

2016

GVSU Press Releases, 2016

Grand Valley State University

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For immediate release

December 18, 2015

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

GVSU report will detail health-related trends in West Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley will host its seventh annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast on January 8, identifying significant health-related trends and issues for the four-county area.

The presentation includes research by Seidman College of Business faculty members and a panel discussion by area health care experts about industry trends.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. in the Eberhard Center. It is free and open to the public; RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth. The event will also be webcast, a link will be posted on the website closer to the event.

Kevin Callison, assistant professor of economics, will present findings from "Health Check: Analyzing Trends in West Michigan 2016," including data on job growth, area health care overview and demographic changes. Leslie Muller, assistant professor of economics, will share results of a community survey of residents regarding health insurance coverage.

The report is in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Priority Health.

Panelists are Jim Green, executive director of human resources, Lacks Enterprises; Dr. Jay LaBine, chief medical officer, Priority Health; Nick Lyon, director, Michigan Department of Community Health; and Dr. Thomas Simmer, senior vice president and chief medical officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health, said the event and report is intended to inform health care policy and community decisions about the types of health care professionals, services and delivery systems that could best serve the area.

"West Michigan's health care organizations, businesses, governmental agencies, foundations, and educational institutions share collective responsibility to improve the health, safety, and vitality of our region," Nagelkerk said. "Perseverance toward integrated, cost-effective, safe, quality health care across the lifespan is essential."

For more information about the event, call (616) 331-5876.

For Immediate Release

December 21, 2015

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

MEDIA NOTE: photos and video of each story are available to use here: gvsu.edu/r/?3SY

Grand Valley State: Top 15 stories of 2015

ALLENDALE, Mich. — From the discovery of a one-million-year-old monkey fossil, to the 100,000th student to graduate, to the opening of the new science lab building, 2015 has been a year full of unforgettable moments at Grand Valley State University.

Here are the top 15 memorable stories of 2015. The stories were chosen based on their impact on campus, in the news and on social media.

15. Trayvon Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton, gives MLK 2015 keynote [\[story\]](#)

Fulton was the first keynote speaker during Grand Valley's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week. She spoke to more than 2,000 people January 19.

14. Students build mobile device for children with spinal muscular atrophy [\[story\]](#)

A group of students created a device that allows a child with type I spinal muscular atrophy to move and be independent.

13. Board of Trustees approves housing building, rec center addition [\[story\]](#)

August 2016 is the target completion date of the 145,000-square-foot housing building and the 16,900-square-foot addition to the Recreation Center.

12. Grand Valley, Consumers Energy break ground on solar gardens [\[story\]](#)

The 17-acre Solar Gardens, scheduled to be completed in spring of 2016, will be the largest community solar project in Michigan.

11. 40th anniversary of international partner [\[story\]](#)

The Cracow University of Economics is Grand Valley's oldest international partner. President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers signed the initial partner agreement with CUE officials 40 years ago.

10. Grand Valley dedicates P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science [\[story\]](#)

The 151,720-square-foot, four-story building includes nine classroom, 29 labs, study spaces, a greenhouse and offices.

9. 86-year-old student begins 36th year at GVSU [\[story\]](#)

Ann Dilley, a jewelry and metalsmithing student, first registered as a student at Grand Valley in 1979.

8. Professor, students participate in discovery of gateway to ancient home of Goliath [\[story\]](#)

A team from Grand Valley 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 (thought to be the home of Goliath).

7. GVSU named Best in Midwest for 2016 [\[story\]](#)

U.S. News & World Report ranked Grand Valley 3rd for "Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest" in its Best Colleges 2016 publication.

6. Grand Valley enrolls record number of students [\[story\]](#)

Total enrollment is 25,325, up from last year's enrollment of 25,094, with 4,155 being first-time students. There are also a record number of students of color on campus (4,136), international students (434), and a record number of students living on campus (6,223).

5. One million-year-old monkey fossil discovered by professor [\[story\]](#)

An international team of scientists, including a Grand Valley professor and alumni, discovered a species of a monkey fossil in an underwater cave in Altagracia Province, Dominican Republic.

4. Climate survey response rate above national average [\[story\]](#)

More than 40 percent of the campus community participated in the myGVSU Climate Survey 2015.

3. Student rally supports University of Missouri students [\[story\]](#)

A silent march and rally was organized by 15 culturally based student organizations on campus.

2. Grand Valley makes it to NCAA Division II playoffs [\[story\]](#)

A furious late rally fell just short on a missed two-point conversion try as Grand Valley lost to Shepherd University in the Division II football semifinals.

1. Grand Valley celebrates 100,000th graduate [\[story\]](#)

Dale Boedeker, an advertising and public relations alumnus, became Grand Valley's 100,000th graduate in April.

For Immediate Release

January 4, 2016

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

GVSU ranked as a high-value college by *Money* magazine

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University stands out nationally as a high-value public college that has reduced achievement gap disparities, according to *Money* magazine.

Money magazine analyzed data from a new study conducted by the Education Trust, a think tank in Washington, D.C., that found most colleges have raised graduation rates during the past decade.

Money magazine named Grand Valley State University among 14 public colleges that stand out as the most rapidly improving high-value colleges in the nation.

All 14 colleges currently have above-average graduation rates, raised their graduation rates for all students by at least 10 percent since 2003 and reduced the achievement gap disparities among races over that time.

The colleges were ranked based on a combination of educational quality, affordability and the financial success of graduates.

For more information, visit <http://money.us/1P2yjjwU>

For immediate release

January 5, 2016

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/026>.

GVSU February 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 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. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon or call (616) 331-3484.

Wednesday, February 3 - Grand Rapids Symphony

The Grand Rapids Symphony will perform two beloved serenades for string orchestras, including Tchaikovsky's "Serenade for Strings," during the ensemble's annual Arts at Noon performance.

Wednesday, February 17 - Pianist Jani Parsons and Percussionist Chris Sies

Hailed individually for their "combination of tenderness and vivacious energy" by the San Francisco Chronicle, and "virtuosic flair" by the *Detroit Free Press*, Parsons and Sies have performed actively across North America both as soloists as well as members of the dynamic mixed chamber sextet, Latitude 49. The Chicago-based duo will present a fresh program of works at Grand Valley that celebrate the versatility of their instruments while inviting audience members to experience provocative sounds mixed with personal stories and anecdotes.

Wednesday, February 24 - Marlen Vavříková, oboe, and Sheryl Iott, piano

During this performance, Vavříková and Iott will take the audience on an international musical tour of Germany, Italy, France, England, the Czech Republic and the U.S. Works during this program will include oboe and piano compositions by Handel, Bellini, Boisdéffre, Barlow, Dring and Eben. Vavříková began her musical journey in the Czech Republic at the Janáček Conservatory of Music in Ostrava. After moving to the U.S. in 1996, she received her master's degree in music in 1998 from Eastman School of Music and her doctorate in 2004 from University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Vavříková has performed with ensembles in Europe, Japan, and the U.S., and has appeared as a soloist with orchestras in Ostrava, St. Louis, Champaign-Urbana, Allendale and Grand Rapids. Iott is a frequent solo and collaborative performer, speaker and adjudicator. She is currently a piano educator at Interlochen Arts Camp and Grand Rapids Community College, and serves as the music director at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Iott frequently performs with members of the Grand Rapids Symphony and Grand Valley faculty.

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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.

Rubén Martínez

February 24

Craft talk: 4:30-5:45 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263

Reading and booking signing: 7-8:15 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Rubén 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. This event is being sponsored by the Latin America Studies program within the Area Studies Department and School of Communications at Grand Valley.

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 "Godspell"

February 5, 6, 12, 13, at 7:30 p.m.

February 7, 14, at 2 p.m.

Tickets: adults \$14; Grand Valley faculty, staff and alumni, and seniors \$12; students and groups \$6.

At the behest of John the Baptist, young men and women forsake their jobs and take up the mantle of Jesus Christ by becoming his disciples in this musical retelling of the Gospel of Matthew set in modern-day New York City. Using song and dance, the apostles traverse the city, spreading Christ's message of love and tolerance as the time moves ever closer to his betrayal at the hands of Judas, and, ultimately, his crucifixion. Grand Valley's cast includes: Casey Huls as Jesus, Graham Smith as Judas, and an ensemble of Austin Schippers, Alex Williams, Jaelyn Raiford, Mary Kate Murnen, Jen Kouw, Maggie Bickerstaff, Kristina Papas, Mackenzie Segard, Kristin Boris, Jonathan Taccolini and Abby Claybaugh.

GVSU New Music Ensemble presents "Music in their Words"

February 14, from 2-3 p.m.

Loutit District Library (407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven)

Free and open to the public

The award-winning GVSU New Music Ensemble will perform their "Music in their Words" project during the Grand Haven Public Library music series. For the project, the group commissioned eight composers to write works that combine music with the spoken words of important 20th century composers, such as James Brown, Steve Reich, Joan Tower and Meredith Monk, among others. The New Music Ensemble promotes contemporary music with roots in jazz, rock, pop and minimalism. The ensemble has released three critically acclaimed recordings, which 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 and at Carnegie Hall. For more information about the New Music Ensemble, visit www.newmusicensemble.org.

Choral Concert

February 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

This performance, featuring Grand Valley's Select Women's Ensemble, Cantate Chamber Ensemble, University Singers and Women's Chamber Ensemble, will be free and open to the public.

Great American Voices Series

February 21, at 3 p.m.

Park Church (10 E Park Place NE, Grand Rapids)

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra, together with the GVSU University Arts Chorale, will combine with the Park Church Choir to present an unforgettable afternoon of outstanding choral and orchestral music. The program will open with the orchestra performing a short overture by Mozart. Rev. Patrick Coyle, Park Church minister of music, will also conduct the Symphony Orchestra and Park Church Choir in the powerful "Te Deum" by Bruckner. Henry Duitman, Symphony Orchestra director, will conduct the University Arts Chorale and Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Fauré's "Requiem." Ellen Pool, Grand Valley choral ensembles director, will conduct the combined choirs with harp accompaniment on two of John Rutter's arrangements of folk hymns and Duitman will conduct the full orchestra and combined choirs in a grand finale utilizing Vaughan Williams' "O Clap Your Hands," a work first heard at Queen Elizabeth's coronation more than 50 years ago.

Concert Band

February 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Barry Martin, professor of music at Grand Valley, conducts the Concert Band. This performance will be free and open to the public.

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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 through 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 is being facilitated 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 through 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 through 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

January 5, 2016

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

Heartwell to join GVSU's sustainability office

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Former Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell will join Grand Valley State University's sustainability team in February.

Heartwell will serve as community sustainability coordinator, a part-time position, for the Office of Sustainability Practices in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. Heartwell's 12-year tenure as mayor ended December 31, 2015.

In his new role, Heartwell will further Grand Valley's goals in the areas of sustainability and civic engagement, and serve as a resource for students. He will continue to chair the Grand Rapids Community Sustainability Partnership and Grand Rapids Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development.

"George's dedication to advancing the sustainability practices of Grand Rapids is unwavering and I look forward to him bringing the same energy to Grand Valley," said Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas. "His expertise and experiences will help Grand Valley continue as a leader in sustainability and partner of the city of Grand Rapids."

Anne Hiskes, dean of Brooks College, said as soon as it was known that Heartwell's term would end, she contacted him to explore opportunities to bring his expertise to Grand Valley. "I cannot think of an individual with a richer experience in sustainability, social innovation and community engagement," said Hiskes.

Heartwell said he is honored to be asked to join Grand Valley.

"I look forward to bringing to Grand Valley my passion for sustainability, the broad network of relationships I cultivated during my time in public office, and my love of West Michigan," Heartwell said.

Grand Valley is a leader in sustainability. The university has been nationally recognized for its best practices and culture by *The Princeton Review*, Sierra Club and Best Colleges. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/sustainability.

Embargoed until 8 a.m., January 8, 2016

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

Media note: Information from the report is embargoed until 1/8, contact coffillm@gvsu.edu for an advance copy of the Health Check, and to arrange interviews with Kevin Callison and Leslie Muller.

GVSU report: health care costs for chronic conditions vary even by zip codes

-- 2016 Health Check also details aging population, unhealthy behaviors for area

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Researchers at Grand Valley State University said health care costs for people with chronic conditions, like diabetes or coronary artery disease, are higher in areas north and southwest of Grand Rapids.

Seidman College of Business economics faculty members Kevin Callison and Leslie Muller released the 2016 Health Check report during the seventh annual health care summit hosted by Grand Valley on January 8 at the Eberhard Center. The report identifies health-related trends and issues facing Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan (KOMA) counties.

With data provided by Blue Care Network, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and Priority Health, researchers analyzed expenses for patients diagnosed with asthma, coronary artery disease, depression, diabetes, hyperlipidemia and low back pain.

Researchers found expenditures for all conditions increased in West Michigan compared to the previous year, but generally remain lower in the Grand Rapids area than in the Detroit region. However, data showed higher expenditures for coronary artery disease in KOMA than in Detroit; and certain zip codes in areas north and southwest of Grand Rapids — parts of Newaygo, southern Allegan and Van Buren counties — reported consistently higher expenditures for nearly all chronic diseases.

Callison said it's difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of the expenditure increases. Some potential explanations include a growing reliance on high-cost technologies, changing market structures in the hospital and insurance sectors, and price increases due to overall medical inflation.

For the second year, researchers conducted a survey of Michigan businesses and their health insurance offerings in light of the Affordable Care Act. For the most part, firms have neither increased nor decreased their health insurance offerings in the last year and a large majority continue to offer this benefit. Businesses are, however, changing prescription coverage and passing along costs to employees in the form of higher deductibles and co-pays, with some considering switching to private exchanges to control costs.

New to the report this year was a community survey, asking residents about health insurance coverage and access to health care.

Muller said one concern with the Medicaid expansion was that an influx of new Medicaid patients would make it more difficult to find a primary care physician. She found that the vast majority of patients, 76 percent, saw no difference in the ability to find a primary care physician, while 14 percent said it had actually gotten easier. She also found that more than two-thirds of patients saw no change in the time spent in the waiting room and the time spent with their physician.

Researchers also found:

- Aging population: There are more people ages 45-64 than people who are 20-34 and 35-44.
- Obese/overweight: The obesity rate fell from 32.8 percent in 2013 to 29.8 percent in 2014; the overweight population rose in KOMA by 1.3 percent.
- Unhealthy behaviors: Rates for binge drinking and smoking fell in KOMA from 2013, but the percentage of people with little physical activity rose.

The complete report is online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley, said the report is meant to inform health care policy and decisions in West Michigan. "With our region's continued commitment of substantial resources for health care delivery and health science research, we are in the unique position to collaboratively utilize the resources available to effectively influence positive changes in our community," she said.

For immediate release

January 7, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: John Gabrosek is available for interview Friday, January 8. To contact him, call (616) 212-7241 or email gabrosej@gvsu.edu.

GVSU professor offers hints for winning Powerball jackpot

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Saturday's Powerball jackpot will be the largest for any lottery game in American history after the \$500 million drawing on January 6 yielded no winner.

According to Michigan Lottery, Saturday's jackpot is currently sitting at \$700 million. That number topples the previous jackpot record, which was a \$656 million Mega Millions jackpot won in March of 2012.

John Gabrosek, statistics professor at Grand Valley State University, said the odds of one person actually winning Saturday's grand prize if they purchase only one ticket is about 1 in 292,201,338.

"The calculation to determine the chance of winning the lottery involves something called 'combinatorics,' which encompasses finding the number of chances something can happen and the number of ways a ticket can be a winner," Gabrosek said. "For example, after all the calculator magic, there are 11,238,513 different five-number possibilities for the white Powerball numbers."

Gabrosek explained that the odds of someone from Michigan, or even Grand Valley specifically, winning the Powerball ultimately depends on how many tickets are sold.

"It's been estimated that Michigan residents are expected to purchase more than 3 million tickets, so let's say 3.5 million tickets are sold," Gabrosek said. "The chance of a Michigan winner would be a paltry 1.2 percent. Let's say every one of the roughly 25,000 GVSU students buys 100 tickets, which would equal about 2,500,000 tickets. The chance of a GVSU winner would be only 0.86 percent."

So how can one help better their chances at winning? Gabrosek said the best strategy is to buy more tickets and play mid-range numbers.

"To increase the chances you won't have to split a winning ticket, play numbers in the 40s, 50s and 60s for the white balls," Gabrosek said. "People often play numbers that relate to meaningful things, such as ages and birthdays, especially of children and siblings. Since ages of children would tend to be smaller numbers and birthdays are never beyond a monthly end date of 31, people tend not to play high numbers."

Gabrosek said he believes that most people in the U.S. play lottery games because they think they have a higher chance of winning than they actually do.

"The lottery does a very good job of advertising the winners without talking much about the chances of winning or the many, many losers," Gabrosek said. "Everyone thinks they have a system to beat the odds, but they really don't. All that being said, I'll probably buy a ticket."

The most recent Powerball victory was in Tennessee on November 4, 2015, with a grand prize of \$89,795,622.

The last Michigan resident to win the Powerball was Julie Leach, who took home \$197,417,561 in September of last year.

Gabrosek said while \$700 million is a staggering number, the winnings reaching that amount is a lot less surprising than most people think.

"The chance of no one winning on the last drawing was actually about 55 percent," Gabrosek said. "So, when you buy a ticket — or a bunch of tickets — there is a very, very small chance of winning the jackpot."

To gain some perspective, below is a list of what someone is more likely to experience than winning the Powerball jackpot:

- Being struck by lightning - one in 960,000
- Being called to "Come on down!" on "The Price is Right" - one in 36
- Being audited by the IRS - one in 175
- Being born with 11 fingers or toes - one in 500
- Winning an Oscar - one in 11,500
- Finding a pearl in an oyster - one in 12,000
- Becoming a billionaire - one in 7 million
- Becoming President of the U.S. - one in 10,000,000
- Getting attacked by a shark - one in 11,500,000

January 10, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo gallery of Ralph Hauenstein can be found on Dropbox at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fotv5f93yuagoas/AAATa7a0l3OpBiuzRc1yRaYya?dl=0>

Philanthropist and friend Ralph Hauenstein dies at age 103

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Grand Valley State University joins the community in mourning the death of Ralph W. Hauenstein. His family said he died in Grand Rapids January 10, 2016. He was 103 and just two months from his birthday.

Hauenstein was a major supporter of Grand Valley, including his significant gifts to found, and later expand, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. (hauensteincenter.org).

Hauenstein went beyond financial support for the university, sharing both his insights and his time as a member of the Grand Valley University Foundation Advisory Cabinet. He was a Grand Valley Foundation director and was often seen with the students in the Cook Leadership Academy in the Hauenstein Center. Up until recently, he attended many of the programs and events of the center, which are designed to promote ethical leadership.

After a career in newspapers in Grand Rapids, he served in intelligence during WWII under General Eisenhower. After a distinguished military career, he became a business leader in the import-export business. Hauenstein went on to become a leading philanthropist in the region.

“Ralph Hauenstein was an extraordinary individual,” said Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas. “He was a man of great honor, great integrity and all who knew him feel it was a privilege. His presence in our lives and in this community will be sorely missed.”

He received an Honorary Doctorate from Grand Valley in 2004, saying in a speech: “If you are going to be a leader, if you are going to serve your community and your country, then you must not be timid or resigned to come-what-may. You must take the future into your own hands, to the extent that you are able. You must work to turn the odds in your favor. What is needed are courageous, visionary leaders.”

Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies Gleaves Whitney said: “Ralph Hauenstein’s life of leadership and service inspires everything that we do at the Hauenstein Center. He was active in our programs, strategic vision and with our students’ development. Ralph had the gift of friendship. He was an effective, ethical leader in every endeavor he undertook. In an age that fixates on celebrity, Ralph was a true hero, the real deal. He always stressed ethics, integrity and service to others. He was a dear friend, and we will miss our mentor deeply.”

Watch a video of Ralph Hauenstein’s life here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1vbn2fqwqabnbf7/Ralph%20Hauenstein%20Tribute%20Master.mp4?dl=0>

January 11, 2015

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Ralph Hauenstein friend, expert available to comment on life, legacy

MEDIA NOTE: Ralph Hauenstein, a WWII veteran who was instrumental in helping win the war through his work in the "Ultra" program, a super-secret intelligence mission, died Sunday, January 10 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was also a successful businessman and community philanthropist. He was 103 years old.

Hauenstein was one of the first American soldiers into liberated Paris following Nazi occupation, and was the owner of Werner Lehara Inc. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, a food equipment manufacturer that brought Goldfish crackers, Andes mints and many other foods to the American consumer.

Hauenstein's close personal friend and colleague Gleaves Whitney, director of Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies is available to comment on Hauenstein's life and legacy. The center was founded by Hauenstein in 2001.

More than just professional colleagues, Whitney and Hauenstein were close personal friends, spending time together for more than a decade before Hauenstein's death.

To request an interview with Whitney about Hauenstein, please contact Nate Hoekstra, Communications Specialist at Grand Valley State University at hoekstna@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8138. After hours requests can be directed to his cell, (616) 318-3673.

Video of Hauenstein is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2hn3fkWIHA>

Photos of Hauenstein are available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fotv5f93yuagoas/AAATa7a0l3OpBiuzRc1yRaYya?dl=0>

The proper pronunciation of Hauenstein's last name is (HOW-en-styne).

Please see below for the full release on Hauenstein's death:

Philanthropist and friend Ralph Hauenstein dies at age 103

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Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies Gleaves Whitney said: “Ralph Hauenstein’s life of leadership and service inspires everything that we do at the Hauenstein Center. He was active in our programs, strategic vision and students' development. Ralph had the gift of friendship. He was an effective, ethical leader in every endeavor he undertook. In an age that fixates on celebrity, Ralph was a true hero, the real deal. He always stressed ethics, integrity and service to others. He was a dear friend, and we will miss our mentor deeply.”

January 12, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Several Grand Valley State University experts are available for comment and analysis of President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address tonight.

GVSU experts available after State of the Union

Donald Zinman, professor of political science, is available for interviews via phone or at his home after the event. He can be reached via email at zinmand@gvsu.edu to schedule interviews.

Roger Moiles, professor of political science, is available for interviews via phone or at his home in Holland after the event. He can be reached for comment on his cell phone either Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, at (616) 994-9985.

Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, will be available for interviews after the event. He can be reached at (616) 460-7955.

For immediate release

January 12, 2016

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

Media note: headshots of the speakers are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/000>

National speakers highlight GVSU's commemoration of Dr. King

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two prominent speakers will highlight a week of events at Grand Valley State University January 18-23 to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Touré will speak on Monday, January 18, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. He is a former NBC contributor and former MSNBC co-host of "The Cycle." A contributing editor to *Rolling Stone* and other publications, Touré is the author of several books, including "Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness? What It Means to Be Black Now."

Touré will also speak on January 18 at the 30th annual Grand Rapids Community College program and on January 19 at Davenport University.

On Wednesday, January 20, Patrisse Cullors will speak in the Kirkhof Center, on the Allendale Campus, at 4:30 p.m. She 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. Her presentation will be simulcast to an audience in the Eberhard Center, second floor, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Both events are free and open to the public.

This year mark the fourth year that classes at Grand Valley have been canceled on the King holiday, allowing more students, faculty and staff members to participate in events. Other events on January 18 include performances by a student theater troupe, readings and discussion of King's works, and upcycling crafts for area shelters.

New in 2016, a Teach-In will be held 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. Nearly 40 sessions are planned from 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. under the umbrella theme, "Power, Privilege and Difficult Dialogues."

Grand Valley's MLK Week ends on January 23 with a Day of Service and Solidarity, when students volunteer to travel to West Michigan nonprofit organizations for service activities.

For more information on the speakers or Grand Valley MLK commemoration week events, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk.

For immediate release

January 12, 2016

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

Great Lakes focus of new GVSU art exhibit

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A visual exploration of the natural resources and region of the Great Lakes is the focus of a new art exhibition at Grand Valley State University.

"Great Lakes: Image & Word" will be on display through April 1 in the university's Art Gallery located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus. An opening reception will take place January 21 from 5-7 p.m.

David Newell, Gallery and Collections curator of exhibitions, said "Great Lakes" spotlights the unique life experiences of those who live in this region of the Midwest through poetry, paintings, videos and other mediums.

"The area's complex environmental zones, landscapes, extreme weather patterns, contrasting nautical and agricultural cultures and ethnic customs all create a rather singular experience," Newell said.

Patricia Clark, Writing Department chair, will showcase a poem, entitled "Threnody," which means a song, hymn or poem of mourning composed as a memorial to the dead.

"I was moved, a few years ago, by the number of drowning victims in Lake Michigan during just a few summer months," Clark said. "I imagined victims, over time, of all the Great Lakes, and the sound of their sadness."

The collaborative work of Nayda Collazo-Llorens, Stuart and Barbara Padnos Distinguished Artist-in-Residence, and Arizona-based artist Ander Monson is the result of research surrounding an old U.S. Navy project. Collazo-Llorens said "Project ELF" consisted of two transmitters designed to communicate one-way coded messages to submarines around the world. One transmitter is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula near Republic, with the other located in northern Wisconsin.

"Since Project ELF was shut down in 2004, I figured the ground would have some sort of leftover mark or trace of where the cables were located," Collazo-Llorens said. "While on the site, I took photographs, recorded audio and video and collected stones and other organic matter while also mapping my movement through the area."

These collected materials will be showcased through a seven-minute video and a series of 16 prints on paper.

For more information about "Great Lakes," visit gvsu.edu/artgallery.

For Immediate Release

January 13, 2016

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

GVSU graduate education programs ranked among the best

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — For the second year in a row, Grand Valley State University's online graduate degrees in education have been ranked among the best by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The online programs have been named as part of the "2016 Best Online Graduate Education Programs."

The online programs — master's degrees of education in literacy and educational technology — are offered through the College of Education and are fully online programs with no campus activities required.

For more about Grand Valley's ranking, visit the *U.S. News and World Report* [website](#).

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

January 13, 2016

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

GVSU event aims to eliminate bias against Muslim faith

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Hate crimes and bias incidents against the Muslim community hit an all-time high in 2015, according to the Council on American Islamic Relations.

To help strengthen bonds and foster understanding among the three Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute will host its annual Abrahamic Dinner January 21.

The event, themed "Conflict, Violence and Religion," will take place January 21, from 6:30-9 p.m., at Masjid At-Tawheed Islamic Center (3357 E. Paris Ave.) in Kentwood.

Douglas P. Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director, said the annual Abrahamic Dinner was initiated by the Niagra Foundation and has been held in West Michigan for a number of years.

"The Kaufman Interfaith Institute is pleased to co-sponsor this event, which brings the various faith traditions together to seek interfaith understanding, as well as provides the opportunity to meet people in our community from various religions," Kindschi said. "In doing so, we find that we have so much in common at the deepest levels of our values and commitment to peace."

Filiz Dogru, associate professor of mathematics at Grand Valley and Grand Rapids Niagara Foundation Outreach coordinator, said this year's theme is appropriate for a world currently suffering from a plethora of violence.

"We would like to address instances of worldwide violence in our community from the view of all Abrahamic traditions to increase the awareness of misused understandings," Dogru said.

Three guest speakers will share the perspectives of their individual traditions about transcending religious tolerance in order to foster greater interfaith understanding. This year's speakers include Len Robinson, Temple Emanuel; Rev. Jen Porter, Westminster Presbyterian Church; and Imam Morsy Salem, Masjid At-Tawheed.

To register for the Abrahamic Dinner by the deadline of January 20, visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith.

For Immediate Release

January 15, 2016

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

West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast

-- Grand Valley State economist will unveil findings

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University economics expert Paul Isely will release results January 28 of his annual survey of the regional economy. The 2016 Colliers International 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 and December of 2015. Isely, associate dean and professor of economics in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, will talk about employment, sales, export growth and consumer confidence.

The event is co-sponsored by Colliers International. An overview will be given of the real estate forecast, both nationally and for the West Michigan market.

West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast

Thursday, January 28

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/events.

For more information, contact Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100, or Natalie Burns with Colliers at (616) 988-5824.

For Immediate Release

January 19, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of students presenting their work are available on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/039>

GVSU students bring medical device ideas to life

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Students at Grand Valley State University are solving real-world medical problems by designing and building devices for medical professionals.

The devices are being developed in the Grand Valley School of Engineering through a collaboration with Spectrum Health Innovations ([SHI](#)), a subsidiary of Spectrum Health that helps health staff develop and launch original ideas, including health care products and technologies. Physicians and medical staff come to SHI with ideas, and through the SHI/GVSU collaboration agreement, work with students who are challenged with developing the ideas and building prototypes.

Talks for creating a partnership began in 2011, when the School of Engineering began offering a medical device design class as part of the [then-new biomedical engineering master's program](#). Grand Valley offers the only graduate-level biomedical engineering degree program in Michigan that focuses on medical device design and development.

John Farris, professor of engineering who teaches the medical device design class, said the collaboration is beneficial for both groups.

"My students have been a part of projects they have never imagined," Farris said. "The product designs and prototypes developed through this collaboration have led to patents being filed, students winning business plan competitions and students licensing intellectual property from Spectrum Health Innovations to start their own companies."

One such company was created by Eric Van Middendorp, a Grand Valley engineering alumnus who developed an Endotracheal Tube Holder as a graduate assistant at SHI, where he now works as a mechanical design engineer. The device provides structural support of breathing tubes connected to patients. He has won several business plan competitions, including GreenLight Michigan Business Model Competition where he [took first place and received \\$25,000](#) to further develop his device.

The first project of the collaboration began in April 2014. Most recently, students presented their designs and devices during an event in December 2015. The projects include an in-bed exercise machine, an intravenous drug pump for home use and a female external urinary device.

Alex Roh, a product design and manufacturing engineering major from Hudsonville, worked on the in-bed exercise machine that aims to improve the physical therapy process for patients who had knee or hip replacement surgery and cannot bear their full weight. The goal was to produce a lightweight, portable device that could provide active therapy for a patient while they remain in their hospital bed.

"Our attempts to meet all the specifications resulted in many late nights of brainstorming, designing and discussion, but it was worth it. Being able to take an idea through the design process and ending with a

finished product was a great experience that exemplified what it really takes to develop a new product," said Roh.

The collaboration agreement also includes involvement from staff members and professors in the Grand Valley School of Computing and Information Systems and Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

For more information, contact Lori Henry, project manager for SHI, at lori.henry@spectrumhealth.org or John Farris at farrisj@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

January 20, 2016

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

GVSU concert series continues with Grand Rapids Symphony, international musicians

ALLENDALE, Mich. —The 38th season of the Grand Valley State University Arts at Noon concert series will kick off its winter and spring lineup by spotlighting a quintet of faculty woodwind specialists January 27.

Grand Valley Winds was established in 2006 and includes music faculty members Christopher Kantner, flute, Marlen Vavrikova, oboe, Joel Schekman, clarinet, Vincent Karamanov, bassoon, and Richard Britsch, horn.

Vavrikova said the quintet strives to promote chamber music and increase awareness of wind quintet repertoire. One way the group accomplishes this mission is by collaborating with local high school and middle school ensemble directors and performing for students.

During their Arts at Noon performance, Grand Valley Winds will perform three works, including Irving Fine's "Partita for Wind Quintet;" Joseph Jongen's "Preamble et Dances;" and György Ligeti's "Six Bagatelles."

All Arts at Noon concerts are free, open to the public, begin at noon, last approximately one hour and take place in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus. Below is the full schedule of upcoming series performances:

January 27 - Grand Valley Winds
February 3 - Grand Rapids Symphony
February 17 - Pianist Jani Parsons and Percussionist Chris Sies
February 24 - Marlen Vavrikova, oboe
March 23 - Maestro Ustad Shaft Khan
March 30 - Gene Knific Trio
April 13 - Tesla String Quartet

For more information about the Arts at Noon concert series, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484 or visit gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

For immediate release

January 21, 2016

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

GVSU Writers Series brings award-winning authors to West Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The new year will bring new authors from around the world to the campuses of Grand Valley State University as the Grand Valley Writers Series continues. Two members of the Grand Valley community will receive the spotlight during the series' January 28 event, when Glenn Shaheen and Oindrila Mukherjee share excerpts from their award-winning works.

Below is a full list of upcoming events:

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 this year.

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

"Browning Heartland: Transnational Communities and Imagination"

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

Rubén 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. This event is being sponsored by Grand Valley's Latin America Studies program within the Area Studies Department and School of Communications.

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 Radcliffe 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 an American Book Award, 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 the Academy of American Poets. Brown is currently an associate professor of English and creative writing at Emory University. This event is sponsored by Grand Valley's African and African American Studies program within the Area Studies Department.

For more information, contact Oindrila Mukherjee at (616) 331-8034 or mukherjo@gvsu.edu, or visit the [Grand Valley Writers Series website](#).

For immediate release

January 21, 2016

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

GVSU office to collect stories of Asian, Pacific Island residents in Holland

HOLLAND, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History will continue to collect oral histories from the Asian and Pacific Island community in Holland.

The story collection and photos will be on display at a free public exhibition in the spring.

Participants will be photographed and will share their stories with trained facilitators. Upcoming story collections will take place at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave., and are set for January 22 from 2-4 p.m., and January 25 from 3-5 p.m. Interested participants should sign up for a session online at www.herrickdl.org/events.

"Our Asian Pacific American Community" project is a collaborative partnership among Herrick District Library, the City of Holland, Latin Americans United for Progress, Holland Museum, the Kutsche Office of Local History in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Meijer Campus in Holland and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, with help from Integrated Fabric and LifeQuest Church.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said this important story collection adds to the fabric of residents that compose the West Michigan community.

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

For immediate release

January 22, 2016

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

GVSU study: bigger football players have higher risk for health issues

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In the world of American football, there is a stigma that players need to increase their overall body size to make an impact on the field. But, new research from a Grand Valley State University movement science professor and one of his students suggests that being bigger doesn't mean being better — or healthier.

Jeffrey Potteiger, professor of exercise science, and Maggie McGowan-Stinski, senior athletic training major, set out to determine how body size has changed in college and professional football players over the past 70 years.

"We started to take a look at providing the information that sports medicine personnel need to be aware of in order to effectively protect the health of the players under their care," Potteiger said. "In football, the most at-risk athletes are the offensive and defensive linemen."

The research duo determined that players have gained an average of between a quarter of a pound to one-and-a-quarter pound per year since 1942. This equates to an average 60-pound increase in body mass for offensive and defensive linemen.

Potteiger said the most common diseases resulting from excess body mass and body fat, especially around the abdominal area, include high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and metabolic syndrome. He added that hitting the gym and eating more aren't the only ways athletes are attempting to gain body mass.

"The use of growth promoting agents, such as anabolic steroids, growth hormones and insulin carry side effects that range from mild to severe," Potteiger said. "The severity of the side effects is dependent on the dosage level of the growth promoting agents and the length of time the agents are consumed." To help athletes increase their body size in a healthier manner, Potteiger recommends the following:

- Strive for lean body mass increases of less than one pound per week;
- Maintain good nutritional intake by eating one to one-and-a-half grams of protein for every two pounds of body mass;
- Eat adequate carbohydrates while avoiding excessive calories;
- Perform a resistance training program three-to-five days per week; and
- Leave plenty of room for rest and recovery.

The full study, "Protecting the Metabolic Health of Football Players With High Fat Mass," can be found in [*Strength and Conditioning Journal*](#).

For more information, contact Potteiger at potteigj@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7207.

For immediate release

January 25, 2016

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

MEDIA-Ford Learning Institute director to discuss design thinking at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A leader in the theories and practices of design thinking will visit Grand Valley State University to share her expertise with faculty, students and the West Michigan community.

Deborah Parizek, Henry Ford Learning Institute executive director, will present "Developing an Orientation of Innovation through Design Thinking," Wednesday, February 10, from 6-7 p.m. followed by a Q&A session. The event will take place in Loosemore Auditorium located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Parizek's talk will share the Henry Ford Learning Institute's process and involvements implementing design thinking in schools, communities and businesses around the world. She will also touch on her experiences working with leading design thinking experts and other progressive learning organizations to refine the design thinking process in order to develop young innovators and resourceful lifelong learners.

For more information about this event, visit gvsu.edu/designthinking or contact John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director at Grand Valley, at berryjr@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

January 25, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Video and photos from "Godspell 2012" rehearsals are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/03v>. Student actors with "Godspell 2012" are available for media interviews upon request. Media is invited to attend dress rehearsals February 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. in Louis Armstrong Theatre. To coordinate dress rehearsal coverage, contact Hannah Verville, "Godspell 2012" stage manager, at hannah@kboqgroup.com.

GVSU students to bring the life of Jesus to the stage in 'Godspell'

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Based on the gospel according to St. Matthew, the Grand Valley State University Opera Theatre will bring to life a musically updated version of "Godspell," the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz.

In "Godspell 2012," a small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and hefty doses of comedic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging from pop to vaudeville, are used across the stage to tell the story of Jesus' life.

Performances of "Godspell 2012" at Grand Valley will take place February 5, 6, 12 and 13, at 7:30 p.m., and February 7 and 14, at 2 p.m., in Louis Armstrong Theatre located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus. Ticket prices are: Adults \$14; alumni, seniors, faculty and staff \$12; and students and groups \$6.

"Stephen Schwartz, most known for composing music for 'Wicked,' 'Pippin' and 'Children of Eden,' has reworked harmonies and orchestrations for 'Godspell 2012' to reflect a more sophisticated and potent musical score," said Dale Schriemer, GVSU Opera Theatre artistic director. "Set in modern social context, the parables are playfully told and the depth of the ancient Biblical text comes to life in fresh new ways."

Sophomore music education major Casey Huls, who plays the role of Jesus, said the experience of performing "Godspell 2012" has been an emotional roller coaster for students.

"The second act of the show is a lot heavier than the first in terms of content and emotion because at that point we're basically following the events leading up to the Crucifixion," Huls said. "For a lot of us, I think the emotional response comes from the reality of portraying something that means so much to us in terms of our personal religious beliefs. But, regardless of whether or not someone is religious, it's still a really powerful show and it's hard not to get emotional."

For the past two seasons, Schriemer has cast alumni in each production to collaborate with current students, but for "Godspell 2012," alumnus Christopher Carter is returning in a behind-the-scenes role as stage director and choreographer. Since graduating from the university in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in dance, Carter has acquired several years of experience on the opera and musical theater stages, as well as touring shows and acting as a stage director and choreographer.

For more information about "Godspell 2012" and for ticket information, call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300 or visit www.gvsu.edu/theater.

For Immediate Release

January 25, 2016

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

GVSU groups organize water bottle drive for Flint

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Several groups at Grand Valley State University have come together to collect water bottles for residents of Flint.

The water bottle drive is January 25-29 in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. A team of volunteers will transport the water to Flint in early February.

Drop-off locations and times are detailed below.

- January 25-27, 2-4 p.m., Kirkhof Center lobby
- January 28-29, noon-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center lobby
- Women's Center, room 1201, Kirkhof Center

The drive is organized by the following student organizations: NAACP Grand Valley Chapter, Professional Organization for Women Entering Reality, Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity, Astro International Movement and National Pan-Hellenic Council. It is also supported by the Women's Center and Women and Gender Studies Department.

Students, faculty and staff members decided to plan a water drive during a meeting that took place January 22 in the Women's Center.

For more information, contact the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748.

EMBARGOED until 8:15 a.m. January 28, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report, which is embargoed until 8:15 a.m. January 28, can be found at this Dropbox link. Video and audio bites will be added January 28.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hgyxht73f2w9fqc/W16%20Forecast%201-13-16.pdf?dl=0>

GVSU economist predicts slower growth for 2016

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — "Every measure we have indicates continued economic growth for the local region in 2016, only at a much slower rate than 2015," said Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley State University.

Isely revealed his predictions for the West Michigan economy January 28, during the 2016 Colliers International West Michigan Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast event held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids.

His survey of the greater Grand Rapids economy (Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties) was conducted in November and December of 2015.

Isely said export growth will be much weaker in 2016. "Exports have deteriorated the most," said Isely. "Last year, exports were down \$1 billion. Increasing exports have been the shining light since mid '90s, but now we are seeing weakness overseas."

He also said there has been a shift from manufacturing growth to service growth. "Job growth out of the Great Recession was manufacturing up until last year when growth in the service sector out-sprinted manufacturing," he said. "The growth we are seeing now is on the service side and that has a much harder time moving the ball forward; it's not drawing as much money into West Michigan."

Isely added that growth in automotive sales that accelerated West Michigan out of the Great Recession is staying strong, but not growing anymore. He also said there are not enough workers to generate growth.

"For first time in a long time we are seeing young people, age 25-35, come to the area, but we still have a labor gap, not a skills gap. Plus, the number of high school graduates will be radically dropping in size in the next five years, so we need to draw even more people from outside the region to maintain what we have," he said.

Some economists are predicting the next recession will come in late 2017 to early 2019. "Economists aren't very good at predicting recessions," Isely said. "The recession from 2007-2009 was caused by a direct shock to our economy. The next recession will be smaller, unless we end up with a new shock."

Overall findings for 2016:

- The Current Business Confidence Index for 2015 is 77.5 percent, a small improvement over 2014.
- The Forecast Business Confidence Index for 2016 is 76.7 percent.
- Employment is expected to grow by 2.6–3.0 percent in 2016.

- Overall nominal sales are expected to increase by 2.3–2.7 percent for 2016.
- Export growth in 2016 is forecast to be much weaker than last year; expected growth is between 2.4–4.4 percent during 2015.
- All indicators signal the 2016 economy will continue to grow, but the pace will be slower than in 2015.

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

For immediate release

January 27, 2016

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

Forum at GVSU will focus on area health trends, issues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — West Michigan health care leaders will continue discussion from the economic health care forecast during an event, "Population Health," hosted by the Health Forum of West Michigan.

The event is set for Friday, February 5, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A light breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Panelists are Rob Fowler, president and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan and board chair of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund; Jim Green, executive director of human resources for Lacks Enterprises; and Adam London, administrative health officer for the Kent County Health Department. The moderator will be Ranelle Brew, associate professor and chair of public health at Grand Valley.

They will continue the discussion regarding health-related issues facing West Michigan residents identified in a report, "Health Check: Analyzing Trends in West Michigan." That report, from the January 8 economic health care forecast, is online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

The Health Forum of West Michigan continues the tradition of the Alliance for Health's First Friday Forums, under leadership from community partners and sponsorship from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Hosts for this event are Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, and the Midwest interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center at Grand Valley.

Register for the February 5 event online at www.gvsu.edu/miperc.

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2016

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

GVSU to host Free Trade Agreement update

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — After years of negotiations, an agreement has been reached on the largest free trade agreement in history. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is expected to have a large impact on U.S. businesses, products and services by eliminating more than 18,000 taxes and other trade barriers across 12 countries.

The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University will host a Free Trade Agreement update to help business owners interpret the text of the agreement and analyze its benefits.

“Free Trade Agreement Update: Trans-Pacific Partnership Focus” will be held February 5, from 8-10 a.m., at the Bicycle Factory, 201 Front Ave., on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Topics covered during this event will include:

- The trade agreement process and expected timeline for implementation
- What the TPP Agreement means for business
- How to interpret the text of the agreement
- Potential benefits of the TPP Agreement

To register visit: www.vagtc.org.

Van Andel Global Trade Center is an outreach center in the Seidman College of Business, offering international market research, consulting, import/export training and educational programs.

For immediate release

February 1, 2016

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/02H>.

GVSU March 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 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. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon or call (616) 331-3484.

Wednesday, March 23 - Maestro Ustad Shafaat Khan

Khan, a world-renowned Indian classical musician, has performed around the globe at many prestigious concert halls, music festivals and universities in India, Europe, China, Russia, Japan and the U.S. Recently, Khan performed alongside 22-time Grammy award-winning artist Stevie Wonder at Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. Throughout his career, Khan has distinguished himself by being the first known artist to have attained simultaneous excellence in performing sitar, surbahar and tabla.

Wednesday, March 30 - Gene Knific Trio

Pianist, composer and arranger Gene Knific is the recipient of eight Down Beat Music Awards for his performances and compositions in jazz and contemporary categories. Knific has performed worldwide presenting a diverse collection with a wide array of artists, such as jazz artists Joe Lovano and Miguel Zenon. The Gene Knific Trio has a repertoire spanning from jazz classics and 20th-century classical compositions, to pop, rock and folk music.

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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.

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 Radcliffe 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 the *Academy of American Poets*. Brown is currently an associate professor of English and

creative writing at Emory University. This event is being sponsored by the African and African American Studies program within the Area Studies Department at Grand Valley.

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Music and Dance Department Events

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

**Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert with Student Concerto Competition Winner, Anna Petrenko
March 2, at 7:30 p.m.**

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Kevin Tutt conducts the Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU Chamber Orchestra Concert with Faculty Soloists

March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

This chamber music concert will spotlight the Grand Valley State University Chamber Orchestra and Faculty String Trio, along with Music and Dance Department faculty. This free concert, which is open to the public, will feature Schubert's "Trout Quintet" performed by the Faculty String Trio and Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, and Michael Hovnanian, bass; Bartok's "Divertimento for Strings, movement 3" performed by the GVSU Chamber Orchestra; and Danzi's "Duo for Clarinet and Bassoon" performed by the GVSU Chamber Orchestra with soloists Arthur Campbell, professor of clarinet, and Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair.

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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 through 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 is being facilitated 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 through 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 through 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

February 1, 2016

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

GVSU will hire Peace Corps recruiter

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Officials at Grand Valley State University will hire a campus recruiter who will recruit applicants from West Michigan colleges and universities for the Peace Corps.

The new position is possible after Grand Valley signed a five-year agreement with Peace Corps officials in the Midwest regional office in Chicago. The campus recruiter will be a returned Peace Corps volunteer and be considered a Grand Valley staff member but work in consultation with the Midwest Peace Corps office.

Mark Schaub, chief international officer, said Grand Valley's campus recruiter (a part-time position) is the third such position at a Michigan university.

"Their role would be to provide advice and support for students considering a two-year service role for their country and world," Schaub said. "A Peace Corps appointment, in turn, helps the student launch their career and provides valuable experience in other cultures, in community engagement and language skills."

Since the 1961 founding of the Peace Corps, more than 230 Peace Corps volunteers have been Grand Valley alumni.

Jessica Mayle, Peace Corps spokesperson, said campus recruiters are integral to the Peace Corps' efforts to attract the next generation of volunteers.

"Just as they were integrated into their Peace Corps community as volunteers, these recruiters are now integrated into college campuses, where they can build relationships and collaborate with others to support Peace Corps' mission of global peace and friendship," Mayle said.

Grand Valley's proximity to other colleges and universities made it an ideal place to house a recruiter, Mayle said.

"Students in West Michigan are passionate about making a difference and exploring the world, and the skills they acquire in the classroom make them well-suited for our assignments," she said.

The campus recruiter will work from the Padnos International Center, housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. More information about the position is online at www.gvsu.edu/jobs.

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MAREC tenant awarded patent for modular solar mounting system

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Energy Partners, LLC, a tenant at Grand Valley State University's MAREC business incubator, has been awarded a patent for an innovative modular solar panel mounting system that's lighter, easier to install and significantly cheaper than traditional systems.

The patent ([U.S. Patent 9,252,311](#)) was awarded to James Wolter, the founder of Energy Partners. "Traditional photovoltaic installations require structural support pieces that are heavy, expensive and add to the labor required to install," Wolter said. "By integrating everything into our unique structural skin design, we've created a lighter, simpler system."

The unique monocoque concept, which has been used in race car and aircraft design, greatly reduces solar photovoltaic system installation time and cost, reduces the weight of panels, allows greater power generation throughout the day and makes panels stronger. Combined with new technology that would allow spray-on solar components, the newly patented design would reduce manufacturing time and costs, and reduce the number of components needed in a system.

The design would allow companies to pre-assemble most of the panels and supports in a manufacturing setting rather than in the field. Right now, on-site assembly can be complicated. This product simplifies the process to just installing posts, sliding assemblies together and plugging in the electrical connections.

"Energy Partners is really strengthening its intellectual property portfolio with this new patent, and we're glad to support their growth," said Tom Hopper, associate director for business at MAREC. "Developing robust technology companies is our goal."

Energy Partners, LLC was founded to develop and commercialize Wolter's intellectual property on renewable energy technologies. Their battery-backed solar product, currently sold under the Solar24 brand, offers 24/7 power availability. See <http://solar24.pw> for details.

The MAREC incubation program supports the commercialization of innovative technology and business models with both existing and new companies. MAREC has the community and institutional resources to create a successful, collaborative environment and achieve its vision of energy and technology development for a sustainable economy in West Michigan and beyond.

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

For Immediate Release

February 2

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

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites are available for media use via Dropbox here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2piv7z37hbon8v/AAD-BWeVN_aIoVyTrNGfxNG3a?dl=0

Grand Valley political expert explains what's next for presidential candidates after Iowa

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University political science professor Erika King said Monday night's Iowa caucus results were interesting because both major political parties now have strong candidates facing off against each other, which is not always the case.

King also said that Sen. Ted Cruz's campaign took an interesting tactic on the way to winning Iowa: combining old-fashioned boots-on-the-ground campaigning with advanced analytics and data mining to make appearances in locations where voters were likely to support his candidacy.

"That kind of strategic, careful planning turned out well for Cruz, at least in this campaign," King said.

An interesting note about the democratic caucus-goers, King said, was the age discrepancy by candidate, where Hillary Clinton was favored by most voters over the age of 65, while Sen. Bernie Sanders was overwhelmingly supported by millennial voters.

She said the next step for candidates will be critical, and that planning for the next step of their respective campaigns might be difficult.

"They'll need to be aware that they'll be campaigning in very different states and that messages that resonate in one state may not do well in another, simply because different issues are important to people in different places," King said. "The candidates will have to plot a more complicated strategy than they may have in the past because of their need to appeal to vastly different people in different areas."

King said Sanders' popularity likely has to do with the general dynamics of the nominating process.

"During the nominating process of both parties, people who are the most involved tend to be the most liberal and most conservative arms of their respective parties," King said. "The key is to appeal to them enough to secure the party nomination, but not go so far that they can't come back to the ideological middle to secure the center of the political spectrum where a vast majority of the electorate can be found."

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and video of Wallace are available on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/03X>

GVSU student receives tuition assistance from Make-A-Wish Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — When Grand Valley State University student Randall Wallace was granted a wish from Make-A-Wish Michigan, he knew exactly what to ask for: tuition assistance to help him pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

At 5 years old, Wallace was diagnosed with a congenital cardiac condition. Now, at age 18, Wallace hopes to become a pediatric cardiologist in order to help children like himself. He is double-majoring in pre-medical studies and biomedical engineering at Grand Valley.

