

# FORUM

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

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## Students selected to design device for NASA

A group of Grand Valley students is reaching for the stars by working with NASA to build a device that can be used during future space missions.

The group — Grand Valley North Stars — is participating in the Micro-g NExT Design Challenge, which calls for college students across the country to submit design proposals for one of three tools that will be used for NASA's asteroid redirect mission in the early 2020s and its journey to Mars in the 2030s. The North Stars chose to write a proposal for the surface sampling derive tool.

In December, the group's idea was one of 30 proposals that were selected to move on to the second phase of the competition. In May, the team will travel to the Johnson Space Center in Houston to present and test their prototype.

"The goal is to build a device that can contain multiple samples of surface particles to be examined and studied at a later time," said Brianna Forsthoefel, North Stars team member and mechanical engineering major. "It's an

honor to be chosen to participate in this competition."

The team is building the device in Keller Engineering Labs. Students used CAD software to design the device based on size, weight and cross-contamination specifications. They used a 3-D printer to create pieces of the prototype.

Amy Lenz, visiting faculty member of mechanical engineering, serves as the group's faculty advisor. She said mentorship has been an important part of the design and build phases. The group has held Skype sessions with an engineer from NASA, who has provided feedback and guidance during the process.

In total, 26 teams will compete on May 23; the North Stars will compete with six other teams in the service sampling derive tool category. Follow the team's progress on Twitter at @The\_NorthStars.



Photo by Rex Larsen

A team of students, called the Grand Valley North Stars, is participating in the Micro-g NExT Design Challenge. The team will travel to the Johnson Space Center in Houston to present their prototype.

## Across Campus

### International graduate student enrollment increases

Enrollment for international graduate students has increased by 60 percent during the past five years. In fall 2012, international graduate student enrollment was at 96 students; in fall 2016, enrollment was at 162 students.



Yihua Xu, a graduate student from China studying applied linguistics, carves a pumpkin for the first time.

Jeff Potteiger, dean of The Graduate School, said the importance of international students to Grand Valley cannot be underestimated.

"International students bring a unique cultural life experience and personal history to Grand Valley that enriches the environment for everyone," said Potteiger.

"These students have a good experience at Grand Valley and tell their friends about us. We also do a lot of recruiting and outreach in other countries."

Shinian Wu, professor and director of applied linguistics, said eight of the 15 graduate students in the applied

linguistics program are from countries like China, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

"Word about the quality and rigor of our program travels fast," said Wu. "Our alumni and new students are sharing their experiences with family and friends and that is a very powerful recruiting tool."

Oyekanmi Oyebanji came to Grand Valley from Nigeria after learning about the university through a friend.

"After talking with my friend, I did some online research about Grand Valley and its programs," said Oyebanji, 30. "I could see the applied linguistics program would be a good fit for me."

Oyebanji began graduate courses in fall 2016 after receiving a bachelor's degree in linguistics from Ekiti State University in Nigeria. He said Grand Valley professors are more approachable.

"My professors are very understanding and offer guidance academically and socially," he said. "The program here is rigorous and it helps to have professors who create a supportive environment."

Yikua Xu learned about the applied linguistics program after Wu was a guest lecturer at Xi'an International Studies University in China, where Xu earned a bachelor's degree in English.

"The professors are very good and the university has a very welcoming atmosphere," said Xu, 23. "There are a lot of activities and opportunities to be involved with. I joined the Asian Student Union and have made a lot of new friends."

*continues on page 2*

# Across Campus

continued from page 1

In March 2016, President Thomas J. Haas visited Xi'an International Studies University while in China for two alumni events. While there, Haas hand-delivered admissions letters to three students; all three began programs at Grand Valley in fall 2016.

"Trips like this by the president, or by faculty who make presentations are very impactful," said Wu. "When some alumni in China heard President Haas would be in town, they flew in for the weekend just to meet him."

## FTLC seeks learning community proposals

The Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center is seeking proposals from faculty members interested in facilitating a Faculty Learning Community in the next academic year.

Learning communities foster a semester-long conversation on a topic and encourage application of the knowledge that is gained.

