

# FORUM

**A NEWSLETTER FOR THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

**Published by University Communications**



## Experts discuss health care resource allocation

The economic and cultural challenges of health care resource allocation in the United States were discussed October 26 at the biannual DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Science.

“Ethics of Resource Allocation across the Lifespan” featured presentations by two national experts, Frederick Zimmerman and Mildred Solomon. A question and answer session followed that was moderated by the Rev. Julius Medenblik, president of Calvin Theological Seminary.

Zimmerman, professor of health policy and management at University of California, Los Angeles, said while the cost of health care in the U.S. is higher compared to many countries, American life expectancy is lower compared to other regions. He said changes need to be made in the economic system of health care.

“Ethics is about setting rules of the road to what outcomes we feel comfortable with, and that can be applied to the economics of health care resource allocation,” Zimmerman said.

Solomon, president and CEO for the Hastings Center in New York, said there are cultural factors that prevent conversations about resource allocation.

“Resource allocation is invisible, which causes us to lose the ability to make wise decisions,” Solomon said. “We should be a society that is motivated by human flourishing.”

Solomon said more money should be spent on disease prevention and public health, as well as on the humane care of elders and the development of healthy children.

Grand Valley became the host of this biannual medical ethics speaker series in June, thanks to a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Speakers at the DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy respond to a question October 26 at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

Foundation. The gift supports the continuation of the colloquy as part of the university’s efforts to provide outreach and education for students, the community and medical ethics centers worldwide.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/colloquy](http://www.gvsu.edu/colloquy).

## Across Campus

### Career Center seeks proposals for mini-grants

The Career Center is currently accepting proposals for the Internship Mini Grant.

These grants provide academic areas additional funding to help enhance, expand or create new internship initiatives. Funding ideas and the proposal submission form can be found online at [www.gvsu.edu/careers/img](http://www.gvsu.edu/careers/img). The deadline to apply is November 13.

Questions can be directed to Rachel Becklin at [becklira@gvsu.edu](mailto:becklira@gvsu.edu) or x16708.

### Founders Day celebrated with cupcakes, flags

The Grand Valley community celebrated Founders Day with cupcakes and a 282-flag display on the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.

The annual event marks the time when 282 individuals came together to start the vision and

foundation for Grand Valley. Founders Day was celebrated October 22 because the actual date of observance (October 25) fell on a Sunday.

President Thomas J. Haas handed out cupcakes to students and signed a drawing of the WHOJ living centers as part of a reopening



Photo by Amanda Pitts

President Thomas J. Haas signs a drawing of four living centers named for founders during Founders Day October 22.

ceremony. The living centers are named after some of the university’s founders: Ella Koeze-Weed, Icie Macy Hoobler, Arnold C. Ott and Paul A. Johnson.

This year’s Founders Day celebration fell on the same year as the university’s 55th anniversary.

Learn more about Grand Valley’s history at [www.gvsu.edu/anniversary](http://www.gvsu.edu/anniversary).

### Mindfulness expert addresses practice

Perhaps contrary to popular belief, mindfulness is not a practice of relaxation. It’s a practice of being in the moment, according to an expert in the subject.

Donald McCown, assistant professor and director of the Center for Contemplative Studies at West Chester University, gave presentations on mindfulness October 22-23 for students,

*continues on page 2*

# Across Campus

continued from page 1

faculty and staff members.

McCown said while people may think of mindfulness as an individual practice, its benefits stretch outward to colleagues, family members and friends.

"It belongs to everyone," McCown said, noting the advantages of mindfulness training include reducing stress levels and being able to manage emotions better.

His presentations were sponsored by the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center and Health and Wellness. Christine Rener, director of the FTLC and vice provost for Instructional Development and Innovation, said mindfulness has been an ongoing initiative of the center for several years and that a core faculty group is interested in contemplative pedagogy.

"One of the take-home messages from his sessions was that being mindful together is even more powerful than being mindful by oneself," she said.