Wallace, a native of Kingsley, was honored at a celebration at Grand Valley February 2. He was joined by Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas; Jennifer Connery, chief operation officer for Make-A-Wish Michigan; and Donald Malcolm, a pediatric cardiologist at University of Michigan who has treated Wallace since birth.

Malcolm has performed four open-heart surgeries on Wallace. The first one took place when Wallace was 3 weeks old, the second when he was 17. "What makes Randall remarkable is not just that he endured all the surgeries and procedures, but how he faced them. He is calm, optimistic and fearless," said Malcolm.

President Haas agreed with Malcolm. "Randall is an inspiration, and we're glad that he chose to become part of the Grand Valley family. He is a Laker, which means he will take what he learns here and go out into the world and make a difference," said Haas.

Wallace completed 56 credits during his senior year of high school before he started his first semester at Grand Valley in fall 2015. He said he is thrilled to be able to start his education at Grand Valley, and hopes to eventually attend medical school at University of Michigan. "It's only natural, since that's where all my surgeries took place," Wallace said.

Wallace's mother, Renae Wallace, said her son has been granted the gift of higher education, which he will continue to use for the rest of his life.

"He missed many days of school because of multiple surgeries, but he worked hard and told me when he was 16 that he wanted to become a pediatric cardiologist and help kids like himself," Renae said.

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites and a full interview with Brian are available at www.gvsu.edu/gvnow or on DropBox at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rp8h555p49cw7df/AACH3tNE58Qwv8tilseY9O06a?dl=0>

GVSU expert says local economy flat for January

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is "flat, but meekly positive," 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 January.

The employment index remained positive at +8, down slightly from +12. The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) edged back to +4, up from -1. The production index recovered more ground, rising to +12 from -4, while the index of purchases remained negative at -1, but improved from December's -4.

"Given the slower pace of the West Michigan economy, it is not surprising to see that the momentum for most of our industrial groups has turned widely mixed," said Long. "This is clearly the case with our industrial distributors, the office furniture manufacturers, capital equipment firms and aerospace contractors."

Long said the 2015 record automobile sales are projected to go even higher in 2016. "The January auto sales report did come in flat," Long said. "The retail auto market remains oversaturated and bolstered by lower credit requirement, massive incentives and low gasoline prices."

Long's said the employment picture remains very positive for West Michigan. The December unemployment rate for Kent County eased to a 15-year low of 2.7 percent, down from 3.6 percent a year ago, and a fraction of the 12.6 percent rate reported in July of 2009 at the peak of the Great Recession. In Kalamazoo County, the December unemployment rate fell to 3.2 percent, down a full percentage point over the past calendar year.

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

February 4, 2016

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

GVSU experts available to assess Super Bowl ads

The cost of advertising during Super Bowl 50 has reached a record high with a 30-second spot costing as much as \$5 million.

Grand Valley State University marketing and advertising professors are available Sunday and Monday to comment on the effectiveness of the commercials and whether money was well-spent.

- Robin Spring, assistant professor of advertising and public relations, can be reached at (616) 638-0426.
Spring's students will be watching the Super Bowl ads to predict the most popular and to assess strategies. Spring's professional work in radio, television and print, and for ad agencies provides her with multi-faceted experiences in advertising and public relations.
- Amy Hagerstrom, assistant professor of advertising and public relations, can be reached at (616) 295-6329
Hagerstrom researches emotional response to media and how it affects viewers' information processing of branded and social issue viral videos. She has more than 16 years of industry experience and will be especially watching social media activity.
- Kevin Lehnert, associate professor of marketing, can be reached at (314) 825-7128
Lehnert's research interests focus on creativity in advertising, cross-cultural and racial differences in consumer behavior and marketing ethics. He has a background in philosophy and is a member of the Academy of Marketing Science and the American Marketing Association.
- Joseph Little, assistant professor of marketing, is available Monday only and can be reached at (616) 331-7299
Little's research interests include cross-cultural consumer behavior, sports marketing, multinational marketing and e-commerce. He serves as advisor for DECA, the international association for marketing students.

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2016

Contact: Leah Twilley, Grand Valley State University, University Communications (616) 331-2221

GVSU health professions programs expand to Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will expand its Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences programs to the university's regional center in Traverse City.

Theresa Bacon-Baguley, associate dean for research in the College of Health Professions, said the decision to expand these two programs to Traverse City is based on the need for professionals to fill critical, health-related positions and for more educational health programs in northern Michigan.

The Master's in Public Health (MPH) program will focus on health promotion, a branch of public health that promotes health through education, intervention and policy work. The program will address how to identify specific needs of a community, and create ways to elevate its health status and reduce disparities.

Heather Wallace, an assistant professor who is working on the Traverse City expansion, said the program is the first of its kind to be offered to people living and working in the Traverse City area.

"Graduates will gain a toolbox of knowledge and skills, which are in high demand right now," Wallace said. "They will learn valuable skills like how to incorporate new wellness policies at a company and how to evaluate use of resources in a way that promotes efficiency and effectiveness. I see our graduates going on to work for many types of workplaces, including governmental agencies and private companies."

About 15 applicants will be admitted in the first cohort; applications are being accepted until May 1. Classes will begin in fall 2016.

Enrollment for the allied health sciences program is now open and classes will also begin in fall 2016.

Michael Wambach, assistant professor and chair of allied health sciences, said the program was designed to complement Grand Valley's Master of Physician Assistant Studies program that is also offered in Traverse City.

"This will allow students interested in physician assistant studies to partake in both our undergraduate and graduate curriculum in a more seamless manner," said Wambach.

Roy Olsson, dean of the College of Health Professions, said expansion of the programs is part of an ongoing effort to place more graduates in jobs in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The physician assistant studies program expanded to Traverse City in 2015; the first cohort began classes last fall.

For more information, visit the Traverse City Regional Center website at www.gvsu.edu/traverse.

For immediate release

February 5, 2016

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

Media note: a photo of Robinson is available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/04k>

GVSU names Robinson nursing programs coordinator in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Mary Robinson was named the Kirkhof College of Nursing's regional nursing programs coordinator for the northern Michigan region. Her office is in Grand Valley State University's Traverse City Regional Center.

Robinson, from Torch Lake, will advise potential and current students on KCON programs and coordinate community outreach in northern Michigan.

She brings two decades of practical nursing and nursing education experience to the position. Robinson has worked as an ICU nurse for Munson Medical Center, a school nurse for the Traverse Bay Intermediate School District, and an occupational nurse for General Motors' plants in West Michigan.

Robinson earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Grand Valley, and a master's degree in nursing with an education minor from the University of Phoenix.

Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing offers accredited undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. The RN to BSN, MSN, and DNP programs are delivered in a hybrid format that promotes interpersonal distance learning using online and in-person classroom forums. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/kcon or call (231) 995-1785.

For Immediate Release

February 9, 2016

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

GVSU helps students apply for financial aid

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — College-bound students and their families can get help applying for financial aid during College Goal Sunday on February 14.

Grand Valley State University is participating in College Goal Sunday, a national initiative aimed at increasing the number of students pursuing higher education. Financial aid staff members from Grand Valley will guide students and families through each step of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, or FAFSA. The FAFSA form, due March 1, is required for all students seeking financial aid, including grants, loans and scholarships.

Students under 23 years of age are encouraged to attend with a parent or guardian. Parents and students should bring their completed 2015 federal tax return (1040) if possible, or their W-2 and 1099 forms.

College Goal Sunday

February 14

2-4 p.m.

DeVos Center, Building A, first floor registration

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

Other College Goal Sunday sites in West Michigan include Grand Rapids Community College, Western Michigan University, Muskegon Community College, Grand Haven High School and Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor.

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

February 9, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Media is invited to attend scheduled sessions February 13-19, which begin at 7:30 p.m. in Louis Armstrong Theatre located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus. To schedule attendance, contact Jason Yancey at yanceyj@gvsu.edu.

GVSU students to participate in puppeteering workshop

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Thanks to the likes of "Sesame Street," "The Muppets" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," puppets have been character staples in the worlds of television, film and theater for many years.

During a week-long workshop February 13-20, Grand Valley State University students will learn to perform with puppets and even create their own.

During the intensive workshop, students will experiment with puppet manipulation techniques, explore the features and capabilities of a custom puppetry stage, work in small groups to develop a short play, and develop character voicing and movements.

The workshop will be facilitated by Jason Yancey, assistant professor of Spanish at Grand Valley, who has more than 15 years of puppeteering experience. While these types of workshops are rare for Yancey to facilitate, he regularly teaches an upper-level Spanish course during which his students write and produce puppet shows that they later perform in local Spanish-speaking elementary schools. For example, in 2013, Yancey wrote and produced a bilingual puppet adaptation for "Don Quixote," which he performed with four of his students across several states in the U.S.

Yancey said the natural abilities of theater students to create and portray characters on stage will easily translate to puppetry — although this workshop is open to all Grand Valley students.

"I find that working with puppets causes me to focus even more intently on every tiny aspect of what my voice and body are doing at every moment," Yancey said. "The puppet itself is really just a prop and a skilled puppeteer almost magically breathes life into its limbs, arms, body and soul. That process, I believe, makes actors better performers in every way."

Yancey added that there is also a humanistic benefit to working and performing with puppets.

"You learn how to work very intimately with your fellow performers, in close physical proximity with puppets that require multiple operators, as well as close proximity during complicated behind-the-scenes action," Yancey said. "Diving into the experience and succeeding supplies confidence to actors, especially student actors still learning and growing."

James Bell, associate professor of theater and the department's faculty facilitator for the workshop, said every year workshops are provided for students to give them opportunities to expand their theatrical training.

"Puppeteering is not an area that we have in our curriculum, nor is it an area that we have had previously as a workshop," Bell said. "But, this type of theater performance dates back centuries and is currently used in contemporary theater."

The puppetry workshop will conclude Saturday, February 20, with a performance at 7:30 p.m. in Louis Armstrong Theatre located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus. This performance will be free and open to the public.

For more information about the workshop and performance, contact Yancey at yanceyj@gvsu.edu or contact the Louis Armstrong Theatre Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

For immediate release

February 10, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Erika King is available for interviews and can be contacted at (616) 245-1470.

Audio bites and a full interview with Erika King are available on Dropbox at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xrksuentv6nkvtv/AADV2CVv_SvJLxSi4B563Zr7a?dl=0

GVSU expert: Clinton re-evaluating, Trump benefitting from public mood

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Heading into the South Carolina primary, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton must re-evaluate her message while Republican frontrunner Donald Trump may face more attacks, according to a political science expert at Grand Valley State University.

Erika King, professor of political science, said exit polls from the New Hampshire primary show Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders received broad-based support from democrats and independents.

"The breadth of his support is a very telling point in his favor that shows he is not a fringe candidate who appeals to one aspect of the American public," she said.

King said many party leaders thought Clinton would be the clear-cut winner in the early primaries and that Clinton must re-evaluate her message. "Hillary has to re-evaluate how she wants to reach out to a wider constituency and hone her message to make it more coherent and focused for a wider base of support," King said.

Trump was predicted to do well, but King said his win by twice as many votes as his competitors was not necessarily predicted. "He seems to be benefitting from the fact that his opponents are running against each other and not against him," she said. "Trump and Sanders are benefitting from public mood — malcontent with the establish, wanting change and what leaders can do for people like the average American."

King said Republican candidate John Kasich did better than expected in New Hampshire because he campaigned with a clear message. "He had a message of bringing people together and being positive, which allowed him to stand out in a state with a lot of independent voters," said King. "He is already planning a strategy that is focusing on some swing states in the Midwest, evident by his visit to Grand Valley Monday."

King pointed out that South Carolina is a more conservative state, which may help candidates with a more conservative message who didn't do as well as they had hoped come forward.

For immediate release

February 11, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Richard Vallery can be contacted at valleryr@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8951. Brett Bolen can be contacted at bolenbr@gvsu.edu.

Einstein was right: GVSU faculty weigh in on detection of gravitational waves

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Albert Einstein was right about one more thing: gravitational waves do exist in the universe.

On February 11, a team of physicists announced that they heard and recorded the faint tone of two black holes colliding more than one billion light-years away — proving the presence of gravitational waves in the cosmos. This event represents the first direct evidence verifying Albert Einstein's theory of relativity.

According to the theory presented in 1916, when a pair of black holes orbit one another, they lose energy slowly, causing them to creep gradually closer. In the final minutes of their merger, they speed up considerably until finally moving at about half the speed of light. They then bash together, forming a larger black hole. A tremendous burst of energy is released, spreading through space as ripples in the curvature of spacetime in the form of waves.

Brett Bolen, professor of physics, said in Einstein's theory, space and time are united into one geometrical notion.

"Gravity is not thought of as a force, but as a bending of spacetime itself," Bolen said. "Space could be thought of as a rubber mat. If you put a large mass on that rubber mat, it bends the mat. If you roll a marble near the indentation of that same mat, the marble will seem to follow a curved path instead of a straight one."

According to the full report, when the black holes collided September 14, 2015, the event produced an energy 50 times greater than that of all the stars in the universe combined. That massive amount of energy vibrated a pair of L-shaped antennas in Washington State and Louisiana. The antennas are owned and operated by a worldwide team of scientists known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

Bolen said the LIGO detection not only provides a new kind of test of general relativity, but it also gives astronomers new tools to explore the universe.

Richard Vallery, chair of Grand Valley's Physics Department, added that in the past, the universe has been explored almost exclusively through electromagnetic radiations, such as visible light, infrared, radiation and X-rays.

"Instruments like LIGO will allow us to 'look' at the universe in an entirely new way — by looking at the gravity that the interstellar objects emit," Vallery said. "As more observatories come online in the next few years, we will be able to get an even more detailed picture of the universe."

Vallery added that the LIGO experiment was unlike any seen up to this point.

"In order to detect these gravity waves, which are incredibly weak, we need extremely sensitive experiments," Vallery said. "In fact, the LIGO experiment needs to measure changes in length down to one-ten thousandth the size of a proton. At the time Einstein proposed gravity waves, we simply didn't have the technology to do an experiment with this sensitivity."

The full report, which includes more than 1,000 authors, can be viewed in [Physical Review Letters](#).

For Immediate Release

February 12, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the property can be found on Dropbox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y6zqx3w8f4yc4fc/AAAFm8Nqoe9jjbwM5p70-T8Ya?dl=0>

GVSU board approves agreements for Belknap development

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees approved two memos of understanding regarding property the university owns in the Belknap neighborhood in the city of Grand Rapids. The approvals came at the board's February 12 meeting at the L. William Seidman Center in Grand Rapids, following the city commission's approval at its meeting earlier in the week.

The MOUs followed a collaborative process by representatives from Grand Valley, Neighbors of Belknap Lookout (NOBL), and the city. The three parties are committed to cooperatively developing the property while keeping the needs of the neighborhood and those who live there in focus.

One agreement involves vacating an alley that is on the university's property, planning for affordable housing and the review process for building plans when they are developed. The other agreement uses the urban planning consultants Smithgroup JJR and involves how the university will work with the neighborhood to ensure that any future building on university property fits in with the character and integrity of the neighborhood.

"Grand Valley is committed to working with the neighborhood so that future development enhances the area," said Thomas J. Haas, president of Grand Valley. "These memos of understanding illustrate our desire to help the city with affordable housing and the area residents with employment opportunities. The city and the neighborhood representatives are working with us and that will lead to the right outcome for all involved."

Now that the board and the city have approved these agreements, the university will move into the planning stages for a building that will expand Grand Valley's health campus. There is no timetable for construction at this time. Grand Valley is the region's number one provider of health care professionals.

In other board action:

Students will see a modest increase in room and board rates beginning with the fall 2016 semester; the board voted to increase the rate 1.6 percent. The average cost for living on campus per semester will increase by \$32; the cost per semester in a traditional living center will be \$2,725. Students can choose from a variety of meal plans. The cost for the 14-meal a week plan per semester will increase \$50 and cost \$1,475.

This year's increase in room and board rates at Grand Valley is less than the five-year state average increase of 3 percent at public universities in Michigan. The fall 2015 occupancy rate at Grand Valley was 6,068 students living on campus. More than 7,800 students purchased a meal plan, which means students who don't live on campus still choose to use campus dining.

For immediate release

February 15, 2016

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

Media Note: a headshot of McCurren is available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/04M>

GVSU dean elected to national nursing association

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Cynthia McCurren, dean of the Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University, was elected to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Board of Directors for a second term.

McCurren joined Grand Valley in 2007 and oversees a nursing college that offers bachelor's, master's, and doctor of nursing practice degrees. She also serves on the Board of the Michigan Organization of Nursing Executives, as president of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing, and was an appointed member of the Michigan Task Force for Nursing Education/Michigan Nursing Education Council.

Prior to her current role, McCurren held a variety of teaching and leadership positions at the University of Louisville.

AACN represents more than 780 public and private four-year collegiate nursing programs. Through education, research and governmental advocacy, AACN works to establish quality standards for nursing education. More about the association is online at www.aacn.nche.edu.

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

For immediate release

February 15, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the GVSU Symphony Orchestra are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/04P>. Credit Caitlin Cusack.

GVSU music ensembles teaming with local church choir for free concert

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Teaming with the Park Church Chancel Choir, the GVSU Symphony Orchestra and University Arts Chorale will present an afternoon of choral and musical excellence during a free concert.

The Great American Voices Series Collaboration Concert will take place Sunday, February 21, at 3 p.m. at Park Church (101 E Park Plaza NE, Grand Rapids).

After the program opens with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra performing a Mozart overture, the Park Chancel Choir will join the orchestra to perform "Tue Deum" by Bruckner, which will be conducted by Patrick Coyle, minister of music at Park Church.

Following a freewill offering to benefit string scholarships at Grand Valley, Henry Duitman, GVSU Symphony Orchestra director, will conduct the University Arts Chorale and orchestra in a performance of Fauré's "Requiem." Ellen Pool, director of choral ensembles at Grand Valley, will conduct the combined choirs with harp accompaniment on two of John Rutter's arrangements of folk hymns.

The concert will conclude with Duitman conducting the full orchestra and combined choirs in a grand finale utilizing Vaughan Williams' "O Clap Your Hands," a piece first heard at Queen Elizabeth's coronation more than 50 years ago.

For more information about this performance, contact the Department of Music and Dance at (616) 331-3484 or musdept@gvsu.edu.

Media Note

February 16, 2016

Contact: Leah Twilley, Grand Valley State University, University Communications, (616) 331-2221

GVSU, West Michigan Aviation Academy to celebrate new partnership

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A new partnership between Grand Valley State University and West Michigan Aviation Academy will support high school students interested in exploring careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields.

The new collaboration will be celebrated Wednesday, February 17, in the board room of WMAA, 5363 44th St SE, Grand Rapids. The reception will begin at 8:30 a.m.; Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas and WMAA CEO Patrick J. Cwayna will review and sign the collaboration agreement at 9:15 a.m.

The partnership includes support from the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing. Grand Valley faculty and staff members will help develop WMAA's STEM curriculum and extra-curricular activities, and provide support for its FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics team.

For more information, contact GVSU University Communications at 616-331-2221.

For immediate release

February 16, 2016

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

GVSU choir to sponsor benefit concert in Flint

FLINT, Mich. — The gospel choir at Grand Valley State University will sponsor a concert in Flint to uplift the spirits of residents affected by the water crisis and collect supplies and donations to be distributed in that community.

Cassonya Carter, director and founder of Voices of GVSU, said many current and alumni choir members have family members in Flint. "This is our way to let our Lakers know that we care," Carter said.

Carter worked with leaders from Flint's Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to stage a concert that she said "will uplift the spirits and encourage the residents of Flint."

"Living Water" is set for Saturday, February 27, at 6 p.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2109 M L King Ave. in Flint.

The concert is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be collected. Flint radio personality Delores, from WFLT-AM, will be the emcee; other collegiate choirs, Heritage Voices of Praise from Grand Rapids, and Flint choirs will perform.

The Voices of GVSU will bring water and other supplies they have collected from Grand Valley. Concert attendees may also bring supplies: water, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, wet wipes. Proceeds will be given to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church to distribute to people in need.

Carter established Voices as a student in 1987. Since that time, the choir has performed at signature Grand Valley events and throughout Michigan at collegiate gospel concerts and other events. For more information, contact Carter at carterc@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2016

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

17th Auto Suppliers Symposium at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The 17th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium, hosted by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center, will be held March 10 on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

The theme for this year's symposium is "Powering the Pipeline" with presenters addressing topics like mergers and acquisitions, talent fulfillment and new innovations.

The keynote speaker is Deb Schroeder, purchasing general manager at Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America (TEMA). Her presentation is scheduled for 11 a.m.

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.

17th West Michigan Automotive Suppliers Symposium

Thursday, March 10

8 a.m.-noon

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids

Other speakers include Chris Hall, Motus Integrated Technology; Noel Cuellar, Primera Plastics; and Mike Wall, IHS Automotive.

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

For immediate release

February 19, 2016

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

GVSU study: Rogue River generates \$7.3 million for Rockford, Comstock Park communities in 2015

ROCKFORD, Mich. — The Rockford and Comstock Park communities accumulated more than \$7 million during the 2015 summer season, thanks to visitors to the Rogue River watershed area, according to a study by Grand Valley State University faculty and Trout Unlimited.

Erik Nordman, associate professor of biology, and Paul Isley, professor of economics and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business, were tapped to conduct the research through Trout Unlimited's Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative.

Data for the study was gathered during the four-month summer of 2015 season through the use of on-site surveys at multiple locations in the Rogue River watershed. These locations included The Rogue Golf Club, Grand-Rogue River Access Site and Campground, Rockford Dam and canoe launch, and White Pine Trail trailheads in Comstock Park, Belmont, Rockford and Cedar Springs. Participation in events such as Praise in the Park, Art in the Park, and the Rockford Farmers Market was also measured.

The analysis of the surveys focused on visitors who live outside of the watershed and were mainly visiting the area because of the Rogue River. While about 20 percent of participants reported living in Rockford, most of the visitors were from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Newaygo, Allegan and Ionia counties, as well as Lansing and Ann Arbor, and as far away as Iowa.

"Visitors know that the Rogue River area is a great place for fishing, boating, and running and biking along the White Pine Trail," Nordman said. "Maintaining or improving the river's quality and improving recreational access can increase economic development, including jobs."

More than 64 full-time jobs were supported because of additional earnings of more than \$1.7 million during the four-month summer season of 2015. The study shows that during that time, total direct spending, including both day users and overnight users, was more than \$4.1 million. The total economic activity, which includes direct spending, was more than \$7.3 million.

For more information about the study, contact Nordman at nordmane@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

February 19, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell project coordinator, (847) 744-0508, allerhaj@gvsu.edu

NOTE: The winning promotional poster can be found on Dropbox at:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/1998a0mkhchwshj/Winner_Design_lr.jpg?dl=0

Student poster selected to promote River City Water Festival

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A poster created by a local 6th grader will be used to promote the second annual River City Water Festival, celebrating the Grand River and its role in shaping Grand Rapids.

The festival features educational opportunities led by experts in environmental quality and water resources. **It will be held March 12, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. A poster award ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m.**

The festival is organized through a partnership between Groundswell and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Groundswell, hosted through Grand Valley State University's College of Education, is a coalition of community partners that creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for K-12 students throughout Kent County.

A Water Superhero Poster Contest was open to students in 5th, 6th and 7th grades, with the winner's artwork slated to be featured on promotional materials. Posters were designed to raise awareness about protecting the Grand River and Great Lakes from stormwater pollution. Nearly 100 students from eight schools in Kent County submitted posters.

Zoe Kukla, a 6th grade student at Orchard View Elementary School, has been named the winner; her poster will be featured in promotional materials for the festival. The top three winners will receive family memberships to the Grand Rapids Public Museum and classroom stormwater education presentations from WMEAC's Teach for the Watershed program staff.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges with expertise in art, community engagement and water quality protection. Judges included Rosalynn Bliss, mayor of Grand Rapids; John Shinsky, interim dean of Grand Valley's College of Education; Mark Newman, author of the children's book *Soooper Yooper*; Leslie Bellavance, president of Kendall College of Art & Design; Dale Robertson, CEO of Grand Rapids Public Museum; and Richard App, owner of Richard App Gallery.

The top 20 posters are on display at the Grand Rapids Public Museum through March 12.

Financial support for the festival comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, as well as Grand Valley's College of Education.

For more information, contact Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell project coordinator, at (847) 744-0508 or allerhaj@gvsu.edu, or visit: <http://groundswellmi.org/river-city-water-festival/>.

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2016

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

GVSU-Ethical implications of marijuana legalization topic of colloquy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — National experts will discuss the ethical implications of legalizing marijuana for medical and non-medical use during a presentation at the next DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy, presented by Grand Valley State University.

"Is American Going to Pot?" will take place March 14 at 6 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in Grand Rapids. The event is free and open to the public; registration is required at www.gvsu.edu/colloquy. A live webcast will be available at <http://gvsu.edu/s/04R>.

Presenters are Kevin Hill, director of Substance Abuse Consultation Services for the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse at McLean Hospital in Massachusetts, and Yasmin Hurd, Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience and director of the Center for Addictive Disorders at Mount Sinai Behavioral Health System in New York. Hill will speak in favor of the legalization of marijuana and Hurd will address the negative aspects of its legalization.

Hill is a leading expert on the topic of marijuana addiction. He has spoken nationally and serves as an expert on the topics of marijuana policy and treatment. His research focuses on medications and behavioral interventions that might improve available treatments for those who want to stop smoking marijuana or cigarettes.

Hurd is an internationally renowned neuroscientist whose research examines the neurobiology of drug abuse and related psychiatric disorders. In her role at Mount Sinai, she leads a center that covers one of the largest addiction populations in the U.S. She is also a professor of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York.

The event will be moderated by Corey Waller, chief medical officer for Spectrum Health Medical Group Center for Integrative Medicine. Waller is an addiction, pain and emergency medicine specialist.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley, said the topic was selected because of active discussions taking place in state legislatures across the country and the national media attention it has received.

About the colloquy

The colloquy series takes place twice a year, once in the fall and winter. It 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. 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.

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

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: A headshot of Steinman is available for media use here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/44f2hylap080bzs/Alan%20Steinman%20headshot%20%28preferred%29.jpg?dl=0>

GVSU director appointed to EPA advisory board

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Alan Steinman, director of Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute, has been appointed to serve on the Science and Information Subcommittee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Advisory Board.

Steinman, a longtime scientist and researcher whose expertise focuses on freshwater research and water resources, said he is honored at the appointment, and will accept the invitation. His term will continue through January 2018.

During his term, Steinman will provide independent advice on technical issues to help the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force address several challenging environmental priorities.

Steinman has served as the director of AWRI, Grand Valley's Muskegon-based freshwater research institute, since 2001. AWRI is a multidisciplinary research organization within Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

AWRI's mission is to integrate research, education and outreach to enhance and preserve freshwater resources.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/awri

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Several audio bites from Erika King are available for media use via this dropbox link:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/058>

Questions loom about GOP strategy, Democrat turnout rates, GVSU expert says

ALLENDALE, Mich. — As several Republican candidates for president continue to fight for votes in key primaries leading up to Super Tuesday, a Grand Valley State University political science professor said the remaining candidates might be staying in the race for different strategic reasons.

While Donald Trump maintains a strong lead, political science professor Erika King said both Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, who essentially tied for second in the South Carolina primary, have no reason to drop out. Trump has failed to earn a majority of the votes, though that task would be difficult until a head-to-head matchup for the nomination emerges, King said.

King said Super Tuesday will be critical for low-performing candidates like John Kasich and Ben Carson, though strong performances in Michigan and Ohio would buoy a Kasich run.

Kasich may have alternative strategic reasons for staying in the race this long as well, King said.

"One strategic interest might be to say 'Gee, I would be a fine vice presidential candidate so I'm going to stay in the race to show I can still capture important parts of the country, like say, the state of Ohio,'" King said.

On the Democratic side, King said even though Clinton won the Nevada caucus and holds a significant lead in the delegate and superdelegate count, it doesn't mean the race is out of reach for Bernie Sanders. She said it's possible that delegates and superdelegates, who are free to change their minds, might do so if Sanders continues to win contests across the country. King noted that delegates are political participants and are often inclined to do what they think is best for the party.

"At the moment, the superdelegates are working to Clinton's advantage, but they may make some political calculus," King said. "She is definitely mounting her delegate total much faster than Sanders is."

King also noted that while Sanders has broad support from a significantly large portion of young voters, broad support doesn't generally tend to equal success in elections.

"One of the things we have to remember, whether we like it or not, one of the truths of American electoral turnout is that older individuals tend to vote more regularly and in larger percentages than the youngest demographic of voters," King said. "Sanders is overwhelmingly winning the 18- to 29-year-old demographic. They are turning out 80-plus percent to vote for him. He's generating a lot excitement, so the question will be, should he not get the nomination, what will happen with those voters? Will they move to Clinton? Or will they just stay home in the general election if Sanders doesn't get the nomination?"

For immediate release

February 23, 2016

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

Panelists will discuss health care evolution at GVSU event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A panel of health care leaders and a medical student will discuss the "Evolution of Health Care" during an event hosted by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health.

The panel discussion is set for Friday, March 4, at 8 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus; a light breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.

Panelists are Elizabeth Murphy, vice president and chief nursing officer, Mercy Health Saint Mary's; Patrick O'Hare, senior vice president and CIO, Spectrum Health; Dr. Jeffrey Postlewaite, interim chief medical officer, Metro Health; and Miguel Joaquin, medical student, Michigan State University. Raymond Higbea, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration at Grand Valley, will be the moderator.

The event is free and open to the public; register online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

The Health Forum of West Michigan continues the tradition of the Alliance for Health's First Friday Forums, under leadership from community partners and sponsorship from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For immediate release

February 24, 2016

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

Media Note: a photo and caption of Johnson are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/05c>

GVSU accelerated degree program ready to graduate first cohort

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Rapids resident Grace Johnson found a job that capitalizes on her leadership skills and passion for neighborhood revitalization.

Johnson was among the first cohort of an accelerated degree program at Grand Valley State University in which participants earn a bachelor's degree in about 19 months. She and others in the cohort will graduate in April.

Her role as economic development specialist for Neighborhood Ventures sprung from Johnson's internship with the organization. The internship was a requirement during the Liberal Studies Leadership Program.

While she grew up on the west side of Grand Rapids, Johnson said her internship with West Grand Neighborhood taught her a lot about the area and its residents.

"I learned a ton about technical assistance that neighborhood organizations provide, but also learned the importance of walking with residents and not approaching issues with what I think would solve the problem," she said. "Community growth and development need to come from within to be successful."

The Liberal Studies Leadership Program is designed for working adults who have earned about 72 credits and are at least 24 years old. Students in the program take one five-week course at a time. Johnson said it was a very manageable schedule.

"The set up of the cohort was conducive to my schedule, and the one night a week in class commitment fit perfectly into my lifestyle," she said.

Judy Whipps, professor of liberal studies and philosophy, said a community internship helps students put leadership into practice. "Leadership is both about who you are, as well as what you can do, and any leader should be knowledgeable about issues in the communities they work in," Whipps said.

The Liberal Studies Leadership Program is enrolling students for the cohort that will begin classes in the fall semester at Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Visit www.gvsu.edu/lead19 for more information.

For immediate release

February 29, 2016

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

GVSU partnership with Elsevier will expand research opportunities for nursing faculty, students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing and Elsevier Inc. have partnered to collaborate on research projects that will expand opportunities for nursing students and faculty members.

Elsevier is a world-leading provider of information solutions. More than 400 health care organizations have implemented Elsevier's Clinical Practice Model (CPM) Framework, including evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that have transformed health care.

Research projects will be coordinated by Evelyn Clingerman, executive director of The Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation at KCON, and Michelle Troseth, chief professional practice officer for Elsevier Clinical Solutions.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said the partnership with Elsevier directly ties to the college's mission of linking practice and academia to transform health care. "The opportunity to conduct research within hundreds of hospitals in the U.S. and Canada utilizing Elsevier's CPM Framework is extraordinary," McCurren said.

KCON students and faculty members who are involved in research projects will have access to Elsevier CPM Framework materials and interaction with members of Elsevier's health care consortium.

Troseth said the partnership will accelerate health care improvements by leveraging a transformational framework-driven approach. She added that research projects will include focus areas of evidence-based practice, health informatics, interprofessional integration and partnership cultures, as well as the impact of a holistic health care approach over time.

"The complexity of health care is calling for academic-practice research as major shifts are forcing new ways of delivering health care with a focus on outcomes," said Troseth.

In addition to collaborative research projects, which are expected to begin soon, KCON students and faculty members will engage in learning experiences at various Elsevier client sites, including the Elsevier corporate office in Grand Rapids, and will co-present research project outcomes at conferences.

About Grand Valley State University: Grand Valley State University 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 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 200+ areas of study from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, and from regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City. The university is dedicated to individual student achievement, going beyond the traditional classroom experience, with research opportunities and business partnerships.

About Elsevier: Elsevier is a world-leading provider of information solutions that enhance the performance of science, health, and technology professionals, empowering them to make better decisions, deliver better care, and sometimes make groundbreaking discoveries that advance the boundaries of knowledge and human progress. Elsevier provides web-based, digital solutions — among them ScienceDirect, Scopus, Elsevier Research Intelligence and ClinicalKey — and publishes more than 2,500 journals, including The Lancet and Cell, and more than 33,000 book titles, including a number of iconic reference works. Elsevier is part of RELX Group plc, a world-leading provider of information solutions for professional customers across industries.

Media contact for Elsevier:

Christopher Capot, director, Corporate Relations
(917) 704 5174 c.capot@elsevier.com

For immediate release

March 1, 2016

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/03P>.

GVSU April 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 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. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon> or call (616) 331-3484.

Wednesday, April 13 - Tesla String Quartet

The award-winning Tesla String Quartet will conclude this year's Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University. Formed at The Julliard School in 2008, the quartet has quickly established itself as one of the most promising young ensembles around the globe. The quartet has won numerous prizes and awards at international competitions, including the 2012 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, 2012 London International String Quartet Competition, and 2013 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition. During the current 2015-16 season, the ensemble will perform across the U.S. and also made recent appearances in Austria, England and France. The quartet is comprised of Ross Snyder, violin; Michelle Lie, violin; Edwin Kaplan, viola; and Serafim Smigelskiy, cello.

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Theater Department

*For more information about all Theater Department events, call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300 or visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/theater>.

Six Characters in Search of an Author

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, at 7:30 p.m.

April 3, 10, at 2 p.m.

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

In "Six Characters in Search of an Author," a group of actors are preparing to rehearse for a Luigi Pirandello play. While starting the rehearsal, they are interrupted by the arrival of six characters. The leader of the characters, the father, informs the manager that they are looking for an author. He explains that the author who created them did not finish their story, and that they, therefore, are unrealized characters who have not been fully brought to life. The manager tries to throw them out of the theater, but becomes more intrigued when they start to describe their story. Pirandello's drama raises many questions about the relation between art and life, the limitation of words as tools of communication, and most of all, the true nature of identity and the reality that we perceive. Although written more than 90 years ago, Pirandello's play is a fresh, compelling and relevant theatrical

masterpiece in this age where hundreds of millions of people daily identify with the virtual reality they find on their mobile devices and movie screens.

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Music and Dance Department Events

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

GVSU Trombone Ensemble Concert

April 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Trombone Ensemble will perform their annual concert of works written and arranged for trombone ensemble. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU New Music Ensemble 10th Anniversary Concert

April 2, at 4 p.m.

Peter Martin Wege Theatre (341 Ellsworth Ave. SW, Grand Rapids)

The Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble is celebrating its founding with a special 10th anniversary concert. With performances by current and former members, the concert will celebrate the group's longtime collaborator, composer Marc Mellits, on the occasion of his 50th birthday. Featured on the program will be two compositions the ensemble commissioned from Marc, as well as other notable works spanning his significant career. This performance will be free and open to the public, although reservations are recommended by emailing Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director, at ryanwi@gvsu.edu or calling the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484.

GVSU Early Music Ensemble Concert

April 10, at 3 p.m.

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

During this performance, guest keyboard artist Shin Hwang will join the GVSU Early Music Ensemble for a performance of a concerti grossi. A staple of the baroque repertoire, a concerto grossi features a group of soloists rather than an individual and, therefore, it's considered the ultimate balance between instrumental virtuosity and collective collaboration. Hwang will partner with Grand Valley harpsichord professor Gregory Crowell on Bach's "Concerto for 2 Harpsichords and Orchestra." Also to be featured during this program are works by Telemann and Vivaldi, as well as two of Bach's "Brandenburg Concerti." This performance will be free and open to the public. The GVSU Early Music Ensemble began its activities in the Fall of 2003 under the direction of Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello. The group is dedicated to performing pre-classical repertoire utilizing period instruments, or faithful modern replicas, as well as historically informed performance practices.

Artist-Faculty Series: Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello

April 12, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Joined by guest keyboard artist Shin Hwang and Gregory Crowell, professor of harpsichord at Grand Valley, Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello, will perform a recital featuring a rare five-string cello. The repertoire will be two Sonatas that Mahave-Veglia has adapted to the five-string cello:

Bach's "Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord" and Schubert's "Sonata for Arpeggione and Fortepiano."

Choral Concert

April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Grand Valley State University's Select Women's Ensemble, Women's Chamber Ensemble conducted by Ellen Pool, director of choral ensembles at Grand Valley, and University Singers conducted by Shirley Lemon, will perform works by G. F. Handel, Stephen Paulus and Jocelyn Hagen. This performance is free and open to the public.

Choral Concert

April 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus.

Grand Valley State University's 16-member a cappella Cantate Chamber Ensemble will perform the "Five Flower Songs" by Benjamin Britten. The 46-member University Arts Chorale will perform works by Jake Runestad, Alberto Grau, Eriks Esenvalds, and Frank Ticheli. This concert, which is free and open to the public, will conclude with an arrangement by Stacey Gibbs. Both ensembles are conducted by Ellen Pool, director of choral ensembles at Grand Valley.

Senior Dance Concert

April 16, 22, 23, at 7 p.m.

April 17, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Senior dance majors will present a concert of new work as part of their capstone project experience at Grand Valley State University. Each dancer will share a self-choreographed solo and a group work showcasing the varied choreographic voices of the next generation of dancers and dance makers in West Michigan. This event is free and open to the public.

Concert Band

April 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Barry Martin conducts the Grand Valley State University Concert Band for this free performance that is open to the public.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

April 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Kevin Tutt conducts the Grand Valley State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble for this free performance that is open to the public.

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

Nothing New Under the Sun**Thornapple Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus****Exhibit runs through 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 through 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.

fishladder*: Student Scholarship Day Exhibition*Exhibit runs through April 30****Red Wall Gallery, Lake Ontario Hall, Allendale Campus**

Now in its 12th year, *fishladder* is a student-run journal at Grand Valley State University. The journal publishes students' fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, drama, photography and art. Students from across all disciplines in the university are encouraged to submit work in all styles, genres and forms.

Different Waters: Thirty Years in the Western Amazon**Exhibit runs April 4-June 2****Blue Wall Gallery, Richard M. DeVos Center, Building B, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

During the past 30 years, Jim Penn, associate professor of geography and planning, has traveled on numerous occasions to the Loreto Region of Peru, South America. There, he has participated in programs ranging from wildlife research and natural resource management, to community development, health care and human rights initiatives. Penn's experiences will be showcased through the photographic exhibition "Different Waters: Thirty Years in the Western Amazon."

For immediate release

March 1, 2016

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

GVSU event aims to change refugee crisis narrative

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Interfaith organizations across West Michigan are coming together for an event aiming to create a more positive narrative about refugees coming to, and currently residing in, the U.S.

Coordinated by Grand Valley State University's Kaufman Interfaith Institute along with 50 co-sponsoring organizations, **"Welcoming Refugees: Do Unto Others" will take place Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m. at Cathedral Square located in the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids (360 Division S, second floor).**

During the event, officials from the City of Grand Rapids, Bing Goei of the Michigan Office of New Americans, and representatives from Bethany Christian Services, Lutheran Social Services and Welcoming Michigan will discuss local refugee programs. They will be joined by several refugees who will share their stories of settling in West Michigan.

"Our goal is to bring the community together for a dialogue and to learn from one another about how Grand Rapids can be a welcoming city for refugees," said Katie Gordon, Kaufman Interfaith Institute program manager and campus interfaith services coordinator at Grand Valley. "We will discuss how we can each help shift the narrative around refugees, and additionally figure out ways that our congregations and communities can help partner with refugee organizations to ensure a successful welcoming process for newly arrived refugees."

Douglas Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director, said the major theme of the event, "do unto others," represents caring for strangers, which is a fundamental principle in nearly all religions and religious texts.

"We are moved by the stories of refugees fleeing from violence and war, but even more, our religious values require us to treat them as persons bearing the image of God," Kindschi said. "From the beginning, our country has found room for immigrants and refugees who seek safety and the ability to contribute. It is not only our responsibility, but our privilege to help people seeking freedom and opportunity to thrive."

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested by visiting www.catholicinformationcenter.org or by calling (616) 459-7267.

For more information, contact Doug Kindschi at (616) 331-5702 or kindschd@gvsu.edu.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 4:30 a.m., Thursday, March 3, 2016

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

Most residents give Grand Rapids grade of A or B, study says

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A new study released by the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University shows more than 80 percent of Grand Rapids area residents would give the city an overall grade of "A" or "B" as a place to live, but ratings varied widely based on home location, race, education and poverty level.

The study is based on the results of the 2015 VoiceGR survey conducted by the Johnson Center last fall. The survey asked area residents questions about the city, safety, work, health care, economy, ability to meet basic needs and more.

A full breakdown of the study results will be provided at a data summit on Thursday, March 3, from 8 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 2500 S. Division Avenue in Grand Rapids. Several city and nonprofit leaders, including Grand Valley President Tom Haas, will participate in the presentation of study results.

Online results, including visualization tools, are available here: <http://johnsoncenter.org/voicegr2015/>

Fifty-four percent of survey respondents said they felt racism was "very much" an issue in the U.S. as a whole, but only 15 percent felt it was "very much" an issue in their neighborhood.

The study also showed that a slightly lower percentage of city residents reported not being able to meet their basic needs (21 percent) compared to 2014 (24 percent). Of those who indicated not being able to meet basic needs, 14 percent were employed full time, 21 percent were employed part time, and 29 percent were unemployed, which suggests that employment alone does not always provide relief from poverty.

Other key findings from the study include:

- 63 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that schools in the community are committed to building each child's strengths.
- Residents near or below the poverty line were more likely to report having chronic health conditions (anxiety, depression, asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, high blood glucose, lead poisoning and ADD/ADHD).

The 2015 VoiceGR survey was conducted both through paper and online administration. Paper surveys were collected at community events and in conjunction with community organizations. Data collection started June 20, 2015 and concluded November 15, 2015.

For more information, visit johnsoncenter.org.

For immediate release

March 2, 2016

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

MEDIA: GVSU community weighs in on adult coloring trend

ALLENDALE, Mich. —As a child, there are few experiences that surpass cracking the seal on a box of crayons and diving into a crisp new coloring book — coloring inside the lines being optional, of course.

Now, coloring books aren't just for kids. Although the first commercially successful adult coloring books were published in 2012, the niche hobby has just recently blossomed into a trend with many health, wellness and mindfulness experts proposing coloring as an alternative to activities such as yoga or meditation.

This trend has found its way to the Grand Valley State University community as well.

Lee Van Orsdel, dean of University Libraries, said she first discovered adult coloring books in Mendicino, California, in July 2015.

"I saw a coloring book on a table, picked it up, and realized it was for adults; the designs were intricate and complex," Van Orsdel said. "At the time, I'd never heard of adult coloring books."

The next day, Van Orsdel bought some colored pencils and has colored almost every night since then.

"I say jokingly that coloring takes me to my happy place," she said. "I'm focused on just one, relatively simple task that often gives me joy. In my university responsibilities, much of my work is never finished, or it takes a long time to reach a goal, but coloring gives an immediate return on time invested."

Danielle DeWitt, University Development donor relations and stewardship manager, said coloring helped her through a stressful time in 2015 when she was recovering from a concussion.

"Coloring helped focus my brain on something else," DeWitt said. "The injury really impacted my brain and I had to learn how to focus and organize my thoughts again. I found coloring therapeutic and all of my therapists agreed that it was a great thing to be doing."

Not only do adult coloring books offer a way to relieve stress and center the mind, but the trend also presents a unique business opportunity for young entrepreneurs.

Carly Van Eck graduated from Grand Valley in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and in 2013 earned a master's degree in social work. During classes, doodling and coloring in her notes helped Van Eck concentrate more effectively.

"I was able to concentrate better when I was drawing because I was doing something, but my ears were still listening and processing," Van Eck said. "I could still participate, and it even helped with recall because I could remember, 'When I was drawing this, we were talking about this in class.'"

Van Eck's love of drawing has since transcended into a business. She now draws, designs and sells single coloring book pages via her Etsy store, Cat Lady Productions.

Van Eck doesn't solely use coloring to make a profit though. She currently conducts an art therapy course at Comprehensive Treatment for Eating Disorders in Grand Rapids and incorporates coloring into an intensive out-patient support program.

Carol Hendershot, Grand Rapids Center for Mindfulness co-founder, explained that coloring as adults has become a trend partially because many people live over-scheduled lives with many distractions.

"We really do want to take time out of our busy lives, but many of us don't remember exactly how," Hendershot said. "When we were children, many of us could access an easy state of flow and concentration by getting out our crayons and coloring. It reminds us of our creativity and the enjoyment of simply stopping and stepping into a sense of calm and spaciousness."

DeWitt said she encourages students to also participate in the adult coloring trend.

"Every student should have at least one coloring book to use as a little bit of an escape from all their studying, reading and writing," DeWitt said. "If you're studying, don't take a break and go on the Internet; Take a break and do something that let's you be a kid again for a few minutes."

MEDIA NOTE

For Immediate Release

March 2, 2016

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221; Randi Berris, DTE Energy, (313) 348-2072

DTE Energy Foundation gift to GVSU will help local businesses, students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A gift from the DTE Energy Foundation will allow Grand Valley State University to expand a center that helps local businesses design and test devices entering the marketplace.

Representatives from DTE Energy Foundation and Grand Valley will celebrate the \$300,000 donation to the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Center during an event March 4. The event will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the EMC center, located at 609 Watson St. in Grand Rapids. Click [here](#) for a map.

The 4,000-square-foot EMC Center is the first of its kind in West Michigan. All electrical devices must be certified for EMC compliance before entering the marketplace, which can be costly. The center pairs engineering students with local companies to provide affordable pre-compliance testing and design support for small- to medium-sized businesses in West Michigan.

The gift from DTE Energy Foundation will be used to purchase testing equipment, expand the EMC compatibility lab, install a new HVAC system and refinish the floor.

For more information about the center, visit www.gvsu.edu/engineering or read [this story](#).

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2016

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

Media note: photos of Karyn Schmaltz are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/05A>

GVSU women's hockey player uses teammates to help with research

Schmaltz is native of Tinley Park

ALLENDALE, Mich. — It's not often a college student can combine a research project with the sport she plays.

Karyn Schmaltz is a Grand Valley State University student in the Meijer Honors College and member of Grand Valley's women's hockey team. She is using her teammates plus players from the men's team to help with her senior thesis: researching shift length and energetics during a collegiate hockey game.

Schmaltz, an allied health science major, said this would be the first study that includes data on women hockey players. She is also researching the differences in calories burned between men and women, and forwards and defensemen.

Her faculty mentor is Cara Ocobock, assistant professor of biomedical sciences.

"We are going to produce baseline information that is currently missing from literature," Ocobock said. "Also, we collected data on shift length, which had not been studied since the 1970s."

Ocobock said she hopes their data would update conclusions from the '70s that a player's shift length increases as the game progresses.

To collect data, Schmaltz placed heart rate monitors on 10 players on the women's team and 10 from the men's team. Then she enlisted an army of assistants to sit in the stands at Georgetown Ice Arena and track the shift length of their assigned player using stopwatches.

Each subject's body mass was measured to estimate accurate energy expenditures. Schmaltz estimated that while playing 45-second shifts during an entire game, women burned about 800 calories and men burned about 1,200 calories.

"Knowing accurately how many calories they are burning would help with nutrition and hydration," Schmaltz said.

Schmaltz is from Tinley Park, Illinois, southwest of Chicago and graduated from Victor J. Andrew High School. She grew up playing hockey and came to Grand Valley to continue playing at the club sport level.

"My dad was my coach for a long time. My brother is at Grand Valley also, playing roller hockey," she said.

Schmaltz plans to present her research during Student Scholars Day, an annual Grand Valley event that celebrates undergraduate student research, on April 13.

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2016

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

Randi Berris, DTE Energy, (313) 235-5323

DTE Energy Foundation gift to GVSU will help local businesses, students

\$300,000 grant to support Electromagnetic Compatibility Center

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A gift from DTE Energy Foundation will allow Grand Valley State University to expand a center that helps local businesses design and test electrical devices entering the marketplace.

Representatives from DTE Energy Foundation and Grand Valley celebrated the \$300,000 donation to the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Center March 4, during an event at the facility, located at 609 Watson St. in Grand Rapids.

The 4,000-square-foot EMC Center, renamed the DTE Energy Foundation Electromagnetic Compatibility Lab, is the first of its kind in West Michigan. All electrical devices must be certified for EMC compliance by the Federal Communications Commission before entering the marketplace, which can be costly. The center pairs engineering students with local companies to provide affordable pre-compliance testing and design support for small- to medium-sized businesses in West Michigan.

"The DTE Energy Foundation gift helped raise the center from an emerging facility into a highly capable facility and operation, that is providing substantial support to local industry and education for both Grand Valley students and industry practitioners," said Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

The gift will be used to purchase testing equipment and expand and improve the space.

Mark Stiers, president and chief operating officer of DTE Gas, said DTE Energy Foundation is pleased to support the Electromagnetic Compatibility Lab because programs related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are so important to Michigan's economic progress.

"We understand how important it is for West Michigan businesses to be able to test their products close to home, saving companies thousands of dollars in research and development costs," said Stiers. "This lab also provides an excellent opportunity for Grand Valley engineering students to get hands-on experience, preparing them to power Michigan's economy in the future."

The facility opened in 2012 and is led by Bogdan Adamczyk, who has taught EMC courses at Grand Valley since 1999. The EMC Lab has worked with companies such as Gentex, Whirlpool, GE Aviation, L-3 Communications and Johnson Controls Power Solutions. It recently participated in an EMC Correlation Study with centers from Michigan corporations to ensure accuracy and consistency of its testing.