FTLC has grant funds to cover a facilitation stipend as well as the cost of books, materials, resources, and light refreshments for participants. Questions can be directed to Kathryn Stieler at [stielerk@gvsu.edu](mailto:stielerk@gvsu.edu).

## Haas-chaired education commission makes recommendations

Michigan's 21st Century Education Commission, created by Gov. Rick Snyder, released a report of recommended solutions for improving educational opportunities for all Michigan students on March 10.

The 25-member commission — including educators, business leaders, labor representatives and nonprofit professionals — was chaired by President Thomas J. Haas.

Several recommendations are listed below.

- By 2025, 70 percent or more of 25-year-olds will have completed a college degree, occupational certificate, apprenticeship, or formal skill training;

- By 2025, the high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment gap between low-income and middle-income children in Michigan will have disappeared.

- By 2025, Michigan children will score in the top 10 among U.S. states on the biannual National Assessment of Educational Progress in reading, math, and science.

The full report is available online at [mieducationcommission.com](http://mieducationcommission.com).

## Honor recognizes transfer pathways

Grand Valley has been named to Phi Theta Kappa's 2017 Transfer Honor Roll, which recognizes excellence in community college transfer pathways.

Grand Valley is one of only 63 institutions nationwide selected to receive the honor, based on institutional partnerships, community college collaboration, pre- and post-transfer institutional support, data tracking and transfer pathway innovations.

The university was the first in the state to sign reverse transfer agreements with all 28 community colleges in Michigan.

GVSU will be recognized in the 2017 Phi Theta Kappa Partners in Excellence publication, which is distributed to higher education leaders nationally. Phi Theta Kappa is the world's largest international honor society of two-year colleges and academic programs, particularly community colleges and junior colleges.

## Student media earns awards

Several students working for campus media outlets received awards for their work at Grand Valley.

Broadcast content produced by GVTV and WCKS "The Whale" received honors from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Student Media Awards during a March 8 luncheon in Lansing.

*Lantern* staff members won 12 awards in the 2016 College Better Newspaper Contest, sponsored by the Michigan Press Association. Audra Gamble, former editor-in-chief who graduated in December, earned four awards for writing, the most of any collegiate journalist in Michigan.

The *Lantern* competes in Division I against schools like University of Michigan, Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University because it publishes more than one edition per week.

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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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Other publications by University Communications include:

*Grand Valley Magazine*, published quarterly; visit its website at [www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine](http://www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine).

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

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## Water festival celebrates role of Grand River

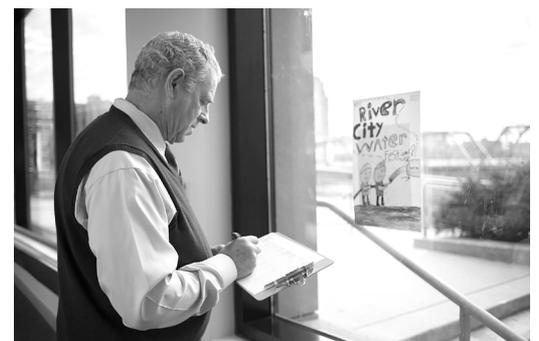
The third annual River City Water Festival, a community event celebrating the Grand River and its role in shaping the city of Grand Rapids, will be held Saturday, March 25, at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

The free event is sponsored by the Groundswell initiative through the College of Education in partnership with the West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

The festival runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature educational activities designed to engage participants about the need to protect water resources. Participants will learn how small actions at home can make a big difference in the quality of the Grand River.

An awards ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. to honor the top three winners of the Water Superhero Poster Contest that was open to area 5-7th grade students. The top 20 posters will be on display at the museum during the festival.

Festival activities will be led by the Annis Water Resources Institute, Blandford Nature Center, John Ball Zoo, Plaster Creek Stewards, City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services Department, Kent Conservation District,



Barry Kanpol, dean of the College of Education, judges a poster contest for the River City Water Festival.

Macatawa Area Coordinating Council, among other organizations.

Financial support for the event comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, as well as the College of Education.

For more information visit <http://groundswellmi.org/river-city-water-festival>.

