore Staffing, serves as developer/owner for Mandolin Bay Villas in Florida, and is the founder/managing member of Quick Serve Mechanical. Price is a reserve deputy for the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, and is a board member for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.
- Dr. Larry Robson was a vascular and transplant surgeon in Grand Rapids for more than 32 years. He serves on the admissions committee for the University of Michigan Medical School as well as the advisory board for its cardiovascular center. Robson serves on the boards of the Grand Rapids Symphony and the Salvation Army.

For immediate release

October 1, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Eboo Patel is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/ZF>.

Internationally prominent interfaith leader to speak at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — An internationally illustrious interfaith leader will visit Grand Valley State University to discuss how differences in religious identities can become conduits for collaboration rather than obstructions.

Eboo Patel, founder and president of Interfaith Youth Core, will present **“Interfaith Leadership: Engaging Religious and Philosophical Diversity in the 21st Century” Thursday, October 8, from 8-9:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center Grand River Room (room 2250) on the Allendale Campus.**

“Eboo is a leader in the growing interfaith movement that brings students and the community together in active interfaith service. The Kaufman Interfaith Institute is proud to have Eboo come to our community and to Grand Valley,” said P. Douglas Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director.

Patel is the author of *Acts of Faith, Sacred Ground* and the forthcoming publication *Interfaith Leadership*. He previously served on President Obama’s Inaugural Faith Council and regularly contributes to the public conversation around religion in America by speaking on the topic of religious pluralism. Patel earned his doctorate degree in sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.

The institute will also host Patel at Aquinas College from 3-4 p.m. when he presents “Interfaith Leadership: Engaging Faith and Philosophical Diversity.” For more information regarding this presentation, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Zv>.

Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager, said Patel is an inspiring and engaging storyteller who motivates communities and campuses to find the roots within their own traditions in order to make a difference in the world.

“Eboo argues that we will only be able to seriously address the issues that face us if we do so collectively and collaboratively by building bridges of cooperation rather than barriers of division out of our distinct traditions,” Gordon said. “Eboo lays out a clear vision and framework for students to apply their passions onto social issues in their community.”

For more information, contact the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at (616) 331-5702, interfaith@gvsu.edu or visit <http://bit.ly/EbooPatelGVSU>.

For Immediate Release
October 1, 2015

MEDIA NOTE: ArtPrize events coordinator available for interviews

There is a lot more to ArtPrize than the wide variety of art displayed throughout Grand Rapids. What may not be known are the special events taking place in connection with the international festival.

Ryan Murphy, special events coordinator for ArtPrize, is available to give a behind-the-scenes look at the receptions and parties planned for artists and community members.

Murphy graduated from Grand Valley State University in April with a degree in hospitality and tourism management. He served as an ArtPrize intern in 2014, as part of a course on festival and event management. His skills and leadership led to his current position, planning 15 special events in a matter of weeks.

Murphy can be reached by email at events@artprize.org.

For more information, contact University Communications at Grand Valley State University at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

October 1, 2014

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Great Lakes History Conference to focus on revolution, reform and rebellion

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The roles of revolutions, reforms and rebellions in U.S. history will be addressed during more than 20 presentations at the 41st annual Great Lakes History Conference at Grand Valley State University.

All conference events will take place Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10, in the Kirkhof Center Grand River Room on the Allendale Campus.

“The areas of revolution, reform and rebellion are relevant to any area of historical study, and to anyone interested in understanding the political, social and cultural debates of our time,” said Gordon Andrews, assistant professor of history and executive director for the Michigan Council of History Education. “The issues of memory and agency are also often lost in broad narratives. Only after understanding the nuanced interactions of memory and agency can we begin to form more mature understandings of the past and our present.”

Fritz Fischer, professor of history and history education at University of Northern Colorado, will present his keynote address October 9 at 7 p.m. His presentation, “Teaching Revolution, Reform and Rebellion (and Those Who Want to Prevent It),” is free and open to the public. The Michigan Council for History Education’s (MCHE) Teachers of the Year Awards Ceremony will precede the address.

Anthony Chase, professor of diplomacy and world affairs at Occidental College, will also give a keynote address, “Rights, Revolution and Reform: Sexuality, Agency and Change in Interdisciplinary Perspective,” during a luncheon on October 10 at 11:45 a.m. Registration is required for this presentation.

The conference will also include roundtable discussions; scholarly panels with educators, librarians, archivists and public historians; and presentations of research given by both graduate and undergraduate students.

Registration, which can be completed through the beginning of the conference on October 9, is required for panels, sessions and lunches. Conference fees are \$40 for faculty, teachers and MCHE members, and \$20 for students and community members.

The conference is sponsored by Grand Valley’s History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and MCHE.

The Great Lakes History Conference was established in 1975 as a means to allow faculty from educational institutions in the Midwest to present their research to colleagues and to cultivate interdisciplinary work. The conference has since evolved and now bridges the divide between universities and the general public by attracting educators, graduate students, public historians and independent scholars from across the world.

For more details and online registration, visit www.gvsu.edu/history.

For immediate release

October 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Symphony Orchestra, local students unite for day of learning, performing

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 60 students from 23 Michigan high school and home school orchestras will join the Grand Valley State University Symphony Orchestra for a day of rehearsals and master classes, as well as an evening concert, during this year's String Leadership Day.

Beginning October 17 at 9 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus, students will rehearse under the direction of Grand Valley music faculty and this year's guest conductor, Raphael Jimenez, orchestra director at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Select students will have the opportunity to perform solos for a chance to be nominated as "Best of the Day," allowing them to perform their solos during the evening concert, which will take place at 7 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre located in the Performing Arts Center.

"String Leadership Day is an invaluable experience for these high school students who get to work with a top conductor, work collaboratively with Grand Valley students, gain friendships and learn a great deal about making music during the sectionals, rehearsals and master classes," said Henry Duitman, GVSU Symphony Orchestra director.

The day's activities and sessions will also include a mini-recital by the GVSU Faculty String Trio, as well as a performance by the GVSU Chamber Orchestra during the evening concert.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/orchestra or call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

For immediate release

October 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Jonestown massacre survivor to share story at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — On November 18, 1978, in what became known as the “Jonestown Massacre,” more than 900 members of an American commune called the Peoples Temple died in a mass suicide-murder. Laura Johnston Kohl was one of only 87 people to survive the incident.

Johnston Kohl will speak about her experiences at Jonestown and life after the tragic event at Grand Valley State University **Monday, October 12, at 7 p.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room on the Allendale Campus.**

The ordeal took place at the Jonestown settlement in the South American nation of Guyana, which was designed to be an agricultural haven and community. On the day of the tragedy, Jonestown gunmen murdered U.S. Rep. Leo Ryan (California), and four members of his delegation. The group traveled to the settlement to investigate claims of abuse. That same day, Jim Jones, the congregation’s leader, ordered his followers to ingest a cyanide-laced fruit drink while armed guards stood by.

Johnston Kohl joined Peoples Temple in 1970 and was an active member of the group until it ended. At the time of the massacre, Johnston Kohl was living in a Peoples Temple communal home in Georgetown with 50 other members acting as a supply procurer.

"When the order came via radio message to commit suicide, Laura was sent by the house secretary, Sharon, to gather other Peoples Temple leadership to address the situation," said Heather Van Wormer, associate professor of anthropology and presentation coordinator. "Those leadership individuals, including Jim Jones' son, put a stop to it all. They wanted to go to Jonestown as well, but it was too late."

Johnston Kohl is currently a bilingual educator, member of both Read Local San Diego and the Speakers’ Bureau of The Jonestown Institute, as well as a board member of the Communal Studies Association.

She will also speak at the Grand Rapids Public Library on Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m., and visit multiple classes while at Grand Valley.

This presentation is being sponsored by Grand Valley’s Anthropology Department, Political Science Department, School of Communications, History Department, Latin American Studies Department, Religious Studies program and Frederik Meijer Honors College.

For more information, contact Heather Van Wormer at vanwormh@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8673.

For immediate release

October 8, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Annual Hispanic awards gala to be held on GVSU campus

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Committee to Honor César E. Chávez will host its 11th annual Excellence Scholarship and Community Awards Gala on Wednesday, October 14, at Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will be the guest speaker, community members will be honored, and scholarships will be presented to young leaders. The black tie event will run from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Eberhard Center, 301 W. Fulton St.

"This 11th annual Hispanic Excellence Scholarship and Awards Gala will showcase game changers not only in the Hispanic community but, more importantly, in the greater Grand Rapids community and beyond," said the Honorable Lupe Ramos-Montigny.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$500 for a table of 10. RSVP by contacting Jennifer Smith at jesmith@grcc.edu or (616) 234-3390.

"The event will highlight the accomplishments of our future leaders as well as the significant contributions from those who have been historical pioneers in our diverse community," said Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley.

At the event, Grand Valley leaders will announce a new scholarship partnership with the Committee to Honor César E. Chávez, and will recognize the first recipients of the GVSU Lupe Ramos-Montigny "Si Sé Puede" Legacy Endowed Scholarship.

The committee includes representatives from Aquinas College, Calvin College, Davenport University, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Valley State University, Kendall College of Art and Design, and Western Michigan University School of Social Work.

For immediate release

October 8, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos of Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Kwame Dawes are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

Bob Marley lyrics to be examined during GVSU Fall Arts Celebration Poetry Night

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Examining the lyrics of late reggae superstar Bob Marley from a poetic perspective will be just one of the topics of discussion during this year's Fall Arts Celebration Poetry Night, which will bring two internationally acclaimed authors to Grand Valley State University.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Kwame Dawes" will take place Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Eberhard Center located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A book signing and reception will follow the readings.

Born in Ghana in 1962, Dawes spent most of his childhood and early adult life in Jamaica. As a writer of 16 collections of poetry, as well as fiction, nonfiction and plays, Dawes is heavily influenced by the rhythms and textures of songs cherished during his youth, including reggae music. His book, *Bob Marley: Lyrical Genius*, is currently the most authoritative study of the lyrics of the late musician. His most recent title, *Duppy Conqueror* (2013), shortlisted for the PEN Open Book Award. Dawes is currently the Glenna Luschei editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska, where he is also Chancellor's Professor of English. Dawes also serves as a faculty member of Cave Canem and an educator in the master of fine arts program at Pacific University in Oregon.

Nezhukumatathil is the author of three books of poetry: *Lucky Fish* (2011), *At the Drive-In Volcano* (2007) and *Miracle Fruit* (2003). *Lucky Fish* won the gold medal in poetry for the 2011 Independent Publishers Book Awards, and was featured in *The New York Times* and on the "PBS NewsHour Art Beat." Her most recent chapbook is *Lace & Pyrite*, a collaboration of nature poems with poet Ross Gay. Nezhukumatathil is an associate professor of English at the State University of New York in Fredonia.

Patricia Clark, Writing Department chair, said Dawes and Nezhukumatathil personify her "excellence criteria," which she utilizes when choosing authors each year for this event. The criteria consists of crowd engagement, the use of fresh and vibrant language and deep material introspection.

"With poetry, you really want to hear it live. It's a lot like reading a play. Do you really want to read a play? No, you want to go and see it live on stage," Clark said. "This is very similar to poetry. You want to hear the poet read his or her work."

Since its start in 2003, Fall Arts Celebration has featured some of the preeminent writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars of today.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2185.

For Immediate Release

October 7, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Seidman College named a Best Business School

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University has been named one of "The Best 295 Business Schools" in the nation by The Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review collected data in five categories: academic experience, admissions selectivity, careers, interesting professors and accessible professors. The rankings are based on a survey of business school students who are asked about academics, student body and campus life.

For inclusion in the guide, The Best 295 Business Schools: 2016 Edition, data was analyzed from more than 22,000 surveys taken by students from what are considered to be the best AACSB-accredited business schools across the country.

Grand Valley graduate students in the MBA program said they appreciate their "smart" and "efficient" professors who work diligently to "instill real-world principles" in students and know how to demonstrate solutions to everyday business problems. Students described classes as "cutting-edge" and said professors have real-world experience, which makes a difference in the quality of education they receive at Grand Valley.

For more information, visit www.princetonreview.com/business-school-rankings.aspx.

For Immediate Release

October 7, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU water quality expert discusses Michigan's Blue Economy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water, giving Michigan tremendous geographic advantage compared to the rest of the world.

Alan Steinman, director of the Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University, will discuss the importance of fresh water quality for Michigan's economic growth as the featured speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture.

His presentation, "Michigan's Blue Economy: Why Water Matters" will take place October 15, from 8-9 a.m. in the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.

Steinman will provide a historical perspective of water's role in Michigan's development, and assess future opportunities for economic development around water.

Steinman has published more than 135 scientific articles and book chapters, and has been awarded more than \$50 million in grants for scientific and engineering projects. He has also testified before Congress and both the Michigan and Florida state legislatures.

For more information, contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100.

For Immediate Release

October 6, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ihzrwys5ndv04rm/AADUmzeLzi2IqKEI3fj5c92Ja?dl=0>

Current business trends: Slower growth continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — "Growing, but still slowing," is how a Grand Valley State University economist described the local economy for September.

Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business, surveyed local business leaders and his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of September.

For the first time since 2009, the employment index turned negative at -3, down from +7 in August and down even more from the +25 reported in July.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) edged up to +13 from +5. The production index rose to +12 from +3, and the index of purchases dropped to +0 from +12.

"The world and U.S. economies are continuing to slow, so it stands to reason that we can expect at least some flattening at the local level as well," said Long.

Long said despite new types of firms coming to West Michigan, the local economy is still heavily dependent on automotive parts producers, office furniture and aerospace for growth.