For more information about the EMC Lab, visit www.gvsu.edu/engineering.

About the DTE Energy Foundation

The DTE Energy Foundation is the philanthropic arm of DTE Energy. In 2015, the DTE Energy Foundation provided \$15 million in grant support to nonprofits throughout the company's service territories, including \$1.2 million in STEM grants to community colleges and universities in Michigan. As one of Michigan's leading corporate citizens, DTE Energy is a force for growth and prosperity in the 450 Michigan communities it serves in a variety of ways, including philanthropy, volunteerism and economic progress. <http://www.dteenergy.com/foundation>.

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 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. www.gvsu.edu

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2016

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

River City Water Festival celebrates Grand River

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The second annual River City Water Festival, celebrating the Grand River and its role in shaping Grand Rapids, will be held March 12 at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

The festival is organized through a partnership between Groundswell and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Groundswell, hosted through Grand Valley State University's College of Education, is a coalition of community partners that creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for K-12 students throughout Kent County.

The festival, which features educational activities led by experts in environmental quality and water resources, will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

“Groundswell works with local schools to help teachers and students make a real difference in their community,” said Clayton Pelon, associate director for Educational Partnerships at Grand Valley. “This festival will highlight some of the great work going on to protect the Grand River and Great Lakes.”

Participants will learn how small actions at home can make a big difference in water quality.

"Teaching children at a young age that they can make a difference is very important," said Ondrea Spsychalski, Water Programs Outreach coordinator at WMEAC.

Activities will be hosted by Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute, John Ball Zoo, Trout Unlimited, Blanchard Nature Center, Outdoor Discovery Center, Plaster Creek Stewards, and Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association.

“It will take a community-wide effort to keep stormwater pollution out of the river,” said Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell Lower Grand River Education Initiative (LGREI) coordinator.

Financial support for the festival comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, as well as Grand Valley's College of Education.

For more information, contact Joanna Allerhand, Groundswell project coordinator, at (847) 744-0508 or allerhaj@gvsu.edu, or visit the Groundswell website at <http://groundswellmi.org/river-city-water-festival/>.

For immediate release

March 8, 2016

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

Urban planning expert to give lecture at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and the City of Grand Rapids will host a lecture by a Columbia University professor and author whose research focuses on affordable housing and racial stratification in housing markets.

Lance Freeman, professor of urban planning at Columbia, will present, "Whites Moving into Black Neighborhoods: Gentrification or Advent of an Integrationist Era?" on Monday, March 14, at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton St. West.

A reception will begin at 6 p.m., with a lecture and panel discussion at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the DeVos Center lot or Seward Street ramp; visit www.gvsu.edu/maps for locations.

Freeman is the author of "There Goes the 'Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up" and has published articles on residential segregation, urban sprawl and neighborhood change. He has taught at the University of Delaware and worked as a researcher for Mathematica Policy Research, a social policy research firm in Washington, D.C.

For more information, contact Jill Craig, Office of the President, at (616) 331-2183 or craigji@gvsu.edu.

March 8, 2016

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

Nonprofit series addresses art and social problems March 9

Experts in community development and the arts will discuss how the arts can be used to reimagine tough social problems at a panel discussion series hosted by Grand Valley State University's Johnson Center for Philanthropy on March 9.

The program will feature discussion on social innovation and creative placemaking, and will feature Richard Evans, president of EmcArts, along with a panel of local arts experts, including Dana Friis-Hansen (GRAM); Bob Dean (Grand Rapids Children's Museum); Miranda Krajniak (UICA); and Henry Mathews (GVSU Art Gallery Director).

Richard Evans: Social Innovation and Creative Placemaking

March 9, 4-6 p.m.

Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

The event is free for GVSU students with valid ID, and \$15 for community members.

Registration is required here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strategic-leadership-series-convene-with-richard-evans-tickets-19294210503>

Richard Evans designs and directs EmcArts' programs and strategic partnerships, which support individuals, organizations and communities on their journey to becoming highly adaptive. EmcArts programs include national Innovation Labs, community-based innovation programs for nonprofits called New Pathways for the Arts, and services to individual leaders – Arts Leaders as Cultural Innovators, an in-depth training program on adaptive leadership, and ArtsFwd.org, an online presence for learning and exchange around “next practices” for arts leaders.

Evans is the second speaker in the Johnson Center's Strategic Leadership Series.

The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy's Strategic Leadership Series engages nonprofit professionals and the larger philanthropic community to encourage the development of a diverse, equitable, local ecosystem that supports entrepreneurialism when addressing critical social issues. These experiences will infuse the region with fresh thinking on the power and potential of nonprofits to be catalysts for change.

For more information, visit JohnsonCenter.org

For Immediate Release

March 8, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos are available to use on Dropbox: <http://qvsu.edu/s/05G>

GVSU celebrates International Women's Day

ALLENDALE, Mich. — As the world celebrates International Women's Day March 8, Grand Valley State University is commemorating its own women who are leaders, pioneers and mentors.

Grand Valley enrolls, graduates and employs women who are celebrated every day. Their impact and accomplishments can be felt around the world. Here are just a few examples:

-- Breaking barriers in STEM fields

Women who are Grand Valley alumnae, faculty members and students are breaking traditional barriers and closing the gender gap in STEM fields. Leah Olsen, '07, is an example; she was drawn to engineering by a love of math and art. Why is it important to hire women engineers and women faculty who teach engineering courses? [Read about it](#) in the most recent issue of *Grand Valley Magazine*.

-- Student starts second internship at NASA

Engineering major Amanda Stark aimed for the stars and landed pretty close, earning an internship with NASA in Langley, Virginia for the second time. [Read more](#).

-- Documentary recounts stories of women who played baseball in WWII

A team of Grand Valley students and faculty members produced a documentary ensuring the voices of women who played baseball during World War II are heard and saved for posterity. Women who played for the Grand Rapids Chicks and other teams not only advanced sports for future generations of women, but played an important role in the war effort. While movie fans know of "A League of Their Own," this documentary tells the stories of women who were pioneers in the sport. [Read more](#).

-- Women's hockey player uses teammates for research

Allied health sciences major Karyn Schmaltz has combined a research project with the sport she plays. Schmaltz used teammates from the Grand Valley women's hockey team and players from the men's team to help her research shift length and energetics during a collegiate hockey game. Knowing how many calories are burned during a game, Schmaltz said, will help players with hydration and nutrition. The women's hockey team is set to play in the ACHA Division I national tournament in Kalamazoo March 9-10. [Read more](#).

In addition, the [Women's Center](#) organizes educational events and activities during Women's History Month, and the university's [Women's Commission](#) has been advocating for all women at Grand Valley for nearly 20 years.

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites, a full interview with Brian, and the full report are available on Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/05J>

Current business trends: Growth returns

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is again showing the same slow growth that has been reported for the past seven years, 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 February.

"Although our statistics for January were incrementally positive, the data and comments collected in the last two weeks of February reflect the back-to-work tone of a post-holiday season," Long said.

The employment index jumped to +17, up from +8. The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose to +14, up from +4. The production index remained unchanged at +12, while the index of purchases remained below par at -3, slightly lower than the -1 reported last month.

"Just as it has for the past six months, the West Michigan economy continues to outpace the national economy as well as the overall Michigan economy," said Long. "Although some firms are continuing to feel the impact of global economic stagnation, many of our survey participants remain fairly optimistic about 2016 — at least for the first two quarters."

Long said some office furniture firms are still waiting for new business to resume the upward trend, however, the market may have already hit its peak. He said automotive parts producers turned in a mixed performance for February, retail auto sales are still strong and several local fabricators are still at full capacity.

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

March 9, 2016

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

GVSU to host seventh annual Local History Roundtable

-- Registration open for "Changing Communities"

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kutsche Office of Local History will highlight how diverse populations have changed West Michigan during its seventh annual Local History Roundtable on March 24.

"Changing Communities" will begin at 9 a.m. at the Mary Idema Pew Library and Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. Cost to attend is \$25 and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner plus conference materials. Registration is open online, visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/.

The opening keynote address will be given by Todd Robinson, author of "A City Within a City: The Black Freedom Struggle in Grand Rapids." Robinson is an associate professor of history at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and an expert in urban and African American history. He will speak at 10 a.m. and facilitate a discussion, "Race and the West Michigan City," at 11:30 a.m.

Robinson's work was selected by Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss as the inaugural "Mayor's Book of the Year" during her February State of the City address. Published in 2012, "A City Within a City" focuses on the struggles of school integration and racial inequality in Grand Rapids after World War II and through the civil rights era.

Other noted addresses will be by Timothy Gleisner, director of Grand Rapids Public Library local history department and special collections, about changes in Grand Rapids; and Delia Fernandez, assistant professor of history at Michigan State University, about Puerto Rican and Mexican influences in the city.

•• Robinson will sign books and lead a community conversation on "A City Within a City" on March 24, 6-8 p.m., at the LINC Gallery, 341 Hall St. SE. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Kutsche Office of Local History at (616)331-8099 or kutsche@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Sound bites available for media use can be downloaded from Dropbox here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m3x8cgayeitq3ww/AACXJy2CpiRvzvQR1N29ggQDa?dl=0>

Voter anxiety, angst causing unexpected results, expert says

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Voters are anxious and angry about failures in Washington, D.C., the economy and with politicians in general, and it's being reflected by unexpected primary election results, according to Erika King, a professor of political science at Grand Valley State University.

"I think that people this election cycle are distressed about the economy, they're distressed about the status of America in the world," King said. "There's a lot of angst among the voters on both sides of the political aisle. I do not think this is simply a phenomenon related to (Donald) Trump."

King said the voter anxiety is impacting both parties, citing Sanders' unexpected win in Michigan's primary.

"I think we're seeing, with the Sanders victory in Michigan, a significant percentage of Democratic voters saying that they are very worried about trade and what this has done in terms of job losses, so to dump all of the negative sentiment out there in the voter ether onto Trump's head is unfair. I certainly think he has done a very effective job of capturing that voter sentiment and turning it to his benefit, but I certainly don't think he's creating it."

King said Sanders' focus on free trade during speeches in the week before the vote may have been critical.

"This was an enormous surprise, because the polls were predicting a Clinton win," King said. "Sanders eked out a small victory, but a small victory is still a victory that he will carry into the next set of contests."

The Sanders upset is particularly worrisome for Hillary Clinton's campaign, King said, because Michigan is representative of several high-population, large, diverse states in the Rust Belt. However, because all Democratic primaries use proportional allocation, a close loss still helps Clinton add to her lead in the delegate count.

"Sanders can say with all truthfulness that he is doing well among a wide variety of constituencies and his message is resonating with a large segment of the Democratic electorate," King said. "He's being very adept at raising funds and he will definitely continue his campaign."

The feelings of anger and fear from both parties will likely play a large part in the results of the major primaries taking place next week, King said.

"I think we can count on voters still remaining somewhat anxiety-ridden, fearful, and for many voters, angry about the situation," King said. "There is, I think, very much a mood out there, that Sanders, interestingly enough, is capturing both the sentiment of hope, especially among young people, but also capturing the votes of people who feel disaffiliated and somehow disempowered. That latter sentiment of displacement, disempowerment and anger is also very prevalent among Trump voters.

"There's very much a set of feelings in the air that contribute to some of the difficulties of predicting this year."

Results from Michigan's Republican primary were far more predictable, as frontrunner Donald Trump had been expected to take the state, King said, but his win further showed that he's doing a good job of capitalizing on voter anxiety to his advantage.

King said that the March 9 primaries around the country solidified Trump's position as the frontrunner and that a strong week on Super Tuesday was more than a fluke, and that his support isn't faltering.

Trump's big win should be concerning for the part of the Republican party that was hoping to get behind Marco Rubio, who had a disappointing performance in the Michigan contest, King said. Sen. Ted Cruz's second place finish in Michigan shows that he's a viable alternative to Trump as well, King said.

For immediate release

March 10, 2016

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

Local students to compete in STEM competitions during GVSU Science Olympiad

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 1,500 local students will be challenged by constructing roller coasters, launching rockets, solving crimes, building robots, and much more during Grand Valley State University's 32nd annual Region 12 Science Olympiad tournament.

The competition, presented by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC), will take place **Saturday, March 19, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Fieldhouse arena on the Allendale Campus.**

Students from 45 middle schools and 25 high schools across West Michigan will showcase their knowledge in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology during various contests.

Winners of this year's competition will advance to the state tournament April 30.

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education by increasing student interest in the field, while 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. Currently, approximately 70 teams sign up to compete each year.

For 26 years, Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center has provided educational resources and programs to K-12 students and educators across Michigan. The RMSC collaborates with approximately 6,000 students and more than 600 teachers in approximately 42 school districts within Kent, Ottawa and Montcalm counties each year.

Media interested in attending should report to the Fieldhouse, room 192, to receive press packets and passes.

For more information about the Science Olympiad Tournament, contact Chelsea Ridge, RMSC math program coordinator, at (616) 331-3172, or visit www.gvsu.edu/mso-r12.

For Immediate Release

March 14, 2016

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

Scholar says free exchange of ideas critical to university mission

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will host a scholar whose expertise in academic freedom and the enlightenment will explore why a free and open exchange of ideas is critical to modern higher education, especially when these university values are challenged.

Alan Charles Kors will present "The Enlightenment and Academic Freedom" March 16 at 7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids.

He will argue that college campuses have become more concerned with the needs and wants of students to be protected from contrary opinions than with maintaining their unique and important position in American cultural life, where any opinion, no matter how contrary to others it may be, can be discussed and freely debated.

"Kors' view is that the idea of the university is based on free expression and open debate, that those are the ways that students can and should pursue truth," said Joe Hogan, program manager for the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative. "He'll argue that academic freedom and debate are of the utmost importance on college campuses, and that they are the true means by which we achieve social justice and find common ground with others."

Kors is an acclaimed intellectual historian and the Henry Charles Lea Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, and was the 2005 recipient of the National Humanities Medal.

An RSVP is requested for this event here: <https://www.gvsu.edu/hcevents/cms-form-edit.htm?formId=EF2CC822-DAE4-AD80-925BEA70D52DB223>

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

March 14, 2016

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

Google design leader to discuss design thinking at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A design leader at Google will visit Grand Valley State University to discuss how the search engine giant applies design thinking to its strategies, services and products.

Marty Moore, design manager and product design lead at Google, will present "Design Thinking at Google" March 24 from 6-7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, located in the Richard M. DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Moore served as the lead designer for Google Wallet, Google Sheets, and is currently working with the Google Cloud team to design new developer platforms. Prior to working at Google, he worked at IBM designing collaboration tools for enterprise employees.

Jonathan Cook, senior finance and accounting major who interned at Google in 2015, said the company's strong user-focus ties directly with one of the primary components of design thinking — empathy.

"My role consulting with small-to-medium-sized businesses to optimize their use of several Google products used a healthy dose of empathy in every interaction," Cook said. "I spent time with each client getting to know their business objectives and worked with them to implement a solution that accomplished their needs."

Cook added that he believes Google's products and services are the best evidence of the company's commitment to the design thinking process. "It isn't a coincidence that each of them offers great functionality while remaining intuitive and simple to use," Cook said.

This presentation is being sponsored by the Design Thinking Initiative at Grand Valley. For more information about the initiative, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For immediate release

March 14, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Portraits of Diane Rayor are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/063>.

MEDIA-What if Helen never fled to Troy?

GVSU classics professor awarded grant to translate ancient play script for modern audiences

ALLENDALE, Mich. — As the legend is told, Helen of Sparta was the most beautiful woman in all of Greece. "The face that launched a thousand ships" fled to Troy with Paris, son of the Trojan king Priam, to escape her husband Menelaus. This act of treachery instigated the 10-year Trojan War.

But, what if Helen never fled to Troy? That is the question raised by ancient Greek playwright, Euripides, in his play, "Helen." The play, first produced in 412 B.C., is currently being translated for modern audiences by Diane Rayor, professor of classics at Grand Valley State University.

Rayor recently received a \$35,000 grant from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation to complete her work. After translating Euripides' Greek writing into modern English, Rayor will use the translated text to produce a stage production of "Helen" to be performed by Grand Valley students in April 2017 and directed by Karen Libman, professor of theater.

"The passion that has driven my 35-year career is bringing classics, particularly women in ancient Greek poetry and drama, to a broader audience," Rayor said. "I work to create translations that are accurate to the Greek originals, accessible with clear, unvarnished language, and designed for performance."

In Euripides' play, Helen never went to Troy. Instead, Zeus' wife, Hera, made a fake Helen out of a cloud because of her distaste for the goddess of love, Aphrodite. The Trojan War was then fought over the fake Helen, while the real Helen was attempting to escape Egypt before being forced to marry the Egyptian king.

Rayor said that "Helen" is rarely taught because none of the available translations convey the full intricacies of the text, and it is sparingly performed on stage for lack of a solid script.

"My translations can be read aloud and performed because I revise the draft of my translations with a cast — I get to try out every line to see if it works in performance," Rayor said. "As far as I know, I'm the only Greek tragedy translator who uses this process."

Rayor added that "Helen" breaks down preconceived notions about the original tale of Helen of Troy.

"This play questions appearance and reality, as well as the destructive consequences of acting on false information, meaning the Trojan War was fought, a city destroyed, and thousands of people died for nothing," Rayor said. "Even so, a good deal of the tragedy is very funny."

As part of her translations, Rayor will also produce materials that will provide an introduction to the play and background on Helen's active life in myth.

"My ultimate goal is for the introduction, notes and translation to provide a complete package so that anyone can understand it, read it, teach it, or perform it without having a background in classics or tragedy," Rayor said.

For more information, contact Diane Rayor at rayord@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3284.

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2016

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

Crain's Detroit publisher to speak at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Mary Kramer, publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business* and Grand Valley State University alumna will give a presentation at Grand Valley, March 29.

Kramer, who is also a member of the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees, will give a speech, "Hurray for Hush Puppies: Why West Michigan companies are adding women to their corporate boards." The presentation is part of the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture series, sponsored by the Seidman College of Business.

Kramer will discuss a recent scorecard for Michigan's largest publicly traded companies and offer ideas on ways Michigan can lead the nation in voluntarily adding more diversity to the corporate ranks.

"Some European companies have placed legal quotas on companies to ensure diversity on their boards of directors. Quotas aren't the right path," Kramer said.

Mary Kramer, Crain's Detroit Business

March 29, from 8-9 a.m.

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

Free and open to the public

Register by March 22 at www.gvsu.edu/seidman

Kramer was appointed to the Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees in 2013. Along with serving as publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business*, she is also the corporate vice president of its parent company, Crain Communications. She has a bachelor's degree in arts and media from Grand Valley and a master's degree in integrated marketing communications from Eastern Michigan University.

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

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2016

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

MAREC to host business funding event

MUSKEGON, Mich. — MAREC, Grand Valley State University's business innovation center, will host a new event in Muskegon designed to connect entrepreneurs with financial organizations to launch and grow local businesses.

MoneyLaunch is a two-stage program, and will kick off March 29 with an educational and networking program that will include educational presentations, networking and information from multiple lenders and funding organizations that offer both conventional loans, grants and alternative financing options.

The second phase will take place April 26 where lenders and funding organizations will hear business pitches and connect with organizations that can help with funding.

"In addition to education, the event is meant to help develop relationships between businesses and financial resource organizations with an ultimate goal to grow business locally," said Valerie Byrnes, MAREC business incubator manager.

Presentations at the March 29 event will include information on conventional financing, alternative lending options, SBA 504 Lending, Business Acceleration Grant Fund, SBIR/STTR grants, crowdfunding, and angel funding. There will also be an explanation of the resources available to assist with business planning for both new and existing businesses. Tickets for each session are \$15. For a full program agenda or to register for the event go to www.gvsu.edu/marec. The registration deadline is Thursday, March 24.

The MoneyLaunch sponsors are Huntington Bank and Shelby State Bank. Huntington Bank will share their financing offerings including details on their microloan program that is being used by small businesses across the state. Shelby State Bank will share their community-based approach to lending while educating entrepreneurs on ways to leverage state programs.

"We at Shelby State Bank are excited about the opportunity to be a part of MoneyLaunch and helping to educate existing and future business owners," said Robert Fisher, Shelby State Bank senior VP/senior lender. "It is our hope that we can be a strong part of the growth and expansion of area businesses."

John Irwin, president of Huntington Bank, said: "At Huntington, we are passionate about supporting small business lending growth within our communities. We encourage business owners at all levels to take a closer look at how they can access capital to help realize their goals and aspirations."

Program partners include Muskegon Area First, Muskegon County and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) along with support from the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids Opportunity for Women (GROW) and the Small Business Administration and SCORE-Muskegon.

MAREC is a business innovation center that provides coaching, funding, networking and a synergistic work environment to help businesses and entrepreneurs maximize their growth potential. It is a key partner in the region's innovation ecosystem, supporting startup businesses, entrepreneurs and corporate innovation teams.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/marec.

For immediate release

March 15, 2016

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

GVSU, KDL will celebrate expansion of oral history project

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host an event March 29 that highlights an oral history collection of civil rights leaders in Chicago and celebrates an expansion to the collection: interviews with Grand Rapids area senior citizens.

"A Neighborhood Affair to Preserve Community" will be held Tuesday, March 29, from 4-8 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room, on the Allendale Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

"A Neighborhood Affair" highlights the Young Lords in Lincoln Park oral history collection and debuts new oral histories from nearly 50 African American and Latino senior citizens from southeast and southwest Grand Rapids. These stories, "Community House: Senior Histories," will be available in March through the Kent District Library as well as the Young Lords Collection, housed at Grand Valley.

KDL director Lance Werner and other community members who collaborated on the project will give remarks. Scheduled to speak are former Kentwood Mayor Richard Clanton; Tony Baker, Grand Rapids Public Schools board president; Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas; and Lee Van Orsdel, dean of University Libraries.

After remarks, the event continues with music by Soul Syndicate and a senior steppers dance show. Refreshments will be provided; RSVPs are requested by March 25, send an email to younglordsmail@yahoo.com.

About the Young Lords

The Young Lords in Lincoln Park was established by José "Cha-Cha" Jiménez in 1968, when he recognized the struggle for human rights and fair housing when Chicago leaders were displacing Puerto Ricans, Latinos and others from the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Jiménez organized a movement, formed alliances with groups like the Black Panthers and published a newspaper to draw attention to substandard housing, police brutality and corruption in Chicago.

Jiménez moved to Michigan in the 1980s and later studied at Grand Valley. He began working with a faculty mentor to capture the stories of his friends and neighbors who stood beside him in the Young Lords. This collection began as a Student Summer Scholars project through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

Jiménez said he wanted to expand the collection by adding local history of Grand Rapids senior citizens. "While the collection represents two different neighborhoods, the focus is similar: capturing and archiving stories of leaders and activists so that others can learn and understand the history of their community," he said.

Access the collection online at www.gvsu.edu/younglords.

For Immediate Release

March 15, 2016

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

GVSU accounting program ranked among most affordable

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's accounting program was ranked as one of the most affordable undergraduate accounting school programs by Accounting Degree Review.

Grand Valley's accounting program was ranked in the top 10, alongside universities such as Brigham Young, Central Washington and Missouri State, after being evaluated on academic quality, student satisfaction, accreditation, reputation and cost.

See the full rankings [here](#).

Accounting Degree Review researched undergraduate accounting programs in the nation accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and calculated tuition costs to come up with the most affordable undergraduate accounting programs.

Grand Valley's School of Accounting offers three degree programs: Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Science in Accounting and Master of Science in Taxation. The programs are designed to put students on a successful path to careers as certified public accountants, tax accountants, general accountants, internal auditors and more.

Students in the program consistently rank above the average on CPA exam results and are recruited by firms such as BDO, Beene Garter, Crowe Horwath, Dow Chemical, Plante Moran, Perrigo, Steelcase, Rehmann and Whirlpool.

Student organizations include Beta Alpha Psi, Association of Latino Professionals in Finance & Accounting, Student Institute of Internal Auditors and Student Institute of Management Accountants Chapter.

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

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Sound bites for media use from Erika King are available for download via DropBox here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/goa3nk89ibxt0p9/AAC60S0cN3DFID16ZmPcyEc0a?dl=0>

Latest primaries bolster front-runner status for Clinton, Trump, expert says

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The latest round of primary elections across the country have solidified the positions of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump as the front-runners of their respective parties, according to Erika King, a political science professor at Grand Valley State University.

Clinton was able to win four states (pending a close race with Bernie Sanders in Missouri), as was Trump, losing only to Gov. John Kasich in Ohio.

"Hillary Clinton had a very good night, and she and her supporters should be pleased," King said. "She solidified the base she was reaching out to, which includes minority voters and older voters, who we know vote with more regularity than other demographic groups."

King also said that the March 15 primaries were big for the former secretary of state because it showed she could win states in geographically diverse segments of the country.

Despite losing four states and finishing in nearly a dead heat in Missouri, Bernie Sanders has said he will continue his candidacy despite being significantly behind in the delegate count.

"He has a very dedicated, extremely energized and enthusiastic base of supporters as well, but they are simply outnumbered by the Clinton supporters," King said. "What's even more important is, we are in the stretch of the campaign where it's all about counting the delegates, and she is pulling away from him. She has about two-thirds of the delegates needed to get a majority at the national convention, and is doing it with the help of the superdelegates who are solidly in her corner."

Some pundits have speculated that Sanders is staying in the race only to continue to force Clinton to address Sanders' main campaign issue, which is income inequality. King said that Sanders is a candidate with a passionate message that resonates with his supporters, and that Clinton is taking notice.

"If you listen to or read Clinton's rhetoric, you notice that she is adopting more and more of the Sanders' rhetoric about inequality in America," King said.

While Sanders could still theoretically earn the delegates needed for the nomination, King said his path to the nomination is significantly more difficult after Tuesday's votes.

On the Republican side, Trump continued his trend of piling up delegates in states across different regions of the country, including the big prize of Florida, though he didn't take the critical Midwestern state of Ohio, which was one of the two winner-take-all contests. King said the big question after a Kasich win in Ohio, his first, is if Kasich's campaign can translate that win into broader support.

"The so-called establishment would like to see Kasich be able to expand his popularity and win more delegates, be able to take this contest into the convention with nobody having an absolute majority of the votes," King said.

The big question for the GOP, King said, is if Donald Trump can get enough delegates in the remaining primaries to secure the nomination by having a majority of delegates, or if Kasich and Sen. Ted Cruz and earn enough delegates to force a contested convention.

"Even if Trump doesn't get an outright majority of the delegates, he will go into the July convention significantly ahead of either of his two competitors," King said.

For immediate release

March 17, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Curt Guyette is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/06e>. Guyette will be available from 3-3:45 p.m. prior to his presentation on March 29 for media interviews. To schedule, contact Eric Harvey at harveyer@gvsu.edu.

Flint water crisis: ACLU reporter to discuss at GVSU

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The dangerously high lead levels in Flint's water supply have been the focus of numerous headlines. At the forefront of lifting the veil on the issue has been Curt Guyette, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan investigative reporter.

Guyette will share his investigative work regarding the issue March 29 at 4 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus. During the event, Guyette will be interviewed by Eric Harvey, assistant professor of multimedia journalism.

Harvey said that before the Flint water crisis was international news, Guyette was urging community members to test the lead levels of their water.

"After hearing of the significant issues being suffered by residents like Melissa Mays, whose children were breaking out in rashes, losing hair, and suffering muscle pains and cramps, Curt started going door-to-door asking Flint residents to test their lead levels to compile evidence that water contamination was widespread," Harvey said.

Guyette was named the Michigan Press Association's Journalist of the Year in 2015 for his investigative work regarding the Flint ordeal.

"Curt's dogged reporting and strong advocacy for the underrepresented among Michiganders is a sterling example of what journalism can be when commercial and corporate interests do not drive news production, and journalists are given significant latitude to uncover, understand and publicize the real issues," Harvey said.

Harvey said he hopes students walk away from Guyette's presentation with an understanding that journalism is not merely about finding a job, but also using a liberal education to serve their communities.

This event is sponsored by the School of Communications and multimedia journalism program.

For more information, contact Eric Harvey at harveyer@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

March 21, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Talithia Williams will be available for interviews before and after her presentation. To schedule interviews, contact Jonathan Hodge at hodgejo@gvsu.edu.

GVSU Mosaic Lecture to examine statistical misuses in American media

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Statistical information, ranging from politics and health, to education and film, can be seen via various media outlets daily, and the widespread use of these numbers can play an influential role in persuading public opinions.

During the 3rd annual Mosaic Lecture at Grand Valley State University, Talithia Williams, associate professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, will examine the applications of statistics in American media and give examples of where statistics have been misused.

"Lies, Deceit, and Misrepresentation: The Distortion of Statistics in America" will take place Wednesday, March 30, at 7 p.m., in Manitou Hall, room 123, on the Allendale Campus.

"Everyone, regardless of educational background and interest, is both a consumer of statistics and a subject of statistical analysis," said Jonathan Hodge, Math Department chair. "Data and statistics have become vital components of news reports, and numerous companies, organizations and governmental entities collect data on just about everyone."

Throughout her career, Williams has made it her mission to excite students, parents, educators and community members about the benefits of a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education through her knowledge of statistics. To accomplish this, she attempts to take complicated numerical concepts, and make them more understandable and relatable for all audiences. Through her research and work, Williams is striving to rebrand the field of mathematics as being a stimulating and positive career path that is crucial to the future of the country.

Williams has received numerous awards and fellowships during her career, including the Mathematical Association of America's Henry L. Alder Award for exemplary teaching by an early career mathematics professor. She is also a 2015-2016 ACE Fellow — a higher education leadership development program through the American Council on Education.

The 2016 Mosaic Lecture is co-sponsored by the Statistics 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 immediate release

March 22, 2016

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

GVSU play confronts appearance versus reality

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Theater students at Grand Valley State University will ask audiences to reflect on what they accept as truth in an age when alternative realities are created daily through technology during "Six Characters in Search of an Author."

Six Characters in Search of an Author

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, at 7:30 p.m.

April 3, 10, at 2 p.m.

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

In "Six Characters in Search of an Author," a dysfunctional family of six people, who call themselves "unfinished" dramatic characters created by a playwright, confront a theater director and his entire stage company. The group begs the company to turn their unfinished family drama into a play. As the bizarre situation unfolds, the theater company gradually realizes that these six people may be even more real than themselves.

Roger Ellis, director and professor of theater, said this production presents the "dangerous distinction" between appearance and reality.

"We are so obsessed today with the 'virtual reality' in our lives in the form of mobile devices and movie screens, that virtual reality is more real to us than reality itself," Ellis said.

Ellis added that the themes of this 90-year-old Luigi Pirandello drama raise many questions about the relation between art and life, the limitation of words as communication tools, and the true nature of identity.

For more information about "Six Characters," call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300 or visit www.gvsu.edu/theater.

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 22, 2016

GVSU terrorism expert available to comment on Belgium

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 Belgium.

White is available today, **March 22, at 3 p.m. in the Meijer Regency Room of Building E in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.** Media can park in the DeVos Lot off of Winter Avenue. Ask the lot attendant for a media parking pass.

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.

Contact Dottie Barnes at barnesdo@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2953 or (616) 331-2221 to confirm your attendance.

For Immediate Release

March 22, 2016

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

GVSU to host 1,000 students at FIRST Robotics District Competition

ALLENDALE, Mich. – More than 1,000 high school students on 41 teams from across the state will compete in the “varsity sport for the mind” at Grand Valley State University March 24-26.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics District Competition will take place in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. Teams will compete with robots they built and designed for the competition. This year’s game is “Stronghold,” which challenges teams to score points by breaching opponents’ fortifications, weakening their towers with boulders and capturing the opposing tower.

The competition runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 25 and 26. Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas will provide opening remarks at 10:30 a.m. March 25. Complete information, including a detailed schedule and list of teams, is available at <http://bit.ly/22qSAIO>.

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.

Michigan has more FIRST Robotics teams than any other state, with more than 410 teams. Winners will move on to the state championship April 13-16 at the DeltaPlex Arena in Grand Rapids. The world championship will take place April 27-30 in St. Louis, Missouri.

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 23, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Audio bites for media use are available in MP3 format for download at this Dropbox link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xtejoi8m4yc6xf/AADk_obj6WGegoZ_qPMUXrxCa?dl=0

Statement on Muslims won't hurt Cruz in primary race, expert says

ALLENDALE, Mich. — GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz is facing some criticism for statements he made March 22, following the terrorist attacks in Brussels, but they won't likely hurt him in the narrowing GOP primary field, said Grand Valley State University political science professor Erika King.

King said the comments Cruz made about patrolling and securing Muslim communities in the U.S. "before they become radicalized" could prove to be a campaign issue if Cruz is the eventual GOP nominee, but that would depend on if more attacks occur before the election.

"It probably won't come back to bite him in the primary because although jobs and the economy have become issue No.1 with Republican voters, the issue of national security and terrorism is still a very important issue as well," King said.

The terrorism issue is also a point of difference for the Democratic candidates, she said.

"Should there be one or more attacks, all bets are off on whether the Democrats would also take a strong anti-terrorism stance," King said. "Clinton is not talking as tough on treatment of American Muslims as Cruz or Trump, but is still trying hard to differentiate herself from Bernie Sanders as a national security candidate."

On the Republican side, Cruz was also the unexpected recipient of an endorsement by former candidate and Florida governor Jeb Bush, who frequently disagreed with Cruz on policy issues and opinions, but who likely sees Cruz as the more "establishment" Republican candidate, King said.

"At some point, I think party pragmatism takes over, and I think for Jeb Bush, the notion is that even though Cruz is not the person ideally he would have supported, he is more Republican and acts more in line with the party than does Donald Trump," King said.

One important thing to watch for both parties is how the delegate counts change in the upcoming primaries in large states like California, New York and Pennsylvania, which all have very diverse populations and could yield some electorally significant numbers, King said.

For immediate release

March 25, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of G3 Camp 2015 are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/02k>. Photo credit: Amanda Pitts, GVSU University Communications.

GVSU to host entrepreneurial challenge

ALLENDALE, Mich. — From learning how a zombie's brain works to exploring the history of "selfies," Grand Valley State University's G3 Camp offers a fun and engaging way for children and their grandparents to experience college life.

The registration deadline for this year's camp has been extended to May 16. To register and to see a full list of activities, visit www.gvsu.edu/g3.

Hosted by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center, Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley (G3) Camp provides 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."

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.

For more information, call the Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267.

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2016

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

GVSU to host entrepreneurial challenge

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 130 students from nine area colleges and universities will compete for \$40,000 in prize money at the 2016 MWest Challenge April 1, hosted by the Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Grand Valley State University.

The MWest Challenge includes awards for a range of categories from the creative to the highly technical. The event will feature 52 startup teams; each will have eight minutes to present their idea to the judges. Students competing are from Grand Valley, Aquinas College, Calvin College, Kendall College of Art and Design, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, Kuyper College and Hope College.

The competition will be judged by more than 45 experienced entrepreneurs, executives and business leaders from the community.

MWest Challenge

April 1 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Final round begins around 10 a.m, award ceremony begins around 1 p.m.

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

Since the initial kickoff in November 2014, MWest has provided networking opportunities, mentors, workshops and seminars for participating students. This year's competition is presented by Northwestern Mutual, along with Spectrum Innovations, GR Current, Spartan Innovations and Amway.

Past Winners

Participating in the MWest Competition has proved to be an important step for student-run businesses and has resulted in teams going on to incorporate new business in Michigan, achieve sales and raise significant additional funding to continue their ventures.

- Alaina Clarke from "Break it Down: Doing Business" won the 2015 Lifestyle Award for her curriculum designed to address the lack of business literacy in college-level arts education. Clarke has successfully implemented her program through Avenue for the Arts and is amassing her findings into a book for universities to integrate into art and design programs.
- Eric VanMiddendorp placed first in the category of Masterclass for his work on Airway Innovations, a single-use endotracheal tube designed to increase patient comfort while preventing unplanned breathing tube removal. He is currently pursuing FDA approval in order to finalize development and move forward with licensing. This year, six teams will be representing Spectrum Health Innovations and will present ideas for a range of innovative solutions, including a female urinary catheter device, an IV spike assistant and a wheelchair loading device.

For more information, visit www.mwestchallenge.com or contact Grand Valley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at (616) 331-7582.

For immediate release

March 25, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of G3 Camp 2015 are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/02k>. Photo credit: Amanda Pitts, GVSU University Communications.

GVSU G3 Camp registration deadline extended

ALLENDALE, Mich. — From learning how a zombie's brain works to exploring the history of "selfies," Grand Valley State University's G3 Camp offers a fun and engaging way for children and their grandparents to experience college life.

The registration deadline for this year's camp has been extended to May 16. To register and to see a full list of activities, visit www.gvsu.edu/g3.

Hosted by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center, Grandparents, Grandkids, Grand Valley (G3) Camp provides 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."

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.

For more information, call the Regional Math and Science Center at (616) 331-2267.

For immediate release

March 28, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: For more information regarding Harrison's collection of works housed at GVSU, contact Annie Benefiel, Special Collections and University Archives assistant archivist, at (616) 331-8727 or benefiea@gvsu.edu. High resolution images of Harrison from a 2006 visit to GVSU are available via Dropbox at: <http://qvsu.edu/s/06J>.

GVSU remembers "Legends of the Fall" author; literary collection housed at university

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Jim Harrison, acclaimed Michigan-born author and friend of Grand Valley State University, died March 26 at age 78 at his winter home in Patagonia, Arizona.

Throughout his illustrious career, Harrison wrote almost 40 books, including novels, poetry collections and essays about his passion for food and the outdoors. His novella, *Legends of the Fall*, was adapted into the 1994 Oscar-nominated film of the same name, starring Brad Pitt and Anthony Hopkins.

Many of Harrison's books and poems have been set in his home state of Michigan, and published in more than 20 languages.

In 2005, through the efforts of President Emeritus Mark A. Murray and the Meijer Foundation, the university acquired Harrison's complete collection of works, including manuscripts, unpublished materials, notebooks, screenplays, photographs and artwork. The \$600,000 collection currently resides in the Special Collections of Grand Valley, located in the Seidman House on the Allendale Campus.

"Part of the significance of the collection is that Hank Meijer ensured that it was not divided and sold to various collectors throughout the world," said Nancy Richard, university archivist at Grand Valley. "It has been used by students at Grand Valley and researchers throughout the U.S. and France."

Richard added that the collection continues to grow even today as new materials from Harrison's most recent books have been added since the author published at least one book of fiction and one book of poetry annually.

A large portion of the papers are correspondence to and from other writers, publishers, friends and family members. The earliest, from 1938, is a collaborative letter from family members written on the occasion of Harrison's first birthday and contains warm wishes for a good and happy life.

Patricia Clark, Writing Department chair, said the Harrison literary collection gives scholars and students in Grand Valley's Writing Department an opportunity to study the creative writing process from the early stages of drafts through revision and publication.

"It adds a great resource that really any level of student can use," Clark said. "As faculty, we hope the collection bolsters what we say in the classroom when it comes to the writing process. For example, in one year Jim wrote 300 poems, but only published 40. Why did he do that? By having everything, there are many different angles to look at."

Harrison's numerous appearances at Grand Valley included being the featured author during the 2003 Fall Arts Celebration, readings on campus, visits to classes, and being involved in interdisciplinary panels speaking about the importance of liberal education.

"He genuinely enjoyed coming to my classes, especially when I taught an upper-level class as a 'Jim Harrison Visionary Thinker' course for three years running," said Stanley Krohmer, affiliate professor of liberal studies. "Jim mentioned to me more than once how he liked coming to talk to my students because 'they aren't wannabe writers who want to know how to publish the books they haven't written yet.'"

Harrison was born in Grayling, Michigan, in 1937. During his childhood, Harrison's family moved to Reed City, where his father was the county agricultural agent. The author's long association with Grand Rapids began after a childhood accident blinded his left eye when he was seven, landing him in Blodgett Hospital for nearly a month. Later in life, Harrison earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University. After teaching briefly at Stony Brook University in New York, the author returned to Michigan in 1966.

For immediate release

March 29, 2016

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

Community Reading Project April events

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The author of the Community Reading Project at Grand Valley State University will give presentations about her book in Allendale and Holland in April.

"Citizen: An American Lyric" by Claudia Rankine recounts racial aggressions, intentional or not, that occur daily to people of color. Rankine's book, which melds poetry and prose, won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, and was a finalist for the 2014 National Book Award in Poetry, among other literary honors.

Rankine will give presentations on Wednesday, April 6, at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave. in Holland, beginning at 7 p.m.; and on Thursday, April 7, at the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, on GVSU's Allendale Campus, beginning at 7 p.m.

Both events are free and open to the public; the Allendale event will include a book signing.

In her book, Rankine writes about celebrities and ordinary people of color who experienced racial aggressions, like tennis star Serena Williams and the racial slurs she endured from fans and competitors on the circuit, and an unknown woman who switches airplane seats with her daughter because her daughter doesn't want to sit next to a person of color.

In a review, Publishers Weekly said Rankine's book "inspires sympathy and outrage, but most of all a will to take a deep look at ourselves and our society."

Jennifer Jameslyn, CRP interim coordinator, said Rankine's blend of visual art, poetry and critical analysis is a unique experience audiences at her presentations will enjoy.

"The lecture will be an opportunity for Rankine to explore the connections between these different approaches, and the ways each genre brings a new perspective to the issues she's discussing," Jameslyn said.

For the past 10 years, a committee of Grand Valley faculty and staff members have selected a book for the Community Reading Project. Criteria to select a book include cultural resonance within American culture, connection to the university's values, and wide appeal to students, faculty and staff members in a variety of disciplines. A year's worth of programming is planned leading to the author's visits.

About 80 faculty and staff members are using "Citizen" in their classes or small group discussions.

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

For immediate release

March 30, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Henry Matthews is available for interviews by calling (616) 292-9955. Photos of Matthews' complex and collection are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/06L>. Photo credit: Bernadine Carey-Tucker, GVSU University Communications.

GVSU director owns city of miniatures

ALLENDALE, Mich. —In West Michigan there exists a city comprised of a grand museum, an authentic Chinese theater, bountiful dining rooms, exotic rooftop patios and even a chapel on top of a mountain. The residents of this city are tiny mice dressed as nuns, wizards, soldiers, tourists, pilots, chefs, societal elites, film directors and museum curators.

If this city doesn't sound familiar, that's because it can't be found on a map. The complex resides in the living room of Henry Matthews, director of Galleries and Collections at Grand Valley State University.

Matthews joined the niche culture of miniature collectors roughly 20 years ago, and now owns a complex currently housing thousands of miniature items from all over the world. His interest in miniatures began with a dollhouse from his daughter's childhood.

"My daughter, Amalia, didn't have much interest in it so we left it alone, but then I started collecting miniature things, like the items found in the dollhouse," Matthews said.

Eventually, the bookshelves in Matthews' Grand Rapids home could no longer contain his growing collection, so he designed a complex for his miniatures. Thus far, it consists of seven structures resting on a 5- by 8-foot base, with the tallest tower standing at 11 feet.

The inspirations for Matthews' designs primarily come from various historical landmarks and architecture he has encountered during his international travels. His six-story museum wing, for example, is "loosely modeled" after Peter the Great's Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. Miniatures, ranging from dinosaur skeletons to a collection of European crowns, can be found in the museum.

"I'm now looking for unique, one-of-a-kind pieces," Matthews said. "As you get better at any hobby and learn more about it, you keep going to a higher level."

Around the corner from the museum sits a two-story chapel resting atop an alchemist's apartment hidden within a rocky mountainside made of Styrofoam, and beyond the Great Hall wing, currently showcasing an Egyptian art exhibit, sits an authentic Chinese theater.

Matthews said his most treasured items are those with meaningful stories. For example, located on one of the complex's rooftop gardens — which change in decor and landscaping seasonally — is a replica of late artist Cyril Lixenberg's sculpture, "Amaranth." The full-scale version resides outside of Mackinac Hall on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.

A number of museums have expressed interest in displaying the complex in the past, but challenging transportation logistics have put the kibosh on possible exhibitions. "It's too overwhelming because each room is literally filled with hundreds of things," Matthews said.

Despite the attention his collection has received over the years, Matthews said he's simply following a passion. "In the end, this is all just about having fun."

To find out more about Matthews' collection, visit the latest issue of [Grand Valley Magazine](#).

A short video tour of the complex can be viewed here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBIL0_6uvBo.

For immediate release

April 6, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Matthew Boelkins is available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/07b>.

GVSU math professor receives "Professor of the Year" award

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Matthew Boelkins, professor of mathematics, was named one of three recipients of the Distinguished Professor of the Year Award by the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Boelkins and the other recipients will be honored April 15 during a MASU luncheon at the Lansing Center.

Boelkins joined Grand Valley's faculty in 1998. Since then, he has built a national reputation for his innovative, open-source calculus textbook, "Active Calculus." Boelkins and mathematics faculty David Austin and Steve Schlicker were co-authors of the textbook that encourages faculty to use active learning pedagogy in first- and second-semester calculus courses. The book is endorsed by the American Institute of Mathematics' Open Textbook Initiative.

He is active in the profession, serving as co-editor-in-chief for PRIMUS (Problems, Resources and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies), and first vice president of the Mathematical Association of America. Boelkins is also the director of New Student Advising and Registration.

In her nomination letter, Provost Gayle R. Davis said Boelkins "embraces the inquiry-based learning methodology that has become increasingly important in recent years." She noted that Boelkins emphasizes written and oral communications in all of his courses and led an effort to have students in his Euclidean Geometry class write their own textbook over the semester as they developed key ideas.

"His course designs emphasize student participation, and, at the same time, Professor Boelkins is considered by students to be one of the most challenging faculty members in mathematics," Davis said.

Davis noted he led improvements to the university's summer program, such as emphasizing core messages and goals, and organizing incoming students in small groups per their interest areas. Davis said these efforts have contributed to increased retention and student success.

The MASU Distinguished Professor of the Year Award candidates are nominated by their institutions. Criteria include having significant impact with undergraduate students, contributions to the institution and community, and scholarship and innovation.

Boelkins has earned several honors at Grand Valley, including the Glenn A. Niemeyer, Outstanding Academic Advising and Student Services, and Division of Science and Mathematics Pew FTLC Teaching Excellence awards.

For immediate release

April 7, 2016

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

Panel to discuss creative process of design thinking at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An upcoming panel at Grand Valley State University will aim to illustrate how the theories and practices of design thinking can be applied to the creative processes of any academic or professional fields.

"Is Design Thinking Really Design?" will take place Thursday, April 14, from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the L. William Seidman Center (Loosemore Forum room) on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The event is in conjunction with West Michigan Design Week April 9-16.

"For innovation to really happen, a full understanding of design thinking and the design disciplines is needed, along with the reinforcement that anyone can be creative," said John Berry, Design Thinking Initiative director at Grand Valley. "Design thinking actually helps unlock creativity."

Panelists for this event include Charles Saylor, former CEO and founder of izzy+; Danny Gaydou, design lead at Tiger Studios and adjunct professor at Kendall College of Art and Design; Patrick Shields, freelance designer; and Lauren Somers, film and video production major at Grand Valley.

Registration is required for this event. To register, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking.

For Immediate Release

April 5, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report and audio bites with Brian Long are available on DropBox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/07a>

Current business trends: Economic upturn continues

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is again gaining strength, after the industrial economy softened at the end of 2015, 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 March.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose to +15, up from +14. The production index also edged higher to +16, up from +12. The index of purchases turned positive to +3, up from -3. The employment index fell slightly to +14, from +17.

Long said the February unemployment rate in Kent County was at 3.2 percent, Ottawa County was at 3.1 percent, and Kalamazoo County was at 3.6 percent. "The recovery is finally taking hold and the employment picture is the best it has been since the recovery began seven years ago," said Long. "We should see at least some additional improvement over the next few months."

Long said strong auto sales are still keeping local auto parts suppliers busy, the office furniture business remains stable and some of the specialty firms are reporting an unexpected upturn. He said industrial distributors were generally positive, however, capital equipment firms reported widely mixed results.

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

April 5, 2016

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

GVSU to host transit conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 150 people are expected to attend the 2016 Public Transportation and Universities Conference in Grand Rapids to discuss the unique transportation needs of university communities.

Grand Valley State University and The Rapid are hosting the conference April 16-19 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids. It will be attended by university and community transportation professionals and planners, as well as university officials, faculty and students.

Sessions will cover topics such as financing for transit services, marketing to students, sustainability, safety and security, parking policies, bike-share programs, on-demand ridership models and more.

Public Transportation and Universities Conference

April 16-19

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids

Register at www.apta.com/mc/university

GVSU Transportation Services offers a variety of sustainable transportation options to Grand Valley students, faculty and staff. Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members can ride any Rapid bus route for free.

In 1996, Grand Valley began running a shuttle between Grand Rapids and the Allendale Campus. In the 1996-1997 academic year, the bus program averaged 5,300 riders per month. In 2015, Grand Valley accounted for 2.8 million rides on The Rapid.

Chris Swank, manager of operations for Pew Campus Operations, said: "We are excited to welcome our transit colleagues to our hometown. This conference is an excellent opportunity for Grand Valley and The Rapid to showcase its unique partnership as well as gain valuable insight from agencies around the country."

For a complete program agenda, visit www.apta.com/mc/university/program. For more information about Grand Valley's Transportation Services visit www.gvsu.edu/bus or contact Chris Swank at (616) 331-5801.

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Jodie Seese, LoWellness Health Initiative director, (616) 446-7058,
jvokes_healthandsafety@msn.com

Results of Lowell area health assessment to be released

LoWellness Health Initiative is first of its kind in Michigan

LOWELL, Mich. — Results from a first-of-its-kind community health assessment survey conducted in Lowell will be released at the LoWellness Health Summit April 13 in Lowell. The survey measured the health status of residents, examined social determinants and risk factors, and identified barriers to good health.

LoWellness is a community-based movement that has partnered with the Public Health Program at Grand Valley State University.

Data will be released from several categories of the assessment, including obesity, smoking rates and mental health. The database includes results from more than 4,500 community health assessment surveys from both youth and adults, which will be used as a baseline to measure future success. The project marks the first time a community has come together to collect health information with the sole purpose of improving the quality of life.

LoWellness Health Summit

April 13

noon: lunch and presentation of survey results

1:30-2:30 p.m.: keynote speaker

Grand Volute Event Center in Lowell

The assessment of more than 2,000 adults was made possible by a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund. The survey of more than 2,500 youth in the Lowell Area School District was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Both surveys were designed and analyzed by the Community Research Institute in the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University.