# What's Ahead

## Exhibit examines misunderstood library terms

"Scholarly," "peer review," "abstract" and "citation" are a few of the many words commonly used in library settings, but they are also words that can be easily misunderstood by students. A new exhibit at Grand Valley, created by students for students, is defining these key terms.

"Graphic Language in the Library" is an informational exhibit designed by three student graphic design teams. Each team created campaigns consisting of both visual and text pieces that illustrate the definitions of frequently used and misconstrued library terms.

The exhibit will be on display March 20-29 in the Mary Idema Pew Library Exhibition Space, located on the atrium level.

The idea for the exhibit came from a study written, in part, by Gayle Schaub, library liaison for liberal arts programs. The study, "The Languages of Information Literacy: Do Students Understand?" explores the disconnect between students and common terms used in libraries.

"Students really need to understand the language we use in instruction to be successful," said Schaub. "We cannot assume that they know the words we toss around in the classroom and in course materials."

Pieces of the exhibit will be turned into a visual glossary that will be distributed throughout the libraries on both the Allendale and Pew Grand Rapids campuses.

## Technology symposium will feature faculty presentations, keynote

The annual Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium will feature a keynote address about the benefits of universal design

for learning for all students, including those who have disabilities.

The 16th annual symposium, "Come, Learn, and Be Inspired," is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the DeVos Center on the Pew Grand Rapids Campus.

Thomas Tobin, faculty developer and consultant for State College (Pa.), will deliver "Universal Design for Learning: Way Beyond Disabilities" at 1 p.m. in Loosemore Auditorium.

His research has focused on using technology to extend the reach of higher education beyond a traditional audience. Tobin is an expert on distance education, copyright, accessibility and academic integrity.

Breakout sessions by faculty members will run from 10 a.m.-noon on a variety of topics: developing lightboard content, captioning video, and using Blackboard tools. Poster presentations will run from 2-4 p.m. and include more than 30 topics. Details about breakout and poster sessions are online at [www.gvsu.edu/idel/symposium](http://www.gvsu.edu/idel/symposium).

The symposium is sponsored by eLearning and Emerging Technologies, FTLC, and Disability Support Resources.

## CRP author will visit campus, Holland

The author of the Community Reading Project selection will give presentations in Holland and on campus in late March.

Journalist Anand Giridharadas will discuss *The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas* March 22 at the Herrick District Library in Holland and March 23 at the Kirkhof Center. Each event is free and open to the public,



Thomas Tobin

details are below. Book signings will be held at each location.

- March 22, 7-9 p.m., Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave. in Holland.

- March 23, 7-9 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, doors open at 6 p.m.

The book is the true story of Raisuddin Bhuiyan, a Bangladesh Air Force officer who dreams of immigrating to America and working in technology. After September 11, Bhuiyan is shot and nearly killed in Dallas by Mark Stroman, an avowed "American terrorist." Stroman is arrested and placed on death row in Texas.

Jennifer Jameslyn, director of Integrative Learning and Advising and coordinator of the CRP committee, said the book is very relevant as it delves into immigration, white nationalism and Islamophobia.

Justin Pettibone, affiliate faculty of liberal studies, used *The True American* in his LIB 100 and 201 classes. He said the material connects easily with discussions of ethical reasoning.

"We have been using the book as a way to gain insight into what makes an action right/wrong," Pettibone said. "To do this we'll be discussing issues related to empathy, respect for difference, and responding rationally to situations we face, as practices of ethical thinking."

Giridharadas is a *New York Times* columnist who appears regularly on CNN, MSNBC and NPR. More information about his visits or *The True American* is online at [www.gvsu.edu/read](http://www.gvsu.edu/read).

## Ott Lecture to focus on energy challenges of 21st century

An award-winning chemist and educator, recognized for his research in energy conversion, will be the Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry featured speaker.

*continues on page 4*

## Ancient text translated for modern theater production of 'Helen'

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 proposed by Euripides, an ancient Greek playwright, in his play "Helen."

First produced in 412 B.C., the play has been translated for modern audiences by Diane Rayor, professor of Classics, and will be performed by students March 24-April 2.