"All three of these industries reported stable conditions for September, although a couple of respondents noted a significant uptick for the month," said Long. "Some of our capital equipment firms are starting to feel the pinch from foreign competition and are no longer as optimistic. As a group, our industrial distributors reported business conditions for September to be the same as August."

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 can be found in the dropbox link provided above under media note.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

October 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Former United Way CEO to discuss design thinking at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A former United Way CEO will visit Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus to discuss how he has utilized design thinking to tackle social issues facing his hometown of Detroit.

Michael Brennan, CEO and founder of the social innovation center Civilla, will present "Social Impact Design: A Personal Discovery of Design Thinking's Role in Social Change," Wednesday, October 14, at 6 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center's Pere Marquette Room. The presentation will be preceded by a reception at 5 p.m. and conclude with a Q&A session.

"Michael believes that most of the caring systems that address social issues are conducted through an industrial model and often have institutional interest at the center," said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director at Grand Valley. "His personal journey toward the use of design thinking in driving social change has taught him that design is foundational to creating enduring solutions."

Prior to his time with Civilla, Brennan served United Way in various capacities for 30 years, including 20 years as CEO of United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

Registration for this event is required by October 9. For more information and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking/socialimpact.

For immediate release

October 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for events are available via Dropbox at <http://qvsu.edu/s/Y8>.

Grand Valley State University November 2015 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Fall Arts Celebration

Grand Valley State University has a rich history of providing events and programs for the community centered on the arts. Fall Arts Celebration 2015 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers present: "Meditation in Motion: Virtuosity and Imagination in Dance – Innovation and Modernity in Music"

Monday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur

Dance performance followed by reception

This year's Fall Arts Celebration dance event will feature one of the foremost contemporary Asian-American dance companies in the U.S. Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers will present an evening of dance set to music composed by Grand Valley alumnus Dan Rhode, '12, and performed by Grand Valley's award-winning New Music Ensemble. Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers take movement-oriented Asian traditions, such as martial arts or Tai Chi, and create a language that follows musical and other choreographic ideals. The internationally known Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers celebrate the ability of dance to integrate body, spirit and mind, inviting audiences to engage their own journeys of self discovery.

Distinguished Academic Lecturer Kip Thorne

"Discovery and Collaboration"

Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m.

2nd floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Lecture followed by book signing and reception

Kip Thorne is a theoretical physicist whose research has focused on Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, as well as astrophysics with an emphasis on wormholes, time travel, relativistic stars, black holes and gravitational waves. Formerly a faculty member at Caltech, Thorne has since transitioned into a career of writing and filmmaking. The Einstein Medal winner served as an executive producer for the 2014 film "Interstellar" and co-authored *The Science of Interstellar*, which explores the physics behind the movie. Thorne's lecture at Grand Valley will discuss the marriage of visual arts and scientific discovery.

For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts.

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Arts at Noon Series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University brings world-renowned artists to West Michigan. All Arts at Noon concerts will take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, November 11 – Alhaji Papa Susso

Alhaji Papa Susso is a master kora (African harp-lute) player from The Gambia, West Africa. Susso hails from a long line of Griots (traditional oral historians) of the Mandinka people. He was taught the kora by his father and has been playing since the age of five. Susso has performed at Carnegie Hall and made appearances with the Detroit Symphony, St. Louis Symphony and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His ensemble will present a concert of traditional African music and dance.

For more information about Arts at Noon, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

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22nd Annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

The Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan’s oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley’s Shakespeare Festival activities each season.

Bard To Go presents “Witty Fools and Foolish Wits”

Saturday, November 7, at 1 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Free and open to the public

Through the eyes of the Bard’s fool characters, audiences will journey through the scenes from Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” “As You Like It,” “The Tempest,” “The Two Gentlemen of Verona,” and “King Lear.” Shakespeare’s fools and clowns are more than just comedians, but rather they often turn out to be the wisest of his characters, speaking the truth with wit and humor.

For more information about the 2015 Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

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GV Writers Series

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University’s Allendale Campus as part of the 2015-16 Grand Valley Writers Series. The Grand Valley Writers Series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students.

Nina McConigley

Thursday, November 17

Craft talk – 2:30-3:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215

Reading and book signing – 6 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Nina McConigley is the author of the story collection *Cowboys and East Indians*, which won the 2014 PEN Open Book Award and a High Plains Book Award. She has been a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for *The Best New American Voices*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Orion*, *Salon*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *American Short Fiction* and *The Asian American Literary Review*, among others. She teaches at the University of Wyoming and at the MFA program at the Warren Wilson Program for Writers.

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Theatre at Grand Valley presents "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992"

Written by Anna Deavere Smith

Directed by visiting professor Michael Mueller

November 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, at 7:30 p.m.

November 15, 22, at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors, faculty, staff and alumni; \$6 for students and groups

Based on the riots in Los Angeles after the Rodney King trial and verdict, this play explores the words and emotions of those involved in the events. As the *Los Angeles Times* reported, this play "is among the most durable artworks to emerge from the ashes of L.A.'s 1992 riots."

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Octubafest Concerts

November 1, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

November 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Grand Valley will host unique performances featuring members of the GVSU Tuba and Euphonium Studio as part of the fourth annual Octubafest, a celebration of the tuba and euphonium as solo instruments. Octubafest concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484, or visit www.gvsu.edu/music.

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Health care resource allocation topic of DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – National experts will give a presentation on health care resource allocation at the DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy presented by Grand Valley State University.

"Ethics of Resource Allocation across the Lifespan" will take place October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St. NE in Grand Rapids. The event is free and open to the public; register at gvsu.edu/colloquy.

Presenters are Frederick Zimmerman, professor of health policy and management at UCLA, and Mildred Solomon, president and chief executive officer for the Hastings Center. The event will be moderated by the Rev. Julius Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

Zimmerman is an economist with a background in institutional and behavioral economics. He published one of the earliest agent-based models in economics, which showed how the poor managed assets so conservatively that they ended up with low returns. Since then his research has focused on ways in which economic status influences health outcomes.

Solomon is president of the Hastings Center, a world-renowned bioethics institute. She is also a professor at Harvard Medical School, and directs the school's Fellowship in Medical Ethics. She has served on committees for the National Academies of Science, and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation.

Medenblik is beginning his fifth year as president of Calvin Theological Seminary. He started his career as an attorney in Florida in the 1980s and returned to school to receive a master's degree in divinity in 1995 from Calvin Theological Seminary. He founded New Life Christian Reformed Church in Illinois in 1996.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, oversees the series. She said the community and Grand Valley students will benefit tremendously from hearing experts discuss the ethical issues medical professionals and society are facing.

About the colloquy

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy was established in 2005 by Richard and Helen DeVos in response to a need for a forum where topics of medical and ethical significance could be discussed under guidance from experts. Grand Valley became the host of this biannual medical ethics speaker series in June 2015, thanks to a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation. The gift supports the continuation of the colloquy as part of the university's efforts to provide outreach and education for students, the community and medical ethics centers worldwide. The series has tackled topics such as genetic testing, end-of-life care and health care reform.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/colloquy.

For immediate release

October 13, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Geraldine Richmond is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/00a>.

Award-winning chemist to speak at GVSU Ott Lecture

ALLENDALE, Mich. — An award-winning chemist and educator, recognized for her research regarding what happens when solids, liquids and gases combine, will be the featured speaker at the fall Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry at Grand Valley State University.

Geraldine Richmond is currently Presidential Chair and professor of chemistry at University of Oregon. She is also the founder and chair of COACH, a grass-roots organization assisting in the advancement of women scientists in both the U.S. and developing countries.

While visiting Grand Valley, Richmond will give a public lecture, and a chemistry seminar for students, both in the Grand River Room located in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

Her lecture, “Surf, Sink or Swim: Understanding How Environmentally Important Molecules Behave at Water Surfaces,” will take place Tuesday, October 20, at 6 p.m. with a preceding reception at 5 p.m.

Richmond’s seminar, “Going Nonlinear to Study Molecular Assembly at Oil-Water Interfaces,” will take place Wednesday, October 21, at 1 p.m.

“Dr. Richmond studies what happens at the interfaces between and among phases of matter,” said Jessica VandenPlas, assistant professor of chemistry. “For example, how do oil and water behave when they are mixed? If you have a beaker of water, what is happening at the interface between the water and the air? Dr. Richmond uses computer simulations to do calculations, as well as uses optical spectroscopy, the interaction of light and matter, to study these interfaces.”

Richmond has also served on many science boards and advisory panels, including the U.S. State Department as the 2015-2016 Science Envoy for the Mekong River countries, and the National Science Board as a Presidential Appointee. She additionally acts as the current president of American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry was created and endowed by a gift from Arnold C. and Marion Ott. Arnold Ott was a leading chemist and entrepreneur in West Michigan. He was also one of the co-founders of Grand Valley and served on the Board of Trustees for 28 years.

For Immediate Release

October 13, 2015

Contact: University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Day of volunteering will honor GVSU alumna who died

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Friends and family members of a Grand Valley State University alumna who died a year ago are organizing an annual day of volunteering in her honor.

Shelby Fazio, from Lapeer, graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in biology. She was killed October 26 while living in Florida, where she completed the Disney College Program. Shine on for Shelby, a day of volunteering, will take place October 24.

Lee Finch, a close friend of Fazio's, said Fazio was a lifelong volunteer.

"The purpose of Shine on for Shelby is to continue to shine the light of Shelby and recognize all the good she did during her life," said Finch. "Whether you knew Shelby or not, we're encouraging everyone to volunteer for anything they are passionate about on the Saturday closest to the date of her death."

The Circle K Grand Valley chapter, which Fazio led as a student, will participate. Circle K is a collegiate leadership and volunteer program of Kiwanis International.

Two professors established a [memorial scholarship](#) in honor of Fazio. The scholarship will primarily provide study abroad assistance for students majoring in biology and natural resource management. Fazio studied abroad in Africa.

Shine on for Shelby falls on Make a Difference Day, a national day of volunteering.

Volunteer efforts can be shared on the Shine on for Shelby Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ShineOnForShelby.

For more information, email shineonforshelby@gmail.com.

For Immediate Release

October 14, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: High-resolution photos of the recycling center prototype and Nick Baine are available for media use via Dropbox here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/76yo0i5h8pqrvy0/AAAPfSu-KtmpA0VLM85OYHMea?dl=0>

Grand Valley completes sustainable rural recycling prototype

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A prototype of a portable rural recycling center that's powered by renewable energy and dramatically reduces operating costs has been completed through a partnership between Hastings Township and Grand Valley State University.

The prototype unit is a fully functional recycling center that can be trucked to rural locations where curbside recycling pickup is not cost-efficient, as well as places where a central transfer station is too far away for some residents to make the trip.

"What we've put together, in partnership with Hastings Township officials, is a portable recycling center that can be duplicated and placed in rural and remote locations," said Nick Baine, assistant professor of engineering at Grand Valley. "It's efficient because it runs on solar power and recycled batteries, and minimizes operational costs because township staff can use remote cameras to see exactly when the recycling bins need to be emptied."

The prototype currently sits in the parking lot of the Hastings Township Hall, and is essentially a used semi trailer, with some important modifications. Windows and doors were cut into the sides to allow for recyclable materials to be dropped off, and it has four solar panels installed on the roof. The panels allow the center to be completely self-sufficient so they can be placed in spaces where there are no power lines.

The solar panels send power through a system to the bank of batteries inside the unit, which allows lights and security systems to continue to work at night or on cloudy days.

The power bank is made of post-vehicle-application lithium-ion batteries, which are commonly found in newer hybrid and electric vehicles, and can power the recycling center for up to three days without sunshine.

Grand Valley's Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, or MAREC, was also part of the project. MAREC program manager Kim Walton worked with the township for three years in the planning stages of the project and worked with a solar installer to design parts of the system. MAREC will collect data on the unit.

The GVSU portion of the project has been funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovation Technology Administration University Transportation Centers program, through the Mineta National Transportation Research Consortium with matching funds provided by Grand Valley.

For more information, contact Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

For immediate release

October 16, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Historical photos of the Grand Rapids Chicks are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/00k>.

GVSU documentary explores West Michigan women in baseball during World War II

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — When thinking about professional baseball in Michigan, team names like the Detroit Tigers or West Michigan Whitecaps may sound more familiar than the Grand Rapids Chicks or Muskegon Lassies. That's because the latter are names of lesser-known women's baseball teams that competed in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) during World War II.

A new documentary, which has been developed over the past 10 years by Grand Valley State University students, faculty, staff and alumni, aims to educate audiences about the AAGPBL and its impact on women in sports.

"A Team of Their Own: The First Professional Baseball League for Women," which was produced by the GVSU Veterans History Project, includes interviews with more than 40 women who played in the AAGPBL. The women describe their careers, from training and tryouts to playing across the U.S., while also reflecting on the overall impact of the league in regard to women in sports.

"Many of these women were very young when they entered the league, and there they were at the age of 15 or 16 doing something that was virtually unheard of for grown women to do," said James Smither, co-producer and GVSU Veterans History Project director. "They tell their stories in ways that all sorts of people will find engaging, and may be particularly meaningful for girls and young women wanting to do things that go beyond what most people think they should be doing, or are capable of doing."

Smither added that the documentary will travel across the U.S. to screen in most of the cities where AAGPBL teams played. There will be three screenings in West Michigan:

Wednesday, October 21, at 7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Thursday, October 29, at 6 p.m.

