

# FORUM

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

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## University earns national status from two companies

For the 19th year in a row, Grand Valley was named one of America's 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc. in Georgia.

Each year, Institutional Research and Evaluation identifies the 100 American colleges and universities providing students the very highest quality education at the lowest cost. Grand Valley has made the list far more times than any other Michigan institution; authors of the report say it is because of Grand Valley's high academic performance coupled with its low cost. No other Michigan public institution made the list.

To be considered for the designation, an institution must:

- Be an accredited, four-year institution.
- Offer full residential facilities.

- Have an entering freshman class in the fall of 2013 with a high school GPA and/or SAT/ACT equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen.

- Out-of-state tuition in 2014-2015 below the national average or not exceeding the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

The average GPA for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2013 was 3.5, compared to the national average of 3.3, according to Institutional Research and Evaluation. The average ACT score for incoming freshmen at Grand Valley for fall 2013 was 24, compared to the national average of 23.



The university is the only Michigan public institution to be named a Best College Buy. Residential living is among the criteria to be considered.

### Military Friendly

The university also was named a Military Friendly School by Victory Media for the sixth consecutive year.

The 2015 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country

that are doing the most to embrace military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

## Across Campus

### Khoo earns grant from Fox Foundation

Sok Kean Khoo, distinguished associate professor of molecular genomics, received a \$110,000 grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research to continue her research on molecular biomarkers for Parkinson's disease.

Khoo joined Grand Valley's cell and molecular biology faculty one year ago, after 13 years at the Van Andel Institute, studying cancers and Parkinson's disease. She earned a doctoral degree in molecular genetics from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology.

While at Van Andel Institute, Khoo led a pilot project to identify biomarkers that could one day be used to develop a blood test for early detection of Parkinson's disease. That project was funded by a grant from the MJFF and in collaboration with Mercy Health Saint Mary's Hauenstein Neuroscience Center, University of Colorado Denver and Umeå University.

About 1 million Americans suffer from Parkinson's disease, with 50,000-60,000 new patients diagnosed annually. Most

patients diagnosed with Parkinson's disease have already entered its advanced stages.

With her current grant renewal from the MJFF, Khoo and her graduate research students will investigate if these biomarkers can also be used to monitor the advancement of the disease.



Photo by Amanda Pitts

Sok Kean Khoo, left, and graduate student Ghada Mohsen extract microRNAs in a lab at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences. Khoo earned a grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research to study molecular biomarkers for Parkinson's disease.

### Campus restaurant certified green

Engrained in The Connection has become certified by the Green Restaurant Association, a national organization that creates ways for the restaurant industry to reduce its harmful impact on the environment.

The campus dining restaurant is one of five in the state to be a Green Certified Restaurant.

Aaron Johnson, food service director for The Connection and sustainability manager for Campus Dining, said the certification adds value to an already successful sustainability program at Grand Valley.

"We had meetings with GRA to outline the expectations, then once we had the checklist, we provided evidence for each standard that we met," said Johnson.

The standards include seven categories: energy, food, water, waste, disposables, chemicals and pollution reduction, and furnishings and building materials.

The Connection, a 24,000 square-foot food service and classroom building, achieved LEED Silver certification in 2010.

# Across Campus

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The food service space practices sustainability by using local produce, managing waste through composting and recycling, and using environmentally friendly products, such as biodegradable cups and disposable-ware.

## Firm hired for Inclusion and Equity search

An executive search firm based in Illinois will assist Grand Valley in its continuing search for a vice president for Inclusion and Equity.

Matt McLogan, vice president for University Relations, said Witt/Kieffer comes highly recommended and has significant experience in handling searches for diversity leadership positions. McLogan chairs the search committee.

Wendy Wenner, former dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, is the acting vice president for Inclusion and Equity.

## New academic success center opens in CHS

A new Student Academic Success Center is open in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences to support nursing and health professions majors.

The center is a collaboration of many campus departments: University Libraries Knowledge Market, Kirkhof College of Nursing, College of Health Professions, Office of Graduate Studies, Career Center and the Student Academic Success Center.

The center is on the first floor of CHS. Visit the website at [www.gvsu.edu/chssasc](http://www.gvsu.edu/chssasc).

## Alumnus brings radio show home to Michigan

Grand Valley alumnus David Boylan is bringing his popular San Diego-based culinary radio show, "Lick the Plate," to his home state of Michigan.

Originally from Royal Oak, Boylan, '88, has interviewed more than 150 chefs, restaurateurs, growers, brewers and other culinary professionals

over the past three years. After maintaining connections across Michigan, Boylan said he is thrilled to be bringing his show to the Great Lakes State.

"On regular trips back to Michigan over the past 10 years, I've seen first hand the explosion of the culinary and related industries statewide," said Boylan. "It's great for the communities where it is happening. It gives neighborhoods a sense of identity, excitement and pride that make people want to live there and thrive."



David Boylan

Besides culinary backgrounds and experiences, guests share everything from their individual journeys, music memories and dream concert lineups to where they eat and drink around town, while offering in-depth looks into their establishments' menus.

"Lick the Plate" is able to move to Michigan thanks to a recently secured sponsorship from the Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA). The show is also in talks with radio stations and sponsors in Detroit and Grand Rapids ahead of a November 1 launch date.

## Grants available for LGBT-related projects

The LGBT Faculty Staff Association will offer grants to faculty and staff members for projects that foster an inclusive community for LGBT faculty and staff at GVSU.

Five projects will be funded. The deadline to apply for a grant is October 30. Information is online at [www.gvsu.edu/lgbtfacstaff](http://www.gvsu.edu/lgbtfacstaff), click on "Scholarship."

## AWRI offers internship

The Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon is offering the Herbert L. VanderMey Internship for the winter semester.

The deadline to apply is November 7.

The criteria for this internship is available online at [www.gvsu.edu/wri](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri), click on "Undergraduate Funding/Opportunities."

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The GVSU Forum is published by University Communications. The submission deadline is Tuesday noon. Send publication items to Michele Coffill, editor, c/o [forum@gvsu.edu](mailto:forum@gvsu.edu). Telephone: 616-331-2221. Fax: 616-331-2250. Web: [www.gvsu.edu/forum](http://www.gvsu.edu/forum).

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

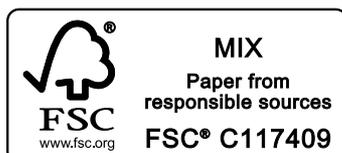
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Other publications by University Communications include:

*Grand Valley Magazine*, 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.



## GVFaces

### Lindsay Ellis, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum

Lindsay Ellis, director of the Lake Michigan Writing Project, started a new role that has her focused on guiding teachers of writing from elementary school to college.

Ellis, also associate professor of English, was named director of Writing Across the Curriculum in August. The program is housed in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

In that role, Ellis oversees the Supplemental Writing Skills program, collaborates with the Writing Center to develop and implement faculty and departmental support, serves as a faculty sponsor and mentor for Writing Center-related research, and teaches a writing seminar for new student writing consultants.

"My research at Grand Valley has a practical application, and it helps our students to connect to wonderful area teachers," said Ellis. "I love working with Writing Center tutors and with English majors who are going to become teachers."

As director of the Lake Michigan Writing Project, Ellis leads an institute for area teachers each summer to improve the teaching of writing from kindergarten through community college.

She earned a bachelor's degree in English



Lindsay Ellis

literature from Wheaton College in 1994; a master's degree in humanities from the University of Chicago in 1999; and a doctoral degree in English and education from the University of Michigan in 2006.

Last year on sabbatical, Ellis traveled with her family to Utrecht in the Netherlands as a visiting scholar at the University of Amsterdam in the Department of Rhetoric and Argumentation Theory. During her time there, Ellis co-wrote *Early Career English Teachers in Action*, a book that highlights first-year English teachers' experiences, many of those teachers are Grand Valley alumni.

She said she enjoys hiking and biking with her family and exploring the restaurant scene in Grand Rapids.

# What's Ahead

## Lectures highlight Earth Science Week

The Geology Department has a series of lectures slated to celebrate Earth Science Week October 6-10.

Peter Riemersma, associate professor of geology, said a unique aspect to this year's series is the majority of speakers are Grand Valley alumni. Details are below.

- **Monday, October 6, 2 p.m., Mackinac Hall, room BLL110:** "Trinitite: A Geological Clue Used to Unravel Mysteries in Nuclear Forensics," presented by Elizabeth Koeman, '11.

- **Tuesday, October 7, 4 p.m., Padnos Hall, room 119:** "Stream Channel Morphology in the Missouri Ozarks and Perspectives on Graduate School and Employment," by Andrew DeWitt, '10.

- **Wednesday, October 8, 2 p.m., Mackinac Hall, room BLL110:** "Tracing Ocean Motion in Earth's Past," by Figen Mekik, professor of geology.

- **Thursday, October 9, 2:30 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center:** "Michigan's Regulatory Response to Hydraulic Fracturing," by Adam Wygant, '93.

- **Friday, October 10, 3 p.m., Loutit Lecture Hall, room 102:** "The Science of Beer and the Role of Earth Science," by Jacob Brenner, '09.

## Food drive to benefit Student Food Pantry

The Women's Center will host its annual campuswide food drive to benefit the Student Food Pantry.

Faculty and staff members will receive a brown paper bag in their mailbox. Donations can be dropped off at designated locations on campus by Monday, October 13.

The Student Food Pantry, located in the Women's Center, receives 500 visits a year and serves more than 200 students.

Drop off locations are Women's Center, Kirkhof Center, room 1201; Services Building, room 1126; Mackinac Hall, room B-4-232; Henry Hall, room 212; Zumberge Hall, room 2000; Lake Michigan Hall, room 133; Eberhard Center, first floor; DeVos Center, room 288C; Seidman Center, room 1041; Bicycle Factory, room 200; Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, room 326; Meijer Campus in Holland; and Annis Water Resources Institute in Muskegon.

## Center hosts speaker

The LGBT Resource Center will host an event, "Beyond Bisexuality 101," on Monday, October 6, at 4 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, room 2204.

The LIB 100-approved event will feature a presentation by Robyn Ochs, editor of the anthology *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World*.

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

## Alumna to lead current conversation

On the first Tuesday of every month, the Women's Center will host Tuesday Talkback, a one-hour conversation about a national current topic.

The first event, "Hobby Lobby Obamacare" will take place Tuesday, October 7, from noon-1 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 1201. Alumna Dani Vilella, statewide field organizer for Planned

Parenthood Advocates and Affiliates of Michigan, will lead the discussion. Next month's gathering, "Ray Rice and Why Did She Stay?" will take place November 4.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/women\\_cen](http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen) for more information.

## Middle East, geopolitics discussed at Hauenstein Center event

A brief exploration of today's headlines shows a world dealing with crisis — disease epidemics, sectarian violence and crushing poverty, to name a few.

Looking beyond the headlines shows a world that is much more prosperous and peaceful than most people expect, said Herb Meyer, a Reagan administration intelligence official who first predicted the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Meyer will explain what's behind the turmoil in the Middle East and why many countries are emerging from poverty in his presentation, part of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies' annual "American Conversations" series.

"What in the World is Going On: A Global Intelligence Briefing" is set for Tuesday, October 7, at 7 p.m. at the Eberhard Center.

The event is in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum, and Foundation; it is free and open to the public.

RSVPs are requested and can be provided online at [www.gvsu.edu/s/J5](http://www.gvsu.edu/s/J5).

## Pedometer Challenge begins soon

Health and Wellness is hosting its annual Pedometer Challenge for teams of faculty and staff members.

Registration runs through October 8. The challenge continues for six weeks, ending November 19.

Teams of four are encouraged to track their steps using the online portal; prizes are awarded throughout the contest. Registration and information are available online at [www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness](http://www.gvsu.edu/healthwellness).

Faculty and staff members without a team can send an email to [welintrn@gvsu.edu](mailto:welintrn@gvsu.edu) to sign up and be matched with others.

## Wheelhouse Talks begin new year

A panel of young leaders in the business and nonprofit sectors in West Michigan will kick off the 2014-15 Wheelhouse Talks series, hosted by the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

The Wheelhouse Talks are a series of presentations from entrepreneurs, local leaders, business owners and visionaries who share their experiences to enrich the lives and learning of others, including a new cohort of students taking part in the Cook Leadership Academy.

The event is set for Wednesday, October 8, 12:30 p.m. at the L. William Seidman Center.

Panelists are Austin Dean, co-founder FailureLab; Selma Tucker, Public Sector Consultants; Juliana Nahas-Viilo, Varnum Consulting; and Allie Bush, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

RSVPs are requested and can be submitted online at [www.gvsu.edu/s/Jb](http://www.gvsu.edu/s/Jb).

## Depression screenings held at campus locations

The University Counseling Center will participate in National Screening Day October 9 at various campus sites.

Free confidential screenings by counselors will be available for students, faculty and staff members in the Kirkhof Center, Campus Recreation Center, DeVos Center and Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

A seminar led by Counseling Center staff will take place at 6 p.m. in Kirkhof Center, room 2266. The event will provide tools to recognize and manage depression and anxiety.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/counsel](http://www.gvsu.edu/counsel) for more information or call the center at x13266.

## Meeting focuses on politics in the workplace

Young Professionals in Higher Education will host a meeting Thursday, October 9, beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the DeVos Center, University Club room.

Claire Harrison, academic advisor for the Seidman College of Business, will facilitate a discussion, "Moving Up/Navigating a Political Condition."

Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/seminar](http://www.gvsu.edu/seminar).

## Study Abroad Fair set

The Padnos International Center will host a Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, October 9, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room.

The event will feature more than 60 study abroad programs and thousands of non-Grand Valley programs. Students will have the opportunity to meet program directors, representatives from Grand Valley's partner universities and students who have participated in the programs.

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



A photo by a study abroad participant in Kenya is pictured. A fair on October 9 will showcase more than 60 programs.

## History conference to focus on global genocide

The Holocaust and genocide from a global perspective will be addressed in more than 20 presentations at the 40th annual Great Lakes History Conference, set for Friday-Saturday, October 10-11.

Gordon Andrews, assistant professor of history and executive director for the Michigan Council of History Education, said the theme is

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# FACULTY AND STAFF SKETCHES

## In the News

**Roger Ellis**, professor of communications, was interviewed by WGVU for a story about his stage direction of the Shakespeare Festival's production "The Comedy of Errors."

## Sketches

**Edward Aboufadel**, professor of mathematics and head of the Center for Applied Mathematics Projects, was awarded \$1,500 from NASA in a recent international competition in applied mathematics and statistics.

In July 2014, Innocentive, a web-based company that sponsors these challenges, hosted the "ideation" stage of the NASA-NEX Challenge. The challenge asked its participants to develop new and creative ideas to use, visualize, analyze or otherwise utilize large NASA datasets, such as satellite



Edward Aboufadel

images, climate projections and vegetation indices, as part of President Obama's climate action plan.

Aboufadel's idea to use climate projections to create predictions for local communities was one of four winning ideas chosen in the competition.

**Jonathan Wessell**, adjunct faculty member of geography, co-wrote an article, "What Supports or Promotes the Development of Geographic Knowledge, Skills and Practices?" published in *Research in Geographic Education*.

**Craig Benjamin**, associate professor of history, honors, gave presentations, "Writing the First Big History Textbook" and "Big History and Meaning in the Undergraduate Classroom," at the second biennial International Big History Association Conference in San Rafael, California.

**Peimin Ni**, professor of philosophy, gave an invited plenary speech, "Unity of Humanity and Multiple Modernity," at the Songshan Forum on Chinese and World Civilizations in Dengfeng, China.

**Deborah Herrington**, professor of chemistry, wrote an article, "Professional Development Aligned with AP Chemistry Curriculum: Promoting Science Practices and Facilitating

Enduring Conceptual Understanding," published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

**David Alvarez**, professor of English, gave a presentation, "The Presence of Classical Mythology in Contemporary Literature of Clandestine Cross-Mediterranean Migration," at the annual conference of the Mediterranean Studies Association in Marbella, Spain.

**Mary O'Kelly**, head of instructional services for University Libraries, gave presentations, "Instruction Program Evaluation" at the Michigan Library Association Academic Libraries Conference in East Lansing; "Peer Research Consultants" at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada; "A Reflective Process for Communicating the Value of Academic Library Instruction" at the Northwoods Library Symposium in August in Marquette; and "Assessment in Action" at the ARL Library Assessment Conference in Seattle, Washington.

**Heather Carpenter**, assistant professor of public, nonprofit and health administration, wrote an article, "A Look at Experiential Education in Nonprofit-Focused Graduate Degree Programs," published in *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*.

## What's Ahead

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timely as this year is the 100th anniversary of World War I.

"The 'Great War' led to the Holocaust and so much of the violence of the 20th century," Andrews said.

Stephen Feinberg, former special assistant for education programs at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial, will be the keynote speaker on October 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the DeVos Center, Loosemoore Auditorium. His address, "Pedagogical Issues and Concerns When Teaching About the Holocaust," is free and open to the public.

Jan Gross, professor of European history at Princeton University, will give a keynote address, "On the Periphery of the Holocaust: Pillage and Killings of Jews by their Neighbors," on October 11 at noon in the Eberhard Center.

Registration is required, fees are \$40 out-of-state attendees and \$20 for West Michigan attendees. The Michigan Council of History Education, Grand Valley's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and History Department are sponsoring the conference. For more details and online registration, visit [www.gvsu.edu/history](http://www.gvsu.edu/history).

## Homecoming weekend offers slate of activities

The Alumni Association will host Homecoming activities on October 10-11 that offer something for everyone.

Themed "Back in Blue, a Laker Legacy," the slate of events includes a screening of a documentary by an alumnus that premiered aboard the International Space Station, 5K walk/run, campus tours, Seidman College of Business alumni social, and a lip sync contest.

On October 11, the Laker soccer team will host Saginaw Valley State at 1 p.m. and the football team will host Wayne State at Lubbers Stadium at 7 p.m.

The Office of Student Life will host a weeklong series of events, including a comedy show with Shawn and Marlon Wayans at the Fieldhouse on October 9. Ticket information is online at [www.gvsu.edu/s/Jc](http://www.gvsu.edu/s/Jc).

David Ruck, '04 and '07, created a documentary, "I Want To Be an Astronaut," about Blair Mason, who strives to be an astronaut. The film includes interviews with Charles Bolden, a NASA administrator, and John Glenn, a Mercury 7 astronaut. It premiered aboard the ISS on March 7.

Ruck will present his documentary on October 10, at 7 p.m., at the L. William Seidman Center. The event is free but registration is required, and space is limited; register online at [www.gvsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.gvsu.edu/homecoming).

## Students gather for ceramics forum

Grand Valley will host the sixth annual Ceramics Forum on Monday, October 13, from 2-5 p.m. in the Calder Fine Arts Center.

Sean Larson, ceramic technician and instructor, said the forum will foster the collaboration between students studying ceramics at different institutions and at different education levels. It will also create a public platform for contemporary ceramic discussion.

Graduate students from Alfred University School of Art and Design, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Kent State University, School of the Art Institute Chicago and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, will be giving presentations on their work.

For more information, contact Sean Larson at [larsose1@gvsu.edu](mailto:larsose1@gvsu.edu).