"This project is about taking health to a new level. Everyone has something they want to improve or do better," said Jodie Seese, director of LoWellness. "This initiative is putting health in the hands of residents by determining what we need so we can leverage our community engagement to create measurable, sustainable change. Essentially, our goal is to create a culture of wellness. The surveys are the first step that will help us create the roadmap of where we want to go and how we can get there together."

Ranelle Brew, chair of the Department of Public Health at Grand Valley, said: "The LoWellness project is an innovative way of addressing public health issues. We were pleased to collaborate on the survey design, pilot testing of the tool and collection of the data. We plan to stay connected with the initiative as they explore programming options and move forward with implementation."

Keynote speaker

Tony Buettner, senior vice president of business development at Blue Zones, will be the keynote speaker at the summit.

In 2005, *National Geographic* funded research to find the healthiest places on earth. *The Blue Zones Solution* is *The New York Times* best-selling book that reveals how these people eat and live. In 2009, AARP and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health funded a pilot program to implement these best practices in the U.S. Now the Blue Zone Project is bringing those lessons learned to cities, counties and states to help residents lead longer, healthier lives

Register for the lunch by April 8 at <https://lowellnesshealthsummit.eventbrite.com>

For more information about the LoWellness Health Summit and initiative, contact Jodie Seese at (616) 446-7058.

For immediate release

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For Immediate Release

April 7, 2016

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Jodie Seese, LoWellness Health Initiative director, (616) 446-7058,
jvokes_healthandsafety@msn.com

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For Immediate Release

April 11, 2016

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

Exploring the how and why behind the dysfunction in American politics

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The current dysfunction and political gridlock in Washington D.C. and around the nation will be explored in a three-day, groundbreaking summit April 15-17, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University

The summit will address the historical causes of the widening gap between the left and right, along with fractures inside the Democratic and Republican parties that have caused widespread political upheaval. Speakers will ask whether there has been common ground between liberals and conservatives in the past, and whether there could be today.

The Progressive/Conservative Summit will bring together political thought leaders and eminent historians to discuss the ways in which progressives and conservatives might share common ground and common cause, both in the past and the present. At the same time, speakers will explore the current frenzy in Washington, D.C. said Joe Hogan, program manager for the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative.

The conference will feature nine sessions and more than a dozen experts and thought leaders over three days to explore the fundamental problems in politics and between progressives and conservatives.

Keynote addresses will feature:

- George Nash, a national thought leader on conservatism
- E.J. Dionne, Jr., a journalist and political commentator, and longtime op-ed columnist for *The Washington Post*
- Michael Ignatieff, former leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and political expert
- Kevin M. Schultz, a noted author and history professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago
- David Hollinger, an author and the Preston Hotchkis Professor of History emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley
- Andrew Hartman, an author and expert in the history of the Culture Wars
- Christopher Shannon, an author and expert on culture in modern American social thought

"Across the nation, Americans are wondering what on earth is going on in both parties. Has Donald Trump won the Republican base? Has Bernie Sanders brought 'socialism' into the liberal mainstream? Regardless of who wins the presidency, voters will wonder what the next four years will bring, and whether progressives and conservatives will be able to work together," said Hogan. "Our presenters will explore the roots of these political fractures, as well as discuss what can be done about them."

The Progressive/Conservative Summit

April 15-17

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus
401 Fulton Street W., Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Free and open to the public, but RSVPs requested here: <http://hauensteincenter.org/progcon/>

Schedule of events:

Friday, April 15

- 7-8:30 p.m. keynote: Michael Ignatieff on Politics and the Humanities

Saturday, April 16

- 8-9 a.m. keynote: Kevin M. Schultz on William F. Buckley and Norman Mailer
- 9:15-10:30 a.m. panel: Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen on Friedrich Nietzsche, Claire Rydell Arcenas on John Stuart Mill, and Judy Whipps on John Dewey and Jane Addams
- 10:45 a.m.-noon panel: Benjamin Lockerd on T.S. Eliot, Bradley J. Birzer on Russell Kirk, and Lisa Szeffel on Peter Viereck
- Noon-1:30 p.m. luncheon keynote: George H. Nash on Conservatism
- 1:45-3 p.m. panel: Natalia Mehlman-Petrzela on the Culture Wars in Education, Raymond J. Haberski, Jr. on Just War and Civil Religion, and Paul Murphy on Early Twentieth-Century Humanism
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. panel: Corey Robin on Clarence Thomas on Capitalism, Paul D. Moreno on Progressives and the Administrative State, and Kevin Mattson on Contemporary Distrust Between Progressives and Conservatives
- 6-7:30 p.m. keynote conversation: E.J. Dionne, Jr. and David Hollinger on Common Ground between Liberal Protestants and Secular Liberals

Sunday, April 17

- 11 a.m. keynote debate: Andrew Hartman and Christopher Shannon on the Culture Wars

The event is hosted in partnership with the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan and the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

April 11, 2016

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

GVSU will host open house for health care programs

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host an open house to highlight its health care programs offered through the Traverse City Regional Center.

The free open house is set for Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the University Center, 2200 Dendrinos Dr. in Traverse City.

Faculty members will be on hand to provide an overview and admissions requirements for the following programs: allied health, liberal studies, nursing, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, social work and public health.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP by sending an email to nminfo@gvsu.edu or calling (231) 995-1785.

For information about Grand Valley's degree programs offered in northern Michigan, visit www.gvsu.edu/traverse.

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Hanna Burmeister, Michigan Small Business Development Center, (616) 331-7489

Michigan SBDC honors best small businesses

LANSING, Mich. — Twelve Michigan companies will receive a Best Small Business Award from the Michigan Small Business Development Center (Michigan SBDC) at a ceremony May 5 in Lansing. The Michigan SBDC is housed at Grand Valley State University.

The companies were chosen from more than 5,000 small businesses that the Michigan SBDC provided with confidential counseling in 2015. The companies were selected based on their success in creating jobs, increasing sales, improving their business strategy and their involvement with the Michigan SBDC.

Recipients will be honored at the Michigan Celebrates Small Business Awards Gala, which coincides with National Small Business Week. The event will take place from 7-9 p.m. at the Lansing Center, 333. E. Michigan Ave.

“This year’s awardees have a significant impact on Michigan’s economy,” said Keith Brophy, state director of the Michigan SBDC. “We are excited to take the opportunity to celebrate their success and cheer them on as they continue growing their businesses.”

Recipients include:

- Onara Enterprises (St. Charles)
- West Side Decorating Center (Saginaw)
- Arbor Teas (Ann Arbor)
- Joy’s Bridal Boutique (Port Huron)
- MTW Industries, LLC (Mt. Pleasant)
- Mrs. Glee’s Gluten Free Foods, LLC (Hillman)
- The Parsons Farm (Charlevoix)
- Excel Medical Products (Wixom)
- Canine to Five (Detroit)
- Round Barn Winery (Baroda)
- Northern Sun Winery (Bark River)
- Smart Bottoms (Ada)

A panel of judges selected Mrs. Glee’s Gluten Free Foods of Hillman, Michigan, as this year’s Main Street USA award winner. Mrs. Glee’s produces certified gluten-free cooking and baking products using Michigan-grown navy beans.

“The Main Street USA award provides recognition to the investors and employees for their hard work and focus on consistency and reliability in the production of high-quality, gluten-free products to our customer base,” said CEO Jim LeCureux. “The village of Hillman is a small town in northeast Michigan, and Mrs. Glee’s has provided a number of jobs to the area and is being recognized for that accomplishment.”

For more information about the Michigan Celebrates Small Business gala, visit www.MichiganCelebrates.biz, or call Hanna Burmeister at (616) 331-7489.

About the Michigan SBDC

The Michigan Small Business Development Center provides counseling, business education, information-based planning and technology commercialization services to Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, growing businesses and innovators. The Michigan SBDC State Headquarters is located in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners may access the services of their nearest Michigan SBDC by calling (616) 331-7480 or visiting www.SBDCMichigan.org.

For immediate release

April 18, 2016

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

GVSU autism conference celebrates 15 years

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Local and national experts will discuss teaching strategies for children with autism or Asperger's Syndrome at Grand Valley State University's 15th annual Statewide Autism and Training Project (START) conference.

The conference will take place Monday, May 2, from 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. in the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing (219 S. Harrison Road).

In honor of the 15th year of the conference, three speakers will present on a wide range of topics, from supporting children with autism in the community to creating an inclusive culture in schools.

Stephen Shore, clinical assistant professor at Adelphi University, will give two presentations. During his first lecture, Shore will share the numerous challenges facing people who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Shore will then discuss strategies for enabling individuals with autism to achieve success in finding and maintaining employment.

Dan Habib, from the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, will present the benefits and challenges of inclusion for students with disabilities in grade schools and beyond.

Alyson Beytien, certified autism consultant, will illustrate why there is a need for greater inclusion in the community for children with ASD. She'll explore a variety of community activities that individuals with autism can engage in.

Kellie Fitzgerald, START Project project coordinator, said these crucial discussions come at a time when, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in 68 children has been diagnosed with ASD.

"It is crucial for schools, community partners, and families to support students with ASD so they can become active members of their schools and communities, and successfully move into adulthood as independent individuals with many choices and opportunities," Fitzgerald said.

Registration is required for the conference, and closes April 27. For more information about the full conference agenda, and to register, visit www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter or call (616) 331-6480.

For immediate release

April 19, 2016

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/07E>. Credit GVSU University Communications.

Premiere screening set for GVSU Summer Film Project

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A woman named Isabelle buys an antique camera lens at a garage sale, but little does she know that the lens has mystical powers of healing. Does she use these powers even though every time she heals someone or something, she loses a piece of her soul?

This is the question raised by the 2015 Grand Valley State University Summer Film Project, 'The Lens,' which is set to debut April 29. The screening will take place at 8 p.m. at Celebration! Cinema North in Grand Rapids. Admission is \$5 per person (cash only).

The film's 20-member crew, consisting of all Grand Valley students, spent approximately one week filming in various West Michigan locations during July of 2015. Filming locations included 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.

Students then spent the 15-week fall semester editing the film and recording its musical score. Dan Rickabus, '10, of The Crane Wives, composed the original score.

Joseph McCargar, affiliate professor of film and video production, and Brian Gotberg, '14, '15, are co-producing "The Lens," with Richard Brauer, president of Brauer Productions Inc., serving as director. Brauer also wrote the film's script.

Wrapping his third year of working on the Summer Film Project, Gotberg said students go the extra mile to bring their best work to the table.

"Everyone worked together to make sure this wasn't a 'student film,' even though almost everyone on the crew is a student," Gotberg said. "I'm surprised every year how much the students know about the filmmaking process and how eager they are to get out in the field and work. It's great to see the passion and talent they have for filmmaking."

For more information about "The Lens," contact Brian Gotberg at (248) 767-5591 or bgotberg@gmail.com.

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2016

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

GVSU students to display engineering, computing creations

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A wireless weather station, a virtual chess game and an app that allows nurses to forecast the likelihood of patient overcrowding are just some of the student-made projects that will be on display April 21 at Grand Valley State University's Project Day.

About 250 visitors and high school students from Grand Rapids area schools will attend the event to meet with students, interact with their projects and see how engineering and computing is relevant to everyday life. The event is hosted by the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.

Project Day

Thursday, April 21

10 a.m.-noon

Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Labs

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The college hosts project days twice each academic year. Projects on display were designed and built by undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, computing and occupational safety and health management majors.

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

For immediate release

April 21, 2016

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

Grand Valley, Rockford Public Schools partner on early college program

-- Leaders will sign agreement April 28

ROCKFORD, Mich. — Through a new partnership with Grand Valley State University, Rockford High School students can take college courses in a health professions program without leaving their campus.

The early college program will begin in the fall; students who participate can obtain six credit hours in Grand Valley's Allied Health Science bachelor's degree program, which will be taught at Rockford by a Grand Valley faculty member and will include discussion sessions led by a Rockford high school teacher. Two courses will be offered: Medical Terminology and Introduction to Health Care.

Media opportunity: Leaders from Grand Valley and Rockford Public Schools will officially sign the partnership agreement on Thursday, April 28, at 11 a.m. at the RPS Administration Office, 350 N. Main St. Contact Marlene Clark at mclark@rockfordschools.org for details.

President Thomas J. Haas, Vice Provost for Health Jean Nagelkerk and College of Health Professions Dean Roy Olsson will represent Grand Valley. Superintendent Michael Shibler and other district officials will represent Rockford Public Schools.

For immediate release

April 21, 2016

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

Media note: photos from the story collection are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/07U>

Reception will celebrate GVSU, community exhibition of stories

HOLLAND, Mich. — The stories of Asian Pacific Americans will be highlighted in an exhibition and celebrated with a reception on Monday, April 25, at the Herrick District Library.

Stories for "Our Asian Pacific American Community" were collected by the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University. Staff members worked in partnership with representatives from Herrick District Library, Latin Americans United For Progress, City of Holland, Holland Museum, Grand Valley's Meijer Campus in Holland, GVSU Asian Student Union, and St. Francis de Sales Parish.

A reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave. It is free and open to the public.

The exhibition features more than 40 stories of area Asian Pacific Americans, many of whom will attend the reception.

Melanie Shell-Weiss, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said this collaborative project allows for the office to engage with community partners and "celebrate the diversity of Holland's communities, as well as the stories of our Holland-based GVSU faculty and students who participated in the project."

The Kutsche Office of Local History is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. Learn more about the office at www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2016

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

GVSU College of Ed Convocation celebrates educators

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Students and faculty members in Grand Valley State University's College of Education will be honored at a convocation ceremony April 28, at Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

This is the second time the ceremony will be held at the high school; the first was in December to mark the beginning of collaborative work between the college and the public school.

About 230 graduates are expected to participate; the ceremony will also include a hooding ceremony for those completing their master's degree requirements.

The College of Education Convocation is a precursor to Grand Valley's commencement ceremonies April 30 at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

College of Education Convocation

April 28

7-9 p.m.

Ottawa Hills High School Auditorium

2055 Rosewood S.E., Grand Rapids

Three students will serve as keynote speakers: Hailie Roblyer, secondary education major; Mackenzie Kroll, special education major; and Carolyn McLean, higher education major.

For more information, contact John Shinsky, interim dean of the College of Education, at (616) 331-6821 or visit www.gvsu.edu/coe.

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Lorie Tuma, visiting assistant professor at Grand Valley State University (616) 989-506-3805

MEDIA NOTE: Group photos of the students who will work at the Cannes Festival can be found on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/07Z>

GVSU students to work at Cannes Film Festival

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Sixteen Grand Valley State University students in the hospitality and tourism management (HTM) program will spend two weeks in France working at the 69th 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. This year's festival runs from May 11-22.

Grand Valley students will coordinate events and run press panels 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 who will be on site with full access for the duration of the festival," said Lorie Tuma, HTM visiting assistant professor. "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 7 and return May 23.

For more information, contact Lorie Tuma at (616) 331-8868 or (989) 506-3805.

Students attending and their hometowns:

- Allison Bis - Midland, Michigan
- Taylor Brock - Holland, Michigan
- Alexis Brown - Newaygo, Michigan
- Julia Dilliard - Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Sarah Gonzales - Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
- Kelsey Job - Armada, Michigan
- Anna Koetje - Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Jake Kowalski - Macomb, Michigan
- Morgan LaBarrie - Berkley, Michigan
- Weston Lohman - Montague, Michigan
- Taylor Losee - Caro, Michigan
- Rachael Marilyn Van Gennep - Mokena, Illinois
- Alyssa Neelis - Brighton, Michigan
- Kelli Pastor - Livonia, Michigan
- Ashley Pipe - Hudsonville, Michigan
- Nakaria Williams - Muskegon, Michigan

MEDIA NOTE:

April 21, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 318-3673

GVSU expert available to discuss Prince and his impact on popular music

Grand Valley State University professor of music Kurt Ellenberger is available for media interviews until 5:30 p.m. to discuss the impact that Prince, who died today at age 57, had on the world of modern music and popular culture.

Ellenberger can be reached via phone at 616-947-1990 until 5:30 p.m. today or any time Friday morning.

For immediate release

April 22, 2016

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

GVSU, MCC nursing programs to sign concurrent enrollment agreement

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Leaders from Grand Valley State University and Muskegon Community College will officially sign a concurrent enrollment agreement that will provide MCC students with a seamless transition to a bachelor's degree in nursing.

The concurrent enrollment agreement is between MCC's Applied Science Nursing program and Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing's RN to BSN program.

Media opportunity: Representatives from Grand Valley and MCC will sign the agreement Wednesday, April 27, at 3 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (room 123), 301 Michigan St. NE. Media members are welcome to cover the event.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said the agreement will provide MCC students who are interested in participating in concurrent enrollment with resources and coordinated advising services between the two nursing programs.

"We are very pleased to work closely with Muskegon Community College on this agreement to support nurses as they advance their education," McCurren said. "This type of collaborative model is emerging across the nation as a strategy to avoid duplication, steward resources efficiently, and build on the strengths of each institution on behalf of students and their success."

Dale Nesbary, president of MCC, said the agreement helps students achieve their goal of earning a bachelor's degree while taking classes in Muskegon.

"Muskegon Community College is pleased to join with Grand Valley in this effort to meet the health care needs of West Michigan," Nesbary said. "This agreement will provide efficient and effective academic pathways for our students, as well as deliver additional nursing talent for the many healthcare institutions in our region."

Gayle R. Davis is the provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs at Grand Valley. She commended both institutions for their collaboration to make this a sustainable working model.

"MCC has a longstanding standard of excellence associated with its nursing program, as do we," Davis said. "Grand Valley is so very pleased to collaborate with MCC to provide this opportunity for nursing students."

Grand Valley's RN to BSN program is offered in a hybrid format that blends online learning with in-seat meetings.

For Immediate Release

April 25, 2016

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

Media-Grand Valley to celebrate graduates April 30

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 3,300 students will participate in Grand Valley State University commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 30, at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is the morning speaker, and George Heartwell, former mayor of Grand Rapids, is the afternoon speaker.

Grand Valley Commencement Ceremonies

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Van Andel Arena, 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, 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

Tabron joined WKKF, one of the largest private foundations in the U.S., in 1987 as controller. She has been an active leader in the foundation's racial equality, diversity and inclusion work. She serves on local, state and national boards, including the Detroit Workforce Development Board and Mississippi Center for Education Innovation.

Heartwell served as mayor of Grand Rapids for 12 years. During his tenure, Grand Rapids was recognized as the nation's most sustainable mid-sized city by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He is a recognized expert on sustainability and climate protection. In February, Heartwell took on a new role as community sustainability coordinator for Grand Valley's Office of Sustainability Practices.

Awards and honorary degrees

The Alumni Association will present its Distinguished Alumni Award to Nkechye Ekeh Ekeh, '92 and '93, an associate professor of education and director of the Early Childhood Education program at Aquinas College. The Outstanding Educator Award will be presented to Greg Wolffe, professor of computing and information systems.

Noreen Myers and Peter Renucci will receive honorary degrees. Myers, '72, is a lawyer specializing in employment law and the first alumna to be appointed to Grand Valley's Board of Trustees. Renucci is owner of E&R Investments and is a director on the Grand Valley University Foundation. He and his wife, Pat, have funded scholarships and equipment to support student achievement.

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

For immediate release

April 26, 2016

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

Media Note: Photos of Hollianne McHugh, Sally Smeltzer and Emily Trowbridge are available via this link:
<http://gvsu.edu/s/071>

GVSU sets commencement date in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Three area women who are making a difference in their communities will be among the 55 graduates to receive degrees at Grand Valley State University's commencement ceremony, scheduled for May 3 at the Hagerty Center.

The commencement ceremony will begin Tuesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. at the center, 715 E. Front St., media coverage is welcome. Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas will make remarks.

The women — Hollianne McHugh, Sally Smeltzer and Emily Trowbridge — are earning degrees through Grand Valley's Traverse City Regional Center, which offers 12 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Smeltzer, who will earn a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, was able to design her degree program to suit her interests — sociology and environmental health — and career plans. She said her degree has prepared her for her current work at Creation Farms in Beulah, in Benzie County, and, in the future, perhaps a new venture as a change-maker.

"I had so many great classes in the program," she said. "The degree program leaves room for new careers and careers that don't even exist now.

McHugh is a technology instructor for the Career Tech Center's Manufacturing Technology Academy, and serves as a board member for Buckley Community Schools. She will earn a master's degree in educational leadership, and said the degree will help her to see the larger picture of K-12 education and provide her with tools to impact change.

Before moving to Traverse City, McHugh worked as an engineer for a Big Three automaker.

Trowbridge will earn a master's degree in social work. She is working at Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan with young children who were victims of sexual abuse and will soon work as a crisis counselor. Working with victims of sexual abuse is difficult, Trowbridge said, but rewarding.

"These kids are great. The biggest thing I've learned is that change does not happen overnight, and you learn to be grateful for the small victories," she said. "They pass a test, join a sports team, anything that emphasizes their strengths, is tremendous progress."

For immediate release

April 27, 2016

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

GVSU will host Health Forum of West Michigan event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The next Health Forum of West Michigan event will continue conversations from April about the integration of of medical and behavioral health.

"The Integration of Mental/Behavioral Health and Physical Medicine" is set for Friday, May 6, at 8 a.m. at the L. William Seidman Center on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A light breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Panelists include Stan Stek, Kent County commissioner and Network 180 board member; Chris Shea, chief executive officer for Cherry Health; and Lynda Zeller, senior deputy director for behavioral health and developmental disabilities administration, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The event is free and open to the public; register online at www.gvsu.edu/miperc.

The Health Forum of West Michigan continues the tradition of the Alliance for Health's First Friday Forums, under leadership from community partners and sponsorship from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Kanpol can be found on Dropbox at this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ild21z9jmvc1yuz/AAARsAW9U_9J3rz7pqxtM_b0a?dl=0

Grand Valley names new dean of College of Education

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University Provost Gayle R. Davis has announced the appointment of Barry Kanpol as dean of the College of Education. Kanpol replaces Elaine Collins who left Grand Valley to be president of Johnson State College in Vermont.

Kanpol is currently a professor of education at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne, where he was founding dean of the College of Education and Public Policy.

Kanpol received a bachelor's degree in English literature in 1981 from Tel Aviv University. He taught in Israeli Public Schools before immigrating to the U.S. in 1983. He received master's and doctoral degrees from Ohio State University in 1984 and 1987, respectively.

"Barry has many years of successful experience in the field, and during his interview visits he impressed the campus with his creative interdisciplinary ideas for leading the College of Education forward," said Davis.

Kanpol's academic interests revolve around the role of teachers in the social order. As a sociologist of education, he has linked issues of race, class and gender to topical concerns in education including federal educational policies and reforms, multicultural education, urban education and the role of popular culture.

Kanpol will begin his duties July 1. Education professor John Shinsky will continue his service as interim dean until then.

The College of Education, located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, serves 4,000 students through both undergraduate and graduate programs.

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-2221

MAREC tenant awarded patents for ultra-efficient solar power system

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Sol Electrica LLC, an affiliate client at Grand Valley State University's MAREC business innovation center, has been issued two patents for a solar power system that can produce electricity for less than that charged by utilities, and about half the cost of traditional solar panels.

The system is the modular solar power plant, which is a novel means to collect solar energy and convert it into electricity. Based on a system of small, sun-tracking collecting dishes, the modular plants can be used for a single house or expanded to cover the needs of an industrial complex.

Current solar collector farms have major efficiency issues, such as radiated heat loss and can convert less than half of solar energy into heat, which is used to generate steam and electricity. Large solar farms also require large amounts of natural gas to keep the system hot at night, decreasing efficiencies even further. Sol Electrica's system does not need to be kept hot at night and converts almost all of the solar energy to heat, drastically increasing efficiency.

The new system patented by Sol Electrica is an alternative to photovoltaic solar panels, which generally have below 20 percent efficiency. The efficiencies of the modular solar power plants are expected to reach well over 30 percent. With a similar cost to solar panels, the plants will have a smaller footprint and achieve a positive return on investment in half the time.

For more information visit <http://www.sol-electrica.com/> or search for U.S. patents 9,279,416 and 9,279,417 on patents.google.com

For immediate release

April 28, 2016

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

Grand Valley, Rockford Public Schools partner on early college program

-- Note: Event at noon today, different time from prior announcement

ROCKFORD, Mich. — Through a new partnership with Grand Valley State University, Rockford High School students can take college courses in a health professions program without leaving their campus.

Media opportunity: Leaders from Grand Valley and Rockford Public Schools will officially sign the partnership agreement on today, April 28, at noon at the RPS Administration Office, 350 N. Main St. Contact Marlene Clark at mclark@rockfordschools.org for details. (Note, change in time from previous announcement.)

The early college program will begin in the fall; students who participate can obtain six credit hours in Grand Valley's Allied Health Science bachelor's degree program, which will be taught at Rockford by a Grand Valley faculty member and will include discussion sessions led by a Rockford high school teacher. Two courses will be offered: Medical Terminology and Introduction to Health Care.

President Thomas J. Haas, Vice Provost for Health Jean Nagelkerk and College of Health Professions Dean Roy Olsson will represent Grand Valley. Superintendent Michael Shibler and other district officials will represent Rockford Public Schools.

For immediate release

April 28, 2016

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

Media note: Photos from the event are available via this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/844sq6csdudieqt/AADSw_97ybTIRE9xV4z7c_Vfa?dl=0

GVSU signs concurrent enrollment agreement with MCC

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Leaders from Grand Valley State University and Muskegon Community College signed a concurrent enrollment agreement April 27 that will provide MCC students with a seamless transition to a bachelor's degree in nursing.

The concurrent enrollment agreement is between MCC's Applied Science Nursing program and Grand Valley's Kirkhof College of Nursing's RN to BSN program.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said this collaboration will help meet a need for educated nurse leaders in Michigan, and address an Institute of Medicine report challenging states to increase the percentage of nurses with bachelor's degrees to 80 percent by 2020.

"This is an opportunity where we bring respect and the true spirit of collaboration to the table," McCurren said during the signing event at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. "It's not to compete but to work together and share resources."

The agreement will provide MCC students who are interested in participating in concurrent enrollment with resources and coordinated advising services between the two nursing programs.

Dale Nesbary, president of MCC, said the agreement helps students achieve their goal of earning a bachelor's degree while taking classes in Muskegon.

"Muskegon Community College is pleased to join with Grand Valley in this effort to meet the health care needs of West Michigan," Nesbary said. "This agreement will provide efficient and effective academic pathways for our students, as well as deliver additional nursing talent for the many health care institutions in our region."

Gayle R. Davis, provost and executive vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, welcomed the contingent of MCC and KCON nursing faculty members to CHS.

"Grand Valley is committed to this partnership and will be meeting regularly to identify then support students who want to participate in concurrent enrollment," Davis said.

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2016

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

World Trade Week focuses on export success

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — West Michigan World Trade Week will bring together a multitude of Michigan businesses May 12 to discuss local strategies for export success.

The business conference, in its 31st year, is hosted by Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center and the U.S. Commercial Service. It will be held at Grand Valley's L. William Seidman Center in Grand Rapids and focus on helping Michigan's business leaders increase exports and bring more business opportunities to West Michigan.

This year's keynote speaker is Adrienne Stevens, president of Notion's Marketing Corporation of Grand Rapids. Notions is the world's largest distributor of creative arts products. Stevens is leading the company through explosive growth while strengthening the organization through technology, facilities and talent. Stevens previously worked as a divisional president of L-3 Communications and Goodrich Corporation. She earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and an Executive MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

West Michigan World Trade Week

May 12

11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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

Register at www.gvsu.edu/wtw

Several breakout sessions are planned on a variety of topics including:

- Basics of International Logistics
- Selling to Developing Countries
- Duty Drawback and Foreign-Trade Zones
- Financing Options for the Global Supply Chain

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.gvsu.edu/wtw or call (616) 331-6811.

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos are available to use on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/08K>

GVSU engineering celebrates 30 years of co-op education

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – The School of Engineering at Grand Valley State University is celebrating 30 years of developing engineering talent for Michigan and the region through its co-op program.

What started as a handful of students in 1986 has grown to nearly 300 junior- and senior-level students this year. As the School of Engineering grew in enrollment, so did cooperative education, a program that requires students to complete a full year of paid intern work for an employer.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said about 83 percent of engineering alumni live and work in Michigan; 66 percent are in West Michigan. In May, a record-breaking cohort of 140 junior-level students will begin their co-ops.

"We're a teaching-oriented university, and the co-op program gets our students ready for life and careers, not just theory," Plotkowski said. "Most students are offered full-time jobs before they graduate, many times at companies where they completed their co-op."

While students often complete co-ops at companies located in West Michigan, many have worked for international companies located in countries like the U.K., Germany, Switzerland, Mexico and Austria. The James R. Sebastian Endowed Chair in Engineering Cooperative Education was established in 2008 to help prepare undergraduates for their co-op experience.

The anniversary not only marks 30 years of student success, but it marks longtime partnerships with more than 250 companies in West Michigan, including JR Automation Technologies. The company employees 58 Grand Valley graduates, many of whom started as students completing their co-ops.

"In 2001 we started with a few students and were not sure exactly how to best utilize them," said Kevin Bowe, director of engineering and co-op coordinator for JR Automation. "Within a couple months we didn't know how we accomplished projects without them. We are constantly looking for the next JR employee when we are interviewing Grand Valley students."

The School of Engineering will celebrate its milestone with a reception August 4 at the Kennedy Hall of Engineering on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/pcec/30-years-homepage-98.htm.

For immediate release

May 3, 2016

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

GVSU teams with Grand Rapids Public Museum to celebrate nurses week

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University has teamed with the Grand Rapids Public Museum to celebrate National Nurses Week with an exhibit and film screening.

KCON and GRPM have partnered for two screenings of "The American Nurse Project" film on Tuesday, May 10, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the museum, 272 Pearl St. NW.

Tickets are \$10 per person and include general admission to the museum. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.grpm.org. Continuing education credits for nurses who attend a screening will be coordinated by KCON at the event.

"The American Nurse Project" follows five nurses in various practice specialties. Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON, said it captures the broad scope of nursing as a profession and the significance of nursing in society.

KCON also contributed nursing-related items for a mini-exhibit at the museum, "Nursing: A Dynamic Profession." Dale Robertson, president and CEO of GRPM, said the exhibit celebrates the contributions of nurses throughout West Michigan and the world by showcasing objects from the past and present day.

The exhibit continues through May 29. National Nurses Week runs May 6-12.

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Eileen Sullivan is available on dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/08Y>

Grand Valley names new vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University Provost Gayle R. Davis has announced the appointment of Eileen G. Sullivan as vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students. She replaces Bart Merkle who served as dean of students for 32 years and will join the Grand Valley College of Education faculty.

Sullivan is currently dean of students at Elmhurst College in Illinois, a position she has held since 2007. She received her doctorate of philosophy in Higher Education Administration from Bowling Green State University in 1998. She also holds a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in business and marketing from Eastern Illinois University.

"I am delighted to bring Dr. Sullivan to Grand Valley where her wide and deep experience in student affairs and her creative approach to the work will serve us exceptionally well," said Davis. "She is a collaborative leader with a strong record of advocacy for all students."

Sullivan said she was drawn to Grand Valley's ability to provide students large university opportunities in a small college atmosphere.

"I am overjoyed to be joining a team of talented student affairs professionals and accomplished senior leaders who have created opportunities for learning that have allowed students to thrive both personally and academically," Sullivan said. "I have dedicated much of my career to partnering student affairs with academic affairs toward the goal of greater outcomes for students, and I hope to continue that work at Grand Valley."

Sullivan will begin her duties July 1. She will serve as the senior student affairs officer and provide leadership for the Division of Student Services, which includes 10 campus units.

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report and audio bites with Brian Long are available on DropBox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/098>

GVSU economist: Continued growth in West Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — "Still rising" is the phrase from a Grand Valley State University economist who said the West Michigan economy continues to grow.

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 April.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) backtracked to +7, down from +15. By contrast, the production index rose to a three-month high of +20, up from +16. The index of purchases rose sharply to +14, up from +3. The employment index fell slightly to +11, from +14.

"Near-record auto sales are still keeping the local auto parts suppliers operating at full capacity, even though a couple of firms are reporting a slight hesitation," said Long. "The office furniture business remains stable, and the spring season has resulted in significant improvements for some firms. Just like last month, our industrial distributors were generally positive, while capital equipment firms continue to report widely mixed results."

Long said the local employment picture is the best it has been since the recovery began seven years ago. He said the local business sentiment continues to be positive for both the short-term and long-term outlook. "Given the pessimistic numbers we reported six months ago, the current mood is much more confident," 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

May 9, 2016

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

CORRECTION: Museum special exhibits not included in free admission event

GVSU teams with Grand Rapids Public Museum for free tours of Native American exhibition

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University and the Grand Rapids Public Museum have teamed to offer free, guided tours of an urban Native American exhibition on May 17.

Guided tours of "Walking Beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps" will run from 5-6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, at the museum, 272 Pearl St. NW. A reception and oral history celebration will run from 6-7:30 p.m. J. Wagner Wheeler (Cherokee), former executive director of the Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council, is among the speakers.

Participants will receive free general admission to the museum for the evening. RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

The event is part of the "Gi-gikino'amaage-min (We are all teachers): Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit" project, which launched in 2014 with a community history harvest to document the experiences of urban Native Americans in West Michigan.

The project's partners are several Grand Valley departments — Kutsche Office of Local History, Native American Advisory Board, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Special Collections and Archives — Grand Rapids Public Library and Grand Rapids Public Museum. It is funded in part by the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, call the Kutsche Office at (616) 331-8099 or visit the website, www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For Immediate Release

May 9, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Johnson Center to host expert on the "Buy Local" movement

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University will host an expert on localism who will explain why buying local and supporting small businesses has gained popularity in recent years, and how the concept of localism can help area nonprofits.

"Why I Became a Localist" will be presented by Deborah Frieze, an author, activist and entrepreneur who was a founding partner of the Boston Impact Initiative, an investing fund that created systemic shifts in opportunity for urban communities. Local business and nonprofit leaders will learn from a national expert how the support of local entrepreneurs can help build strong economies and community at the same time.

"Why I Became a Localist" presented by Deborah Frieze

May 11, from 4-6 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus
401 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids

Register here: <http://johnsoncenter.org/event/sls51116/>

The cost for the event is \$15, and free for GVSU students with ID.

For more information, visit Johnsoncenter.org/sls

For immediate release

May 12, 2016

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

Media note: a high-resolution photo of McKee is available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/09J>

McKee named director of GVSU's Kutsche Office of Local History

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Kimberly McKee, assistant professor of liberal studies, was named the new director of the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University.

The announcement was made May 11 by Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. The Kutsche Office, housed in Brooks College, gives voice to diverse communities by supporting local history and cultural heritage organizations and people in West Michigan.

“I am confident that Dr. McKee will continue to advance the mission of the Kutsche Office both through its well-established programs and through exciting new projects,” Hiskes said.

McKee will begin her appointment August 6, but will work closely over the summer with outgoing director Melanie Shell-Weiss. Hiskes thanked Shell-Weiss for her efforts to increase the impact and visibility of the office.

McKee, who joined Grand Valley’s faculty in 2014, brings a rich history of working with community-based organizations. She has been the assistant director of the Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network since 2011, and has worked with the New York Governor’s Committee on Scholastic Achievement and the Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America.

She said the office’s commitment to giving voice to diverse populations and supporting research projects drew her initial interest. “Current Kutsche projects documenting the oral histories of Asian Americans in West Michigan, agricultural workers in Oceana county, and urban Native Americans are aligned with my research, teaching, and service interests,” McKee said.

In mid-June, the Kutsche Office will partner with the Oceana County Historical and Genealogical Society to collect oral histories from migrant workers and county residents.

For more information about the office, visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche.

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley, Hauenstein Center to co-host annual PTSD conference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will co-host and co-sponsor the 2016 Hidden Wounds of War conference that focuses on the growing issues of PTSD as well as physical and emotional injuries suffered by veterans of America's armed forces.

Several different topics will be discussed by national experts, including a keynote presentation by retired Brig. Gen. Stephen Xenakis, a psychiatrist and former commander of the Southeast Regional Army Medical Command.

The conference will provide resources and tips for returning veterans, their family members, those who treat them and the general community. The purpose of the conference is to promote the understanding of traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress injury/disorder and moral injury; clarify the roles of physicians, social workers, psychologists and clergy in helping returning veterans; identify community resources; establish a solid community referral network to specifically treat combat related TBI, PTSD and moral injury; and begin a dialogue to identify practical and effective strategies for treating wounded veterans.

2016 Hidden Wounds of War Conference

May 19 and 20

Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus

DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium

401 W. Fulton Street

The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is available here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/091>

Several topics will be discussed during each day of the conference. Topics on May 19 will include human rights and psychological ethics, while topics on May 20 will include strategies for coping with PTSD, veterans resources, transition and moral injury.

In addition to support from Grand Valley and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, the conference is co-sponsored by the Michigan Military PTSD Task Force, RiverView Psychological Services, P.C., West Michigan Veterans Coalition, Forest View Hospital and the American Legion.

For immediate release

May 17, 2016

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

GVSU professor dissecting Yooper dialect and identity for research

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Upon crossing the Mackinac Bridge into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, it's common to hear phrases like "You betcha," and "Say yah to da U.P., eh," or words pronounced distinctively, such as "sow-na" instead of "sauna."

The uniqueness of this regional dialect is predominately associated with the idea of the Yooper — a term used to describe natives of the U.P. and their dialect. The origin of the term Yooper dates back to 1979 when a newspaper in Escanaba had a contest to see what people in the U.P. would call themselves, and Yooper won.

Since 2000, Kathryn Remlinger, professor of English at Grand Valley State University, has been conducting a historical and contemporary examination of the development of the Yooper dialect, its relationship to the U.P. and the idea of the Yooper identity.

The culmination of Remlinger's 16-year project is her forthcoming book, *Yooper Talk: Dialect as Identity in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*. Prior to the book release, Remlinger has been presenting her findings at various national conferences, including the recent Linguistic Landscape 8 International Workshop at the University of Liverpool in the U.K. She will also present a paper documenting her research to faculty at the Meertens Institute in the Netherlands.

Remlinger has been focusing her research in the northwestern area of the Upper Peninsula, specifically from the greater Marquette area up into the Keweenaw Peninsula.

"When people hear what they think is Yooper talk, that's the most iconic area," Remlinger said. "It's the most isolated area, so there hasn't been as much contact with other dialects that could affect Yooper dialect."

During her initial research from 2000-2002, Remlinger interviewed 75 lifelong residents ages 12-92. Since then, she has revisited these residents to see if their perceptions of the Yooper identity have changed over the years. She has also spent many hours researching information from the vast historical archives at Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University and Finlandia University.

Remlinger said the migration of Finnish-speaking people in the early 1900s greatly impacted the development of the Yooper dialect, including the exclusion of prepositions when talking about movement toward a place.

"Instead of saying 'I went to the post office,' people would say, 'I went post office,' or they would say, 'Let's go casino,' instead of 'Let's go to the casino,'" Remlinger said. "Finnish doesn't use prepositions, so that's a direct language transfer."

Aside from immigration patterns, Remlinger said tourism and the media have had major impacts on the Yooper identity, especially since construction of the Mackinaw Bridge in 1957 made traveling to the Upper Peninsula more accessible.

"Over the past 16 years, I've noticed there is more Yooper-themed merchandise than I've ever seen before, so it's becoming really recognizable, even on a national scale," Remlinger said. "For example, a lot of people have the 'Say yah to da U.P., eh!' bumper sticker who aren't from the U.P., and Yooper was even the topic of a few questions on 'Jeopardy' in both 2003 and 2014."

Yooper received even more national attention when the word was added to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* in 2014.

"This came about after years of a man playing Scrabble who wanted to use Yooper, but his friend wouldn't accept it because the word wasn't in the Scrabble dictionary," Remlinger said. "So, he solicited dictionaries to include it until Merriam-Webster finally did."

While Remlinger's research focuses more on identity rather than details of the dialect, the idea of a Yooper doesn't exist without both.

"My research demonstrates how relationships among identity, language and place have emerged since the early 1900s to shape the idea of Yooper as both a way of speaking and a regional identity," she said.

For more information about *Yooper Talk*, contact Remlinger at remlingk@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

May 18, 2016

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

Media note: a photo of scholarship recipients is available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/09W>

GVSU earns national grant to support doctoral nursing candidates

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing received a \$20,000 grant from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Health Care to provide scholarships for two doctor of nursing practice students.

The grant funds one DNP Jonas Nurse Scholar and one DNP Jonas Veterans Health Care Scholar, each for \$10,000. KCON will provide matching funds. Amelia Grayson, of Grand Rapids, and Christina Winkelman, of Lewiston, were selected as the recipients of the funding that will enable continuation of their doctoral education and support specific scholarship projects.

"We are very pleased to be acknowledged by the Jonas Center in this way as it affirms KCON's commitment to providing quality nursing education and preparing nurses to improve the well-being of our communities," said Cynthia McCurren, dean and professor of KCON.

Grayson will examine what interventions can best support home-based elderly who are managing their own medications.

"Those over age 65, who are a fast-growing segment of our population, tend to have more chronic illnesses, and take more prescription medications than younger people," Grayson said. "My project will look at what interventions are best for leading to increased adherence and chronic disease management, while decreasing adverse events and hospitalizations."

Winkelman will study text messaging to oncology patients as an effective medication reminder. "The use of this intervention has shown to be effective in increasing medication adherence in people who have chronic disease," Winkelman said.

This is the second time the Jonas Center has awarded a grant to KCON as part of the center's national effort to prepare the next generation of nurses. KCON's newest Jonas Scholars will begin clinical practicum immersion experiences in the fall of 2016 and will be supported through 2018.

Based in New York, the Jonas Center is the country's leading philanthropic funder of graduate nursing education.

For immediate release

May 19, 2016

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

GVSU joins Partnership for a Healthier America

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Continuing its commitment as a healthy campus, Grand Valley State University joined the Partnership for a Healthier America and committed to adopt guidelines centered on the campus' physical activity programs, and dining options.

Partnership for a Healthier America is a nonprofit organization led by honorary chair First Lady Michelle Obama and charged with improving the health of American youth.

Lindsey DesArmo, health and wellness specialist, said becoming a PHA partner fits nicely with Grand Valley's strategic goals to encourage healthy lifestyles for students, faculty and staff members.

"Our vision is for Grand Valley to be the healthiest campus in Michigan by increasing healthy lifestyle choices and providing opportunities for a lifelong commitment to good health," DesArmo said.

Guidelines Grand Valley will implement over the next three years include adding two miles of walking trails on the Allendale Campus, adding "Healthy Choice" checkmarks on nutritious choices at several Campus Dining locations, and having access to a registered dietician.

Grand Valley was among six new PHA campus partners announced May 19 in Washington, D.C.

In related news, Grand Valley was recognized as a "Silver Campus" by the American College of Sports Medicine through its "Exercise is Medicine on Campus" initiative. Announced in April, the recognition notes colleges and universities that are making physical activity a standard, daily priority for their campus communities.

For Immediate Release

May 19, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Hanna Burmeister, Michigan Small Business Development Center, (616) 331-7489

Workshop to teach mobile app development basics

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A workshop to help non-technical entrepreneurs take advantage of the functions and features of mobile technologies and the flexibility they provide will be held in Ann Arbor June 2. The workshop, "From Concept to Reality: Learn How to Work with a Mobile App Developer to Make it Happen," will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College.

It is sponsored by the Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC), housed at Grand Valley State University; Mobile Technology Association of Michigan (MTAM); and Logic Solutions.

The workshop will focus on developer basics — creating a value proposition, defining app functionalities, setting priorities and learning to wire-frame a concept.

Speakers for the event will include:

- Charles Penner, regional director of Greater Washtenaw Area SBDC
- Al Carpinelli, business development manager for Logic Solutions
- Angela Kujava, director of innovation for Logic Solutions
- Matt Sarkesian, chief technology officer for Logic Solutions

"Data is showing that a majority of entrepreneurs want to make use of mobile/wireless technologies as part of their business model, but they often run into challenges due to their personal lack of technical skills," said Linda Daichendt, MTAM CEO and executive director. "This workshop is designed to give participants the expertise needed to work with an outside development firm, or to hire the quality tech staff needed, or to identify a suitable technical co-founder."

Michigan SBDC

The Michigan Small Business Development Center provides counseling, business education, information based planning and technology commercialization services to Michigan's new business ventures, existing small businesses, growing businesses and innovators. The Michigan SBDC State Headquarters is located in Grand Valley State University's Seidman College of Business in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners can access the services of their nearest Michigan SBDC by calling (616) 331-7480 or visiting www.SBDCMichigan.org.

Mobile Technology Association of Michigan

The Mobile Technology Association of Michigan (MTAM) is a non-profit trade association for Michigan's mobile/wireless technologies industry, businesses that provide those technologies, and the businesses — in all industries — that use these technologies. MTAM is the first state-based mobile/wireless industry trade association in the U.S. For more information visit www.gomobilemichigan.org.

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Hauenstein Center conference to highlight history, culture of Midwest

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — For most of American history, recountings of significant events came mostly from the East and West coasts, overlooking what came to be known pejoratively as "flyover country."

But that swath of the American heartland is rich in history, culture, music, literature and art, all of which will be discussed at the second Midwestern History Conference, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University on June 1.

The conference will feature historians, literary scholars and cultural critics who are dedicated to helping tell the vibrant stories of the American Midwest and rebuilding the infrastructure necessary for the academic study of the American Midwest.

More than a dozen different panels will highlight the expertise of nearly three dozen experts on a wide range of topics.

Finding the Lost Region II: Second Midwestern History Conference

June 1, 2016

9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium

401 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI, 49504

The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is requested here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Oa7>

A full conference schedule is available at hauensteincenter.org.

For Immediate Release

May 24, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Grand Valley to launch new innovation hub and co-working space

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is opening a new co-working space in its business innovation center located in downtown Muskegon. This new space will help build and launch innovative businesses throughout the region.

The Muskegon Innovation Hub at Grand Valley State University, formerly the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center, will provide all types of business support services for entrepreneurs, startups and growing businesses. The new co-working space, named CoLaunch, is specifically designed to create a community where entrepreneurs and startups can work in a collaborative environment as they build their businesses. CoLaunch will be available on a drop-in or month-to-month subscription basis and will provide a wide variety of amenities.

"With this new co-workingspace and making our business incubation efforts more broad to include more than just alternative energy, we're really hoping to attract people who are doing things that are new and different and helping them get off the ground successfully," said Kevin Ricco, director of the Muskegon Innovation Hub and CoLaunch.

Ricco said the Muskegon Innovation Hub is customer-service oriented and offers a highly personalized experience for each tenant. The Hub has experts available to help with product development, technology, product commercialization, entrepreneurship, business planning and modeling, and more. Tenants also have access to in-house expertise from the Michigan Small Business Development Center, as well as other business resource partners.

The Muskegon Innovation Hub will hold a community open house June 20 to showcase the Hub's capabilities and allow the public to explore the new CoLaunch space. The casual open house will run from 5-7 p.m. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

The Muskegon Innovation Hub also creates custom business development solutions for each individual client and provide programming and resources that match individual needs, an approach that isn't provided by all business incubators.

"By expanding the scope of our business development efforts, we think that the new Muskegon Innovation Hub will provide useful tools and expertise to entrepreneurs and innovators all across the region who are looking for custom business support," said Ricco.

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/mihub

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2016

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

Media note: a photo of Clingerman is available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0ad>

GVSU leader to attend Hartford Foundation policy institute

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The executive director of The Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation at Grand Valley State University was among 20 U.S. scholars selected to participate in the Hartford Change AGENTS Initiative Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Evelyn Clingerman will attend the institute June 5-7. The institute is a program of the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Gerontological Society of America.

Clingerman said during the institute she will work to identify elder abuse and how federal legislators and agencies can help address this multifaceted problem.

"With the tsunami of baby boomers soon to arrive in the U.S., we can expect that abuse and exploitation of elderly people will increase significantly," she said. "Working alongside policy makers to build awareness, increase knowledge and fund needed resources, we can improve detection, prevention, and evidence to provide the support elderly people will need."

The Wesorick Center, an interprofessional scholarly center within the Kirkhof College of Nursing, bridges academia and practice with high-impact activities, events, research and projects to address issues adversely affecting health outcomes and patient-centered care. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/wesorick.

For Immediate Release

June 6, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report and audio bites with Brian Long are available on DropBox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0aQ>

GVSU economist: Local economy is flat

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is currently flat, but should rebound through the summer, according to 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 May.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) backtracked to +0, down from +7. The production index remained positive, but retreated to +4 from +20. The index of purchases gave back most of its previous gain to come in at +7, down from +14. The employment index came in at +12, up modestly from +11.

"Michigan still claims to have about 80,000 technical jobs that cannot be filled because of a lack of qualified applicants," said Long. "Even for unskilled jobs, some employers offering as much as \$13 per hour are still having difficulty finding new employees."

Long said local auto parts suppliers are operating at full capacity and some smaller office furniture businesses are setting records. He said West Michigan is still outpacing most of the rest of the state with unemployment numbers.

"The Ottawa County unemployment rate fell to 2.7 percent, the lowest in the state, while Kent County is at 2.9 percent. Kalamazoo County posted an unemployment rate of 3.3 percent," Long 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

June 2, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos of Rachel Powers, Brad Wallar and David Leonard are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0aD>. For interview opportunities, contact Powers at powersra@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2853.

"Superbug" scare: GVSU faculty searching for solutions to antibiotic resistance

ALLENDALE, Mich. — For the first time appearing in the U.S., a rare type of E. coli infection that scientists are calling a "superbug" was found last week in a 49-year-old Pennsylvania woman. This "superbug" is resistant to many antibiotics, even Colistin, which doctors use as a last resort when other antibiotics aren't effective.

Researchers said if the gene that made the E. coli drug-resistant, called mcr-1, passes to another superbug with other mutations, it could result in bacteria that resists all known antibiotics.

At Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, several chemistry professors, including Rachel Powers, Brad Wallar and David Leonard, and their teams of undergraduate students have spent the past 10 years researching solutions to antibiotic resistance in a different type of bacteria.

"The recent announcement of the discovery of a superbug that is resistant to Colistin is a major public health concern; these bacteria are now resistant to our last-line defense antibiotics used to treat these infections," said Powers, associate professor of chemistry. "In our lab, this has provided even more motivation to find novel ways that our research can contribute in the fight to overcome bacterial resistance."

While there are many different mechanisms of resistance, Powers and her team focus on one specific type, beta-lactamase. Powers said these enzymes negate the healing powers of a genre of antibiotics known as beta-lactams.