Celebration! Cinema Carousel, Muskegon

Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Grand Rapids Public Museum

The AAGPBL, developed by former Chicago Cubs' owner Philip K. Wrigley in 1943, existed for 12 years. The Grand Rapids Chicks played in Michigan from 1945 until the league folded in 1954. The team won the league championship in 1953 and played most of their games next to the old Grand Rapids South High School. The Muskegon Lassies joined the league in 1946 before relocating and becoming the Kalamazoo Lassies in 1950.

The GVSU Veterans History Project was established in 2006 to serve as an archiving and collecting partner with the Library of Congress. Under the direction of Smither, and with assistance from area schools, libraries, museums and historical societies, the university has undertaken several projects to collect and preserve the stories of U.S. veterans, as well as other participants in, or witnesses to, the American experience during times of war.

For more information, contact Andrea Lenneman, GVSU Veterans History Project public relations and event coordinator, at lennema@mail.gvsu.edu or visit www.gvsu.edu/wibdoc.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2015

Contact: University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to celebrate Founders Day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University community will celebrate the founding of the university during a day of events and activities.

The third annual Founders Day will celebrate the 282 individuals who came together to start the vision and foundation for Grand Valley. Bill Seidman, recognized as the founder of Grand Valley, convened some of these individuals to discuss what an institution of higher education would look like in the Grand Rapids area.

The celebration will take place Thursday, October 22, because the actual date of observance (October 25) falls on a Sunday.

The day will start with "birthday cake." Cupcakes will be handed out from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Allendale Campus at the Mary Idema Pew Library, Cook Carillon Tower, Fresh Food Company and Kleiner Commons. Cupcakes will also be available on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus at the L. William Seidman Center, DeVos Center and Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

At noon, the WHOJ living centers will be celebrated during a reopening ceremony at the courtyard in between Ott and Weed living centers on north campus. The living centers are named after some of the university's founders: Ella Koeze-Weed, Icie Macy Hoobler, Arnold C. Ott and Paul A. Johnson.

During the ceremony, President Thomas J. Haas will give remarks and introduce a time capsule that will be opened on Grand Valley's 100th birthday in 2060.

Throughout the day, a 282-flag display will be on the Allendale Campus next to Zumberge Pond, and on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus in the DeVos Center courtyard.

This year's Founders Day celebration falls on the same year as the university's 55th anniversary.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/foundersday. Learn more about Grand Valley's history at www.gvsu.edu/anniversary.

For immediate release

October 19, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU interfaith event to explore religions hindering societal progress

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The potential for religions to hinder the progress of societies across the world will be the topic of discussion during the Grand Valley State University Kaufman Interfaith Institute's Triennial Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue conference.

The event will take place October 29 from 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the L.V. Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

P. Douglas Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director, said this year's theme is "To Repair the World: How Does Religion Help or Hinder."

"Our world is not perfect and you could say it is broken," Kindschi said. "As faith communities, we have the responsibility to respond to these problems and yet sometimes the religions contribute to the brokenness of the world. How can we help in this effort and how can we be aware of ways in which religions actually get in the way?"

The day-long program's presenters include Rabbi Donniel Hartman, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute and director of iEngage Project; Cynthia Campbell, president emerita of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago; and Ingrid Mattson, London and Windsor chair of Islamic studies at Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario.

After facilitating individual presentations and group discussions throughout the day, Hartman, Campbell and Mattson will present "Passages from Our Traditions" from 7-9 p.m.

The Triennial Dialogue is free and open to the public, however registration is requested. For more information and to register, visit <http://gvsu.edu/interfaith/triennial-dialogue-29.htm>.

The Kaufman Interfaith Institute, in conjunction with the West Michigan Hindu Temple, will also be hosting an Interfaith Diwali Celebration October 30 from 6-9 p.m. at Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. NE) in Grand Rapids. This free and open-to-the-public celebration will feature special cultural dishes, music and dancing. To reserve a seat, call Fountain Street Church at (616) 459-8386.

For immediate release

October 19, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media Note: Photos of the speakers are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/000>

GVSU announces speakers for 2016 MLK Commemoration Week

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week will feature a prominent journalist and author, and the social activist behind #BlackLivesMatter.

Touré is well-known for his social commentary. He is a former NBC contributor and former MSNBC co-host of "The Cycle." A contributing editor to "Rolling Stone" and other publications, he is the author of several books, including "Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness? What It Means to Be Black Now."

Patrisse Cullors is a Los Angeles-based social activist who, with two other people, started the movement #BlackLivesMatter in 2013, taking their inspiration from the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. She is the truth and reinvestment campaign director for the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

Commemoration week activities will run January 18-23. Touré is the keynote speaker on Monday, January 18, in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus; Cullors will give a presentation on January 20 at the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus, which will be simulcast to an audience in the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. All events are free and open to the public.

It will mark the fourth year that classes have been canceled on the King holiday, allowing more students, faculty and staff members to participate in events.

New in 2016, a Teach-In will be held during the commemoration week, on January 21. Grand Valley has hosted Teach-Ins for the past two years in the spring. Organizers said holding the Teach-In during commemoration week activities will deepen and advance social justice work that has been inspired by King.

Touré will also speak on January 18 at the 30th annual Grand Rapids Community College program and on January 19 at Davenport University.

For more on the speakers or Grand Valley MLK commemoration week events, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MAREC opens doors for tours, presentations

MUSKEGON, Mich. — MAREC, Grand Valley State University's business incubator, will host an open house on October 29. The event is an opportunity to learn about the facility and what is being planned at MAREC for the coming year.

MAREC is a leading-edge business and technology incubator located on Muskegon Lake in one of Michigan's original SmartZones. MAREC provides personalized services to selected early-stage businesses, including business planning, networking, funding, skill development and rental space. The facility opened in 2004.

MAREC has a variety of services in place to assist entrepreneurs, start-up companies and established corporations. Services include product and service commercialization planning, product test planning, customer needs assessment, individualized business consulting, assistance with technology transfer, assistance with patent protection, assistance with funding opportunities and various business training workshops.

"There are a lot of interesting and exciting things happening at MAREC, and we want to share these with the community," said Kevin Ricco, MAREC's director. "People see this building while they are driving through Muskegon every day, and some of them have no idea what we do. We want to change that."

MAREC First Annual Open House
October 29, from 5-7 p.m.
200 Viridian Drive, Muskegon, MI 49440

The open house will feature tours of the facility, presentations about the work that will be happening in the coming year and opportunities to learn more about the entrepreneurial, start-up businesses that are current MAREC tenants. There will be live music and refreshments.

The event is free and open to the public.

Get directions to MAREC here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/00h>

For more information, visit: gvsu.edu/marec

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Nixon: The story behind America's 37th president

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University is partnering with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library and Museum to host a special event that will analyze and explore the many aspects of the presidency of Richard Nixon.

The presentation will be given by Evan Thomas, the *New York Times* best-selling author of "Being Nixon: A Man Divided."

In "Being Nixon," Thomas peels away the layers of a complex man who became the 37th president. Thomas' presentation will provide a surprising look at a man who was capable of great bravery, but also exceptional deviousness — a balanced examination of a president often reduced to a caricature of himself.

Evan Thomas and "Being Nixon: A Man Divided"

Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m.

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Auditorium

To RSVP, email ford_events@nara.gov or call the Ford Museum at (616) 254-0384.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org

For immediate release

October 20, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Former Second City cast member to discuss improv in business at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A former cast member of Chicago's illustrious comedy theatre "The Second City" will visit Grand Valley State University to share insights about how businesses and individuals can better adapt to unpredictable changes using improvisation.

Mary Jane Pories, Fishladder, Inc. CEO, will present "Improvisation: Wild Brainstorming" Tuesday, October 27, from 6-6:45 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The presentation, sponsored by Grand Valley's Design Thinking Initiative, will be preceded by a reception from 5-6 p.m. and followed by a Q&A session.

John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director, said improvisation is a key component to the design thinking process.

"The design thinking process requires a free exchange of ideas," said Berry. "The tools of improvisation support creative ideation resulting in a wealth of imaginative possibilities. The improvisational approach is a fast, fun approach to identifying new solutions to old problems."

Pories founded Fishladder, Inc. in 1999, using her more than 30 years of experience in teaching, performing and applying improvisation in the workplace to engage others in the power of "purposeful play" and collaborative problem solving. Fishladder currently serves national and international clients ranging from Fortune 500 businesses to non-profits. Pories also serves on the Global Applied Improv Network Board and recently wrote the book *Yes, And! Harnessing the Power of Improvisation to Transform your Life and Work*.

Space is limited for this presentation. Registration is requested at www.gvsu.edu/designthinking/theory. For more information, contact Berry at berryr@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

October 21, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students, faculty to perform Homer's "Odyssey" within 24 hours

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University students, faculty and staff will perform one of the oldest poems in the western world, Homer's *Odyssey*, all within a 24-hour period known as the HOMERathon.

The fifth installation of the Classic Department's event, themed "Odyssey of the Mind," begins Tuesday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. and concludes Wednesday, October 28. All events will take place on the Allendale Campus.

"The HOMERathon is designed to bring the oral performance of the Homeric epics to life and also to connect the poems and their themes to modern life," said Peter Anderson, Classics Department chair.

To accomplish this goal, Anderson said this year's keynote address will be given by Ruth Scodel, the D.R. Shackleton-Bailey Collegiate Professor of Greek and Latin at the University of Michigan. Scodel will present "Reading Other Minds in the *Odyssey*" when the event begins at 6:30 p.m., October 27, in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room.

"The keynote address will focus on 'theory of the mind,' or the ability to attribute mental states to others and to identify their desires and intentions, and Odysseus, who is a mind-knower par excellence," Anderson said. "One of his special skills is to experience and understand ways of thinking different from his own, and to harness that understanding for his own purposes. The importance of this idea is a critical component of a liberal education."

Following Scodel's presentation, students will begin the marathon of poem performances around the Allendale Campus, including near Zumberge Pond, the Cook-DeWitt Center and Mary Idema Pew Library. Throughout the 24-hour period, there will also be various activities, such as a Homeric-themed scavenger hunt and screening of the Joel and Ethan Coen film, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/classics or call the Classics Department at (616) 331-3600.

For immediate release

October 21, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: Photos from past chemistry week events are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/00v>

GVSU, other colleges host hands-on chemistry demonstration at Woodland Mall

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Students, faculty and staff members from Grand Valley State University, along with representatives from other area colleges, will celebrate National Chemistry Week by hosting interactive science demonstrations for K-12 students at Woodland Mall.

The event will take place Saturday, October 24, from noon-4 p.m. with demonstrations taking place near the Macy's entrance.

The event will include demonstration booths sponsored by the Local American Chemical Society and chemistry clubs from Grand Valley, Hope College, Aquinas College and Grand Rapids Community College.

K-12 students can submit handmade illustrated poems incorporating this year's National Chemistry Week theme, "Chemistry Colors our World." A \$25 gift card will be awarded to winners in four age groups, who will advance to a national competition for a chance to win a \$300 first prize.

Event sponsors are Amway and Gentex.

National Chemistry Week has been celebrated for more than 20 years. For more information on the illustrated poem contest, click [here](#).

For immediate release

October 21, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA-Café Murder, short plays set for GVSU student-produced Performance Studio Series

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University theater majors will bring a murder mystery to life on stage during “Café Murder,” as well as a string of short plays, as part of this year’s Performance Studio Series.

Performances of “Café Murder” and “All in the Timing: A Collection of One-Act Plays by David Ives” will take place October 25 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and October 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center’s Louis Armstrong Theatre on the Allendale Campus.

Anthony Sanchez, writing and theater major, will be at the helm of “Café Murder” in his first experience directing a Grand Valley production.

“In this production, Rosemary chooses to celebrate her birthday with her sisters and friends at Café Murder, but her self-centered attitude may turn her birthday into her ‘death day,’” Sanchez said. “When tragedy strikes, it’s up to junior detective Reginal Harris to discover ‘who done it.’ Expectations versus reality is a big part of the piece as it takes the over-dramatized aspects of what we want to come from our hopes and pokes fun at them.”

Three short productions, including “Sure Thing,” “The Philadelphia” and “English Made Simple,” will follow “Café Murder.” The shorts will be directed by Kimberlee Griggs, senior theater and psychology major, who is also debuting in a directorial role at Grand Valley. Griggs said her biggest challenge in producing these three short plays has been guiding each individual piece of the show.

“The last time I directed, all of the technical aspects were decided for me and I just had to worry about the play, but this time I am working and communicating with all areas of the process, from designers to stage managers,” Griggs said. “In the future, it will be especially valuable to be a well-rounded artist. Not only does it add to your flexibility in what types of jobs you can perform, but it also makes collaborating with others so much easier.”

Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office or by calling (616) 331-2300.

The Performance Studio Series allows upper-level theater students to put into practical use the skills they learn in the classroom through directing, lighting, set design and costume design. The 2015-16 P.S. Series schedule can be found at www.gvsu.edu/theater.

For immediate release

October 22, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of all Cello Fest! performers are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/00F>.

Cello Fest! to spotlight all-star musicians at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will welcome nationally renowned cellists to the Allendale Campus October 25-28 to perform for audiences and collaborate with students for Cello Fest!

This year's Cello Fest! will include performances by Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello at Grand Valley; Lee Copenhaver, associate professor of musicology and music theory at Grand Valley; Benjamin Whitcomb, professor of cello and music theory at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; and Gregory Hamilton, associate professor of cello and double bass at Concordia College. Emilio Colón, associate professor of music at Indiana University Bloomington, will conduct a master class for students on October 26.