Health and Wellness has created a website, [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness/mindfulness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness/mindfulness), which lists resources along with mindfulness practices that can be done at a desk. Sue Sloop, work life consultant, said more programs on mindfulness are planned for the winter semester.

## GVSU ArtPrize entry wins award

A collaborative ArtPrize entry between Grand Valley and the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra hit a high note with critics, leading to an award for the piece.

"Mathias Alten Triptych," a three-movement composition honoring paintings by late artist Mathias Alten, received a Critics' Choice Award during the St. Cecilia Music Center's ArtPrize 7 Music Awards Ceremony



Donald McCown, from West Chester University, gave presentations on mindfulness for the campus community October 22-23.

October 15. The piece, commissioned by the GRSO, was hosted at the music center among 78 other musical entrants.

Composers Bill Ryan, director of Grand Valley's New Music Ensemble; Jeremy Crosmer, GRSO assistant principle cellist; and Alexander Miller, GRSO assistant principal oboe, each chose a painting by Alten to musically interpret. The three paintings chosen were "The Grand River," "Approaching Storm" and "Gulls of Leland."

"I'm honored and excited to have our work chosen and it is especially nice because the musicians from the Grand Rapids Symphony did such a terrific job performing the music," Ryan said. "The symphony and GVSU have a long history of collaboration, so it was great to work on this project to continue that tradition."

Grand Valley holds the largest public collection of Alten works in the world, which can be viewed at the George and Barbara Gordon Gallery located in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

## National Chemistry Week celebration



Photo by Michelle DeWitt

Grand Valley chemistry students, faculty and staff members joined colleagues from Hope College, Aquinas College and Grand Rapids Community College at an interactive fair for K-12 students at Woodland Mall October 24 that celebrated National Chemistry Week.

Pictured are Chemistry Club students Taylor Muckenthaler, left, and Aaron Hillsamer.

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Faculty and staff members can find an online "Sketches" submission form on the Web at [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

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*Grand Valley Magazine*, which is published quarterly for the university community. Visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

Visit Grand Valley's online publication, *GVNow*, at [www.gvsu.edu/gvnow](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvnow), for daily news updates and video features.

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



## Garrett named first Student Ombuds

Takeelia Garrett was named Grand Valley's first Student Ombuds in September.

Garrett serves as a one-stop shop for students having almost any type of conflict, providing impartial feedback and directing students, if needed, to the appropriate on-campus resource.

"Students felt like they didn't have someone to talk to," said Garrett, who continues her role as assistant director of Housing and Residence Life.

The position falls under the Dean of Students Office. Garrett helps empower students to find mutually acceptable solutions to conflicts that college students frequently encounter. Some of these issues include financial aid, medical withdrawal, mental health concerns, landlord/tenant disputes, and coworker conflicts.

"We can try to work through pretty much anything," she said. "And if I don't know the answer I can try to find it."

While Garrett helps students find solutions to difficult problems, she's quick to point out that she is not an advocate. As the Student Ombuds, she does not provide legal advice or take sides. All meetings with her are kept confidential, except in cases of sexual assault or self-harm, where she's compelled by law to report these issues.

Since September, Garrett said she has mostly been occupied with off-campus roommate concerns, as these students do not have resident assistants to help them.

"You can't make everyone happy," she said. "But at least there's someone there for students to turn to."

While the position was recently created, the idea has been brewing for some time.

"Student Senate really pushed for this position," she said. "In the 2011 climate study there was a suggestion for it, and they just took it and ran with it."

To Garrett, the Student Ombuds position is helping Grand Valley advance its mission.

"Really, what is our first priority? Students," she said.



Takeelia Garrett

# What's Ahead

## Day of the Dead event planned by LAS

Grand Valley will observe an ancient holiday dating back to the Aztecs on Monday, November 2, celebrated as the Day of the Dead.