"Most people are familiar with specific beta-lactam antibiotics, such as penicillin and amoxicillin. We're looking at ways of taking the resistant bacteria that contain beta-lactamase enzymes out of commission by blocking the activity of the beta-lactamase," Powers said. "Bacteria grow and multiply very quickly, and they've been around over the course of evolutionary time, so they have a lot of different resistance mechanisms."

To block the activity of beta-lactamase enzymes, the researchers work to develop new inhibitors that can be administered along with beta-lactam antibiotics. This process begins with growing microscopic crystals that are packed with the beta-lactamase enzymes in the chemistry labs at Grand Valley.

The team takes the crystals to Argonne National Laboratory, a multidisciplinary science and engineering research facility near Lemont, Illinois. At Argonne, they shoot high-energy X-ray beams through the crystals and measure diffraction data — a process called crystallography. This process allows researchers to study where inhibitors may be able to bind and prevent antibiotic resistance based on the resulting three-dimensional image of the structure of the beta-lactamase.

This data is then used to create electron density maps showcasing the beta-lactamase enzymes within the crystals on an atomic level. The maps also show the locations where inhibitors could potentially bind to the enzymes.

For more information about antibiotic resistance research or the "superbug," contact Rachel Powers at powersra@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2853.

For immediate release

May 31, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: To schedule set visits and interviews with cast and crew, contact Brian Gotberg at (248) 767-5591.

GVSU Summer Film Project begins production June 2

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Production for Grand Valley State University's 22nd annual Summer Film Project is set to begin June 2.

Since 1994, the Summer Film Project has provided students with the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals while producing a feature-length film.

This year, the crew and cast will be composed of more than 20 Grand Valley students, along with about 15 professional actors from Los Angeles, Chicago, Dayton, Detroit and West Michigan. Filming will take place June 2-17 at various locations around West Michigan, including Grand Valley's Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses, the Blue Bridge in Grand Rapids, and in Grand Haven.

In 2014, the comedy-drama "Lucky Jay" was produced in an episodic format a la Netflix as the Summer Film Project. This summer, students will be producing the second season of "Lucky Jay," which will consist of six episodes.

"Lucky Jay Season Two: Here's Looking at Hugh" will follow the continuing antics of a young film professor named Jay Calder. While Calder is away on sabbatical writing his book and wooing his love interest Kate, professor Hugh Anderson is left running the fictional university's film department with a hostile administration led by new college president Chip Throne.

While Season One focused on Calder's pursuit of achieving tenure, John Harper Philbin, associate professor of film and video production and "Lucky Jay" director, said Season Two will focus more on Calder's older counterpart, Anderson.

"Professor Hugh Anderson is 60, nearing retirement and fighting a new administration that is dismissive of arts programs, like film and theater," said Philbin. "One of the new administrators is his ex-wife, Kerri, which complicates matters, but Jay returns in the nick of time to help Hugh fight the good fight."

The film's producer and Grand Valley alumnus Brian Gotberg, '15, said the experience afforded to students through the film project helps them achieve a sense of confidence before entering the film industry.

"They run into issues during the project that happen on every film set, and their experience in dealing with these problems gives them an advantage after college," Gotberg said. "The project forces you out of your classroom comfort zone and makes you work hard toward a common goal."

For more information about "Lucky Jay," contact Brian Gotberg at (248) 767-5591.

Season One of "Lucky Jay" can be viewed at www.luckyjayseries.com.

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Zinman is available for interviews on this topic. He can be reached via cell phone at (616) 802-4007 or via email at zinmand@qvsu.edu. A high-resolution image of Zinman is available via DropBox here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1xpjm0ykfoe7eej/AACF4haPEtNgA7YauokzTOqga?dl=0>

Clinton could be first 'heir apparent' president since George H. W. Bush

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee could be the first "heir apparent" president, and only the sixth in history if she were to defeat Donald Trump in November's general election, according to a political science expert at Grand Valley State University.

An "heir apparent" president, or one who follows a two-term president from the same political party, is quite rare, said Don Zinman, associate professor of political science. An expert on the topic, Zinman recently wrote a book, *The Heir Apparent Presidency*.

Often, Zinman said, "heir apparent" presidents can be successful but will struggle to get credit for their achievements, as they seem to appear to just be carrying forward the policies and politics of the president they replaced.

"These few presidents, in the past, had to contend with the consequences of their predecessor's policies while facing a stronger opposition while sitting atop an increasingly weakened party," Zinman said. "Historically, these presidents invariably alternated between three approaches to leadership: continuity, expansion and correction."

The book looks in-depth at presidents James Madison, Martin Van Buren, Ulysses S. Grant (the first genuine Republican to succeed Lincoln), Harry S. Truman and George H. W. Bush.

These presidents often suffered from diverging from the policies of the presidents before them, while also suffering from the consequences of the policies or changing political climates, Zinman said.

"It was very rare for any of them to succeed at making substantial change to the politics that they inherited. It is a perilous and often thankless business to follow and lead at the same time," Zinman said.

Zinman's book is available for purchase via Amazon.com here: <http://amzn.com/0700622071>

For more information on the book, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/heirapparentpresidency/>

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2016

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

Grand Valley to host national leadership conference

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A CNN Hero of the Year, several local college presidents and a recent Miss South Carolina are among speakers who will present at a national leadership convention June 13-16 at Grand Valley State University.

Nearly 200 students and faculty advisers representing 70 institutions in the U.S. will attend Omicron Delta Kappa's 2016 Biennial Convention and Leadership Conference, "Great Lakes, Great Leaders," on the Allendale Campus. ODK is a national leadership honor society that was established in 1914 and is found on more than 300 campuses in the U.S.

The event lineup will include a 5k, community service projects and a president panel discussion that will include Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas.

Speakers include:

- Derreck Kayongo: one of the 2011 CNN Heroes of the Year and founder of Global Soap, an organization that recycles soap for people in need
- Tom Bowen: director of athletics, University of Memphis
- Bree Boyce: motivational speaker and Miss South Carolina 2011
- John Knapp: president, Hope College
- Ann Marie Klotz: Grand Valley alumna, dean for Campus Life and chief Student Affairs officer, New York Institute of Technology
- Kevin Kruger: associate executive director, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
- Nancy Hunter Denney: founder of Lead365, a national leadership conference

"Omicron Delta Kappa's national convention is an opportunity to bring together collegiate leaders from across the country to meet together, collaborate on service projects, explore leadership topics and strategies, and hear from our members who have achieved success in their chosen careers," said Michael Christakis, national president of Omicron Delta Kappa.

This year, Grand Valley's ODK circle chapter is celebrating 25 years. More than 1,000 students have been inducted into the group since 1991. Students who are juniors or above and have a 3.3 GPA or above apply to become a member and must demonstrate one of the five phases of campus life: scholarship, athletics, service, communications and arts.

For more information about the conference, visit www.odk2016.org.

For immediate release

June 9, 2016

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

GVSU camp introduces girls to engineering

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Middle school girls will get a glimpse into the careers of engineering, an occupation made of 14 percent women, at a four-day camp at Grand Valley State University. The camp exposes female students to engineering career choices and helps them prepare for courses in high school and college.

Science Technology and Engineering Preview Summer (STEPS) Day Camps will be held June 13-16 and June 20-23 in the Kennedy Hall of Engineering on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

More than 80 campers will get hands-on engineering experience by designing, manufacturing and flying radio-controlled electric airplanes. Campers will engage in engineering enrichment classes such as aerodynamics, 3-D printing, renewable energy and biomedical engineering. Campers will also take a ride in an airplane at an executive air strip in Zeeland.

MEDIA NOTE: Campers will fly their airplanes at the Warped Wings Fly Field located at the corner of Alger and 56th Avenue in Allendale Thursday, June 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Another Fly Night is schedule for Thursday, June 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The camp is coordinated by the Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering and Computing with support from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Major sponsors include Alcoa Foundation, Alcoa Howmet-Whitehall Operations, Michigan Space Grant Consortium (NASA), Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation, West Michigan Aviation Academy, Amway, Verizon Foundation, GE and Perrigo.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.gvsu.edu/steps/ or contact Sara Maas at (616) 331-6025.

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2016

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

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 Orlando nightclub shooting.

White is available today, **June 13, at 10 a.m. in the Meijer Regency Room of Building E in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.** Media can park in the DeVos Lot off of Winter Avenue or on the plaza off of Fulton Street by the flags.

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.

Contact Dottie Barnes at barnesdo@gvsu.edu or (616) 446-3981 to confirm your attendance.

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2016

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

GVSU to host teen entrepreneur camp

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Forty high school students from 21 high schools across the West Michigan area will spend a week at Grand Valley State University, immersed in the world of entrepreneurship to learn about creating a start-up company.

The 10th annual Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy (TESA) is hosted by the Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship (CEI) in the Seidman College of Business and sponsored by Amway.

The camp will take place June 27-July 1 at the L. William Seidman Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. This year's theme is centered on poverty and lack of access to health care.

Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy

June 27-July 1, 2016

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front Ave.

*** Idea presentations and awards will take place July 1, 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 teaches students strategies for launching a new business, including idea generation, problem solving, marketing techniques, management, financial strategies, presentation skills and much more.

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 cash prizes totaling \$5,000.

"Programs like TESA help create a community where creativity, curiosity and collaboration are encouraged," said Shorouq Almallah, CEI director. "Even if the students are not ready to start their own business, companies and organizations are looking for employees who have the qualities of resourcefulness, initiative, creativity and independence to be able to utilize these qualities within the organization."

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.

For Immediate Release

June 17, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from Story Time in the Heights are available at this Dropbox link:

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

GVSU literacy program provides free books, ice cream

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — “Story Time in the Heights” is turning literacy into an ice cream social. A Grand Valley State University professor has implemented a program designed to help children maintain reading skills during the summer. Each session of the program is attracting hundreds of children.

The annual program takes place each week during the summer in the Alger Heights neighborhood of Grand Rapids. During each session, children receive free books and ice cream and gather to hear stories. Barbara Lubic, associate professor of education at Grand Valley, created the program in 2010 and it has grown each year.

Story Time is held from 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Eastern and Alger avenues each Tuesday evening through the months of June, July and August.

Lubic said the program helps decrease the loss of reading skills over the summer. "If a child reads six books over the summer, they are less likely to lose those reading skills. If they read 10-15 books throughout the summer, they are likely to not only maintain their reading skills but to also improve their skills," she said. "Story Time is also an excellent way to strengthen our neighborhood community. Families come together on a summer night to share ice cream, stories and catch up on the events of the week."

So far this summer, nearly 600 books have been distributed. Last summer, more than 5,000 books were distributed to children ages 1-12. Books for the program are provided at a discount through partnerships with Schuler Books, Bargain Books and Scholastic. Lubic and her team select and purchase books at a variety of reading levels for a variety of interests.

For more information, contact Lubic at lubicb@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

June 22, 2016

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

GVSU carillon concert series begins June 26

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 22nd annual Cook Carillon International Concert Series will take place Sundays at 8 p.m. on the Allendale Campus, from June 26 through August 28. Kicking off the series is a performance by Tiffany Ng, University of Michigan university carillonist and assistant professor of carillon.

Cook Carillon Concerts

June 26 - Tiffany Ng, University of Michigan

July 3 - Open tower tours (beginning at 7 p.m.)

July 10 - Linda Dzuris, Clemson University

July 17 - Tin-shi Tam, Iowa State University

July 24 - Ray McLellan, Michigan State University

July 31 - Helen Hawley, Grand Rapids

August 7 - Dennis Curry, Bloomfield Hills

August 14 - Mathieu Polack, The Netherlands

August 21 - Tim Sleep, Naperville, Illinois

August 28 – Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, Grand Valley university carillonneur

The 16th annual Beckering Family Carillon International Concert Series brings five concerts to the Pew Grand Rapids Campus on Wednesdays at noon, beginning July 6. This series will begin with a performance by Linda Dzuris, Clemson University professor of music and university carillonneur.

Beckering Family Carillon Concerts

July 6 - Linda Dzuris, Clemson University

July 13 - Tin-shi Tam, Iowa State University

July 20 - Hylke Banning, The Netherlands

July 27 - Ray McLellan, Michigan State University

August 3 - Julianne Vanden Wyngaard, Grand Valley university carillonneur

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

June 22, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: High resolutions photos of the New Music Ensemble are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/ObC>. Credit: Amanda Pitts, GVSU University Communications.

GVSU ensemble to celebrate National Parks with concert tour

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 well-known national parks to celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

With grant funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Parks Service, the ensemble commissioned eight acclaimed composers to create original compositions inspired by Yellowstone, Badlands, Grand Teton and Wind Cave national parks. The ensemble will then perform the compositions in the parks through interactive and educational performances.

All concerts are free and open to the public. Below is the tour schedule:

July 1-2 at 8 p.m. - Badlands National Park (amphitheater), Interior, South Dakota

July 3 at 7 p.m. - Wind Cave National Park (amphitheater), Hot Springs, South Dakota

July 5 at 4 p.m. - Billings Public Library, 510 N Broadway, Billings, Montana

July 6 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. - Yellowstone National Park, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel (Map Room), Wyoming

July 7 from 2-6 p.m. - Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful Inn (lobby), Wyoming

July 8 at 7:30 p.m. - Grand Teton National Park (Colter Bay Amphitheater), Moose, Wyoming

July 9 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - Grand Teton National Park (Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center), Moose, Wyoming

"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," said Bill Ryan, New Music Ensemble director. "They will experience music that is truly an outgrowth of our national parks."

Since its founding in 2006, Ryan said the New Music Ensemble has been promoting "the music of our time" through commissions, tours, recordings, collaborations, outreach events and workshops. 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.

For more information about the tour, contact Bill Ryan at or visit www.newmusicensemble.org/schedule.

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and video of Macauley using hippotherapy are available to use on Dropbox:

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

Professor one of four experts in country to use horses for speech therapy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Grand Valley State University professor is helping her patients improve their speech as they ride horses. It's an emerging speech-language therapy technique and the results are often immediate.

Beth Macauley, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been studying and using hippotherapy for nearly 30 years on patients as young as 2 years old to elderly patients who have experienced strokes. She is one of four speech-language pathologists in the U.S. with board certification in hippotherapy.

One of her patients, Davide Cirilli, a 7-year-old boy with autism spectrum disorder, has come to Children and Horses United in Movement (CHUM) in Dansville, Michigan, to receive therapy to improve his fine motor and speech skills. He rides Twiz, a 9-year-old quarter horse and mustang mix gelding. [Watch a video.](#)

A simple exchange while riding the horse might go like this:

“What do you like on your pizza?” asked Macauley.

“Pepp-er-o-ni!” said Cirilli, sounding out each syllable.

“Good. Now say that in a full sentence,” said Macauley.

“I like pepp-er-o-ni on my pizza,” Cirilli answered.

Macauley said the exchange may seem simple, but for Cirilli, it shows vast improvement in his speech.

She said three-dimensional movements — up-down, side-side, front-back — of a horse pelvis are very similar to that of a human pelvis.

“When a person with a disability is on a horse, the horse’s nervous system becomes a framework for that person. Instead of going into a room and using books and cards for speech therapy, you’re now doing those same activities on a horse and the horse’s movement facilitates improved neurological function,” she said.

The exercises Macauley uses depend on each patient’s goals. Macauley also works with a woman who had a traumatic brain injury from a car accident. The goals were to establish muscle patterns and practice speaking and sustaining vowels. Before the woman got on the horse, her volume was low and

she had poor trunk support. At the end of the therapy session, her speech was clearer and more articulate.

“We don’t quite understand how it works yet,” Macauley said, “but we have a theory: the consistent and repetitive motion of a horse walking or trotting stimulates the nervous system of the person on the horse and facilitates increased physical and cognitive function. Since the nervous system is given a coordinated, integrated framework from which to function, it can focus on bigger, more complex thoughts, words and movements.”

In the future, Macauley hopes to lead a study that focuses on the activity of a patient’s brain during hippotherapy. She also hopes the therapy technique will eventually be covered by insurance companies.

Hippotherapy started as a physical therapy treatment for children with cerebral palsy, then it was used for adults with polio and brain injuries. Over the years, the technique expanded from helping to improve physical conditions to improving speech, language and cognition.

Macauley is available for interviews and can be reached at macauleb@gvsu.edu or 616-331-5617. Her next visit to CHUM in Dansville will take place during the week of July 11.

For more information, contact University Communications at Grand Valley State University at (616) 331-2221.

For immediate release

June 23, 2016

Contact: Matthew Makowski, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (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 eighth or ninth grade. The camp will be held July 11-14 at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences in Grand Rapids.

Students participating will have the opportunity to study anatomy, physiology, 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 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.

MEDIA NOTE June 24, 2016:

MEDIA NOTE: Experts available for comment on Brexit vote

Two Grand Valley State University economics experts are available to comment on the financial implications of the Brexit vote on international and domestic markets.

Gerry Simons is a professor of economics in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business, and received his Bachelor of Social Science in money, banking, and finance from the University of Birmingham in his native England. He is an expert in international economics. He can be reached by phone at (616) 827-0527 or via email at simonsg@gvsu.edu.

Paul Isely, professor of economics and associate dean of the Seidman College of Business, is an expert in economics whose research includes country-level innovation and forecasting. He also produces the annual West Michigan Economic Forecast, which is a benchmark forecast of the regional economy. He can be reached at 11 a.m. or between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. at (616) 331-7418 or via email at iselyp@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

July 5, 2016

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

GVSU Traverse City Center to hold open houses for health profession programs

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host open houses to highlight two health profession programs offered through the Traverse City Regional Center.

- The **Master's of Public Health** program will host an open house on Monday, July 11, from 5-6 p.m.; and Tuesday, July 12, from noon- 1 p.m., at the University Center, 2200 Dendrinos Dr. in Traverse City.

The MPH program will focus on health promotion, a branch of public health that promotes health through education, intervention and policy work. Applications are being accepted now for the fall 2016 semester.

- The **Physician Assistant Studies** program will host an open house on Friday, July 22, from 2-4 p.m. at the University Center.

Faculty members will be on hand to provide a program overview and admissions requirements. Grand Valley's PAS program opened a satellite location in Traverse City in 2014 and began a cohort in 2015.

Both events are free and open to the public. RSVP by sending an email to nminfo@gvsu.edu or calling (231) 995-1785.

For information about Grand Valley's degree programs offered in northern Michigan, visit www.gvsu.edu/traverse.

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: The full report and audio bites with Brian Long are available on DropBox at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tqbpvrpyin13rj2/AABAH8GEGnXEv3MxVw_kKnTQa?dl=0

GVSU economist: Slow growth returns

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is back on track with slow growth returning, according to 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 June.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose modestly to +6 from +0. In a similar move, the production index advanced to +11, up from +4. The index of purchases edged lower to -1 from +7. The employment index was unchanged at +12.

"We continue to see employment growth for West Michigan outpacing most of the rest of the state and nation," said Long. "Our index of employment (+12) is well above the long-term average."

Long said finished goods and raw materials continue to show inventory accumulations well above normal and the office furniture business remains stable for large establishments and is especially good for some smaller firms.

"The local auto parts suppliers are still doing well, but with U.S. auto sales only up 1.4 percent for the first seven months of the year, there is a sense that the market is now starting to top out," Long said.

June sales for the industrial distributors came in mixed and Long said because of excess equipment being dumped on the world markets, capital equipment firms continue to report widely mixed results.

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

July 7, 2016

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

GVSU professor joins global "flipped learning" movement

ALLENDALE, Mich. — When college classes meet, the time is traditionally spent learning new topics, usually by a live lecture by the professor. Once the class is over, students are tasked with working through homework and projects that apply the information learned in class.

But, an educational model known as "flipped learning" suggests that this may not be the most effective course structure.

Flipped learning reverses, or "flips," the common course structure by assigning students activities that introduce new materials before class, which allows them to tackle more difficult learning activities in class when they have the most access to each other and to their instructor.

Robert Talbert, associate professor of mathematics, is at the forefront of a global movement to shift higher education classrooms to the flipped learning model of teaching. Talbert was recently named one of 12 research fellows with the Flipped Learning Global Initiative.

The FLGI is a worldwide coalition of educators, researchers, professional development providers and education leaders who curate and distribute research, and share best practices of flipped learning. The inaugural class consisting of research fellows includes educators from Spain, Taiwan, Istanbul, Australia, China, Mexico and the U.S.

Since arriving at Grand Valley in 2011, Talbert has been designing his courses using the flipped learning ethos.

"The problem with the traditional course structure is that it uses class time on activities that are fairly passive and low-level, such as listening to a lecture and watching a person write on a board," said Talbert. "Students are doing the hardest work outside of class when they have the least access to and the greatest need for help."

In one of his computer science courses, for example, Talbert assigns readings, online videos and basic exercises to students to complete before class, and then spends five-to-10 minutes at the start of each class answering questions from this work. The next 30-40 minutes are dedicated to students working in groups to solve problems, which are then discussed by the entire group.

"We spend class time focusing on the difficult concepts that I wouldn't want to saddle students with to do on their own with no help around," Talbert said. "On the other hand, the basic material is something I do want to give students to learn on their own because some students learn in different ways. That's the time when students need to take their own individualized approach and it works out really well."

While the concept of the "inverted classroom" originated in the early 1990s, two high school chemistry teachers popularized the "flipped classroom" in 2007. Talbert said flipped learning has been practiced

widely in K-12 settings for several years now, but only in the past three years has there been interest from instructors in higher education.

"I think teachers around the world today are realizing that a couple of aspects of education have radically changed in the last 10-15 years," Talbert said. "Technology, for example, has advanced to the point where we don't really need to spend so much time in class transferring information since much of the first-contact experience can be done outside of class."

Talbert added that there's also a growing realization that educators should spend more energy teaching students how to solve problems and learn independently, as opposed to simply recording content in class.

"Flipped learning is not always easy for students because it requires them to take responsibility for their learning, but this is a good kind of challenge for students to encounter," said Talbert. "This method of learning helps maintain the high standards of excellence that we already associate with Grand Valley."

For more information about flipped learning, contact Talbert at (616) 331-8968 or talbertr@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Hauenstein Center launches history, politics and culture podcast

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University is launching a new podcast that will feature leading thinkers, authors, historians and academics in a series that's focused on finding common ground between progressive and conservative viewpoints on issues including history, politics, culture, the arts and more.

The new podcast, available on iTunes (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/common-ground/id1103902798?mt=2>) will feature well-known guests who will discuss various topics with host Joseph Hogan, who organizes the Common Ground initiative for the Hauenstein Center. New episodes will be released weekly.

Upcoming guests include:

- E.J. Dionne, a longtime *Washington Post* columnist and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, as well as a frequent contributor to NPR, MSNBC and ABC News
- Michael Ignatieff, former leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and political expert
- Maureen Corrigan, author, journalist, and literary critics whose book reviews can be heard on NPR's program "Fresh Air"
- Daniel McCarthy, editor of *The American Conservative*
- Louis Menand, contributor to *The New Yorker*, cultural critic and Harvard professor, and winner of a Pulitzer Prize for history
- H.W. Brands, historian at the University of Texas, Austin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and contributor to programs on the History Channel
- Eva Brann, recipient of the National Humanities Medal and professor and former dean at St. John's College, Annapolis

For more information, visit HauensteinCenter.org/podcast

For immediate release

July 18, 2016

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

GVSU to host Pokémon gathering

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In between classes, students at Grand Valley State University have been attempting to capture wild Pokémon — from Pikachu and Squirtle, to Charmander and Bulbasaur.

As thousands gather across the globe to connect through the newly released mobile game, Pokémon GO, students are being invited to attend a "Poképarty" on Tuesday, July 19, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. around the Cook Carillon Tower on the Allendale Campus.

The event will provide students with ice cream, a phone charging station, maps of gyms and Poké stops on campus, and an open space for students and their Pokémon to battle each other at the carillon tower — one of the most popular gyms at Grand Valley.

Media interested in attending this event can contact University Communications at 616-331-2221.

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2016

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

Grand Valley trustees adopt budget, set tuition, increase financial aid

ALLENDALE, Mich. - The Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees adopted the university's FY 2017 budget and set tuition rates for the academic year at its July 15 meeting, held in the Kirkhof Center 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 raises financial aid, in keeping with Grand Valley's mission to increase access to Michigan's students.

Trustees approved increasing tuition by \$221 per semester, bringing annual tuition to \$11,520 for a full-time undergraduate Michigan resident. The budget includes \$44 million in financial aid for students, which is an increase of more than \$3.5 million to be awarded in the form of scholarships or grants. Financial aid is increasing 9 percent, while tuition is increasing 4 percent.

"Grand Valley is efficient and effective," said David Hooker, chair of the Grand Valley Board of Trustees. "This budget allows us to focus on student affordability. We understand the need for financial aid for our students. Our budget strategies have allowed us to increase aid by a substantial amount this year. Grand Valley educates a workforce and is keeping talent here in Michigan. We know that graduates are staying in the state, getting jobs and giving back."

In fall 2015, 59 percent of all undergraduates received gift aid, and of the 2014-15 graduates who earned a degree in four years or less, 31 percent had zero debt. The university is expected to receive \$68.2 million in state funding, some of which is awarded to Grand Valley based on performance in key areas such as retention and graduation rates. The performance funding has allowed Grand Valley and President Thomas J. Haas to institute the Grand Finish grant to keep students on track for graduation with a financial incentive. The grant awards a \$1,000 scholarship at the start of the fourth year to students with 90 credits. Since the Grand Finish program began in 2011, more than 11,000 students have earned the gift heading into their final year of their undergraduate degree. Nearly 90 percent of recent Grand Valley graduates are employed or pursuing advanced degrees. Of those working, 83 percent are working in Michigan.

The university illustrates operational efficiency with administrative costs per student more than \$800 lower than the average Michigan university's administrative costs. That efficiency results in \$17 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. Trustees earmarked all of the funding from the state for student financial aid, debt service, maintenance and utilities for classroom buildings.

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/Oct>.

In other board action/discussion:

- Board members appointed John C. Kennedy as chair of the board and Mary Kramer as vice chair. Kennedy is president and CEO of Autocam Medical and Kramer is publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business* and corporate vice president of its parent company, Crain Communications.
- The board recognized and commended President Thomas J. Haas for 10 years of superior service and accomplishments as president of Grand Valley State University.

For immediate release

July 20, 2016

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

GVSU students visit Holocaust memorials, clean-up cemeteries

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Students spend many hours each semester reading about major historic events, but it is an entirely different experience to be in the presence of the areas where the historic events actually took place.

Recently, a study group traveled to Ukraine, Poland and the Czech Republic to visit former Holocaust camps and ghettos, as well as museums and memorials at Babi Yar, the Treblinka extermination camp and Majdanek concentration camp, among others. The group consisted of Rob Franciosi, professor of English, Grand Valley honor students, nine faculty members from educational institutions in the U.S. and Canada, two Air Force cadets and a doctoral student from London.

"The vastness of Auschwitz-Birkenau can be stated in a text or illustrated via maps, movies and photographs, but encountering the physical geography brings an entirely new dimension to one's knowledge," Franciosi said.

Franciosi added that during expeditions such as these, students learn that history is not only the story of what happened, but also how we choose to remember what happened in the past.

"At every turn in the trip, they confronted layers of historical memory and commemoration," Franciosi said. "Indeed, in the Ukraine, recent events illustrate this process at work. We could see evidence of how the Soviet Union imposed a form of memory on Ukraine. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukrainians acted to recover their own historical memory."

The study trip was sponsored by the Holocaust Education Foundation of Northwestern University, and was underwritten by Grand Valley's Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment.

Created to honor its namesake, a Holocaust survivor who often spoke to classes at Grand Valley, the endowment not only sponsors lectures about the Holocaust and other human rights topics, but it also assists Grand Valley students in their travels to Europe.

Ariana Martineau, a junior who is majoring in history and education, said visiting the former camps sent her on an emotional roller coaster.

"The memorials left you speechless as you stood there overwhelmed by the realization that this was and is so much bigger than you could have ever imagined," Martineau said. "This trip was a life-changing and eye-opening experience; you can't really see the world in the same way afterward."

A portion of this trip also consisted of traveling to various neglected Jewish cemeteries to clean them.

Martineau said that although the Holocaust is a heavy topic, the sadness and pity typically associated with the subject should not be the primary focus for students.

"You see all of these terrible things that humans did to other humans, but what should be taken from studying the Holocaust is to learn from other people's mistakes and to make sure they don't happen again," Martineau said. "This trip really affected the way I look at some world issues because sometimes I can spot similarities to some things going on in our world now."

For more information, contact Rob Franciosi at (616) 331-3069 or francior@gvsu.edu.

EMBARGOED UNTIL: 10 a.m. July 28, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-2221
Tim Eernisse, WGUV Public Media, (616) 331-6630

LZ Michigan 2017 will honor veterans

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — LZ Michigan, a program aimed at remembering, honoring and celebrating veterans and their families for their sacrifice and service, will return to West Michigan in 2017.

WGUV Public Media, PBS Stories of Service, ArtPrize and the West Michigan Whitecaps are coming together to sponsor the event, which is expected to draw hundreds of veterans from around the state.

LZ (Landing Zone) Michigan is scheduled for Friday, September 23, 2017, at Fifth Third BallPark in Grand Rapids.

MEDIA NOTE: WGUV Public Media, ArtPrize and West Michigan Whitecaps will hold a news conference Thursday, July 28, 2016, at 10 a.m. at the Wyoming VA Health Care Center, 5838 Metro Way SW to unveil details of next year's event.

The news conference will also serve as the launch of the first Human Hug Ambassador Program, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Voluntary Service, LZ Michigan and WGUV. The Human Hug Project is a national movement that is raising awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

LZ Michigan honors all veterans, including those who were killed or declared missing in action.

The event will include a Veterans Art Competition during ArtPrize 2017; a preview screening of the film, "The Vietnam War," by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick; and the Human Hug Project.

LZ Michigan 2017 will also include speakers, musical entertainment, military displays, historical artifacts, the WGUV Real Oldies Car and Motorcycle Show and several community events leading up to September 23, 2017.

"It is important and necessary to remember, honor and celebrate our community's veterans and their families," said Michael T. Walenta, WGUV Public Media general manager. "Since the success and large turnout at our first LZ Michigan in 2010, I have been continually asked when we were going to host another event. We are privileged to once again bring this event to West Michigan."

WGUV Public Media, ArtPrize, and West Michigan Whitecaps are honored to be joined by several strategic partners for LZ Michigan 2017, including Grand Valley State University, Talons Out Honor Flight, Battle Creek VA Medical Center, Fleet Reserve Association, PBS, PBS Stories of Service, NPR, Human Hug Project, Revolution Pictures, Uniform Color Company, WGUV Engage, Spectrum Health and the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival.

For more information, visit www.lzmichigan.org.

For Immediate Release

July 28, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Teen entrepreneur program comes to Detroit for first time

DETROIT — A group of 40 high school students from 11 Detroit high schools will take part in an innovative entrepreneurship program that's being held in the city for the first time. The Teen Entrepreneur Summer Academy (TESA) will take place from August 1-5 at Grand Valley State University's Detroit Center, 163 Madison Street in downtown Detroit.

Area business leaders will serve as coaches, mentors and judges throughout the program, including: Mary Kramer, vice president and publisher of *Crain's Detroit Business* and vice chair of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees; and Bill Luse, president of 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit.

Held in Grand Rapids for the past 10 years, TESA is expanding to Detroit, where 37 of the 40 students participating are from Detroit-area Grand Valley State University-authorized charter schools. The academy will give students a week-long look into the world of entrepreneurship and how to create a start-up company.

The academy features team-building activities, hands-on research, field trips, networking with area entrepreneurs and interactive lectures. Students at the academy will learn strategies for launching a new business including idea generation, problem-solving, marketing, management, financial strategies and more.

Students at the academy will also compete in a pitch contest where students will showcase their entrepreneurial talents for a chance to win part of \$5,000 in prize money. Students will focus their pitches on issues involving poverty and lack of access to health care. The final pitch competition will take place on August 5 from 3-5 p.m.

Other judges include:

- Michael L. Dixon, director of Human Resources, Beaumont Hospital
- Jeanette Boles, tax senior in Ernst and Young's National Property Tax Practice
- Aaron B Lewis, associate broker at Keller Williams, The Perna Team
- Andrea L. Wallace, strategist, data analytics and business intelligence at DTE Energy
- Timothy Wood, associate vice president for GVSU Charter Schools

The academy is a program offered by the Richard M. and Helen DeVos Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business. The program is being offered in Detroit in collaboration with, and sponsored by, the Grand Valley Charter Schools Office. Other details and the full list of sponsors is available here: <http://www.gvsu.edu/cej/tesa-detroit-183.htm>

For immediate release

August 9, 2016

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/0cC>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration to feature international art, scholarly events

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 2016 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public.

Emerging Romanticism: The Ying Quartet Performs The Early Viennese Chamber Music of Beethoven Monday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m.

Now in its second decade as an ensemble, the Ying Quartet has established itself as one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today through regular appearances in many of the world's great venues, including Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House and the White House. Reprising their landmark interpretation of Beethoven's "String Quartet Opus 18 No. 6," and then joining with Grand Valley faculty for a performance of the composer's "Septet in E-flat major, Opus 20," West Michigan audiences will be treated to an evening celebrating some of Beethoven's most iconic and beloved chamber works.

GVSU and SeoulTech Art and Design Faculty Exhibition

Exhibition dates: August 26-November 4

Exhibition reception: Thursday, September 22, from 5-7 p.m.

Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Experience international cultural exchange firsthand as faculty from Grand Valley's Art and Design Department partner for a joint exhibition with faculty from the College of Art and Design at Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), located in South Korea. Since 2008, the two universities have actively exchanged students and faculty through degree and study abroad programs, simultaneously broadening and strengthening a sense of international discovery, awareness and understanding. This exhibition celebrates a diverse range of creative media including ceramics, metalsmithing, digital design, printmaking, jewelry design, fiber arts, painting, visual studies and sculpture.

An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Oliver de la Paz and Kay Ryan

Thursday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center (2nd floor), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Readings followed by book signing and reception

Kay Ryan has written many collections of poetry, including the 2011 Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems*, as well as *The Niagara River*, *Say Uncle*, *Elephant Rocks* and *Flamingo Watching*. Her most recent book of poems, *Erratic Facts*, was published in 2015. Ryan's awards include a MacArthur "Genius" Award, The National Humanities Medal, the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Ingram Merrill Award. Ryan was elected a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets in 2006. In 2008, she was appointed the Library of Congress's 16th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

Oliver de la Paz is the author of four collections of poetry: *Names Above Houses*, *Furious Lullaby*, *Post Subject: A Fable* and *Requiem for the Orchard*, winner of the Akron Prize. He co-chairs the advisory board of Kundiman, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of Asian American Poetry and serves on the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Board. He is the music editor for *At Length Magazine* and he teaches in the MFA program at Western Washington University.

The Francesca Harper Project and GVSU Dance present Beethoven's "The Creatures of Prometheus" Ballet

Monday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m.

While Beethoven's composition résumé is filled with numerous historic and well-known works, many people are not aware that the multifaceted composer also wrote a single ballet in 1801. Grand Valley State University students, along with renowned dance ensemble, The Francesca Harper Project, will perform an original interpretation of "The Creatures of Prometheus" during this year's Fall Arts Celebration dance event. Based in New York City, The Francesca Harper Project was founded by Harper in 2005 as a nonprofit performing arts company dedicated to creating ground-breaking dance, music and theater works.

Distinguished Academic Lecturer: Rebecca Solnit

"Seeing the Invisible: Journeys Through the Overlooked, Unheard, Outside and Insurrectionary"

Monday, November 14, at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center (2nd floor), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Lecture followed by book signing and reception

Acclaimed author Rebecca Solnit will serve as this year's distinguished academic lecturer who will discuss the intersections between art, geography and community during her Fall Arts presentation. A San Francisco-based writer, historian and activist, Solnit is the author of 15 books about a variety of topics, including geography, community, art, politics, hope and feminism. One of her benchmark publications, *Men Explain Things to Me*, is credited with launching the term "mansplaining," which describes when a man explains something to a woman in a condescending or patronizing manner. It has also been labeled as a touchstone of the feminist movement.

Musical Tradition and Timeless Memories: Handel's "Messiah"

Monday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. SE, Grand Rapids)

Considered to be a musical fixture of the holiday season by audiences around the world, George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" is a time-honored classic that will conclude Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University. The voices of the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale, along with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra, will perform "Messiah" during the holiday celebration. First performed in 1742, the "Messiah" quickly became a Yuletide event repeated in London and across the English-speaking world each year for more than 250 years. The first part of "Messiah," which is centered on the prophecy and the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, will be performed along with other holiday favorites for orchestra, vocal solo and choir.

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

August 8, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Images for below events are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ocd>.

GVSU September 2016 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 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public. For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts.

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Arts at Noon Series

The 39th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University begins Wednesday, September 14, with a performance by The 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. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Wednesday, September 14 - The 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 Grand Rapids Symphony members including, violinists Eric Tanner and Christopher Martin, violinist Barbara Corbato and cellist Stacey Bosman Tanner. Together, the quartet performs classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as a variety of new chamber works. The Perugino String Quartet centers its appearances around Michigan, having performed at many arts-based series and events, such as the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, Art Reach of Mid Michigan and Muskegon’s Feeding the Soul of the City concert series.

Wednesday, September 21 - Grammy-winning flutist Timothy Munro

Tim Munro is a Chicago-based, triple Grammy-winning musician. His diverse work as a flutist, speaker, writer and educator is united by a single goal: to draw audiences into a whimsical musical world. Born in Brisbane, Australia, Munro was the flutist and co-artistic director of the chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird from 2006 until 2015. As a member of the ensemble, Munro performed at major concert venues in 40 U.S. states and abroad, curated three music festivals and premiered more than 100 new works. Munro won his third Grammy Award as a member of Eighth Blackbird in 2016, for the Cedille Records album “Filament.”

Wednesday, September 28 - Eduardo Tami Tango Ensemble

Eduardo Tami began his professional career specializing in the Western concert flute at the Juan José Castro Conservatory. With seven albums to his name, Tami's expertise as a tango flutist has allowed the musician to perform at universities and conservatories around the world. As a composer, Tami's repertoire encompasses two rhapsodies, a quartet for string instruments and various pieces for piano and flute. After gaining popularity as a musician and composer, Tami created the Vicente López Chamber Ensemble, which he still directs today. Upon the request of state officials, Tami even recorded Argentina's national anthem.

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6th annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture

"Metaphors We Die by: How Patterns of Communication Can Become Deadly"
Presented by John Lyne, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh
September 19, 7 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The language and idioms of transmitting information saturate both academics and the public discussion about communication. But the power of metaphors is not measured by the information they convey. Rather, it lies in the way these enable or restrict engagement with the world. This lecture will examine cases of “metaphorical strangling” that can become deadening when misconstrued as information. For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, associate professor of communications studies, at (616) 331-2981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

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Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

This year marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, but the Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. The 23rd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival offers multiple events beginning September 30 when theater students put a modern twist on Shakespeare's darkest comedy, "Measure for Measure." Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival activities each season. For more information about the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

"Measure for Measure"

September 30, October 2, 6, 7, at 7:30 p.m.

October 3, 8, 9, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Tickets: Adults \$14; GVSU faculty, alumni, staff \$12; seniors \$12; students \$6

NOTE: Recommended for ages 8 and up. No children under school age admitted.

"Measure for Measure," Shakespeare's darkest and last comedy, takes audiences deep into the underbelly of a city where authority is absent and the scales of justice are becoming increasingly unbalanced. In Venice, where the play begins, brothels and ale houses are thriving, and the law has become "more mocked than feared." As a result, the Duke chooses to take a holiday, leaving behind a proclamation to tear down the brothels and reform the city's morality. To enforce this new direction, the Duke appoints the Lord Angelo as his deputy. Tackling with outrageous humor the twin evils of power and corruption, "Measure for Measure" gives hopes to the hopeless and courage to the powerless, making it perhaps the most modern and relevant of Shakespeare's social comedies. This production will feature a cast of Grand Valley State University students, and local guest actors Christopher Weaver, Gary Mitchell and Kyle Westmaas.

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GV Writers Series

Authors from around the world will visit Grand Valley's Allendale Campus as part of the 2016-17 Grand Valley Writers Series. The 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 about the GV Writers Series, visit www.gvsu.edu/writing.

Donovan Hohn

Thursday, September 29

Craft talk: 4-5:15 p.m. (Room TBD)

Reading: 6-7:30 p.m.

Donovan Hohn, a former features editor of *GQ Magazine* and contributing editor of *Harper's Magazine*, teaches creative writing at Wayne State University in Detroit. His work has appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Outside*, among other publications. Hohn was the recipient of the Whiting Writers' Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and a Knight-Wallace Fellowship. *Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea & of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists & Fools Including the Author Who Went in Search of Them* (2012) was a finalist for the Helen Bernstein Prize for Excellence in Journalism, and runner-up for both the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award and the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award

for Nonfiction. He currently lives with his family in Ann Arbor, where he has begun work on a second book.

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Music and Dance

For more information about all Music and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484.

GVSU Opera Theatre presents "Gianni Schicchi and 20th Season Alumni Gala Concert

October 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m.

October 9 at 2 p.m.

Wealthy Theatre (1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids)

GVSU Opera Theatre updates the story of an ancient greedy Florentine family who entices Schicchi to impersonate a wealthy just-deceased ancestor to rewrite his will, only to be tricked out of the property by Schicchi. This wickedly funny farce flies by in 50 minutes followed by the best and brightest of GVSU Opera Theatre's 20 seasons, in a grand celebration.

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: The full report and audio bites with Brian Long are available on DropBox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l6exfj0lotc2ohv/AABJPto11XTyic8xM6Ez6qSia?dl=0>

GVSU economist: Local economy a little stronger

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy is a little stronger than it was last month, according to 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 July.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) rose modestly to +10 from +6. Likewise, the production index was up, advancing to +18, up from +11. The index of purchases had the biggest improvement for the month, jumping from -7 to +14. The employment index was slightly improved, edging from +12 to +14.

"Except for industries impacted by lower oil prices, the anecdotal comments from the survey participants are generally optimistic," Long said.

Long said that locally, the office furniture business is stable with no problems on the horizon, and most firms are approaching capacity. However, there is evidence that local auto parts suppliers may be impacted by a topping out of the market for vehicles.

For Detroit car makers, a plateau appears likely, Long said. Ford sales declined 3 percent, GM slipped 1.9 percent, but Fiat Chrysler posted a 0.3 percent gain. Based on these numbers, Ford is projecting lower earnings for the rest of the year and announced a cost-cutting program, Long said, noting that suppliers would likely be asked to take part.

Overall, Long said that local, national and international purchasing surveys were all higher this month than the month before.

"The odds of sliding into a recession in the next few months have lessened considerably," Long said.

Internationally, Long said that the Chinese economy, which has been negative for the past year and a half, appears to be on the mend, posting its first gains since February 2015.

"If these data are correct, we can take China off the 'worry' list for systemic problems that could upset the world economy," Long 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

August 4, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

Genetic testing company signs on with Muskegon Innovation Hub

MUSKEGON, Mich. — The Muskegon Innovation Hub at Grand Valley State University has added a new client to its business incubator program.

The client is an innovative genetic testing company called GenPass, which uses advanced DNA testing to provide property and lake managers with a recommended treatment plan for getting rid of invasive water milfoil, a problematic aquatic invasive species.

The company gets samples from customers who know they have milfoil in a lake they own or manage, but don't know if the plant is the native variety, an invasive variety, or a hybrid of the two. GenPass can sample that individual plant and use its DNA to tell which variety it is, and how it should be managed or removed. The analysis of the plants can help predict how likely treatments are to succeed and how aggressive the application of herbicides must be.

The company is owned by Syndell Parks, a former graduate student at Grand Valley's Annis Water Resources Institute, where the technology was pioneered. Parks has licensed the proprietary testing methodology from the university.

"My background with this business and this project has always been from the science end of things," Parks said. "The team at the Muskegon Innovation Hub has been instrumental in helping me think like a businessperson by reframing what I know into information that's useful for building the business," Parks said.

Other support from the business incubation team included finding funding and providing market research, along with individualized business recommendations.

The business incubation team has helped Parks keep the price of genetic testing reasonable with her proprietary testing methods. Customers who want a sample tested can get results for about \$100 per test.

"The Muskegon Innovation Hub is great because the team here keeps things focused on the business and practical side of things, and they also bring a great science expertise to the conversation," Parks said. "They've given me a lot of advice, and a very personalized experience."

For more information on the Muskegon Innovation Hub and how to join the incubator program, visit gvsu.edu/mihub or contact Kevin Ricco at (616) 331-6901.

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2016

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

Study: Costs to care for stroke survivors rising

Burden continues to grow for families

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A new study shows caring for elderly stroke survivors now costs nearly \$40 billion per year with stroke survivors needing more than 20 hours of care per week — double the amount of other elderly patients.

A team of researchers that included experts from the University of Michigan and Jeffrey Wing, assistant professor for Public Health at Grand Valley State University, conducted the study using data from a national survey of Medicare beneficiaries.

They determined more than half of elderly stroke survivors receive help from a caregiver. On average, elderly stroke survivors require 22.3 hours of assistance per week. That's nearly double what elderly Americans who have not had a stroke require, at an average of 11.8 hours of help per week.

Wing said it's been known that stroke survivors cost more than other elderly individuals, but researchers didn't know about all the pieces of those costs. "We were able to get a better estimate of the actual cost so family members know what to expect and insurance providers can know how to plan," said Wing. "We identified that caregivers spend upward of a half-time job each week in help. This data is important as we move forward to help make improvements for the future."

Wing said costs will continue to grow as the population ages, causing an excess burden for family members. The team recently presented the research at the International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles.

For more information, contact Jeffrey Wing, at (616) 331-5537.

For Immediate Release

August 3, 2016

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

Grand Valley to celebrate largest graduating class of engineers

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's largest graduating class of 120 student engineers will participate in a special graduation ceremony August 5. The graduates will join the thousands of alumni who are helping drive the state's economy with their STEM 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, August 5

4 p.m., Eberhard Center, second floor

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The 18th 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. The public is invited to view and vote on projects.

Engineering Design Conference

1:30-4 p.m., Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Labs

Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Sponsors of this year's senior projects include Consumers Energy, DeWys, DornierWorks, DrySmart, E-Zee Set Wood Products, Fisen Corporation, GE Aviation, Gentex, Gill Electronics, L-3, Magna Mirrors, Tennant Company, Shape Corporation and PADNOS.

The School of Engineering is celebrating 30 years of developing engineering talent for Michigan and the region through its co-op program. What started as a handful of students in 1986 has grown to nearly 300 junior- and senior-level students this year. Visit www.gvsu.edu/pcec/30-years-98.htm to learn more.

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 2, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the apiary on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus are available to use:
<http://gvsu.edu/s/0dj>

GVSU professor receives grant to study honeybee population

ALLENDALE, Mich. — As bees in Michigan start producing honey this month, researchers at Grand Valley State University are studying honeybees across the country to understand why its population is declining. The project is funded by a portion of a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The four-year, \$200,000 study at Grand Valley, led by Jonathan Engelsma, professor of computing, will focus on collecting data from honeybee colonies using a variety of techniques and tools, including a website developed by Engelsma and a team of students. The [website tracks activity](#) — in real time — at apiaries across the country.

"About a third of what we eat is dependent on honeybees," said Engelsma. "Honeybees pollinate much of the food in our diet, but the honeybee population has been declining for a number of years. This research seeks to understand why and find solutions."

The website (hivescales.beeinformed.org), a project that began in 2012, houses information captured by electronic scales that are installed underneath more than 150 live honeybee colonies across the country, including one in Hawaii and two at Grand Valley. The scales capture weight, humidity and temperature about every 15 minutes. The website allows anyone to remotely monitor the activity at a specific apiary and observe data such as weight increases and drops in hives.

"Every morning when the sun warms a hive, we'll see the weight drop about four pounds as bees leave to find nectar and pollen. Around mid-day, we see the weight increase as bees bring nectar and pollen loads back to the hive. Observing weight increases and decreases can reveal a lot of information about a hive; it's healthy for a colony to gain weight, not lose it," said Engelsma.

Engelsma said information from the scales will give his team the ability to do analysis to establish best practices for managing honeybee colonies. He said the next phase of the study is to turn the data into something that's actionable by providing tools and resources for people in the beekeeping community.

Anyone can participate in the study, including commercial beekeepers, hobby beekeepers and researchers. Engelsma, a hobby beekeeper who manages hives at various locations in West Michigan, hopes to eventually have scales operating in each county in the U.S.

The research supports the Bee Informed Partnership, an organization formed to research the mortality of honeybees. The USDA-funded study also includes the University of Maryland, University of Minnesota, North Carolina State University, Appalachian State University, University of Tennessee and Oregon State University.

Engelsma is working on an additional project with Anne Marie Fauvel, affiliate faculty of liberal studies, and a group of students. They are developing a mobile app, called PollenCollect, that will help beekeepers track bee forage around the state of Michigan.

For more information, visit www.beeinformed.org.

For Immediate Release

August 15, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Dalmia and Smith-Kelly can be found on Dropbox at

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0dS>

GVSU study: Diversity on corporate boards brings value

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Companies with boards made up of at least 25 percent women or minorities are the most profitable, according to a new study by two Grand Valley State University researchers.

The study, "Representation of Women and Racial Minorities on Fortune 500 Company Boards," was conducted by Sonia Dalmia, professor of economics, and Claudia Smith-Kelly, associate professor of economics. They were assisted by student research assistants Kathleen Pedres and Kasey Setlock. The study involved examining the composition of Fortune 500 company boards nationally and in Michigan.

The study found that the average size of a company board is approximately 12. "Given the previous result that companies with at least 25 percent of their boards comprised of women are more profitable, this suggests having approximately three women on boards makes a significant difference to a company's bottom line," said Dalmia.

The study showed that in spite of increased emphasis on diversifying boards, vacant board seats in 2015-16 were filled mostly by white men. Currently, about 86 percent of male board members and 82 percent of female board members of Fortune 500 companies are white.

"On average, the study found that companies led by female or racial minority CEOs were more profitable, compared to those led by male CEOs," said Smith-Kelly.

Other findings:

- 4% of Fortune 500 companies are led by a female CEO
- Companies led by a female CEO have greater diversity on their boards compared to companies led by male CEOs
- There are 14 Michigan companies listed on the Fortune 500, only one of which is led by a female CEO (Mary Barra of General Motors).
- 20% of the Fortune 500 company boards are made up of women. In comparison, 22.3% of the Michigan Fortune 500 companies are made up of women.