The following Cello Fest! events are free and open to the public:

Benjamin Whitcomb Recital

Sunday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall (room 1325), Performing Arts Center

Laker Cello Choir Concert

Tuesday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, room 1410

Arts at Noon presents Cello Fest!

Wednesday, October 28, at noon

Cook-DeWitt Center

For more information about the Arts at Noon concert series, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Js>.

For more information, contact Pablo Mahave-Veglia at (616) 331-3386 or mahavep@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

October 22, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students to compete for local internship during advertising competition

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Grand Valley State University students are aiming to win the admiration of local advertising professionals during the annual Yardsticks advertising competition.

Yardsticks allows entrants to work as individuals or in groups to develop a marketing campaign for a local business. All competitors work from the same strategy brief and target audience profile provided by the selected client. This year, students will develop a campaign for Macatawa Bank.

Submissions will be presented by students at the public event Wednesday, October 28, at The Ballroom at City Flats (77 Monroe Center) in Grand Rapids beginning at 7 p.m.

Creative directors, designers and marketing officers from multiple companies and organizations will attend the event to serve as judges and to provide networking opportunities for students.

During the competition, the judges will first review and critique all 30 entries. They will narrow the field down to the top 10 for a second round of presentations. After round two, the best four entries will receive awards and the opportunity to work as a team, interning with Macatawa Bank while combining their individual campaigns into one idea.

For more information, visit www.theyardsticks.com or contact Frank Blossom, Yardsticks coordinator, at blossomf@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8165.

For Immediate Release

October 22, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Former Campbell Soup CEO to speak at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The former president and CEO of Campbell Soup, who was credited with turning the company around, will give a presentation at Grand Valley State University, November 6.

Doug Conant, who was CEO of Campbell Soup for 10 years, will give a speech, "35 Years in the Rearview Mirror: Life Lessons from the Corporate Journey," as part of the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture series. The event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and registration is required at www.gvsu.edu/seidman.

Conant is a *New York Times* bestselling author with more than 35 years of leadership experience at world-class global companies. In 2011, he founded ConantLeadership, a growing community of people dedicated to improving the quality of leadership. He also serves as chairman of the Kellogg Executive Leadership Institute at Northwestern University as well as chairman of Avon Products.

Doug Conant: Life Lessons from the Corporate Journey
November 6: Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., lecture from 8-9 a.m.
L. William Seidman Center, GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus
50 Front Ave., Grand Rapids

From 2001 to 2011, Conant served as CEO and president of the Campbell Soup Company. He transformed the global leadership team, reconfigured the portfolio, cut costs and made strategic investments. The changes resulted in cumulative shareholder returns in the top tier of the global food industry. Under his leadership, employee engagement at Campbell Soup went from being among the worst in the Fortune 500 to being consistently among the best.

Conant also served as president of Nabisco and worked for General Mills and Kraft Foods.

For more information, contact the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley at (616) 331-7100.

For immediate release

October 26, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration presents Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration dance event will feature one of the foremost contemporary Asian-American dance companies in the U.S.

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers present "Meditations in Motion: Virtuosity and Imagination in Dance – Innovation and Modernity in Music"

Monday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The Philadelphia-based Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers will present an evening of dance set to music composed by Grand Valley alumnus Dan Rhode, '12, and performed by Grand Valley's award-winning New Music Ensemble.

The performance will be preceded by a carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m. featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, university carillonneur, and followed by a reception.

Internationally renowned for their superbly trained dancers and inventive choreography, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers integrate body, spirit and mind into their dances while inviting audiences to engage in their own journeys of self-discovery.

Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair, said the group takes some of the more movement-oriented Asian traditions, such as martial arts or Tai Chi, and creates a language that follows musical and other choreographic ideals.

"It's a coming together of disparate things in music to create a single unified sound, together with the disparate nature of athletic-based movements," Phipps said.

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers performance will be enhanced by the musical styling of the New Music Ensemble. Founded in 2006 by director Bill Ryan, the undergraduate ensemble is actively engaged in the creation of new works promoting the music of our time. The ensemble has released three critically acclaimed recordings that have appeared on "best release" lists by The New York Times, Washington Post, LA Weekly and Time Out Chicago.

Since its start in 2003, Fall Arts Celebration has featured some of the preeminent writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars of today. All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2185.

For immediate release

November 2, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU collaborates with Holland partners for America Recycles Day event

HOLLAND, Mich. — Community experts on recycling and sustainability will give fast-paced presentations during Holland's third annual America Recycles Day, a collaborative effort by the City of Holland, Grand Valley State University Meijer Campus in Holland, and a new nonprofit organization, Green Michigan.

"Where Does My Recycling Go: The Lifecycle of Recycled Materials" is set for Monday, November 9, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave.

Lisa Miller, director of the Meijer Holland Campus, said the event will be similar to TED Talks, with short presentations on a variety of topics. Ken Freestone, Grand Valley student and founder of Green Michigan, will be the emcee.

Freestone said experts will discuss the lifecycles of fabric, electronics, medicine, hazardous waste and more when these materials are recycled. Freestone started Green Michigan, www.greenmichigan.org, as a resource center for environmental concerns.

The November 9 event is part of the Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore series. Visit www.gvsu.edu/holland for more information.

For immediate release

November 4, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Design thinking leaders to visit GVSU for multiple events

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two national leaders in design thinking theory and practice will visit Grand Valley State University to discuss the importance of storytelling and education in design thinking.

Shane Meeker, founder of storyMYTHOS and company historian and corporate storyteller at Procter and Gamble, will present “Story Telling: From Culture Building to Design Thinking and Creative Problem Solving” Wednesday, November 11.

A morning session will be offered on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus in the L. William Seidman Center (room 1008B) from 8:30-10 a.m. An afternoon presentation will take place from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center Grand River Room on the Allendale Campus. Both presentations will be followed by a workshop for a limited number of participants.

“Design Thinking requires good communication and sharing information through stories is one of the best ways to gain a common understanding of an issue, problem or the solution,” said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director at Grand Valley. “Learning how to better communicate serves the Design Thinking Initiative and any situation where good communication is important.”

Meeker is an accomplished storyteller who has helped hundreds of teams, brands and organizations develop the stories they want to create, tell and sell, including The Walt Disney Company, American Express, Columbia Sportswear and General Motors. Meeker currently teaches graduate story-based classes at the University of Cincinnati’s DAAP School of Design, and also teaches in the Illinois Institute of Technology’s masters of design program.

Hugh Musick will present “Design Thinking at IIT and Impacts on Organizations” Tuesday, November 17, from 6-7 p.m. in the L. William Seidman Center (room 1008B). The presentation will be preceded by a reception from 5-6 p.m.

Musick is currently the associate dean and director of Executive Education at IIT Institute of Design in Chicago. His talk will explore educating students on the principles and theories that encompass design thinking as well as the impact of design thinking in various types of organizations, such as non-profits, governments and educational institutions.

Musick’s presentation will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Seth Starner, president of New North; Jodi Watson, president of Consumer Direct for Wolverine World Wide; and Ryan Schmidt, director of New Business Innovation for Steelcase.

To register for the aforementioned events, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host electric car workshop for high school students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 120 high school students from West Michigan will attend an electric car workshop at Grand Valley State University November 10. Students will learn about aerodynamic drag on race cars during a presentation and demonstration.

The workshop will be led by aerospace engineer Taylor Irwin, an affiliate professor of engineering at Grand Valley who spent 12 years working with space systems at NASA and in California.

Electric Car Workshop 2015

Tuesday, November 10, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The workshop will begin at 12:15 p.m.

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.

For more information about the workshop, contact Sara Maas in the Seymour and Esther [Padnos College of Engineering and Computing](#) at pcecoutreach@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1dsy931zrv6cady/AABt8_zu3PCyQjzf9tRA5wDJa?dl=0

Current business trends: Growing, but slower

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — "Still growing, but slower" is how a Grand Valley State University economist described the West Michigan economy for October.

Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business, surveyed local business leaders and his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of October.

The employment index flipped back to positive at +5, up from -3. The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) remained positive, but edged slightly lower to +9 from +13. The production index retreated to +3 from +12, and the index of purchases rose modestly to +6 from +0.

"Even though the West Michigan economy has flattened, we are still modestly better off than the U.S. economy as a whole," said Long. "As long as sales for auto parts, office furniture and aerospace remain near record levels, the West Michigan economy should continue on the path of slow growth."

Long said the automotive parts producers are still near full capacity, although the rate of plant expansion seems to have slowed. He said the office furniture business is still near an all-time high, and local firms are still finding new ways to grow. The aerospace industry is smaller than automotive parts and office furniture, but new orders remain driven by the major players in the industry like Boeing and Airbus.

Long said one weak spot that may be emerging is the capital equipment industry, where foreign competitors are discounting prices because of the softer sales in China and Western Europe. Local industrial distributors reported business conditions to remain on track, with no major problems.

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 can be found in the dropbox link provided above under media note.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For immediate release

November 4, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: a headshot of Spoelstra is available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/01a>

GVSU nursing faculty member to present findings on two older adult studies

-- Researched use of text messaging and helping seniors remain in their homes

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University nursing faculty member will present research at a national conference about text messaging to promote medication adherence trials and an interprofessional approach to helping vulnerable older adults remain at home and out of nursing homes.

Sandra Spoelstra, associate dean for research and scholarship for the Kirkhof College of Nursing, will give two presentations at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting in Florida November 18 and 20.

• Text message intervention trials

While phone text messages are emerging as an effective way to deliver interventions (such as texting reminders about medications), Spoelstra said little is known about the success of enrolling older adults into interventions that include text messaging.

She examined the efficacy of text messaging for medication adherence of older adults on oral anti-cancer agents from two settings: a national specialty pharmacy and oncology clinics.

In a study of 293 patients, Spoelstra found recruiting through the specialty pharmacy resulted in higher enrollment than those recruited from oncology clinics, and that adults 60 years of age or older were likely to enroll in a text message intervention.

• Helping vulnerable older adults remain in their homes

Spoelstra will discuss patient outcomes from participants who are enrolled in the MiCAPABLE (Community Aging in Place for Better Elderly Living) program in Detroit, Flint and Saginaw.

MiCAPABLE embeds an evidence-based intervention to promote increase function, reduction in pain and depression, and medication management in the Michigan Medicaid MiChoice waiver program from an interprofessional team of nurses, social workers, occupational therapists and pharmacists.

Media members can contact Spoelstra at spoelsts@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

November 5, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Cloning and stem cells to be focus of GVSU genetics conference

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Cloning, stem cells, and breakthroughs in genetic disease research and therapies will be spotlighted during the 12th annual Genetic Update Conference November 9 at Grand Valley State University.

Sam Rhine, annual keynote speaker for the conference and medical physician, will give multiple lectures from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center Grand River Room. In addition to discussing stem cells and cloning, Rhine will also present advances in treating, understanding and potentially curing diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, autism, Lou Gehrig's disease, multiple sclerosis and more conditions.

Kathy Agee, Regional Math and Science Center science program coordinator and conference organizer, said the conference aims to educate high school students and their teachers about the evolving advancements and careers in medicine and genetics research.

"Most of what you hear and understand from Dr. Rhine's lectures is work that he has gleaned from countless medical journals, technical research papers, colleagues and friends, and medical conferences," said Agee. "He has a very concise way of synthesizing this information into something that is very exciting and understandable for the public."

Rhine has traveled the globe for more than 30 years presenting the latest genetic information to high school students and their teachers.

Registration is required for high school students and teachers. Conference admission is free for Grand Valley faculty, staff and students. For more information and to register, visit www.samrhine.com and click "Schedule."

For Immediate Release

November 6, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

GVSU Hauenstein Center accepts \$1 million gift

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University has accepted a \$1 million gift from local business leader J.C. Huizenga and his wife, Tammy, in honor of the center's namesake Ralph Hauenstein.

Both J.C. and Tammy Huizenga are directors for the Grand Valley University Foundation; J.C. Huizenga also serves on the Hauenstein Center Executive Board. Tammy is a physician with a clinical practice known as the Born Clinic.

The gift will be used to expand the impact the center has regionally and around the nation while working to achieve its mission of preparing a community of ethical, effective leaders for the 21st century.

"The Hauenstein Center is dedicated to enlarging Col. Hauenstein's legacy of leadership and service to the students, emerging leaders and citizens we can reach. This extraordinary gift will help us achieve our mission of expanding that reach," said Gleaves Whitney, Hauenstein Center director.

The Hauenstein Center works to accomplish its mission through three primary programs, including the popular annual Common Ground Initiative, which brings together conservative and progressive thinkers and experts to solve real-world problems; the Cook Leadership Academy, which works with students to develop leadership skills and provide them with access to dedicated professional mentors; and the Wheelhouse Talks, which allows community leaders and entrepreneurs to share personal stories of success and failure, and what they learned along the way.

"We are extremely grateful to the Huizengas for their generous gift. It will significantly help us strengthen our mission to carry out Ralph's vision, which is very much needed in today's world: preparing ethical and effective leaders to take the helm in the future by understanding the past. This is really an investment in the finest young people in the region," said Karen Loth, vice president for development at Grand Valley.

The namesake of the Hauenstein Center is Ralph Hauenstein, former city editor of the *Grand Rapids Herald* who rose to the rank of colonel and became chief of Army intelligence in Europe during World War II. He was one of the first Americans to see liberated Paris, war-torn Germany and Nazi concentration camps. After serving in the war, Hauenstein returned to West Michigan resolute in his desire to help improve international relations and seek peaceful solutions to conflict. He established the Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley in 2001 to inspire current and future leaders to make a positive impact on the world.