The celebration, sponsored by Latin American Studies, will take place from 6-8 p.m. in the atrium of the Niemeyer Honors Hall; it is free to the campus community.

This year's observation will feature an altar built by Mexican-American artist Roli Mancera, where participants can leave offerings and photos of deceased loved ones.

The Day of the Dead is a spiritual gathering of family and friends to remember those who have passed away, and to support them on their spiritual journey.

"There's a belief that the soul of the person who died is trying to find its way to the other world," said Mayra Fortes, assistant professor of Spanish. "The offerings on the altar are dedicated to what that person liked in life."

## Presentations planned on merger of humanities, data

The world of academia is progressively merging traditional humanities disciplines, such as English, history and philosophy, with those from the data sciences, including statistics and computer information sciences.



Ray Siemens

Ray Siemens, Canada research chair in humanities computing and distinguished professor of English and computer science at the University of Victoria, will visit Grand Valley November 3-4 to discuss this new interdisciplinary collaboration of "digital humanities."

Maria Cimitile, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs and associate professor of philosophy, said scholars and teachers in the field of digital humanities often incorporate text-mining, text-mapping, data visualization techniques and interactive media in their work.

Siemens will present "Foundations for Digital Self-Determination in the Humanities" on Tuesday, November 3, from 3-5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. This event will provide a general introduction to digital humanities, as well as showcase how the humanities are changing in light of technology and the ability to access and store large amounts of data.

On November 4, Siemens will present "Research Partnership Toward Open Social Scholarship: Implementing New Knowledge Environments 2.0" from 10-11 a.m. in the Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room. This talk will highlight Siemens' work with the Implementing New Knowledge Environments project (INKE), which is a collaborative group of researchers who work with various organizations to explore the digital humanities, electronic scholarly communication and the affordances of electronic text.

These presentations are sponsored by Grand Valley's Big Data Initiative, Office of the Provost, Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence.

For more information, contact Cimitile at x12400 or email the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center at [ftlc@gvsu.edu](mailto:ftlc@gvsu.edu).

## Exhibition highlights urban Native Americans

Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History will host an exhibition, "Walking Beyond Our Ancestors' Footsteps: An Urban Native Experience," beginning November 3 at the Mary Idema Pew Library.

The exhibit is one of several events planned to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. It will remain at the library through November 21, then travel to the Grand Rapids Public Library in January.

The new exhibition is the beginning of a series that will highlight Native Americans living in the Grand Rapids area during the last half-century. It is a small portion of the work completed in conjunction with the "Giginomaage-min (We are all teachers): Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit" project that kicked off last fall by the Kutsche Office of Local History.

The exhibition contains historic documents and objects made by local Native Americans during the past several decades. Shannon Martin, director of the Ziibiwing Center for Anishinabe Lifeways and Culture, will open the exhibit with a presentation beginning at 6 p.m.

The exhibition collaborators are the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Public Library, and Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, Native American Advisory Board, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Special Collections & Archives.

For more information, visit the Kutsche Office's website at [www.gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche).

## Intersections to feature Black Girl Dangerous founder

Mia McKenzie, founder of Black Girl Dangerous and an award-winning writer, will give a presentation Wednesday, November 4, as part of the annual Intersections program.

McKenzie studied writing at the University of Pittsburgh and often incorporates themes such as black feminism and queerness in her stories. She is the recipient of the 2013 Lambda Literary Award for Debut Fiction for her first novel, *The Summer We Got Free*. In 2011, she created Black Girl Dangerous, a successful, multi-faceted online forum for the literary and artistic expression of queer and trans people of color.

McKenzie's presentation will take place from 6-8 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. It is free and open to the public.

Her work has been published in *The Guardian* and *Colorlines* and her short stories have appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, among others.

Intersections is a series of events hosted by Grand Valley's Office of Multicultural Affairs, Women's Center and LGBT Resource Center. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/intersections](http://www.gvsu.edu/intersections).

## Happiness Club to meet

Participants at the November Happiness Club meeting will learn more about mindfulness.

The meeting is set for Thursday, November 5, from noon-1 p.m. in Zumberge Hall, room 1100.

The topic is mindfulness and how incorporating it as a lifestyle can help manage stress, increase productivity and lead to a fulfilled life.

## Former CEO will detail life lessons during Secchia Lecture

The former president and CEO of Campbell Soup, who was credited with turning the company around, will give a presentation at Grand Valley on Friday, November 6.

Doug Conant, who was CEO of Campbell Soup for 10 years, will give a speech, "35 Years in the Rearview Mirror: Life Lessons from the Corporate Journey," as part of the Peter F. Secchia Breakfast Lecture series. The presentation at the Seidman Center will begin at 8 a.m., breakfast is at 7:30.

Conant is a *New York Times* bestselling author with more than 35 years of leadership experience at world-class global companies. In 2011, he founded ConantLeadership, a growing community of people dedicated to improving the quality of leadership. He also serves as chair of the Kellogg Executive Leadership Institute at Northwestern University as well as chair of Avon Products.



Doug Conant

## Seminar will explore Asperger's syndrome

Author John Elder Robison will share his personal story about growing up with Asperger's syndrome during a one-day seminar November 6, hosted by the University Counseling Center.

Robison's presentation, "Neurodiversity: Understanding the Autistic Spectrum and Building Inclusive Communities," will take place at the Kirkhof Center. The seminar is from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Robison is the author of the memoir *Look Me in the Eye*. He writes about growing up at a time when a diagnosis for Asperger's syndrome did not exist, and how he became a successful businessman and father. He is currently an adjunct professor at Elms College in Massachusetts and is involved in autism research at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

The cost to attend is \$50 for faculty, staff members and students; \$90 for community members. Lunch is provided. Register at [www.gvsu.edu/counsel](http://www.gvsu.edu/counsel).

The Counseling Center Multicultural Seminar, in its 19th year, is an annual all-day professional development opportunity open to mental health professionals, higher education personnel, students and interested community members.

## Shakespeare Festival concludes with 'Witty Fools'

The annual Shakespeare Festival concludes this year with a play featuring some of the Bard's most foolish characters.

Bard to Go, Grand Valley's all-student touring Shakespeare troupe, will offer a final performance of the 50-minute production, "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits," Saturday, November 7, in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

*continues on page 4*

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

Chemistry lab supervisors **Michelle DeWitt** and **Jim Krikke** were interviewed by WOOD-AM and WZZM-TV, respectively, for stories about the National Chemistry Week event at Woodland Mall.

**David Alvarez**, professor of English, was interviewed by the *Gibraltar Chronicle* for a story about meeting a Grand Valley student who is also from Gibraltar.

## Sketches

**Amy Russell**, associate professor of biology, earned a grant from University of Tennessee for a project, "Inventory and Documentation of Bats in the Wrangell-St. Elias & Glacier Bay."

**Christen Pearson**, professor of English, gave presentations, "'Flipping' Over Hybrid and Online Learning Formats: The Good, the Bad, & What Needs Modifying" and "Real Boys Don't Do Language and Literacy — Or Do They?" at the Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference at Michigan State University. She also wrote an article, "Too Much Stress and Not Enough Food for Thought (or Learning)," published in *Expanding Our Perspectives: From the Classroom to the Community: Selected Proceedings of the 2014*

*Michigan Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference.*

**Janet Winter**, assistant professor of nursing, gave a presentation, "Constructing a Career Action Plan for Advancing Nursing Leadership", at the Nursing Leadership Summit in Dearborn.

**Joy Washburn**, associate professor of nursing, gave a presentation, "Educating Student Nurses about Human Trafficking via Clinical Simulation," at the 12th Annual Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference at the University of Toledo.

**Cynthia Beel-Bates**, professor of nursing, and **Cynthia Grapczynski**, professor and chair of occupational therapy, gave a presentation, "A Dialogal Investigation of Becoming an IPE Facilitator," at the Collaborating Across Borders V Conference in Roanoke, Virginia.

**Michael DeWilde**, director of the Koeze Business Ethics Initiative, gave a presentation, "What We Teach When We Teach Neuroethics," at the annual meeting of the International Neuroethics Society in Chicago, Illinois.

**Mary O'Kelly**, head of instructional services and associate librarian, wrote an article, "Seven Questions for Assessment Planning: A Discussion Starter," published in *College and Research Libraries News*.

## KCON faculty, students in Lansing



Kirkhof College of Nursing faculty members **Dianne Conrad**, **Kim Fenbert** and **Amy Manderscheid** brought nursing students and alumni from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program to Lansing in early October for an advocacy day sponsored by the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners. The daylong event offered speakers on health law and scope of practice issues.

## What's Ahead

*continued from page 3*

The performance will be preceded by the awards ceremony for the annual student competition beginning at 1 p.m.

During "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits," audiences will experience scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," "As You Like It," "The Tempest," "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," and "King Lear" through the eyes of Shakespeare's fools and clowns who often turn out to be the wisest of his characters.

Bard to Go is a part of the educational outreach programs incorporated into the annual Grand Valley Shakespeare Festival.

This year, the group performed "Witty Fools and Foolish Wits" at eight Michigan schools for approximately 450 students.

For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/shakes](http://www.gvsu.edu/shakes).

## Women's Commission to host mentoring reception

Five faculty and staff members will share their career stories at a mentoring reception sponsored by the Women's Commission.

The annual reception is set for Tuesday, November 10, from 4-6 p.m. at the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium.

Panelists are **Sharalle Arnold**, **Jodi Chycinski**, **Carol Sanchez**, **Lee VanOrsdel** and **Pat Waring**.

Wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVP online at [www.gvsu.edu/wcommission](http://www.gvsu.edu/wcommission).

## Panelists will discuss early Alzheimer's disease at collaborative event

Panelists will discuss research on early Alzheimer's disease as well as local resources during an event sponsored by Grand Valley, Spectrum Health and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

"Early Alzheimer's Disease: Decision Making and Promising Research" is part of the Your Health Lecture Series and scheduled for Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m. at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. It is free and open to the public.

**Cindy Beel-Bates**, professor of nursing, will discuss non-drug interventions for better quality of life; **Dr. Timothy Thoits**, neurologist at Spectrum Health and clinical associate professor at MSU, will discuss research on early diagnosis and prevention of Alzheimer's disease; and **Lisa Ellens**, director for Rethinking Dementia Accelerating Change, will discuss local resources.

The event will be moderated by **Jean Nagelkerk**, vice provost for Health. **Mark Brieve**, director of community engagement and outreach at MSU, will welcome participants.

RSVP online at [www.gvsu.edu/vphealth](http://www.gvsu.edu/vphealth).

## Michigan ACE Women's Network to host luncheon on campus

The Michigan American Council on Education Women's Network will hold its fifth annual fall networking luncheon at Grand Valley on Friday, November 13.

The Women of Color Collaborative, an initiative of the Michigan ACE Women's Network, will host "It Takes a Village" from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

The event will feature a diverse panel of West Michigan leaders who will explore how it takes a village to develop as a leader.

Panelists are **Shannon Cohen**, founder and principal of Community Ventures; **Beverly Grant**, interim assistant vice president for Inclusion and Equity at Grand Valley; **Shannon Wilson**, executive director of the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute; and **Milinda Ysasi**, executive director of the Source. **Lauren McElrath**, assistant director for Financial Aid at Grand Valley, will be the moderator and **Provost Gayle R. Davis** will provide closing remarks.

Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/s/00H](http://www.gvsu.edu/s/00H), cost to attend is \$60. The Women of Color Collaborative was established in 2011 to better support women of color who work in higher education.