For more information, contact Sonia Dalmia at (616) 331-7423 or Claudia Smith-Kelly at (616) 331-7233.

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2016

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

Lack of fresh food linked to signs of heart disease

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A lack of access to nearby stores selling fresh food may increase residents' risk of developing the signs of early heart disease, according to research conducted by Jeffrey Wing, assistant professor of Public Health at Grand Valley State University, and Ella August, clinical assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan.

The research was published in the American Heart Association's journal *Circulation*.

"The lack of healthy food stores may help explain why people in these neighborhoods have more heart disease," said Wing. "The thought is that greater access to healthier foods may have promoted healthier diets and, in turn, less coronary plaque formation."

Past studies found that limited fresh food choices and/or numerous fast food restaurants in poorer neighborhoods were linked to unhealthy diets. Wing said residents in these neighborhoods have a greater likelihood of early atherosclerosis (a disease that hardens arteries and underlies many types of heart disease), but no studies have examined which factors might cause this.

In this study, Wing and August explored how the limited availability of recreational facilities, healthy food stores, neighborhood walkability and social environments may contribute to the early stages of atherosclerosis. They found that healthy food stores within one mile of a residence was the only significant factor that reduced or slowed the progression of calcium buildup in coronary arteries.

Study Highlights

- A lack of access to nearby stores selling fresh food may increase residents' risk of developing early heart disease.
- Healthy food stores located within one mile of participants' homes reduced or slowed the progression of calcium buildup in heart arteries.
- Study results point to a need for greater awareness of the potential health threat posed by living in neighborhoods with scarce healthy grocery options.

For more information, contact Jeffrey Wing at (616) 331-5537 or wingje@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2016

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

Grand Valley president, alumni to help students move in

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University President Thomas J. Haas and hundreds of alumni, faculty and staff members are volunteering to help more than 6,000 new and returning students move in August 22-25.

President Haas and his wife, Marcia Haas, will serve ice cream to families and new students on Tuesday, August 23, 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 26. The ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Fieldhouse on the Allendale Campus. The new Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2016

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

Grand Valley to host inventors at Maker Faire

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has partnered with the Grand Rapids Public Museum to host inventors and innovators during the third annual Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire, August 20-21.

Maker Faire combines the traditional science fair with innovation and engineering. The Faire will feature rockets and robots, DIY science and technology, urban farming and sustainability, alternative energy, local food and educational installations.

Nearly 100 makers and their projects will be on display in the Kennedy Hall of Engineering and Keller Engineering Labs on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, as well as the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

Among the projects on display will be a racing vehicle built by Grand Valley students on the Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) team. Each year, the group competes at one of the world's largest collegiate autocross car competitions at the Michigan International Speedway.

Grand Valley joined the Faire as an organizing partner in June 2015.

"We became an event partner to show support for local inventors and to promote creativity and innovation," said Wael Mokhtar, director of the School of Engineering. "With more than 5,000 visitors during the two-day event, it's a unique opportunity for Grand Valley to connect with the community."

Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members receive free admission to the Grand Rapids Mini Maker Faire through the partnership with GRPM; bring ID card to ticketing stations.

For more information, visit www.makerfairegr.com.

For Immediate Release

August 18, 2016

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

GVSU global trade center partners with Export-Import Bank

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (EXIM) has launched the Regional Export Promotion Program (REPP), a joint effort between EXIM and regional organizations to stimulate U.S. export sales and bolster job growth.

The Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University is EXIM's designated Michigan REPP and can help businesses across the state access EXIM tools and resources for financing exports to new and existing global markets.

Benefits of the program for companies, especially small businesses, include assistance with outreach and counseling; introduction to marketing and training materials; and access to qualified finance experts, lenders, insurance brokers and U.S. Government export resources.

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

For Immediate Release

August 18, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
or John Helmholdt, GRPS, (616) 481-2152

GVSU, GRPS, Kent ISD partner for national Share Fair event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University is partnering with Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Kent Intermediate School District to organize and host a unique professional development event for teachers from any school in the state.

The event, called Share Fair Nation, is one of just a few like it nationwide where teachers and national experts are brought together to share creative and innovative ideas about education. These professional development opportunities will be available to teachers from any school, regardless of classification as public, charter or private schools.

"This partnership is unique in that it focuses on helping teachers better educate kids in our state and our community," said Tim Wood, associate vice president for charter schools at Grand Valley. "This opportunity will help teachers from all schools to receive excellent training to enhance their classrooms."

Grand Rapids Public Schools and Kent Intermediate School District officials also said the unique, inclusive professional development program will help improve outcomes for students.

"A major part of the GRPS transformation plan success is due to our very intentional and strategic investments in our talent recruitment, retention and development," said GRPS superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal. "Share Fair presents a remarkable opportunity to bring in national experts to work with our teachers and school leaders to learn about best-shared practices between traditional and charter schools on how to improve instruction and student outcomes. I love that Grand Rapids is one of only a few cities in the country selected to host Share Fair."

The professional development sessions will be coupled with STEM-focused activities for the general public which will take place at the "STEMisphere" at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Dates and times will be announced in the near future.

For more information, visit <http://www.gvsu.edu/cso/events-index.htm>

For immediate release

August 18, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution photos from the Design Thinking Summit are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0e5>. Photo credit: Kristina Bird.

GVSU summit spotlights design thinking's impact on student employability

ALLENDALE, Mich. — David Tebo, superintendent of Hamilton Community Schools, believes the design thinking process should be introduced to students at the very beginning of their educational careers.

"The aspects of design thinking I like the most are the focus on continually learning, and that failure is a part of the process," Tebo explained during the K-12 Design Thinking Summit August 15 at Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center. "The earlier we can teach students that failure and mistakes are parts of the learning process, the better off we are."

The event, sponsored by Grand Valley's Design Thinking Initiative, gave participants, like Tebo, the opportunity to hear design thinking success stories from local academic institutions and practice the design thinking process through "deep-dive sessions." With blank easel pads, construction paper and markers, participants gained the experience of working together in interdisciplinary groups to solve complex problems.

John Berry, director of the Design Thinking Initiative, said businesses and non-profits across the U.S. are seeking graduates with interdisciplinary problem solving skills that the design thinking process provides.

"With employers looking for employees who have the additional soft skills of collaboration, problem solving, empathy and communication, the benefit to students who experience and learn the process of design thinking is enhanced employability and increased life skills in responding to ever changing needs," Berry said.

Andrew Hereza, co-founder of Grand Valley's Design Thinking Collaborative student organization who also attended the summit, is passionate about the design thinking process for two reasons: "It brings people together through its overt emphasis on diversity, inclusion and collaboration," and he wants to help make his fellow classmates more employable after they graduate.

"Young graduates, now more than ever, are entering into ambiguous careers without set end goals in mind," said Hereza, a senior majoring in political science and nonprofit and administration. "Being flexible enough to adapt to changes in the work force is extremely important to differentiate yourself from the crowd."

For more information about the Design Thinking Initiative, visit www.gvsu.edu/designthinking, or contact John Berry at berryrj@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

August 19, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the mural are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0ef>.

GVSU professor, alums paint mural in Grand Rapids sister city

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Bielsko Biala is a city similar in size, climate and production as Grand Rapids, but located in a mountainous region in Poland within a six-hour radius to cities like Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Berlin.

Bielsko Biala also happens to be one of Grand Rapids' five sister cities around the world.

Recently, Tim Fisher, associate professor of art and design at Grand Valley State University, and two alumni, Sean, '16, and Megan, '15, Hamilton, traveled to Bielsko Biala to paint a mural in the heart of the city. The trio were invited to create the piece by Grand Rapids' Sister City Committee for Bielsko Biala as part of an initiative created by former Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell. The initiative aims to strengthen connections between Grand Rapids and its sister cities.

After pitching more than 10 different mural ideas to city officials, the final mural depicts a semi-surreal scene of the three artists (or any visitors to the city) being welcomed by Bielsko Biala, represented by the large central bird figure. The work is derived from the French artist Jean Gerard (also known as J.J. Grandville), whose political work supported the early attempts of democracy in Poland in the 1830s.

"The bear and eagle have political ties to the region that everyone understands, and the frog makes reference to an old building on the same block as the painting," Sean said. "The flowers, called Maki, are all over the region; and on the day of our unveiling, Deputy Mayor Lubomir Zawierucha told me they were his favorite aspect of the painting because Maki represent blood ties and love."

The mural was completed during a time of art resurgence in Bielsko Biala when city officials, along with local art galleries and other venues, are striving to beautify the city.

"If you look at other murals around Bielsko Biala, they are much darker in theme," Fisher said. "I think we created a playful, colorful and historical perspective with our mural. We posted signs in Polish about the project, its symbolism and purpose. While few spoke English, people would stop and talk anyway, and with gestures of approval."

Aside from working on the mural, the trio was treated to tours of the city, local castles, the surrounding country side and various art galleries, along with invitations to arts and cultural events, such as Bielsko Biala's Sister Cities Celebration. The group also gave a presentation to high school students practicing English and participated in an unveiling ceremony with the Deputy Mayor.

While all three expressed their joy over the final product, all three equally expressed that the people of Bielsko Biala made the trip an unforgettable adventure.

"The artists we met took us into their homes; we ate at their tables, met their families and learned about their language and culture," Megan recalled. "It set a new standard for me as an artist in my future in regard to how I will relate to other international artists. After all, while language may have cultural boundaries, art never will."

For more information, contact Tim Fisher at fishert@gvsu.edu, or (616) 331-3078.

For Immediate Release

August 22, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center are available to use:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0ea>

Grand Valley to dedicate new living center

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Grand Valley State University community will celebrate the dedication of the Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center Friday, August 26, at 2 p.m. on the Allendale Campus.

The four-story, 135,000-square-foot building will accommodate approximately 500 students in 240 traditional-style bedroom units, and includes three classrooms, a computer lab and three faculty offices. It also includes a game room, outdoor recreational space, study spaces and laundry facilities.

The dedication event will include remarks from Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers, Provost Gayle Davis and Student Senate President Ella Fritze-meier.

Andy Beachnau, associate vice provost for Student Affairs and director of Housing and Health Services, said the integration of learning and living contributes to overall student success.

"Research has shown that students are more successful in school, are better prepared for a career, and are more well rounded when they are exposed to high-impact experiences. A learning and living center is one of those experiences," said Beachnau.

Colleen Bailey, associate director of Residence Education and Housing and Residence Life, said the new building was built based on the success of the university's first learning and living center. The Niemeyer Learning and Living Center was built in 2008 and houses the Frederik Meijer Honors College.

"Students with the same interests and common goals live together and learn together in the same space, which contributes to their success," said Bailey.

The building will be a central academic hub for the north end of campus. Bailey said students that reside on that side of campus are first-year students and courses offered in the new center are mostly first-year sections.

Earl and Donnalee Holton and Bob and Judy Hooker will be honored at the event. Named after lifelong supporters of learning, the Holtons and the Hookers have advocated for the growth of Grand Valley and inspired others to do the same.

Einstein Bros. Bagels was relocated from The Commons to the first floor of the new building. The university's Housing and Residence Life office is located on the third floor.

Construction of the \$37-million facility began in September 2015. It is located on the north side of campus, next to Mackinac Hall.

For Immediate Release

August 26, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos and a video of the ribbon-cutting ceremony can be found on Dropbox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0eC>

GVSU dedicates new living center

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The new Holton-Hooker Learning and Living Center provides an opportunity to bring students and faculty together, and is an example of how Grand Valley is student-centered, said Ella Fritzemeier, president of the Student Senate at Grand Valley State University.

Fritzemeier made the remark at a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony August 26, celebrating the opening of the new learning and living center on the Allendale Campus.

She spoke to a crowd of about 300, saying the new building will be her home this year, where she will serve as a resident assistant. "The center's unique features, like the collaboration areas, will provide a rich interdisciplinary learning experience and will help amplify the development of student success," she said.

The four-story, 135,000-square-foot building is located on the north side of campus, next to Mackinac Hall.

It houses approximately 500 students in 240 traditional-style bedroom units, and includes three classrooms, a computer lab and three faculty offices. It also includes a game room, outdoor recreational space, study spaces and laundry facilities.

President Thomas J. Haas welcomed those in attendance and said the integration of learning and living will help students feel a sense of place and a sense of belonging.

"This center is a great example of the Laker Effect," said Haas. "It allows for students to create relationships with one another and with faculty, and supports an environment for students to succeed."

Haas said the center's artwork — nearly 200 pieces — is a reflection of the diversity and multiculturalism within Grand Valley's campus culture.

President Emeritus Arend D. Lubbers spoke about the legacy of Earl and Donnalee Holton and Bob and Judy Hooker. Named after lifelong supporters of learning, the Holtons and the Hookers have advocated for the growth of Grand Valley and have inspired others to do the same. All four have served on the Board of Trustees and the Grand Valley University Foundation board.

Lubbers said the English have a word for people like the Holtons and Hookers, they are called "worthys."

"Worthys do good things for communities, institutions and nations over a considerable period of time," said Lubbers. "They have a positive spirit and overcome obstacles. They are a model for life. Both

couples have served Grand Valley for many years and their positive force was invaluable in solving problems and moving forward."

Remarks were also given by Provost Gayle R. Davis and Board of Trustees chair John Kennedy.

Holton-Hooker was based on the success of the university's first learning and living center, the Niemeyer Learning and Living Center, which was constructed in 2008 and houses the Frederik Meijer Honors College.

Construction of the \$37 million facility began in September 2015.

For immediate release

September 6, 2016

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/0cC>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration to celebrate early works of Beethoven

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The beginning of the 19th century in Europe was marked by conflict and political transformation created by revolutions in America and France. During this time, a young musician by the name of Ludwig van Beethoven arrived in the city of Vienna to create his fame.

Beethoven almost immediately earned the reputation of a piano virtuoso, even as he suffered from the early signs of deafness, but his lasting legacy and source of greatest fame would be as a composer.

During the Fall Arts Celebration music event at Grand Valley State University, the renowned Ying String Quartet will perform two of Beethoven's most enduring chamber music works from his early years in Vienna.

"Emerging Romanticism: The Ying Quartet Performs The Early Viennese Chamber Music of Beethoven"

Monday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m.

Now in its second decade, the Ying Quartet's performances regularly take place in many of the world's greatest venues, including Carnegie Hall, the White House and Sydney Opera House.

The program will open with the Ying Quartet performing "String Quartet Opus 18 No. 6." To perform "Septet in E-flat major, Opus 20," the quartet will be joined by Grand Valley music faculty, including Arthur Campbell, clarinet; Danny Phipps, bassoon; Richard Britsch, horn; and Michael Hovnanian, double bass.

"The works selected for this program are foundational works of the classical string chamber repertoire," said Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair. "This event will be a unique and wonderful opportunity for our students and the community to witness and immerse themselves in the mechanics of some of Beethoven's most iconic and beloved chamber works."

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 2, 2016

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/0f7>.

Perugino String Quartet kicks off fall GVSU Arts at Noon free concert series

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The 39th season of the Arts at Noon concert series at Grand Valley State University begins its fall lineup Wednesday, September 14, with a performance by Grand Rapids' own Perugino String Quartet.

There will be seven concerts this fall and seven performances in the winter beginning in January. All Arts at Noon concerts 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.

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 Grand Rapids Symphony members including, violinists Eric Tanner and Christopher Martin, violinist Barbara Corbato and cellist Stacey Bosman Tanner. Together, the quartet performs classics of the string quartet repertoire, as well as a variety of new chamber works. The Perugino String Quartet centers its appearances around Michigan, having performed at many arts-based series and events, such as the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, Art Reach of Mid Michigan and Muskegon's Feeding the Soul of the City concert series.

Below is a full schedule of fall Arts at Noon concerts:

September 14 - The Perugino String Quartet
September 21 - Grammy-winning flutist Timothy Munro
September 28 - Eduardo Tami Tango Ensemble
October 12 - Dúo Mistral
November 2 - The Marlais/Campbell Duo
November 16 - Grand Valley Winds
November 30 - GVSU Brass Quintet Holiday Concert

For more information, call the Music and Dance Department at (616) 331-3484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

For immediate release

September 1, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Available images for events are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0dw>.

GVSU October 2016 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 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public. For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Oliver de la Paz and Kay Ryan"

Thursday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center (2nd floor), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Readings followed by book signing and reception

Kay Ryan has written many collections of poetry, including the 2011 Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems*, as well as *The Niagara River*, *Say Uncle*, *Elephant Rocks* and *Flamingo Watching*. Her most recent book of poems, *Erratic Facts*, was published in 2015. Ryan's awards include a MacArthur "Genius" Award, The National Humanities Medal, the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Ingram Merrill Award. Ryan was elected a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets in 2006. In 2008, she was appointed the Library of Congress's 16th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

A native of the Philippines, Oliver de la Paz is the author of four collections of poetry: *Names Above Houses*, *Furious Lullaby*, *Requiem for the Orchard* and *Post Subject: A Fable*, winner of the Akron Prize. He co-chairs the advisory board of Kundiman, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of Asian American poetry, and serves on the board of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. de la Paz is an associate professor of English at Western Washington University.

The Francesca Harper Project and GVSU Dance present Beethoven's "The Creatures of Prometheus Ballet"

Monday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m.

While Beethoven's composition résumé is filled with numerous historic and well-known works, many people are not aware that the multifaceted composer also wrote a single ballet in 1801. Grand Valley State University music and dance students, along with renowned dance ensemble, The Francesca Harper Project, will perform an original interpretation of "The Creatures of Prometheus" during this year's Fall Arts Celebration dance event. Based in New York City, The Francesca Harper Project was founded by Harper in 2005 as a nonprofit performing arts company dedicated to creating ground-breaking dance, music and theater works.

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Arts at Noon Series

All Arts at Noon concerts during the 39th season of the popular series 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. For more information about Arts at Noon, visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Wednesday, October 12 - Dúo Mistral

Dúo Mistral's pianists, Paulina Zamora and Karina Glasinovic, specialize in the development and performance of the four-hand repertoire, which involves two musicians playing on the same piano. During their Arts at Noon performance, Dúo Mistral will be joined by Grand Valley music faculty members Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello, and Richard Britsch, affiliate professor of horn, as well as Grand Rapids Symphony cellist Jeremy Crosmer, for a performance of a piano quintet by Robert Schumann. Zamora and Glasinovic are both currently professors of piano and chamber at the University of Chile.

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Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

This year marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, but the Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. The 23rd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival offers multiple events beginning September 30 when theater students put a modern twist on Shakespeare's darkest comedy, "Measure for Measure." Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival activities each season. For more information or questions regarding the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

"Measure for Measure"

October 1, 6, 7, at 7:30 p.m.

October 2, 8, 9, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Tickets: Adults \$14; GVSU faculty, alumni, staff \$12; seniors \$12; all students \$6

NOTE: Recommended for ages 8 and up. No children under school age admitted.

"Measure for Measure," Shakespeare's darkest, and last comedy, takes audiences deep into the underbelly of a city where authority is absent and the scales of justice are becoming increasingly unbalanced. In Venice, where the play begins, brothels and ale houses are thriving, and the law has become "more mocked than feared." As a result, the Duke chooses to take a holiday, leaving behind a proclamation to tear down the brothels and reform the city's morality. To enforce this new direction, the Duke appoints the Lord Angelo as his deputy. Tackling with outrageous humor the twin evils of power and corruption, "Measure for Measure" gives hopes to the hopeless and courage to the powerless, making it perhaps the most modern and relevant of Shakespeare's social comedies. This production will feature a cast of Grand Valley State University students, and local guest actors Christopher Weaver, Gary Mitchell and Kyle Westmaas.

Shakespeare Festival Conference

October 7-9, Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses

Keynote address: October 7, at 4 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Shakespeare Festival education directors, professors of English, theater, and interdisciplinary studies,

secondary education teachers, and graduate students will come together the first weekend of October to engage in workshops, performances, presentations and discussions about teaching Shakespeare. Phyllis Rackin, accomplished scholar, writer and educator, will serve as this year's Resident Festival Scholar and present the keynote address on October 7, which is free and open to the public. Rackin is professor of English emerita at the University of Pennsylvania and a former president of the Shakespeare Association of America. Conference attendees will also be treated to a performance of the Shakespeare Festival's mainstage show, "Measure for Measure," Bard to Go's condense rendition of "Macbeth," and John Webster's, "The Duchess of Malfi," performed by the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company. A special registration discount is available for Michigan middle and high school teachers. The early bird registration deadline is Friday, September 2. For more information about the conference, contact Allison Metz, professor of theater, at metza@gvsu.edu.

Greenshow: "The Knight of the Burning Pestle"

October 1-2

October 6, at 4:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

People of all ages are welcome to enjoy bagpipers, sword-fighting demonstrations, face painting, dancing, crafts and much more at this year's Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Renaissance Faire. A free traveling festival Greenshow, "The Knight of the Burning Pestle," will also be performed at various times both days October 1-2. "The Knight of the Burning Pestle" will also be performed outside the Performing Arts Center Thursday, October 6, at 4:30 p.m.

Bard To Go presents "Macbeth"

October 8, at 8 p.m.

November 5, at 1 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival will conclude with a condensed version of one of the Bard's most famous productions, "Macbeth." Student actors will experience the plot and language of "Macbeth" in a fast-paced performance, while exploring the themes and implications of the rise and fall of Macbeth as they relate to globalized society and the potential future.

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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 2016-17 Grand Valley Writers Series. The 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 about the GV Writers Series, visit www.gvsu.edu/writing.

Claire Vaye Watkins and Derek Palacio

Tuesday, October 25

Craft talk: 4-5:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2266, Allendale Campus

Reading: 6-7:30 p.m., room TBD

Raised in the Mojave Desert, first in Tecopa, California, and then in Pahrump, Nevada, Vaye Watkins earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ohio State University, where she was a Presidential Fellow. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *The Paris Review*, *One Story*, *Glimmer Train*, *Best of the West*, *Best of the Southwest*, and many others. Vaye Watkins is the author of *Gold Fame Citrus* and *Battleborn*, which won the Story Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, New

York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. A Guggenheim Fellow, Vaye Watkins is on the faculty of the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan. She is also the co-director, with Palacio, of the Mojave School, a free creative writing workshop for teenagers in rural Nevada.

Palacio's short story *Sugarcane* appeared in The O. Henry Prize Stories 2013, and his novella, *How to Shake the Other Man*, was published by Nouvella Books. His debut novel, *The Mortifications*, will be published this year. He lives and teaches in Ann Arbor, and is a faculty member of the Institute of American Indian Arts Master of Fine Arts program.

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Music and Dance

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

GVSU Opera Theatre presents "Gianni Schicchi" and 20th Season Alumni Gala Concert

October 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m.

October 9 at 2 p.m.

Wealthy Theatre (1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids)

GVSU Opera Theatre updates the story of an ancient greedy Florentine family who entices Schicchi to impersonate a wealthy, recently deceased ancestor to rewrite his will, only to be tricked out of the property by Schicchi. This wickedly funny farce flies by in 50 minutes followed by the best and brightest of GVSU Opera Theatre's 20 seasons, in a grand celebration.

GVSU University Singers Concert

October 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU Jazz Concert

October 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Large and Small Jazz Ensembles will perform during this free concert that is open to the public. The Large Jazz Ensemble performs both traditional and contemporary jazz music, including new works composed specifically for the group. The ensemble regularly performs concerts, tours, and performs at jazz festivals and dances. The Small Jazz Ensemble focuses on mastery of works from the jazz repertoire, with an emphasis on improvisation and arranging using lead sheets and original compositions.

GVSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert

October 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

This concert is free and open to the public. Under the direction of Barry Martin, the Grand Valley State University Wind Ensemble is widely recognized as one of the elite undergraduate wind ensembles. One of the primary goals of the ensemble is to provide students opportunities to enrich their studies in music by inviting guest conductors to Grand Valley from across the U.S. Graduates of the Symphonic Wind

Ensemble currently hold positions as professional orchestral musicians, conductors, members of military bands, university professors and public school music educators.

GVSU Concert Band Concert

October 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Concert Band will perform a sample of works by composers Claude T. Smith, Samuel Hazo, Robert Sheldon, John Philip Sousa, Dana Wilson and Guiseppe Verdi. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU High School Vocal Day Concert

October 21, at 2 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Now in its sixth year, High School Vocal Day at Grand Valley State University welcomes approximately 80 high school students from around Michigan to a day of learning and performing alongside Grand Valley music faculty and students, as well as nationally known guest teachers. This busy day of workshops and seminars will conclude with a performance by Grand Valley student soloists, Cantate and a choir consisting of both Vocal Day participants and Grand Valley students. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU 20th/21st Century Piano Festival

October 22, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall (room 1325), Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Local 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. For the full schedule of recitals, visit www.gvsu.edu/piano.

GVSU Choral Concert featuring University Arts Chorale and Cantate Chamber Ensemble

October 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

During this performance, the Grand Valley State University University Arts Chorale will be singing works by American composer Connor Koppin and contemporary Spanish composer Josu Elberdin. The concert will feature two movements of a Mass for double choir by late romantic German composer Josef Rheinberger, and a work by Jake Runestad. The Cantate Chamber Ensemble, a select group of 16 voices composed of both music and non-music majors, will perform a wide variety of a cappella music including: a choral arrangement of the poem "The Lamb" by William Blake composed by Andrew Miller, "I'll Be Seeing You" arranged by Darmon Meader, and a Spiritual arranged by Michigan composer Stacey Gibbs. This concert is free and open to the public. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU String Leadership Day Concert

October 29, at 7 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Building on the success of seven previous String Leadership Day workshops, this year's String Leadership Day will bring more than 60 of Michigan's finest high school string players to Grand Valley State University to combine with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra string players for a day of concentrated rehearsals, sectionals and master classes. The evening program will feature "Best of Day" soloists and the 100-member Festival Orchestra, conducted by Henry Duitman, performing Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis" and "Libertango" by Astor Piazzolla.

GVSU New Music Ensemble Concert

November 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center (room 1600), Allendale Campus

The award-winning New Music Ensemble will present commissioned music from their recent National Parks tour. Compositions performed during this concert were inspired by Yellowstone, Badlands, Wind Cave and Grand Teton national parks.

GVSU Symphony Orchestra and GVSU Opera Theatre with GVSU dance students

November 5, at 7 p.m.

Mary Idema Pew Library Atrium, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will present a varied program including an overture by Mozart, Sibelius' "Karelia Suite," and Gounod's "Faust: Ballet Music." Combining with principal cast members, GVSU Opera Theatre will present selections from the Puccini opera, "Gianni Schicchi." The concert will conclude with student dancers from the Music and Dance Department joining the orchestra to perform a lively tango by Astor Piazzolla.

For Immediate Release

August 29, 2016

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

Grand Valley ranked as a Best College

ALLENDALE, Mich. — *Washington Monthly* ranked Grand Valley State University 26th in the "Best Bang for the Buck — Midwest" category in its 2016 College Guide Magazine.

The ranking was based on several factors including tuition rates, loan repayment, graduation rates and number of first-generation students.

Grand Valley also ranked 54th in the "Best Master's Universities" category, in which universities offering master's degrees were ranked in three categories: social mobility, research and service. Grand Valley ranked third in the nation in the community service subcategory.

For a complete list of rankings, visit http://washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide.

For immediate release

August 29, 2016

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

GVSU TRIO program earns five-year federal grant

-- \$1.7 million over grant period will allow program to expand services to GRPS students

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University earned a five-year, \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund and expand its TRIO Educational Talent Search program, which serves sixth-12th grade students from Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Sarah Keranen-Lopez, director of TRIO Educational Talent Search, said grant funding for the upcoming academic year totals \$345,120 and she anticipates the same amount annually over the five-year grant period. The total \$1.7 million grant was the largest awarded to a Michigan university from the Department of Education.

The grant allows the program to expand services to 719 participants from three GRPS middle schools (Burton, Riverside and Westwood) and three high schools (Innovation Central, Ottawa Hills and Union). TRIO Educational Talent Search offers academic and career counseling to students from families with low incomes and whose parents have not earned bachelor's degrees and prepares them for a successful entry into college.

Keranen-Lopez said tutoring and mentoring programs will be expanded to include computer-based tutoring at the high schools and a college coaching mentoring program at Union High School that will assist seniors with financial aid applications.

Caryn M. King, associate dean of the College of Education, said Grand Valley is pleased to continue working with GRPS through TRIO Educational Talent Search. "I have witnessed first-hand the transformation students often undergo as a result of being a participant," King said. "Students adopt a 'can-do' attitude that serves them while in school and in the future."

TRIO staff members are recruiting students for the program through school open houses and school staff recommendations.

Teresa Weatherall Neal, superintendent of schools for GRPS, said the district is excited to partner with Grand Valley because the TRIO program is successful. "This is a huge win for GRPS students as we know students who are part of TRIO get better grades, stay in school, and are more likely to graduate and go on to college," Weatherall Neal said.

For more information about TRIO Educational Talent Search, visit www.gvsu.edu/ets.

For immediate release
September 6, 2016
Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications

Annual MIPERC conference set for Grand Valley's DeVos Center

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Presentations from four national experts on using interprofessional teams in health care delivery will highlight a two-day conference at Grand Valley State University.

The Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center's annual conference is set for September 22-23 at the DeVos Center, 401 Fulton St. W. MIPERC is a consortium housed at Grand Valley and composed of health care professionals throughout the Midwest.

Speakers are Nancy Schlichting, CEO of Henry Ford Health System; Stephen Schoenbaum, special advisor to the president, Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation; Barbara Brandt, director of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education; and Gerri Lamb, chair of the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative.

Registration for both conference days is \$100, one day is \$50. Deadline to register is September 17; visit www.gvsu.edu/miperc for more information or to register. Continuing education credits are available for physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and pharmacists.

A pre-conference workshop from 9-11 a.m. on September 22 in the L. William Seidman Center, also on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, will engage participants in roundtable discussions on a number of topics including student clinical learning experiences, interprofessional education and faculty development, overcoming IPE obstacles, and IPE simulation.

Conference sponsors are Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners, Michigan Area Health Education Center and Central Michigan University's College of Health Professions.

For immediate release

September 7, 2016

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

National women-in-STEM organization finds new home in West Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — During a time when there is a national push for students to enroll in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, a new organization in West Michigan is striving to recruit and retain women specifically into these subjects.

Following an 18-month collaboration, Karen Gipson, professor of physics at Grand Valley State University, and a team of students, deans, faculty and staff from Van Andel Institute and Hope College, have created a West Michigan chapter of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS).

AWIS is the largest multi-disciplinary organization that promotes women in STEM fields through advocacy, research and professional development. The group promotes excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. AWIS reaches more than 20,000 professionals worldwide.

Gipson, AWIS-WM president, said the development of this chapter comes at a time when STEM fields can benefit from including diverse perspectives.

"I believe that the future of science depends on building a strong base of inclusion," Gipson said.

"Women still face discrimination, but it's subtler than in the past. AWIS has been a strong advocate for non-discriminatory workplace policies and practices for more than 40 years."

The focuses of the AWIS-WM will primarily be networking, education and service. Gipson said the group's long-term strategic plan includes establishing a K-12 outreach program, advocating for fairness and increased awareness of gender issues in the workplace, and providing networking opportunities, tools and resources for women in STEM fields.

To begin its outreach efforts, AWIS-WM will host its first event, "Achieving Success Through Implementation of Effective Mentoring Strategies," on September 14 and 15 at Grand Valley, Van Andel Institute and Hope College. This workshop will provide individuals in STEM with tools and techniques for implementing successful mentoring relationships.

For a full schedule and to register, visit awis_wm_mentoring_workshop.eventbrite.com.

AWIS membership is open to anyone. Students can join AWIS-WM for only \$5.

For more information, contact Gipson at gipsonk@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2319.

For immediate release

September 7, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of John Lyne is available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0fc>.

GVSU memorial lecture to focus on the dangers of metaphors

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Metaphors are commonly used as stylistic embellishments in communication, but while they may seem harmless, they can constrain and disable people, sometimes with deadly consequences.

This theory by John Lyne, professor of communication and director of graduate studies for the communications department at University of Pittsburgh, will be the focus of the 6th annual James W. Carey Memorial Lecture at Grand Valley State University.

Lyne will present "Metaphors We Die by: How Patterns of Communication Can Become Deadly" September 19 at 7 p.m. The lecture will take place in Loosemore Auditorium located inside the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

During his presentation, Lyne said he will aim to prove that metaphors don't simply represent things, but that they also do things, both good and bad.

"I've used the term 'strangle' in the past because strangling suffocates and it cuts off the voice," Lyne said. "To say that unexamined metaphors might do something like that is to put the matter starkly, but maybe it will suffice to draw attention to the problems I will be discussing."

Lyne will discuss these problems through cases where metaphors have been used to literally lead people into real danger.

"We use the language of warfare in many contexts, for example, but when do we mean it literally, and when is it a metaphor? Lyndon Johnson declared a 'war on poverty,' Richard Nixon declared a 'war on drugs,' and George W. Bush not only declared a 'war on terrorism,' but also a 'war on evil,'" said Lyne. "Once we invoke the language of war as a metaphor, it can take control of our thinking."

Carey, who died in 2006 at age 71, was an important cultural historian and theorist of communications, and an influential teacher of journalists at the University of Illinois and Columbia University.

The event is sponsored by the Communication Studies major, School of Communication, English Department, Philosophy Department, Cell and Molecular Biology Department, Liberal Studies major, Institute of General Semantics, Frederik Meijer Honors College, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Provost's Office and The Graduate School.

For more information, contact Valerie Peterson, associate professor of communications studies, at (616) 331-2981 or petersov@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

September 6, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution photo of Jennifer Moore and the eastern massasauga rattlesnake are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ofd>

First #SnakeTownHall on Twitter to feature GVSU professor

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Beheaded, run over by a car or shot. These are some of the most common fates that snakes face because of people who are culturally conditioned to fear these slithering creatures.

Jennifer Moore, assistant professor of natural resource management, is hoping to change these fears and prejudices against snakes by participating in the inaugural #SnakeTownHall event on Twitter.

During the global digital forum taking place September 7 from 7-9 p.m., Moore will join a handful of like-minded scientists from across the U.S., who work with snakes, to advocate for the species by answering questions from the general public. The awareness conversation will be led by Auburn University wildlife ecologist David Steen, who has been dubbed the "Best Biologist on Twitter" by Slate Magazine because he regularly engages with the public to advocate on behalf of snakes on the social media platform.

"Snakes get a bad rap," said Moore, whose Twitter handle is @DrReptilia. "Lack of knowledge about them, or appreciation for them, contributes to the fear. If we can improve people's understanding and appreciation of these amazing species, they may be less likely to fear them and kill them needlessly. Snakes need love too."

But why should people set aside their distaste for snakes? Moore said ultimately, healthy ecosystems are essential for maintaining healthy people, and snakes, like so many other animals, are crucial to that formula.

"I hope this event will help people appreciate the role that snakes play," Moore said. "I don't expect everyone to want to snuggle up with a snake, but if I can convince people that it is better to keep them around than chop them in half, I will have done my job."

Since 2013, Moore has been working with students to research how snake fungal disease is endangering the eastern massasauga rattlesnake population in Michigan. The species, which is the only venomous native snake in the state, was proposed for federal listing on the endangered species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015. The results of the proposal are expected this fall.

When it comes to saving the eastern massasaugas, and other species of snakes, research is only half the battle. Moore explained that public education about the benefits of snakes needs to be a central focus. That's where the #SnakeTownHall event comes in.

"In my experience, social media platforms like Twitter can be a great way for scientists to connect with the public," Moore said. "These platforms provide us with a way to share our science with the public in a relatable way. We get excited about the work that we do, and this is a great way to share that excitement more broadly, beyond just our science colleagues."

While Moore explained that snakes are a source of curiosity and fascination for many people, especially children, abolishing fear may be the key to saving more snakes.

"I've studied snakes for many years, and I routinely have people tell me that they, or a family member, have killed one in their yard, or that they run for the shovel every time they see one," said Moore. "I want to try and change that mentality and help people realize that most snakes, especially around Michigan, are totally harmless. If you leave them alone, they'll just go on their merry way and you'll probably never see them again."

To participate in the conversation, visit twitter.com and search for the hashtag, #SnakeTownHall.

For more information, contact Moore at moorejen@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8764.

For Immediate Release

September 7, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report and audio bites with Brian Long are available on DropBox at:

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

GVSU economist: Local economy experiencing summer doldrums

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy has slowed because of the "summer doldrums," according to a Grand Valley State University economist.

Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business, said the slight slow down can be attributed to business owners putting off making major decisions during the summer months.

"I consider August to be a 'non-big-decision' month," said Long. "The routine work gets done, but in a corporate setting, it is hard to get everyone together to make major decisions."

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 (new orders) remained positive, but backtracked to +6 from +10. In a similar move, the production index tapered to +6, down from +18. The index of purchases fell sharply to -3, down from +14. The employment index remained positive, but fell to +6, from +14.

"Office furniture survey respondents are less optimistic, and described the current market as somewhat saturated," said Long. "The auto parts producers are beginning to feel the pinch from declining auto sales in certain segments, such as traditional economy cars. For most automotive suppliers, business conditions are still good, but there is a feeling that the last half of the year will be a little less robust."

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 8, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Stacey Tvedten, Galleries and Collections program coordinator at Grand Valley State University, Carrie Morris, GVSU Dance Co. director, and Tim Eernisse, WGUVU development and marketing manager, are available for interviews. Media requests for interviews or appearances by Nerd Walk staff members must be scheduled by Wednesday, September 14. Photos from the 2015 ArtPrize kick off are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0fp>.

ArtPrize 2016 kicks off with GVSU marching band and Nerd Walk

GRAND RAPIDS Mich. — The Grand Valley State University Laker Marching Band, GVSU Dance Company and WGUVU Nerd Walk will kick-off ArtPrize Wednesday, September 21, in Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids.

The Laker Marching Band will begin the festivities with a performance at the L.V. Eberhard Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. Following this performance, the marching band, GVSU Dance Co. and the Nerd Walk will proceed in cadence across the Blue Pedestrian Bridge through downtown to Rosa Parks Circle. There the band and dance company will perform a second time under the direction of President Thomas J. Haas following a proclamation by Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss.

The WGUVU and PBS Nerd Walk encourages participants to embrace their own uniqueness by marching the streets of Grand Rapids with magic wands, lightsabers, mystical hammers and capes. A contest will be held at Rosa Parks Circle to determine best costume, most original costume and most inspired costume.

Below is a full schedule of events:

5:45 p.m. - Laker Marching Band performs at L.V. Eberhard Center

6 p.m. - Laker Marching Band marches to Rosa Parks Circle with Nerd Walk

6:30 p.m. - Welcome by ArtPrize and mayoral proclamation

6:35 p.m. - GVSU Dance Company and Laker Marching Band perform

7 p.m. - WGUVU and ArtPrize programming/concert

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2016

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

Constitution expert to take on affirmative action, gun rights and more at Hauenstein Center event

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Constitutional expert and scholar Akhil Reed Amar will talk about why culturally and politically polarizing topics, including gun control, affirmative action, gay marriage and the Affordable Care Act, can be interpreted in different ways at a September 14 event hosted by Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

Amar, the current Sterling Professor of Law at Yale University and former political consultant to the hit TV show "West Wing" will explain why different interpretations of the Constitution impact how policy decisions are made in the United States. Amar has discussed constitutional interpretation and law as a guest on The Colbert Report, Charlie Rose, and in publications including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The L.A. Times*.

Amar will also discuss his new book, "The Constitution Today: Timeless Lessons for the Issues of Our Era".

Akhil Reed Amar: The Constitution Today

Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m.

GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Loosemore Auditorium

Event is free and open to the public

Seating is limited, advance registration strongly encouraged

Registration: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ofh>

"When you watch the news, it can be hard to decipher the stakes involved in constitutional interpretation," said Scott St. Louis, program manager for the Hauenstein Center's Common Ground Initiative. "We are very excited for Akhil Amar's presentation, considering his reputation for making political theory and constitutional interpretation both interesting and accessible to a broad audience."

Amar has been recognized by bipartisan legal organizations for his contributions to the field of constitutional analysis and teaches constitutional law both at Yale College and Yale Law School. He has won awards from both the American Bar Association and the Federalist Society.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library and Museum is partnering with the Hauenstein Center to help put on this event.

For more information, visit hauensteincenter.org.

For immediate release

September 8, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: High resolution images for each event are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0d5>.

GVSU to host Michigan's largest Shakespeare festival

ALLENDALE, Mich. — This year marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, but the Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival.

The 23rd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival offers multiple events, beginning September 30, when theater students put a modern twist on Shakespeare's darkest comedy, "Measure for Measure."

"Measure for Measure"

September 30, October 1, 6, 7, at 7:30 p.m.

October 2, 8, 9, at 2 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Tickets: Adults \$14; GVSU faculty, alumni, staff \$12; seniors \$12; students \$6

NOTE: Recommended for ages 8 and up. No children under school age admitted.

"Measure for Measure," Shakespeare's darkest and last comedy, takes audiences deep into the underbelly of a city where authority is absent and the scales of justice are becoming increasingly unbalanced. In Venice, where the play begins, brothels and ale houses are thriving, and the law has become "more mocked than feared." As a result, the Duke chooses to take a holiday, leaving behind a proclamation to tear down the brothels and reform the city's morality. To enforce this new direction, the Duke appoints Lord Angelo as his deputy. Tackling the twin evils of power and corruption with outrageous humor, "Measure for Measure" gives hope to the hopeless and courage to the powerless, making it the most modern and relevant of Shakespeare's social comedies. This production will feature a cast of Grand Valley State University students, and local guest actors Christopher Weaver, Gary Mitchell and Kyle Westmaas.

Shakespeare Festival Conference

October 7-9, Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses

Keynote address: October 7, at 4 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

Shakespeare enthusiasts, educators and students will come together during the bi-annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival Conference to engage in workshops, performances, presentations and discussions about the Bard. This year's Resident Festival Scholar and accomplished writer and educator, Phyllis Rackin, will present the keynote address on October 7, which is free and open to the public. Rackin is professor of English emerita at the University of Pennsylvania, and a former president of the Shakespeare Association of America. A special registration discount is available for Michigan middle and high school teachers. For more information about the conference, contact Allison Metz, professor of theater, at metza@gvsu.edu.

Bard To Go presents "Macbeth"

October 8, at 8 p.m.

November 5, at 1 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival will conclude with a condensed version of one of the Bard's most famous productions, "Macbeth." The actors of Bard to Go, Grand Valley's all-student touring Shakespeare ensemble, will explore the plot and language of "Macbeth" in a fast-paced performance, while exploring the themes and implications of the rise and fall of Macbeth as they relate to globalized society and the potential future.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes or contact James Bell, Shakespeare Festival director, at (616) 331-3066 or bellja@gvsu.edu.

MEDIA NOTE

September 9, 2016

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

GVSU students to remember 9/11 with flag display

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A group of Grand Valley State University students is organizing a daylong memorial on the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

Starting at 7 a.m. on Sunday, September 11, students will place 2,977 mini American flags — one for each victim — in the ground on the west lawn of the Kirkhof Center 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 College Republicans student organization.

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2016

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

GVSU named a top Midwest university

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named a top university in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report*.

In the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings, Grand Valley ranked 3rd for “Top Public Regional Universities in the Midwest.” Grand Valley also ranked 27th for “Best Regional University” in the Midwest and 55th for “Best in Undergraduate Engineering” programs.

The 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 Grand Valley'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 87 undergraduate and 37 graduate degree programs from campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids and Holland, and from 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

September 13, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos corresponding to each Fall Arts Celebration event, as well as video BROLL of the art exhibition, are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0cC>.

GVSU meets SeoulTech for Fall Arts Celebration art exhibit

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In 2008, a unique partnership began between Grand Valley State University and Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech), located in South Korea. Since that time, the two institutions have exchanged art and design students and faculty members through various degree and study abroad programs.

In 2013, SeoulTech hosted 17 works of art by Grand Valley art and design faculty, and this year, it is Grand Valley's turn to host art from abroad. As the Fall Arts Celebration's featured art exhibition, 23 works by faculty members from SeoulTech have joined with pieces created by Grand Valley faculty for the partnership's second joint exhibition.

GVSU and SeoulTech Art and Design Faculty Exhibition

Exhibition dates: August 26-November 4

Exhibition reception: Thursday, September 22, from 5-7 p.m.

Art Gallery, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

During the exhibit, visitors will see a mix of mediums, including ceramics, metalsmithing, digital design, printmaking, jewelry design, fiber arts, painting, visual studies and sculpting.

"From a technical perspective alone, the faculty from SeoulTech are at a most extraordinary level and their work will amaze and delight visitors," said Henry Matthews, director of Galleries and Collections at Grand Valley. "The art will be beautiful, but the intricacies of the craft will be extraordinary. This is an interesting and exciting opportunity to bring artwork by these two groups together and showcase what they feel is some of their best work."

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

September 15, 2016

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

Belknap event offers job, housing, education resources

Sponsored by GVSU, Neighbors of Belknap Lookout, City of Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Residents of the Belknap community will be able to connect with a variety of resources related to job training, workforce development, employment opportunities, child care and education and housing issues during an open house September 15.

The event will take place tonight from 4:30-8:30 p.m. at the Coit Creative Arts Academy (617 Coit Ave. NE). Residents will learn about available services and local employers will be accepting applications on site.

The open house is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Neighbors of Belknap Lookout (NOBL), the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Valley State University.

Eighteen community organizations, educational institutions and businesses will be participating, including Rockford Construction, Spectrum Health, Mercy Health, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Community College and the City of Grand Rapids.

Representatives from Grand Valley and the city will also give a brief update regarding the design and construction of the new facility at 500 Lafayette, and the planning process for the remainder of the Grand Valley property in the Belknap neighborhood.

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2016

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

Grand Valley events celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration will feature a history lesson on Latinos in Grand Rapids, a guest speaker, and cultural events.

The events, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and WGVSU Public Media, are free and open to the public.

This year's events include:

The Origins of Latino Grand Rapids: Community Building and Pan-ethnic Identity Formation from the 1940s to the 1970s

Thursday, September 22, 2-3:30 p.m., 2263 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Based on public records and oral histories, this lecture will present the ways in which Mexican and Puerto Ricans developed a relationship with each other to make West Michigan their home. From dances and baseball games to festivals, the two groups formed the origins of a Latino community in the 1940s that has continued to the present.

HHC Presents: Marisel Herrera

Friday, October 7, noon-2 p.m., 2250 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Herrera, director of the First-Year Success Center for Arizona State University, is a certified coach, author and speaker whose message empowers Latin@ students and youth. She will share her story and how students can use their strengths and personal experiences to be successful.

Conference on the Americas: Human Rights in the Atlantic World and Beyond

Friday, October 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The joint conference of the Great Lakes History Conference and Conference on the Americas will feature a keynote presentation by Héctor Tobar, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Deep Down Dar: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle that Set Them Free*.

Noche De Los Muertos

Friday, November 4, 8 p.m., 2250 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

The Latino Student Union will host an evening of dinner and dancing, and will educate participants about the history and significance of the Day of the Dead.

Some events require RSVP; for more information, visit gvsu.edu/oma.

For immediate release

September 16, 2016

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

GVSU students conducting testing at Red Wings preseason camp

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The Detroit Red Wings' regular season begins in October, but to get ready for their first matchup, the team is calling upon 44 Grand Valley State University athletic training and exercise science students to help during a preseason camp.

From September 21-28, the students will assist Red Wings staff as they conduct medical examinations and test the physical fitness of the players. The camp will take place at Center Ice Arena (1600 Chartwell Drive) in Traverse City.

This camp is the third Red Wings preseason camp Grand Valley students have assisted with, and the seventh camp overall, including development camps.

"This upcoming camp will take the total number of GVSU students who have assisted with this fitness testing experience to well over 100, which I think is an unprecedented number of undergraduate students to have worked with elite professional athletes," said Ross Sherman, associate professor of exercise science.

In July, 38 students assisted with the power, sprinting and agility testing of draftees and prospective players.

Heather Pietrzak, senior athletic training major from Brighton, said the July camp was her first experience working with the Detroit Red Wings, and she was determined to leave a professional mark.

"Networking is a big part of the athletic training profession, so making a great first impression to other professionals in the field could be key to landing your dream job," Pietrzak said. "Working with other health care providers in the sports medicine field is a great way to learn new ideas, collaborate with one another and show your worth in these types of situations."

Pietrzak added that while working with professional athletes seems intimidating, the athletic training program at Grand Valley has prepared students to handle stressful situations.

"This was like working with any other high school or college athletes," Pietrzak said. "You quickly realize this is just another day on the job and as athletic trainers, we are there for the health and safety of the athletes."

For more information about the camp, contact Ross Sherman at shermaro@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-8608.

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2016

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

GVSU center to celebrate new student food pantry space

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The Women's Center at Grand Valley State University is kicking off its 15-year anniversary with a variety of events, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new student food pantry space.

The ceremony for Replenish will take place September 22 in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. The event will start at 1:30 p.m., with remarks at 1:45 p.m. by the alumnae who founded the pantry in 2009.

Susana Villagomez and Rachael DeWitt proposed the idea for a student food pantry after hearing from fellow classmates about their struggles with having enough money to buy food. Since the pantry opened its doors, there have been more than 1,000 visits. Last fall, the pantry expanded to its current location in 0074 of the Kirkhof Center.

A reception to celebrate new art displayed in the Women's Center will follow the ceremony. Each year, the center displays artwork created and submitted by students, faculty, staff and community members. The entries are reviewed by a jury in the spring.

For more information, contact the Women's Center at (616) 331-2748 or visit www.gvsu.edu/women_cen.

For immediate release
September 20, 2016
Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: a headshot of Shelby Sikkila is available via this link: <http://qvsu.edu/s/OqI>

GVSU earns federal grant to train, prepare nurse practitioners in rural areas

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Kirkhof College of Nursing received a one-year, \$332,640 federal grant to train and prepare nurse practitioners to work in Michigan's rural communities.

Leaders at KCON said the Health Resources and Services Administration grant, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, addresses the critical shortage of qualified health care providers in rural areas.

Cynthia McCurren, dean of KCON and professor of nursing, said the traineeship grant will help pay tuition and some expenses for students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program learning in rural communities.

"The strategic priorities of our college include actively engaging students in high-impact learning experiences and building mutually beneficial relationships," McCurren said. "With the support of this grant, our doctoral students not only gain real-life experience in rural health care, they contribute to the health and well-being of the communities we're partnering with."

In the fall 2016 semester, 14 students each will be awarded \$22,000 traineeship grants and placed in rural and underserved settings for clinical education.