"In the 20th century I saw with my own eyes the worst that leaders are capable of," Hauenstein said. "In the 21st century, I want to encourage the best leadership possible so that the world will be better for my children's children."

For more information, visit HauensteinCenter.org

For Immediate Release
November 6, 2015
Contact: GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Accountability Report shows strong performance

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's annual Accountability Report shows the university is attracting a record number of students while demonstrating exemplary results in key areas including retention, graduation rates and providing access to students who otherwise could not afford a college education.

The report also shows the university continues to hold down tuition and administration costs while providing a significant economic impact to the region.

The report, which tracks more than 40 measures of university performance and student outcomes, was released at Grand Valley's November 6 Board of Trustees meeting in Allendale.

Here are some highlights from the 9th annual report:

- Grand Valley welcomed a record number of students in the fall (25,325), as well as a record number of students of color, out-of-state students and international students.
- Grand Valley ranks in the top three of all public universities in Michigan for graduation rates, and fourth for retention.
- 90.1% of recent graduates are employed or in graduate school, and 83.8% are working and giving back in Michigan.
- The university was rewarded by the state legislature and the governor for a fourth year in a row with a portion of appropriations based on performance.
- Tuition remains in the bottom half of all Michigan public universities, while Grand Valley receives the second lowest funding per student.
- The economic impact of Grand Valley on Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties is \$730 million.

The full 2015-16 Accountability Report can be viewed online at www.gvsu.edu/accountability.

In other board action:

The board approved the authorization of two new charter schools, Carpe Diem Innovative School (Detroit) and Detroit Prep. The board also approved relocation of Pathways Global Leadership Academy from Detroit to Inkster and approved appointment or reappointment of charter school board members to Grand Valley authorized public school academy boards.

For immediate release

November 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Kip Thorne is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/V5>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration welcomes "Interstellar" producer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The 2014 film “Interstellar” explores the idea of traveling across different galaxies via wormholes in space. This is a familiar topic for this year’s Grand Valley State University Fall Arts Celebration Distinguished Academic Lecturer Kip Thorne.

The theoretical physicist and Einstein Medal winner served as an executive producer for “Interstellar” and co-authored *The Science of Interstellar*, which explores the physics behind the movie. Thorne was tapped to collaborate on the film because of his past research regarding Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity, as well as astrophysics with an emphasis on wormholes, time travel, relativistic stars, black holes and gravitational waves.

Thorne’s lecture at Grand Valley will discuss the marriage of visual arts and scientific discovery.

“Bringing together the visual arts with cutting-edge science will raise all sorts of topics and the kinds of questions that Grand Valley’s integrative approach to liberal education is wonderfully situated to answer,” said Fred J. Antczak, dean of Grand Valley’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Kip Thorne – “Discovery and Collaboration”

Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m.

2nd floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

***Lecture followed by book signing and reception**

Before collaborating on “Interstellar,” Thorne consulted on the 1997 film “Contact,” where he proposed using wormholes to connect two points in time. Thorne is an accomplished author, having written numerous articles and books, including the educational textbook *Gravitation*, and the award-winning book *Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein’s Outrageous Legacy*, which introduces non-scientists to general relativity.

Thorne served as a faculty member at Caltech from 1967 until his retirement as The Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics in 2009. He also cofounded the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Project, which consists of nearly 600 researchers who directly observe and report on gravitational waves of cosmic origin.

Ahead of Thorne's lecture, Grand Valley's Physics Department will sponsor a screening of "Interstellar" Saturday, November 14, at 6 p.m. at Wealthy Theatre (1130 Wealthy St. SE) located in East Grand Rapids. The screening is free and open to the public.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2185.

For immediate release

November 10, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host civil discourse symposium

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The second Civil Discourse Symposium at Grand Valley State University will celebrate grassroots community building with panelists from Detroit and Grand Rapids.

"East and West Together: Intersections of Re-Imagining the Future of Michigan" is set for Thursday, November 19, at 5 p.m. in the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 301 W. Fulton St. The event is free and open to the public, a light dinner will be provided. RSVP online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse/>.

Lisa Perhamus, the current Padnos/Sarosik endowed professor of civil discourse, said the discussion will highlight how commitments to civil discourse can strengthen communities. Perhamus has taken students from her civil discourse classes to Detroit to visit revitalized neighborhoods and learn from Detroiters like symposium panelists Tawana "Honeycomb" Petty, social justice community organizer and poet; and Marisol Teachworth, co-founder and programming director of the James and Grace Lee Boggs School.

Petty and Teachworth will be joined by panelists from Grand Rapids: Briana Ureña-Ravelo, co-founder of the Grand Rapids chapter of Black Lives Matter and community engagement specialist for the Raptidian; and the Rev. Doug Van Doren, of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ.

Participants at the symposium will be led through roundtable discussions about re-imagining the future of Michigan.

Also at the symposium, the next Padnos/Sarosik endowed professor of civil discourse will be introduced. The endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was a gift to Grand Valley from longtime supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

For more information about the symposium, visit www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse.

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley again named a 'Best for Vets' university

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named a “Best for Vets” university by Military Times for the second year in a row.

Grand Valley joins 125 colleges and universities throughout the country that are included on the [2016 list of four-year schools](#).

Released just prior to the November 11 celebration of Veterans Day, the list is based on an evaluation of the many factors that make an organization a good fit for service members, veterans and their families. It is also based on an assessment of success rates of veterans and military students.

The ranking was compiled from a survey submitted by each institution of services, resources and financial incentives offered to military members and student veterans, and information from the U.S. Department of Education, including academic success measures.

This is the latest recognition for Grand Valley's support of veterans. In August, the university received gold status — the highest status — from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for its dedication to student veterans and dependents of G.I. Bill and other education benefits.

About the Grand Valley Student Veterans Network

Grand Valley provides in-state tuition for veterans and active military members who are stationed in Michigan. The university is a member of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators, a statewide network of institutions that works to support military members and veterans. Grand Valley is also part of the “8 Keys to Veterans’ Success” initiative through the U.S. Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs and the Michigan Veteran Education Initiative, which supports veterans by locating resources to help them become successful as they transition into civilian life.

Learn more at www.gvsu.edu/veterans.

For immediate release

November 11, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Fall Science Update to focus on STEM integration in science education

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Teachers from districts across Michigan will gather November 18 to expand their teaching knowledge and strategies surrounding K-12 sciences during the 31st annual Fall Science Update at Grand Valley State University.

The conference, sponsored by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center, will take place from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on the second floor of the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus.

During Fall Science Update, area K-12 teachers will experience multiple breakout sessions that will provide information about teaching strategies in biology, chemistry, earth science, environmental science, geology, physical science and engineering.

Kathy Agee, Regional Math and Science Center science program coordinator, said this year's conference theme is "Integrating STEM by Design."

"Science does not exist independently of math, history, language arts or other disciplines," said Agee. "We hope teachers will better understand how to integrate science, technology, engineering and math activities and skills into their classrooms, while also integrating real-world applications and data into the classroom experience."

This year's conference will feature two Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) 2015 award winners as keynote speakers.

Holly McGoran, 2015 MSTA Middle School Teacher of the Year, is currently in her 17th year teaching science at Jenison Junior High School. McGoran also serves as the STEM instructional specialist for Jenison Public Schools. In the past, she has been a member of the Regional Math and Science Center advisory board and acted as both a head coach and event coach for the annual Science Olympiad Tournament.

Ashley Meyer, 2015 MSTA Teacher of Promise award recipient, is in her sixth year teaching science courses at Hamilton Middle School. Meyer is also a member of Grand Valley's Target Inquiry cohort.

Registration is required for the 2015 Fall Science Update. For more information, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/KV>, or contact Kathy Agee at (616) 331-3031.

For immediate release

November 12, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU interfaith institute to offer end-of-life care seminar

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — To better understand interfaith needs in end-of-life care, Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute, in conjunction with local hospice providers, will host a special panel event November 19.

"Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Needs of Our Interfaith Community"

Thursday, November 19

Loosemore Auditorium (room 122E), DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Two sessions will be offered: 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.

This free event is open to all medical professionals, students, funeral home directors and staff, clergy and other groups seeking to understand exemplary spiritual and physical end-of-life care.

"This is an essential conversation to have as our community continues to diversify," said Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager. "More hospices are caring for people from various religious, spiritual and secular traditions. We hope this is the start of a collaborative relationship between the interfaith and health communities moving forward in order to achieve true understanding across our community."

Participating hospice organizations include: Hospice of Michigan, Emmanuel Hospice, Great Lakes Caring Hospice, Heartland Hospice, Hospice of Holland, Spectrum Hospice, Grace Hospice and Gentiva Hospice.

Registration is required. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith, or call the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at (616) 331-5702.

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

From Ford to Trump: GVSU's Hauenstein Center explores character and the presidency

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Politicians and presidential candidates from both parties today seem to thrive on ego, sound bites and performance. But it wasn't always this way: some of our past leaders directed the nation with a steady hand, a calm demeanor and character.

If current GOP candidates like Donald Trump are the ego-driven type, West Michigan's Republican native son Gerald Ford was nearly a polar opposite. But no matter how selfless and humble Ford was, his legacy has often tended to focus on the pardon of President Richard Nixon without examining the character and principles behind the decision.

On November 17, Richard Norton Smith, a historian, author and noted expert on President Ford will join the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University to explore "Character and the Presidency." He will be joined by a panel of experts.

The event will feature select scenes from a documentary currently in production about Ford's life and time in office. The documentary is being produced by Peter Secchia with additional support from Hank Meijer. Secchia will also speak about the comprehensive documentary.

"Character and the Presidency: Gerald Ford"

Tuesday, November 17, 6 p.m.

Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium

401 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

RSVP requested here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/01p>

The panel discussion after Richard Norton Smith's keynote address and remarks from Peter Secchia will include:

- Victoria Vuletich, ethics and legal studies professor at WMU Cooley Law School (moderator)
- Hendrik Booraem, expert on the early lives of presidents
- Tom Cronin, political science professor at Colorado College
- Kevin den Dulk, political science professor at Calvin College
- Jason Duncan, history professor at Aquinas College
- Mike Grass, producer and writer of *Time and Chance*, a film about President Ford
- Don Zinman, political science professor at Grand Valley State University

"In the midst of a bruising political debate season, we have an opportunity to talk about the character of the people who are seeking our nation's highest office, and to examine the characteristics we used to look for in those leaders," said Hauenstein Center director Gleaves Whitney. "We hope to separate hero from celebrity, and character from ego while we explore the stark differences between the character of leaders past and future."

The event is free and open to the public, however RSVPs are requested online here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/01p>.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

November 13, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU Meijer Campus to host college night for parents, students

HOLLAND, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Meijer Campus in Holland will host a college information workshop for parents and students on Tuesday, November 17.

"Coffee and College" will run from 7-8 p.m. at the Meijer Campus, 515 S. Waverly Road.

Brief presentations on financial aid, admissions and college success are planned. Parent and student panel discussions will be held. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call (616) 331-3910 or visit www.gvsu.edu/holland.

For immediate release

November 16, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU ranked 11th for study abroad participation

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University fell from the top 10 in terms of numbers of students who study abroad yet saw greater participation than previous reporting years.

According to the Institute of International Education, Grand Valley was ranked 11th among master's degree granting institutions in terms of number of study abroad participants, with 753. GVSU is third in Michigan, following the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The data is from the 2013-2014 reporting year.

For the 2012-2013 reporting year, Grand Valley was ranked 10th, with 721 students.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, said the top three destinations for study abroad participants are the United Kingdom, Spain and Ghana and France tie for third place.

Grand Valley offers more than 4,000 study abroad programs; visit www.gvsu.edu/pic for more information.

MEDIA ADVISORY

Media-GVSU terrorism expert available

Jonathan White, terrorism expert, professor of interdisciplinary studies and executive director of the Homeland Defense Initiative at Grand Valley State University, is available for media interviews about the terrorist attacks in Paris.

White is available today, November 16, until noon in his office, 131 Niemeyer Living Learning Center, on the Allendale Campus.

Members of the media are also invited to attend White's class on terrorism today from 1:30-2:45 p.m. in 236E Niemeyer. The students will focus exclusively on the Paris attacks.

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 Dottie Barnes at (616) 331-2953 or (616) 331-2221.

For Immediate Release

November 17, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

MEDIA NOTE: Kyle Caldwell, executive director of the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at GVSU is available tonight for talkbacks and media interviews. Please contact him directly via cell phone at (517) 927-6167.

Kent County donors more generous than rest of state, study suggests

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — People who donate to charitable causes in Kent County are more generous than individual donors in the rest of the state, according to a new estimated report from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University.

The report shows total charitable giving in the county decreased slightly in 2013, compared to total giving in 2012.

The 2013 data, the last year from which figures are available, is included in the new Kent County Charitable Giving Estimate Report. The report shows that while just 6 percent of Michigan households are in Kent County, individual donors in the county contributed 9 percent of Michigan's total estimated giving.

The report also shows that donors of all types in Kent County gave a total of \$907,877,678 in 2013, a moderate decrease of about \$39 million, or 4.1 percent, from the total in 2012. Despite the slight drop off from 2012-2013, the overall four-year giving pattern is trending upward, and shows why it is important to track giving data over time, researchers said.

“There are many factors that can cause giving to go up or down in any community in any given year, causes that don’t necessarily mean individuals, foundations or corporations were any more or less generous that year. So these estimated numbers for 2013 are best interpreted as part of an overall gradual increase in Kent County giving over the past few years,” said Kyle Caldwell, executive director at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Of the \$907.88 million total, the majority (66.7 percent) came from individual donors, but foundations also gave a significant portion (23.1 percent). Foundations in Kent County contributed a much higher percentage of total giving than foundations nationwide (14.6 percent).