In Euripides' play, Helen never went to Troy. Instead, the gods made Paris a phantom Helen from a cloud and sent the real Helen to Egypt for safe-keeping during the Trojan War, which was subsequently fought over the fake Helen. Seventeen years later, Menelaus is shipwrecked in Egypt with his reclaimed phantom bride, and the real Helen attempts to convince him that she is the true Helen to avoid marrying the Egyptian king.

Rayor spent much of last year translating Euripides' writing into modern English through a grant from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation. When translating ancient texts into performance pieces, Rayor said collaboration with all parties involved in a production is key.

"By revising a draft in collaboration with actors and their director during rehearsals, I fine-tune the translation into a trulyactable script that combines accuracy with lively performance," she explained. "When someone stumbles on a line, asks what something means, or unconsciously changes something, those are all clues to me that revisions need to happen."

Mallory Caillaud-Jones portrays Helen in the production, and said participating in the translation process helped her connect to her character more deeply.

"This process allows us to have a voice in how we think our characters would word certain things, which in turn bring us closer to them," she said.

"It is very daunting to have to put yourself into the mind of a character whose entire life has been derailed by hundreds of people dying in her name because of a war her husband waged because of his hurt pride."

"Helen" draws expertise from theater, Classics, music and dance, and art and design.

Nayda Collazo-Llorens, who is currently serving as the distinguished artist-in-residence, has created video projections that will be used during the production. Pablo Mahave-Veglia, associate professor of cello, will perform the music of "Helen," with, at times, a chorus of 13 female student voices.

"I think that audiences will find the play to be a completely sensory experience due to the combination of actors, video and music," said Karen Libman, professor of theater and "Helen" director.

Productions of "Helen" will take place March 24, 25, 30, 31 and April 1 at 7:30 p.m., and March 26 and April 2 at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in the Performing Arts Center, Louis Armstrong Theatre.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and Grand Valley alumni, faculty and staff, and \$6 for student groups. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Louis Armstrong Box Office at (616) 331-2300.

There are many additional events during the run of "Helen." For a full list of related events, visit <http://gvsu.edu/s/Opb>.



Photo by Valerie Wojocieczowski

At right, Diane Rayor, professor of Classics, reviews the script for 'Helen' with a student.

# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

### Hatzel earns honors from athletic trainers' association

**Brian Hatzel**, associate professor of movement science, was recognized as the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association 2017 Outstanding Educator during the GLATA 49th Annual Meeting and Symposium in Wheeling, Illinois.

The GLATA Outstanding Educator award recognizes members who have significantly contributed to the education of GLATA members through academic presentations, published manuscripts or editorials, educational program development or other educational activities.



Brian Hatzel

## Sketches

**Heather Gulgin**, associate professor of movement science, organized the 2017 Midwest American Society of Biomechanics conference February 23-24 in the Eberhard Center. The conference welcomed 127 attendees, with representation from 21 Midwest universities. It provided attendees with the opportunity to learn about the current research and participate in tours of Grand Valley's Biomechanics and Motor Control Laboratory.

**Corey Anton**, professor of communications, served as co-editor of a book, *Taking Up McLuhan's Cause: Perspectives on Media and Formal Causality*, published by Intellect in the United Kingdom, and carried in the U.S. by University of Chicago Press. He also wrote an article, "Syntagmatic and Paradigmatic Synergism: Notes on 'Lanigan's Encyclopedic Dictionary,'" published in the *Atlantic Journal of Communication*.

**Craig Benjamin**, professor of history, Honors College, wrote an article, "The Yuezhi," published in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*.

**Ingrid Johnson**, associate professor of movement science, and a student gave a

presentation, "Building Physically Literate Students Through TGfU and Sport Education," at the SHAPE America Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Movement science faculty members **Ingrid Johnson**, **Colleen Lewis** and **Tess Armstrong** gave a presentation, "21st Century PETE Tech Training: Preparing Generation Z to Use Technology," at the SHAPE America Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Chris Haven**, associate professor of writing, wrote a poem, "the dark hangs heavily," published in the *Golden Shovel Anthology: New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks* by the University of Arkansas Press.

**Roger Ellis**, professor of communications, wrote an article, "Community Engagement Strategies at Canada's World Festival of Children's Theatre," published in the *American Journal of Arts Management*.