Shelby Sikkila was among those students who received a grant, and will start her traineeship at Fox Pediatrics in Mt. Pleasant. "This grant has allowed me to focus on my education without financial stress while providing an amazing opportunity to learn and grow as a pediatric nurse practitioner," said Sikkila, a native of Covington.

Sandra Spoelstra, associate dean for research and scholarship, said the mission of the HRSA grant is to improve the health of residents in rural and underserved communities.

"By strengthening the health care workforce and connecting skilled professionals, like nurse practitioners, to communities in need, vulnerable populations have better access to health care," Spoelstra said.

About Kirkhof College of Nursing: The Kirkhof College of Nursing at Grand Valley State University is consistently recognized for outstanding teaching, scholarship, service and practice. KCON baccalaureate degrees in nursing, master's degree in nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. For more information, visit gvsu.edu/kcon.

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2016

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

President of The Right Place to speak at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The Grand Rapids area has experienced an unprecedented level of growth and prosperity over of the past several decades, according to Birgit Klohs, president and CEO of The Right Place, Inc., an economic development organization for the retention, expansion and attraction of businesses to the West Michigan area.

Klohs will be the speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture Series at Grand Valley State University September 27. Klohs will draw on her 30 years of experience in the region to talk about why West Michigan works, how it became one of the most prosperous metro areas in the Midwest and what the future holds for the region.

Birgit Klohs - Why West Michigan Works

September 27

7:30 a.m. breakfast

8-9 a.m. lecture

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

Free and open to the public

Klohs, a native of Germany, has served as president and CEO of The Right Place, Inc. since 1987. Previously, she worked at Grand Valley as assistant director of the Office for Economic Expansion and was affiliated with Prince Corporation in Holland.

Her economic development career began in 1977 as an industrial consultant with the Economic Development Corporation of Berrien County. She then joined the Michigan Department of Commerce as an account executive for the West Michigan region. She earned a bachelor's degree in corporate finance from Western Michigan University and is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute of the University of Oklahoma. She also attended Harvard University's program on negotiation. Klohs has lectured in France, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, China, Australia and Israel.

The event is sponsored by the Seidman College of Business Alumni Association. For more information contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100 or email busalumn@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2016

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

GVSU speaker: American corporations vanishing

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — What lies ahead in a world with fewer major American corporations? And, what does their diminished number mean for questions of inequality, job creation and the stock market?

Jerry Davis, professor of management and organizations from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, will answer these questions during a presentation September 26 at Grand Valley State University.

The event, sponsored by Grand Valley's Koeze Business Ethics Initiative in the Seidman College of Business, will run from 6-7:20 p.m. in the GR Press Auditorium on the 2nd floor of the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Davis will discuss his new book on the “disappearance” of corporations called, *The Vanishing American Corporation and the Hazards of the New Economy*. It has been called a “gut-wrenching, mind-blowing picture of the Uberized society we are blindly constructing.”

For more information, contact Michael DeWilde, director of the Koeze Business Ethics Initiative, at dewildem@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3612.

For immediate release

September 21, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of all Grand Valley Writers Series authors are available via Dropbox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0qp>.

GVSU writers series brings award-winning authors to West Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Authors from around the U.S. will visit Grand Valley State University as part of the 2016-17 Grand Valley Writers Series beginning September 29 with award-winning nonfiction author Donovan Hohn.

Todd Kaneko, series coordinator and assistant professor of writing at Grand Valley, said too often people believe that literary events are serious occasions, when, in fact, they create a fun and engaging environment.

"Quite often, a reading can be more like going to a movie or a rock concert," said Kaneko. "There's no reason that a reading can't be a fun, celebratory event, and that's our aim — to celebrate these awesome visiting writers and their work, and to have fun doing so."

Hohn, a former features editor of *GQ Magazine* and contributing editor of *Harper's Magazine*, teaches creative writing at Wayne State University in Detroit. His work has appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Outside*, among other publications. Hohn was the recipient of the Whiting Writers' Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and a Knight-Wallace Fellowship. *Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea & of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists & Fools Including the Author Who Went in Search of Them* (2012) was a finalist for the Helen Bernstein Prize for Excellence in Journalism, and runner-up for both the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award and the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction. He currently lives with his family in Ann Arbor, where he is currently working on his second book.

Below is a full list of scheduled events. All presentations are free and open to the public.

Donovan Hohn

Thursday, September 29, Allendale Campus

Craft talk: 4-5:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/16

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Laker Superior Hall, room 174

Claire Vaye Watkins and Derek Palacio

Tuesday, October 25, Allendale Campus

Craft talk: 3-4:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2266

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Laker Superior Hall, room 174

Amorak Huey and Caitlin Horrocks

Tuesday, January 31, Allendale Campus

Reading and book signing: 6-8 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

Vieeve Francis and Matthew Olzmann

Monday, February 27, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Craft talk: 6-7 p.m., DeVos Center, room 203E

Reading and book signing: 7:30-8:50 p.m., DeVos Center University Club

Austin Bunn

Thursday, March 30, Allendale Campus

Craft talk: 4-5:15 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215/16

Reading and book signing: 6-7:30 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center

For more information, contact Todd Kaneko at (616) 331-8064 or kanekot@gvsu.edu, or visit the [Grand Valley Writers Series website](#).

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the module are available to use at <http://gvsu.edu/s/0qc>.

GVSU student-made solar module will provide power during ArtPrize

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — An 18-foot, solar energy-producing module created by Grand Valley State University students will be on display during ArtPrize. Students will demonstrate the benefits of solar energy by powering LED lights, playing music and providing a space for event goers to charge their phones.

Thanks to a \$55,000 grant from Consumers Energy, students and faculty members spent the summer designing and building two transportable, solar energy-producing modules. The structures were designed and constructed by a team of students from the School of Engineering and a team from Grand Valley's Muskegon Innovation Hub.

The engineering team's module is to be set up near the Blue Bridge and the Eberhard Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus from September 21-October 5. Eight solar panels and a collection of solar shingles make up the portable system. The unit, which took two months to build, has the capacity to emit four kilowatts of electricity. Music will be played that was performed by Grand Valley's award-winning New Music Ensemble.

Students in a sustainability course, led by Kelly Parker, professor and director of Environmental Studies, are organizing the display as part of a class project. Their assignment was to think of a way to promote the benefits of solar energy. The website is gvsu.edu/ens/solargarden/.

"We hope to give people a first-hand experience of the power of solar energy. We decided to time the display during ArtPrize so we could reach as many people as possible," said Cara Maney, a geography major.

Engineering team captain Alec Nichols, a mechanical engineering alumnus, said the modules travel to different sites in West Michigan to demonstrate the technology and collect data, which is made available on a public website: egr.gvsu.edu/~esm/.

The engineering group included Nichols, Tyler Roelfsema, William Neuson, Benjamin Stenberg and John Wilks. Affiliate faculty member Terry Stevens served as their advisor. The second solar energy module was built by Energy Partners, a tenant at the Muskegon Innovation Hub.

Consumers Energy's solar power plant on the Allendale Campus will continue to serve as an extension of the classroom at Grand Valley. Consumers Energy will provide a \$20,000 grant each year for the next six years for proposed interdisciplinary projects and curriculum. Read more in the summer issue of Grand Valley Magazine: <http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine/sustainability-summer-2016-417.htm>.

For immediate release

September 22, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of the ArtPrize entry are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ogy>.

GVSU and SeoulTech collaborate on ArtPrize entry

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — After traveling more than 6,000 miles to West Michigan from South Korea, 13 students from Seoul National University of Science and Technology spent the month of July creating the only ArtPrize entry on display at Grand Valley State University during this year's annual art competition.

During the International Ceramics Workshop, facilitated by Hoon Lee, associate professor of ceramics, four teams of students paired with both local and Korean artists to wedge, mold and sculpt nine ceramic columns, each standing approximately eight inches tall.

The columns are currently on display outside of the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus, but, following ArtPrize, they will find a new home in Grand Valley's permanent collection of more than 13,000 works of art. To vote for the entry, use the voting code 63800.

This year's workshop was another phase in efforts to nourish the collaborative relationship between Grand Valley and SeoulTech. The partnership began between the two universities in 2008 after Lee worked with Grand Valley's Padnos International Center for four years to initiate the international exchange program.

Since that time, students and faculty members from both universities have participated in various degree and study abroad programs to exchange creative practices and culturally diverse ideas. Lee said he hopes to expand the partnership by establishing a dual degree program in which students would be able to obtain degrees from both Grand Valley and SeoulTech.

In summer 2011, Grand Valley hosted the first international ceramics workshop, in which two faculty members and eight students from SeoulTech worked side-by-side with two faculty members and 10 students from Grand Valley.

The partnership continued in 2013 when the SeoulTech Museum of Art hosted the first joint exhibition between Grand Valley and SeoulTech art and design faculty. The second joint exhibition is currently on display in Grand Valley's Art Gallery, located in the Performing Arts Center on the Allendale Campus, through November 4 as a part of the university's 13th annual Fall Arts Celebration. More information about this exhibition can be found at gvsu.edu/fallarts.

For more information about the entry, contact Hoon Lee at leeho@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

September 23, 2016

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

GVSU launches master's program in educational leadership in Traverse City

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has launched a master's degree program in educational leadership through its Traverse City Regional Center.

Shannon Owen, director of the regional center, said expanding to Traverse City centralizes the program that had previously been available in Boyne City and Cadillac.

Classes in Traverse City are offered at the University Center at Northwestern Michigan College, 2200 Dendrin Drive.

While the fall semester has started, people who are interested in enrolling in the program can register for EDL 665, Educational Leadership, which begins October 21.

Cathy Meyer-Looze, assistant professor of education, said the program's curriculum is ideal for people who are interested in moving into K-12 administration as a curriculum director or building principal. Meyer-Looze said the program offers emphasis areas in educational leadership and special education administration.

Classes are flexible, including evenings and weekends, and offered face-to-face and online. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/traverse or call (231) 995-1785.

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Pickard is available on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OgM>

Global Automotive exec to discuss overcoming barriers

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The founder and chairman of Global Automotive Alliance, LCC in Detroit, one of the country's leading minority-owned businesses, will visit Grand Valley State University October 5, to share insights on how to overcome barriers to success.

Longtime business leader William F. Pickard will talk about overcoming barriers to success created by age, race, gender, education or income, and discuss information from his new book, *Seven Principles of Entrepreneurship*.

William F. Pickard

Seven Principles of Entrepreneurship

October 5 at 4 p.m.

Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, Allendale Campus

Under Pickard's leadership, Global Automotive Alliance became the first minority-owned group of plastic-parts suppliers to service the top three U.S. automakers. Pickard is considered one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the state, as a co-managing partner of the MGM Grand Detroit Casino, CEO of Bearwood Management Company and co-owner of five black-owned newspapers. He also owned and operated several McDonald restaurant franchises in the past.

Pickard was the first in his family to earn a four-year degree and relied on support from his family, friends and community to fund his first year of college. His long history with Grand Valley includes 11 years of service on the Board of Trustees and he is the namesake of the William Pickard Living Center on the Allendale Campus. He earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from Ohio State University.

Out of gratitude to those who helped him, he has established the Dr. William F. Pickard Business Scholarship at Grand Valley to inspire and encourage first-generation students. "The support of my community got me to where I am today," said Pickard. "I want to give that support to students and put them on a pathway to success."

President Ronald Reagan nominated and the Senate confirmed Pickard as the first chairman of the African Development Foundation (ADF) in 1982. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush appointed Pickard to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Indiana and to the National Advisory Committee on Trade Policy Negotiations.

Pickard's visit to Grand Valley is sponsored by the Office of the President, Enrollment Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Division of Inclusion and Equity.

For more information visit www.gvsu.edu/oma.

For immediate release
September 26, 2016
Contact: Michele Coffill, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2221

Media note: Photos of Patrone, including her volunteer service in Nicaragua, are available via this link:
<http://gvsu.edu/s/0qO>

GVSU houses Peace Corps campus recruiter

-- Patrone recruits throughout West Michigan

ALLENDALE, Mich. — The first Peace Corps campus strategic recruiter dedicated to West Michigan is housed at Grand Valley State University and has been busy connecting with college students throughout the area.

Carissa Patrone started working in this part-time role in May. Her office is in the Padnos International Center, which is located in Lake Ontario Hall on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus. She is responsible for connecting and recruiting students from Grand Valley, Kendall College of Art and Design, Calvin College, Hope College and Aquinas College.

Patrone is a returned Peace Corps volunteer who taught English as a foreign language to high school students in Nicaragua for two years. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications and Spanish from Grand Valley in 2012.

"It was always a goal of mine, to serve in the Peace Corps," Patrone said. "I participated in a study abroad program and got an international perspective."

There are five Peace Corps campus recruiters in Michigan: two housed at Michigan State University, two at the University of Michigan and Patrone covers West Michigan colleges and universities.

Since May, Patrone has attended college and community events that fit with the Peace Corps' mission of grassroots service. She is available to answer questions, review resumes and conduct mock interviews.

She added that Peace Corps volunteers are not only recent college graduates, about 70 percent of volunteers are older than 50.

Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, approximately 248 Grand Valley alumni have served as volunteers.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/pic/peace-corps-140.htm or send Patrone an email at PeaceCorps@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

September 27, 2016

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

GVSU, Sierra Club presidential election event to focus on environmental issues in Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — In this presidential election season, environmental issues are considerations for voters heading to the polls in November.

An upcoming event at Grand Valley State University on October 4, entitled "Politics and the Environment," will offer an examination of environmental issues in Michigan and their role in this year's elections. The event, sponsored by Grand Valley's School of Communications and the Sierra Club's Greater Grand Rapids Committee, will take place at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center, room 136E, located on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

During this non-partisan presentation, Mike Berkowitz, the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter's political and legislative director, and Richard Barron, the chapter's political committee chair, will discuss the stance of local candidates and how the fight for clean air, water, natural resources and energy could be impacted by the November elections. The duo will also provide an overview of how legislators have voted on environment issues in the past.

A livestream of the October 4 vice presidential debate will be available following this event.

Sierra Club's Greater Grand Rapids Committee is a group of local citizens working on issues, like pesticides, coal plants and factory farm pollution.

The event is free, but seating is limited. Registration is recommended by October 1 to Gail Philbin at gail.philbin@sierraclub.org or (312) 493-2384.

For immediate release

September 27, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of GVSU Opera Theatre are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0h2>.

GVSU Opera Theatre celebrating 20th anniversary with alumni concert

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — In 1997, Grand Valley State University's Music Department had a need to improve the performance levels of incoming first-year student vocalists.

To fill this need, Dale Schriemer, professor of voice, created GVSU Opera Theatre to connect students to the stage and to the profession. This academic year, the program is celebrating its 20th season.

In honor of this milestone, the ensemble will perform the comic opera, "Gianni Schicchi," October 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m., and October 9 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place at Wealthy Theatre (1130 Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids).

Following each 50-minute performance of "Gianni Schicchi," alumni of the ensemble will return to perform and share personal anecdotes about their time with GVSU Opera Theatre.

Since its inception, Schriemer explained that GVSU Opera Theatre has focused on exposing students to "masterworks," giving them opportunities to connect with the industry, and bringing professionals to campus to work with his students.

"My goal is for students to understand what the professional world of performing is by giving them an opportunity to connect with it so they can then make the appropriate choices about their learning path," Schriemer said. "I want to bring the world to Grand Valley."

To create a broad view of the performing arts, Schriemer prioritizes generating opportunities for students to perform with community ensembles, such the Grand Rapids Chamber Choir, Opera Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Ballet, and even the Grand Rapids Circus School of Circus and Performing Arts.

In the past five years, Schriemer has also taken students to New York for them to participate in courses and seminars in commercial acting, voice overs and on-screen movie acting, as well as to perform for casting agents.

Looking back on 20 years, Schriemer reflected on the fact that he is the most proud of the success of his students.

"Someone has a chance at life in a particular way because of these opportunities," Schriemer said. "I didn't have the undergraduate experience that they have, and I'm proud of the fact that they have it. This is what education is all about."

For more information about "Gianni Schicchi" and the alumni concert, contact Schriemer at schriemd@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2573.

For immediate release

September 28, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A high resolution portrait of Lisa Kasmer is available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ohc>. Credit: Bernadine Carey-Tucker/GVSU University Communications.

GVSU receives grant to study effectiveness of 8th grade math curriculums

ALLENDALE, Mich. — In 2010, a set of college- and career-ready standards were developed by state education chiefs and governors in 48 states. These standards for K-12 students focused on the areas of English language arts and mathematics.

Since the Common Core State Standards were adopted, various classroom materials have been created that supposedly align with these standards.

Grand Valley State University recently received \$295,523 of a more than \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate which of these materials, if any, are truly effective in the classroom.

"Many researchers question the degree to which these materials are actually aligned with the Common Core State Standards," said Lisa Kasmer, associate professor of mathematics at Grand Valley. "It is important to understand how teachers use these materials, and the decisions they make to supplement them."

The three-year collaborative grant, titled "Investigating Middle Grades Mathematics Teachers' Curricular Reasoning," will fund research studying how 8th grade math teachers in Michigan, Nevada, Utah and Arkansas make curricular decisions and what factors influence those decisions. Grand Valley will work with research teams from the University of Arkansas, University of Nevada Las Vegas and Brigham Young University during the study.

"The curriculum materials teachers use to teach mathematics often determines what and how students learn," Kasmer said. "It is essential that all students have equitable learning opportunities, and providing teachers and students with quality materials will serve as a foundation to this learning."

Kasmer will serve as the principal investigator on the grant for Michigan. In this role, she will work with one undergraduate student and one graduate student from Grand Valley to collect and analyze the data from Michigan schools. She will also collaborate with principal investigators from the other institutions to develop interview and observation protocols, and analyze classroom frameworks.

For more information about the project, contact Kasmer at kasmerl@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-2307.

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2016

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

Presidential politics in spotlight at Wheelhouse Talks kickoff

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — As the nation approaches a hotly contested presidential election, are politics in America broken past the point of being fixed, or can the polar opposite ends of the political spectrum come together to find common ground? That's the question Gleaves Whitney, director of Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies will address at a presentation on October 7.

Whitney will discuss a rapidly evolving (or devolving) political environment at the kickoff of the center's annual Wheelhouse Talks series, which focuses on highlighting the leadership perspectives of community leaders in politics, public, nonprofit, and business fields.

The presentation will analyze if there is any way that the dramatically different ideals of modern American society described by Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders can be merged. Whitney will also discuss if the alt-right, progressive, and socialist movements can work together with enough good will to find a principled common ground or if the U.S. will find itself at a political impasse after Election Day.

**Wheelhouse Talk, Gleaves Whitney
Election 2016 and Beyond: What is to be done?
October 7, 4 p.m.**

Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, 401 Fulton St. W., Grand Rapids

The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is appreciated here:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0hf>

For more information, visit HauensteinCenter.org.

For immediate release

October 3, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Images for the events below are available via Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ofi>.

GVSU November and December 2016 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 continues this tradition by featuring distinguished writers, poets, musicians, artists and scholars. All events are free and open to the public. For more information about Fall Arts Celebration, visit www.gvsu.edu/fallarts.

Distinguished Academic Lecturer: Rebecca Solnit

"Seeing the Invisible: Journeys through the Overlooked, Unheard, Outside and Insurrectionary"

Monday, November 14, at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center (2nd floor), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Lecture followed by book signing and reception

Acclaimed author Rebecca Solnit will serve as this year's Fall Arts Celebration distinguished academic lecturer at Grand Valley State University. During her presentation, Solnit will discuss the intersections between art, geography and community. A San Francisco-based writer, historian and activist, Solnit is the author of 15 books about a variety of topics, including geography, community, art, politics, hope and feminism. One of her benchmark publications, *Men Explain Things to Me*, is credited with launching the term "mansplaining," which describes when a man explains something to a woman in a condescending or patronizing manner. It has also been labeled as a touchstone of the feminist movement.

Musical Tradition and Timeless Memories: Handel's "Messiah"

Monday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. SE, Grand Rapids)

Considered to be a musical fixture of the holiday season by audiences around the world, George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" is a time-honored classic that will conclude Grand Valley State University's Fall Arts Celebration. The voices of the GVSU Arts Chorale, along with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra, will perform "Messiah" during the holiday celebration. First performed in 1742, the "Messiah" quickly became a Yuletide event repeated in London and across the English-speaking world each year for more than 250 years. The first part of "Messiah," which is centered on the prophecy and the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, will be performed, along with other holiday favorites for orchestra, vocal solo, and choir.

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Arts at Noon Series

All Arts at Noon concerts during the 39th season of the popular series 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. For more information about the Arts at Noon series, visit www.gvsu.edu/artsatnoon.

Wednesday, November 2 - The Campbell Marlais Duo

During their performance, Arthur Campbell and Helen Marlais will perform three works by Robert Schumann, Carl Maria von Weber and Johannes Brahms. Campbell, professor of clarinet at Grand Valley State University, received his Doctor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Northwestern University, where he studied with renowned clarinetist and pedagogue Robert Marcellus. Campbell holds the distinction of being one of only three people to have completed a doctoral degree as a student of the late Marcellus. A native of Canada, Campbell and his wife, Marlais, currently live in Grand Rapids. Marlais has been recognized throughout the U.S. and around the world for her pedagogical expertise and collaborative performances. She has performed in Jamaica, Australia, Italy, Turkey, France, England, Germany, and China, among other locations around the world, with her husband, clarinetist Arthur Campbell. In the last few years, Marlais has given 16 international piano teaching presentations. Marlais and Campbell have recorded on multiple record labels, and their most recent recording, "Music for Clarinet and Piano," was nominated in 2013 for the International Classical Music Awards.

Wednesday, November 16 - Grand Valley Winds

Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano at Grand Valley State University, will join the Grand Valley Winds in a performance featuring Francis Poulenc's "Sextet for Piano and Wind Quintet, Op. 100." Grand Valley Winds was established in 2006 and includes Grand Valley State University music faculty members Christopher Kantner, flute; Marlen Vavrikova, oboe; Arthur Campbell, clarinet; Victoria Olson, bassoon; and Richard Britsch, horn. Vavrikova said the quintet strives to promote chamber music and increase awareness of wind quintet repertoire. One way the group accomplishes this mission is by collaborating with local high school and middle school ensemble directors and performing for students.

Wednesday, November 30 - The GVSU Brass Quintet Holiday Concert

The fall series of the 39th season of Grand Valley's Arts at Noon concludes Wednesday, November 30, with a holiday concert by the GVSU Brass Quintet. In what has become an annual tradition, the GVSU Brass Quintet will perform a variety of holiday selections arranged for brass, and conclude the concert with a holiday sing-along. The quintet is composed of faculty members Alex Wilson, trumpet; Richard Britsch, horn; Mark Williams, trombone; and Paul Carlson, tuba, as well as visiting professor TJ Perry, trumpet.

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Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival

This year marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, but the Bard lives again at Grand Valley State University, host of Michigan's oldest and largest Shakespeare Festival. The 23rd annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival will conclude with a condensed version of "Macbeth." Operated annually since 1993, more than 6,000 patrons attend Grand Valley's Shakespeare Festival activities each season. For more information or questions regarding the Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival, visit www.gvsu.edu/shakes.

Bard To Go presents "Macbeth"

November 5, at 1 p.m.

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus

The annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival will conclude with a condensed, 45-minute version of "Macbeth" performed by Grand Valley's all-student touring Shakespeare troupe, Bard to Go. The performance will be preceded by the awards ceremony for the annual Shakespeare Festival Student Competition beginning at 1 p.m. The competition awards students for creative, critical, historical, or scholarly projects relating to Shakespeare, his times, and the Renaissance.

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Music and Dance

For more information about all Music and Dance Department events, call (616) 331-3484 or visit www.gvsu.edu/music. All Music and Dance Department events are free and open to the public.

GVSU New Music Ensemble Concert

November 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, room 1600, Allendale Campus

The award-winning New Music Ensemble will perform commissioned music from their recent National Parks tour.

GVSU Symphony Orchestra and GV Opera Theatre Concert

November 5, at 7 p.m.

Mary Idema Pew Library Atrium, Allendale Campus

The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will present a varied program including an overture by Mozart, Sibelius' "Karelia Suite," and "Gounod's Faust: Ballet Music." Combining with principal cast members, GVSU Opera Theatre will present selections of the comical Puccini opera, "Gianni Schicchi." The concert will conclude with Grand Valley State University dance students joining the orchestra to dance a lively tango by Astor Piazzolla.

Faculty Solo Recital: Sookkyung Cho

November 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall (room 1325), Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Sookkyung Cho, assistant professor of piano, will perform an intimate solo recital. This performance is free and open to the public.

Free Play 36: Gyan Riley, guitarist and composer

November 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Sherman Van Solkema Recital Hall (room 1325), Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Gyan Riley has been commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, New Music USA, the Carnegie Hall Corporation, the American Composers Forum, and the New York Guitar Festival. He has performed with Zakir Hussain, Lou Reed, John Zorn, the Kronos Quartet, Iva Bittova, the Bang-On-A-Can All-Stars, the San Francisco Symphony, the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, and his father, composer/pianist/vocalist Terry Riley. Various tours have taken him throughout Europe, Canada, Latin America and the U.S., both as a soloist and in various ensembles.

GVSU Jazz Concert**November 22, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing ArtsCenter, Allendale Campus**

The GVSU Large and Small Jazz Ensembles will perform during this free concert.

GVSU Varsity Men's Glee Club Concert**December 2, at 7:30 p.m.****Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

The GVSU Varsity Men's Glee Club will perform during this free concert.

GVSU Fall Dance Concert**December 3, at 7 p.m.****December 4, at 2 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus**

The GVSU Dance Company will end 2016 with a performance of a diverse collection of dance works. The concert includes choreography by faculty and distinguished guest artists Richard Bowman, Leslie Scott, and Grand Valley alumnus Jesse Powers.

GVSU "Songs of Winter" Choral Concert**December 6, at 7:30 p.m.****Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus**

The Grand Valley State University Cantate Chamber Ensemble, along with the University Singers and Select Women's Ensemble, will perform music celebrating the holiday season, including Z. Randall Stroope's "The Pasture" and "There is No Rose."

GVSU Concert Band Concert**December 7, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus**

The GVSU Concert Band will perform under the direction of John Martin, director of athletic bands. This concert is free and open to the public.

GVSU Symphony Orchestra Side-by-Side Concert**December 8, at 7:30 p.m.****Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, 600 Forest Hills Ave SE, Grand Rapids**

For its annual Side-by-Side Concert, the GVSU Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Henry Duitman, will share the stage with the Forest Hills Central High School Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Pool. The GVSU Symphony Orchestra will perform Beethoven's "Symphony No. 8" and Villa-Lobos' "Fantasia for Saxophone and Strings" with Grand Valley saxophone professor Dan Graser. Graser is a distinguished and nationally known soloist and pedagogue. He is also soprano chair of the internationally lauded Donald Sinta Quartet. The two orchestras will conclude the evening by combining for an exciting performance of Sibelius' well-loved "Finlandia."

GVSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert**December 9, at 7:30 p.m.****Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus**

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform under the direction of Barry Martin, professor of music.

GVSU Piano and Clarinet at St. Cecilia Concert

December 10, at noon

St. Cecilia Music Center (24 Ransom Ave NE, Grand Rapids)

The piano and clarinet studios at Grand Valley State University will perform a free concert that is open to the public.

For immediate release

October 3, 2016

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

MEDIA: High resolution photos of the Mary Idema Pew Library are available via Dropbox at:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0hs>

GVSU library named "landmark library"

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Praised for setting the standard for both new construction and renovations, the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons at Grand Valley State University has been named one of only five "2016 New Landmark Libraries" in the U.S. by *Library Journal*.

Lee Van Orsdel, dean of University Libraries at Grand Valley, said the Mary Idema Pew Library was applauded for its student-centered focus, strong partnerships with other academic units, flexibility of design, sustainable features, and its success as a learning environment that "supports the whole student through the academic journey."

The facility received acclaim for its User Experience Team, which is made up of primarily students who conduct research into measuring and improving the student experience within the library. Also noted were the information kiosks on each floor that are update in real time to help students identify open study rooms, find quiet spaces and open computers.

"Pew Library is radically student-centered in design, furnishings, policy and programs," said Van Orsdel. "In creating it, we pushed every boundary, questioned every common assumption, and took many risks, all in an effort to create a dynamic, multi-dimensional learning environment for our students."

More information about the award and criteria is available online via the [Library Journal website](#), or in the October issue of the publication.

For Immediate Release

October 3, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of aMDI and the female urinary collection device are available to use:

<http://gvsu.edu/s/0hw>

GVSU center will bring medical devices to market

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A new institute at Grand Valley State University is supporting Grand Rapids' growing medical research and biomedical industries by bringing medical device inventions to market.

The applied Medical Devices Institute (aMDI) — a first of its kind in West Michigan — provides access to researchers, engineers, medical professionals, and business and entrepreneurial professionals. It uses an integrated approach that includes intellectual property, business review and mentoring. The center is located on Medical Mile in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Brent Nowak, director of aMDI, said the center fills a much-needed gap in West Michigan.

"Grand Rapids has the ideas, the engineers to design them and the manufacturers to build them, but we're missing a central group that focuses solely on developing and guiding those medical device ideas and inventions to the point where they are ready to be mass produced and marketed," said Nowak.

The institute has been a few years in the making. Nowak, a native of Jackson, has founded several medical device companies and spent 25 years developing intelligence systems for organizations across the country. For 11 years, he led initiatives for the University of Texas at San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute, which is the basis of aMDI's business model. He came to Grand Valley in 2013 and noticed the need for an enterprise that can mature ideas from conception through commercial viability.

The institute serves a variety of clients, from individual inventors to large organizations. One client is a Spectrum Health Innovations-Grand Valley team that invented the female urinary collection device. The device is designed to lower the number of infections women experience from indwelling catheters. The idea came from a nurse at Spectrum Health and the first prototype was created by a group of Grand Valley engineering students in 2014. aMDI was sought out to take the device to the next level.

"We've been working with Grand Valley from the start and the institute is located in downtown Grand Rapids, so it has been a natural fit to work with aMDI," said Brent Mulder, senior director of SHI. "We're relying on Brent and his team to look at the next steps required to bring the product to market. That includes creating a manufacturing plan, testing new prototypes and making recommendations."

Other clients include Lansing-based Running Form Labs, which is studying how to improve human motion in running.

Nowak said aMDI is steadily growing. In the first six months, Nowak has hired three graduate students, two undergraduate students and a full-time engineer; he is currently seeking a post-doctoral research associate in robotics surgery modeling, simulation and analysis.

"It'll take another three to five years for us to become fully sustainable," he said, "but we are demonstrating our continuous growth through each project. It is exciting to see all the enthusiasm for aMDI from the West Michigan community."

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

For immediate release

October 4, 2016

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/0cC>.

GVSU Fall Arts Celebration to feature Pulitzer Prize-winning poet

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — This year's Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University will feature two unique poetic voices, one of which is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Patricia Clark, professor and chair of the Writing Department at Grand Valley, said Tracy K. Smith and Oliver de la Paz were selected as the featured authors for this year's poetry night specifically because of their varying career levels and contrasting voices.

"An Evening of Poetry and Conversation with Oliver de la Paz and Tracy K. Smith"

Thursday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center (2nd floor), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Readings followed by book signing and reception

Smith is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Ordinary Light*, and three books of poetry. Her collection *Life on Mars* won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize and was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book. *Duende* won the 2006 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets and an Essence Literary Award. *The Body's Question* was the winner of the 2002 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. In 2014, the Academy of American Poets awarded Smith with the Academy Fellowship, which is awarded to only one poet each year to recognize distinguished poetic achievement. Smith currently serves as the Roger S. Berlind '52 Professor in Humanities, and director of the creative writing program at Princeton University.

"Tracy is a nimble poet of variety and her subject matter is various as well, though she's especially fond of using cosmology as a metaphor for life on Earth," said Clark. "Her father was one of the engineers working on the Hubble Space Telescope; after his death, she devoted a large section of her book *Life on Mars* to elegizing his life."

A native of the Philippines, Oliver de la Paz is the author of four collections of poetry: *Names Above Houses*, *Furious Lullaby*, *Requiem for the Orchard* and *Post Subject: A Fable*, winner of the Akron Prize. He co-chairs the advisory board of Kundiman, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of Asian American poetry, and serves on the board of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. de la Paz is an associate professor of English at Western Washington University.

"Oliver de la Paz's poetry is admired for its lyricism and range," Clark said. "His dynamic, lavish and intimate work is lyrical and full of imagery and sensory detail."

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

October 7, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report from Brian Long is available on DropBox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0hQ>

GVSU economist: Economy continues to expand

RAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy continues to expand with the number of new orders hitting a 16-month high, according to a Grand Valley State University economist.

Brian G. Long, director of Supply Management Research in the Seidman College of Business, said September is known as a "back-to-work" month, but local numbers are better than expected. Long surveyed local business leaders and his findings are based on data collected during the last two weeks of September.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) came in at +23, up significantly from +6 in August. In a similar move, the production index rose to +24, from +6. The index of purchases returned to a positive of +15, up from -3. The employment index remained positive at +9, up from +6.

"For most of our industrial groups, September was a good month," said Long. "Most of the auto parts suppliers were positive, although a couple signaled a note of caution because of softening auto sales. The office furniture industry continues to show evidence of topping out, but overall business conditions still remain positive."

Long said the upcoming presidential election will not have an impact on the local economy, but most likely affect the stock market. "The possibility of a post-election downtick is real. The business community dislikes uncertainty, so business expansion may be put on hold until the future becomes clear," 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

October 6, 2016

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

GVSU institute receives nearly \$1 million to bridge gap between science, religion

ALLENDALE, Mich. — There is an ongoing debate between moderate and fundamentalist approaches to religion in Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities. This debate commonly pits science against religion.

The Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley State University recently received a \$938,975 grant from the John Templeton Foundation to explore this debate in order to create a common global understanding among two different trains of thought and belief.

“While the Kaufman Interfaith Institute began as a West Michigan project, it has received national attention for the work we do in interfaith understanding, and for our science and religion program,” said Douglas Kindschi, Kaufman Interfaith Institute director. “This grant takes both of these missions and puts them on the international stage.”

The co-directors of the project are Kelly Clark, senior research fellow at the institute, and Kindschi. The project will bring together 36 prominent philosophers, physicist and biologists from around the world for annual workshops and conferences in West Michigan and the Middle East.

Throughout the course of the three-year project, all of the scholars will attend three annual workshops to collectively brainstorm, learn about one another's traditions, develop a diverse community, and build bridges among themselves and their own faith traditions.

"I think the most problematic issue in science and religion is the reconciliation of the religious belief in a God who is in control with the scientific belief that reality is chancy and unpredictable," said Clark. "Academic discussions of these topics have been dominated by Christians and, since we value diversity, we are broadening our conversation partners to include Muslims and Jews."

Clark added that the collective will strive to educate and train the next generation of interfaith leaders.

"We need to get religious understanding and cooperation on the agenda at the entry level, so this project involves 24 young professors from around the world," Clark explained. "We have high hopes that these thought leaders will start teaching young people and work with their communities on these very important issues."

Each annual workshop will include an introduction to one of the three Abrahamic religions (Muslim, Christian, Jewish). The concluding workshop in 2019 in Istanbul will be followed by an international Abrahamic science and religion conference.

For more information about the project, contact Kelly Clark at clarkell@gvsu.edu. For more information about the Kaufman Interfaith Institute, visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith.

For immediate release

October 6, 2016

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

Media note: Photos of Miller in China and a group Campus Links photo are available at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OhN>

GVSU program gives students with autism confidence, earns recognition

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources for families who have children with special needs ranked Grand Valley State University as among the top 10 U.S. campuses with services for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In its rankings, Friendship Circle noted Grand Valley's Campus Links program, which matches ASD students with a peer mentor to help them transition to college. See the entire list <[here](#)>.

Holly Miller, a senior majoring in Chinese Studies, was diagnosed with autism at age 4. She participated in the first cohort of Campus Links in 2012, and said having a mentor held her accountable and the program provided an immediate social circle.

"If I didn't participate in Campus Links, I'm not sure I would have been able to make the transition or been able to adjust to college," said Miller, a native of Kentwood. "It helped me gain my independence from my parents."

Campus Links is sponsored by Disability Support Resources; since the program was established five years ago, 30 mentees and 20 student mentors have participated.

Campus Links also gave Miller the confidence to participate in a study abroad program to China. She joined 10 other students on a faculty-led program to Shanghai and East China Normal University in April. Grand Valley has a partnership agreement with ECNU.

Miller has immersed herself in Chinese culture and language since she was a student at East Kentwood High School, and said traveling to China had been a lifelong goal. While there in the spring, she completed a thesis that focused on how China diagnoses autism and its education policies.

She earned a Gilman International scholarship that helped fund her trip to China. The Gilman Foundation requires scholars to complete a service project; Miller will host a campus presentation on October 18 that encourages students with autism to study abroad.

"Conquering China: Autism Style" will run from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center. It is approved for LIB 100 and 201 courses.

Miller is scheduled to graduate in April. She has been accepted into the graduate program at East China Normal University, where she plans to study politics.

For Immediate Release

October 6, 2016

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

Grand Valley to celebrate Native American heritage

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's annual Native American Heritage Celebration kicks off October 10 with an event that will take a deep look at the history of Columbus Day.

"Rethinking Columbus: A Movement Towards Indigenous Peoples Day" will feature a panel discussion about the historical and social impact of the colonization of the Americas. The program will take place from 6-8 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center.

Below is a full schedule of Native American Heritage Celebration events, which are free, open to the public and take place on the Allendale Campus. The celebration is organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information.

Preserving the Norton Burial Mounds: Thursday, October 20, 4-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2263
The Diversity Brown Bag Series event will be facilitated by Jeff Chivis, an anthropology doctoral student at Michigan State University and a citizen of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi. He will discuss the Norton Mound National Historic Landmark in West Michigan, one of only a few surviving Hopewellian burial mounds.

Native American Student Association Day of Service: Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Native American Student Association will participate in Make a Difference Day by volunteering at the Norton Mound National Historic Landmark.

"Reel Injun" Film Screening: Friday, November 4, noon-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 1240

The Canadian documentary explores the portrayal of Native Americans in film, including stereotypes and the practice of using Italian Americans as Indians.

"The Canary Effect" Film Screening: Friday, November 11, noon-2 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 1240

The film features the historic realities of Native Americans, including the abuses of indigenous people and its continuing affects today.

For immediate release

October 6, 2016

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

GVSU partners with lakeshore community on oral history project

HOLLAND, Mich. — Celebrating the lakeshore's diverse Hispanic population will continue through an oral history collection scheduled at Grand Valley State University's Meijer Campus in Holland.

"Nuestra Comunidad Hispana" is set for Tuesday, October 18, from 3:45-6:45 p.m. in the lobby of the Meijer Campus, 515 S. Waverly Road. Holland area residents are invited to drop in during that timeframe to be interviewed by trained volunteers.

The project is a collaborative effort by Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, Meijer Campus in Holland, City of Holland, Herrick District Library, Latin Americans United for Progress, and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. LAUP received a grant for the program from the Michigan Humanities Council's Heritage Grant Program.

Kimberly McKee, director of the Kutsche Office of Local History, said the project will document untold stories of Holland's Hispanic residents. "The project reflects a commitment to bring together the region's diverse and multi-generational Hispanic communities as part of efforts to create a shared community," McKee said.

Copies of participants' photographs and oral histories will be permanently housed in the collections of the Herrick District Library where it will be made available for use by researchers and the public.

For more information, contact the Kutsche Office of Local History at (616) 331-8099 or kutsche@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

October 4, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the camp are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OhD>. Credit: Dan Mannes, Detroit Red Wings multimedia producer.

Detroit Red Wings enlist GVSU students for preseason camp testing

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The Detroit Red Wings' regular season begins this month, and to get ready for their first matchup, the team recently called upon 44 Grand Valley athletic training and exercise science students to help during a preseason camp.

From September 21-28 in Traverse City, the students helped Red Wings staff members conduct medical examinations and test the physical fitness of the players.

Skylar Schoen, a senior majoring in clinical exercise science, said working alongside the staff of a professional athletic team for the first time gave her the opportunity to see her field of study being applied outside of the classroom.

"Not only was I able to see the planning and testing that goes into preparing a successful NHL team, but I was also introduced to how closely and continually these professionals monitor a player's training throughout a season," said Schoen, from Batavia, Illinois.

Schoen added that her biggest takeaway from the camp was seeing the wide range of athletic abilities among hockey players.

"Coming from a sport where the motions and muscles of running and jumping aren't utilized day-to-day, it was interesting to see how this affected the players in the different fitness tests, such as the 10-yard sprint, which was my station," Schoen said.

Michelle Arnett, a senior majoring in exercise science, helped facilitate the "body map" station assessment, which used a large grid taped to a wall and a camera to film the players during movements, such as lunges, jumps, and flexibility and mobility exercises. She said the experience was intimidating at first.

"Working with professional athletes as well as their coaches was a little nerve-racking because you want to be recognized and want to be viewed as a professional while also making connections for the future," said Arnett, from Marysville, Michigan. "Knowing that I was interacting with such amazing athletes was absolutely indescribable, and they were very polite."

This camp is the third Red Wings preseason camp Grand Valley students have assisted with, and the 7th professional camp overall, including development camps.

"This camp takes the total number of Grand Valley students who have assisted with these fitness testing experiences to well over 100, which I think is an unprecedented number of undergraduate students to

have worked with elite professional athletes," said Ross Sherman, associate professor of exercise science.

In July, 38 students assisted with testing draftees and prospective players by running tests ranging from sprinting and agility tests to power tests.

Heather Pietrzak, a senior majoring in athletic training, said the July camp was her first experience working with the Detroit Red Wings, and she was determined to leave a professional mark.

"Networking is a big part of the athletic training profession, so making a great first impression to other professionals in the field could be key to landing your dream job," said Pietrzak, from Brighton, Michigan. "Also, working with other health care providers in the sports medicine field is a great way to learn new ideas, collaborate with one another and show your worth."

For more information, contact Ross Sherman at shermaro@gvsu.edu.

MEDIA NOTE
October 13, 2016

GVSU to release study on economic impact of John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum

Grand Valley State University will release the results of a study showing the annual economic impact of the John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum in Kent County.

Paul Isely, economics professor and associate dean in the Seidman College of Business at Grand Valley, will release the findings of his research that will show the combined economic impact of the John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum in Kent County each year. Isely will explain how his findings illustrate that both publicly owned institutions are critical to West Michigan's economic growth.

Economic Impact of John Ball Zoo and GRPM

October 18

11-11:30 a.m.

Grand Rapids Public Museum, Café, 272 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids

RSVP to Dottie Barnes at barnesdo@gvsu.edu, or Steve Faber at sfaber@byrumfisk.com

Dale Robertson, president and CEO of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and Peter D'Arienzo, CEO of the John Ball Zoo, will also attend the news conference and be available for interviews.

Isely is known for his benchmark report and predictions for the West Michigan economy each January. He earned a doctorate in economics from Purdue University and also holds master's degree in economics from Purdue University and a dual bachelor's degree in physics and economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and teaching interests include firm/country level innovation, environmental economics and regional forecasting.

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2016

Contact: Mary Eilleen Lyon, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Video, including sound bites from President Thomas J. Haas is available for media use via Dropbox (<http://qvsu.edu/s/Oie>) or YouTube (https://youtu.be/PYscS_cFpQc).

President Haas marks 10 years of leadership at Grand Valley

ALLENDALE, Mich. — President Thomas J. Haas is celebrating his 10th anniversary at Grand Valley State University. He became the university's fourth president in 2006 and led Grand Valley through a decade of growth and success.

Grand Valley just announced another year of record-breaking enrollment. Records were broken in total number, first-year students, students of color and those living on campus. Total enrollment now stands at 25,460. Grand Valley has been recognized for the last several years by Michigan's governor and legislature for its leading performance. The university is in the top three in graduation rates of all public universities in the state and in the top four in retention.

Haas credits Provost Gayle R. Davis and the rest of his experienced cabinet with providing seasoned counsel. He recognizes the integral role of faculty and staff and the engagement of a superior Board of Trustees for always pushing Grand Valley to the next level.

"Every single person on the president's cabinet, some have been here for 30 or more years, brings together the spirit of being a team," said Haas. "They have enabled me to be as effective as I have been. Our relationship with our faculty is key as well. They've embraced planning and creating relevant programs that students want and employers need. And the trustees have been critical in ensuring appropriate oversight for the public good. All of these people have contributed to the success of Grand Valley."

During his tenure, more than 30 new majors have been established and two million square feet have been developed on campus. Grand Valley has become a leader in sustainability with nearly 20 LEED-certified buildings, including the award-winning Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons in Allendale.

Chair of the Board of Trustees John C. Kennedy said Haas has been an effective and able leader.

"Leading a university for ten years and counting is not common," Kennedy said. "Tom followed successful presidents at Grand Valley, and he's been able to put his own mark on the institution. He's successfully steering us through a time of declining state support for public universities and a decreasing high school population in Michigan. Despite that, the university continues to break enrollment records while attracting top-performing students, faculty and staff. He has gained the confidence of the campus as well as the larger community with his steady leadership. We know how fortunate we are to have him at Grand Valley."

Haas said the most rewarding part of his 10 years at Grand Valley has been developing a culture of strategic planning that sets the proper course for the future.

"If we have a plan forward and know the outcomes we want, then we can look for the number and the quality of students we want." said Haas. "We're the nation's smallest, large university because of the relationships we've created with our students and with one another."

In addition to strategic planning, Haas said he is most proud of the Grand Finish grant for seniors graduating in four years, elevating the inclusion and equity mission to a vice presidential position, and the university's first comprehensive campaign which resulted in raising almost double the \$50 million goal.

"The beauty of being here at Grand Valley is that I've been able to be me," Haas said. "My wife Marcia is a remarkable partner. We can be ourselves as we engage with community leaders, faculty and staff and students. We did a 10-city tour with alumni last year that was quite rewarding."

The president the students have nicknamed "T-Haas" believes the Grand Valley culture is special, and he wishes to leave it that way for future presidents. "The look ahead is quite bright. I want to continue to ensure our culture of student success and our foundation in the liberal arts. By positioning our university for great things, future presidents will find what I have found — it's a very special place we call Grand Valley."

See Haas' interview here. (https://youtu.be/PYscS_cFpQc) See Haas' full biography here. (<http://www.gvsu.edu/administration/president-thomas-j-haas-7.htm>)

For immediate release

October 11, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of "Global Cities" are available via Dropbox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0i6>. Photo credit: Tim Thayer/Robert Hensleigh.

Smithsonian exhibit spotlights art by GVSU faculty member

ALLENDALE, Mich. — An art exhibition currently on display at the Smithsonian features approximately 20 pieces of work by a Grand Valley art and design faculty member.

"Visions and Revisions: Renwick Invitational 2016" features the work of four distinguished artists, one of whom is Norwood Viviano, associate professor of art and design. The exhibit will be on display in the Smithsonian American Art Museum Renwick Gallery through January 8.

The focal point of Viviano's exhibition collection is "Global Cities." The piece, which Viviano said took about 300 hours of research and 500 hours of labor to complete, examines changes in the populations of certain geographic locations around the world over the past 2,000 years.

"What I was amazed by through my research was that there were all of these threads that caused patterns of people to move due to World War II, and there was also a real movement to cities during the Industrial Revolution," said Viviano. "You don't really know what kind of connections you're going to make historically and linearly through a timeline until a project like this is finished."

Drawing on census and topographical data to create models of cities at specific times in history is a consistent theme among Viviano's work, particularly because of a curiosity about immigration that was sparked by his grandparents.

"My grandparents are from Cecily, not America," Viviano said. "I had the opportunity early on to become more aware of the immigrant experience, so my work is about the migration of people, the kinds of values that were attached to their lives, and trying to understand what kinds of influences caused those patterns of migration."

Viviano explained that "Global Cities," which was primarily sculpted from metal and glass, shows a sense of balance and imbalance in regard to the rapid speed that some cities are growing, as well as the rate at which cities are losing numbers.

"In many ways, a lot of my work deals with the relationship between industry and community," said Viviano. "I grew up in Detroit, and one of my grandfathers worked as a painter in the Dodge plant for 35 years. You hear stories and, in some ways, these large corporations become a part of your life, just like your grandparents are. Knowing that people are so reliant on the power dynamic is really impactful."

For more information about the exhibition, contact Viviano at vivianon@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3383.

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221

MEDIA NOTE: Photos of previous STEMosphere® events, Freeman Hrabowski, and Richard Lemons are available for media use via this Dropbox link:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bvc4xbxfsx8qhde/AACqLAp_fhr6VoQ77B7Noda4a?dl=0

Share Fair, STEMosphere events to highlight hands-on learning, teacher development

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Registration is now open for Share Fair Michigan, an innovative professional development conference for all teachers in the state that will take place November 12 at Grand Valley State University's DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Share Fair Michigan will be an intensive one-day professional development event that will give K-12 teachers hands-on experiences and instant takeaways that they can immediately implement in their classrooms. The conference is free and open to teachers from any school, including private, public, religious and charter schools. Registration is required: <http://www.cvent.com/d/mvq1b8/1Q>

Share Fair Michigan will take place in conjunction with the STEMosphere®, a special day at the Grand Rapids Public Museum that will feature hands-on displays from more than 30 different companies and organizations to encourage kids from across West Michigan to explore STEM fields. STEMosphere® is also free and open to the public and will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The events have been organized by Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Public Schools, and Kent ISD.

The Share Fair Michigan portion will feature 29 teacher-selected interactive sessions that will focus on educating 21st-century students, as well as a leadership professional development track for deans, principals, assistant principals and superintendents. Teachers who attend will receive five free continued education credits.

All of the interactive sessions were designed by teachers for teachers, and a panel of local educators selected which presentations would be included in the event.

A keynote address will be presented by Freeman Hrabowski, president of University of Maryland-Baltimore County, and a consultant on science and math education to national agencies, universities and school systems. Hrabowski will focus on the power of teachers to inspire student success, and will talk about experiences from his childhood and career when an individual played a significant role in his development. Other focus points of his keynote include breaking down barriers to higher education for underrepresented students, creating a college-going culture and preparing students from all backgrounds to be successful in STEM fields.

The leadership professional development track will be led by Richard Lemons, who has worked as a literacy coach, university professor and policy advocate.

The Share Fair Michigan keynote will begin at 8:30 a.m. on November 12; the last sessions will wrap up no later than 3:30 p.m. to give teachers a chance to see the STEMosphere® event at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

The STEMosphere® event will highlight the science, technology, engineering and math fields, and will include dozens of kid-friendly hands-on activities from more than 20 presenters and vendors. Each activity will provide teachers with examples of activities they can bring back to their classrooms.

Several panel discussions will take place throughout the STEMosphere® event and will focus on the theme of women in STEM fields. The panels include:

- 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., "STEM FUN" which will include a panel of middle school, high school and college students, along with recent graduates and working professionals talking about why they chose STEM jobs.
- 10:30 - 11 a.m., "Dreams Soar" with Captain Shaesta Waiz, the first certified civilian female pilot from Afghanistan.
- 11 a.m. - noon, "The Women of STEM" which will include representatives from Dreams Soar, Grand Valley, L-3 Avionics, and General Electric.

Registration is requested for the STEMosphere® event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michigan-stemosphere-2016-november-12th-900-am-to-400-pm-tickets-27127049736>

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2016

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

Grand Valley named a green college by Princeton Review

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges by The Princeton Review for the seventh year in a row. The university is included in the 2016 edition of "The Princeton Review's Guide to 361 Green Colleges."

The guide profiles higher education institutions in the U.S. that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability based on academic offerings and career preparation for students, as well as campus practices, initiatives and activities. Grand Valley has been included in the guidebook every year since the first issue was published in 2010.

This latest recognition reflects Grand Valley's commitment to sustainability. Some efforts that took place in 2016 are described below.

- In March 2016, Grand Valley ranked first in the state and in the top 15 in the country in the composting category of the nationwide recycling contest Recyclemania.
- By the end of 2016, Grand Valley will avoid utility costs of at least \$2.3 million annually through the use of energy-efficient practices and procedures.
- Thanks to a \$55,000 grant from Consumers Energy, a Grand Valley team designed and built two solar-energy-producing modules that travel West Michigan to demonstrate the benefits of solar energy.

For more information, contact the Office of Sustainability Practices at www.gvsu.edu/sustainability or (616) 331-7366.

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2016

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

NOTE: Photos of the temporary lighting towers are available: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0hY>

Grand Valley, Consumers Energy partner on new street lights along 48th Avenue

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University, Consumers Energy and Allendale Township are working together to install permanent street lights by housing near the Allendale Campus. Six temporary lighting towers were installed on 48th Avenue over the weekend.

The temporary lighting towers that illuminate the sidewalks along 48th Avenue are located between Pierce Street and Lake Michigan Drive. Three additional towers will be installed near the bus stop on Pierce Street across from Copper Beech Townhouses and near two bus stops on West Campus Drive near Campus West Apartments. Consumers Energy and Grand Valley will share costs of the temporary towers.

The plan for permanent streetlights to be installed along 48th Avenue is underway. Utility field staff surveyed the area October 10, and Consumers Energy will present Allendale Township with a permanent design plan this week.

The temporary lighting towers are part of efforts to quickly implement measures to enhance the safety of students living near the Allendale Campus.

"Safety is the most important priority right now," said Tim Thimmesch, associate vice president for Facilities Services. "The temporary lighting towers that we installed over the weekend are being checked daily. It's important that we all work together to make sure Grand Valley students and the community are safe."

Grand Valley's President Thomas J. Haas expressed his appreciation to Consumers Energy and Allendale Township for responding quickly to the university's concern about street lighting. "It is my hope that a permanent fix can be installed soon. In the meantime, the portable lights are a visible reminder of our commitment to student safety," said Haas.

Dan Malone, senior vice president of Energy Resources for Consumers Energy, said his team is expediting a street lighting design requested by the township.

Installing lighting is just one safety measure Grand Valley has taken. University staff members have met with managers from area apartment complexes to discuss steps that should be taken ensure the safety of their residents. The Grand Valley Police Department has increased its presence on campus, and Ottawa County has increased patrols in the areas surrounding the Allendale Campus.

For immediate release

October 18, 2016

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/0cC>.

Beethoven's only ballet to be performed during GVSU Fall Arts Celebration

ALLENDALE, Mich. — While Beethoven's composition résumé is filled with numerous historic and well-known works, many people are not aware that the multifaceted composer also wrote a single ballet in 1801.

Grand Valley State University students, along with renowned dance ensemble, The Francesca Harper Project, will perform an original interpretation of "The Creatures of Prometheus" during this year's Fall Arts Celebration dance event.

The Francesca Harper Project and GVSU Dance present "Beethoven's The Creatures of Prometheus Ballet"

Monday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Louis Armstrong Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Allendale Campus

Performance preceded by carillon concert from 7-7:20 p.m.

Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair, said "The Creatures of Prometheus" has little to do with the classical version of Prometheus, the mythical Greek titan who had a reputation of being a clever trickster, and who famously gave the human race the gift of fire and the skill of metalwork.

Instead, Beethoven imagined Prometheus as a righteous, idealistic god-like figure who brings to humans an understanding of morality and virtue — creating humankind through the power of music and art.

Based in New York City, The Francesca Harper Project was founded by Harper in 2005 as a nonprofit performing arts company dedicated to creating ground-breaking dance, music and theater works.

Phipps said it will be no easy task for the Grand Valley students joining The Francesca Harper Project in this full-scale ballet production.

"Performing music for a live ballet requires absolute concentration and attention to tempo and musical interpretation as the physical demands of dance leave little room for variance by the performers," Phipps said. "Our dance students will both collaborate with and observe one of the country's unique voices in choreography as Francesca Harper applies a modern and exceptional interpretation of both the Prometheus myth and Beethoven's own vision of the demigod as a liberator of mankind."

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

October 17, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A photo of Walenta can be found at this Dropbox link <http://qvsu.edu/s/Oiw>

WGVU general manager appointed to Holocaust education council

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Michael T. Walenta, WGVU Public Media general manager, has been appointed to the Governor's Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education.

Gov. Rick Snyder appointed 15 members to the council, which was created to enhance genocide education to students and train teachers in providing genocide education.

In 2010, WGVU produced two documentaries, *Surviving Auschwitz: Children of the Shoah*, and *Defying Hitler*. Both documentaries were distributed nationally through PBS, shown internationally and received a Michigan Emmy, along with several other national and international awards.

Surviving Auschwitz features Tova Friedman and Frieda Tenenbaum, who were among the youngest of 7,000 prisoners found alive by a regiment of the Soviet Army. The documentary highlights their trip back to Auschwitz with their children, as they faced the sorrow of their past and sought to heal the wounds felt through two generations.

Defying Hitler tells the story of Joseph Stevens as he traveled with his son to revisit some of the places of his past. Stevens, who was part of the Polish Underground, is considered a hero.

Walenta, along with WGVU/PBS LearningMedia, has launched several educational assets being used as part of the Michigan Department of Education Genocide Holocaust Education curriculum.

"I'm very honored and humbled to have been appointed by the governor to serve on this council," said Walenta. "Working on the WGVU documentaries, *Surviving Auschwitz and Defying Hitler*, has always been one of the proudest moments in my entire broadcasting career. It is a story that needs to be shared and understood everywhere. I look forward to bringing what we do in education and media to help make a difference."

Walenta will serve a two-year term, expiring on August 26, 2018.

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2016

Contact: Nate Hoekstra, University Communications, Grand Valley State University (616) 331-2221

Messy politics nothing new in the U.S., speaker says

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Strong political polarization and infighting in Congress is nothing new in American politics, and has arguably been worse than it is today, according to a historian and author who will speak at Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies on October 20.

Ronald White will talk about modern political bickering and diametrically opposed sides of the political spectrum in an election year when he talks about "American Ulysses," his biography of President Ulysses S. Grant, who won the presidency in the historically challenging years following the end of the Civil War.

"This presentation will strike a massively powerful chord with anyone who is invested in what our country is going through right now," said Gleaves Whitney, director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies. "From political polarization to feelings that the country is changing to one that's no longer recognizable, White will draw amazing parallels between modern day and the biggest political fight of the 19th century."

White will also discuss Grant's legacy and how history tends to reflect on the achievements of two-term presidents over time, which will shed light on the eventual legacy of President Barack Obama, the nation's latest two-term president.

White is a *New York Times* bestselling author and a contributor to the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Christian Science Monitor* and more. He will bring history to life and give context to today's political events by showing that reputations of leaders change over time.

Ronald White: American Ulysses

October 20, 7 p.m.

Grand Valley State University Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Loosemore Auditorium

Registration is requested here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0il>

Grant was considered one of the greatest leaders in American history in the late 19th century, but during the 20th century, evaluations of Grant's legacy became more critical, Whitney said.

"In his new book *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant*, White has taken years of meticulous research and put together an argument that the time is right for a fresh evaluation of Grant's important contributions to American life," Whitney said.

This event is presented in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Library and Museum.

For immediate release

October 18, 2016

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

Film festival to showcase French cinema at GVSU, GRCC

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A collaborative film festival, hosted by the French programs at Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Community College, will introduce the West Michigan community to films with a bit of international flavor.

The Tournées Film Festival will offer free screenings of six films October 26-November 4. Dan Golembeski, professor of French at Grand Valley, and Hillery Haney, professor of French at GRCC, are coordinating the festival, which is being funded through a French-American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Foundation Tournées Film Festival Grant.

Golembeski said the film festival will provide viewers with an opportunity to become familiar with cinema produced outside of the U.S.

"The perspectives in these films are different and you will see things that American cinema will not show you," said Golembeski. "Foreign cultures will open your mind to new possibilities that before exploring them, you would never even think about. Learning about a new culture is an eye-opening experience that will change you forever."

Below is a full schedule of film screenings. The October 26, 27 and November 2 screenings will take place in Loosemore Auditorium, located in the DeVos Center on Grand Valley's Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The screenings on November 3 and 4 will take place in the ATC Auditorium on the GRCC campus.

- October 26, at 6:15 p.m. - "Valley of Love" (2015)
- October 27, at 7 p.m. - "Phantom Boy" (2015)
- November 2, at 6:30 p.m. - "La Sapienza" (2014)
- November 3, at 6 p.m. - "Chocolat" (1988)
- November 4, at 4 p.m. - "Jauja" (2014)
- November 4, at 7 p.m. - "Le Grand Homme" (2014)

Alain Gagnol, director and writer of the animated film "Phantom Boy," will be visiting Grand Valley to work with students during the festival, and will facilitate a Q&A session following the screening of the film on October 27.

The Tournées Film Festival is supported by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in U.S., the Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC), the French American Cultural Fund, Florence Gould Foundation, and Highbrow Entertainment.

For more information about the film festival, contact Golembeski at golembed@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-3169.

For immediate release

October 18, 2016

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

GVSU civil discourse symposium focuses on global migration

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's third annual Padnos/Sarosik Civil Discourse Symposium centers on global migration and the challenges and opportunities that refugees and immigrants bring to a community.

"Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees: Community Engagement and Transformation" is set for Thursday, November 10, from 5-8:30 p.m. in the Eberhard Center, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 301 Fulton St. W. The event is free and open to the public; a light dinner will be served. RSVP online by clicking [here](#).

Jack Mangala, Padnos/Sarosik professor for civil discourse, said panelists from Detroit and Grand Rapids will offer perspectives as immigrants themselves or as advocates for the immigrant community. The symposium also offers an opportunity to engage with West Michigan organizations that offer resources to refugees and immigrants.

Panelists are listed below. More about the symposium and these panelists can be found online at www.gvsu.edu/civildiscourse.

- Raquel Garcia Andersen, director of partnerships and community outreach for Global Detroit
- Susan E. Reed, managing attorney for Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- Lupe Ramos-Montigny, member of Michigan State Board of Education
- Kizombo Kalumbula, pastor of family life for Tabernacle Community Church
- Anh Nguyet Tran, president of Liaison Linguistics
- Amer Zahr, adjunct professor for University Detroit Mercy School of Law

The symposium expands on Mangala's course, "Immigration: Think Global, Act Local." 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 immediate release

October 18, 2016

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

GVSU history conference to focus on human rights in the Atlantic world

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Human rights in North America, South America, Africa, Western Europe and the Caribbean will be addressed during more than 25 presentations at the 42nd annual Great Lakes History Conference at Grand Valley State University.

Conference events will take place October 21-22 on the 2nd floor of the Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Héctor Tobar, author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Deep Down Dark: The Untold Story of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle that Set Them Free*, will present this year's keynote address on Friday, October 21. The presentation will take place at 7 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium, located in the DeVos Center. His presentation, "Workers, Readers and Resistance: a Personal Journey through Latin America and the Immigrant Experience," is free and open to the public.

The son of Guatemalan immigrants, Tobar will explore how his own personal experiences intersect and overlap with those of people, places and immigrants of Latin America that he has encountered in his travels and for his writings.

The conference will be preceded by a screening of the 2015 documentary, "Landfill Harmonic," on October 20, at 2 p.m., at Coit Creative Arts Academic (617 Coit Avenue NE) in Grand Rapids. The film follows the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a Paraguayan musical group that plays instruments made entirely out of garbage. The documentary highlights the issues of poverty and waste pollution around the world, as well as the transformative power of music.

The conference is sponsored by Grand Valley's Office of the President, History Department, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Area and Global Studies program, Latin America and Latino/a Studies program, English Department, Frederik Meijer Honors College, Modern Languages and Literatures Department, Political Science Department, School of Communications and Sociology Department.

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, independent scholars and the general public from around the world.

The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more details, visit gvsu.edu/history.

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2016

Contact: Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221
Steve Faber, Byrum & Fisk Communications, (616) 821-8006

GVSU study: \$62 million generated annually by John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum generate a combined \$62.2 million in Kent County each year, demonstrating both publicly owned institutions are critical to West Michigan's economic growth, according to a new economic impact study by a Grand Valley State University researcher.

The two venues support 766 jobs annually in Kent County and attract 526,000 visitors from outside the county, the study shows. Of those visitors, 66 percent come only to experience the zoo and museum. Combined, the institutions draw more than 800,000 county residents and out-of-towners each year.

"This economic impact study demonstrates the John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum are more than just treasured cultural institutions, they fuel Kent County's economy," said Paul Isely, professor of economics in Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business and author of the study. "The zoo and museum attract visitors from near and far who pump dollars into Kent County hotels, restaurants and a variety of other businesses."

The study illustrates visitor spending in Kent County outside of the zoo and museum, as well as the financial impact of venue operations and construction projects. Results are based on a random survey of zoo and museum visitors during the summer of 2016, as well as existing information on the number of visitors over the past year and where they live, and how much they spent at the zoo and museum. Examples of the venues' annual economic impact in Kent County:

- \$62.2 million in additional production of goods and services
- \$16.4 million directly spent by visitors outside the venues
- \$16.5 million in additional business earnings from direct, indirect and induced spending

"It's typically a good day for business when visitors line up at the zoo or museum," said Tom Lamancusa, a manager of Nawara Brothers. "The John Ball Zoo is the anchor of the West Fulton Business Corridor and a vital part of the neighborhood. Not only are the zoo and museum great family experiences for the people that live and work on the west side, but huge magnets for visitors from all over West Michigan."

Peter D'Arienzo, John Ball Zoo CEO, said: "Time and again the John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum promote Kent County as a place to work, live, raise a family and do business. The zoo will continue working with the museum to provide cultural and educational destinations for generations of children and families."

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

Learn more about the Grand Rapids Public Museum at www.grpm.org. Learn more about the John Ball Zoo at www.jbzoo.org.

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2016

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

MSU president to speak at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Contemporary land-grant universities need to adapt their core values of quality, inclusiveness and connectivity to 21st-century realities, according to Lou Anna Simon, president of Michigan State University.

Simon will be the speaker for the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture Series October 31 at Grand Valley State University. Her speech, "Land-grant Engagement for the 21st Century," begins at 8 a.m.; breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.

MSU was chartered in 1855 under Michigan law as a state land-grant university, receiving an appropriation of 14,000 acres of state-owned land to fund its creation. Michigan State then became the nation's first land-grant institution under the Morrill Act of 1862, serving as a model for future land-grant universities.

Lou Anna K. Simon Breakfast Lecture

October 31, 8 a.m.

L. William Seidman Center, 50 Front. Ave.

GVSU Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Free and open to the public

RSVP at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OiE>

Simon is the 20th president of Michigan State University. She began her career at MSU after earning a doctorate there in 1974, starting as an assistant professor in the Office of Institutional Research. Simon has held a variety of administrative roles at MSU, including assistant provost for general academic administration, associate provost, and provost and vice president for academic affairs. The MSU Board of Trustees appointed her president in January 2005.

Simon chairs the Association of American Universities, a group of 62 leading U.S. and Canadian research universities focused on research funding, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education. She also chairs the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board, a group of presidents and chancellors of several prominent U.S. universities that consults regularly with national agencies responsible for security, intelligence and law enforcement.

The event is sponsored by the Seidman College of Business Alumni Association. For more information contact the Seidman College of Business at (616) 331-7100 or email busalumn@gvsu.edu.

MEDIA NOTE

October 18, 2016

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2222, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

GVSU, Cornerstone University to sign concurrent enrollment agreement

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Leaders from Grand Valley State University and Cornerstone University will sign a consortium agreement October 19 that will allow students to concurrently enroll at both universities.

The agreement will allow Grand Valley to expand its engineering program and create four new emphasis areas under its interdisciplinary engineering major. It will allow Cornerstone to offer engineering degrees for the first time.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas and Cornerstone President Joseph Stowell will sign the agreement Wednesday, October 19, at 7:30 a.m. in room 2201 of the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. Media members are welcome to cover the event.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said the agreement addresses the need for more engineers in Michigan.

"There is a shortage of engineering graduates in the state and West Michigan in particular," Plotkowski said. "We are very pleased to work closely with Cornerstone on this agreement to provide resources and support for future engineers at both universities."

Shawn Newhouse, vice president for Traditional Undergraduate Academics, said: "We are delighted to be working with Grand Valley to provide our students with market-sensitive academic programs that fit the traditional job industries as well as those that are quickly expanding."

Courses for the four emphasis areas (environmental engineering, design and innovation engineering, engineering management, and data science and engineering) of the interdisciplinary engineering major at Grand Valley will be taught at Cornerstone and Grand Valley. Students from Cornerstone will complete engineering fundamental courses at Grand Valley.

The agreement will take effect January 1, 2017, pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2016

Contact: Leah Twilley, GVSU University Communications, (616) 331-2222, twilleyl@gvsu.edu

NOTE: Photos of the signing are available to use: <http://gvsu.edu/s/OiG>

GVSU, Cornerstone University sign concurrent enrollment agreement

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Presidents from Grand Valley State University and Cornerstone University signed a partnership agreement October 19 that will allow students to concurrently enroll at both universities.

Under the agreement, Grand Valley will expand its engineering program and create four new emphasis areas in its interdisciplinary engineering major. Cornerstone intends to offer engineering degrees for the first time.

Courses for the four emphasis areas (environmental engineering, design and innovation engineering, engineering management, and data science and engineering) of the interdisciplinary engineering major will be taught at both Cornerstone and Grand Valley.

Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas and Cornerstone President Joseph Stowell signed the agreement in the Kirkhof Center on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus.

Haas said the agreement addresses the need for more engineers in Michigan.

"This unique partnership between public and private universities will provide the opportunity for students to develop particular engineering skill sets that are needed in West Michigan and the region," Haas said. "Grand Valley is pleased to work with Cornerstone to ensure the success of our students — our future engineers."

Stowell said this collaboration is a perfect example of the types of higher education partnerships that will become increasingly important in the future.

"By sharing support and resources, students at both universities will have a track to move forward on. We will enjoy having Grand Valley students on our campus, which will enrich our community," said Stowell.

Paul Plotkowski, dean of the Padnos College of Engineering and Computing, said: "There is a shortage of engineering graduates in the state and West Michigan in particular. We are very pleased to work closely with Cornerstone on this agreement to provide resources and support for future engineers at both universities."

The agreement will take effect January 1, 2017.

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2016

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

GVSU students ready for national day of volunteering

ALLENDALE, Mich. — More than 200 students from Grand Valley State University will participate in one of the largest annual single-days of service nationwide on Saturday, October 22.

During Make a Difference Day, students will volunteer their time to 12 Grand Rapids area organizations such as New Branches Charter Academy, Grand Rapids Public Museum and Habitat for Humanity of Kent County.

Participants will meet in the Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus at 9 a.m., where Rachel Hood, former executive director for West Michigan Environmental Action Council, will welcome volunteers before they are bused to various sites throughout Grand Rapids.

Entering its 24th year, Make a Difference Day is held annually and supported by millions of Americans.

For more information, contact Melissa Baker-Boosamra in the Office of Student Life at (616) 331-2345 or bakerbme@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2016

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

GVSU receives national honor for community service

--University a finalist for interfaith community service

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The President's Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition an institution of higher education can receive for its community service work and civic engagement.

The 2015 Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. Institutions were picked for their scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Grand Valley was also named an Interfaith Community Service finalist, an award of high distinction. Grand Valley was one of the top four finalist, chosen from a pool of 750 applicants. The Interfaith and Community Service challenge invites higher education institutions to commit to a year of interfaith cooperation and community service programming on campus.

Since 2008, Grand Valley has been nationally recognized for community service (including service-learning) through the Honor Roll.

The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

For immediate release

October 25, 2016

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

Panel at GVSU to examine Flint water crisis, state of Grand Rapids city services

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — State and municipal leaders will discuss the response to the Flint water crisis and the health of city services in Grand Rapids at the November Health Forum of West Michigan event.

"Municipal Infrastructure and Health" is set for Friday, November 4, at 8 a.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, on Grand Valley State University's Pew Grand Rapids Campus, 401 Fulton St. W. The event, sponsored by the Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research Center and Grand Valley, starts with a light breakfast at 7:30 a.m. It is free and open to the public.

Panelists are Keith Creagh, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Eric DeLong, deputy city manager, City of Grand Rapids; and Eric Pessell, director of the environmental health division, Kent County Health Department. Julia VanderMolen, assistant professor of allied health sciences, will be the moderator.

Register online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

The Health Forum of West Michigan events are offered on the first Friday of each month and provide open discussions on current health topics.

For Immediate Release

October 26, 2016

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

GVSU, SVSU face off to raise funds for charity

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Once again, Grand Valley State University is facing off against rival Saginaw Valley State University for the Battle of the Valleys fundraising competition. The proceeds raised at Grand Valley will go to the Laker Children's Fund, established in 2014 to assist groups and local non-profits that work with children.

The competition, which runs from October 30-November 5, coincides with the football game between the Grand Valley Lakers and Saginaw Valley Cardinals. The game takes place November 5 at 3 p.m. at the University Center in Saginaw. The winning university receives a traveling trophy, which is presented at half time at the football game.

Battle of the Valleys began in 2003 and has raised more than \$510,000 for local and national charities that benefit children. The campus tradition is organized by Student Senate and Laker Traditions.

Fundraising events are scheduled each night of the week on Grand Valley's Allendale Campus and T-shirts will be sold in Kirkhof Center.

- **October 30:** Pumpkin 5k at 10 a.m. at Enclave Apartments; Haunted Halls at 8 p.m. in Holton Hooker Living and Learning Center
- **October 31:** Angry Bird competition at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby
- **November 1:** Pumpkin Smash from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; GV's Got Talent at 9 p.m. in Cook-DeWitt Center
- **November 2:** Pie Day from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; Mr. Laker at 9 p.m. in Cook-DeWitt Center
- **November 3:** Battle of the Valleys Carnival from noon-3 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; Super Smash Bros. Tournament from 3-11 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 2215; Family Fued at 9 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room
- **November 4:** Battle of the Valley Carnival from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lobby; Mission IMPROVable at 7 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room; Water Pong at 8 p.m. in Kirkhof Center lounge

For more information, visit gvsu.edu/battleofthevalleys.

For Immediate Release

October 27, 2016

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

Education Commission Listening Tour to stop in Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Members of Gov. Rick Snyder's 21st Century Education Commission are traveling the state to hear from residents and parents on how to improve the state's education system. Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas chairs the commission of 25 educators, business leaders and nonprofit professionals.

The commission's Listening Tour makes its first stop November 3 at the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, 851 Madison Ave. SE in Grand Rapids, from 3:45-5 p.m.

“Improving our education system to ensure that Michigan students are prepared for success in the 21st century global economy is a serious responsibility for us all,” Haas said. “We are excited to hear from Michigan residents and discuss solutions for making sure every student has the opportunity to receive an outstanding education.”

In September, the commission also announced a new website to gather public input and provide updates on its work. The website (www.mieducationcommission.com) features opportunities for residents to participate in polls, learn more about the commissioners and read news stories about Michigan's education system.

The commission was created in March to recommend improvements to restructure Michigan's education system; members must issue a final report to the governor by February 28.

For more information and to provide input, visit www.mieducationcommission.com.

For immediate release

October 28, 2016

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

Scholar will discuss censorship, religion at GVSU event

ALLENDALE, Mich. — A professor of religion at the University of Chicago will bring first-hand accounts of religion and censorship when she delivers a keynote presentation at Grand Valley State University.

Wendy Doniger, scholar and author of *The Hindus: An Alternative History*, will give a presentation on Monday, November 7, at noon in the Mary Idema Pew Library, on the Allendale Campus. Her presentation will be preceded by a reception that begins at 11:30 a.m. and followed by a book signing. The event is free and open to the public.

Sarah King, associate professor of liberal studies and program coordinator for religious studies, said Doniger's book was withdrawn from publication in India because it offended a group of right-wing nationalists. *The Hindus* was published in India in 2010 and became the target of lawsuits, including that it violated the country's law of deliberately offending a person's religious sensibilities. In 2014, Penguin Books India announced it would not publish the book in India, an announcement that drew calls of censorship.

King said Doniger, a prolific author of more than 40 books, will talk about the challenges of discussing sensitive topics in religion, especially Hinduism.

Abhishek Ghosh, assistant professor of religious studies, studied with Doniger as a graduate student. "Wendy may be very controversial in India, but these controversial ideas are also very important to understanding alternative perspectives on Hinduism," Ghosh said.

Doniger's presentation is sponsored by many Grand Valley departments: Area and Global Studies, Brooks College Dean's Office, Meijer Honors College, Human Rights Minor, Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Liberal Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology.

For more information, contact the Religious Studies Department at (616) 331-8020 or relstudies@gvsu.edu.

For immediate release

November 2, 2016

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

GVSU event will highlight Michigan's Indian immigrant community

-- Event caps week of events to celebrate new academic major

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Area and Global Studies department will launch its newest major with a series of events including a keynote presentation about the contributions and successes of Michigan's Indian immigrant community.

Students began taking classes in the new major, Global Studies and Social Impact, in August. Program content includes global migration, a fitting topic for the keynote presenter, according to Steeve Buckridge, program director.

Arifa Javed, professor of sociology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, will deliver an address November 17 at 4 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center on the Allendale Campus. Her presentation, "Transnationalism and Global Citizenship in the New Millennium," is free and open to the public.

Javed also produced a documentary, "Essential Arrival: Michigan's Indian Immigrants in the 21st Century," which will be screened on campus November 15 and 16. Visit www.gvsu.edu/gsi for times and locations.

"Essential Arrival" premiered in Mumbai, India, at the Cine International Film Festival in 2015 and at the East Lansing Film Festival in 2014.

For more information about Javed's presentation, contact Area and Global Studies at (616) 331-8110 or visit www.gvsu.edu/gsi.

For Immediate Release

November 3, 2016

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

GVSU to offer students transportation to the polls

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will provide transportation to the Allendale polling location for students on Election Day.

"Voter vans" will run every 20 minutes from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on November 8. The pick-up and drop-off location is the bus stop in front of Kirkhof Center on the Allendale Campus. Students will be taken to the Allendale Charter Township voting precinct at Life Stream Church, located at 6561 Lake Michigan Dr.

Since August, more than 3,000 students have become registered voters thanks to on-campus efforts to educate and encourage students about registration and voting.

Those efforts have earned Grand Valley recognition. The university was recently designated as a Voter Friendly Campus by Campus Vote Project, a national initiative that helps universities empower students with information they need to vote. Grand Valley holds the record for the university with the highest number of voter registration applications submitted in one day to the Secretary of State's Mobile Unit. The unit was on campus on National Voter Registration Day September 27.

Transportation is organized by Grand Valley's Student Senate and the Community Service Learning Center.

For more information about voting efforts, visit gvsu.edu/service/vote.

For Immediate Release

November 3, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: Photos from the workshop can be found on Dropbox at <http://gvsu.edu/s/OjH>

GVSU holds technology workshop for Cass Tech students

DETROIT — More than 20 students from Cass Technical High School in Detroit learned about the latest business technologies during the SAP® Young Thinkers Program hosted by Grand Valley's Seidman College of Business and SAP University Alliance. The event was held October 28 at the GVSU Detroit Center in downtown Detroit.

Students spent the day participating in hands-on exercises that tested their analytical and creative thinking skills, while learning about careers in business and technology. They learned about business and data processes, including working with SAP (Systems, Applications and Products) software.

The program aims to help young students understand Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems and its impact on businesses and everyday life. ERP refers to the automation and integration of a company's core business to help focus on effectiveness and simplified success.

"Students were able to see how technology and working as a team is a big part of any business career," said Meagan Knoll, clinical affiliate professor in the Seidman College of Business. "The workshop sparked new interest for students to pursue careers in business and technology and that is the goal of Young Thinkers."

The program is sponsored by General Motors, SAP University Alliance and the Enterprise Systems Student Union.

For more information, contact Meagan Knoll at (616) 331-7346.

For immediate release

November 8, 2016

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/0cC>.

Acclaimed author to discuss art, geography and community at GVSU

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Acclaimed author Rebecca Solnit will serve as this year's Fall Arts Celebration distinguished academic lecturer at Grand Valley State University. During her presentation, Solnit will discuss the intersections between art, geography and community.

Distinguished Academic Lecturer: Rebecca Solnit

"Seeing the Invisible: Journeys through the Overlooked, Unheard, Outside and Insurrectionary"

Monday, November 14, at 7 p.m.

L.V. Eberhard Center (2nd floor), Pew Grand Rapids Campus

Lecture followed by book signing and reception

A San Francisco-based writer, historian and activist, Solnit is the author of 15 books about a variety of topics, including geography, community, art, politics, hope and feminism. One of her benchmark publications, *Men Explain Things to Me*, is credited with launching the term "mansplaining," which describes when a man explains something to a woman in a condescending or patronizing manner. It has also been labeled as a touchstone of the feminist movement.

"Solnit is very much a public intellectual who believes in the value of the communal, and also, even in the midst of grim times, the power of art and hope," said Beth Peterson, assistant professor of writing. "It seems especially fitting with the water crisis in Flint looming largely in Michigan to bring in a writer who connects art and activism, and who is interested in considering how citizens can engage with their communities."

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

November 10, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: The full report from Brian Long along with audio bites are available on DropBox at: <http://gvsu.edu/s/Ok2>

GVSU economist: Local economy is flat

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The West Michigan economy experienced slow, shallow growth in October, according to 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 October.

The survey's index of business improvement (new orders) retreated to +1, down from +23 last month. In a similar move, the production index eased to +4, from +24. The index of purchases returned to a negative reading of -3, down from +15. The employment index remained positive at +7, but fell slightly from +9.

"It's not surprising to see that most groups flattened," said Long. "Several of the auto parts suppliers raised concern over the recent softening in auto sales, and noted that new quotation requests were down considerably. The office furniture industry continues to show evidence of topping out, although business conditions still remain positive."

Long said Ottawa County's unemployment rate of 2.7 percent continues to be the lowest in the state, while Allegan and Kent counties tied for second place at 2.9 percent.

"The unemployment picture for West Michigan continues to improve, but the changes are now very small," said Long. "Wages are starting to show significant improvement for the first time in more than seven years. Michigan still has about 80,000 jobs that cannot be filled because of a shortage of qualified workers. Unfortunately, the education system is currently doing little to close this gap."

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."

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

For immediate release

November 10, 2016

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

Registration deadline for GVSU science conference extended

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Teachers from districts across Michigan will gather November 16 to expand their teaching strategies surrounding K-12 education, during the 32nd 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. The registration deadline has been extended to Friday, November 11. Registration can be completed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/rmsc/fall-science-update-21.htm>.

Cost for the conference is \$45 per person, \$20 for undergraduate students and \$10 for undergraduate students without lunch.

The theme for this year's conference is "Implementing STEM by Design." Break-out sessions and presentations will focus on how to make the implementation of the new Michigan Science Standards a reality in K-12 classrooms. New this year will be a conference track for school administrators.

The Fall Science Update will feature three keynote speakers.

The elementary track speaker will be Tracy Horodyski, instructional coach for Kenowa Hills Public Schools and 2017 Michigan Department of Education Teacher of the Year. Kevin Sylvester, Grand Haven Lakeshore Middle School science teacher, is the secondary education keynote speaker. For the administrator track, James Emmerling, director of the Genesee Area Math and Science Center, will be presenting.

For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/rmsc or contact Kathy Agee at (616) 331-3031.

For immediate release

November 11, 2016

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

GVSU contributes to America Recycles Day event

HOLLAND, Mich. — Grand Valley students, faculty and staff members will participate in the fourth annual America Recycles Day in Holland, as part of the Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore series.

The event, "I Didn't Know I Could Recycle That?" is set for Tuesday, November 15, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave. It is free and open to the public.

Speakers will include Chelsea Brehm, faculty member in the sport leadership program, who will discuss the success of the Gazelle Girl Half-Marathon as a zero waste event. Ken Freestone, a liberal studies major, will serve as the evening's emcee.

Other presentations will focus on sustainability at home, how to keep items from landfills and practical business solutions. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/holland or call (616) 331-3910.

Partners in the Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore series are City of Holland, GreenMichigan.org, Chef Container LLC, Grand Valley Meijer Campus in Holland, and TerraCycle.

For immediate release

November 14, 2016

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

GVSU summer film set for world premiere

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — After months of filming and editing by Grand Valley State University students and faculty, the 2016 Summer Film Project is set for its world premiere.

The premiere of "Lucky Jay: Season 2" will take place November 18 at Celebration Cinema! North in Grand Rapids at 8:40 p.m. "Lucky Jay: Season 1" will be screening at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is \$10, which includes the double feature and entry into an after-party at 10 p.m.

In 2014, "Lucky Jay" was produced in an episodic format à la Netflix as the Summer Film Project, and Season 2 follows the same format. The new, six-episode comedy-drama follows the continuing antics of a young film professor named Jay Calder. While Calder is away on sabbatical writing his book and wooing his love interest Kate, Calder's confidant, professor Hugh Anderson, is left running the fictional university's film department with a hostile administration led by new college president Chip Throne.

The cast and crew, composed of more than 20 Grand valley students, along with about 15 professional actors, filmed "Lucky Jay: Season 2" at various locations around West Michigan, including the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses, the Blue Bridge in Grand Rapids and Grand Haven.

Since 1994, the Summer Film Project has provided students with the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals while producing a feature length film.

For more information about the "Lucky Jay" series, visit www.luckyjayseries.com.

MEDIA NOTE

November 14, 2016

Grand Valley State University will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of its health campus in Grand Rapids.

Media is welcome to join invited guests November 22 from 3-5 p.m. at the groundbreaking site, at the corner of Lafayette and Hastings streets in Grand Rapids. A media platform and mult box will be available.

GVSU to break ground on health campus expansion in Grand Rapids

With more than 5,000 students enrolled in Grand Valley's health-related courses, the university's Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile has been over capacity for the last four years. The health campus expansion begins with the construction of a five-story building that will include classroom, laboratory and office space to support Grand Valley's College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing.

The expansion will allow for additional programming and the ability to accommodate more students to meet the increasing demand for graduates in Grand Valley's 19 health sciences programs. Grand Valley is the region's No. 1 provider of health care professionals.

Speakers will include Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas, Provost Gayle Davis, students and Grand Rapids city officials.

The budget, \$37.5 million for the building project and \$9 million for the parking project, is being funded by donor support, university-issued bonds and campus development funds. Construction is expected to be completed in May 2018.

For more information, contact Dottie Barnes, University Communications, Grand Valley State University, (616) 331-2221 or barnesdo@gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2016

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

Susan Loughrin, GVSU College of Education, (616) 331-6706

GVSU, MDEQ partnership offers environmental education resources

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's College of Education has partnered with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to develop and roll out a new online education resource for teachers. The learning modules include videos and resources to help state educators teach students about key environmental issues such as water quality, land use and climate change.

The modules, or Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS), are a part of PBS LearningMedia. PBS LearningMedia offers free digital content designed to support technology and digital resource integration into the classroom. The College of Education and WGVSU Public Media began a partnership with PBS LearningMedia in 2014.

"Expanding this partnership to include MEDQ will give teachers access to vital environmental learning materials," said Michael Fillman, WGVSU education coordinator. "Teachers will be able to utilize inquiry-oriented, data-based lessons in science and social studies to enhance learning for students."

The online modules contain seven Michigan-specific units which provide an opportunity for students in grades 3-9 to learn about the state's economy and environment. The units have been field tested by 120 teachers in more than 200 Michigan classrooms. The units can be used individually, adopted into a school's multi-year science curricula or combined to form the basis for an integrated science course.

"I can use the curriculum to make my current lessons more visual, more hands-on and more inquiry-based," said Robert Barrett, an environmental science teacher at West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science. "It lays out plans and activities that have clear goals and a solid procedure for rolling lessons out to my students."

To learn more about the MEECS online work, visit www.wgvsu.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/meecs/

For immediate release

November 16, 2016

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

GVSU Traverse City center to celebrate rural health day

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Grand Valley State University's Traverse City Regional Center will celebrate National Rural Health Day with an event that spotlights the university's programs and region as a collaborative model.

The event is Thursday, November 17, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Bowers Harbor Vineyards, 2896 Bowers Harbor Road. RSVP by sending an email to nminfo@gvsu.edu or calling (231) 995-1785.

The event will highlight clinical partnerships throughout the region and students and faculty members involved in Grand Valley's health programs: physician assistant studies, nursing, public health, allied health and social work.

Kyle Sarber is majoring in allied health and is a concurrent student at Northwestern Michigan College, where he is taking pre-requisite courses for the physician assistant studies master's degree program. He said he is grateful to Grand Valley for opening the door to a career as a physician assistant.

"I work at Munson Medical Center as an aide and as a firefighter/EMT for Peninsula Fire Department," Sarber said. "These experiences are opening doors and connections for my future."

Michelle Strange graduated with a master's degree in physician assistant studies and lives in the Traverse City area. Strange said she completed the majority of her clinical rotations in northern Michigan.

"This gave me the opportunity to network in the area and I had three job offers by graduation, all within an hour of my home," she said. "I love being able to serve my community and make a positive impact in an underserved area."

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

For Immediate Release

November 22, 2016

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

MEDIA NOTE: A rendering of Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall and photo of Raleigh Finkelstein is available at the following Dropbox link. Photos and video of the ceremony will be added shortly: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0kw>

GVSU breaks ground on health campus expansion

--New building named for area business leader

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The new building to expand Grand Valley State University's health campus in Grand Rapids has been named for area business leader Raleigh J. Finkelstein during a groundbreaking ceremony November 22.

With more than 300 people in attendance, officials from Grand Valley, City of Grand Rapids and Neighbors of Belknap Lookout broke ground for Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall, located at 500 Lafayette. The five-story, 84,000-square-foot building will include classroom, laboratory and office space to support the College of Health Professions and Kirkhof College of Nursing. It will include four classrooms, 15 teaching laboratories, a computer lab and 90 faculty and staff offices and parking spaces. The project also includes student study spaces, student organization space and work/break rooms.

Finkelstein, the first and lead donor for the building, said he is excited about what this means for the future of Grand Rapids and the region where he grew up.

"We have the finest health care here, not necessarily the biggest, but definitely the finest," Finkelstein said. "Grand Valley plays an important part in that quality, and we need more talented Grand Valley graduates caring for our families."

Born and raised on Grand Rapids' east side, Finkelstein's financial and business acumen helped him grow MC Sporting Goods into the largest retail operation of its kind in the Midwest before selling the retail chain.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Grand Valley President Thomas J. Haas gave welcoming remarks and spoke of the imperative for Grand Valley to expand its health campus. "As the leading provider of health care professionals in West Michigan, we need additional and enhanced laboratory, classroom and collaborative workspaces so that we can continue to attract highly talented students, faculty and caregivers to our region," Haas said.

Joseph Jones, Second Ward city commissioner in Grand Rapids, said officials from the city, university and Belknap neighborhood came together to do something that has never been done before.

"We came together to dialogue, negotiate and come to a mutual understanding that is beneficial for everyone involved, including local residents," said Jones. "The agreement will mean a new building for Grand Valley, but also new, affordable, quality housing in the neighborhood."

With more than 5,000 students enrolled in Grand Valley's highly competitive health-related courses, the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, which opened in 2003 on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile, has been over-capacity for the last four years.

Provost Gayle R. Davis said the expansion will allow for additional programming and accommodate more students to meet the increasing demand for Grand Valley graduates in the university's 19 health professions and nursing programs.

"We will be able to add new health sciences programs as they become needed by our regional and statewide health care providers," said Davis. "Expanding our classroom and laboratory facilities will create more opportunities for students to attain the foundation they need prior to their clinical experiences."

Nicole Schafer represented nursing and health professions students at the groundbreaking. As a physician assistant studies major, Schafer said she is excited about what the expansion means for students.

"This building will provide more lab space and resources to continue the rich learning environment that Grand Valley provides," Schafer said. "I chose Grand Valley because of its reputation for having quality and rigorous programs. It has been challenging, but I have received incredible support from the faculty. They helped me find my purpose in life."

The budget, \$37.5 million for the building project and \$9 million for the parking project, is being funded by donor support, university-issued bonds and campus development funds.

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber is the project architect and Rockford Construction Company is the construction manager.

Construction is expected to be completed in May 2018.

For immediate release

November 28, 2016

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

Media note: photos of Powell and Crenshaw are available via this link: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0kC>

GVSU announces keynote speakers for 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Two national personalities will highlight Grand Valley State University's commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week with keynote presentations in January.

Kevin Powell, author, humanitarian and president of BK Nation; and Kimberlé Crenshaw, professor of law at UCLA and Columbia and civil rights expert, will visit campus January 16 and 18, respectively. Both presentations are free and open to the public.

Powell will give an address in the Fieldhouse at 1:30 p.m., following a silent march on the Allendale Campus. His organization, BK Nation (Building Knowledge), centered on grassroots activism, pop culture, technology, and social media to spark projects and campaigns. He has written 12 books, the most recent is "The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey into Manhood."

Crenshaw is known for coining two terms — critical race theory and intersectionality — that have proved foundational in many areas of study. She is a leading voice in calling for a gender-inclusive approach to racial justice interventions, having spearheaded the Why We Can't Wait Campaign and co-authored "Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced and Underprotected," and "Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women."

Her presentation will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, it will be simulcast to the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

With the theme, "Engaging and Empowering Community," the campus' 2017 commemoration of King's life and legacy will be the fifth year classes have been canceled on the King holiday, allowing for more students, faculty and staff members to participate in events.

Visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk for details on the rest of the week's events.

For immediate release

November 28, 2016

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/0cC>.

Holiday celebration to conclude GVSU Fall Arts Celebration

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Considered to be a musical fixture of the holiday season by audiences around the world, George Frideric Handel's "Messiah" is a time-honored classic that will conclude Fall Arts Celebration at Grand Valley State University.

Musical Tradition and Timeless Memories: Handel's "Messiah"

December 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Fountain Street Church (24 Fountain St. SE, Grand Rapids)

The voices of the Grand Valley State University Arts Chorale, along with the GVSU Symphony Orchestra, will perform "Messiah" during the holiday celebration.

First performed in 1742, the "Messiah" quickly became a Yuletide event repeated in London and across the English-speaking world each year for more than 250 years.

"The qualities which have elevated 'Messiah' above those created by so many other composers are the richness and variety of the music, the insightful matching of word and sound and the consistently inspired evocations of such universal emotions as sorrow, serenity and joy," said Danny Phipps, Music and Dance Department chair.

The first part of "Messiah," which is centered on the prophecy and the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, will be performed along with other holiday favorites for orchestra, vocal solo and choir.

"From the majestic tenor narrative, 'Comfort ye,' to the reverential, smoothly flowing melodic lines of the 'Pifa,' and ending with the brilliance of the 'Hallelujah Chorus,' we invite the community to immerse themselves in Handel's timeless music all presented within the magnificent acoustic environment of Fountain Street Church," said Phipps.

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

December 5, 2016

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

NOTE: Photos of last year's commencement ceremony and a headshot of Kate Pew Wolters are available to use on Dropbox: <http://gvsu.edu/s/0kF>

GVSU to celebrate graduates December 10

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — More than 1,000 Grand Valley State University students will participate in the winter commencement ceremony December 10 at Van Andel Arena in downtown Grand Rapids.

Students will hear an address from Kate Pew Wolters, president of the Kate and Richard Wolters Foundation. The foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations that emphasize the arts, education, social justice, or people with disabilities. Pew Wolters chairs the Steelcase Foundation and Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, and is a member of Grand Valley's Board of Trustees, among other boards. President Bill Clinton appointed her to the National Council on Disability in 1994.

Grand Valley Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.

Van Andel Arena, downtown Grand Rapids

The ceremony will live stream 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.

Awards

During the ceremony, Christo T. Panopoulos will receive an honorary degree. Panopoulos immigrated to the U.S. from southern Greece in 1955 when he was 19. Following service in the U.S. Army, Panopoulos moved to Grand Rapids and managed a hair salon. He grew that business into Salon Enterprises, which includes cosmetology schools, Panopoulos Salons and Haircuts Plus Salons. He serves on the board of the Grand Valley University Foundation.

The Grand Valley Alumni Association will present the Young Alumni Award to Cory Jackson, nutrition and wellness director for YMCA of Western North Carolina. He received a bachelor's degree in public and nonprofit administration from Grand Valley in 2012. Jackson earned a \$160,000 grant to expand the YMCA's mobile nutrition fleet; the program now includes a food pantry and three mobile units.

Notable student

Nine years ago, 16-year-old Bryce Gould was involved in a car accident and he sustained a traumatic brain injury. During a time when he should have been thinking about college, he was learning how to walk and talk again. With a desire to help disabled individuals, he came to Grand Valley and majored in sociology. He will graduate on December 10 and has secured a job at Indian Trails in Grand Rapids, a life enrichment center that helps individuals with disabilities. Gould is available for interviews and can be reached at (616) 490-7905 or gouldb@mail.gvsu.edu.

For Immediate Release

December 8, 2016

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

Grand Valley named a bicycle friendly university

ALLENDALE, Mich. — Grand Valley State University has been named a Bicycle Friendly UniversitySM by The League of American Bicyclists, a national organization that encourages the use of bicycles for health and well-being.

The university received a silver award and joined 164 colleges and universities across the country that are designated as Bicycle Friendly UniversitiesSM (BFU), including fellow silver awardees Michigan State University and University of Michigan. Grand Valley was judged on several factors including education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation and planning.

"This designation not only shows that Grand Valley supports bicycling as a recreation and transportation option, but it demonstrates the university's ongoing commitment to sustainability and a healthy campus community," said Joe Bitely, assistant director of Campus Recreation, who submitted the BFU application.

Grand Valley provides a variety of bicycle-related services and support on the Allendale Campus, including a bike rental program, bike maintenance shop located in Laker Village, bike tune-ups at the Farmers Market, bike repair station and 4,173 bike parking spaces across campus.

Becoming a Bicycle Friendly UniversitySM was one goal Grand Valley [committed to in May 2016](#) as a participant of the Partnership for a Healthier America, Healthy Campus Initiative.

For more information, visit bikeleague.org/university.

For immediate release

December 15, 2016

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

GVSU will host annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Grand Valley State University will host the eighth annual West Michigan Health Care Economic Forecast on January 13, detailing health-related trends and issues that face the Grand Rapids metropolitan area.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. in the Eberhard Center, 301 Fulton St. West, on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. A light breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m.; the event is free and open to the public, RSVP online at www.gvsu.edu/vphealth.

Seidman College of Business economics professors Kevin Callison and Leslie Muller will present their findings of an annual study, "Health Check: Analyzing Trends in West Michigan," which researches health care issues in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Allegan counties.

Following their presentation, a panel of health care experts will discuss trends and challenges. Panelists are Dr. David Blair, president and chief medical officer of Mercy Health Physician Partners; Tina Freese-Decker, president of Spectrum Health Hospital Group; Nick Lyon, director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; and Jim McDonald, vice president of Total Rewards, Meijer.

Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley, said the annual Health Check report provides data that aids community leaders in health care services, government, business and education during planning and policy making decisions.

She said as health-related challenges continue in the region, collaboration among organizations will be key to developing policies that support healthy communities. "West Michigan has a strong tradition of collaborative community engagement to develop strategies for improvement of health care for our community, while also conserving valuable health care resources," Nagelkerk said.

For more information about the event, call (616) 331-5876.

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2016

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

Symposium will honor 50th anniversary of Apollo 1 tragedy

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Roger B. Chaffee, an astronaut and Grand Rapids native who died during testing on Apollo 1 in 1967, will be honored during a two-day symposium hosted by Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Public Museum.

A free conference, "Roger That! A Celebration of Space Exploration in Honor of Roger B. Chaffee," will take place February 10 at Eberhard Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus. It is open to the public and Grand Valley faculty and students are encouraged to attend. The deadline to register is February 3 at gvsu.edu/rogerthat.

Brother Guy Consolmagno will be the keynote speaker. The Detroit native is director of the Vatican Observatory in Italy, one of the oldest astronomical institutions in the world. His presentation, "Why Do We Look Up at the Heavens," will take place February 10 at 12:30 p.m. The conference will include breakout sessions featuring a variety of science, art and society topics related to space exploration.

On January 27, 1967, Chaffee was among three astronauts who died in an electrical fire that broke out during pre-flight tests on Apollo 1. Grand Rapids Public Museum renamed its planetarium to the Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium the same year.

Additional events:

- Chaffee's wife, Martha Horn Chaffee, and his daughter, Sheryl Lynn Chaffee, will give a presentation February 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35; dinner is included and a portion of sales will be donated to the Robert B. Chaffee Scholarship Fund.
- A student design competition will also take place for sixth- to 12th- grade students. A panel of judges and public voting will determine the winners, which will be announced February 11. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Students from Grand Rapids area schools will take field trips to Grand Valley and GRPM February 10. Contact Tracy Bacigal at tbacigal@grpm.org to arrange field trips.

GRPM will host several events February 11, including another presentation by Consolmagno and an opportunity to see real lunar material on display from the NASA travel collections. Space-themed activities will be available for kids and adults.

For more information about the conference, visit www.gvsu.edu/rogerthat or email rogerthat@gvsu.edu. For more information about GRPM events, visit www.grpm.org.