From 2012 to 2013:

- Individual giving decreased from \$614.07 million to \$605.79 million (-1.3 percent)
- Foundation giving decreased from \$244.78 million to \$209.60 million (-14.3 percent)
- Corporate giving increased from \$51.05 million to \$52.37 million (+2.6 percent)
- Bequest giving increased from \$37.35 million to \$40.12 million (+7.4 percent)

The percentage of total estimated charitable giving coming from foundations in Kent County is much greater than the percentage from foundations across the U.S. (23.1 percent vs. 14.6 percent) and the

percentage coming from individuals is slightly lower in Kent County than in the U.S. overall (66.7 percent vs. 71.8 percent).

Researchers also said this does not necessarily mean individuals in Kent County give less than individuals in other communities. Rather, these differences in percentage from the national estimates are likely caused by the relatively higher level of foundation giving in Kent County compared to other parts of the country.

A large portion of total foundation giving in Kent County comes from several large foundations located within the county. For example, the 2013 annual giving by six foundations created by one extended family accounted for 42.8 percent of Kent County's total foundation giving.

Estimating total giving is very difficult, but researchers at the Johnson Center adapted the Kent County study from a method used by Giving USA, a publication that provides the most respected estimate of total giving across the U.S.

The figures in the report estimate giving by donors located in Kent County; the report does not analyze how much of that giving is distributed inside vs. outside Kent County.

More details on methodology and the full study can be found online at <http://johnsoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Giving-Report-Kent-County-2013.pdf>

For immediate release

November 16, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU interfaith event to celebrate Thanksgiving season

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Several religious and non-religious traditions will join together in Grand Rapids in a celebration of peace and gratitude during the Thanksgiving season during the 16th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration. Coordinated by Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute, the celebration will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church (1100 Lake Drive SE) on Monday, November 23, at 7 p.m.

"While most of our interfaith events are education- or service-oriented, this is a unique opportunity to come together and simply celebrate a community holiday," said Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager. "This service has representatives from various religious, spiritual and secular traditions who all share something that relates not only to thankfulness and gratitude, but also this year's theme of 'Unity Through Diversity.'"

The Grand Rapids Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration has been celebrated annually since 2000. The event features participation from a wide variety of Christian denominations and representatives of Native American, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, secular and inclusive religious communities. Each year, the celebration includes prayers, music, sacred writings, reflections and meditation.

A collection will be taken for the East Paris Food Pantry, Congress Elementary School and Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. Attendees are asked to donate cans of non-expired, non-perishable food, winter clothes and coats or classroom supplies.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (616) 331-5702 or visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith.

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host Ag business pitch competition

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Sixteen innovators from across the state will pitch their ideas at the Pitch & Prize Showcase November 30 at the L. William Seidman Center on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The competition, sponsored by the Sprout Lab program at Grand Valley, offers a grand prize of \$5,000. Julie Cowie, Sprout Lab project manager, said the event connects innovators to Michigan's entrepreneur ecosystem, where people with clever ideas can find the support they need to launch a startup successfully.

"The showcase is the culmination of two years of workshops around the state," said Cowie. "We have found and supported innovators working in small towns and rural places, inventing solutions for agriculture, developing food businesses and exploring new products and services."

Pitch & Prize Showcase

November 30

5:30-7:30 p.m. (appetizers at 5 p.m.)

L. William Seidman Center

50 Front Ave. SW, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Cowie said Grand Valley has partnered with community colleges and other institutions of higher education, including Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Kirtland Community College in Roscommon and West Branch, Baker College in Fremont and U-M Flint to provide entrepreneurship education.

The competition is sponsored by the Fremont Area Community Foundation, USDA, Michigan Initiative for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Grand Valley's Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

For more information, visit www.sproutlab.org or call (269) 214-1227.

For immediate release

November 23, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU names new professor for civil discourse

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The new Padnos/Sarosik Professor for Civil Discourse at Grand Valley State University will bring his background in international relations and global migration to the position.

Jack Mangala was introduced as the second professor of civil discourse November 19 at a symposium at the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The endowed professorship is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies and was given as a gift to Grand Valley in 2013 from longtime university supporters Shelley Padnos and Carol Sarosik.

Mangala is an associate professor of African and African American studies and political science. He plans to develop a course for the fall 2016 semester that focuses on global migration and the challenges and opportunities immigrants and refugees present for host communities.

"The focus of the course, which fills a gap in Grand Valley's curriculum, is to engage students in a critical understanding of the global issues impacting migration such as poverty, human rights, conflicts and the environment," Mangala said.

Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, said the advisory board was drawn to Mangala's proposal because of the current discussions about immigration and crises in the Middle East.

"The civil discourse initiative provides a professional development opportunity for Grand Valley's faculty and enriches the curriculum," Hiskes said. "Jack's course on immigration and refugees will enrich the curriculum of area studies and provide new opportunities for students for meaningful, community-based learning and to develop leadership skills in facilitating dialogue around difficult issues."

Mangala said he is interested in the virtues of civil discourse in personal and public spaces, and he sees civil discourse as a critical skill for college students.

"Keeping a tradition of civil discourse, particularly when we confront complex and sensitive issues, is absolutely critical in preserving the essence of a public democratic life," he said. "The practice of civil discourse challenges us, both as individuals and citizens, to remain true to the best of human traditions."

He is also charged with planning a community symposium for fall 2016. Mangala said the event's overarching theme will be to bring together stakeholders involved in immigrant and refugee integration to engage in dialogue and share strategies and experiences on how West Michigan can create welcoming communities for those populations.

Lisa Perhamus, assistant professor of education, served as the inaugural Padnos/Sarosik Professor for Civil Discourse. Her focus was public dialogues in Detroit and leaders who are doing successful revitalization work.

For more on the professorship, visit www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse.

For immediate release

November 23, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Goodwill CEO to discuss design thinking at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids will visit Grand Valley State University to discuss the benefits of utilizing the design thinking process to grow effective non-profit organizations.

"Design Thinking in a Nonprofit Organization, a Culture Challenge"

Presented by Kathy Crosby, Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids

Tuesday, December 1, from 6-7 p.m.

Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

***Presentation will be preceded by a reception from 5-6 p.m.**

"Design thinking is a creative process that serves any situation where there is a need," said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director at Grand Valley. "Through her leadership, Kathy Crosby has utilized design thinking to build a culture of service at Goodwill. We're fortunate to be able to explore with her how that has happened and the obstacles and benefits of design thinking in a non-profit world."

In addition to acting as Goodwill's president and CEO, Crosby is the chair of the Economic Club of Grand Rapids' Board of Directors and vice chair for the Better Business Bureau of Western Michigan's Board of Directors. She also serves on the CEO Leadership Council of Talent 2025.

This event is sponsored by the Design Thinking Initiative at Grand Valley. The university announced the initiative at the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year. Its mission is to better prepare students for lifelong learning and careers by teaching interdisciplinary skills such as empathy, ideating, testing and prototyping.

For more information and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking/nonprofit.

For immediate release

November 24, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of Gregory Maytan and his violin are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/01L>.

GVSU professor loaned 330-year-old violin

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Giovanni Grancino is widely considered one of the greatest and earliest violin makers of the "Golden Age of Violin Making" from roughly 1680-1750 in Italy. Violins crafted during this time period have sold for millions of dollars to present-day musicians, enthusiasts and collectors.

Gregory Maytan, associate professor of violin at Grand Valley State University, is currently in possession of one of these rare violins that was created more than 330 years ago.

A 1683 Grancino violin was recently loaned to Maytan by the Swedish Järnåker Foundation, which lends string instruments to highly talented young musicians of promise, eminent soloists and chamber musicians, as well as string section leaders in professional orchestras and ensembles.

"Great old Italian instruments tend to produce a unique sound that is extremely beautiful and colorful, yet projecting," Maytan said. "The problem has been that the price of these violins have gone up so much, making them financially out of reach for most musicians."

Maytan was chosen to receive the violin following an in-depth application process based on merit and concert scheduling. "The foundation wants its violins to be used and heard, and performers with active careers are therefore prioritized. The foundation receives a large number of applications for a small number of available violins, and so it was definitely an honor to be chosen."

Maytan added that all recipients are evaluated on an annual basis to determine whether or not they will be allowed to keep the violin for a longer period of time. Aside from using the Grancino violin during local performances, Maytan will be traveling internationally with the instrument.

"I have a number of exciting performances, including a concert tour of northern Sweden, the recording of a CD and a performance of all of Bach's works for violin," Maytan said.

Maytan said the violin allows for smoother musicality and responds "beautifully" to his performance style. "It has already become my 'voice' and having it on stage has really added to my sense of confidence," he said.

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU to host cyber security workshop

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Small businesses are just as vulnerable to cyber attacks as large corporations.

The Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC), housed at Grand Valley State University, will host a workshop December 4, called "Small Business, Big Threat," designed for small business owners.

The workshop will address several security issues including cyber security best practices, protecting company information, mobile security, password practices, buying and selling online and what to do when there is a security breach.

Participants are asked to complete a Cyber Security Assessment provided by the MI-SBDC to determine if their company is at risk. The assessment is designed as a learning tool to increase understanding and preparation for managing business security risk.

Find the assessment at smallbusinessbigthreat.com

Cyber Security Awareness

December 4, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

**L. William Seidman Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus
50 Front Ave., Grand Rapids**

The keynote speaker is John Hey, chief operating officer of Trivalent Group, Inc., an Internet service provider in Grand Rapids. Hey will join panelists:

- Keith Brophy - state director, Michigan Small Business Development Center
- Brian Swaid - manager, Information Security Systems and Engineering, Chemical Bank
- Bill Fisher - associate director, Technical Services of Information Technology, Grand Valley State University
- Curt Rypma - Schenk, Boncher & Rypma P.C.

The program was developed by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

For more information and to register visit www.smallbizbigthreat.com or call (616) 331-7480.

For immediate release

November 30, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

European holiday music concludes GVSU Fall Arts Celebration

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's 13th annual Fall Arts Celebration concludes with Europe's most beloved holiday music performed by university faculty, students and soloists.

"Stille Nacht: A Celebration of Holiday Music from Europe"

Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church

24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids

The evening will begin with Johan Sebastian Bach's "Magnificat," which has been etched in the history books as one of the holiday season's most enduring musical classics. The voices of the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale will bring Bach's cantata to modern audiences to enjoy. "Magnificat" was composed after Bach took a new position of employment at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany, specifically for a performance at Christmas Vespers in 1723.

Spanning the centuries with holiday favorites, such as "Il est né, le divin Enfant;" "In dulci jubilo;" "Stille Nacht;" and Adolphe Adam's "Cantique de Noël," this musical gift to the West Michigan community will conclude with the iconic sounds of the GVSU Men's Chorus singing melodies of Europe's most cherished holiday music.

Since its start in 2003, Fall Arts Celebration has featured some of the preeminent writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and scholars of today.

All Fall Arts Celebration events are open to the public with free admission. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts, or call (616) 331-2185.

For immediate release

November 30, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: To arrange an interview with an expert for a #GivingTuesday story, please contact Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138, hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Experts available for #GivingTuesday stories

#GivingTuesday is December 1 and is in its fourth year of being a part of the charitable season. The Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University is recognized as a national founding partner of #GivingTuesday, which is a worldwide social movement that celebrates a day dedicated to philanthropic endeavors during the holiday season.

The focus of the day is to highlight giving and bring about social change during a time when a lot of attention is being focused on shopping events including Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

#GivingTuesday is a global movement, with more than 30,000 organizations in 68 countries worldwide participating. It is estimated that online donations have increased by 470 percent on #GivingTuesday since its inception in 2012. This social movement is also a way to remind people to give back in a variety of ways including sharing of time, talent and treasure.

The Johnson Center for Philanthropy has experts available to discuss the importance of #GivingTuesday and the origins of the movement.

For more details about the #GivingTuesday movement, visit the #GivingTuesday website (www.givingtuesday.org), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GivingTuesday>) or follow [@GivingTues](https://twitter.com/GivingTues) and the #GivingTuesday hashtag on Twitter.

For immediate release

November 30, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: photos to accompany this story are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/01R>

GVSU exhibit of Latino residents to open in Holland

HOLLAND, Mich. — A collection of oral histories and portraits of Holland's Latino residents by a Grand Valley State University department will open at the Herrick District Library on Monday, December 7.

The exhibition, "Nuestra Comunidad Hispana," is a collaboration led by the Kutsche Office of Local History in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies with many partners, including the City of Holland, Herrick District Library, Latin Americans United for Progress, GVSU Meijer Campus, and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

An opening reception is set for 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the library, 300 S. River Ave. Jesse Bernal, vice president for Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley; and Nancy DeBoer, mayor of Holland, are scheduled to give remarks. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

The exhibition will remain up through December. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For Immediate Release

December 8, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students to showcase engineering, computing projects

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Small sumo robots that wrestle in a ring, a machine that sorts recycle containers, and research about safe beer brewing are among projects that will be on display December 10 at Grand Valley State University's Project Day.

About 200 high school students from schools in the Grand Rapids area will attend the event to see and interact with 50 projects created by Grand Valley students in the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

PCEC Project Day

Thursday, December 10

10 a.m.-noon

Kennedy Hall of Engineering, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

PCEC hosts a project day twice a year. Projects on display were designed and built by undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, computing and occupational safety and health management majors.

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

For Immediate Release

December 8, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and the full report are available on DropBox at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/i6tvuyqyv5lsmqs/AADJ2DWiMdavq4gGaW_VwaU3a?dl=0

Media-GVSU-Economic growth slows

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy experienced slow growth in November, according to a report by a Grand Valley State University economist.

Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business, surveyed local business leaders and his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of November. He said the slow growth is seasonal and the same is expected for December.

Some of the best news is from the employment index which rose to +15 from +5. The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) remained positive, but edged slightly lower to +7 from +9. The production index remained unchanged at +3, and the index of purchases eased to +5 from +6.

"Although growth in the West Michigan industrial economy has slowed to a crawl, we are still doing better than the overall Michigan economy," said Long. "The cyclical components of the report — auto parts, office furniture, and aerospace — remain stable."

Long said the U.S. economy continues to be hampered by a strong dollar, falling exports and weak business conditions in the extractive industries, including agriculture. He said strong auto sales and robust commercial and residential construction sectors are among the elements keeping the industrial economy modestly positive.

He added that, so far, acts of international terrorism have not had a major impact on the U.S. economy and January's numbers will be closely watched. "January is normally a back-to-work month, so as January goes, so 2016 may go as well," he said.

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 can be found in the dropbox link provided above under media note.

For more information, contact Brian Long at (269) 323-2359.

For Immediate Release

December 7, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Lieutenant governor to address graduates

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The nearly 1,000 Grand Valley State University students participating in the winter commencement ceremony December 12 will hear from alumnus Brian Calley, lieutenant governor of Michigan.

The commencement ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at Van Andel Arena; it can be viewed live at www.gvsu.edu/commencement.

Calley, elected in 2010, is the youngest lieutenant governor in the country. He graduated from Grand Valley in 2000 with a master's degree in business administration; he also attended Harvard and Michigan State universities. He served two terms in the state House of Representatives and two terms as an Ionia County commissioner.

Calley is an advocate for mental health. He led the charge to increase access to autism services and promote inclusion in schools and communities for people with development differences. He has been recognized by the U.S. Junior Chamber as one of Ten Outstanding Young Americans, among other honors.

During the ceremony, the Alumni Association will present the Young Alumni Award to Jessica Cruz, '06, chief diversity and inclusion officer for Northern Michigan University. She previously worked at Ferris State University, where she served as executive director and co-founder of the Center for Latin@ Studies at Ferris State University. While at Ferris, she established the Promesa Education Pipeline to increase college readiness for underrepresented students.

Two individuals will receive an honorary degree during the ceremony: Andrzej Chochół and Nancy Lubbers. Chochół is the rector of Cracow University of Economics in Poland, which is Grand Valley's oldest international partner. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the partnership. Lubbers served as the first lady of Grand Valley during the 32-year tenure of President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers. She devoted herself to many university campaigns and projects and remains active on the Grand Valley Foundation board of directors, Grand Forum Advisory Board and the campaign committee for Blandford Nature Center.

Notable student

A student from Libya who came to Grand Valley as the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship will participate in the ceremony. After the completion of his Fulbright, Mohamed Azuz decided to stay at Grand Valley because of the trouble in Libya and danger of the Arab Spring, a series of anti-government protests in the Middle East in 2011. He will graduate with a bachelor's degree in computing and information systems. Azuz's mother will travel from Libya to watch him graduate.

Azuz is available for interviews and can be reached at 614-962-5354 or azuzm@mail.gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

December 3, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU students to compete for chance at \$1 million

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley students will compete for a chance to win \$1 million during the 7th annual Hult Prize Challenge.

The competition will take place December 10, from 5-9 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2215/16, on the Allendale Campus.

The Hult Prize Challenge is the largest international social innovation competition in the world for young entrepreneurs. Participants form small start-up companies to compete for \$1 million in funding while working to solve the planet's toughest challenges. This year's competition theme is "crowded urban spaces." Ten teams of Grand Valley students will compete in teams of three-to-five people.

"This opportunity for Grand Valley students to participate in an international design-thinking based competition is too good to pass up, especially for a chance at \$1 million and the opportunity to potentially make an impact on a global scale," said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director.

The winners of the Hult Prize Challenge at Grand Valley will advance to the regional finals, which will take place during individual competitions around the world in Boston, San Francisco, London, Dubai and Shanghai, March 11-12.

In 2014, more than 20,000 university students worldwide participated in the annual competition, which aimed to solve issues revolving around early childhood development and education.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/cej or contact Michael Kurley at kurleymi@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

December 3, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: photos from a class session are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/024>

GVSU certificate program centers on hospice, palliative care

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Jennifer Ohman works as a nurse for Spectrum Health Hospice and knows first-hand how patients and family members struggle with issues around palliative and end-of-life care.

Ohman, a doctor of nursing practice student at Grand Valley State University, is also in the first cohort of a hybrid interprofessional certificate program in hospice and palliative care. She said the discussions and work within her classes translate well into her work.

"The goal is to manage symptoms and improve quality of life for my patients, for however long that might be," Ohman said. "As a hospice nurse, I experience end-of-life intimately in my work. This program benefits me now, and it in the future when I will help lead crucial conversations."

Grand Valley began offering the four-course certificate program in August; organizers said it meets a growing need in West Michigan and is suitable for anyone who works with terminally ill patients and their families: nurses, social workers, physicians, physical therapists, physician assistants, clergy members and others.

Joan Borst, associate professor of social work, sees tremendous value in the program.

"Interprofessional teams lead to higher job satisfaction, fewer medical errors and better patient-centered care," Borst said. "As social workers, we serve those who are experiencing grief and loss, and the approaches and skills gained through this certificate help us empower patients and families during very difficult times."

The certificate program is a collaborative effort by Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing, School of Social Work, and School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration along with West Michigan leaders in hospice and palliative care. It is coordinated through the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation within the Kirkhof College of Nursing.

Sue Harrington, assistant professor of nursing, also teaches in the program. "We are a death-denying society. We panic when it comes to death and default to acute care," she said.

Harrington said the program was developed in direct response to community need, including the need for interprofessional teams who have "a deep understanding of what patients and their families are experiencing."

For information about the program, visit www.gvsu.edu/phc/. Questions about enrolling in the program can be directed to Linda Buck at (616) 331-5785 or buckli@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2015

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU College of Ed Convocation to be held at area high school

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The College of Education at Grand Valley State University will hold its December 10 Convocation at Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids. This is the first time Convocation will be held at a public school.

The College of Education has begun a partnership with Ottawa Hills High School and the ceremony represents the beginning of collaborative work between the two partners.

"We are proud to partner with Ottawa Hills High School to host Convocation," said John Shinsky, interim dean of the College of Education. "This ceremony reflects the collaborative work between K-12 and higher education as we celebrate the success of these exceptional graduates."

About 125 graduates are expected to participate in Convocation. The ceremony will also include the hooding ceremony for COE students completing their master's degree requirements.

Convocation is a precursor to Grand Valley's commencement ceremonies December 12 at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

GVSU College of Education Convocation

December 10

7-9 p.m.

Ottawa Hills High School Auditorium

2055 Rosewood S.E., Grand Rapids

During Convocation, James Rummer, director of Career and Technical Education within the Charlevoix Emmet County Intermediate School District, will receive the Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumni Leader Award.

Two students will serve as keynote speakers: Katrina Swymeler, who is completing a bachelor's degree in biology with Secondary Teacher Certification, and Forrest Clift, who is completing the Educational Specialist degree in educational leadership.

For more information, contact John Shinsky in the College of Education at (616) 331-6821.

GVSU January 2016 Arts Events Tip Sheet

For immediate release

December 1, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Images for events are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/018>.

MEDIA-GVSU January 2016 Arts Events Tip Sheet

Arts at Noon Series

The 38th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University brings world-renowned artists to West Michigan. All Arts at Noon concerts take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus, begin at noon, and last approximately one hour. Every concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon or call (616) 331-3484.

Wednesday, January 27 – Grand Valley Winds

Members of the faculty woodwind quintet Grand Valley Winds include: Christopher Kantner (flute), Marlen Vavrikova (oboe), Joel Schekman (clarinet), Vincent Karamanov (bassoon) and Richard Britsch (horn). The quintet will perform a varied repertoire during this concert, including works by Heitor Villa-Lobos and Joseph Jongen. The Grand Valley Winds' mission is to enrich the university and its community by promoting chamber music in the region, serve the state by offering free public school clinics and recitals, and host instrument days for middle and high school students.

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Grand Valley Writers Series

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley State University's Allendale Campus as part of the 2015-16 Grand Valley Writers Series. The Grand Valley Writers Series has a rich history of bringing distinguished and emerging writers to campus to read work, visit classrooms and interact with students. For more information, contact Oindrila Mukherjee at (616) 331-8034 or mukherjo@gvsu.edu.

Faculty Reading: Glenn Shaheen and Oindrila Mukherjee

Thursday, January 28

7:30-8:45 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Shaheen, assistant professor of writing at Grand Valley, is the author of the poetry collection *Predatory*, which won the 2010 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize. He is also the author of the flash fiction chapbook *Unchecked Savagery*. His second collection of poetry, *Energy Corridor*, will be released in 2016. Mukherjee hails from India where she worked as a reporter for the country's oldest English language newspaper, *The Statesman*. Her work has been published in *Salon*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Oxford Anthology of Bengali Literature*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *The Silk Road Review*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Jaggery* and elsewhere.

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Music and Dance Department

*For more information about all Music and Dance Department events, visit www.gvsu.edu/music or call (616) 331-3484.

Guest Artists Series: Andrew Uhe, violin

January 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall (room 1325), Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Uhe, '03, will perform "Six Rumanian Folk Dances" by Béla Bartók, "Danza Española No. 1" from La Vida Breve by Manuel de Falla, "In the Style of Albéniz" by Rodion Shchedrin, "Suite in the Old Style" by Alfred Schnittke, and "Violin Sonata in B Minor" by Ottorino Respighi. Uhe is a founding member of the Nashat Trio, the featured chamber ensemble of the LaReDo Music Festival. He also serves as a member of the music faculty at the Morales Fine and Performing Arts Academy and Laredo Community College where he directs a newly formed youth orchestra, the Laredo String Soloists.

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Art Gallery Exhibitions

For more information and directions to all galleries, call (616) 331-2563, email artgallery@gvsu.edu or visit www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

China in Western Minds

Exhibit runs January 4-March 10

Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus

From early Roman trade contact through the Silk Road to the modern television comedy "Fresh Off the Boat," China has asserted its influence upon western culture, philosophy and the decorative arts in a myriad of ways. "China in Western Minds" explores this phenomenon and provides a striking overview of this intriguing history over the last 21 centuries. This exhibition was created by the Grand Valley Art Gallery in collaboration with guest curator, Sufen Lai, associate professor of English.

Nothing New Under the Sun

Thornapple Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Exhibit runs January 4-May 3

Beginning in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a special group of inventors began exploring the potentials for harnessing the energy of the wind and sun. Discover the results of their experiments and innovative thinking in this exhibition produced by the Grand Valley State University Art Gallery, in conjunction with guest curator, Glen Swanson, visiting professor of physics.

Great Lakes: Image & Word

Exhibit runs January 19-April 1

GVSU Art Gallery (room 1121), Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The lakes and water systems of the Great Lakes are a majestic natural resource not well known outside of the region. This exhibit features 16 poets and visual artists — each with a connection to the Great Lakes — in artistic pairings designed to result in new collaborative works with a Great Lakes theme.

For Immediate Release

December 1, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Professor studies ways to improve daily activity of patients with heart failure

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Understanding promising ways to improve daily activity for individuals with heart failure is being studied by a physical therapy professor at Grand Valley State University.

Heart failure is most often a consequence of damage to the heart muscle from heart attacks, viral infections, valve problems, or chemicals, such as chemotherapy. The goal, said Michael Shoemaker, associate professor of physical therapy, is to improve daily activity — whether it's concentrated exercise or more daily movement in general — for this growing population of people.

"Asking a patient with heart failure to exercise more often isn't enough, so this study looks at the effects of consistently working with them to change behaviors and create habits," said Shoemaker, also a physical therapist for Spectrum Health. "The more active you are, the better you'll function, and the longer you'll live."

The study is led by Shoemaker and Michael Dickinson, medical director for heart failure at Spectrum Health and medical director for the Richard DeVos Heart and Lung Transplant Program. The study includes 33 subjects whose ages range from 41 to 85 years old. A physical therapist visits with each subject once a week for three months.

Shoemaker said the current model of using exercise to break the cycle of inactivity is ineffective because perhaps some people are too deconditioned to be active. Instead, psychosocial-based interventions, such as health coaching and daily activity feedback, could be effective.

Shoemaker said he's been interested in studying "the recliner chair" population for several years. As more people experience heart attacks or are diagnosed with heart disease, the more relevant this study becomes.

The study, which began in October 2014 and is halfway completed, is supported through a \$40,000 grant from Medtronic's Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management External Research Program.

Shoemaker hopes results of the study will provide valuable information for clinicians and physicians on how to counsel patients with heart failure on increasing activity levels and exercise.

For more information, contact Shoemaker at shoemami@gvsu.edu or 616-331-3509.

For immediate release

December 14, 2015

Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU department earns NEH grant to collect histories of migrant workers

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University received a \$11,500 Common Heritage Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to collect oral histories of Michigan migrant workers.

The office will work in partnership with the Oceana County Hispanic Center and the Oceana County Historical and Genealogical Society, in addition to Grand Valley's History and Latin American Studies departments. The grant will be matched by Grand Valley for a project totaling \$23,000.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said the project, "Growing Community: A Century of Migration in Oceana County," will build on work completed by Andy Schlewitz, assistant professor of Latin American studies and political science, and Nora Salas, assistant professor of history, to collect oral histories and digitize photos and materials from migrant families.

Michigan has the fifth largest migrant population in the country, yet Shell-Weiss said young children in Oceana County know little of their families' histories and are less likely to see themselves as community members, despite having deep roots in the area through multiple generations.

"Non-Latino residents are also less likely to understand the deep history of their Latino neighbors or their shared community ties," Shell-Weiss said. "For these reasons, the opportunity to invite Latino community members — migrant and year-round — to preserve their oral histories and photographs would be of tremendous benefit to Oceana County."

The NEH announced its Common Heritage Grants December 14 to support projects that preserve heritage and promote scholarly discoveries. "We are proud to announce this latest group of grantees, who, through their projects and research, will bring valuable lessons of history and culture to Americans," said William D. Adams, NEH chair.

Oceana County collections would begin in June and materials shared with families and individuals who participate.

The Kutsche Office recently completed an oral history collection of Latino residents in Holland. An exhibition, "Nuestra Comunidad Hispana," will remain up through December at the Herrick District Library in Holland.

For more information about the Kutsche Office, visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For immediate release

December 9, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

GVSU student art exhibit explores expansion concerns in Grand Rapids Westside

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A new art exhibition produced by Grand Valley State University students aims to answer the question: "Who has the right to thrive in the Westside of Grand Rapids?"

"At the Plum Grove" will showcase theoretical scenarios about the future of the Westside of Grand Rapids, and who the neighborhoods will prioritize, through installations, videos, poetry, drawings, sculptures, digital images and more. The scenarios are the result of research conducted by the 15 students enrolled in Grand Valley's Civic Studios course within the Art and Design Department's Visual Studies program.

This free exhibit will be open to the public December 11 from 5-9 p.m. at Civic Studio (336 Straight Ave.) in Grand Rapids. A closing discussion about the exhibit and research will take place December 16 from 4-5:50 p.m.

To prepare for the exhibition, students met with members of various Westside-based organizations to discuss some of the critical concerns in the area. Molly Tiesma, junior art and design major, said some of the main concerns include gentrification of the area and the expansions happening in and around Grand Rapids, among others.

"It is important to be aware of and sensitive to these concerns as we learn more about the area and its residents," Tiesma said. "We spent a great portion of the beginning of the course exploring the Westside, and used this time to connect and engage with residents."

The name of the exhibit spawned from accounts discovered by the students that were written by an early settler of Grand Rapids in the 1800s. The settler described the presence of a plum grove located near where the Civic Studio class is held. Tiesma said the plum grove served as a gathering place for the Native American population of the area, but it was burned to make way for the settlers' pastures.

"This grove has become a sort of imaginary 'perfect' place in our minds that inspired us to use it as the basis for our work," Tiesma said. "By knowing where this land has been and what it has experienced, we can more fully understand our sense of place and respect the history of the area."

The Visual Studies program at Grand Valley offers both art and non-art majors opportunities to plan, execute and curate art exhibitions. During each semester, students research the social practices and public perspectives of an area of Grand Rapids and incorporate their findings into a final public project.

Tiesma said being a part of this exhibition team has shaped her own studio practices while deepening her understanding of what it means to be an informed artist.

"Projects outside of the university such as this help us understand the planning and logistical mindset necessary to undertake a project of this magnitude," Tiesma said. "Because nearly every class provides

students with the opportunity to dive into the local art scene, we are not limited to thinking of our work as 'student work' and we can see it from a professional perspective."

For more information about "At the Plum Grove," contact Paul Wittenbraker, Visual Studies professor, at wittenbp@gvsu.edu, or (616) 331-3578.

For more information about the Visual Studies program, visit visualstudies.art.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-8138,
hoekstna@gvsu.edu

Universities need more free exchange of ideas, critic says

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Issues of free speech and 'safe spaces' on college campuses have come to the forefront in the mainstream media in recent months, specifically at the University of Missouri and Yale.

While both of those schools experienced issues surrounding race, the other common tie is how responses to protests and rallies were met by students and advocates. In both situations, some students very publicly shouted down people with opposing points of view and demanded protection from a questioning media and individuals who didn't hold the same perspective as the gathered masses.

Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host a dialogue on the issue of a marketplace of ideas in higher education as they host Harvard English professor and *The New Yorker* columnist Louis Menand on December 10.

The situations raise the question of whether or not college campuses are in danger of losing one of their most important traits: as being places where a free exchange of ideas, regardless of conformity to one opinion or another, works to both challenge and educate students with diverse backgrounds and opinions.

Louis Menand: The Marketplace of Ideas

December 10, 2015

7 p.m.

Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton Street

DeVos Building A, Loosemore Auditorium

RSVPs requested at hauensteincenter.org

Joe Hogan, program director of the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative said Menand is an outspoken critic of academia, even though he teaches at one of the nation's highest-ranked universities, and will argue that universities today need to be centers for promotion of intelligent discussion.

"Menand will tell us why he thinks that some universities are doing students a disservice by constricting a free exchange of ideas under the guise of political correctness or avoiding offense," Hogan said. "Our aim for this program is to encourage discussion about how students will be better leaders for tomorrow by taking part in intelligent discussion of matters of opinion without immediately taking a simple disagreement as a personal affront."

Menand's address will also touch on why students need to learn to judge ideas based on relative merits without shouting down people who hold those opinions, and why they should learn to think and dialogue civilly with people with opposing points of view.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

December 8, 2015

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the New Music Ensemble are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/029>.

GVSU music students to perform in national parks

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's award-winning New Music Ensemble will travel across the U.S. to perform at some of the country's most famous parks thanks to funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Parks Service.

Through the "Imagine Your Parks" grant, Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director, said the group is commissioning eight composers to write original compositions inspired by Yellowstone, Badlands, Grand Teton and Wind Cave national parks. During the summer of 2016, the New Music Ensemble will perform the compositions in the parks through interactive and educational performances.

"From tranquil works evoking the starry nights and majestic anthems celebrating the vistas, to compositions that utilize recorded sounds of park wildlife, this is a music program that will leave a lasting impact on audiences," Ryan said. "They will experience music that is truly an outgrowth of our national parks."

The "Imagine Your Parks" grant marks the first time the NEA has provided funding for a Grand Valley project. Fred Antczak, dean of Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said this grant will provide students with invaluable new learning opportunities outside of Michigan.

"We think sharing dynamic new music with park attendees will give our students an exceptional opportunity to engage with communities they might not ordinarily encounter under uniquely inspiring circumstances," Antczak said. "This grant demonstrates the university's continued commitment to the arts. That commitment has paid off over the long term with increased enrollment and student success."

Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair, explained that the New Music Ensemble is at the forefront of a movement by composers to develop new ideas and music applications.

"The pairing of the New Music Ensemble with the beauty and sounds of our national parks is another way to explore the vast creativity that is music performance," Phipps said. "To have our students and faculty actively engaged in the information of new directions in music is an invaluable hands-on experience that will have an enormously positive impact on the professional lives of these students going forward."

The New Music Ensemble is an undergraduate ensemble that promotes classical music through commissions, tours, recordings, collaborations, outreach events and workshops. Founded in 2006 by Ryan, the ensemble aims to not only prepare students for careers that include contemporary music, but also help them become exceptional educators, advocates and leaders in the field.

"Imagine Your Parks" is a grant initiative to celebrate the NEA's 50th anniversary and the centennial of the National Park Service. Both agencies are working together to encourage the creation of, and greater public engagement with, art relating to the work and mission of the national park system.

For more information about the New Music Ensemble, visit newmusicensemble.org or contact Bill Ryan at (616) 331-3087.

For Immediate Release

December 17, 2015

Contact: Leah Twilley, Grand Valley State University, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos (<http://gvsu.edu/s/02j>) and video (<http://gvsu.edu/s/02l>) are available to use on Dropbox.

GVSU research aims to increase mobility for children with disabilities

HOLLAND, Mich. — A group from Grand Valley State University is conducting a unique study to determine if power mobility training results in changes to the range of EEG (electroencephalogram) activity of children who have multiple and severe disabilities.

The team of students and faculty members is working with Gabby Troeger, a 3-year-old girl from Hudsonville who has cerebral palsy. The study involves Gabby sitting in a power wheelchair trainer — built by engineering students — that has three buttons she uses to navigate. An EEG testing cap, built by engineering graduate student Nadina Zweifel, tracks and records Gabby's brain activity.

Lisa Kenyon, associate professor of physical therapy; John Farris, professor of engineering; and a group of students majoring in physical therapy and engineering are working with Gabby to use the device. Kenyon said the goal of this project goes beyond research.

"Gabby is extremely engaging, but she does not have the ability to move herself or communicate verbally," said Kenyon. "We hope our research will give children with multiple disabilities the ability to be mobile."

To their knowledge, this research is the first study of its kind to use EEG recording equipment to monitor brain activity of children while they navigate their way with a power wheelchair trainer.

"When we first started working with her (Gabby) she didn't understand cause and effect, but now she does," said Kenyon. "She is driving the power wheelchair trainer well. She's making decisions and choices, exploring and interacting with her environment."

Now in the second phase of testing, her mother, Jessica Troeger, said she has noticed improvements since she started working with the team in September. "Gabby is much more alert. She's happy and gets excited when we get to train," she said.

Stacey Omiljan, a student in the physical therapy doctoral program, serves as Kenyon's graduate assistant. Omiljan said it has been incredible to witness Gabby develop and grow.

"Although we are collecting data and analyzing it for research, it is about so much more because these experiences could be life changing for the children," she said. "I love to see the smile on her face when she is driving and listening to her parents talk about how proud they are of her."

The group will continue working with children in 2016 and hopes to receive funding to purchase more sophisticated equipment to continue their research.

For more information, contact Lisa Kenyon at kenyonli@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-5653, or John Farris, professor of engineering, at farrisj@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7267.

For immediate release

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MEDIA NOTE: Photos of G3 Camp 2015 are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/02k>. Photo credit: Amanda Pitts, GVSU University Communications.

Registration open for annual GVSU G3 Camp

ALLENDALE, Mich. — From learning how a zombie's brain works to simulating volcanic eruptions, Grand Valley State University's G3 Camp offers a fun and engaging way for children and their grandparents to experience college life.

Hosted by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center, Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley (G3) Camp offers opportunities for children ages 8-12 and their grandparents to attend hands-on classes while living on the Allendale Campus June 21-23.

"G3 Camp provides a great opportunity for generations to uniquely connect," said Diane Miller, RMSC program coordinator and G3 Camp organizer. "Youth will become familiar with a college campus while grandparents spend quality, educational time with their grandkids."

Activities for this year's G3 Camp include, but are not limited to:

- Simulating volcanic eruptions using Mentos;
- Creating mobiles utilizing the science of balance and statistics;
- Plant and animal identification on campus;
- Exploring the impact of earthquakes;
- Learning how electricity makes everyday objects work;
- Exploring the history of photography by examining "selfies" through the centuries; and
- Testing the water quality of Lake Michigan via an excursion on the Annis Water Resource Institute's *W.G. Jackson* Research Vessel.

During evening hours, participants are invited to explore Grand Valley's Allendale Campus and take advantage of various activities, including swimming, rock climbing, basketball, bike riding, and watching movies.

Registration for G3 Camp is open through April 30. For more information or to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/g3 or call the Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267.

For immediate release

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GVSU students, alumni advance to Hult Prize \$1 million competition regionals

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A team of Grand Valley graduate students and alumni will compete for a chance to win \$1 million during the 7th annual Hult Prize Challenge regional competition.

The Hult Prize Challenge is the largest international social innovation competition for young entrepreneurs. Participants form small start-up companies to compete for \$1 million in funding while working to solve the planet's toughest challenges. This year's competition theme is "crowded urban spaces."

During a quarterfinals competition December 10 at Grand Valley, 10 teams comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as alumni, competed for a chance to advance to one of the Hult Prize regional finals taking place in 2016.

The winning Grand Valley team consisted of Kathryn Christopher, product design and manufacturing engineering graduate student, Joseph Kissling, mechanical engineering graduate student, Briauna Taylor, nursing practice doctoral candidate, and Brittany Taylor, '14, finance and management major.

The team pitched "Platform for Progress," a platform that would help provide mass communication and resource sharing, as well as education and training, to residents of overpopulated and underserved communities. Christopher explained that the platform would utilize text messaging as a way for these particular populations to receive information about entrepreneurial workshops and training sessions. These sessions would focus on teaching people how to provide basic necessities, such as water, shelter and food, to help their communities while also creating income.

"If Platform for Progress can provide training and education on how to construct a sand filter and sell the clean water from it, for example, we can then provide the individuals a microloan for the materials they will need to construct the sand filter," Christopher said. "That person can then sell the clean water, generating income for themselves, as well as sell water to their neighbors at a price lower than what they would normally pay."

Christopher and her team will travel to Boston, Massachusetts March 11-12 to compete in the Hult Prize regional competition.

"This competition has shown us how we can use our knowledge and skill sets to make a huge impact on the world," Christopher said. "I personally have been able to practice my skills in design thinking, as well as utilize my knowledge in engineering to work collaboratively as a team to develop a solution."

Should the Grand Valley team win the regional competition, the group will present their final pitch at the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting and Hult Prize Global Finals and Awards Ceremony in New York City in September.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/cei or contact Michael Kurley at kurleymi@gvsu.edu.