**Charles Pazdernik**, professor of Classics, wrote an article, "'The Great Emperor': A Motif in Procopius of Caesarea's Wars," published in *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies*.

## What's Ahead

continued from page 3

Thomas Meyer is the Arey distinguished professor of chemistry and director of the Energy Frontier Research Center on Solar Fuels at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research centers on solar energy conversion tied to energy storage. Meyer, former associate director for strategic research at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, is well-known for pioneering discoveries in chemical reactivity.

Meyer will give a public lecture, "Our Energy Future. Science and Technology Challenges of the 21st Century," Thursday, March 23, at 6 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium. A reception will precede the lecture at 5 p.m.

Meyer will also facilitate a seminar on Friday, March 24, at 1 p.m. "Making Oxygen from Sunlight and Water" will take place in the Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room. This seminar will focus on Meyer's current research in solar energy conversion at the UNC Center for Solar Fuels.

The Arnold C. Ott Lectureship in Chemistry was created and endowed by a gift from the late Arnold C. and Marion Ott. Arnold Ott was a leading chemist and entrepreneur, and one of the co-founders of Grand Valley.

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

### Grandson of César Chávez to give keynote

A presentation by Andrés Chavéz, grandson of labor leader and civil right activist César E. Chávez, will kick off Grand Valley's annual César Chávez Celebration.

His presentation, "Latinos Millennials to be the Voice of Change," will take place Friday, March 24, at 11 a.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. A reception will follow.

Andrés was raised during the farm worker movement, which was founded by his grandfather. He has participated in social justice activities and demonstrations for immigration reform.

Additional events, which are free and open to the public, are highlighted below. For more information, visit [www.gvsu.edu/oma](http://www.gvsu.edu/oma).

• **LSAU Dinner and Dance, March 24, 8 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room:** The Latino Student Union will host a night of free food and open dance.

• **"Contemporary Mexican Cinema: Romantic Comedies, Democracy, Border Crossing and Crisis of National Identities," March 30, 4-5 p.m., Kirkhof Center, room 2215:** Ignacio Sánchez Prado, professor of Spanish, Latin American Studies and Film and Media Studies for Washington University, will give a presentation on Mexican cinema.

• **Grand Rapids Latin American Film Festival, March 31-April 2, Wealthy Street Theatre, Grand Rapids:** Films are free and will be presented with English subtitles. Visit [www.grlaff.org](http://www.grlaff.org) for more information.

March 31 is César Chávez Day, the federal holiday that celebrates the legacy of Chavez, who co-founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962.

The celebration is organized by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and WGUV Public Media, with support from numerous campus departments.

### Physician assisted suicide topic for next DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy

Two doctors who are national experts on physician assisted suicide will give presentations on the subject during the DeVos Medical Ethics

Colloquy on Monday, March 27.

"The Ethics of Physician Assisted Suicide" will run from 6-8 p.m. in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. The event is free and open to the public; RSVP online at [www.gvsu.edu/colloquy/](http://www.gvsu.edu/colloquy/).

Speakers are Dr. Robert Arnold, professor of internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law; and Dr. Timothy Quill, professor of medicine, psychiatry and medical humanities at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. The moderator is Paul Reitemeier, corporate director of clinical ethics for Beaumont Health and former Grand Valley professor.

Arnold has extensively published articles on end-of-life care, hospice and palliative care, doctor-patient communication and ethics education. He is currently working with the UPMC Health System to develop system-wide, integrative palliative services. He is the past-president of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities as well as the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Quill was the lead physician plaintiff in a 1997 Supreme Court case (*Quill v. Vacco*) that challenged a New York law prohibiting physician-assisted death. He has focused work on doctor-patient relationships, including delivering bad news and exploring last-resort options. He is the author of "Physician-Assisted Dying: The Case for Palliative Care and Patient Choice," "Caring for Patients at the End of Life," and "A Midwife Through the Dying Process."

The DeVos Medical Ethics Colloquy is held twice per year and hosted by Grand Valley's Office of the Vice Provost for Health. Grand Valley began hosting this series in 2015, after receiving a gift from the Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation.